

**Tammy Terry's
Front Porch
Ponderings
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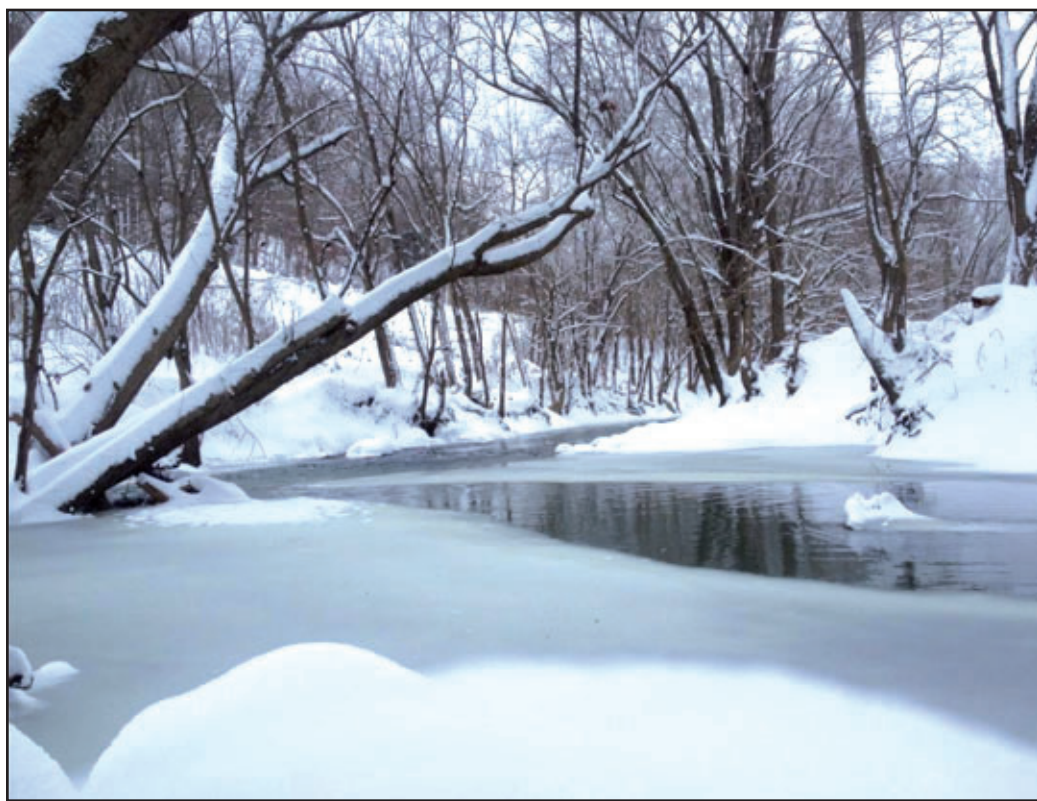


**Betty Young's
Times
Remembered
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The Estill Tribune **EstillTribune.Com**

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 30 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 14 PAGES



Estill County received about four inches of snow on Wednesday. Snow returned on Friday and Saturday with 12 inches or more being recorded. Steven Neal captured the snow's peacefulness on a creek at Wagersville.

IPD finds 1-step meth lab during domestic

Irvine Police located a one step meth lab while investigating domestic violence during an assault on Saturday morning.

Irvine Officer John Sturniolo said that Mark D. Durbin, 53, of 320 N. Madison, Irvine allegedly beat his daughter on Friday night and Saturday morning. The citation states that Durbin would not open the door of his residence when police went there.

Sturniolo said that while police were trying to gain entry into the residence, Durbin slung a wood splitting maul at him and Ravenna Officer James Gross. He added that Durbin then swung a piece of firewood at the two officers, before throwing it at Sturniolo.

Durbin then ran out the back door and crossed a fence before crossing the road, the officer stated.

Police went to Durbin's friend's house at 138 N. Plum Street. Sturniolo said he asked the friend if Durbin was inside.

Back at 320 N. Madison, IPD's K-9 Fritz alerted on a one-step methamphetamine "Shake & Bake" bottle located at the back door.

Durbin was charged with assault fourth degree domestic violence/minor injury, fleeing and evading first, assault third of a police officer, wanton endangerment, first, manufacturing methamphetamine, and resisting arrest.

Sturniolo and Officer Gross have asked that their police departments be reimbursed for two taser cartridges. Each cartridge costs \$35.

Irvine Chief Brad Smith also assisted with the investigation.



Brynleigh and Frankie Joe Muncy had a little fun in the snow at their grandmother's house on Old Fox Road.



Avery Floyd enjoyed making a snowman with her mommy and daddy.

Photo by Kristi Floyd

Police charge woman in wreck for driving too fast in the snow

An Irvine woman was arrested for driving under the influence after a collision on Broadway last Wednesday night, January 20.

Officer John Sturniolo said that Ashley M. David, 23, of Bertha Wallace Drive, was in the middle of the street, using profanities toward the other vehicle, when he arrived on scene.

He said that David had been driving too fast and was following the other vehicle too closely. At the time of the wreck, Broadway was extremely slick and ice covered.

David had her daughter in the back seat of her vehicle.

Sturniolo said that David admitted to taking gabapentin and suboxone the day of the wreck. David failed field sobriety tests. She was taken to Marcum & Wallace Hospital for a blood draw.

Officer Sturniolo said that David had three 900 mg. gabapentin in an unmarked pill cutter in the right pocket of her hoodie. The pills were

entered into evidence.

He added she did not have insurance on her vehicle. David's vehicle, a 2007 Ford, was towed. A hold has been placed on the vehicle until David can obtain proper insurance.

David was charged with driving under the influence of drugs, illegal possession of a legend drug, wanton endangerment first degree, failure of owner to maintain insurance, driving too fast for conditions, following vehicle too closely, reckless driving, and disorderly conduct second.

Her bond was set at \$2,500 cash.

A bench warrant was also served on David from Clark County District Court. Judge Earl Ray Neal had issued a fugitive warrant for David because she failed to appear last August for an arraignment on a charge of operating on a suspended or revoked operators license.

Judge Neal set David's bond at \$300 in that case.

New superintendent presents 1st budget

Supt. Jeff Saylor presented his first budget to the Board of Education at last Thursday's meeting.

Saylor said this was only a draft budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

He stated the SEEK funding, money the district receives from the state, is projected to stay the same as last year's budget. The amount of local SEEK funds will be determined by the passage of the state budget.

The superintendent included a 4% local revenue increase in his proposed budget. He projected that

would bring in an extra \$80,000 for the schools.

Board members did not have to make a decision on the 4% increase in property tax rates at Thursday's meeting. Tax rates are usually set in August, and a 4% increase in revenue requires advertisement and a public hearing.

He projected one cut of \$332,000 to balance the budget. Saylor said the only place to make that cut was in personnel. This will include six teaching positions (\$282,000) and extended days and extra service pay (\$50,000).

The budget includes mandatory increases in retirement rates and employee raises. There are also contributions to support the band, the senior trip, and athletic programs.

Saylor recommended that previous expenditures be reallocated in the amount of \$430,000. Saylor asked the board to only use local dollars when needed to make the bond payment.

The superintendent discussed local tax nickels used

for construction bonding. With the recallable nickel, Estill could potentially receive \$14 million in bonds, but no major construction projects are planned at this time.

South Irvine's renovation is currently at \$1.1 to \$1.2 million.

"We've spent too much money over there," Saylor said (to build a new facility). He estimated that it would cost \$6 million to renovate South Irvine.

Saylor stated the extra nickel could be used to save four to five teaching positions.

The draft budget includes a \$2 million contingency. The state requires each board to have a contingency.

"That should help us meet any emergency we should have," Saylor stated.

The draft budget also includes funding for three buses.

"Fuel prices are a budget to your budget," he told the board.

Projected revenue in the draft budget was just over

\$20 million. The draft budget is for the General Fund only. This is nearly a million less than two years ago.

The board will vote on the budget again in May after the state budget has passed.

Obituaries

Linda Grace, 54
Sandra Hager, 57
Raymond Neikirk, 86
Clyde Wiseman, 80
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Members of the Estill County Board of Education were recognized during Thursday's board meeting. January has been proclaimed as School Board Appreciation Month. Estill's board members are Amy Thomas and Patty Hood, front row; Jon Bicknell, L.W. Beckley, and Robbie Starling, back row.