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JCSO: Deputies find massive amount of narcotics, arrest three on trafficking charges

By WAYLON WHITSON
 NEWS EDITOR

On Sept. 16, the Johnson County Sheriff's Office arrested three individuals on various trafficking charges, including charges for heroin, meth, fentanyl, opiates, LSD, cocaine and marijuana.

According to the citation, the JCSO had received "several complaints" that Tim Morman, 53, of New Circle Road, Lexington,



Tim Morman

had been trafficking narcotics and then learned that Morman had "recent-



Sabre Napier

ly (received) a substantial amount of various narcotics." The citation said that



Tiffany Roberts

deputies obtained a search warrant for a residence in Johnson County, located in the Sitka community.

When deputies arrived, the citation said, they saw Morman look at them through the glass of the front door and then "dart away to another room to dispose of narcotics," at which point the deputies forced entry into the residence and detained Morman. The deputies then searched the residence, which resulted in the finding of two black plastic "ammo boxes" which held multiple clear plastic bags containing a "variety" of narcotics and multiple backpacks, according to the citation.

As the search continued, deputies discovered a duffel bag containing a "substantial amount" of ammunition for various firearms and a Ruger LCP 2 .380 that was verified by dispatch as being stolen, the citation said. Deputies also found a large bag containing a large amount of marijuana. The search wasn't complete there, the citation said, as

deputies then found two women, identified by their Social Security numbers as Sabre Napier, 30, of Williams Branch, Wittensville, and Tiffany Roberts, 25, of Caney Newsome Branch, Pikeville, in a "hidden room" accessible by a crawl space from the master bathroom of the house.

The deputies spoke with Morman, the citation said, who claimed he had no idea where any of these items had come from. According to the citation, while speaking with Morman, the deputies noticed that his shoes were wet and covered in grass and thus began to further their search outside the residence.

Approximately 100 feet from the entrance to the house, the citation said, deputies located a small metallic container which held a "substantial amount of meth, cocaine, fentanyl and marijuana, as well as four various firearms." As the search finished, deputies discovered \$1,090 in cash on Morman's person, the citation said.

According to Johnson County Sheriff Doug Saylor, Morman had more than 70 grams of methamphetamine, more than five pounds of marijuana, quantities of various pills and other narcotics.

Morman was lodged in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center on charges

See NARCOTICS, Page 3A



Local and state officials joined Gov. Andy Beshear at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg on Sept. 19, as the governor announced \$4.1 million in funding for the Dawkins Line Rail Trail.

Paintsville Herald photo by Justin Begley

Beshear announces \$4.1 million for Dawkins Line Trail

JUSTIN BEGLEY
 STAFF WRITER

Gov. Andy Beshear made his way to the Mountain Arts Center Sept. 19 to meet with state and local officials from across the region, along with the

public, to unveil the first segment of a \$4.1 million dollar project involving the Dawkins Line Rail Trail.

Gov. Beshear expressed the importance of delivering this good news following the recent heartbreaks and devastations

felt by the entire region.

"It is wonderful to be here today, it's even better to be here in this facility, in this community with good news. Folks across this region have been through

See TRAIL, Page 6A

First private landowners sign lease with KMRRA

JUSTIN BEGLEY
 STAFF WRITER

Thursday, Sep. 15, at the Johnson County Courthouse in Paintsville, private landowners met with local officials and members of

the Johnson County Trail-town Committee to sign a lease agreement.

The lease agreement marks the first transaction of private landowners in the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreation Authority's member counties to do so, as to allow for the development of official trails for the KMRRA First Frontier Appalachian Trails.

The trail system is intended to bridge 18 counties across Eastern Kentucky, in hopes of attracting tourists locally, statewide and abroad who will contribute to a large potential for further economic growth and development in the region.

"Through everyone's hard work so far, we've got to the point today where we have the first agreement signing with a private landowner, a very good moment for us. We expect there to be several more in the days to come and we hope to really build some momentum on this," said Scott Smith, executive director of First Frontier Appalachian Trails.

Johnson County Judge-Executive Mark McKenzie said this was very important for our community economically.

"Johnson County is just

See KMRRA, Page 8A



Paintsville Herald photos by Justin Begley

The Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreation Authority held a ceremonial signing on Sept. 15 in Paintsville to recognize the organization signing its first lease agreement with local landowners for trail property.



Seth Adams, PA-C
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