



Hancock Clarion

VOLUME 116—NUMBER 24 • HAWESVILLE, KENTUCKY

81 bids received for new courthouse

By Malena DeJarnette

On Wednesday afternoon, the Fiscal Courtroom of the Administration Building was packed to the brim with construction companies far and wide eager to bid on the new Hancock County Judicial Center. Representatives lined the walls and hallway, as seats were filled quickly. At exactly 2 p.m., Richard Mitchell with Codell Construction Company, the CM for the project, began a "rip and read" of the 81 bid packages lining the table.

Mitchell, and James King with the Administrative Office of the Courts, were "very pleased with the turnout."

A total of fifteen separate bid packages were being bid on. And a few companies tried their hand at combination bids. The 33,700 square foot facility was originally estimated at \$12 million, with construction costs estimated at over \$8 million. At the end of the bid opening Wednesday, apparent low base bids totaled just over \$7.8 million.

The apparent low bidders for each package are: **Paving-Yager Materials** \$93,684.50; **General Trades** - Sullivan & Cozart \$2,408,000; **Masonry** - River City Development Corp. \$968,620; **Roofing** - Concord Roofing \$392,500; **Studs, Dry-wall & Ceilings** - M&M Interiors \$619,000; **Aluminum Storefronts & Windows** - WR Cole & Associates \$198,900; **VCT & Carpet** - KV Flooring \$105,400; **Tile** - Corvins Floor Coverings \$33,500; **Terazzo** -

See **COURTHOUSE** on page 12

Hancock students may face drug testing

By Ralph Dickerson

On Tuesday evening, Hancock County High School held an open forum to discuss proposed policy changes at the school. A proposal to randomly drug test HCHS students headed the list.

The Hancock County Board of Education must approve the new policy. If the body does so, it takes effect this upcoming school year.

HCHS Athletic Director Danny Gray and Principal Rick

Lasley said conditions at the school warrant such a policy.

"The drug issue has become such a problem here in Hancock County, we feel compelled to act," Lasley said. "The longer we continue to think it will go away, the longer we think it is just something our kids are going to do without trying to provide our students some help, we are just going to see the statistics continue to grow."

Athletic Director Gray con-

curred. This past school year, his geography class at the school contained mostly seniors. Gray said he and the class often discussed a drug testing policy, and the students told him that any such policy also needed to include testing for prescription drugs. He said the students told him the types of drugs popular with HCHS students, and other alarming information.

Gray said on several occasions this past school year either he, Lasley or Assistant Principal Charlie Broughten discovered pills or marijuana on students.

"It's scary," Gray said.

Hancock County Board of Education members Dale Gray and David Emmick attended the forum. Gray expressed reluctance about the policy, saying he did not want to take away any student's constitutional right. He then asked how much drug kits cost.

Tom Myers, bailiff for the Hancock County Court System, conducts random drug tests for the courts. He said the tests cost less than \$10. Gray suggested parents conduct the testing, not the school system. This suggestion elicited a response from a parent attending the forum.

"We have a lot of parents, Dale, in this county that are in denial," the parent said.

Board member David Emmick then voiced his opinion.

"From what I see and what I hear, it is 'we are going to catch you' and I want to help them," Emmick said.

Principal Lasley said the policy contains both punish

See **DRUG** on page 3



A large crowd gathered Wednesday afternoon in the fiscal court conference room for the bid opening for the new judicial center.

—Clarion photo by S.W.

The Clarion is getting a facelift

By Malena DeJarnette

It was a historic moment last week as The Hancock "Clarion" office sign was removed from its post at 230 Main Street in Hawesville.

In an attempt to revamp the outdated look of the building's facade, Publisher Donn Wimmer opted to change the image of the Clarion after 40 plus years.

The facelift will include a new, modern "Clarion" sign, as well as a brick facing. The brick, called "Kentucky Home Tumble" actually has local origins. Provided by Clover Creek Brick Co., the clay used to make the material hails from Hancock County.

In the coming weeks watch as a historic downtown building transforms.

Grand jury returns five indictments

The Hancock County Grand Jury returned five indictments on June 5. The major indictment concerned a sex abuse case. Theft and drug cases comprise the other indictments.

McClure indicted on rape charge

By Ralph Dickerson

The Hancock County Grand Jury indicted Hancock County resident Cody McClure on one rape charge and one count of unlawful transaction with a minor in the first degree. The Grand Jury returned the indictment against McClure on June 5.

The indictment accuses McClure, age 23, of engaging "in sexual intercourse with a person less than sixteen years old." He also faces a charge of unlawful transaction with a minor for illegal sexual activity with a person under age 16.

His arrest and subsequent indictment stemmed from a sexual assault complaint being investigated by Hancock County Sheriff's Deputy James

Garrison. On the Uniform Citation Garrison filed on the case, he said on April 29, 2009 he investigated a sexual assault, and "learned that the above (McClure) had had sex with a juvenile female of 15-years-old."

It appears the assault complaint Garrison started investigating and the incident leading to McClure's arrest are two separate incidents. Garrison wrote that the 15-year-old's name came up during the investigation, leading to McClure's arrest.

In an interesting note, McClure recently received a six year prison sentence in May of this year, and currently resides in the Breckinridge County Detention Center. The court set a bail of \$10,000 for McClure, with an arraignment

See **McClure** on page 2

Davenport faces four charges

The Hancock County Grand Jury indicted Hawesville resident William J. Davenport, age 59, on a variety of charges in a sex case. He faces two counts of sodomy in the first degree, rape in the first degree, kidnapping and three counts of sexual abuse in the first degree. The Grand Jury returned the indictment against Davenport on June 5.

The indictment accuses Davenport of committing the offenses in March of this year. According to the arrest citation issued by Hancock County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Emmick, Davenport lived with relatives. On an unknown date in March, the indictment accuses Davenport of committing sexual offenses against a mentally handicapped female living in the home.

According to the arrest citation, while in a bedroom with the victim, Davenport undressed in front of her, touched himself and then forcibly inappropriately touched her. The citation said the victim told him to stop, and he finally complied.

When questioned by officer Emmick, Davenport claimed the victim pulled her pants down first. The victim disputed this assertion.

After investigation, Emmick arrested Davenport on May 3 of this year.

The court set his bail at \$50,000 cash, with an arraignment date of July 2, 2009.

Burnett indicted for crime spree

By Ralph Dickerson

The Hancock County Grand Jury indicted Hawesville resident Roger Burnett, age 22, on several theft related charges. The Grand Jury returned the indictment against him on June 5.

The indictments accuse Burnett of committing two counts of burglary in the third degree, criminal mischief in the first degree, theft by unlawful taking under \$300, theft by deception over \$300 and one count of being a persistent felony offender in the second degree. The indictments claim Burnett broke into the Lewisport Laundry business and into Country Cupboard convenience store in Hawesville on May 17.

Burnett stands accused of entering the Lewisport Laundry and kicking in the office door to gain access to the coin machine. According to an arrest report issued to Burnett by Lewisport Police Officer Greg Linn, he "drilled the lock to the coin machine, and stole two quarters from (the) office desk." The report also accused him of damaging the computer to the video surveillance machine in an effort to remove the video of the incident. The citation said the damage to the business exceeds \$1,000.

Linn cited Burnett for burglary-third degree, criminal mischief-first degree, theft by

See **BURNETT** on page 2



The historic "Clarion" sign was brought down last week as the office building receives revamping after 40 plus years.

Kendall faces drug charges

By Ralph Dickerson

The Hancock County Grand Jury indicted Hawesville resident Eldon S. Kendall, age 41, on several drug charges related to manufacturing methamphetamine. On June 5 the Grand Jury indicted him on one charge of manufacturing methamphetamine, trafficking in a controlled substance in the first degree, unlawful possession of a methamphetamine precursor, knowingly possessing anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine, possession of drug

paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. The indictment accuses Kendall of committing the offenses on March 19 of this year.

Detective Matt Conley with the Kentucky State Police, Post 16 out of Henderson, KY conducted the investigation. Conley wrote in the arrest citation that he received permission from Kendall and another person to search the residence at 905 Baker Lane. Conley said he "located anhydrous ammo-

See **KENDALL** on page 2

County proposes \$8 million budget

By Ralph Dickerson

On June 22, 2009 at 6 p.m., Hancock County Fiscal Court holds the second reading of its 2009-10 budget. The county projects to spend \$8,188,941, down over \$2 million from last year's budget.

Highlights of the budget include spending \$1,143,423 on county roads, \$212,608 for social services and \$360,410 for recreation and culture.

Counting the jailer's salary, the county projects spending \$231,760 to house inmates in Breckinridge County.

The budget also shows \$900,000 for the courthouse project, but that money comes from the state, not local taxpayers. State regulations require the county to show the money in its budget.

Construction bid awarded for airport hangars

By Malena DeJarnette

On Friday, Do-All Construction Company based out of Caneyville, Ky. was awarded the bid for the construction of 10 T-hangars at the Hancock County Airport.

The bid came in at \$509,252.52. All of the financing for this construction project comes from the state department of aviation.

The Hancock County Airport Board expects to fill all 10 hangars with renters, creating income for the airport. As of date, seven such hangars have already been committed to.

The single building will include 10 units, with five on each side. And each unit will feature a bi-fold door.

Hancock County Airport, Ron Lewis Field officially opened in January of 2008. A 2,400 square foot terminal building was completed in the fall of 2008. The airport has also recently seen the addition of a fuel system. (see photo on page 3.)