

IPD arrests four for trafficking in drugs

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The citation says the substance was field tested as positive for methamphetamine. Strange was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. Strange pled not-guilty during his arraignment on Monday. His preliminary hearing is set for Wednesday. In the afternoon, before officers went to Riddell's residence, they went to the residence of Brian Bowman, 28, of Lincoln Avenue, Irvine.

Bowman's arrest warrant states that a confidential informant working for IPD bought a crystal substance from Bowman for \$50 cash that was supplied by IPD. The citations states the substance field tested positive as methamphetamine. Bowman was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. An arraignment was held for him in Estill District Court on Monday where

he pled not-guilty. He will return to district court on Wednesday for a preliminary hearing. Last Friday evening, Captain Sturniolo and Officers Jason Conrad and Russell "Doc" Morris, traveled to the Doe Creek Road residence of James Alan Coffey Jr., 32. According to one of Coffey's citations, a confidential informant working for IPD conducted a controlled drug buy from Coffey at around 9 a.m. Friday morning. The citation states that

the informant traveled to Coffey's residence and bought 3.62 grams of methamphetamine for \$140 cash. A search warrant was obtained and executed at Coffey's residence by the Irvine Police Department that evening. Officers reported they recovered 58.82 grams of methamphetamine, under 8 ounces of marijuana, 35 Tylenol with codeine, 32 suboxone, 119 Gabapentin, a Ruger 9 mm handgun with four live rounds in the magazine, digital scale, plastic

bags, plastic spoons, rolling papers and \$960 in cash. The citation states that six of the \$20 bills that were recovered matched the money supplied by IPD earlier that day. Coffey was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and second offense or greater in connection with the alleged morning drug buy. After the search warrant was executed, Coffey was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and second or greater

offense (methamphetamine), trafficking in marijuana (less than 8 ounces), trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree and first offense, trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree and first offense, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, persistent felony offender, and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess. Coffey was arraigned Monday in Estill District Court. He pled not-guilty to all charges. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

Irvine's budget ends up short \$3,300 on city's utility bills

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staff Writer
Members of the Irvine council met on Monday night. City clerk Robin Powell went over the bills with the council, and two line items were for reimbursements to Calvin Plowman for the purchase of tools and a toolbox at Harbor Freight and a reimbursement to John Sturniolo. Powell said on both occasions the men had tried to make purchases with a check from the city and was unable to do so, therefore, they had to use their own person debit cards for the purchases. Powell added that she had spoken to the city's auditor about this and was told that she should provide a letter with each receipt for the audit stating why this had

happened, and they also advised her that the city should look into getting a credit card to use for purchases instead of checks. A transfer of money was approved by the council to cover the utility bills for the rest of the fiscal year. Mayor James Gross said they were approximately \$3,300 short and could move money from another line item within the budget to cover the cost of the bills. Gross went on to discuss the streets getting painted before the Mushroom Festival. He said that they could buy the paint cheaper from Meade's and pay the city workers to paint the streets after their regular shift ended. Gross added that he would also get the Junior Firefight-

ers involved in helping paint the streets. Councilman Tim Burkhart made the suggestion that Gross contact the company that usually paints the streets and discuss it with them before a decision is made. Burkhart also expressed concerns about the lack of money to pay a building inspector which had been discussed at previous meetings. Gross said he would like a committee of three people formed to search for a building inspector. Burkhart said that the fees for the services provided by a building inspector was tremendously off compared to what Richmond pays. He said that Irvine needed to look at changing those prices in order to cover the salary of a building inspector.

Police Chief Brad Smith said that Colton Lewis had resigned from the police department, and Russell Morris, who is already a certified officer had been hired. Smith said they are still reviewing applications. Councilman Les Withers said that he had been contacted by several people living on Broadway about people speeding down the one way street. He said he had also received complaints about the corner of Stevens Avenue and Broadway. Smith said he would look into both problems. The council moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues. When the meeting reconvened Mayor Gross stated that no action was taken during closed session.

Take Part in Commonwealth Cleanup!

Help pick up roadside litter & illegal dumps in your community. Take advantage of one of the following two options:
(1) Friday, March 29, 2019 from 9 – 2 p.m.
Dump trucks available at the following sites:

- Pea Ridge (Soccer Fields)
- Greenbriar Church (foot of Drip Rock)
- Barnes Mountain (Eli Sparks Road & 851)
- Cobhill Fire Station
- Winchester Road, Highway 82 (82 Food Mart)

(2) Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 8-11 p.m.
Advanced Disposal
(located at 2700 Winchester Road, Irvine)
If you wish to participate in either of these two options, please remember the following rules:

- ABSOLUTELY NO TRASH can be left along roadsides. Neither the county nor state will be offering door-to-door pickup. Those leaving things along the roadside will be cited.
- NO TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED!
- ALL white-goods (i.e. appliances) must be taken directly to the landfill. Please keep in mind, white-goods are FREE every day at the landfill.

If you have questions, please contact Judge Donnie Watson's Office at 723-7524

School Board Meets

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Saylor did say that this didn't rule out the use of the land on Lela Lane in the future but at this time he felt like the Highway 89 location would serve their need at a much cheaper price. He said another concern with the land on Lela Lane was that it was a county maintained road and would have to be widened and paved if the board had chosen that location and that would involve the Estill County Fiscal Court because the district would not be able to use their funds to work on a county road. Saylor said that there was a delay at KDE on the upcoming projects and he intended to make phone calls to them on Friday after receiving no response to his email on Thursday. He said they had all the paperwork and financial plans and he couldn't imagine what the delay was, but if the projects did not continue moving forward then it would delay the opening of the technology center in August 2020. The final adjustment on the school calendar was discussed and the board agreed to allow students to keep the remaining two days of spring break. The last day of school will be held on May 31st with graduation set at the Estill County High School for 7:30 that night. Mr. Saylor said that graduation will be held inside the gym at the high school and will be live streamed in the auditorium like it was done last year. He said that the location was changed from the football field to the gym at the last minute because of bad weather last year and this way they wouldn't have to worry about it. The addition of fans to the gymnasium would help cool the building according to Saylor, and the auditorium is air-conditioned for anyone who would like to sit in there and watch it live.

Free booklet helps plan for college

Kentuckians planning for higher education will find "The College Circuit," a booklet published by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), to be a useful resource. It can be used by students ranging in age from middle school to adults. Parents and counselors can also use it to help their students plan and pay for college. The booklet includes information about careers, college preparation, state and federal financial aid, tips for parents, online resources and a template for setting up a personal college plan. Students and families will also find detailed information about the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program. The booklet shows the steps involved in applying for federal student aid and provides guidance about student loans. To request copies, please email publications@kheaa.com or use the order form on www.kheaa.com. KHEAA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses. It also disburses low-cost Advantage Education Loans for its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC). For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7214.

Local Police Dept. Activity Report

Larry Dale Johnson, 46, of Rice Station Road was arrested early on March 21 by Trooper Ty Robinson. According to the citation, Johnson was being transported to Three Forks Regional Jail on multiple charges and warrants. A deputy jailer reportedly observed Johnson via camera in the back of the van taking his shoe off and putting it back on. The citation states the seat was searched when the van arrived at the sally port of Three Forks. A small container was located where Johnson was sitting, and it contained a white powdery substance believed to be methamphetamine. Trooper Robinson charged Johnson with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), and tampering with physical evidence. Johnson was arraigned Monday in Estill District Court. He pled not-guilty. A preliminary hearing was set for March 27.

His bond amount is \$5,000 cash. Other charges Johnson faces include operating a motor vehicle under the influence, operating on a suspended or revoked license, failure to wear seat belts, failure of non-owner to maintain required insurance, no registration plates, no registration receipt, failure to register transfer of vehicle, and three counts of non-payments of court costs, fees, or fines. **Matthew Steven McElroy**, 35, of McKee Road, Irvine was arrested March 20 by Deputy Russell "Doc" Morris and charged with possession of a controlled substance, in the first and second degrees, and drug paraphernalia. Morris was assisting Probation and Parole, who reportedly located syringes, spoons, a pile, cut up straws, a piece of suboxone, and a powdery substance, which tested positive for heroin. McElroy pled not-guilty to all charges during his arraignment on Monday. He

will return to district court for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday. **Lonnie Winchester**, 55, homeless of Richmond, IN, was arrested March 18 by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad for public intoxication. Conrad also served a warrant on Winchester for being a fugitive from another state. The officer stated the man's vehicle was blocking a public sidewalk, and Baber's towed it to a public parking lot. Conrad stated he found a 40 caliber pistol under the seat, and KSP advised him that Winchester was a convicted felon. He charged Winchester with possession of a handgun by a felon. Winchester pled not-guilty to that charge. He will be in court Wednesday for a preliminary hearing. He is also awaiting extradition back to Indiana. A Estill District Court bench warrant was served March 21 by Capt. John Sturniolo on **Timmy L. Bishop**, 26, of Noland

Court, Irvine for failing to appear in court. **John Doe**, homeless, was arrested March 18 by Officer Jason Conrad and charged with public intoxication. The citation states the man was knocking on residents' doors on Broadway and trying to get into their homes. **Timothy Charlton**, 48, of McKee Road, Irvine, was charged March 19 with alcohol intoxication by Officer Conrad. An indictment warrant was served March 20 on **Bobbie Agee**, 43, of Winston Road, Irvine by Officer Conrad. The officer also served a bench warrant on Agee for failing to appear in Madison Circuit Court on December 14, 2017. **Faye B. LaFountain**, 33, of Laurel Street, Irvine was charged March 20 with shoplifting at Family Dollar on Winchester Road by Officer Conrad. The citation states that she took four cans of compressed air from the store, valued at \$24.

Four waive indictments and enter guilty pleas

Four persons waived indictments on March 7 in Estill Circuit Court via the Recket Docket program. **Sarah B. Boswell**, 20, of Walnut Grove, Irvine, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance first degree and first offense. She admitted to having meth in her possession on February 26. Judge Michael Dean sentenced Boswell to a deferred prosecution. **Elizabeth Sandlin**, 39, of Crooked Creek Road, Irvine, plead guilty to trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. On December 5, she allegedly had meth in her possession with intent to sell it. She was sentenced.

Tobie W. Kirby, 32, of Hardy Road, Irvine, waived an indictment for operating a motor vehicle under the influence, a misdemeanor, and possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. Kirby admitted to have meth in his possession on February 5. He was sentenced. **Brandon Kelly**, 30, of Pea Ridge Road, Irvine, waived indictments in three separate cases. He had been charged with trafficking in meth and heroin on February 16; heroin on February 15; and meth on February 15. Judgment in the three cases was entered by Judge Dean.

Fiscal Court hires a temporary treasurer

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She will have been in that position for 21 years on this coming June 30. Last year, Judge/Executive Kevin Williams advertised for and hired Teressa Reeves as financial assistant to learn Rogers' job because he was expecting her retirement this year. The county's financial officer, Christine Brandenburg, started working when Wallace Taylor became judge/executive. Brandenburg had plans to quit working for the county when a new judge/executive took over in January. Brandenburg's reason for leaving her job is her age. Because of Rogers' illness, Watson asked Brandenburg to stay to train Reeves through February. She has continued to work through March. Lancaster is a former business owner and has worked for H&R Block in recent years. She took the oath of office and was bonded as acting treasurer on Friday. Her salary was set at \$15 per hour. On Monday, Watson said he had seen his first monthly bank reconciliation since taking office. Bank reconciliations are usually presented at regular monthly fiscal court meetings.