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50¢ INC 3¢ TAX IN KY

# The Estill County Tribune

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## Checks forged on dead couple

An Irvine man was arrested New Year's Day on charges of nine counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument (checks).

The forged checks were different from usual forged checks. The checks belonged to a couple who have been deceased since 2009.

According to Deputy Russell "Doc" Morris, the forged checks were cashed between December 26 and 29.

Six of the checks were cashed at Stop & Shop, two at Monties, and one at Save-A-Lot.

Deputy Morris charged Jimmy Dewayne Puckett, 46, of Chamberlain Branch, Irvine with the nine counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument, second degree.

The offense is a Class D felony. If found guilty, Puck-

ett could be sentenced to serve up to 45 years in state prison.

Puckett was arraigned in Estill District Court on Monday, January 5. He pleaded not-guilty to all nine charges. District Judge William "Bo" Leach set a preliminary date of January 14 for Puckett. At the preliminary hearing, Judge Leach will decide if there is enough evidence to send the case to the grand jury.

Puckett may also waive his right to a preliminary hearing and the case will go directly to the grand jury, which has 60 days to indict Puckett or he will be released from jail. If that happens, the grand jury can indict him after the 60 days because there is no statute of limitations on felonies in Kentucky.

Puckett's bail has been set at \$5,000 cash.

## School board elects officers, sets meetings

The Estill County Board of Education met in a special meeting Monday afternoon to elect new officers and set meeting dates for the board to meet in 2015.

Only three board members were in attendance but this was enough for a quorum.

Robbie Starling was elected as chairman of the board on a motion by Patty Hood and second by Amy Thomas.

Amy Thomas was elected vice-chairman of the board on motions by Robbie Starling and Patty Hood.

Hood has been serving as

chairman of the board.

Interim Superintendent Randall Christopher said that he had talked with newly elected Board member, L.W. Beckley. He added that Beckley was unable to attend Monday's meeting. He also said that Beckley told him the third Thursday was a good time for him to attend board meetings, except he had a prior commitment in January.

The board voted to have the January meeting on the 22nd. The board will meet regularly at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.



Justin Rogers takes the oath of office Friday as Estill's first county surveyor. He is only one of two licensed surveyors living in Estill County.

## 1st county surveyor is now on job

The first newly elected county official to take the oath of office last Friday was Justin Rogers.

Rogers was elected as county surveyor.

Rogers said he was the first county surveyor in Estill County. At least, he is the first that anyone can remember. The position of county surveyor was established by the Kentucky Constitution passed in 1850.

Rogers said he is one of only two licensed surveyors

living in Estill County.

A few years ago, only half of Kentucky's counties had an elected surveyor. Rogers said this is because Kentucky is licensing only about ten surveyors each year.

Rogers met the age requirement, at least 24 years of age, and residential requirement, living in Estill County for at least a year and Kentucky two years prior to the election.

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## Drivers charged with DUI by IPD after collisions

Two drivers involved in wrecks in city limits of Irvine have been arrested for driving under the influence.

Darrell Cox, 70, of Substation Road, Irvine was arrested New Year's Day after he wrecked on Kirkland Avenue.

Irvine Police Captain Adrian McKinney said that Cox's vehicle left the road around 3:50 p.m. and traveled approximately 250 feet before it struck a concrete end of a bridge/culvert.

The police captain stated that Cox had to be removed from his vehicle by the rescue squad and was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital by Estill EMS.

The officer stated that Cox had a strong odor of alcohol on his person and admitted to drinking four beers within two hours of the wreck. He charged the driver with driving under the influence of alcohol, first offense.

Robert Andrew Harvey, 22, of Broadway, Irvine was

arrested by Irvine Officer Sam Hensley on December 28. Harvey was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, leaving scene of accident, and drug paraphernalia.

The officer wrote that he received a call from 911 dispatch concerning Harvey and a 1997 Nissan auto. Hensley said the vehicle was identified by its make and license number, and Harvey was identified by the caller who said Harvey had struck her fence and left the scene.

Hensley said he located Harvey at his residence, and he had a strong odor of alcohol. Permission was given to search the vehicle. The officer said there was a strong odor of marijuana inside the vehicle. The citation states that marijuana was located in a soda can in the car's console.

The officer said that Harvey did not pass field sobriety test. He added that Harvey's blood alcohol content was .197. The legal limit is .08.



Circuit Judge Tom Jones ended his eight year term Friday by swearing in elected officials. Jones did not seek re-election as circuit judge. Above, he is swearing in Irvine council woman Nelle Williams to another two year term.

## Henlee Hunter is KSBA district banner design winner for 2nd year in a row

Each year the Kentucky School Board Association holds its annual conference in Louisville. This year it will be held in February, 2015.

According to the KSBA bulletin, "District involvement is at the heart of what makes the KSBA events a success 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 learn-

ers". The theme for the 2015 conference is "Kentucky Public Schools-The Courage to Lead".

For the second year in a row, the District Banner design winner is Henlee Hunter, a 5th grade student at West Irvine Intermediate. Henlee's winning art work/design was selected from over 250 drawings submitted by students from West Irvine Intermediate and the Estill County Middle School (Mrs. S. Young's 6th-8th grade art students). Her banner design will represent the Estill County School District and it will be displayed at the Galt House during the state 2015 KSBA conference in Louisville.

After the conference ends, the banner will be returned to Estill County's 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, 2015.



Kentucky School Board Association's 2015 district banner design winner for Estill County is West Irvine Intermediate School 5th grader Henlee Hunter, shown with GTP Coordinator Shiela Samples and Estill County assistant superintendent Tonya Isaacs.

**Obituaries**  
Katherine Canter, 81  
Kathleen Johnston, 81  
Oleta Lawson, 85  
Kimberly Osborne, 55  
See Page 6  
Jackie Brinegar, 63  
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