

**Roger Alford's America's Heartland**  
Page 3

**Betty Young's Times Remembered**  
Page 3

**What to wear during Coronavirus Dawn Reed**  
Page 7

**Eric Baker's Small Scale Garden**  
Page 5

**Steve Brewer's Just Hunting**  
Page 9

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

# The Estill County Tribune

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We love (and miss) you!



The residents of Irvine Health and Rehab Center are on lock-down during the Corona Virus epidemic. Their friends cannot go see them. Their families cannot go see them, but the nursing home has kept the families in touch with social media. Pictures of the residents, including the two above, holding up messages for their families have been posted on Facebook. Some residents have chatted with their families by internet. The staff has kept the residents busy while maintaining social distancing. Photos courtesy of Irvine Health & Rehab Center

## IPD investigates possible making of meth; arrests 2

Irvine Police arrested two men on Wednesday, March 18 after receiving a call that the two were making or manufacturing methamphetamine. Officers Stewart Morris, James Marshall, and Jason Conrad went to an outbuilding at 621 Cantrill Street in Irvine. Officer Morris said the door was partially open, and he could see the two males inside with drugs and drug paraphernalia. IPD reports they found a clear bag with a crystal-like substance inside which contained over two grams of suspected methamphetamine. Morris charged Phillip

Stone, 43, of 618 Cantrill Street with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (over two grams of meth) and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess. Stone's citation states that he had scales for weighing in his hands. Officer Marshall charged Charles D. Lakes, 51, of Cedar Grove Road, Irvine with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine). Lakes' citation states that he had four papers in his wallet that were used to wrap methamphetamine in.

## Not business as usual during the pandemic

No corona virus cases have yet been reported in Estill County. There have been rumors of residents being tested for the virus, but nothing has been confirmed at press time. Two cases have been reported in counties adjacent to Estill, Madison and Clark. Estill residents remain under a state order to maintain social distancing. It has forced them to be creative. All gatherings of ten or more people are prohibited. This required churches in Estill County to cancel their regular services. Governor Andy Beshear asked churches to ring their bells at 10 a.m. Sunday. Many churches, including Irvine First Baptist, Friendship Baptist, and Emmanuel Baptist, broadcast their sermons on Facebook. Salem Baptist Church held a drive through service in the church's parking lot. Those attending stayed in their vehicles with windows rolled up but could tune in to the pastor's sermon over an FM radio station. Funeral homes are now conducting private funerals for family members only. Memorial services may be held at later dates. Visitors to Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital is very limited. There are no visitors allowed at Ir-

vine Health and Rehab center, which has been very emotional for families. The nursing home staff has been creative. Families have been allowed to talk to residents through social media. The staff has posted pictures of the residents on Facebook doing activities. They have spent a lot of time creating activities to fill in the gaps that were previously done by outside groups. They are maintaining social distancing between the residents. For example, the residents played bingo while sitting in a chair in their doorway, which was more than six feet from a nearby door. The Estill County Senior Citizen Center is closed to its usual clients. Staff at the center have been working and delivering meals to seniors. The governor has ordered that students continue Non Traditional Instruction (NTI) through April 20. Spring break is scheduled for next week, starting Monday, March 30, for Estill County students. Last week, the school district delivered over 5,000 meals to students. They are continuing the meal delivery this week. Supt. Jeff Saylor announced that the internet can be picked up in some areas of parking lots at Estill High, South Irvine, and West Irvine schools. Continued on Page 2



Estill County churches have been forced to cancel their regular services during the pandemic. Some of them used Facebook Live with the minister delivering a morning message. Salem Baptist Church held a drive through service in the church parking lot. (pictured above). Photos courtesy of Shurla Cooper

## School board conducts only necessary business

by CATHY DAWES Tribune Staffwriter School board members met on Thursday night to conduct routine business and practiced social distancing during the meeting. With the ongoing situation with the Corona virus outbreak there were no presentations or no Mountain Mover recognitions during the meeting. Superintendent Jeff Saylor said that he had also advised the architect and construction manager to not attend the meeting, that he would provide the board members with a construction update himself. Saylor said that there was a lot of water coming in on the ground floor of the technology center, therefore, the construction workers had

switched around and had been working on other things until the water cleared up. He added that they weren't behind schedule but they weren't too far off. The bus garage on the other hand was a different story. Saylor said that the contractor on that job had missed several decent work days during a three week period. He knew that there would be some delays due to the weather, but the board has expectations and they are not interested in paying for work that hasn't been done. Saylor went on to say that he had considered tabling the whole pay application to the contractor and not paying them at all but they did get the road graded and had pur-

chased some of the materials needed for the job. "I've not seen any work so I'm not interested in paying anything other than the direct purchase order," said Saylor. The final payment for the Estill Springs project was approved by the board, and all members were very pleased with the newly remodeled school. An open house was in the works for the public to visit the school and see the new renovations but will be postponed until further notice. The board approved the purchase of a third new bus and a lease on the cruiser to the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep on the vehicle. Continued on Page 2

**Obituaries**  
Vivian Johnson, 88  
Rodney Larson, 52  
Ica Mays, 94  
Madelynn Robertson, Infant  
Hugh Wilson, 92  
See Page 6  
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Social distancing has not kept Estill Countians from looking for mushrooms, even though this year's festival has been cancelled. These were found on Monday by Raymond Barnes, who is in his 90s. Photos courtesy of Willa Barnes