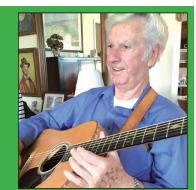
**Ravenna Christian** trying to revitalize church & community See Page 5



# Estill County Lady Engineers 2019 Fastpitch Softball Team See Page 15



**VOLUME 37, NUMBER 39** 

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

**IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336** 

## Police officer passes out at drug



Capt. John Sturniolo

An Irvine police officer passed out Sunday afternoon during a drug bust and had to be revived with two doses of Narcan.

A citation states that Capt. John Sturniolo had gone to Pea Ridge to the residence of Josh Riddell, 39, to take him into custody for three prior drug trafficking offenses.

Sturniolo stated that Riddell was located in his bedroom and taken into custody.

The captain said he located a dinner plate with chunks, lines, and pre-filled baggies of a powder substance in the bedroom, along with a cut straw, razor blades, and a digital scale.

Sturniolo said the evidence was secured, and he went back inside the residence to retrieve Riddell.

On the way back to the vehicle, he became ill and passed out in the driveway. State Trooper Roark administered Narcan to Sturniolo and called for EMS. Sturniolo was hospitalized, and again Narcan was administered.

Officers at the scene reportedly seized drugs, paraphernalia, and \$39 plus coins.

Later Sunday evening, Sturniolo charged Riddell with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree (heroin), possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (heroin), first degree wanton endangerment, and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess related to the drug bust.

Riddell was charged with three counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense for allegedly selling heroin on three occasions to a confidential informant working for the Irvine Police Department.

On January 22 and 23, and February 2, citations state that Riddell sold heroin to the confidential informant for \$80 cash on each visit which was supplied by the Irvine Police Department.

Riddell was lodged in Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville. On Monday, he was arraigned in Estill District Court where he pled not-guilty to all charges. Riddell will return for a preliminary hearing Wednesday. His bail has been set at \$50,000 cash.

Two other Estill County men were also arrested on trafficking charges on Sunday.

Just before noon, Capt. Sturniolo went to the residence of Eugene Strange Jr., 30, on Locomotive Street, Irvine, to arrest him.

The citation states that a confidential informant working for IPD had conducted a controlled drug buy from Strange at his residence on January 19.

The informant reportedly bought a crystal substance for \$50 which was supplied by IPD.

Continued on Page 13

## Fiscal court appoints a temporary treasurer

Court has appointed a tem- on February 20. porary or acting treasurer.

special session on Thursday afternoon to appoint Freida Lancaster as the temporary treasurer.

Before the fiscal court reinstate her. voted, Judge/Executive 68.010 paragraph 4 to the ness," Watson stated. magistrates, which allows acting treasurer after one is added. absent 30 days.

sick a lot," he stated.

He stated Monday that cient funds. Treasurer Laura Ann Rogers had requested a medical available but it was trans-

The Estill County Fiscal leave of absence for a year ferred to the proper account.

Paragraph 4 gives provi-The fiscal court met in sions for Rogers to return leg off," Watson said. to the treasurer's job when she becomes able to do so. When that time comes, the fiscal court has 10 days to

Donnie Watson read KRS months because of her ill- residence to get Rogers to

"There's a lot of (money) the fiscal court to appoint an transfers that take place," he is for four years. The ap-

county because of insuffi-

"We're like a three legged

mule. You can't run with a

Watson said Monday that checks had been taken to Rogers' home on two occasions for her signature. Two other trips were made to "It's been a tough three Richmond to her daughter's sign checks.

A treasurer's appointment pointment begins on July 1 He held up two checks after a judge/executive takes "Our treasurer has been that were returned to the office and ends on June 30 four years later.

> Rogers took over the trea-He said the money was surer's job on July 1, 1998. **Continued on Page 13**



Veterans Memorial Park in Ravenna was closed last week so that contaminated soil could be removed by an environmental company hired by CSX Railroad. Work is continuing.

#### School board recognizes Mt. Movers and students; gets construction site updates; amends calendar

by CATHY DAWES **Tribune Staff Writer** 

The Estill County School Board met on Thursday night and recognized Mountain Movers for the month of March.

Marcum and Wallace was recognized as the Community Mountain Mover of the month.

Allyson Banks was recognized as the certified Mounwas recognized as the clasthe month.

groups from the Estill County High School. The Beta Club and the Future Problem Solvers were the groups from the high school.

A construction update that they have done a good

tain Mover of the month, was provided by Superin- job considering the weather the land. and LeeAnna Richardson tendent Jeff Saylor. He said that Estill Springs is approxsified Mountain Mover of imately eight or nine weeks away from completion. He Presentations were given stated that work on the roof by South Irvine and two had begun, and it was going

The construction at the middle school is 98 percent complete and should be finished by June 1st. He said

has not been cooperative.

from the geotech investigation and that the land met the develop there. standards for site develop-

be moving forward with the ready for construction and survey and the purchase of there was also an issue with

He added that they had Saylor discussed the looked at a tract of land on purchase of the land across Lela Lane off of Coalwash from the high school. He Road and discovered that it said he had received a report was going to cost approximately 3.4 million dollars to

Saylor said that it would include a lot of blasting and Therefore, they would site work just to get the land

pyritic shale.

The district would save a substantial amount of money by going with the purchase of the land on HWY 89 across from the high school.

Saylor said that most of the land was flat and there would be little ground work. The cost to place the bus garage at that location is \$960,000.

**Continued on Page 13** 

### <u>Obituaries</u> Alsie Merritt, 88 Jasper Snowden, 79 Carolyn Riddell-Taylor, 27 Reva Toler, 81

See Page 6 **New Obits at EstillTribune.com** 





Top Photo: Child actors with River City Players take a bow after their first production of "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe." Right photo: One of the actors steps through the wardrobe which takes her to the land of Narnia, where they meet the witch and the lion. Two more productions are scheduled for this weekend, Friday at 6 and Sunday afternoon at 3.