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**"Unite To Serve" At Estill High School Promotes Reading – See Page 14**

# The Estill Tribune **EstillTribune.Com**

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**Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus made an early appearance Friday's Story Time at the Estill County Public Library. They posed for a photo with all the good boys and girls, and read stories to them.**

## KSP raid indoor pot growing operation; seize 5 lbs. of pot

Kentucky State Police executed a search warrant on a Kiskey Branch residence on Wednesday, Dec. 16. After searching the residence, KSP reported they found a small marijuana grow operation.

Brian Patrick Dixon, 50, of 1582 Kiskey Branch, was arrested. He was charged with cultivating marijuana (five plants of more) first offense, trafficking in marijuana (8 ounces to five pounds) first offense, and possession of a handgun by a felon. The citation states they found eight marijuana plants growing under lights in a bedroom.

A Walther P38 handgun was located upstairs in the arm of a chair. The citation states that Dixon gave the officers where the handgun was located and guided

them to the handgun. The officers state they found five bags of processed marijuana in various locations on the first floor. The processed marijuana was estimated to weigh around five pounds.

Dixon reportedly told the officers that he was a convicted felon in Ohio.

Evidence was collected and samples were sent to the KSP Lab for analysis.

The investigating officer was Trooper Ryan Sizemore of Cannabis Suppression.

Bond for Dixon was set at \$25,000 cash.

Dixon was arraigned in Estill District Court on Friday, Dec. 18. He pleaded not-guilty to the three charges. District Judge Bo Leach scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dixon on Dec. 21.

## Ballard Gets Distinguished Service Award

Estill County's athletic director, Arthur David Ballard, was honored on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, as one of nine recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award given by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Ballard and the other individuals were honored in Orlando, Florida, during the banquet of the group's National Athletic Directors Conference.

The award is presented annually to individuals from within the NIAAA membership in recognition of their length of service, special accomplishments and contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels.

Ballard becomes only the fifth Kentuckian to receive the award; however, he is the second Estill Countian to be named. Ravenna native and former Estill County educator Phil Rison was given the award in 2007 while serving as athletic director of Montgomery County.

Ballard has spent most of his life and his professional career in Estill County where he is currently the director of transportation and building and grounds as well as athletic director for the school system. During

his 31-year career, he has worked as athletic director, activities director, assistant principal and coach. Ballard coached football for 17 years and spent time as coach for both boys and girls basketball.

In addition to serving the students of Estill County, Ballard is heavily involved in the state level as well. As an 18-year member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association, he has represented Regions 10 and 14 on the KHSADA Board of Directors and has served as president-elect, president and past president of the organization.

In 2004, Ballard was named KHSADA Athletic Director of the Year and has served as its conference program director for the past 13 years.

He has been a member of the NIAAA for 18 years and is a member of the national faculty for Leadership Training Institute classes 504, 506 and 508. Ballard is also currently serving a four-year term on the NFHS/NIAAA National Athletic Directors Conference Advisory Committee representing Section 2. Among his honors, Ballard was given the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2011.



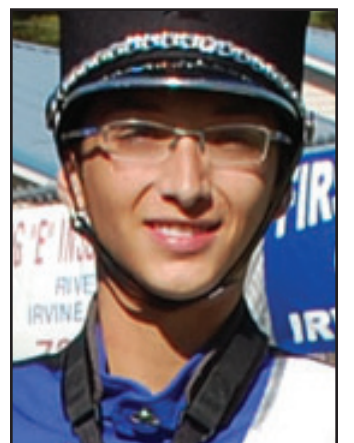
**Arthur David Ballard**

## All-State Band

Jason Bowles said that during previous years of his career as band director, only four of his students have made All-State Band. But this year the band placed first in the state, and the four band members pictured below all made All-State Band.



**MaKayla Horn**



**Zachary Puckett**



**Martina Sanders**



**Meagan Gentry**

## Obituaries

- Charles W. Farmer, 72
- Randy Griggs, 47
- Barbara Harrison, 79
- Farris Miller
- Della Rae Moreland, 9j1
- Maudie Sieberkrob, 72
- Dennis Watson, 76
- Ruth Rogers Wilson, 93

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The Jazz Band from Estill County High School, under the direction of Jason Bowles, performed a Christmas concert at West Irvine Intermediate and other schools in the county last week.