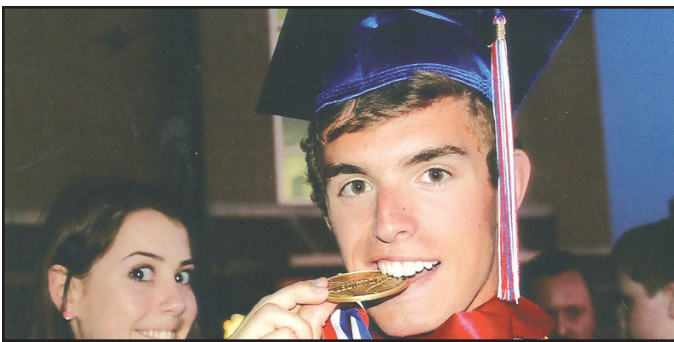




Holes for Hoops winners – Page 2



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# The Estill County Tribune 50¢

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INC 3¢ TAX IN KY

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 51 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

## Judge and magistrate disagree over employee discipline

A short fiscal court meeting ended with discord Monday evening.

Judge Wallace Taylor had announced some items were being cut short because he was in pain. Taylor's right arm was in a sling.

After the items on the agenda were taken care of, Magistrate Darrell Johnson wanted to make a motion under the "other considerations" category. Johnson's motion was to wipe a county employee's slate clean and pay him for three days of work.

At this point, Taylor made a motion to

adjourn, and said, "I'm out of here."

He returned and left a book of the county's administrative codes on the bench. He told Johnson the needed to read it.

After Taylor's departure the first time, Johnson's motion passed.

Estill County's attorney Rodney Davis was away, but the assistant county attorney Jennie Haymond was present. She was not asked for an opinion during the night's events.

Davis is expected to give an opinion on the events at the next fiscal court meeting.

One reason to question if the vote is legal is lack of a quorum after Taylor left. Magistrate Gerald Rader had not attended the meeting.

The second question is the legality of the magistrate's motion concerning the employee. Magistrates do vote on the judge's recommendations for hiring and promotions, but overseeing employees is not listed as one of their duties under state law.

This newspaper does not have a copy of the county's administrative code that

Taylor told Johnson to read. All items in the administrative code have been checked to make sure they are not in violation or conflict with state law.

The long-term county employee was present at the meeting. To the knowledge of this newspaper, the disciplined employee did not request a hearing.

Either the county's administrative code or state law, or both, gives an employee the opportunity for a hearing on disciplinary matters.

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## IPD arrests women in Ravenna for trafficking in prescription drugs

Two women were arrested on drug trafficking charges Thursday evening in Ravenna.

The arrests came after Irvine Officer John Sturniolo said a silver 2004 Dodge pulled out of the Ravenna Dollar General and cut off his cruiser.

The officer said he initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle two blocks away at the intersection of 6th and Main Streets in Ravenna.

He stated the driver of the

vehicle, Ella White, 49, of 551 Steveland Court, Irvine, told him that she had taken neurotin, valium, melocxicam, marijuana, and hydrocodone.

Officer Sturniolo added that White failed field sobriety tests. She was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital to have her blood drawn.

The vehicle White was driving was towed to Irvine's impound lot because of the trafficking charges.

As a result of the traffic stop, White was charged with driving under the influence of drugs and careless driving.

The officer stated that White had \$160 in her billfold. There were seven \$20 bills, one \$10 bill, one \$5 bill, and five \$1 bills.

He added there were nine gabapentin pills in the bill fold. A container filled one day earlier had 75 of 90 gabapentin pills and one half of a 7.5 mg hydrocodone pill.

The officer said a container for 60 hydrocodone was filled June 4 but contained only nine whole and five 1/2 pills. He added that medicine was prescribed for Luke Dees.

A third pill container prescribed 30 clonapam on June 11. Sturniolo said that 21 were left in the bottle.

White was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance both second and third degrees. She was also charged with trafficking in a legend drug, first offense. A legend drug is any pre-

scription medicine that is not listed under a controlled substance.

White's final charge was prescription drugs not in a proper container.

Irvine Officer Karl Rifenburg assisted Officer Sturniolo at the scene.

He charged White's passenger, Patricia A. Webb, 50, of 628 Main Street, Ravenna with public intoxication, drug paraphernalia, and trafficking in a controlled substance, both second and third degrees.

He said that Webb had a strong presence of nystagmus, glassy, blood shot eyes and was unsteady on her feet.

The officer said that Webb gave him permission to search her purse where he found a bag of marijuana, a pill bottle with one whole and three halves of hydrocodone, a pill bottle with nine clonazepam, a pill bottle containing 11 promethazine, and two other promethazine pills in different mgs.

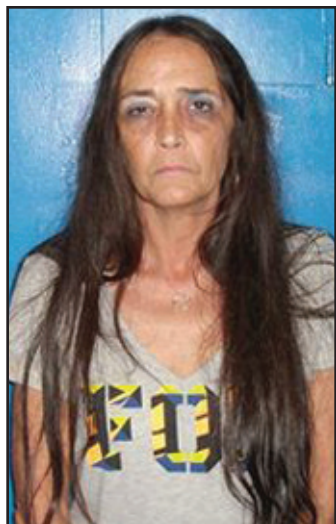
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Austin Blackwell was recognized by the Estill County Board of Education during their meeting last Tuesday. He has been chosen as a Governor's Scholar from Estill County High School. He will attend the Governor's Scholar's program at Belknap College this summer.



Ella White



Patricia Webb



## 2014 Estill County Clean Sweep

The 2014 Estill County River Sweep, in collaboration with the Kentucky River Authority, will be held Saturday, June 12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will meet at the Lock 12 beach area in South Irvine. Signs will be posted for directions to the Lock.

Any persons or groups interested in assisting with the cleanup can contact Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor or Solid Waste Coordinator Kim Dawes at (606) 723-7524 for more information.

## School employees get 1% raise; students to receive free meals

All employees of Estill County schools will receive a 1% salary increase for the upcoming school year, announced Supt. Bert Hensley at last Tuesday's board meeting.

The board also approved a salary schedule for the 2014-15.

Board member Robbie Starling said his son was recently hired to teach in Jefferson County Public Schools.

"Our salary is only \$6,500 less than Jefferson County," he stated. "I was pleased that our salary was that high."

He mentioned the higher cost of living in Jefferson County, which pushes the salaries up.

Randall Christopher announced that all students in Estill County will be receiving free breakfasts and lunches during the 2014-15 school year.

"If the money is not there, we have to pick it up out of the general fund," Christopher stated.

The students must pay for extra items.

Christopher said the lunch program is challenging because the cafeterias must

reduce sugar, salt, and fat, and provide more fruits and vegetables to the students.

"It sounds so great," he said. "It is good, but it is a process."

He said the 2014-15 guidelines are even stricter than last year's.

He told the board that 85% of Estill's students were eating the meals during April, which he considered good.

Hensley announced a new Teacher Leadership Program, in which 10 teachers will be selected to be prepared as future administrators.

Because of a policy change, the school system will be limited to hiring substitute teachers twice a year, August or September and January.

Hensley said it is a lot of paperwork, and a lot of people come and go at the school bus garage.

He discussed an insurance assessment fee which is an unfunded levy. It costs the district \$3.80 per employee which is about \$35,000 annually.

Hensley presented MAP scores, which shows improvement in most areas.

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**Obituaries**  
**Susie Babb, 87**  
**Onnalee Boardman, 90**  
**Charles Marcum, 73**  
**Brenda McIntosh, 55**  
**Ferrell McIntosh, 59**  
**Ricky Miller, 50**  
**Leora Rogers, 72**  
 See Page 6

## Anonymous tip leads to marijuana plants

An anonymous tip led Kentucky State Police to the cultivation of marijuana plants on June 6.

Trooper Ty Robinson said he received an anonymous tip that Judy S. Abner, 46, was cultivating marijuana at her residence at 1140 Dry Branch Road, Irvine.

The citation states that when Troopers Robinson and Zach Pennington arrived at Abner's residence that night, she admitted to having

marijuana in her bedroom.

The trooper says they went outside Abner's residence and found two marijuana plants growing in a flower pot.

Tpr. Robinson said Abner was asked what it was and who it belonged to. "That is a marijuana plant, and it is mine," she reportedly told the troopers.

The troopers then questioned Abner why she said the marijuana in the bed-

room was all she had.

"I had to try to lie, hoping you wouldn't find it," Abner reportedly stated.

The troopers said they conducted a thorough search of Abner's residence and found over five marijuana plants growing in flower pots.

Abner as charged with cultivating marijuana (five plants or more), first offense, and possession of marijuana. The cultivation charge is a

Class D felony and the possession charge is a misdemeanor.

Bail for Abner was set at \$2,500 cash on June 7. According to court records, Greg Morris executed the \$2,500 bond for Abner's release on June 7.

On Friday, June 13, Morris surrendered the bond, and Abner was returned to the Estill County Jail. Abner is expected to be in court on June 18.



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