

Betty Young's Times Remembered Page 7



Four from Estill named Sen. Jeff Green Scholars -- Page 14

Jay Bicknell's Wanderings from the Woods & Water Page 15

50¢
INC 3¢ TAX IN KY
8 04879 20455 8

The Estill County Tribune **EstillTribune.Com**

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 8 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

River City Players gets deed to "The MACK" Theatre



Members of the River City Players gathered Thursday morning at Irvine City City Players. The group is continuing its fundraising to restore the theatre. The Hall to witness the transfer of the "MACK Theatre" to the non-profit group, River story appears on Page 2.



Gary McClanahan shared his family's history of the Mack Theatre with River City Players on Thursday. His grandparents came to Irvine to work on the railroad and started the theatre business.

Irvine sets tax rate and amends budget

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune

The Irvine city council met on Monday night and got down to business by amending the budget and setting the tax rate for the next fiscal year. Members of the council had met in special session last week to review the budget and see if there were areas where they could save money.

Councilman Tim Burkhart said that they had discussed potentially replacing the current street lights with LED lights which would be a big expense up front but would save money in the long run. He added that there were other areas in which the city could save money such as office supplies, vehicle maintenance, and building and park maintenance. The projected savings for the city under the amended budget would be approximately \$8,000.

Councilman Tobo Bryant made the motion to keep the tax rate for the city the same as it was last year. City clerk Robin Powell said that if the city took the four percent increase the city would potentially collect \$7,700 more than last year. Bryant stated that he felt like the tax rate should stay the same and the council look at other ways to increase revenue.

Mayor Noland asked the council's approval for Tobo Bryant to be authorized to sign checks in the event that him or the city clerk was unable to do so. Bryant is the mayor pro tem for the city of Irvine.

Rodney Davis informed the council that the city had been named in a federal lawsuit a couple of years ago and that the case had went to court last week in Lexington. Davis said that the city won the lawsuit on all counts.

Continued on Page 2

Enrollment is down 98 students; district could lose over \$400,000

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune

The Estill County school board met in regular session on August 18th. Superintendent Jeff Saylor said that opening day was a success with almost every employee of the district in attendance with the exception of those that were ill. Saylor said that almost 50 thank you cards were mailed out to community partners who participated that day and also praised the band for their performance of the Engineer fight song.

"There's something special about the fact that all of our schools have come together as one under the Engineer logo," added Saylor.

He said that there was a drastic decrease in enrollment this year and that it will have a big economic impact on the school district. Saylor said that typically enrollment is down about 10 to 15 kids each new school year but this year that number has increased to 98 students which means the district will lose approximately \$390,000 in SEEK money alone.

Saylor added that it doesn't include special funding which would raise that number to over \$400,000. He said that most of the students have moved and

that several other factors come into play as to why the numbers are down but the bottom line is that it will affect personnel. Each school could potentially lose one teacher next year according to Saylor.

The board discussed raising the property tax rate at great length and a unanimous vote was cast among the board members to keep the rate the same as last year.

Saylor said that the district had done wonderful things within the budget the first year that he was on the job and that there were more things that could be done with the budget to save money. He said that fewer kids are being home-schooled and that a virtual school is a win/win for the district as well as parents who choose to teach their children at home. The district will provide the curriculum for those home-schooled students and in return will receive SEEK allocations from the state.

"Give us another year to tighten our belt a little more. There are some things we can cut but if we have this same situation next year then we will have to look at taking the four percent increase," stated Saylor.

A joint application with the Estill County Fiscal Court for a career and

technical center is in the works. Saylor said they are looking at a piece of property on River Drive to build a new facility as well as the old Irvine High School building. He said that one million dollars has been set aside for bonding potential. The new facility would be used by students during the day and would be used to educate adults in the afternoon.

Saylor said that currently there are 20 million dollars worth of construction needs at the schools in the district but there is only 5 million dollars in bonding potential.

The fund raising policy was discussed for a lengthy period of time between board members. Saylor said that the current policy states that the board has to approve all fundraisers that are school related. He said that he doesn't want to have to approve every fundraiser but he does think the board has a right to know and that each club or team should have to submit a list of fundraising activities to the board. He added that they were looking at banning road blocks all together because it was a liability to the district to have students or employees participating in the road blocks.

Continued on Page 2

Four Seasons Work Day at West Irvine's Monarch Butterfly Garden

West Irvine Elementary School and the Four Seasons Garden Club partnered to establish a certified Monarch Waystation for the big, beautiful butterflies with their regal orange and black stained-glass-like wings. Its aim is to develop a site that provides milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter needed to produce successive generations as they migrate through North America. In

1976 the overwintering monarchs in Mexico covered 50 acres; in 2012 they covered less than 3. Their current population is 1/15th of what it was in 1977. While providing food and shelter for monarchs and other pollinators, they also help to provide a healthy ecosystem which directly affects our food, water, and air quality. The Four Seasons Garden Club is a member of the National Council

of State Garden Club, Inc.

The Four Seasons Garden Club held a work day at West Irvine's Monarch Butterfly Garden last week. Members pulled weeds, spread mulch, checked for insects, etc. Those who participated were Paula White, Barbara Welch, Patti Reese, Glynnia Noland, Susan Hawkins, Cindy Callahan, and Francine Bonny.

-- Courtesy of Francine Bonny



Children and club members recently started the process of cleaning the site at the West Irvine School Monarch waystation. The butterfly garden will be re-planted next spring to provide native plants as their larval host plants.

Obituaries

Larry Horn, 59
James Kiser, 82
Donald Stewart, 82
Lelia Taylor, 87
See Page 6

MONDAY



Monday, Sept. 5

© 2016 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.