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READY TO PICK UP STUDENTS IN 2021

While the new school bus garage is awaiting completion, Estill County school buses are parked in a rail yard on the Old Pike. Work on the school buses occurs in a bay leased from the City of Irvine on Carhartt Avenue. Supt. Jeff Saylor announced at Thursday's board meeting that elementary students will return to school on January 4 if the county is out of the red one.

School board discusses construction; elementary students returning to class

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Members of the school board met on Thursday night in person to discuss the construction projects and when students will be able to return to school.

Multi Vista provided photos of the bus garage from start to finish for board members to view.

Board member Donna Isfort said that she had logged into the app several times to check the progress of the project and is thankful they chose

to use the company.

The board discussed the possibility of utilizing the company again when construction starts on the sports complex renovations at the high school.

Updates were provided on the technology center and the board approved pay applications for both current construction projects. They also accepted a bid from Tovine Enterprises for the demolition and completion of the bleacher projects that had been discussed at a

previous meeting.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor said that with the new guidelines that the governor laid out on Thursday afternoon there would be no in-person classes for three weeks. Considering Estill County has stayed in the red there was no way they would've been able to go anyway.

Saylor stated this has been hard on the students, parents, grandparents, and staff, and they were trying to come up with a plan for teachers

to be able to work from home more.

The problem with that he added, is that custodians, cooks, and bus drivers cannot work remotely so they were trying to devise a plan that would be fair to everyone across the board.

Saylor said that the goal is to get students back into the classroom as quickly as possible, but it will take hard work from the community to decrease the number of COVID cases.

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IPD arrests two for possession of suspected meth

Angel M. Gooch, 39, of Dug Hill Road, Irvine was arrested November 23 on numerous charges made by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad.

The officer stated that he stopped the vehicle Gooch was driving, a 2003 GMC Sonoma, on Noland Court because it had not tail lamps and the rear license plate was not illuminated.

Two male passengers were also in the vehicle. One of them was Darrell Estes, 42, address unknown, who was the registered owner of the vehicle. Estes was sitting in the middle of the seat.

After the stop, Officer Conrad said that Gooch could not produce proof of insurance or a registration receipt. She reportedly told him that her license had blown out the window.

Conrad said the vehicle's registration plate had expired on 6/30/2020.

He added that verbal consent was given to search the vehicle. When Gooch stepped out of the vehicle, Conrad stated there was an uncapped syringe under her feet. All three denied ownership of the syringe.

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50 Estill Countians tested positive for corona virus in the last week

There were 50 new cases of the corona virus in Estill County this past week, based upon numbers given by the Estill County Health Department on Monday, November 16 and Monday, November 23.

November will have the largest number of corona virus cases yet in the county. Each month, the number of positive cases has grown.

On November 16, 386 Estill Countians had tested positive for the novel corona virus. This past

Monday, a total of 436 had tested positive since May 30.

The virus was active among ten more people, 41, this past Monday.

On November 16, 345 people had recovered from the virus. This Monday, a total of 385 had recovered.

Deaths were still listed at 10. According to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, nine of the deaths occurred at Irvine Health and Rehab Center.

Several weeks ago, the

health and rehab center shut down its corona virus unit. All employees and residents were considered free of the virus.

However, a few days ago, the CHFS reports that another staff member at the center tested positive last week.

The CHFS also maintains a record of students and staff in Estill Schools who have tested positive for the virus.

Over the past 14 days a student at Estill Springs Elementary School tested positive, as did four

students at Estill County High School, according to CHFS.

The students had not attended in-person classes within the last 14 days. Because Estill County was in the red zone, families of young students pick up packets at their child's school. Older students are doing their work online.

Estill Countians are urged to wear masks, wash their hands often, and maintain a social distance. Shop only for medicine and groceries if needed.



Here comes Santa!

Santa will be all dressed in red on Saturday while maintaining social distancing. He will have a gift for each child.

Santa and his elves are planning another Drive by Santa event from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. on November 28, 2020 on Collins Street between Irvine Fire Department and Back Street Grub.

Just as we did on June 25, 2020, as vehicle drives by and stops on west side of Collins Street, the Back Street Grub Restaurant side, Mrs. Claus, the Elves and Santa will give each child in vehicle a stuffed

animal and the Back Street Grub Team will give each child some of their special items.

The stuffed animals will be from Plaza Pharmacy and Meade's and the North Pole.

All of us who will be giving the young folks things will be wearing masks or face shields and gloves and we shall have items to extend our reach to be physically distant as is required currently.

Obituaries

Vada Abshear, 91
Leon B. Curtis, 87
Roger Dawes, 69
Mearlon Galloway, 77
Anna Harrison, 51
Hazel Sherrard, 84
Earl Jr. Sparks, 85
Linda Thacker, 77
Barbara Welch, 88
Betty Lou Willis, 63
See Page 6
See Updated Obits
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Toys for Children

Applications are now being accepted for American Legion Toys for Children (ages 0-16) at Webbs Rentals, 721 River Drive and Catherine's Auction House, 389 Richmond Road.

Bring Estill ID and proof of child custody.

For more information, call 606-614-5592.



Veterans Memorial Park was decorated for Christmas over the weekend. The sign above wishes all Happy Holidays. Deer are lit up in the bottom photo. with train cars in the background.



Carry-out Thanksgiving Meals

America Legion Post 79 will be having a Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, to anyone who needs a plate. It will be to-go only to stay with orders of Gov. Andy Beshear and the Estill County Health Department.

If you need a plate and want to pick it up, call (606) 614-5592 to place your order. Any donations are greatly appreciated.