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# The Estill County Tribune

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## Soil containing arsenic to be removed from park

Soil containing arsenic is scheduled to be removed from the Veterans Memorial Park in Ravenna starting in October and ending next July, according to Ravenna Mayor Estine Tipton.

Mayor Tipton said the city's lease for the park had ended around 2008 with CSX Railroad. The city has offered to renew its lease or buy the property from CSX Railroad.

Tipton said the railroad hired a company to test the ground for arsenic and other metals several years ago. The tests came back

okay, but they hired a second company, Amec Foster Wheeler, to test the park soil.

This time they dug a little deeper, and the soil tested at or above the EPA amounts for arsenic, barium, cadmium, lead, selenium, silver, method 747 1B metals, and mercury.

The 80 page report from Todd McFarland, senior geologist with Amic, Foster, Wheeler, was dated in April, but Tipton said she did not receive it until May.

The report states the metals found do not constitute an environmental emergency.

Mayor Tipton said the old CSX depot was located on one end of the park property, but was later torn down.

For many years, railroads used an arsenic solution to preserve railroad ties. It is believed that arsenic from the railroad ties have leached into the ground.

Solutions containing arsenic were also used as weed killers.

Last week, news reports told of baby foods that tested positive for arsenic. Two of the main food items were rice and sweet potatoes.

The rice is grown in water, probably with arsenic in it, and the sweet potatoes are grown underground, in possibly arsenic contaminated soil.

The news said it was recommended to not feed the baby certain brands of these foods more than once a day.

Tipton said that CSX is paying for the cost of cleaning up the park soil. The pavilions and restroom are on concrete slabs, and those will not be disturbed.

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Estill Springs principal Jessica Mullins shakes hands with Carl "Tojo" Barnes as she presents him with a retirement gift at Thursday's school board meeting. She said Barnes was "more than just a janitor" and been at the school since she started teaching there in 2003.

## Boys' soccer coach charged with rape, other sex offenses

As students returned to school on August 13, they were shocked to learn of accusations of sexual abuse to high school students by a soccer coach.

One student reported the coach had been sending her nude photos of himself on Snapchat, a social media platform. An arrest citation by Kentucky State Police says that some of those photos included the man's genitals.

According to the citation, the soccer coach had asked many times for that student to send him nude photos of her.

The girl reportedly told police the coach also engaged in conversation about sexual content on Snapchat.

She had shared that information with two

of her close friends at school.

A second student went forth after word got out that state police were investigating.

The citation states that she reported similar situations but stated that she had sexual intercourse with the coach as many as five different times.

She too had shared the information about the coach with only two of her closest friends.

She had saved multiple nude images that the coach had sent her on Snapchat, according to the citation.

It adds that both girls had received a video of the nude coach through Snapchat.

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## School board discusses taking 2019 spring break

The Estill County School Board normally does not make a decision until February about keeping, reducing, or eliminating entirely spring break, but the board discussed the issue at Thursday's board meeting.

No action will be taken on spring break until the September board meeting. Supt. Jeff Saylor brought up spring break because the start of school was delayed from August 7 until the 13th due to construction at Estill Springs Elementary.

Teacher work days were held on August 7 and 10, but these are days that are usually held when students are snowed out.

The board received a copy of a revised calendar which included spring break, with the last day of school being

May 20.

Saylor said he likes for students to get out of school before June, because attendance then drops for a number of reasons, including vacations.

The calendar leaves only seven make up days to finish school by June 1. May 21, election day, and May 27, memorial day, will not be used as make-up days.

"Memorial day means a lot more to our veterans," said Supt. Saylor.

Saylor said in the last few years, students have missed 15 days of school. This year is predicted to be wetter and colder than normal.

The original calendar called for Nov. 5 to be a teacher work-day, but it can be used as a student day.

Board member L.W. Beckley stated if the district wanted to take fall break, they should make that decision then.

Saylor said they have to keep fall break this year,

because of construction at Estill Springs. The electrical grid is scheduled to be down for over a week, and a change will be made in the water line.

He stated that if the students do not miss very many snow days, the board can give spring break days back to them later.

"It's easier to take it now," Saylor said.

"We are up eight students," Saylor informed the board of this year's enrollment.

He added this will have a big positive impact on the budget.

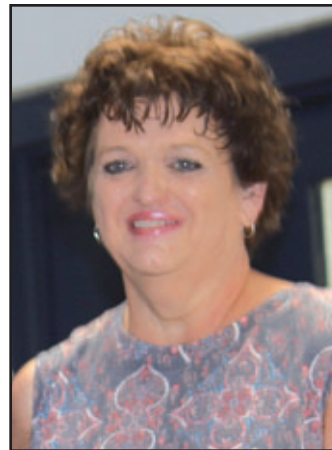
This year's enrollment was 2,227 while it was 2,219 last year in grades K-12. Preschool students and two early Head Start classes were not included in the total.

Preschool classes began this past Monday. Saylor said they are ready to take 175 students with a few on the waiting list.

The board accepted com-

pensating rates plus exonerations on property taxes. They will be 51.3 cents per \$100 evaluation on real estate and 51.8 cents on tangibles. Watercraft and motor vehicles will remain the same at 54.8 cents per \$100.

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Sandy Moore retired from Estill County High School as English teacher.



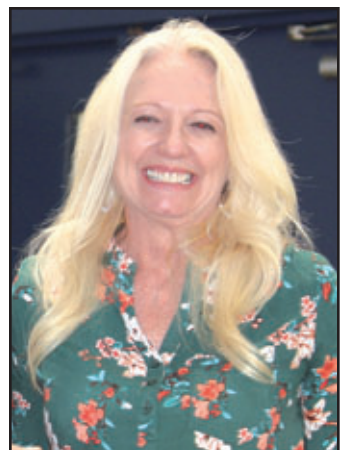
Tim Burkhart presented a retirement gift to Robbin Durbin, who retired after 26 years as bus driver and driver trainer.

### Obituaries

- Elba Fike, 85
- Wilma Flinchum, 85
- Hargus Harris, 85
- Regina Luster, 42
- Harold Rogers, 88
- Wanda Tuttle, 73
- Naomi Walling, 80

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New Obits at EstillTribune.com



Crystal Henegar retired from driving a school bus.



Jimmy Winkler retired as custodian and maintenance.



West Irvine principal Charlotte Arvin presents a retirement gift to Terry Edwards, a teacher for 27 years.