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Ellen Townsend was the 29 year old mother of two daughters and a son. She was a Wendy's employee at the time of her death.

Mother of 3 is murdered

Suspect is found dead in parking lot of Lexington hospital

A young woman was found murdered Saturday morning on Noland Creek Road in Estill County.

A resident of Noland Creek Road was going to work around 10:30 a.m. when he saw the body along the snow covered road.

Sheriff Gary Freeman said he was the first officer to arrive at the scene. Freeman lives on Lock 11 Road, which runs directly into Noland Creek Road.

Kentucky State Police arrived, and the lead investigator was Det. Jesse

Armstrong.

The woman was identified as 29 year old Ellen C. Townsend. An autopsy performed in Frankfort said that Townsend died as the result of a gunshot wound to her head.

Her mother told police that Ellen had left on Friday night with Ricky W. Conrad, 44, of Irvine in a silver Chrysler sedan.

The couple was seen at Shellmart in Irvine during the early morning hours on Saturday.

After the investigation at the crime scene, officers

began searching for Ricky Conrad and the silver Chrysler sedan.

Approximately 24 hours after Townsend's body was found on Noland Creek, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Conrad's body was found in his vehicle in the parking lot of St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington.

The Lexington Police Department and Fayette County Coroner are investigating Conrad's death.

The cause of Conrad's death has not been publicly released, but it is suspected that he took his own life.

During the investigation of Conrad's death, personal items belonging to Townsend were found inside his vehicle. A firearm was also found, but it hasn't been said if it was the same weapon used to kill Townsend.

Visitation and a funeral service were held for Townsend on Tuesday at Warren F. Toler Funeral Home.

Her family appreciates any help they may receive with the funeral expense. Donations may be made to the funeral home.

Three local men are charged in interstate theft

Three Estill County men were arrested Tuesday, January 20 in Clarksville, Indiana.

The three men have been accused of stealing approximately \$80,000 from Lowe's Stores in Kentucky and Indiana.

Investigators say that starting in November, the three men left their homes in Irvine and traveled to the Lowe's store in Danville and stopped at Lowe's stores in Nicholasville, Lexington, and Clarksville, Indiana.

The investigators say that one of the men would go inside and purchase a high priced tool. Then another man would take the receipt back in the store and pick

up an identical tool and walk out the store with a tool and the receipt. The tools were then taken to another Lowe's store for a cash refund.

The three Estill men were identified as Edward Roberts, 43, James McDowell, 24, and Michael McDowell, 37.

James McDowell was charged with forgery (level 6), maintaining a common nuisance (felony), possession of a syringe (felony), and theft.

Michael McDowell was charged with forgery (level 6), visiting a common nuisance (misdemeanor), possession of a syringe (felony), and theft (level 6).

James and Michael McDowell are lodged in the Clark County, Indiana detention center.

The exact charges against Roberts and where he is lodged are not known.



James McDowell



Michael McDowell



Edward Roberts

Obituaries

- Mavis Ashcraft, 74
 - Gerald Bush Jr., 47
 - Melinda Lynch, 101
 - Harold Ray Neal, 63
 - Hobert Russell, 69
 - Elizabeth Rowland, 92
 - Ellen Townsend, 29
 - Norwood Thorpe, 81
 - Brian Tipton, 49
 - Margaret Wells, 89
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Estill Countians woke up Saturday morning to their first substantial snowfall of 2015, about three inches. Students missed their fifth day of class on Tuesday. A few days, school was dismissed because of the cold or just plain ice. The school board is looking at a plan that some other systems are using this year where students will do their class work at home on snow days.

IPD makes arrests for drug trafficking

The Irvine Police Department continued their war on drugs with two more arrests.

On Friday, January 23, IPD went to the residence of Connie Lee Cornett, 53, at 704 Poplar Street in Ravenna.

The citation says that Cornett sold three oxycodone pills, 10 mg strength to a confidential informant at 5:15 p.m. on January 17.

According to IPD, Cornett used a black 1997 Chevrolet to complete the transaction. The arresting officer, John Sturniolo said that five marijuana cigarettes were found in the car's ashtray. Also found in the car's center console were a marijuana pipe, rolling papers, and three metal spoons.

Sturniolo said that IPD's police dog, "Fritz," and the dog's handler, Officer Karl

Rifenbark, located the marijuana and paraphernalia in the vehicle.

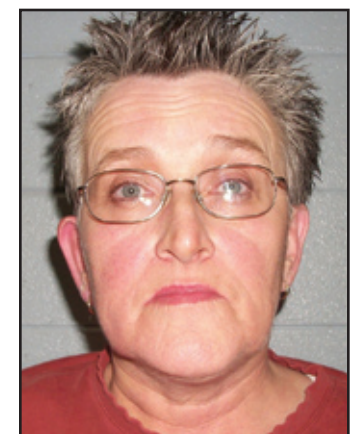
IPD had the vehicle towed.

Cornett was arrested and lodged in the Estill County Detention Center. She was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance first degree, first offense; possession of marijuana; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The second arrest for drug trafficking was made by IPD on Sunday night in the Cantrill Street area.

Officer Sturniolo said that a homeless man, Jonas B. Townsend, 40, sold a 30 mg dosage unit of oxycodone to a confidential informant on January 18.

The arresting officer said that Townsend had in his possession a package of suboxone (three strips).



Connie Cornett



Jonas Townsend

Townsend was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, and possession of a controlled substance, second degree.

Two bench warrants were also served on Townsend.

One warrant stated that Townsend was found guilty on July 8, 2014 of theft by unlawful taking.

Judge Bo Leach signed the

warrant because Townsend had failed to pay restitution to Matt Adams. Adams was not permitted to make bail on this charge.

Townsend was also found guilty of four traffic offenses in July 2014. The warrant was issued because he failed to pay \$363 fine plus \$30 service fee. Townsend could make bail on this charge by posting \$105 in cash.

KSP arrests woman for drug trafficking

An Irvine woman faces six drug-related charges following an investigation into drug trafficking by Kentucky State Police.

Trooper Z. Pennington wrote in a citation that he had received an anonymous tip that prescription drugs were being sold at 123 Hood Avenue, Irvine.

Three troopers went to the address at 8:45 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25. Trooper Pennington said he made contact with the homeowner, Norma Riggsby, who gave state police consent to search her residence.

The citation states the troopers located seven oxycodone pills, 2 xanax bars,

8 suboxone strips, one and a half suboxone pills, and one tranxene pill. It says the pills and strips were located in a wall panel.

The trooper also confiscated several needles and two pipes to smoke marijuana.

Trooper Pennington said that Chrystal Riggsby, 25, of

123 Hood Avenue admitted the pills, strips and paraphernalia belonged to her.

Chrystal Riggsby was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first, second and third degrees, drug paraphernalia (two counts), and prescription controlled substance not in proper container.