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Spring break will be used to make up days

Students in the Estill County School System will only be getting two days of spring break this year.

The board of education voted Thursday to take three days of spring break, and the last day of school for students will be May 29 if no more days are missed. That is also the tentative date for high school graduation.

Interim Supt. Randall Christopher said that staff will use either the following Saturday or Monday as closing day.

State law requires students to be in class for a minimum of 170 days or 1,062 instructional hours. He added that the current calendar called for Estill students to attend 177 days.

Christopher said the legislature has worked on several measures to give school systems calamity days, but Estill does not qualify. The bills in legislature will give calamity days to school districts who missed more than 20 days and will not get out of class by June 5.

As of Thursday's board meeting, Christopher said that Estill County had missed 19 days. The school district averages 15 to 16 snow days a year, but about four years ago, only three days were missed.

Before the board voted on the school calendar, Christopher stated the dates that 12 of the missed days will be made up. (This meets the minimum 170 day school year.)

The make-up days include April 6-8, May 15, 18, 20-22 and May 26-29.

Students will not attend school on Tuesday, May 19 which is election day. Legislature is allowing election day as a make-up day but only if elections are not taking place in the school.

Classes will also be missed for memorial day on Monday, May 25.

Christopher said staff came in to work on February 26 and 27. Students were given a packet of class work the last day they were in school before the last big snow.

"(Alternative instruction) seems to be a possibility for the future," he said.

Some school districts around the state

planned for computerized instruction this year on snow days. Because Estill County is not fully covered by internet, that idea was not considered here.

All staff will be required to make up those seven days, and one of those days can be election day for them.

Board member Jon Bicknell asked what happens if Estill students miss another day.

Christopher said any more missed days will be made up in June.

He stated there could be more snow days in March, and many years there is flooding in April, and even May.

The revised school calendar passed unanimously.

BERT Donates Equipment



Making the presentation of small items to be used during the clean-up of emergencies was BERT chairperson Michael Rupard, who is also the Jessamine County Fire Chief. From left to right are Rupard, Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor, Irvine Fire Chief Tony Murphy, EMA Director Fred Rogers, and Estill Fire Chief Derrick Muncie. BERT received a trailer for Estill County about three months ago, which will be used to store these items.

On Monday afternoon, Estill County received approximately \$8,000 worth of small equipment from BERT, the Bluegrass Emergency Response Team. Estill County annually contributes \$2,750 to BERT, which responds to any natural disaster or emergency. There are ten counties that are members of BERT.

The items delivered on Monday included chain saws, pole saws, ladders, lights, and generators. Jessamine County Fire Chief Michael Rupard is the chair of BERT. He said this equipment will make each county self-sufficient in

small disasters.

Larger equipment obtained by BERT is stored in two of the counties.

Locally, Rupard said that BERT responded to a situation on Martin Luther King Day several years ago when a runaway train was stopped near the coal wash. BERT also conducted a cave rescue in Estill County about 15 years ago.

BERT also responded to the tornado in West Liberty three years ago, along with 100 volunteers.

Irvine nurse arrested on drug charge

A nurse from Irvine has been charged in Lexington with stealing oxycodone and other medications from patients, according to WKYT-TV.

Donna A. Doty, 42, was charged by Lexington Police on February 24 with theft by unlawful taking of a controlled substance.

According to the television station, Doty was working as a nurse at Richmond Place Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center on Palumbo Drive. The television station said that Doty took oxycodone and other medications meant for patients and tampered with medical records.

Lexington Police told the news media that Doty had been placed at the center by a staffing agency. The agency told WKYT's Victor Puente they did not know anyone by Doty's name.

Doty was arrested by the Irvine Police Department last September during a round-up of suspected drug dealers.

She was charged locally with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and possession of a controlled substance second degree.

The September 27 citation by Irvine Officer Karl

Rifenbark said Doty sold half of a 30 mg oxycodone pill to a confidential informant.

The alleged controlled buy between Doty and the confidential informant occurred in July 2014. Rifenbark said in the citation they had been investigating Doty from July until her arrest.

During her interview, the citation states that Doty told police she would purchase pills and sell them to friends from time to time.

During a consented search of Doty's vehicle and belongings, IPD reported they found one-half of a suboxone pill in a cigarette pack.

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Donna Doty
File Photo

FRIDAY

SPRING BEGINS
MARCH 20
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Busy road closes after a tractor-trailer spills mulch

A tractor-trailer wrecked on Spout Springs Road Saturday afternoon and tied up traffic for hours.

Deputy Randy Farthing reported the tractor-trailer was traveling westbound when the trailer dropped off the left side of the road.

The report adds that this caused the tractor-trailer to leave the road on the left

side and overturn. It came to rest on its right side.

The tractor-trailer was being driven by Fairley Dixon of Rockaway Road, Irvine.

Dixon told Deputy Farthing that his seat belt broke and he was ejected out of the windshield area. He added that he slid down the ditch in front of the vehicle.

Farthing said there was

very severe damage to the front of the trailer. It was towed by Barger's. The deputy added that the left side of the roadway, past the white line, was broken up by the accident.

No injuries were reported.

The trailer was reportedly hauling mulch. It was removed from the scene and put into another trailer.

The accident occurred just after 3 p.m. and both lanes of the road were not open until about midnight.

On some occasions, one lane of traffic was allowed to move through the area. And some times traffic was detoured back through Powell, into Clark, and back into Estill counties.



Looking toward the hill to the left of the hospital, the clear blue sky had a band of white.



A sign of spring are the daffodils or March flowers. Just a week ago, the ground was covered with inches of snow. When it left, the flowers popped up and into bloom.

Obituaries
Lura Babb, 74
Alvin C. Barnes, 76
Donnie Kennon, 69
Sharon Kidd, 53
Billy Richardson, 75
Dalphine Sheffert, 75
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