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Elected officials present proposed cuts



Phil Perry/Coal Valley News

Boone County Commission President Eddie Hendricks said that laying off county employees is one of the hardest processes he's faced as an elected official.

By PHIL PERRY
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BOONE COUNTY COMMISSION
MADISON — The Boone County Commission heard from elected officials on Tuesday regarding a 20 percent cut that each office was ordered to execute in the wake of a \$2.5 million budget shortcoming.

Each official addressed Commission President Eddie Hendricks and Commissioners Brett Kuhn and Craig Bratcher regarding cuts in personnel that would be implemented Sept. 15.

Boone County Circuit Clerk Sue Ann Zickefoose, who is on her third term in the seat, was the first to the podium and she proposed no cuts in personnel to her office.

Zickefoose presented a list of the responsibilities for her office to commissioners, saying her office's workload and responsibility has increased over 14 years.

"When I first started I had three people," she said. "Last spring I had seven people. I lost two people and it's like losing a table leg. You can't operate. I revamped and rescheduled and redone. I took the (responsibility) of those two people and

divided it among the five."

"I'm submitting my budget to you and if you don't approve it I'll submit it to the Chief Judge," she said. "And then from there he can go to the Supreme Court."

Boone County Clerk Roger Toney approached commissioners. He had eight employees when he took office and will now work with five, with his office cutting two employees per the request.

Administrator Lee Ann Dale asked Toney who was now going to handle accounts payable.

"I don't have an answer to that," Toney said.

Dale responded, "Because your payroll clerk doesn't have the payroll up yet."

Toney then said, "I also know that she doesn't have the password to do the direct deposit because I asked her about that."

Dale then responded, "Her second week in the office one of your employees came and asked me how to do payroll and you're two and-a-half years and you're on your fifth payroll clerk."

Toney said, "Pay them more money and they'll stay." Sheriff Randall White then discussed the reduction to payroll

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Man charged in Julian shooting

By PHIL PERRY
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JULIAN — A man suffered injuries to his face and neck when he was shot with a rifle by his uncle during an argument on Wednesday afternoon.

Eric Stephen Hayes, 40, of Ridgeview, was charged with malicious wounding, wanton endangerment and possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine.

According to an incident report prepared by Deputy Daniel Cottrell with the Boone County Sheriff's Office, officers responded to a call of shots fired at 219 Betsy Lane in Julian.

The report states that officers found Hayes standing in the driveway of the residence and the alleged victim lying on the ground near the garage.

The report noted that victim told officers that his uncle had shot him with a .22-caliber rifle, and he was bleeding from his neck and chin area. He also stated that an argument had ensued after the victim told Hayes not to shoot the gun earlier, but Hayes shot the gun anyway. That is when Hayes allegedly

turned the gun on the victim and shot.

One witness told officers that she saw Hayes standing inside the garage holding a hammer in the presence of the victim. The witness stated that Hayes took a gun out of his car and chased her with it. The report states that the victim yelled at Hayes, and that is when Hayes fired the shot at the victim. The witness told officers that Hayes then placed the gun in the trunk of his red Toyota car.

The report states that additional witnesses were interviewed regarding the incident and moments leading up to the shot being fired.

An officer on the scene found a .22-caliber bullet in the driveway along with a shell casing. A search of Hayes found \$211 in cash and a bag of white substance that officers believed to be methamphetamine.

Hayes was arraigned on Thursday morning and was being held in the South Central Regional Jail on a \$15,000 property/surety bond.

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Ridgeview man charged in shooting of cousin

By PHIL PERRY
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CAMP CREEK — A Ridgeview man was charged with malicious wounding after an incident that left another man with a gunshot wound to the leg on Thursday afternoon in the Camp Creek area of Boone County.

Caleb Joseph Lee Turner, 20, of Ridgeview, was charged on Thursday after an investigation by the Boone County Sheriff's Office.

According to an incident report prepared by Lt. EE Arthur, Richard Dale Turner was interviewed by law enforcement at Boone Memorial Hospital while being treated for the gunshot wound.

The report states that he saw the defendant, who is his

cousin, along Camp Creek Road and asked him if he needed a ride. The report states that it was at this point that the conversation turned confrontational.

The victim stated that he noticed the defendant had a gun and that the defendant told the victim to "come on up the hollow with me" and that he was "nobody's bitch."

The victim stated that he saw the defendant's finger move toward the trigger of the gun and that he attempted to grab the gun in an effort to protect himself when the gun went off.

The victim was shot in the back of the left leg between the top of the calf and the knee.

The gun was described as

See SHOOTING | 2A



Phil Perry/Coal Valley News

Musician Jeff Rakes has enjoyed a music career that has lasted over two decades and taken him across the United States.

Rakes reflects decades of making music

By PHIL PERRY
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DANVILLE — Multi-instrumentalist Jeff Rakes believes it's no coincidence that some of the best people he's ever known would not be in his life without music.

"Through being a musician, I've met some of the best people," he said. "I've lost touch with some through the years, but when you think about it, it's pretty incredible the way music brings folks together."

Despite his skillful fretboard work, Rakes, 41, wasn't born with a guitar in his hands. It took some time for

him to develop an interest in music and his first tangle with an instrument came in elementary school when he took to brass.

"When I was 6 or 7, I had a keyboard and I'd mess around with that. I grew up in Harts and when I was in junior high, they offered a guitar class and kids were bringing guitars to school. I had one before that and my parents found it at a yard sale and I had a couple of uncles that picked around, but I never really took to it until junior high."

While Rakes' style today leans more toward country with a splash of rock and

blues, initially his interest was piqued by hard rock.

"I was really into Ozzy Osbourne and his guitarist Zakk Wylde back then," he said. "I just liked the sounds that came out of the electric guitar and he was unique and it made me want to play guitar. Later, I got into guitar players like Elliot Easton who played with The Cars. He blended so many styles together to make his own and it made me branch out and listen to other things, which eventually led me to country pickers."

Rakes father, who was from Harts, worked on the railroad; in the late 1970s, the family

lived in Columbus, Ohio, before returning to West Virginia when he was very young.

The picker said West Virginia connections run deep, and music has a funny way of connecting people.

"I was playing a gig out in Montana," he said. "I lived there for about five years and when the band took a break, a guy came up to me and he told me that he was from Lincoln County. After we talked for a bit I realized that he and my dad were first cousins. He was from Ranger, which is actually where my dad grew up. He was

See RAKES | 2A

Felon charged with armed robbery in Boone County

By PHIL PERRY
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GREENVIEW — A man was charged with armed robbery and persons prohibited from possessing firearms in an incident that occurred on Aug. 22 in the Greenview area of Boone County.

According to an incident report prepared by Cpl. Kevin McCarty of the Boone County Sheriff's Office, he and Deputy Nick Mullins responded to a domestic disturbance call. The victim stated that James Richard Ward, 31, of Powell Hollow

Road, had robbed her using a firearm.

The victim described the firearm in the report as a "silver semi, not a revolver."

According to the report, the victim said Ward had taken her purse and bag out of her hands while pointing a gun at her head and then ran to his house.

The officers met at Ward's residence and Deputy Mullins reportedly located the accused hiding in a closet in his bedroom. Mullins reported that



Ward

he recovered a silver Ruger .22-caliber semi-automatic handgun and a sawed-off 12 gauge shotgun near the closet door.

The report stated the handgun was reported stolen in Logan County.

The report states Mullins observed a rifle near the bed in the same room, and the rifle was loaded with a live round in the chamber.

According to the report, Ward stated, "She took my money. All I did was go get my money back but I didn't

use any gun. I don't need to go back to jail, man. I just did four years."

According to the report prepared by McCarty, the officers confirmed through a check that Ward had a capias warrant active out of family court and they confirmed that he is a convicted felon.

As of Coal Valley News print deadline, Ward was held in the Southwestern Regional Jail on a \$100,000 surety/cash bond.

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