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Residents get free medical care from Operation Bobcat Free medical, dental, and vision services are available through June 24

Operation Bobcat is scheduled to run through Sunday, June 24, but it has already made an impact on medical care in Estill, Lee, Breathitt, and Owsley counties.

The operation was set up in the four high schools by members of the Air National Guard and U.S. Navy. on June 15

They are offering free, non-emergency medical, dental, and optometry services at no-cost to residents, ages 2 and up of Eastern Kentucky. Sports physicals are also being given.

Insurance and IDs are not required to be seen. Patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can also come from other counties for medical care.

"All in all, it's a benefit for everyone involved," said Commissioner Sandra Donahoo. "Many, many communities applied for this opportunity."

Donahoo is a native of Beattyville and works for the Department of Local Government.

She said Gov. Matt Bevin has asked her to find projects, such as this one, which will better the communities.

Donahoo said some residents may re-

ceive resources to follow-up after Operation Bobcat ends.

During a press conference Monday at Lee County High, representatives from Marcum & Wallace Hospital were available in the lobby, along with other health care providers, including insurance companies.

"It's a win for the military. It's a win for the community," said Lt. Col. Amy Mundell, the mission's officer in charge.

Operation Bobcat will provide expeditionary training for military health care troops.

Over 215 Air National Guardsmen and U.S. Navy Sailors from all over the country are working at the four locations.

They brought more than 30 tons of medical gear and support equipment, including satellite communication networks, internet capability, and telephone access.

The team even brought its own food service, which will serve more than 8,000 meals through the end of the mission.

Lt. Col. Mundell said the expense of Operation Bobcat is paid for out of the military's annual training budget.

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A row of dentists (in white jackets covering military uniforms) perform dental work on patients using portable equipment at Lee County High School on Monday morning.



Tonia Henry, right, was one of the many cancer survivors who walked the track on Friday night during Relay for Life. Henry was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in May 2017 and had a double mastectomy just two weeks later. Metastatic breast cancer means that the cancer has spread to other parts of the body and in Henry's case it has spread to her bones. She said that she knew her life was changed forever but she's learning how to cope with the new 'norm' of her life now. (Photo by Cathy Dawes)

IPD confiscates cash and pills, and arrests one

The Irvine Police Department has charged one person with trafficking in drugs and confiscated over \$7,000 in cash.

The citation states that IPD stopped Jeffrey Gross, 53, on June 13 on Broadway because they were trying to locate his wife.

Upon stopping the vehicle, the citation states the officer noticed a strong marijuana odor.

It adds that Gross told IPD that he had just returned from Ohio, and his doctor had given him different types of suboxone in the same container.

He told the officer that he had dropped his wife off.

Irvine's K-9, Fritz, alerted on Gross' vehicle, according to the citation.

Sgt. John Sturniolo said that IPD located 62 xanax pills, 22 pills of suboxone, and two suboxone strips in the vehicle.

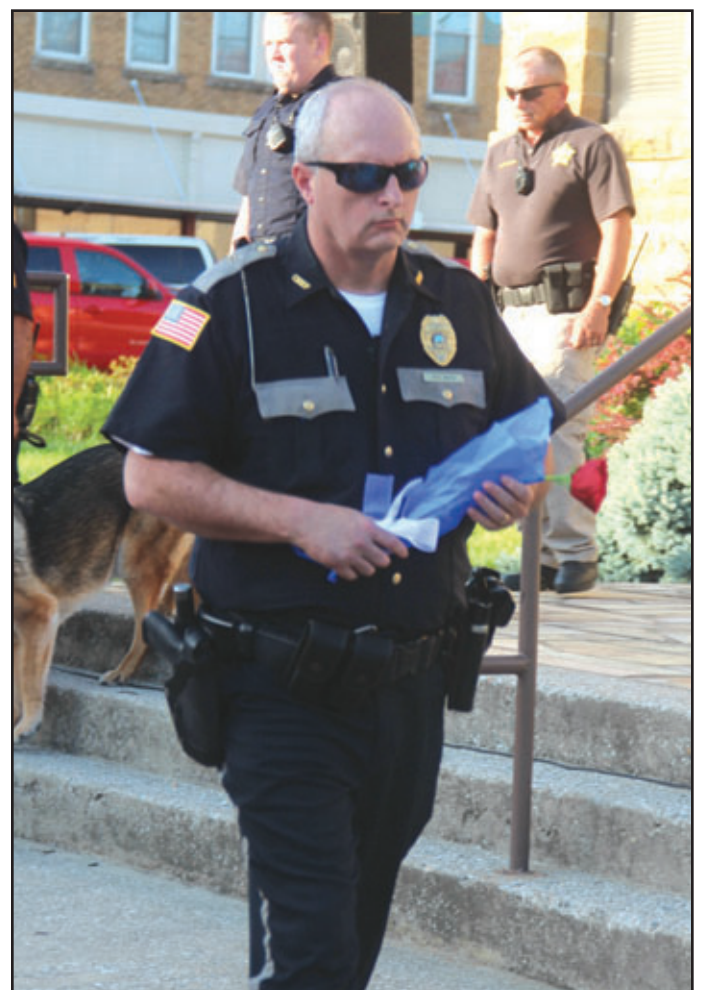
Gross had \$7,262.00 plus assorted change, according to the citation.

Gross was charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree and first offense, trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree and first offense, and theft-receipt of a stolen credit/debit card.

IPD had the vehicle towed and impounded.

Gross was arraigned June 15 in Estill District Court. He pled not-guilty. He will return June 20 for a preliminary hearing.

His bail has been set at \$25,000 cash.



Ravenna Police Chief Ken White placed a rose on the memorial in front of the Estill County Courthouse on Thursday night during the annual Policeman's Memorial.

(Photo by Cathy Dawes)

Obituaries

- Argene Benton, 88
- Raymond Fike, 63
- Jimmie Fox, 85
- Mary E. Hardy, 90
- Juanita Harrison, 65
- Aaron Mays, 38
- Robert Wilson, 42

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New Obits at EstillTribune.com

Fiscal court to file lawsuit against telephone company

The Estill Fiscal Court voted Monday to pursue litigation against Birch Communications to remove a 911 fee off customer's phone bills.

Until February 1, there was a \$3.00 fee on phone bills for 911 services. The county passed a new ordinance which removed it from the phone bills but added \$4.00 to the water bills.

County Attorney Rodney Davis said that he, Judge/Executive Kevin Williams, and Treasurer Ann Rogers had each physically spoken to someone at Birch Communications.

Rogers said copies of the ordinances had also been mailed to Birch Communi-

cations.

Williams said the company sent them a check for some of the fees collected, but the fiscal court returned it. Companies which collect fees for the fiscal court receive a small percentage of the amount collected.

Davis said that Birch Communications had even increased the fee they are collecting by a dollar.

He added that some residents had not sent in the 911 portion, only to see it added the next month with late fees.

Some of the residents were even charged \$7.95 to get a paper statement.

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