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MERCER COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGE

BECKLEY, W. Va. – Joseph Panagopoulos, 54, of Wolfe, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Irene C. Berger for his role in facilitating a drug deal. On April 29, 2010, Panagopoulos used a telephone to contact an individual to bring him oxycodone pills. Panagopoulos then sold the pills to a confidential informant working with drug task force agents. Panagopoulos, who is scheduled to be sentenced on March 17, 2011, faces up to 8 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The West Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John L. File is handling the prosecution.

WYOMING COUNTY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING OXYCODONE

Also in Beckley, a Wyoming County woman pleaded guilty yesterday to distributing oxycodone. Anita Louise Bailey, 58, of Ravencliff, West Virginia, admitted she sold two 80 mg oxycodone pills to a confidential informant from her residence. Bailey faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when she is sentenced on March 3, 2011.

United States District Judge Irene C. Berger presided over the proceedings. The West Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John L. File is handling the prosecution.

PRISON INMATE PLEADS GUILTY TO INDECENT EXPOSURE

An inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution at Beckley, West Virginia entered a guilty plea today before United States Magistrate Judge R. Clarke Vandervort to indecent exposure. Eric Nixon, 29, of Columbia, South Carolina, admitted that he masturbated in front of a female officer at the prison in July. Nixon was sentenced to 90 days in prison, which will run consecutively to the 41 month prison term he is currently serving for conspiracy to commit money laundering.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John L. File handled the prosecution.

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