

School Board Meeting

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Mr. Saylor said that when school starts in August students will return to in-person instruction five days per week. He said he didn't feel like the corona virus was going away completely.

With vaccinations being administered more and safety measures in place the goal is to be in the classroom five days a week come August.

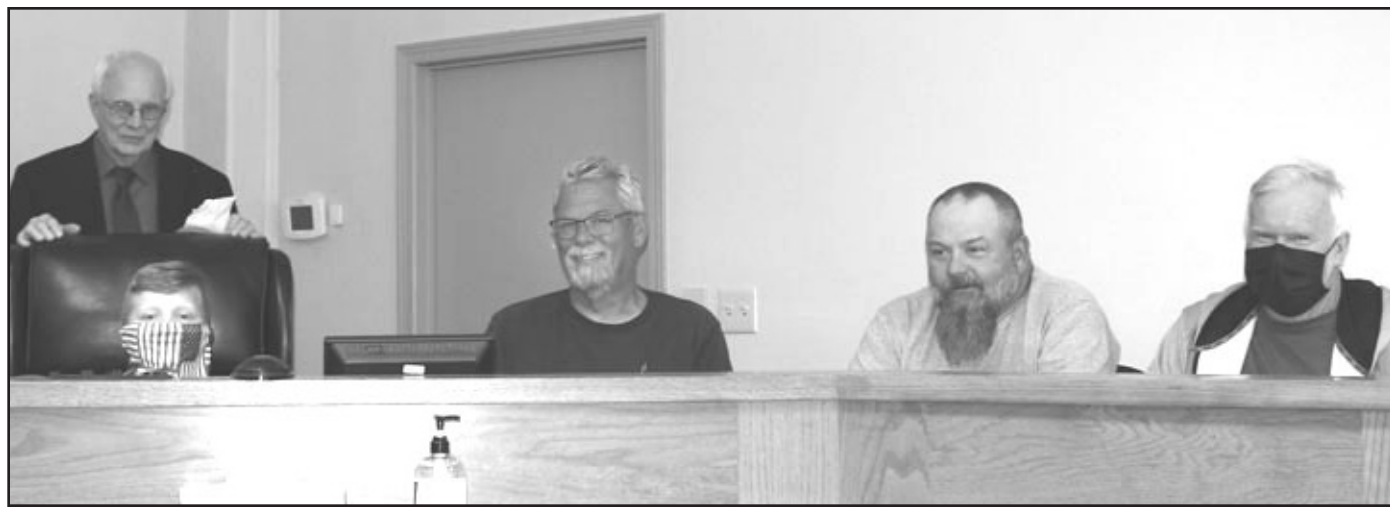
He stated there would be waivers for students who could not attend in-person instruction due to health reasons. but there would be strict guidelines for that student to follow in order to remain virtual.

For example, a student who remains on virtual learning will have to check in twice a day in order to be counted present for

the day. Saylor added that he expects 98 percent of students to return to the classroom in August.

A leave of absence for an employee was briefly discussed by the board before they decided to move into closed session to talk about the matter privately. The leave of absence was approved for the employee for the remainder of the school year.

A potential bill was discussed by board members that would allow students to have a do-over year. The consent item was for any parent that would like for their child to repeat this school year to fill out a form or to write a letter. Saylor said they would discuss this at greater length during the meeting in May.



The Estill Fiscal Court met in-person Monday for the first time in about a year because the covid-19 numbers were down. The group has been meeting by teleconferences since then. Pictured, seated left to right are Carter Flynn, Magistrate Mike Abney, Magistrate Paul Tipton, and Magistrate Gerry Flannery. Judge/Executive Donnie Watson is standing.

Fiscal court discusses flood, taxes, and road funds from the state

Several announcements at Monday's fiscal court meeting were related to the record flood in early March.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said that Hinkles called and wanted to do some volunteer work. He added at that time, they didn't have anything that could be done.

Instead, Hinkles agreed to grade the field for a new ball field at the county park.

The judge stated the county has fencing for the ball field.

He added that several weeks ago, on a rainy day, there was a food giveaway at the high school. Watson added there will be another food giveaway this Saturday with no income limit from 1-4 in front of the high school.



Chief Tommy Lane

Chief Tommy Lane of the Estill County Rescue Squad reported the squad made 270 runs and used 1,104 man hours during the ice storm and flooding.

During the flooding, 41 people were removed from their homes and ve-

hicles.

He said they had transported nurses 26 times to the hospital and 25 times to the nursing home. Dispatchers were transported 15 times.

Lane said the rescue squad is completely volunteer, but the county does pay for gas.

"I've got to say I ate some of the best food," Lane stated.

During the disasters, emergency workers and flood victims were served breakfasts, lunches, and suppers.

The judge's wife, Monique, coordinated with groups so there was a meal available each night for weeks. She also let the emergency groups know where the meal was being served.

Sheriff Chris Flynn said the rescue squad helped him a lot. He said his office already has about 1100 case numbers for this year.

Watson said the county received a \$25,000 grant to pay for landfill fees for the debris hauled off during the flood.

He added that he thinks that will also pay for the debris hauled off by Irvine and Ravenna, and he has spoken with the mayors of both cities about this.

"They helped us in the county, and we helped them in the cities," Watson stated.

The fiscal court passed an agreement to receive Flex Funds from the transportation cabinet for \$434,040 after July 1.

They also accepted a County Road Aid payment of \$899,275.52 for the next fiscal year.

Lucas Barnes, assistant director of Emergency Management, recommended the fiscal court to accept a low bid submitted by Master Electrical Services of Winchester for \$54,179. The bid was opened at last month's meeting and will be paid from CSEPP funds.

Barnes asked the court to bid on computers for Emergency Management. He said the computers are on a three-year life cycle.

Any computers in good working condition are issued out to other county departments. A prime mover vehicle was transferred from CSEPP to Irvine.

Watson stated that county treasurer Freda Lancaster had worked with a phone company over phone lines the county has not used.

"The county has been paying for them for a long time," Watson stated.

He said it amounted to several hundred dollars

each month, but the county is going to be given a refund.

The judge announced that it is National Dig Safety Month, and residents should call 811 before they dig.

He reported on the heat and air system in the courthouse. A state engineer suggested the county switch to a heat and air company in Lexington.

Sheriff Chris Flynn asked the fiscal court to amend his budget to increase vehicles to \$75,000. He plans to use money received for Covid to buy a new Durango.

He added the sheriff's department has two K-9s, and they need another vehicle suitable for K-9s.

Flynn stated that unpaid property taxes have been turned over to the county clerk's office.

County Attorney Jason Riley asked that everyone with unpaid taxes to stop by the clerk's office and pay them. He said if they are unable to pay the full amount, the taxpayer can stop by his office to arrange to make payments.

County Employees

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Kathy Holmes, a full time employee at the senior citizens center, resigned. A part-time employee, Amber Roush, was moved into that full time position at \$10.82 an hour.

The fiscal court is advertising for a part-time employee to fill the vacancy at the senior citizens center.

Suzi Dudley resigned as a full-time dispatcher at 911.

Lucas Barnes, assistant director of Emergency Management, asked permission to advertise for both part-time and full-time 911 dispatchers.

Kimberly Isaacs, a 911 dispatcher, completed the Dispatch Academy, and she received a pay raise of \$1.50 per hour.

Ky. congressmen support funding for flood damages

Kentucky's Congressional Delegation sent a joint letter to President Joe Biden in support of Governor Andy Beshear's request for a second federal Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky following historic flooding that began on February 26, leaving behind widespread damage in nine counties.

According to the Governor's request, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has conducted joint damage assessments and validated more than 2,000 impacted homes in Breathitt, Clay, Estill, Floyd, Johnson, Lee, Magoffin, Martin and Powell counties. The Governor is requesting these counties receive Public and Individual Assistance.

"Approximately 2,100 homes were destroyed or heavily impacted, while many schools and small businesses endured significant damage as a result of the sustained flooding, displacing numerous families, business owners, and even residents of nursing homes. Many parts of Kentucky were also without clean drinking water for several days and thousands experienced extended power outages. Raised water levels put immense pressure on critical infrastructure, such as dams, temporarily endangering even more residents," Members stated in the letter.

Local emergency management crews, trained volunteers, and the Kentucky National Guard re-

sponded to emergency calls for water rescues in several counties, bravely saving countless lives across the Commonwealth. After flood waters receded, revealing the heartbreaking damage left behind, generous donations and supplies poured into our state in support of emergency flood relief efforts.

However, it is abundantly clear that federal support is gravely necessary to repair roads, water lines, government buildings, and to help individuals who lost nearly everything.

"These recent and relentless severe weather events devastated the Commonwealth and its communities. For this reason, we urge you to also approve the requests for both public and individual assistance for those Kentuckians hit hardest by the these weather disasters," the letter stated.

The request comes only one week after President Biden issued a Major Disaster Declaration, activating emergency federal aid in response to the deadly winter ice storms that killed five people and impacted 44 counties in February. Kentucky's Congressional Delegation urged the President's quick response.

The Governor's office reported that FEMA has verified in excess of \$30 million in Public Assistance damages as of March 30, 2021.

For more information about federal major disaster declarations, visit FEMA.gov.

New Drivers

**April 19, 2021
Operator Permits**
Kennedy Riddell
Zachary Townsend
Natalie Norton

Intermediate licenses

Kaytlyn Abel
Noah Lutes
Sarah White

Lost Heifer

**700 or 800 lb.
White heifer lost
in Fox area**

**Please call
(606) 726-9496**

Irvine Police Dept. Activity

IPD Sgt. Stuart Morris served two Estill County bench warrants on **Melissa D. Isaacs**, 43, of Little Rock Road, Irvine on April 17. The warrants were served on Main Street, Irvine for failure to appear in court.

Two complaint warrants from Estill County Court were served April 18 by Officer Jim Marshall on **William Riddell**, 47, of Locomotive Street, Irvine.

One warrant was on a charge of theft by deception, including cold checks under \$10,000. The other was on charges of operating on a suspended or revoked operators license, leaving scene of accident -- failure to render aid or assistance, and failure of owner to maintain required insurance.

Officer Jason Conrad conducted a traffic stop on Main Street on April 12 on **Brandon Tommy**

Woolery, 38, of Lee Acres, Irvine.

Conrad said he made the traffic stop because the driver disregarded the stop sign at the intersection of Evergreen Drive and Armor Street.

The citation states the officer deployed the K-9 Titan to conduct an open air sniff around the vehicle. Titan gave a conditioned response to the odor of illegal substances.

The officer said he asked Woolery to step out of his vehicle, who told him there was illegal drug in his pocket. Conrad located a clear baggie containing a large amount of a crystal like substance, expected to be methamphetamine.

Woolery was charged with disregarding a stop sign, failure of non-owner to maintain required insurance, failure to produce insurance card, and possession of a controlled

substance, first offense (methamphetamine).

On April 13, Officer Doc Morris conducted a traffic stop on Front Street on **Amanda G. Cox**, 40, of South Irvine Road due to her vehicle having one headlight.

Officer Conrad deployed K-9 Titan, who alerted on the odor of illegal narcotics. The officer said he located a small plastic bag with a crystal substance, three suboxone pills, and three gabapentin pills. The pills were identified through poison control, and the crystal substance tested positive for methamphetamine.

Cox was charged with one headlight, possession of a controlled substance, first degree (methamphetamine), possession of a controlled substance, third degree, and possession of a controlled substance, second degree.

Two Estill County warrants for failure to appear were served on **Brandon Allen Crowe**, 27, of Richmond, Ky. by Officer Conrad. The warrants were served April 13 on River Drive, Irvine.

Officer Marshall served a warrant on **Jesse L. Chaney**, 43, of Grace Chapel Road, Irvine on April 11. It was an Estill warrant for failure to appear.

Chasity Murphy, 33, of Plum Street, Irvine was arrested on an Estill warrant April 14 by Sgt. Morris. The warrant was for failure to appear.

Cody C. Ballard, 29, of Rice Street, Irvine, was arrested for alcohol intoxication in a public place, resisting arrest, and second degree disorderly conduct on April 15 by Officer Marshall.

Officer Marshall served an Estill arrest warrant April 15 on **Shelby S. Moore**, 25, of Beattyville