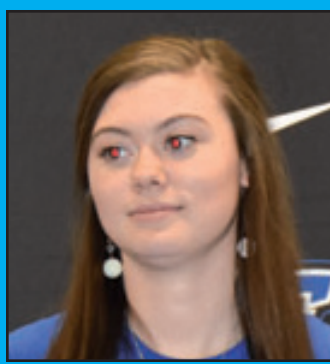


Four more Estill players sign letters of intent
Pages 14-15



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The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 33 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

KSP charges Irvine man with trafficking in opium and meth

An Irvine resident was arrested on Valentine's Day and charged with three counts of trafficking by state police.

The citation states that KSP Trooper J. Hacker and Deputy Chris Coffey went to Cedar Grove Road at 1:45 a.m. to serve a warrant on Shawna Crowe.

When they arrived, Brian Edward Hall, 47, of High Street, Irvine al-

lowed the officers to come into the residence. Coffey asked all persons inside the residence to come into the living room for officer safety. There were seven people inside the home.

Coffey then served the Jackson County warrant on Crowe.

Hall asked the trooper if he could go into the other room. The trooper

followed and said he saw a desk with a propane torch, butane canisters, and a glass pipe. The room was then searched.

The citation states the trooper found different zipped containers in a desk drawer. Inside each container was different forms of narcotics and controlled substances. Trooper Hacker also found six empty syringes

and three yellow folded pieces of paper containing a brown powdery substance, suspected heroin.

The citation adds that a clear baggy containing a white powdery substance, also suspected to be heroin. Another clear baggy had a clear, crystallized substance suspected to be methamphetamine.

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Benton is "Player of the Year"

The Estill County Engineers Joe Benton (#4, white) has been named "14th Region Player of the Year" in basketball. Benton, a senior who has already signed to play golf at Eastern Kentucky University, leads the Engineers at an 18.6 clip a game with 8.6 boards. Joe shoots 50.9% from the field. The Engineers are currently 19-9 and will be the top seed in the 56th District Tournament with a 6-0 regular season district record.

Cattle running the roads

Cattle running loose over the last few weeks has kept Sheriff Chris Flynn busy.

"Right now, I've got cattle I can't find the owners for," Flynn stated at Monday's fiscal court meeting.

Flynn said he had to call the county road foreman, Brad Goolman, to bring a county truck to pull a cattle trailer.

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Water leakage is still over 30% but is improving

The three water commissioners from Estill County Water District reported to the Estill Fiscal Court during Monday night's meeting.

Commissioner Blain Click said the water district was formed in 1964, and today has 3,700 connections on 350 water line miles.

Click said the district is currently \$5 million in debt, which he considers pretty low when compared to other water districts.

He stated the district is currently dedicated to water loss.

"When water runs out on the ground, it gets wasted," Click stated.

Click said when the commissioners were appointed, the district's water loss was 42 percent. Now he said it is in the 30 percent range.

It was recommended that the water district file for bankruptcy.

The district's plan is to zone the district, so that real time data can detect a leak almost immediately.

The minimum base rate for a water bill is \$21.58, but Click said that utility taxes are added on for the school and a fee for 911.

The water district has placed a \$3.54 surcharge on each bill to address the water loss issue. Click said the surcharge is expected

to end in three years.

Part of the district's debt is for measures to address the water loss.

Click said the commissioners also refinanced the water district's loans when they took office. He said that saves the district \$9,000 each month.

He added the water loss issue is dealing with mostly mechanical water meters. Those meters will be replaced with real time meters.

Click said the district is challenged by water lines going under railroads and streams and the topography.

Commissioner Jack Stickney worked 20 years with Kentucky Rural Water.

"The water district has come a long way," he stated.

He said the district brings in about \$2 million a year, and they have added new staff members.

Robert "Skip" Johnson, the third commissioner, said the water district was part of the "Leaky Eleven," when they started in 2019.

He said the district had \$300,000 in non-recurring expenses, including a settlement to a lawsuit with a car wash.

"Everything is not rosy," he stated, "but we're holding our own."



Rebecca Rogers is one of about twenty Estill Countians in the group, Hunter's Hounds. The group attended a rally for Bill Wesley for State Representative on Saturday. Children were invited to pet the hounds.



Deputy Chris Coffey introduced Hunter's Hounds at the rally on Saturday. Some of the hounds were also present. The group looks for missing persons in Estill County and other Kentucky counties. They have also gone out of state. On Sunday, they received an Estill County call about a missing boy. The youngster was located soon afterward.

Obituaries

Ronald C. Isfort, 76

Jimmy W. McCreary, 75

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Blain Click