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IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336

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Police officer passes out at drug bust



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 Nar-

can 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.

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Fiscal court appoints a temporary treasurer

The Estill County Fiscal Court has appointed a temporary or acting treasurer.

The fiscal court met in special session on Thursday afternoon to appoint Freida Lancaster as the temporary treasurer.

Before the fiscal court voted, Judge/Executive Donnie Watson read KRS 68.010 paragraph 4 to the magistrates, which allows the fiscal court to appoint an acting treasurer after one is absent 30 days.

"Our treasurer has been sick a lot," he stated.

He stated Monday that Treasurer Laura Ann Rogers had requested a medical

leave of absence for a year on February 20.

Paragraph 4 gives provisions for Rogers to return to the treasurer's job when she becomes able to do so. When that time comes, the fiscal court has 10 days to reinstate her.

"It's been a tough three months because of her illness," Watson stated.

"There's a lot of (money) transfers that take place," he added.

He held up two checks that were returned to the county because of insufficient funds.

He said the money was available but it was trans-

ferred to the proper account.

"We're like a three legged mule. You can't run with a leg off," Watson said.

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

A treasurer's appointment is for four years. The appointment begins on July 1 after a judge/executive takes office and ends on June 30 four years later.

Rogers took over the treasurer's job on July 1, 1998.

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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.
Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

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 Moun-

tain Mover of the month, and LeeAnna Richardson was recognized as the classified Mountain Mover of the month.

Presentations were given by South Irvine and two 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

was provided by Superintendent Jeff Saylor. He said that Estill Springs is approximately eight or nine weeks away from completion. He stated that work on the roof had begun, and it was going well.

The construction at the middle school is 98 percent complete and should be finished by June 1st. He said that they have done a good

job considering the weather has not been cooperative.

Saylor discussed the purchase of the land across from the high school. He said he had received a report from the geotech investigation and that the land met the standards for site development.

Therefore, they would be moving forward with the survey and the purchase of

the land.

He added that they had looked at a tract of land on Lela Lane off of Coalwash Road and discovered that it was going to cost approximately 3.4 million dollars to develop there.

Saylor said that it would include a lot of blasting and site work just to get the land ready for construction and there was also an issue with

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.

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Obituaries

Alsie Merritt, 88

Jasper
Snowden, 79

Carolyn
Riddell-Taylor, 27

Reva Toler, 81

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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.