

School board proceeds with \$9 million renovation

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It would completely renovate the athletic facilities. He said that the renovations were much needed and would include the baseball and softball fields, the football field, tennis courts, and the track.

The bleacher replacement project was approved for the Estill County Middle School and Central Office. Saylor said that the board would need to hire an architect for the improvements and said that he felt like the board had a good, long standing relationship with Ross Tarrant.

Saylor also said that he would like for the board to hire a construction manager to oversee the upgrades and they agreed to hire Codell Construction for the job.

The board agreed to set the tax rate for the upcoming year at 51.1 cents on the dollar. The motor vehicle and watercraft tax rate stayed the same at 54.8 cents which Saylor said he believed had been frozen for some time.

A tax hearing has been set for September 10th at 6 p.m. due to the fact that the tax rate is slightly higher than the compensating rate. The hearing will be held at Central Office and is open to the public.

The re-opening of schools was discussed at length by the board. Saylor said that the even though the Cares Act had provided the district with funds to purchase PPE and other items to safely return to school, there were certain areas which lost money.

He said the Food Service Program

lost approximately \$100,000 due to the pandemic because the number of meals being served declined but the district still had people working to ensure that students were provided with meals each day.

The meals provided to students will continue as school will start virtually on the 24th of August. Saylor said that meals will be prepared and delivered by bus drivers each day.

He said meals will be provided to any student that wants them. If they do not ride the bus to and from school to contact Central Office and sign up to have deliveries made to their homes.

Saylor said that students would return to in-person classes on September 28th but a lot would depend on what the number of Covid-19 cases look like be-

tween now and then. He went on to say that he was surprised by the KHSAA's decision to allow fall sports to begin the first week of September.

He said in his opinion there would be some strict guidelines laid out for players and coaches and that the amount of people that would be allowed to attend games would be very small.

He said that it may be parents only and the concession stands would also have to follow strict guidelines if they opened at all.

Even though there are several job openings in the district, Mr. Saylor said that he had put a freeze on hiring at this time. He said that when classes returned to normal he would fill those positions but for the time being they would remain vacant.

Police Activity

Irvine Officer James Marshall served a Pike County District Court bench warrant on **Billy Reece Crawford**, 37, on August 21 on High Street in Irvine. The warrant says Crawford failed to appear.

On August 19, Det. Sam Hensley served an indictment warrant on **Jerry Goosey**, 32, of Shallow Creek Road, Irvine. Goosey was indicted by an Estill County Grand Jury for rape and sodomy, both in the third degree.

Cody Begley, 25, of W. Cedar Grove, Irvine was arrested August 19 by Det. Hensley. He charged Begley with second degree disorderly conduct and third degree criminal mischief.

The citation states that Begley was in the front yard of a Broadway residence and began throwing unknown objects, possibly rocks, at the house.

The detective stated the occupants were in fear due to Begley's actions.

Det. Hensley also served an Estill County bench warrant on Begley for failure to appear on a traffic charge.

On August 19, Det. Hensley served an indictment warrant on **Bradley J. Young**, 53, of Front Street, Irvine.

Young was indicted by the Estill Grand Jury on charges of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and second offense (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (heroin), and drug paraphernalia - buy/possession.

Sheriff Chris Flynn charged **Steven Stamper**, 38, of Wolfenbarger Lane, Irvine with failure of owner to maintain required insurance and no registration plates.

The sheriff said he observed Stamper driving on West Cedar Grove on August 21. He conducted a traffic stop, and Stamper said he didn't have any insurance or registration. His vehicle tags expired in October of 2019.

Ricky Agee, 64, of Concord Road, Irvine, was charged August 23 with no registration plates and operating a vehicle with expired operators license. Sheriff Flynn said that Agee was involved in a vehicle accident in the vicinity of 2170 Knob Lick Road. He had expired driver's license and had not yet transferred the vehicle into his name. The plates were expired.

Deputy Josh King

charged **Kristin Neal**, 34, of N. Madison Ave., Irvine with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol) on August 22.

The deputy said he was dispatched to a residence on Stacy Lane where the caller said she did not know the female who came to her door. The resident feared that something was going to happen to her.

Irvine Officer Marshall also responded to the scene. The citation states the female was at the door and appeared to be under the influence and was acting paranoid.

She was placed in the deputy's patrol unit and taken to the Estill County Jail parking lot. The citation states that she refused to give her name or date of birth so the deputy could check for outstanding warrants.

Deputy King said he retained Neal due to her indication that a crime could have been committed. When he asked her questions about the crime that put her in such fear, he stated that she began to appear further under the influence.

While Officer Marshall was speaking to her through the open window of King's cruiser, he said Neal jumped out of the vehicle. The citation states that she began to get combative and tried to fight, push, and even bit Officer Marshall.

On August 22, Deputy King charged **Marty Newton**, 43, of Dug Hill Road, Irvine with possession of a controlled substance, second degree and operating a motor vehicle under the influence.

The deputy and KSP Trooper J. Hacker were dispatched August 22 to Calvary Baptist Church where an individual was reportedly passed out in his vehicle.

Deputy King said that Newton was leaned over in the driver's seat. He yelled which woke Newton up.

The deputy stated that Newton then accelerated his vehicle forward which was still running and in drive gear.

King said he commanded Newton to put the vehicle in park and shut it off.

The deputy said he found a paper containing a round, orange pill believed to be suboxone and a half empty bottle of alcohol in Newton's vehicle. According to the citation, Newton failed field sobriety tests administered by Trooper Hacker.

Fiscal court to maintain emergency sirens after CSEPP program ends in several years

The The Estill Fiscal Court met Monday, August 17 by teleconference for their regular monthly meeting.

Most of the early items on the meeting were concerned with CSEPP funds, but these require the fiscal court's approval.

Ronnie Riddell, director of Estill Emergency Management Agency recommended the fiscal court re-advertise for bids on the Chestnut Stand Enhancement project. He said this was the recommendation of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Permission was granted to advertise for a full-time 911 dispatcher.

Bids were awarded for an HVAC system and display boards at the Emergency Operators Center (EOC). Bids were also opened for medical equipment which will be used by the ambulance service.

The fiscal court passed a resolution stating the county would maintain the siren system after the CSEPP program ends. The reason for this was because the system was due to be updated.

The court approved the sheriff's settlement.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson stated the sheriff's department has a new drug dog, Ruby, which will be an asset to the county.

The budget for Estill EMS was approved for the 20-21 year.

Jimmie Wise, director of Estill EMS, thanked Riddell and CSEPP employees as well as the Estill County Health Department.

"They've been extremely busy with this Covid thing," Wise stated.

Wise said the ambulance service has made 2,420 runs this year with three trucks. This is 200 runs behind this time last

year.

He added that four of the six trucks owned by the ambulance service have over 300,000 miles on them.

The service is purchasing a new truck which may be delivered by the end of the year.

Wise said the fire departments assist the ambulance service when the ambulances are on multiple runs by responding.

The ambulance service has just under 40 employees.

"It's been a trying time for everybody," Wise stated.

Judge Executive Donnie Watson said an Ohio woman wanted to set up a Pay Pal account to accept donations for the Estill County Animal Shelter.

He said that governments are not permitted to have Pay Pal accounts.

Teresa McKinley was hired part-time to work

with occupational taxes, and George Henry will be working at the recycling center.

The fiscal court adjusted the salary of Robbie Barnes, a road department employee. Pay raises were also given to the full time employees in the judge's office. Watson said they were way below what employees of the past have made.

Watson said one of the part-time firefighters at the county fire department is going to be off. He said a volunteer firefighter will be filling in.

"Derrick (Muncy) does a super job over there (at the county fire department)," Watson stated.

The fiscal court also heard from Candie McMaine, interim director of the Estill County Health Department on the tax rate for the 2020-21 year. She said it is staying the same.

Inmate dies Friday at Three Forks Jail

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The jail transport employee returned and said someone had died in the jail. They did not know at that time it was an Estill County inmate.

Jailer Morris said he talked to Harvey Pelfrey, warden of Three Forks, then.

He said McTeer's body has been sent for an autopsy. Morris said he has been told it may take as long as a week to get the results back from her death.

He added that it does not appear that McTeer took her own life.

Morris said he thinks this is the first time McTeer has been an Estill County inmate.

She had appeared on video Wednesday for an arraignment in Estill District Court.

Friends say McTeer was married and the mother of six children.

Since Estill has been housing inmates at Three Forks Regional Jail, this is the second inmate to die there.

Sunday, September 13

American Legion meetings

All meetings at the American Legion will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13 at the time your meeting

is to be held. The meetings are postponed one week because of Labor Day weekend.

Covid-19 Numbers Updated As of Tuesday a.m., Aug. 25

Total # Tested - 1643
Negative - 1577
Pending Results - 19
Active Positive - 12
Recovered Positive -34
New Positives since Last Week -- 10

Irvine Council meets

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The city's new garbage truck is in. The council voted to accept bids on the 2013 International with the right to reject any or all bids.

Two 2006 Crown Victorias were declared as surplus. Chief Sturniolo was authorized to seek bids on those cruisers. He plans to advertise to sheriffs' departments and constables. If law enforcement buys the vehicles, the city can leave the emergency equipment on them.

Myra Williams was reappointed to a term on the tourism commission.

The mayor said a property owner cleaned out a residence on Hood Avenue and placed the contents on the street.

He described the contents as mattresses, couches, loveseats, and clothing.

Sturniolo said the discard pile was about 60 feet long and eight feet high.

Gross said homeless people went through it. The city had to take a front end loader up there

to clean up the mess, which was two dump truck loads.

The mayor asked the council if the city should charge for cleaning up the debris. Councilman Arthur said it was addressed in a city ordinance.

Mayor Gross said he was working on a CARES money application for the city. He said it may pay the salaries of first responders back to March 1.

He added that FEMA monies were also available but they require a 25 percent match.

Each of the councilmembers thanked retiring Fire Chief Tony Murphy on his years of service to the city.

Farmer said the fire chief and volunteers built their new department for 1/2 million dollars which is valued at \$1 million.

He added the city received \$250,000 in grants and had to borrow \$250,000.

At the previous meeting, Mayor Gross said the fire department will be paid off at the end of this year.

New Drivers

Monday, August 24
Operator Permits
 Henlee Hunter, Emma Winkle, Steven Hardy, and Casey Howell.
Drivers License
 Katlyn Hinds.

Intermediate license
 Zoe Abney, Katie Beeler, Shaelyn Parsons, Kenton Abshear, Victoria Brooks, and Alex Arthur.