

School Board rehires architectural firm

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He stated site selection would begin immediately after the board hired the architect and that process would take up to two months. He added that he has a completion date in mind for the technology center in July 2019.

L.W. Beckley said he felt strongly about this and he added that the board should be prepared to hire a construction manager if they did stay with the current architect.

"I can promise you that I will be involved in the process, and we won't have issues like we've had in the past," said Mr. Saylor.

Board member Donna Isfort made the motion to go with Ross-Tarrant and the motion was seconded by Jenny Niece. The motion carried 3-2 with Beckley and Jon Bicknell voting against Ross-Tarrant.

Mountain Movers were recognized by the board. Mr. Saylor said that this is the first time recognizing a community member as a Mountain Mover. Kathy Samples, CEO of Citizens Guaranty Bank, was given the award because she goes above and beyond for the students in the county.

Mike Flynn who has been an employee of the district for 24 years was recognized as the classified Mountain Mover of the month. Flynn was nominated for his excellent service and positive attitude.

Deanna Caldwell was selected as the Certified Mountain Mover of the month. Caldwell was recognized for her strong leadership skills, creativity, and dedication to her students.

Jessica Lee spoke to the board about the Mobile Medical Innovative Readiness

Training program. Lee said that this program targets basic medical needs as well as dental and vision.

She stated that a mobile clinic was set up in Western Kentucky back in June and there were people standing in line out in the rain for hours to be seen by the dentist and eye doctor. The program also targets school physicals but anything other than a sinus infection or head cold would be referred to their primary care physician.

Lee said that almost 1.5 million dollars in services were done in June and that she feels like this will provide basic services to the people of Lee, Owsley, and Estill County who cannot afford it otherwise. Mr. Saylor said that this mobile clinic would happen during the 'dead time' of school which is in July.

Consent items were approved by the board such as a GEAR UP agreement/partnership with Berea College, out of state trips, adult education contract, and a contract between the school district and Advanced Disposal.

L.W. Beckley asked why the contract between the district and Advanced Disposal had decreased by \$15,000.

Mr. Saylor replied that he had looked at the contract and the district was being charged the full rate even in the summer when there was no school.

He also stated that they were being charged \$200 per month for garbage pick-up at the high school and it wasn't even a mile away from the landfill. He said that he called them and negotiated with them until they were able to decrease the amount of the contract by \$15,000.



Rodney Davis
Estill County Attorney



William "Bo" Leach
23rd District Judge



Jerad Thomas
Former NFL Player

Prosecutor, judge speak about measures to help drug addicts

Estill County Attorney Rodney Davis and 23rd District Judge William "Bo" Leach spoke Saturday morning on what the legal system is doing to combat the drug problem in Estill County.

Their speeches were made during a drug march and resource fair held by Helping Hands and West Care.

All admit that everyone knows someone who has a drug problem and are affected by it.

"There is always hope on this issue," Davis stated.

Davis spoke about Casey's Law, where usually it is parents who seek help for an adult child with a drug problem.

Judge Leach stated the law is much like a guardianship, where the addict is evaluated before going into rehab.

The law is not perfect, because once the evaluation is completed, often there is no rehab available. The hearing must be held 14 days after the evaluation is completed.

Leach said a second problem is the cost of rehab.

"Insurance is covering it more and more," he stated.

He said when the final hearing is over, the addict is taken directly to rehab.

A young lady told him that she wasn't going to a rehab in Tennessee that her family had gotten her in. The judge said that

Sheriff Gary Freeman handcuffed her and took her to Tennessee for rehab.

"It's very difficult to rehabilitate someone who doesn't want to be rehabilitated," Davis stated.

Davis was appointed last year to the Prosecutor's Advisory Council by Governor Matt Bevin.

This year the council supported Estill County to receive funding for a Rocket Docket program which began July 1.

This allows felony offenders to move through the court system more quickly.

Davis said it averages \$80 a day to incarcerate an Estill County inmate, one of the highest rates in the states. Since the Rocket Docket program started July 1, 35 defendants have been sentenced. Davis said this has saved the county 1,100 days of incarceration.

While the defendants in the Rocket Docket Program may not see prison time, they must enter into rehabilitation programs.

Estill County is more fortunate than two other counties in the 23rd district, Lee and Owsley. Estill has West Care and Comp Care to send offenders to. Davis also mentioned there are free rehab programs out there.

"I still believe incarceration is part of the process," stated Judge Leach.

Former NFL player struggled with drugs, now helping others

Jerad Thomas, a former West Care employee, and now CEO of Shepherd's House in Lexington, was the keynote speaker Saturday at Helping Hands and West Care's Drug March and Resource Fair.

Thomas grew up in West Virginia and told of his struggles at school. He started sneaking his father's liquor at an early age.

His father hired a tutor which got him on track education-wise.

He made All-State in three sports in high school: football, basketball, and baseball.

He was a defensive back at Marshall University.

"Everybody that was playing with me was the best player in their high school," he stated.

He signed a contract with the NFL.

"I bounced around in the NFL for about three years," he stated. "If you don't play, they don't pay."

Cocaine and alcohol had taken over Thomas' life.

He lost his \$400,000 home, his wife, and son.

Eventually, he moved into his car and a homeless shelter in Lexington.

He wrote 157 bad checks and was facing four years in prison.

He turned to God.

"I want to be a parent," he said. "I want to be a member of the community, and I don't know how to do that."

He was hoping to go to Blackburn but the judge gave him another chance.

During an ice storm in Lexington, he bought a chain saw for \$200. He made \$6,000 a week and formed Thomas Tree Service.

His first year of sobriety got him out of debt and he paid back \$15,000 in child support.

Eventually, he got his rights back with his son.

He took a counselor's job at Laurel Treatment Center for \$10 an hour.

Thomas said he isn't sorry he didn't get to play for the NFL. "I got to be a parent." He is also reunited with his wife.

4 waive indictment charges; plea guilty on Rocket Docket

Four people have waived indictments to the Estill County Grand Jury. The four were recently charged with felonies and entered guilty pleas through the Rocket Docket program on Sept. 21.

Jennifer Rena Sparks was facing a charge of possession of a controlled substance first. The waiver says she had a baggie of methamphetamine in her possession on August 30.

A charge of drug paraphernalia buy/possession was dismissed by her plea.

She was sentenced and given probation.

Sheila Martin Taylor was sentenced Sept. 21 on charges of possession of a controlled substance first and tampering with physical evidence.

The waiver states that on Sept. 17, Martin had a Percoset 10 in her possession, which she tried to conceal.

Martin was given diversion and will be enrolled in Drug Court. Other charges against her were to be dismissed according to the plea.

Bryan W. Mays waived indictments on

two district court cases. He was charged with third degree assault and resisting arrest on Sept. 3. He allegedly kicked an officer and had to be tazed. He allegedly cursed and jerked away from the officer.

He was also charged with fleeing and evading police first degree on Sept. 3. The waiver states that Mays traveled at a high rate of speed through a construction zone after an officer had activated lights and sirens.

Mays pled guilty and was sentenced. Other charges against him were to be dismissed.

Jessie Roy Stone waived an indictment on charges of possession of a controlled substance, first and leaving the scene of an accident Sept. 8. The possession charge was amended from trafficking in a controlled substance.

Stone was sentenced after pleading guilty. He was given a diverted sentence and enrolled in Drug Court.

Per his plea, drugs were to be destroyed and \$150 was forfeited to the Irvine Police Department.



Sixth district U.S. Congressman Andy Barr spoke about drug resources at the Drug March and Resource Fair on Saturday morning.



Council learns about jr. firefighters

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Chad Neal spoke to the council about the Junior Firefighter Program. He said that many people had questioned him about the insurance coverage on the junior firefighters and wanted to clarify that indeed they are covered under the insurance policy.

Neal said that when he was young that he used to hang around at the fire department with Chief Tony Murphy and then in the 9th grade he started running around with the wrong crowd and dropped out of school. Murphy told him that he wasn't allowed to be at the department if he wasn't going to get an

education so Neal went on to get his GED in 2008 and he considers it a blessing that he was able to spend time at the fire department.

As junior firefighters, they still have to undergo the same training as regular firefighters and Neal said that he holds them accountable with their grades at school as well. He said that he requires them to show him their report cards and if they have a failing grade then they talk about it. They use old turned out gear that has been expired when out on a call and Neal said that they do a lot of work to pay for training schools and their shirts.

"They wear these shirts

with pride," stated Neal.

Currently there are 12 junior firefighters but Neal said that number fluctuates with students who are involved in sports. He said that anyone that is 15 years or older and would be interested in participating in the program can contact him or Tony Murphy.

"I think it's really good and I'm proud of you for getting this going," said Councilwoman Nelle Williams.

A privilege license was granted to Brenda Aldridge to open an auction house at 88 River Drive. The auction will consist of furniture, home décor, and antiques and will also house a snack

shop. The auctions will be held on Friday nights.

Tobo Bryant said that the last cruise in of the year will be held on October 11th. This cruise in will be the Toys for Tots fundraiser. Bryant said that he plans to speak to local business owners and try to work something out with them to coincide with the cruise in.

Fire Chief Tony Murphy said that the Irvine Fire Department responded to a house fire on Armour Street early Monday morning. He said the damage was contained to one room of the home but the home suffered significant smoke damage.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...The men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?"

GENESIS 18:16,17

Detail of "Abraham Approaching Sodom with Three Angels" by Marc Chagall

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