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# Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Santa's Angels – Page 15

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## IPD charges man with drug trafficking

An Irvine man was arrested following a drug bust at his residence on Tuesday, December 17 by the Irvine Police Department.

Danny R. Neal, 44, of 328 Jacqueline Court, Irvine was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree; unlawful transaction with a minor; possession of a controlled substance; possession of marijuana; and drug paraphernalia.

According to the citation, the Irvine Police Department used a confidential in-

formant to purchase one 30 mg oxycodone for \$40 from Neal around 5:30 p.m. last Tuesday.

Irvine Officer Karl Rifenbark then obtained a search warrant for Neal's residence, which was executed a few hours later.

Officer Rifenbark said the police department seized 16 oxycodone pills 30 mg, 4 suboxone 8 mg sublingual films, and 87 soma 350 mg pills.

The canine handled by Capt. Adrian McKinney was

alerted to two tackle boxes, which Rifenbark said contained less than 8 ounces of marijuana.

Rifenbark said that Neal openly admitted to rolling marijuana joints for his 16 year old son who was in his residence when Neal was arrested.

Court records state the officers confiscated several items of drug paraphernalia, including several small plastic bags in the tackle boxes. Several additional items of drug paraphernalia were re-

portedly found in the tackle boxes.

Two weapons were confiscated. They were a 410 shotgun and a 12 gauge shotgun.

Neal was arraigned last Wednesday, December 18, in Estill District Court. He pleaded not-guilty to all five charges.

District Judge William Leach scheduled a preliminary hearing on Monday, Dec. 23 to hear the evidence against Neal. If there is enough evidence, Judge

Leach can order the case over to the grand jury.

The charges of trafficking charge and unlawful transaction with a minor are felonies. The penalty for trafficking, Class D felony, is one to five years in prison if found guilty. The unlawful transaction charge is a Class C felony, punishable by five to ten years in prison, because a controlled substance was reportedly involved. The other three charges are misdemeanors, punishable by up to one year in jail.



Danny R. Neal

## School board honors 4 classified retirees



Pauline Muncie



Kevin Turpin



Kathy Watson

Four retirees were recognized by the Estill County Board of Education. None of the four are educators, but school administrators talked about how valuable the employees were.

Ken Rose retired as a bus driver. He was unable to be at the recognition ceremony, but Rose wrote a letter to the board thanking them for the clock he received as a retirement gift.

"I have really enjoyed driving," Rose wrote in the letter.

Randall Christopher, assistant superintendent said that buses and drivers are safe. He said that last year, Rose was assigned to one of the new buses.

Christopher added the bus drivers are trained to not let a child just go.

Kevin Turpin is known as "Turp" and is retiring as custodian services manager.

"He has been the man for the Estill County food service department," Christopher stated.

Turpin has also served as assistant basketball coach and basketball coach of the Lady Engineers.

Christopher said he and Turpin had started working for the district in 1984 and both had coached together.

"This is an awesome place to work," said Turpin.

Assistant high school principal Arthur Ballard

spoke about Kathy Watson, a 37 year employee with the food service program.

"They touch our kids lives every day," Ballard stated about classified employees.

He estimated that Watson had helped to prepare 5 million and 200,000 meals for students.

"For some students, that's the best meal they eat every day," he stated.

Christopher said that Watson became the lunch room manager at the high school when the program started 15 years ago.

Pauline Muncie has held many positions with Estill County Schools. She started as a substitute cook in February 1989 and cooked at Irvine Elementary and Estill Springs. She then went back to Irvine Elementary as an instructional aide.

Most recently she was an administrative secretary at Estill Springs.

"Her plan to retire was at the end of the last school year," said Renee Wainscott, guidance counselor at West Irvine. Muncie put her retirement on hold to help with the transition in redistricting.

"It all sounded so exciting. I don't regret staying," she said. "It was more a challenge than I thought it would be."

Muncie's husband, Larry, is making travel plans for their retirements.



Barbara Edmonson, front, and Shirley Crowe played Christmas carols on dulcimers Thursday with other members of the Estill County Dulcimer Club.

## School calendar is adopted for 2014-2015 school year

The chairman and vice-chairman of the Estill Board of Education will remain the same for the 2014 calendar year. Patty Hood was re-elected as chairman and Robbie Starling as vice-chairman.

Regular board meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month in 2014. The dates for board meetings are January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18.

The calendar for the 2014-2015 school year was adopted. Certified employees will have four professional days, one opening day, one closing day, and 177 instructional days.

Opening day for staff will be Monday, August 4 with the following day being the first day for students.

Staff and students will be off for four holidays: labor day, election day, Thanksgiving, and Martin Luther King Day.

Fall break will be October 6-10, and spring break April 6-10. Students will be off November 26-28 for Thanksgiving, December 22 - January 2 for Christmas break, and March 20 for CKEA Day.

The last day for students will be May 15 if no days are missed.

Tonya Isaacs, instructional supervisor, asked the board to approve the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan. She stated that parents can view the plan on the

district's website.

She said the ten goals in the plan are set by the state. The board can add changes. They can exceed the state's target goals but can not go under them.

Isaacs stated that "Literacy by Design" program for students in grades K-5 had arrived. The purchase was approved at the November board meeting at a cost of \$147,420

She said that each teacher received 9 - 13 books for students.

"They feel like it's Christmas," Isaacs stated. "As soon as we get from Christmas break, they're going to get started."

Supt. Bert Hensley presented a historical trend for SEEK funding over the last five years. Since 2009, the Estill District has received \$64,219,555 million less in funding.

Hensley wants legislators to make funding for poorer districts equal to the more affluent ones.

He said SEEK funding doesn't mention that the state pays the local district \$1 per gallon for diesel fuel.

"A lot of our children ride buses," he stated. "It's not fair to our students."

Hensley said if the trend continues the district will lose teacher and technology funding.

Starling commented on a tax issue in the fall.

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**Obituaries**

Wilma Buckley, 83

Ruby Grillot, 82

Phillis Edwards, 58

Tony R. Neal, 49

Bobby Puckett, 73

Joyce Rogers, 57

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Kathy Puckett showed members of Garden Thyme Herb Club how to make a holiday arrangement.

