



Lady Engineers Fall In Tourney -- Pages 14, 15

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Spring break is still on; students can lose it if more days are missed

The Estill County Board of Education revised its school calendar at Thursday's meeting to set the last day of school for students on Friday, May 27. Because of the weekend and memorial day holiday, staff will close out the school year on Tuesday, May 31.

If more days are missed, Supt. Jeff Saylor said that students could lose up to three days of spring break. Supt. Jeff Saylor said the revised calendar approved on Thursday includes five days of spring break for students.

"If we miss five days next week, I guarantee you will not have spring break," Saylor stated.

Saylor also wants students to be out of school by June 3. This would allow for missing up to six more days.

He stated that during the last three school years, Estill students have averaged missing three days in March.

"I never want to put kids on the road, and take a chance," he added.

Estill students had missed their 14th day of school on Thursday, the day of the board meeting.

Saylor said it was because of the bus turnarounds, but when he had left home that morning, there was still five inches of snow on Furnace Mountain.

School staff have reported to work on three of those snow days, January 27, and February 11 and 18. They will have another Teacher Equivalency on Tuesday, May 19, election day.

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Mountain Movers

Mountain Movers is a new program started by Supt. Jeff Saylor. A certified and a classified employee will be chosen each month as Mountain Movers. In December, the honorees will attend a banquet and the employee of the year will be announced. Right photo: The certified employee named January's Mountain Mover is Amy Noland Hughes, media specialist at South Irvine P-K. Bottom photo: The certified Mountain Mover for January is Tammy Terry, a secretary at Estill Springs. Presenting the award is Teresa Dawes, Community Educator for Estill County Schools.



Board of education member resigns

Supt. Jeff Saylor announced at Thursday's school board meeting that board member Amy F. Thomas had resigned that day.

He thanked Thomas for her work on the board of education.

Thomas' term was set to expire on Dec. 31, 2016. After serving on the school board for only two years, she

was elected vice-chairman by her peers. In January, she was re-elected as vice-chairman this year.

Supt. Saylor said the board will vote on a new vice-chairman at next month's meeting. It will be either board members Patty Hood, Jon Bicknell, or L.W. Beckley. Robbie Starling is the chairperson.

The state education

commissioner will replace Thomas as a board member within 90 days.

First, the local board will advertise for a new board member. Interested persons can apply.

The candidates must be registered voters in District 4, who live in the Forks and Cedar Grove voting precincts.

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School board meets Thursday; supt. reports on many things

Two employees of the Estill County Board of Education were chosen as January Mountain Movers, a new program started by Supt. Jeff Saylor.

He said a classified and a certified employee will be chosen each month. In December a banquet will be held in which 24 honored employees will attend. At that time, the employee of the year will be announced.

Saylor said he has received four corporate sponsors for the Mountain Movers program.

Roland Mueller requested payment for the construction project at South Irvine. Riddell Construction showed pictures of the construction of bleachers at the high school and construction at South Irvine.

The superintendent presented staffing allocations for the schools. The board discussed the effect of a budget cut on the family and youth resource centers.

Besides cuts from the state, Saylor said a 5% cut is expected in Title 1 programs.

West Irvine has been named an Energy Star school. Now the Estill County Middle School and High School are Energy Star schools.

Dickie Arthur said they are switching out to energy lights in exit signs, and the savings will pay off in eight months.

"It's kind of a win-win," he stated.

He added that South Irvine is already seeing energy

savings.

Saylor said the library is looking at the old Irvine High School building or the property next door.

"They need more space," he stated.

He said it will cost \$6,000 to tear down the old house, but it will help to beautify the city.

He added that if the board decides to enter into an agreement on the Irvine High building, there would be restrictions to preserve the structure.

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Irvine to look at outsourcing payroll, buying tax software

Financial records took up most of the time at Monday's meeting of the the Irvine City Council.

The council compared the budget with expenditures with a little over four months left in the fiscal year.

The council moved on to hiring RFH as the auditing

firm. They complimented the last firm which had caught the council up on their audits.

A resolution was approved to continue a franchise agreement with Windstream. City attorney Rodney Davis said the franchise fee was set by the state.

The council weighed hiring a part-time assistant to the clerk, outsourcing, or buying software.

Councilman Tobo Bryant said it would cost the city more for a part-time assistant, but he would like to put someone to work.

"If (the clerk) gets sick or something, who's going to do it?" he asked.

After some discussion, the council asked that Payroll Solutions come to the next council meeting, as well as a representative from Data Design who sells software that collects property taxes, privilege license and the 10% insurance premiums.

"Even if we do this, we still need a part-time person at the window," Bryant stated.

The council appointed Bee Williams and Regina Robertson as administrators of the CBDG grant for the Wisemantown sewer project.

Legal counsel was also hired. Davis set the fees

for that were set by the USDA.

Two privilege licenses were granted. Tanner Hall will operate LT Guns at 143 Main Street. Patty Riddell was given a license to open Treasure Seekers, a flea market at 88 River Drive.

Clerk Robin Powell presented a brochure on Christmas decorations, and asked the council to look over them before the next meeting.

Fire Chief Tony Murphy reported there was a structure fire at 128 High Street. He stated he thought a homeless person had been living there, because the listed homeowner had been dead for several years.

Murphy said a resident said the house belonged to the bank. He said there are several other houses in the city in similar situations.

"You know people are going in and out of them," he stated. "It looked like somebody lived there."

Councilwoman Nelle Williams asked the mayor if the snow truck was ready to run. The mayor said one truck was ready to go. He had gotten a quote on a bed for one truck.

Williams also asked again about the decorative clock on Main Street.

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Last week was a mixed bag as far as the weather went. There was lots of snow, followed by rain and flooding, and record temperatures on the weekend. Estill students missed four days. Above, Red Lick Road was closed due to high water

Obituaries

- Earnest Ashcraft, 73**
- Nadean Cole, 87**
- Inge Fitzgerald, 74**
- Derek Grace, 23**
- Irene Noland, 91**
- George Ritter Jr., 73**
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