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2 arrested for murders have ties to Irvine

Two of the four people arrested in connection with a double murder over the weekend in Lee County have ties to Irvine.

One of the men, Wesley T. Johnson, 22, gave an Irvine address. Records indicate that Johnson may have lived at Stacy Lane Apartments at one time and possibly on Broadway. He has also used a Bear Track Road address in Lee County.

The two men that were murdered at two different times on Thursday night on Hell for Certain Creek Road in rural Lee County were identified as Billy Roark, 27, and James R. Brown, 36, both of Beattyville.

Johnson reportedly called 911 and told them Roark had been murdered. Roark's body was found on Friday morning. Brown's body was located Saturday.

Johnson turned himself in to the Irvine Police Department on Friday. Capt. Adrian McKinney took Johnson to the Estill County Sheriff's Office where Sheriff Gary Freeman's secretary, Karen Brandenburg, downloaded from the computer and printed out copies of outstanding warrants on Johnson.

Johnson apparently had been charged in Lee County with a felony, possession of

a controlled substance first degree and first offense.

23rd District Circuit Judge Michael Dean had issued two bench warrants on Johnson in connection with that case on May 19 and June 3.

The earlier bench warrant says that Johnson violated the conditions of his release by testing positive on a lab test for amphetamine on April 13.



Wesley Johnson



Anthony Taylor

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Council calls special meet

The Irvine Council opened by asking for a special meeting to amend their budget which took effect July 1.

Councilman Tim Burkhart said there were several categories in the budget that needed amended. One of them was payments to the city's planning and zoning members.

"What about all the audits?" asked Council Lady Janice Bush.

"I haven't heard anything from the state audit," said City Clerk Robin Powell.

"How close are we to buying a cruiser?" one councilman asked.

Mayor W.J. Noland said they are getting one soon at the same price as last year. County Attorney Rodney Davis questioned if they city was using the state bid price since they didn't advertise for the new cruiser.

The council then discussed properties which had bad sidewalks and other problems, such as one with no running water.

They approved the water craft and motor vehicle tax rate of 34.5 cents per \$100 assessed value. This is the same rate as last year.

The special meeting was set for next Monday at 6 p.m.

Park Closes Three Days

Veterans Memorial Park in Ravenna will be closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 15, 16, and 17 so the playground can be sprayed with weed killer.

Thank you

Obituaries

Z. Grensavitich, 23
Sarah J. Henry, 85
William Freeman, 57
Melissa Martin, 35
Clayton Roberts, 88
Jason Roberts, 40
See Page 6



Residents at an apartment at 275 Main Street in Irvine barricaded the door early Sunday morning to keep their apartment from being broken into. As the alleged burglars were leaving, they reportedly fired shots into the apartment building.

Residents hold off burglars who fire shots when leaving

Two young women from Richmond have been charged with first degree burglary in Irvine.

Officer John Sturniolo said the two women went to 275 Main Street around 4:47 a.m. on Sunday morning in an attempt to break into a residence. He added the women were unable to break in because the un-named homeowners had barricaded the door.

The women left and got into their vehicle, a 2002 black Honda, and drove away.

But Sturniolo says as the women were leaving, two to three shots were fired from the vehicle at the residence with a .25 caliber weapon.

The officer said the two women and their vehicle were located in Richmond. A search warrant was obtained for the vehicle. Sturniolo said the .25 caliber pistol

was recovered from under the front passenger seat.

Sturniolo added there were six residents in the apartment building at 275 Main Street at the time the shots were fired. A male was in apartment #1, two females and a male were in apartment #3, and a male and female were in apartment #2.

Clarissa Botkin, 20, and Tonya Lynn Botkin, 23, both of Foxhaven Drive, Richmond were each charged with burglary first degree and six counts of wanton endangerment.

Hours before this incident, a male and female from 275 main Street, Apt. 2 were united in marriage. The bride's last name was Botkin, but her relationship to the defendants is unknown.

Bail and court dates for the Botkins were not available.

IPD says maintenance worker took TVs from apartments and pawned them

A maintenance worker at the Renaissance Apartments on Collins Street in Irvine has been served with two citations for second degree burglary.

Irvine Police Capt. Adrian McKinney arrested Brandon J. Holliman, aka B.J. Holliman, 30, on August 2. Holliman is reportedly homeless.

The citation states that Holliman was seen packing a 32 inch Samsung TV out of the apartment building on July 20. The TV was pawned the same day at Cash Express, according to the officer.

Capt. McKinney said a customer information sheet was filled out which has Holliman's signature, thumb

print and a copy of his ID. The TV was reported stolen from apartment 309 and belonged to Janice McKinney.

Officer Sam Hensley also served a citation on Holliman the same day for second degree burglary and receiving stolen property under \$500.

This citation states that Holliman entered a third floor apartment on July 23 by using a master key which was provided to him to do maintenance work at the apartments.

Holliman allegedly removed a television set and left the property with it. He attempted to pawn/sell the television at Cash Express

in Irvine. The citation states that he was unable to pawn or sell the television because it had missing parts so he returned the television to the apartment.

The citation states that Holliman also sold or pawned items that were stolen from the Renaissance Apartments on ten different dates between July 8 and 28.

Holliman was arraigned before Estill District Judge William Leach on August 3. He pled not-guilty to the two burglary charges and four counts of receiving stolen property under \$500.

He is expected to be back in district court on August 10 for a preliminary hearing.

Deadline ends to file for school board seats and two city councils

The following candidates have filed as of noon on Tuesday. Candidates who filed after noon are not included in today's issue because of the press deadline.

In school board district 1, Robert C. Burns, Larry Farwell, Thomas Hart, and Donna Arvin Isfort are seeking a four year term.

District 1 includes Barnes Mountain, South Irvine, and Red Lick precincts.

Rhonda Adams Hardy, Brandon Holloway and Valarie Flinchum filed in District 2. This includes the Estill Springs, Court House and White Oak precincts.

Jenny Jo Niece filed to run in District 4, the Forks and Cedar Grove precincts.

School board members serve four year terms.

Beverly Thompson, Sharon Snowden, Louis Officer, Betty Wells Hisle, William C. VanCleve and Amy Crowe have filed to run for

the six seats on the Ravenna Council. This is for a two-year term.

William J. Beard, Donnie Arvin, Jason Crowe, and Fred Brown II have filed for seats on the Soil Conservation District.

There have been no changes to the seven people on the ballot of the Irvine Council. This is also a two-year term.

Republicans seeking a council seat include Glenwood "Woody" Tipton, Tim Burkhart, Tommy Joe "Tobo" Byrant, Billy D. Arthur, O'Brene Richardson, and Nelle B. Williams. All but Richardson are now serving on the council.

Council lady Janice Bush is seeking re-election on the democratic ticket.

Because the Irvine Council is partisan, their filing deadline was in January. One candidate was eliminated in the May primary.

Estill Freshman Benton Wins At Woodson Bend



Coach Ricky Joe Benton and Joe Benton

Freshman Estill County High School varsity golfer Joe Benton won with the lowest score of all golfers at Woodson Bend last Tuesday, August 2, 2016 with an even par of 72. He had a pretty special hole on #18, a par 5, 2nd shot was inches away from an double eagle but ended the hole with an eagle. Congratulations Joe. (Photo courtesy of Rebecca Click)