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# The Estill County Tribune

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## No changes are proposed for 23rd Judicial District Plan doesn't recommend a Family Needs Judge for Estill, Lee, Owsley

A Judicial Redistricting Plan released last week has proposed no changes for the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Estill, Lee, and Owsley counties.

The redistricting plan will be presented to the state legislature early in 2017. If the plan passes, it will not take effect until 2022.

"The plan will not go into effect until 2022, which gives those affected by the changes significant time to prepare," said Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton Jr.

All judges will be on the ballot to take office in 2022.

The redistricting plan was overseen by Minton at the legislature's request in 2014.

Kentucky's modern court system has remained nearly the same since 1976.

The proposed plan will move some counties to a different circuit, and the number of judges could also change for some circuits.

Now there are 116 district court judges. If the new plan passes, the state will lose 11 district court positions.

There are presently 95 circuit court judges and the plan reduces that number by four.

Presently there are 52 Family Need Judges. The plan will increase that number by 16 to 68.

The 23rd Judicial District does not have a Family Need Judge, and there is none planned with the redistricting plan.

Counties surrounding Estill, except for Lee, are in judicial districts which have one or more Family Need judges. The judicial plan also recommends no changes for Powell, Madison, and Clark Counties.

Jackson County, which is in a circuit

with Clay and Leslie counties, will lose a district court judge.

According to the values assigned by the committee studying the redistricting, the need for a district judge in the 23rd district was 0.65. Estill generated almost half of that need at 0.31, Lee at 0.19, and Owsley at 0.14.

District court handles small claims, civil suits under \$5,000, traffic cases, juvenile cases, and misdemeanors. Arraignments and preliminary hearings are usually held in district court for persons charged with felonies before those cases are transferred to circuit court.

The need for a circuit court judge in Estill was 0.37, Lee at 0.23, and Owsley at 0.18 or a total of 0.78. Persons charged with felonies are tried in circuit court. Civil suits over \$5,000 are also heard in circuit court, along with divorces and other matters.

The need for a family judge in Estill was assigned a value of 0.36, Lee 0.23, and Owsley 0.16 for a total of 0.75.

The goal of the proposed plan was

- To move a limited number of counties from one jurisdiction to another.
- Combine circuits and districts that are currently different and reduce the number of circuits by one, from 57 to 56.
- Bring Family Court to all but 10 jurisdictions.
- Reallocate existing resources by moving judges from circuits with lower workloads to areas of greater need.
- Calculate the appropriate number of judges by using a 1.4 implied judicial need as the cutoff to determine where more than one judge is needed.

The redistricting plan is based on weighted factors and not on population.



Thomas Branham appears to be guarding the Christmas packages by sitting on them during a family get-together over the holidays.

## District 10 is winter-weather ready for snow and ice season

The Kentucky Department of Highways District 10 office is prepared to combat the elements of the upcoming snow and ice season.

District 10 begins the winter weather season with more than 20,000 tons of salt and nearly 74,000 gallons of liquid calcium chloride on hand. More salt is available from the Transportation Cabinet's reserve stockpile in Louisville or from vendors if needed. Statewide, KYTC has more salt and calcium chloride available than was used last year, which should help to prevent shortages.

"Snow and ice removal is probably the most important service we provide for taxpayers," said Corbett Caudill, chief district engineer for the Department of Highways District 10. "Each winter provides unique challenges,

and we reevaluate our snow removal strategies each year. Last year, we had one of the largest single snowstorms we've had in several years. In our district and across the state, we've examined our response to winter weather events and are placing an emphasis on the efficient use of materials, personnel and resources and ensuring the safety of our snowplow drivers while working to maintain safe roads."

Drivers may notice a more aggressive pretreatment program this year, especially on problematic areas such as hills and curves. Pretreatment with brine prevents snow from binding to the pavement, making it easier to plow away.

"We ask drivers to be patient during snow removal operations," Caudill added. "Drivers should slow down,

keep an eye out for snow-plows, and remember to buckle up to ensure their safety. Our crews will work as fast as they can to clear the highways."

Again this year, District 10 will use Twitter and Facebook to provide updates on road conditions when weather-related emergencies occur. These social media outlets are available on home computers and Internet-enabled smartphones and tablets. The Cabinet urges motorists to check these sources before they leave home to know the status of our highways during winter weather events.

Road condition reports will also be available at <http://goky.ky.gov> and on the Waze app for smartphones and tablets.

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Randy Sutter was selected as the Certified Employee for the November Mountain Mover by the Estill County Board of Education.



Brenda Honchell was recognized as the Classified Employee for the November Mountain Mover Award by the Estill County Board of Education.

### Obituaries

David Conner, 55  
Elizabeth Crowe, 67  
Johnny French, 63  
Evelyn Hall, 60  
Melvin Litteral, 73  
Clarence Mattox, 76  
Bonnie Murphy, 76  
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## Patsy man is arrested Christmas Eve by IPD

An Estill County man was arrested on Christmas Eve and lodged in the county detention center.

Sgt. John Sturniolo of the Irvine Police Department received a call that a man was passed out in his vehicle on River Drive.

The officer stated that when he arrived on the scene, the man had awakened and had left the scene.

Sturniolo located the suspected man at 111 S. Hudson Avenue, who told Sturniolo that he had taken a muscle

relaxer and oxycodone.

The citation states that Rodney Rhodes, 52, of Patsy Road, Ravenna was unsteady on his feet, had slurred speech, and displayed HGN.

It adds that a 30 mg. oxycodone pill was found wrapped in a gum wrapper inside the man's hoodie.

Rhodes was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree, and public intoxication.

Because of the holiday, court dates and bail amount was not available.



The Lions Club gathered for a photo in the fall after holding their All-You-Can-Eat pancake breakfast. The Lions Club helps to test eyes of schoolchildren and provides eye glasses. The club meetings are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Rader's River Grill, and new members are welcomed.