

# Questions remain about students returning to school

**Continued from Page 1**  
 "If I can protect somebody (by wearing a mask), why would I not do it?" Saylor asked.  
 Saylor will be attending meetings July 9-10 to determine the future of high school sports.  
 He stated the school district will work with the local health department and county leaders during the pandemic.  
 The school board has advertised for a nurse at

the high school. Saylor said that places a nurse in every school.  
 He would like for students to begin school on August 5 and get in as many days as possible during the fall semester.  
 At the July board meeting, he may also ask the board to add 15 minutes to each school day. The day will end at 3:15 p.m.  
 All schools will be following the Healthy at School guidelines which

were released June 24.  
 The superintendent mentioned these guidelines are more strict than Wal-mart's.  
 "There will be situations where kids have to wear a mask," Saylor stated.  
 They will wear masks in hallways and whenever they are unable to social distance.  
 Students and employees with documented medical issues may be

exempt from wearing masks.  
 If students ride the bus, their parents must take their temperatures before they get on the bus.  
 Buses will be loaded from the back of the bus to the front in mornings. Students will be given an assigned seat where they sit each time. Attendance will also be taken by a bus monitor in the morning and afternoon.  
 In the afternoon, stu-

dents at the front of the buses will be unloaded first.  
 An exception to sitting in the back will be made for preschool students. State law requires them to sit in the middle of the bus.  
 Saylor said students will often eat in the classrooms.  
 Saylor said about 73 percent of the students have internet available in their homes. Students

without internet access were given their work on paper in the spring.  
 He added the school district is working with companies to get low-cost cell phones to help those families without internet.  
 The local board is developing a survey about returning to schools. It will contain about 10-15 questions about going back to school and will be available on July 3.

## Intermittent/Substitute employees hired

The following intermittent/substitute employees were presented to the Board of Education on Thursday.  
**Custodians:** Andy Alcorn, William Lynch, Nettie Marcum, and Margaret LeMaster.  
**Maintenance:** William Brown.  
**Traffic Controller:** Tommy Lane and Michael Miller.  
**Cooks:** Rhonda Benton, Bridgett Bishop, Betty Brookshire, Melason Edmson, and Elizabeth Hisle.  
**Teachers:** James Bonny, Sandra Bonny, Baylee Brewer, M. Charlotte Brinegar, Angela Brown, Mary Carroll, Lisa Combs, Patricia Cox, Terry Edwards, Joanna Frederick, Sherrie Freeman, Jerry Gilbert, Robert Greene, Patsy Griffin, Matthew Hall, Susan Hardy, Ashley Harrison, Patricia Hood, Dakota Horn, Robert Horn, Sherrie Isaacs, Mildred Jordan, Valerie Kirby, Susan McGuire, Sandy Moore, Angel Phillips, Gary Powell, Carolyn Reece, Patti Reese, Elizabeth Richardson, Diane Roberts, Cindy Robinson, Randy Sutter, Crystal Tipton, Boone Tucker, and Cassandra Walling.  
**Paraeducators:** Kim Boyken, Amber Bray, T. Whitney Horn, Alisha Lester, Tammi Milby, Jackie Thacker, Diane Roberts, and Rose Rucker.  
**Bus assistants:** Bridgett Bishop, Brittany Chaney, Shanae Charlton, Jami Culton, Dorsie Dixon, Robin Hardy, Sandra Isaacs, Karah Johnson, Patty Miller, Ammie Mullen, Dasha Muncy, Gary Rogers, Tiffany Rose, Rose Rucker, Jennifer Sparks, Donna Stone, Ashley Townsend, and Miranda Wiseman.  
**Bus drivers:** Karah Johnson, Gary Rogers, Richard Rogers, Jason Smith, and Donnie Watson.  
**Nurse:** Kyle McIntosh.

## Superintendent updates school board on construction of Area Technology Center and new School Bus Garage

Supt. Jeff Saylor opened up Thursday's special meeting of the school board with construction updates on the Area Technology Center (ATC) and the bus garage.  
 A change order was approved for the completion date of the ATC because of days missed due to inclement weather.  
 Supt. Saylor said the ATC is now expected to be completed in June, 2021 and will be open to students in August 2021.  
 An easement was granted to Jackson Energy Corporation where the pedway will be located. Saylor stated this will be of no cost to the school board and is standard procedure. He added that most of the electrical lines installed by Jackson Energy are underground.  
 Peter Fisher, architect at Ross-Tarrant, said the school bus garage is about 30 percent completed. The color of masonry for the garage had been chosen that day.  
 He explained there have been delays in getting diesel tanks and lifts since the manufacturers had to shut down due to Covid-19.  
 The final completion day is now set for October 31.  
 Saylor said the school system still has diesel tanks at the high school property which can be used.  
 Installation of new bleachers at the middle school and central office were approved by the board. The cost estimate is \$237,381.35.  
 The superintendent stated the lifespan of bleachers is 25 years. He said the ones at the middle school had become difficult to take in

and out, and it would cost \$12-\$13,000 to replace the motors on them.  
 He added the bleachers at the central office no longer meet safety codes, and that gym is also being renovated.  
 The board will not advertise for bids on the bleachers because they are being bought at state contract cost.  
 Saylor said there is money left over in contingency funds from other projects which will pay for most of the bleacher cost.  
 Future upgrades at the high school were mentioned, including HVAC, electrical, and security.  
 Saylor said then the board could look at updating athletic complexes.  
 A contract for a School Resource Officer (SRO) was entered into with Estill County Sheriff Chris Flynn. The contract will cost the school system \$38,000 for this school year.  
 The superintendent announced that three from the central office have retired, but only two of them will be replaced. He added the extra funds will be used in the schools to help students.  
 Retirees may be recognized at the July or August board meetings.  
 He added that Matthew Robinson has accepted a teaching position at Estill Springs. He will not be replaced in technology, while the two other technology employees absorb his duties.  
 LaDonna Johnson, the payroll clerk, is also retiring in October, which has required training another employee to do her job.  
 Policies on professional leave and student

trips were amended. The new policies will limit the number of professional days a teacher may use as well as limit the number of field trips.  
 Saylor stated that former athletic director Chris Winkler began writing policies for athletic directors, coaches, and assistant coaches before he retired.  
 Winkler's successor, Austin Moore, has completed those policies which were approved Thursday night.  
 Thursday's meeting was on YouTube, but Jeremy Simpson received questions from the audience which Saylor was able to answer.  
 One parent wanted to know about the safeguards if they had to send their child to Madison County schools. Saylor said they will make sure it's safe before a child is sent there.  
 Another question came in about a public pool.  
 Saylor said school systems do not usually operate public pools.  
 "Recreational facilities for our young adults is a big need in our county," he stated.  
 He added that because of Covid-19, he

said that city and county governments, and even the school systems, will struggle financially for the next two years.  
 Saylor said that no students who attempted to do the NTI work in the spring were retained. He added that only students who did no work were re-trained.  
 "You can't get something from nothing in this life," he stated.  
 There is some talk from parents wanting to homeschool their children. Saylor asked why pay for home school curriculum when a public education is free.  
 He added that the school district will not lose money this year on students, because Gov. Andy Beshear signed an executive order that school districts will receive money based upon the 2018-19 enrollment.  
 On the previous Monday, food service had delivered 8,500 meals to children under 18. Food service has been delivering three days a week. Each student can receive up to six meals.  
 Saylor added the district may have to cut back meal deliveries to one day a week in July.

## Former Judge/Exec passed away Friday

**Continued from Page 1**  
 During a flood, he was unable to drive to his daughter's house because the waters were over the roads. He told the story of how Neal had to walk from her house down the railroad tracks to get to her job and back home.  
 Taylor drove as far as he could to watch that his daughter had made it safely back to her home each evening.  
 One afternoon, while he was looking for Neal to walk home, he observed some people at a distance become stranded in the flood waters. He probably saved their lives by calling 911 to get them rescued.  
 He often mentioned his son, Chandler, also. Then when the grandchildren started coming along, they were the apples of his eyes.  
 The home that Taylor and his wife, Cathy, had renovated was close to the railroad tracks, so Taylor often had train stories to tell. He could even tell you how many trains passed his house each night. If you wanted to know how much a train car weighed, loaded or empty, he was the person to ask.  
 As a child, Taylor had gotten acquainted with the many customers who came into the store owned by his parents, Tucker and Leila Taylor.  
 The Taylor family was well known and respected among the residents of Pryse and Cobb Hill. For many of those residents, their only visit to a store was at Tucker Taylor's at Pryse.  
 When Wallace Taylor announced he was running for judge/executive, it was no surprise that he won because of all the people he knew.  
 It was his first time to seek office, and he never suffered a defeat.  
 Taylor has been the only Estill County judge/executive to be elected to four terms in office. The position of judge/executive was created in Kentucky in 1982.  
 Taylor's complete obituary information is on Page 6. Private funeral services were being held due to social distancing.

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### Covid-19 Numbers Updated As of Tuesday a.m., June 30

**Total # Tested - 830**  
**Negative - 815**  
**Positive - 4**  
**Recovered Positive - 3**  
**Quarantined Positive - 1**  
**Quarantined Contact - 1**



**Birding BITS** BY Cindy Brook

**Good Riddance**  
 Are squirrels a problem? Maybe these tips will help.

- Use only safflower seed in your feeders.
- Hang feeders 8 feet from the ground.
- Don't hang feeders on tree branches.
- Try a squirrel baffle on your pole or post. It should be at least 5 feet from the ground.

Good luck!  
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### top ten

**Rooftop Solar States\***

1. Hawaii
2. Massachusetts
3. California
4. Arizona
5. Vermont
6. New Jersey
7. Connecticut
8. Nevada
9. Rhode Island
10. Maryland

\* per capita  
 Source: Energy Institute at Haas

## Police activity report

**Benjamin Benedict**, 29, of Stump Road, Irvine faces numerous charges after a traffic stop on Friday night by Irvine Officers Stewart Morris and James Marshall.  
 Officer Marshall observed Benedict's vehicle traveling west on Main Street. He stated that it almost ran off the right shoulder of the road narrowly avoiding hitting a parked vehicle.  
 Benedict was given field sobriety tests.  
 The officer stated that a strong odor of marijuana was coming from Benedict's vehicle. A grinder with marijuana was located in a passenger seat.  
 Officer Morris stated that Benedict's ID was found in a black bag also located in the passenger seat. Also found was a red bottle with 48 1/2 xanax pills, a silver container with a partial suboxone, and rolling papers.  
 Benedict was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs, fourth offense or greater; driving on a DUI suspended license, first offense; careless driving; failure to wear seat belts; possession of marijuana; possession of a controlled substance, second degree; possession of a controlled substance, third degree; and drug paraphernalia - buy/possession.  
 Officer Marshall served a Powell County warrant on Benedict for failure to appear.  
 Officer Jason Conrad served two warrants on **Dustin A. Sutton**, 40, of Monticello on Monday, June 29 on Broadway. One warrant was from Estill District Court, and the other was from Estill Circuit Court.  
**Shawn L. Bucholtz**, 40, of Dayton, Ohio was charged with public intoxication on June 23 by Deputy Brad Smith.  
 The deputy was dispatched by 911 to the Stop & Shop parking lot. He was told that a male in a black truck with Ohio tags was extremely under the influence.  
 Smith made contact with Bucholtz, whom he said could not sit still. He stated the man appeared to be extremely under the influence of methamphetamine. He could not sit still, had rapid body movements, and was sweating profusely.

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