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American Legion Post 79 temporarily closes

Investigations continue into threats made to local and state Legion officers

American Legion is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, but Post 79 on Millers Creek Road is temporarily closed.

An announcement of the closure was sent to the Tribune by Kimberly Stone Richardson of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

"The Department Commander Jerry W. McKinney has recommended and authorized the closing of American Legion Post 79 temporarily due to an Internal Affairs investigation and state police investigation," the announcement said.

"Threats have been made towards local and state American Legion officers, and therefore the safety of its members is a top priority at this time. The post will re-

open when the investigation is complete," it adds.

There was no signature on the announcement, although the name of James S. Noe, Commander Post 79, appeared at the bottom.

As of Monday afternoon, no one had been charged with making threats related to American Legion Post 79.

A Facebook post on Thursday mentioned a lawsuit, but that post was quickly taken down.

A small claim filed by the American Legion Post 79 in the local court system revealed some of the ongoing problems at the local post.

The small claim was filed against Melissa Gay, a member of the American Legion until recently.

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Several vehicles were parked at the American Legion Post 79 on Millers Creek Road, Monday evening, but there was no human activity visible. There is no word when the post will reopen.

School board honors retirees

by Cathy Dawes
Tribune Staffwriter

On Thursday night during the school board meeting several individuals who had recently retired were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the Estill County school system. Superintendent Jeff Saylor said that even though it is always a sad time to lose employees from the district, it's also a time of celebration.

The following retirees were recognized during the meeting, Robin Barnes, Marsha Webb, Sandy Bonny, Mary Hardy, Jimmy Bonny, Wayne Hall, Doris Harrison, Missy Burkhart, Connie Clem, Margaret Wood, Angie Flynn, and Polly Hall.

Unable to attend the meeting were Brian McKinney, Gina Flynn, Mike Jones, Jeanette Hughes, and Pat Chas-

teen.

Peter Fisher informed the board that the roofing projects at Estill Springs and the middle school were in their final stages. Fisher asked for the board to approve a pay application on those projects.

He also asked for the board's approval for a contract for Roto Rooter to perform a camera survey.

Fisher then went on to discuss the bus garage and explained that the site location would be approximately a quarter mile off the road and asked that the board approve to advertise for bids on the new garage.

Randall Johnson from Codell Construction said that the demolition phase of the old bus garage was almost complete. He was pleased to announce that all soil samples came back with no signs of



Bus driver Angela Flynn was one of 15 retirees recognized by the Estill County Board of Education at Thursday's meeting. Flynn was a bus driver for 18 years. Tim Burkhart presents Flynn with a gift.

contamination.

Mr. Saylor added that there would be deductive change orders to approve at the September meeting because they had allotted money just in case there were contaminants located at the site of the old bus garage.

Saylor also said that the county was willing to donate the school district a small piece of land in front of the high school and once the survey was completed on that land, the fiscal court would approve to deed it to the school district.

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Two men indicted for raping girls

Two Irvine men were recently indicted for raping juveniles in unrelated incidents.

An Estill Grand Jury indicted Brian Aaron Tipton, 20, of James Street, Irvine and David Mullins, 46, of North Plum Street, Irvine.

Tipton was indicted for two counts of rape in the second degree and two counts of sexual abuse, first degree. The alleged victim was a 13 year old juvenile.

The indictment says on November 15, 2017, Tipton was over 21 when he had sexual intercourse by digital penetration. He also allegedly had sexual intercourse with the victim the same date.

According to the indictment, Tipton committed sexual abuse on November 15, 2017 by laying behind the victim and touching her inappropriately.

Between January 1, 2017 and November 16, 2017, Tipton allegedly subjected the juvenile to sexual contact by coming behind and touching her genital area.

Second degree rape is a Class C felony, punishable by five to ten years in prison. First degree sexual abuse is a Class D felony, punishable by one to five years in prison.

Irvine Capt. John Sturniolo was the investigating officer.

Mullins was indicted on three counts of third degree rape, two counts of third degree sodomy, and first degree sexual abuse.

The indictment states that Mullins had sexual intercourse with a juvenile less than 16 in the summer and winter of 2018. It adds the juvenile was 16 when Mullins had sexual intercourse with her in March, 2019.

According to the indictment, Mullins also engaged in deviate sexual intercourse with the victim twice in March.

It adds that he submitted the victim to sexual contact between the summer of 2018 and early 2019.

The charges against Mullins are Class D felonies, punishable by one to five years in prison. The investigation was conducted by Irvine Police Chief Brad Smith.

The grand jury returned six other indictments, including 22 charges of criminal possession of a forged instrument, second degree, against Aaron P. Riddell, 37, of Pea Ridge Road, Irvine.

According to the indictment, Riddell possessed 22 forged checks which belonged to his mother, between December 20 and February 19. The checks totaled \$915.

Sheriff Chris Flynn investigated this case.

Trenton D. Renfro, 23, of Richmond was named in an indictment charging him with receiving stolen property and receiving a stolen firearm between August 8, 2018 and October 15, 2018.

He allegedly had a Remington rifle and Winchester rifle in his possession which had been reported stolen.

Kristie Gray, 26, of Noland Hill Road, Irvine was indicted for theft by unlawful taking or disposition of an auto valued at \$500 or more but under \$10,000 and second degree persistent felony offender.

Gray allegedly took the victim's vehicle on October 1, 2018. The indictment states that she was previously convicted of two felony offenses.

KSP Trooper Casey Caudill investigated the two above cases.

Frankie S. Young, 50, of Leighton Road, Irvine was indicted for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The indictment says the offense occurred on November 17, 2018.

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Obituaries

Marie Campbell, 88
Eva L. Cornett, 91
Todd Hamm, 38
Marion B. Hardy, 94
Rocky Osborne, 41
Jessie Puckett, 71
Gregory Rogers, 58
Richard Snowden, 96

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New Obits at
EstillTribune.com

Cobb Hill Fire Department will revert back to estate

At Monday's meeting of the Estill County Fiscal Court, the estate of Glen Watson demanded that the land where the Cobb Hill Fire Department sits be returned to the estate.

After some discussion, the county's three magistrates agreed to deed the fire department to the Watson family on October 1.

When Mr. Watson was alive, he deeded the land to the county for the fire department on the condition that if it ever ceased to be a fire department, the property would revert back to him or his heirs.

Watson's son, Edward Watson, and daughter, Nelda Marks, were at Monday's fiscal court meeting.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson abstained from the voting. He said it was unethical because he is related to the Watsons.

Judge Watson has voiced his disapproval in giving the land back because he wanted to get the fire department started back up.

"It has to be used," said Marks. "It has to be manned." Marks said she was promised by former judges that they were starting the fire department back up, and it hadn't happened.

In other action, Librarian Kathy Watson and two of her board members presented their annual report to the fiscal court.

The real property tax rate will be 13.4 cents per \$100 assessed valued, up from last year's rate of 13.3 cents.

Ms. Watson said the library has taken the compensating tax rate, which is expected to generate the same income as last year. It is a higher tax rate because property assessments have gone down.

The personal property tax rate went down slightly from 14.77 cents per \$100 assessed value last year to 14.62 cents this year.

The tax on motor vehicles will stay the same at 3.72 cents.

Judge Watson stated the library collects about \$200,000 to \$250,000 more each year than the county does.

"People think the county had something to do with the new library building," he added. "We really have no say on who is on the (library) board."

"I'm not against the library, but I'm against putting 2 3/4 quarter million on taxpayers of Estill County," he stated.

The \$2.75 million was the amount of the bond the library obtained for their new library. The bid for the library was about \$2.8 million.

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