



Estill Band Is 4th Place – Page 17



Soccer Teams Are Winning – Page 17



Engineers End Drought – Page 17

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8th Annual Drug Recovery March



Hundreds of Estill Countians braved the heat and humidity on Sunday afternoon to participate in the annual drug recovery march held in downtown Irvine. Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

Ravenna keeps same vehicle tax rate as city juggles funds to pay the bills

by CATHY DAWES
Estill County Tribune

The Ravenna City Council met on Monday night to discuss several important issues and to set the property tax rate for motor vehicles. The current rate for motor vehicles in Ravenna is fifty cents per \$100 assessed value. William VanCleve informed the council that there are only two other cities in the state of Kentucky that has a higher tax rate than Ravenna.

Jim Richardson said that the council only had two other choices and that was to raise the tax which wasn't going to happen or to lower it and that would cause the city to see even more negative signs on the financial report each month.

The council agreed to keep the same tax rate this year and possibly do something different next year if the budget allowed it.

VanCleve questioned Mayor Estine Tipton and City Clerk Susan Lay as to why Terry Barnes, owner of Barnes Sanitation, was not being paid on time each month. He said Barnes told him that the city had been behind on paying him for approximately four months and he would like to get caught up on those payments.

Lay said that she had also

spoken with Barnes and that he understood the financial situation that the city was in. Lay said she felt like it would take close to three months to get his payments back on track.

She explained to the council that residents in the city pay their garbage bill with their water bill each month. The city then has to wait for Irvine Municipal Utilities to issue them a check for the collected garbage bills each month. She said that the check usually arrives around the 14th of each month but Barnes doesn't get paid until the end of the month.

In going back over past financial reports, they came to the conclusion that other bills were being paid with the money from IMU which left the city short on money when it came time to pay Barnes at the end of the month.

According to Tipton and Lay, monies had been borrowed from several different areas and put into the general fund just to make ends meet each month.

VanCleve said that he had spoken with the Kentucky League of Cities as well as other agencies and found that it was illegal to use money from designated funds to pay bills with. He said that the fire fund and road fund had money missing from both accounts that had not been spent on what they were designated for.

The fire fund has \$10,900 and the road fund currently has only \$122.72 which according to VanCleve isn't enough to fill one pot hole. Lay produced the bank book for the road fund and there were several questions raised as to why several items were paid out of that fund that had nothing to do with roadwork. Mayor Tipton said that she had contacted the state auditor to come to Ravenna and look at the records over the past several years.

"The money was borrowed from the fund and it has never been paid back," added Tipton.

VanCleve stated, "I just want to set the record straight. I didn't say not one

thing about getting rid of James Gross."

He went on to say that under his calculations Gross' salary each year including benefits totaled around \$36,000. He said that the school system pays around \$19,000 and the city of Ravenna pays the rest which includes his retirement, insurance, vehicle, and gas for his cruiser. He said that he didn't think it was fair to the city to pay the majority of the cost and the school system to work him 75 percent of the time. He said he thought the council should ask the school board for more money to help fund Gross' salary each year.

Lay provided a contract that was drawn up between the city of Ravenna and the school board in 2012. The contract was up for renewal in June 2013 and the council had thirty days to amend the contract. They all agreed that they had no idea about the contract between the city and the school board but VanCleve said he would still

Continued on Page 14

Grand Jury returns 10 indictments

Two indicted for breaking into homes

Two Hargett men were indicted Tuesday, Sept. 3 and charged in three home burglaries. However, some recent burglaries remain unsolved.

A break in these burglaries came when arrests were made in Clay City in August. Officials say the Clay City arrests led to information on a string of burglaries in Powell, Estill, Clark, and Montgomery counties.

The defendants in the Estill burglaries are identified as Andy G. Myers, 36, of 504 Iron Works Road, Irvine and Otis Dale Dunaway, 39, of 10580 Winchester Road, Irvine.

Both were charged with burglary first degree at the residences of Stephen Rison on April 11, 2013 and Eugene Samples at April 17, 2013.

They were also charged with theft by unlawful taking from both residences. Taken from Rison's residence were guns, a roto tiller, a weedeater and other items valued at \$3,555.00. Taken from Samples' home were guns, cameras, jewelry and other items, valued at \$2,299.

Myers was indicted for theft by failure to make required disposition of property over \$500. The indictment states that he did not make the required payment April 17, 2013 on a rented flat screen television valued at \$2,766.96 belonging to Aaron's rentals.

Dunaway was indicted for receiving stolen property over \$500 in connection with the TV. The indictment states that on April 17, that Dunaway sold the TV belonging to Aaron's rentals.

Dunaway was also indicted for first degree bur-

glary and theft by unlawful taking in connection with a break-in at Terry Tipton's on June 2, 2013.

Items taken from Tipton were a gun, cash, knives, and several musical instruments.

Dunaway was also indicted for being a first degree persistent felony offender. The indictment states that he has previously been convicted of at least two prior felonies.

Deputy Doc Morris conducted the investigation.

A third Hargett area man was indicted for third degree burglary, theft by unlawful taking, and criminal mischief, first degree. This case is not related to the above.

Indicted was Billy Wayne Brooks, 33, of 1936 Hargett Road, Irvine.

The indictment states that between July 16 and 21, 2013, Brooks unlawfully entered a building occupied by Bowie Refined Coal and took copper pipe valued at over \$500.

It adds that Brooks intentionally defaced and destroyed property belonging to Bowie Refined Coal which resulted in a \$40,000 loss.

The investigation was conducted by Deputies Randy Farthing and Doc Morris.

Racheal Crouch, 22 and Chad Crouch, 22, both of Sharpsburg, Ky. were indicted for first degree robbery. The indictment states the Crouches used physical force on July 17, 2013 to take \$95 from Melissa Lewis.

Irvine Officer Karl Rifenbark conducted the investigation.

Continued on Page 14

Furnace woman is charged with theft of electricity

A Furnace woman was arrested Saturday, Sept. 7 by Trooper B. Scalf on a warrant obtained by Jackson Energy.

The woman was identified as Regina Puckett, 45, of 1807 Furnace Junction, Ravenna. She was charged with theft of services.

The warrant states that on December 12, 2012, Puckett removed Jackson Energy's meter from the meter base and replaced it with a Kentucky Utilities meter.

Jackson Energy estimated the usage of the electricity to be valued at \$1,200.00. The warrant had been electroni-

cally signed by Judge William Leach on January 17, 2013.

The electric cooperative also says it costs \$200.00 for the meter and there is a tampering fee of \$25.00. The warrant says that Puckett deprived the utility company of \$1,425.00.

Theft of services over \$500.00 is a Class D felony, punishable by one to five years in prison.

Puckett was released from custody on September 8 on a \$5,000 surety bond. She will be arraigned on the charge in Estill District Court on September 18.

Obituaries

"Casey" Case, 76

Anthony Horn, 66

Mattie Mastin, 105

Johnnie Means, 69

Cecile Patton, 87

Tonja Puckett, 49

Charles Spicer, 65

Paul Watkins, 66

See Page 6



The Estill County High School ROTC led hundreds of people of all ages across the Irvine bridge and around the courthouse seven times during the 8th annual drug recovery march on Sunday afternoon. Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

