

**Engineers & Lady Engineers In Action**  
Page 14



**Christmas on Glory Street raises \$1300 – Page 4**

**Betty Young's Times Remembered**  
Page 3

**50¢**  
INC 3 TAX IN KY  
0 4 8 7 9 2 0 4 5 5 8

# The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 24 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

## Team Shelly



Estill County High School painted the school pink on Tuesday in honor of the school secretary, Shelly Sparks (standing, second from right). Shelly was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is having surgery today, Wednesday, Dec. 14th. To show her our love and support, staff and students surprised her on Tuesday by having the school decorated in Pink. Everyone is encouraged to pray for Shelly as she begins this battle. Shelly loves working at ECHS and actually scheduled her surgery in hopes of missing the least amount of work possible. The high school is very blessed that she joined our staff this school year.

## Inmate is recaptured quickly after escape from jail parking lot

An inmate escaped briefly last Wednesday morning, and that short-lived escape could add up to 15 more years in prison for the inmate if he is convicted on the new charges.

Deputies Russell "Doc" Morris and Daniel Smith were both transporting inmates in separate cruisers from the Three Forks Jail in Beattyville to Irvine for scheduled court appearances.

Morris said that Ethan Newman, 26, of Stacy Lane was in leg irons and handcuffed to a belly belt. While transporting Newman, Morris noticed that Newman was moving around a lot in the back seat of the cruiser.

When the two deputies arrived at the Estill County Courthouse, Morris said he was waiting on Deputy Smith to unload the prisoners from his cruiser so that Smith could assist him to make sure that Newman's restraints had not been tampered with.

Morris said that was when Charles Durham walked up to his cruiser and began talking to him. Durham was one of the inmates transported by Deputy Smith in the other cruiser.

Newman reportedly told Durham to open the cruiser door. Morris told Durham to not open the door, and Morris got out of his cruiser.

Morris said that Newman fled on foot and both deputies chased him from the courthouse parking lot down the street toward Main Street.

Morris said Newman fell, and Deputy Smith took the inmate to the ground near Main Street and handcuffed him.

"We left those four inmates in the parking lot at the jail," Morris said.

They could have run at that time, but Morris thought they were too scared.

As Morris had expected, he said that Newman had freed himself from the restraints.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Council hears reactions to bad audit

by CATHY DAWES  
The Estill County Tribune

Irvine resident Jim Walters approached the city council on Monday night, December 12th and stated that he knew that some of them were blaming the mayor for calling in the state auditor but he was the one who had made the call. Walters said that Mayor W. J. Noland was doing a good job and that he was trying to do things right and legally.

Walters went on to say that he had approached the council several times about the legal representation of the city and how he has lied to and belittled the people of the city of Irvine.

Mayor Noland told Walters that he was getting out of order.

"W.J. do what you know has to be done and do it in a timely manner," stated Walters.

Former mayor Ernest Farmer approached the council to clarify some of the 'findings' in the audit report that was released last week. He said that he served on the council for two years and then as mayor for eight years and that a lot of the 'findings' were things that they didn't know was wrong. For example, Farmer said that when he took office that a financial report was never produced to the council unless they asked to see it. He said that's the way things had been done before he took office and they just continued on. He said the bills were always paid on time.

Farmer said that he had signed checks to the IRS and the Department of Revenue but never recalls sign-

ing a check for \$18,000 for penalties and interests. He said he didn't know where that number had come from but he didn't feel like that was accurate. He also said that in one of the 'findings' that 84 percent of 302 transactions had been paid without a receipt or proper documentation.

"I can guarantee you one thing, I never, ever signed a check without an invoice or a receipt showing what it was for," stated Farmer.

In regards to the Christmas bonuses that were listed in the audit, Farmer said that they did give each full time city employee a \$100 Christmas bonus and each part time employee a \$50 Christmas bonus because

that's what had been done in the past and he felt like the employees deserved it. He said a \$15 gift certificate was given to the council members. He said nobody ever told him that it was illegal.

He also said that the city had purchased flowers when there was a death but he didn't know that was wrong.

"They let on like we and these people at this council are a bunch of thieves and that's a bunch of crap. We did what we thought was best for the city," said Farmer.

Councilman Tim Burkhart said that in 2014 there were 12 findings within the yearly audit but

by the year 2015 all but three of those findings had been resolved. He said that it is the way that these new findings need to be worked on and resolve as many of them as possible.

In other news, Chief Brad Smith said that the city had received their new police cruiser. Smith also said that he was not able to get Officer Cloyd into school until March, therefore, he is working full time with another officer.

The council approved a privilege license to Joy Puckett to open a clinic at 101 River Drive. City clerk Robin Powell said that Puckett will be working with Dr. Rondal Goble in the family clinic.



The Nutcracker (Leslie Harris) and Princess Prilipat (Ashley Stone) got together at the end of "The Nutcracker," an all children's production by the River City Players. Three productions were given on Saturday and Sunday. Students in Estill County Schools were treated to productions of "The Nutcracker" this week.

## Obituaries

Bessie Caldwell, 76  
Willie Mae McIntosh, 73  
James Reynolds, 83  
Hunter Shean, 19  
Seth Smith, 34  
Stanley Walling, 64  
See Page 6

## Prayer for 1st Responders

This Saturday, December 17, Body of Christ will be opened between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. for the public to come and pray for first responders and elected officials. First responders includes police officers, firemen, EMTs, dispatchers, etc.

Bro. Billy Wesley invites the public to drop in for five minutes, an hour, or stay as long as they like. Body of Christ is located on River Drive.

## ECMS Cheerleaders Win Region



### 14th Region Champions – The ECMS Cheerleaders

The Estill County Middle School cheerleaders competed in the 14th Region competition at Jackson on November 20, 2016, where they won first place and qualified for the state middle school competition. They will be competing Saturday, December 17, 2016, at the Altech Arena in Lexington at 11:00 a.m. Come and support the ECMS cheerleaders. Left to right, front: Kyra Farthing, Jade Dixon, Kaylee Phillips, Ramzee Powell, Kennedy Gabbard, Kacey Gibson, Jalin Chapman. Back: Natalie Dixon, Emily Dennis, Shaelyn Parsons, Zoe Abney, Abby Freeman, Karlee Richardson, Summer Evans, Kayle Henry, Madison Hensley, Rayleigh Jones, Jenna Stone.