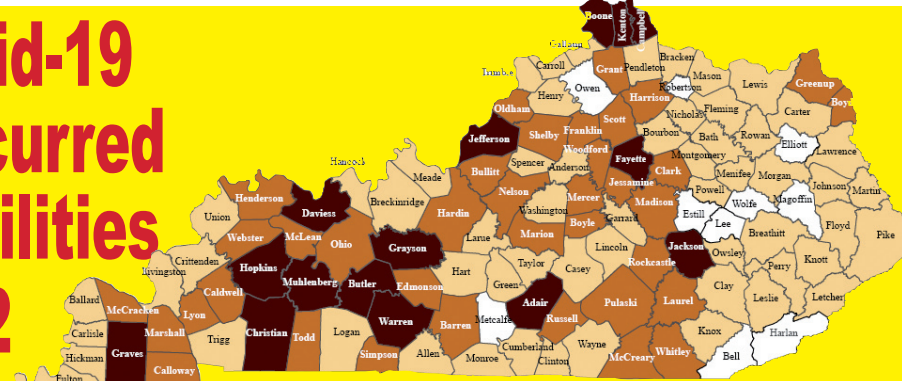


**46% of Ky. covid-19 deaths have occurred in long-term facilities**  
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**Hardy Bags 'Slam' in Owen**  
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# The Estill County Tribune

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## Southern gospel artist finds ways to stay connected

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Kentucky Today

IRVINE, Ky. (KT) — Mark Bishop hasn't been on the road since the COVID-19 pandemic slammed the brakes on his touring schedule, but the award-winning singer-songwriter is making the most of his time at home.

"I felt like I was just getting right back into it (following a Christmas break) and then this hit," he said. "You can't have any public gatherings and we are sequestering at home. It's been different, but there's a lot of aspects to what I do (that keep me busy). A big chunk of income has been taken out because of not being able to do the live concerts, but I expect things to get back to normal eventually."

Bishop is optimistic his touring schedule and some form of normalcy in society will resume soon and is hopeful a vaccine will be developed sooner rather than later.

"I believe within a couple of months that things are going to be pretty close to where we even had heard of the coronavirus and this will be in the rear-view mirror. We were caught off-guard this time, but I think that we will be more on guard for epidemics and pandemics in the future."

Although concerts are a major part of his regular routine, Bishop splits a majority of his time writing songs and other projects pertaining to the Southern Gospel Music Industry.

He has been working on

a project for Daywind Records that will be released to radio stations across the nation. The segments, which are titled "Mark Bishop's, You're Happy when you're Laughing" will feature comedy moments given by Bishop condensed into one-minute segments, which he described as "folksy and homey."

"When you do something creative for a living, that doesn't turn off just because you are sequestered at home," Bishop said. "Writing continues and we are working on a series of daily radio shows that we are going to be sending out to over 500 radio stations. We've been working on that and it will be going out toward the end of the month to Christian radio

stations and rural radio stations. There are a lot of projects that we stay busy with that we haven't been able to do while we are at live concerts where people are gathered."

Bishop's concerts traditionally feature "bits of music and bits of humor" received well by the audience and he always "just likes to make people feel good." The success of the humor and stories mixed into his concerts inspired his newest venture and added that it's something "I just do anyway."

"People like to hear the sound of laughter and I like to see people smile," he said. "For years we infused our music concerts with humor and stories and in the past couple of years," Bishop stated.

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Southern Gospel musician Mark Bishop of Irvine is looking forward to touring again.

## 84 tested 0 positive

As of Monday, 84 Estill Countians had been tested for the corona virus. All tests have come back negative, stated Judge/Executive Donnie Watson.

The judge said that most Estill Countians who have been tested have gone to Richmond for the tests. He said the results are then forwarded to the health department of the county the tested person lives in.

As of Monday, Estill was one of only ten counties in Kentucky where no cases of corona virus had been reported.

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Anyone going out in public starting May 11 will be required to wear a mask. Last week, a county road department employee wore one as he moved record books following a water line break at the courthouse.

## Two charged with trafficking following stop by Irvine Police

Two people were charged with trafficking in drugs following a traffic stop by the Irvine Police Department early Monday morning.

Officer Jason Conrad said he observed a 2011 gray Lexus traveling south on South Irvine Road which had expired tags. When he ran the tag through LINK/NCIC, it indicated the owner's license was suspended. Conrad then made a traffic stop on the vehicle.

The officer stated that he noticed the driver and the back seat passenger appeared visibly nervous and their hands were shaky. As he was returning to the vehicle to give the driver's information back, he noticed the front seat passenger pass something to the back seat passenger.

He was given consent to search the vehicle.

Officer Conrad said he found a small white piece of paper between the passenger seat and center console. It appeared to be cocaine but later field tested positive for methamphetamine.

He reported that he also located a set

of scale weights in the glove compartment.

He also discovered a plastic container containing a crystal like substance, expected to be methamphetamine, a small plastic baggie containing a green leafy substance, expected to be marijuana, and a glass pipe. Conrad said these items were found in the same pocket during a search of the back seat passenger.

Officer Conrad arrested Dale D. Wilder, 52, of Richmond and Isaac E. Miller, 32, of Springview Road, Irvine. Both men were each charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, trafficking in marijuana, first offense and less than one ounce, and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

The Irvine Police Department seized \$249 in cash from the owner, Wilder, and a 2011 Lexus.

Another \$174 in cash was seized from Miller.

Detective Sam Hensley assisted Conrad at the scene.

## Obituaries

- Darleen Estes, 78
- Jesse Foster, 81
- JoAnna Francis, 84
- Mary Johnson, 62
- Wendell Hardy, 67
- Edith Noland, 94
- Edward Rogers, 71
- Ralph Tipton, 82
- Sharon Tudor, 67
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- See Updated Obituaries at EstillTribune.Com

## Council meets via teleconference to discuss audit and garbage truck

by Cathy Dawes  
Tribune Staffwriter

Members of the Irvine city council met on Monday night via teleconference to discuss the yearly audit as well as regular monthly business.

City clerk Robin Powell said that they had received a really good audit this year. She said that the auditor only found three material weaknesses within the audit, and that was a significant improvement from last year's audit.

She said that he would be in to discuss the audit

in further detail with the council in the near future.

Mayor James Gross said that the owner of Backstreet Grub had approached him about putting a moveable sign on Main Street because people were having a hard time finding his restaurant.

Council members, as well as the city attorney, advised the mayor that they thought there was an ordinance pertaining to temporary signs. Gross said he would look into it before discussing it with the owner.

Three privilege licenses were granted for new businesses within the city. Terry Conrad has opened up a body shop on River Drive close to the Ravenna line. Raymond Stepp will operate a carwash on Broadway across from the new library, and Thomas Turner has opened up a garage behind the Twin.

Mayor Gross said they have been having issues with the garbage truck once again. He said the truck had been taken to Louisville for repairs and had also been to London for more repairs.

He stated he hated to keep spending money on the old truck and with the loan being paid off on the fire truck in December he wanted to discuss the purchase of a new garbage truck with the council. He added that he had been quoted two prices for a new garbage truck with the highest being \$156,670.

City Attorney Rodney Davis said that with the new guidelines being released by the governor on Monday afternoon that the city council needed to discuss employees wear-

ing face masks. Gross stated the officers and fire department were equipped with PPE, and the city had purchased gloves for the street workers and he also had some standard face masks that could be used by city employees.

Ronnie Riddell, director of Estill Emergency Management Agency, stated that they had been closely working with EMS and the hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He added that 84 people had been tested so far and all those tests had come back negative.