

8-year-old Hagen Joe bags his first deer
Page 2



Estill County Court News
Page 5

A Bold Advocate for the Gospel
Page 9

50¢
INC 3 TAX IN KY
0 4 8 7 9 2 0 4 5 5 8

The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 15 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

KSP arrests two for trafficking at scene of the alleged robbery

Two men were arrested last Tuesday evening at the location of a deadly robbery on Richmond Road.

The men were not charged with shooting the three alleged robbers. It is unknown if the arrested men were the shooters.

One of the shooting victims was pronounced dead at the scene. The

other two were transported to the University of Kentucky hospital with life-threatening injuries. There has been no official word on their status.

Kentucky State Police identified the deceased man as James Baker, 26, of Mallie, Ky. There have been no names released for the two men who were in life-threatening

conditions.

Andre Fox, 26, of Mt. Crest, Irvine and Daniel O. Rhodus, 26, of Richmond were arrested at the robbery scene by KSP Trooper Ty Robinson.

He charged each of them with trafficking in marijuana over five pounds, first offense, trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree

and first offense (LSD), and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

Robinson's citations give no details on the charges, except that they are in reference to Detective Austin Brashear's investigation. Det. Brashear is continuing to investigate the robbery.

The arrested men were arraigned by video on Friday by District Judge William Leach. Judge Leach has not been having in-person court hearings. Fox and Rhodus pled not-guilty to the charges. Judge Leach scheduled preliminary hearings for them on October 14.

Fox's bail has been set at \$40,000 cash, and Rhodus' at \$50,000.

During a preliminary hearing, evidence will be presented to the judge. He will then determine if there is enough evidence to send the case to the grand jury.

Continued on Page 14



Andre Fox
Photo/Three Forks Jail



Daniel Rhodus
Photo/Three Forks Jail



Charlie Sparks of Winchester Road in northern Estill County shows off his crop of sweet potatoes he raised on his 200-acre farm in the Palmer Community. He and his family moved on this farm on April 20, 1962 and have been farming and gardening ever since. Charlie is now 84 years old and retired but continues raising sweet potatoes and other vegetables. He recently sold several boxes of tomatoes to area stores. Charlie drove a school bus for Estill County Schools for many years and, like other drivers such as Othal Dawson and Sheridan Berryman, he was well-liked and respected by the students. On the Hargett Alumni Facebook page it was noted by one former student under a picture of Othal, "Never rode Othal's but I did ride Charlie's. Great memories with great people!"

Man charged with trafficking after pursuit by state police

An Estill County man was arrested October 7 on the Richmond Road on numerous charges by Trooper Ty Robinson.

Deputy Brad Smith had observed a 2006 Gold Yukon Denali at the end of Clear Creek Road which was attempting to make a left turn onto Richmond Road.

The citation states that vehicle was believed to

have been operated by Danny Lee Abney, who was known to have felony warrants for his arrest.

Deputy Smith was traveling on Richmond Road and made a "u-turn" in the roadway to go back to the intersection of Clear Creek/Richmond Road to make a traffic stop.

The Denali did not make a left turn but made a right turn going toward

Irvine, the trooper stated.

Trooper Robinson said he got behind Deputy Smith and then took over the lead pursuit vehicle behind the Denalia. He said speeds reached 75 mph in a 55 mph zone on Richmond Road. The driver refused to stop and made a right turn onto Stacy Lane.

While on Stacy Lane,

Trooper Robinson said he saw a white object coming

Continued on Page 5



Danny Lee Abney
Photo/Three Forks Jail

Obituaries

Victor Cain, 45
Ronnie Criswell, 71
Thomas Hall, 79
Lucy Martin, 76
Joseph Pendergest Jr., 60
Ruth Reynolds, 100
Ogal Spicer, 98
Phyllis Winkler, 60

See Page 6
See Updated Obits
EstillTribune.Com

Dr. Stack speaks to Irvine council about needle exchange program

Trick or Treat will be on October 31, 6-8 p.m.

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Dr. Steven Stack, health commissioner for the state of Kentucky, spoke to members of the Irvine council on Monday night during a virtual meeting about the benefits of the needle exchange program that is organized by the local health department.

Stack said that Estill County is one of the top counties in the United States for opioid abuse, and that withdrawing from the needle exchange program would cause a financial hardship on the community.

It would also cause an uptick in the spread of infectious diseases. He added that he would like to work with the health department and the city to continue the program.

Mayor James Gross said that recently a little girl found a needle

close to Estill Springs and just down the road a lady picked up three more needles.

Gross said that it's been a major problem since the needle exchange program began, and one of the officers had been stuck picking up a needle in the past few weeks as well.

IPD Chief John Sturniolo spoke about a local dealer who was selling needles that had blood in them along with the drug, and that was just one of the issues that the community has been facing since the program began.

Several of the council members agreed that drug use was a big problem, and they didn't know the solution to the problem. They would be willing to revisit their decision on withdrawing from the program during their next in-person meeting.

Continued on Page 5



The Matthew and Rosemary Watson family opened a fundraising rally for Bill Wesley, candidate for state representative of the 91st district on Friday. The opening song was "The Star Spangled Banner," which the Watsons sang acapella. Two of their sons are not pictured, but they were also singing with the family. Many other gospel groups performed at the fundraiser.