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Police arrest five on drug related charges

Kentucky State Police have been busy in Estill County over the last several weeks, arresting citizens on drug-related charges.

Those arrested on felonies were transported to the Three Forks Jail in Beattyville because the Estill County Detention Center remained closed as late as this past Monday due to bed bugs.

Hearings were also held in Lee County for a couple of the individuals who were arrested.

A Sandhill resident was arrested Wednesday, July 22 on four charges of trafficking in a controlled substance, all first offense.

The citation states that KSP Trooper T. Robinson was dispatched to the residence of Aaron L. Portwood, 41, of Sandhill Road Apartments, in reference to selling and possessing drugs.

A knock and talk was conducted by the trooper, and the citation states that Portwood opened the door.

Trooper Robinson said he observed a needle and a white crystal substance on a coffee table.

The citation states that a search of the residence was conducted, and several drugs, drug paraphernalia, scales and individual baggies were found throughout the apartment.

The trooper said that Portwood admitted ownership to the drugs. Portwood was transported to the Estill County Detention Center after being charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree (methamphetamine and drug unspecified), trafficking in both the second and third degree (drugs unspecified), possession of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

A Ravenna resident was arrested Saturday, August 1 for trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree.

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Bed bugs keep jail closed



On Monday, offices in the courthouse were open after being closed because of bed bugs over the last several weeks. The county jail was still closed, leaving the jailer to transport incoming inmates to Three Forks Jail in Beattyville. A spokesperson in the county judge's office said that during an inspection for bed bugs on Friday, more bed bugs were found in the jail. A couple of dead bed bugs were also found in the upstairs courtroom. Initially, no bed bugs were found during inspections of the second floor. The courthouse and jail are expected to be sprayed regularly for bed bugs to prevent future closings.



Last Tuesday evening, two vehicles were involved in a collision on Highway 82 near the Harg Church of God. Motorists and residents say that every time it rains, there are numerous wrecks on this portion of the road.

Photos courtesy of Nelena Seales

Police make felony arrests for checks by deception

Two people were arrested in separate incidents involving bad checks in recent weeks.

Alexandria Pensol, 25, of Richmond was charged by Trooper Z. Pennington with criminal possession of a forged instrument first degree.

Trooper Pennington was called to Cash Express on Richmond Road on July 28. He said the woman was

using a forged check stub from Bluegrass Plating in Richmond in an attempt to get a loan from Cash Express.

Bond for Pensol was set at \$10,000 cash. She pleaded not-guilty to the charge on August 4 during a hearing held in Lee County. Her preliminary hearing is scheduled for August 12.

Justin Tyler Patrick, 26, of Sand Hill Road, Irvine

was arrested on a felony charge by Irvine Officer John Sturmiolo on August 8.

The officer charged Patrick with receiving stolen property under \$500, theft by deception including cold checks under \$500, and tampering with physical evidence.

The tampering charge is a felony. Bail for Patrick was set at \$2,500 cash.

Council discusses sewer back-up, taxes, truck use, rumors about personnel

by CATHY DAWES
Estill County Tribune

Jim Walters approached members of the Irvine city council on Monday night about a concern he has pertaining to the infrastructure of the water and sewage lines in the city. Walters said that the current system isn't going to last forever and he has had raw sewage backing up into his home.

Councilman Glenwood Tipton advised Walters to contact Irvine Municipal Utilities and they would take care of the problem. Councilmen Tobo Bryant and Billy Arthur stated that they would contact Billy Williams on Tuesday on his behalf.

The council discussed and set the tax rate on motor vehicles and watercraft. City clerk Robin Powell said the tax rate had been the same for years which is 34.5 cents per \$100.

Councilwoman Nelle Williams asked Powell what the city does about delinquent taxes. Powell said that each year when the new tax bills are printed the city attaches any delinquent taxes to the current bill. The property owner has until January to pay the bill and then they

are turned over to City Attorney Rodney Davis' office. She said in the past couple of years a letter has been sent to the property owner from Davis' office and they have been setting people up on a payment plan which has really helped them be able to pay their tax bill.

"I don't want any police officers laid off. I want a six-man force and if we are having financial trouble, we need to make adjustments in other departments. The same goes for the fire department. I don't want to see anyone laid off."
Councilman Bryant

Williams also said that she would like to be informed of things that are going on within the city instead of being surprised at the grocery store. She said that as an elected official she thought the council had a right to know who had been hired. She said the issue of hav-

ing inside furniture on porches and outside of the home continues to be a problem throughout the city. She said the ordinance clearly prohibits the storage of indoor furniture on the exterior of the home and that something needs to be done about it.

"I don't know why people want a couch on their front porch," stated Williams.

"Maybe they have bed bugs," Councilwoman Janice Bush said jokingly.

A municipal aid vehicle was discussed at great length among council members after the question of who was allowed to drive the truck was asked by Williams. Mayor W.J. Noland said that he had driven the truck recently as well as the city clerk. Noland said that a snow spreader and a blade had been ordered for the truck in preparation of inclement weather.

The truck was purchased with municipal aid funds and had been parked at the city fire department until Noland was informed by the auditor that it should not be parked there. Noland said that employees of the street department have full use of the vehicle when it is needed.

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Obituaries

Christine Abner, 82

Helen B. Barnes, 73

Lucille

Brandenburg, 74

Kenneth Caldwell Sr., 68

Luther Dunaway, 84

David Freyman, 60

Helen G. Rhodes, 83

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Ravenna Council addresses drainage problem

by CATHY DAWES
Estill County Tribune

On Monday night Ravenna resident Kathy Collett presented members of the council with a photo of her front yard that has still not been repaired after more than a year. Collett requested that the council deed her back the easement to her property which she said she did in good faith and with the hopes to get the drainage issue resolved once and for all.

"It's been dragging on for at least two years and it's gone on long enough," stated Collett.

Mayor Estine Tipton said that they were working on fixing the problem and that a city worker

would return on Tuesday to put in drain tile.

Councilwoman Sharon Snowden asked Collett to keep the council informed about the progress on the yard work and Collett agreed that she would.

City clerk Jamie Hill informed the council that the loan through Citizens Guaranty Bank would mature on August 14th. Hill said that she had spoken with a loan officer and the city was able to renew the loan at the same interest rate of 3.5 percent. The amount due on the loan is \$34,478.34 which includes interest.

Mayor Tipton said that the city had been audited once again. She said she received a letter

from the office of Adam H. Edelen the auditor of public accounts regarding several different issues that had been brought to their attention. In the letter they asked for a brief description of each item listed as well as documentation for each item.

Tipton said that she along with Jamie Hill had pulled paperwork for two weeks and paid a lawyer \$200 per hour to review the documents. According to the lawyer each issue listed in the letter is covered.

"This is what I go through all the time. I don't have anything to hide and I don't use the city's money for anything," stated Tipton.