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IMU sues Estill Water District for breaking agreement

The Estill County Water District (ECWD) is being sued by the City of Irvine Utility Commission dba Irvine Municipal Utilities (IMU).

The lawsuit was filed January 29 in Estill Circuit Court by attorneys Michael R. Eaves and Alicia A. Still of the Richmond firm, Sword, Floyd, and Moody PLLC.

The lawsuit has been filed over an agreement between ECWD and IMU on collecting and treating wastewater.

It states that on June 6, 2007, the city of Irvine, ECWD, Estill Fiscal Court, and IMU entered into an agreement regarding a regional facilities plan for wastewater collection and treatment in Estill County.

Under the agreement,

the city of Irvine's existing wastewater treatment plant was to be upgraded, expanded, and designated as a Regional wastewater treatment plant. ECWD was to abandon their wastewater treatment plant.

The wastewater collection of both ECWD and Irvine were to be kept as separate infrastructure systems.

Certain infrastructure

improvements were to be made to extend wastewater collection services to certain unserved areas of Estill County.

Under the agreement, IMU would provide wastewater treatment to ECWD. Irvine also would take the lead in procuring public funds and grants to implement the regional facilities plan.

That agreement established how both parties would operate the regional facilities plan, designated a site for a new wastewater treatment plant, and discussed applicable sewer rates.

On August 27, 2009, ECWD and the city of Irvine entered in a sewer contract agreement. That agreement set forth additional terms including maintenance for the

sewer systems and the new wastewater treatment plant, payment terms for services to be provided by IMU to ECWD customers, and terms regarding the rate setting for those services.

The lawsuit states that IMU obtained funding and constructed the wastewater treatment plant, which is now ready to come "on line."

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Child Is removed from home because of filthy conditions

An Irvine mother has been charged with endangering the welfare of a minor because of little food and filthy living conditions.

Irvine Officer John Sturniolo said he responded to a domestic violence complaint around 3:30 p.m. on January 30 to 319 Jacqueline Court.

Upon arrival, Sturniolo said that Tamara Buckler, 37, had slurred speech, was unsteady on her feet, and had a strong odor of alcohol.

He added that Buckler had thrown an ashtray at her boyfriend, Steve Hines. It hit Hines in the head.

Sturniolo said Buckler gave IPD permission to search the residence.

During the search, officers stated they

found a valium pill, a cut straw, and assorted other pills.

Officer Sturniolo said the 11 year old boy's bathroom was soiled with human feces. He added there was very limited food in the home's refrigerator and freezer.

The citation states that child was removed from the home and is now living with relatives.

Buckler was also charged with fourth degree domestic violence, alcohol intoxication, possession of a controlled substance, third degree, possession of drug paraphernalia, and prescription drugs not in proper container.

She was arrested and lodged in the Estill County Detention Center.

Slippery When Icy



Ice first covered Estill County roads on Monday morning before just over an inch of snow fell. This accident occurred right before the state highway could get the Spout Springs Road salted. The driver of the tractor-trailer was not injured.

IPD arrests one on North Plum for drug trafficking

The Irvine Police Department made an arrest for drug trafficking on Friday night on North Plum Street.

Officer Karl Rifenbark said that IPD had conducted a controlled buy at 123 N. Plum Street and had successfully purchased one 20mg oxycodone.

Rifenbark then obtained a search warrant for the residence.

A press release from IPD Chief Brad Smith said that when officers went into the residence to execute the search warrant, that 44 year old Orville E. Puckett was "shooting up" on the couch.

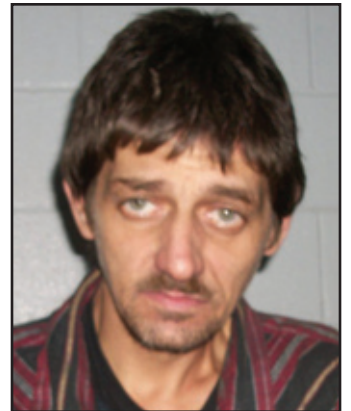
After he was ordered to the ground, Smith said that Puckett threw the "loaded"

needle in an attempt to hide it.

During the search, Irvine officers report they discovered eight 30mg oxycodone pills, two valium, and suspected oxycodone in a spoon.

The officers also say they confiscated several items of drug paraphernalia and \$280 in money. Rifenbark said it was in a \$100 bill and nine \$20 bills.

Puckett, who is known as Eugene Puckett, was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance first degree, possession of a controlled substance, both first and third degrees, tampering with physical evidence, and drug paraphernalia.



Eugene Puckett

Puckett was lodged into the Estill County Detention Center. He made his first appearance Monday in Estill District Court.

Chief Smith said the investigation into drug trafficking on N. Plum Street is ongoing.



District KSBA banner winner, Henlee Hunter, is shown with the District Banner, GTP Coordinator Shiela Samples and Superintendent Bert Hensley.

Winning banner designed by West Irvine 4th grader was hung at Galt House

Each year the Kentucky School Boards Association holds its annual conference in Louisville. This year it was held over the weekend, from January 31 thru February 2, 2014.

"District involvement is at the heart of what makes the KSBA events a success," according to the KSBA bulletin. And to that end, each school district is invited to design a banner to display at the annual conference. The banners are a very important contribution to the conference, reminding attendees of schools' primary focus—learning and learners."

The theme for the 2014 conference was "Kentucky Public Schools-Creating Next Generation Leaders," and this year's Estill County District's banner design winner is Henlee Hunter, a 4th grade student at West Irvine Elementary.

Henlee's winning art

work/design was selected from over 300 drawings submitted by students from West Irvine, the Estill County Middle School (Mrs. S. Young's 6th-8th grade art students) and Estill County High School (Mr. Potts' art classes).

Her banner design represents the Estill County School District and was displayed at the Galt House during the state KSBA conference. The banner will then be returned to the Estill County Central Office, where it will be hung for display in the Central Office Board Room.

Henlee will be recognized by the Board at the monthly board meeting in either March or April, 2014.



The Kentucky River did not freeze over entirely during the recent cold, but there are a lot of chunks of ice (white) floating near the boat dock.

Salt supply continues to dwindle

The groundhog did not see his shadow on Sunday, February 2. According to a legend, that means spring is just around the corner. Nevertheless, weather forecasters are predicting more winter weather.

This is a big concern for Estill County Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor. At last week's fiscal court meeting, Taylor said Estill County has used more salt this winter than any other year in his tenure. At that time, he

estimated the county only had 75 tons left. The state has spent more than \$27 million in snow removal this winter.

Craig Lindon with the District 10 Office in Jackson said that each city and county could buy 50 tons of salt from the state. With that news, Taylor was making plans to acquire 150 tons for Estill County, Irvine and Ravenna.

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Obituaries

Wanda Everman, 72
 Wilma Fowler, 67
 Donald Hall, 79
 Maxine Johnson, 76
 Geneva Williams, 84
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