

# Harlan driver admits causing death under influence

By Rebecca S. Green

The Journal Gazette | March 20, 2016

A 23-year-old Harlan man admitted Friday to driving with marijuana in his system and killing a man on Labor Day.

Austin T. Wood pleaded guilty to causing death while operating a motor vehicle with a controlled substance in his system, a felony. Under the terms of a plea agreement with prosecutors, he faces a sentence of two years in prison and an additional two years of a suspended prison sentence to be served on probation.

On Labor Day, Wood was driving north on Indiana 37 when his car veered off the road near the intersection of Ricker Road. He struck a lawn mower ridden by 52-year-old William Wagaman. Wood was able to avoid a utility pole, but the car went off the other side of the road and rolled over, catching fire.

Wagaman died of blunt-force trauma after being thrown from the mower.

Wood will be sentenced in April.