



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
Tammy Terry
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The following is the "opinion" of one person, not the School District. This opinion is based on my 20 years of experience with The Estill County Board of Education. Tammy Terry

There's excitement in the air this week and it's all because School is back in session. For those of you who's school days have come and gone, let me give you an update on the goings on in our District.

Many changes have occurred over the summer and unless you live under a rock, you've probably heard about some of them. Estill Springs Elementary will house all

To The Best School Year Ever!

First and Second graders for Estill County. West Irvine will be for those students in Third, Fourth and Fifth grade. Now before you go getting yourself all upset, let's talk about the benefits of this 're-configuration'. Gone are the days when students came together during the MOST difficult time in their lives, Middle School, and along with the step up in grades, there was the daunting task of finding themselves in a room with classmates they didn't know. This way everyone will get to know each other right from the start!

Teachers meetings will be so much simpler! Housed in the same building, instructional sessions can be geared to specific grades and teachers won't have to rush from one school to another for these helpful workshops.

Some may worry about drop off and pick up and there's no easy answer for this. Yes, it will pose a problem if you have one in Kindergarten, one in Second, another in Fourth, a child at E.C.M.S. and another in High School.

The best suggestion I can offer is to take advantage of the free transportation that drives by your front door, twice a day. We have highly qualified bus drivers working for us and they can safely pick up and deliver your children for you, every day. What a wonderful idea?! I realize it would take a little planning, but before long you'll wonder why you ever tried to beat the bell by driving them to school. No more tardies, no more waiting in long lines or keeping up with a numbered car hanger, just plain and simple, ride the bus!

I can hear some of you now, "But my kid doesn't like riding the bus". Well, you know what? I didn't either! There are a lot of things in life I don't like to do, but I do them anyway. I rode the bus and I'm not 'scarred' for life. It taught me discipline, responsibility, manners, respect and time management, things that are very important in 'grown up land'. Another complaint will be, "The bus runs so early". That's okay too, that just means they'll go to bed early. An-

other life lesson, when you grow up and have a job, the alarm clock goes off mighty early! Just think of it as better preparing them for adulthood.

Since we're on the subject of buses, this reminder to ALL drivers. School is back in session, drive extremely careful! Our students are getting off and on buses and you need to exercise extra safety measures. Slow down, don't talk on a cell phone or TEXT while driving. Be alert and always keep a safe distance when following a bus. Remember, a school bus transports precious cargo, our children!

If we all work together with a positive attitude, we'll be pleasantly surprised at how smooth this transition will be. Before long it will be May and you'll find yourself asking, "Is it summer vacation...already?!"

Here's To The Best School Year Ever!

Tammy Terry
Administrative Secretary
Estill Springs Elementary

Ravenna Nazarene's Back to School Bash in Veterans Memorial Park

Several hundred turned out Sunday afternoon for Ravenna Nazarene Church's Back to School Bash in Veterans Memorial Park across the street from the park. The church passed out school supplies to students, had a cookout meal, and children played on inflatables.



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If school is cancelled due to icy roads, the bookmobile will run two weeks after the scheduled date.

Week of August 12-15, 2013

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

| MON. | TUES. | WED. | THUR. |
|--|---|---|--|
| Northwood Apts. Winchester Rd. Edgewater Drive Crestview Ct. Mt. Crest, Irvine | S. Irvine Ele. Stacy Lane Winston Rice Station | Horizon Angel Keepers Ravenna Wagersville Drip Rock | All God's Children, Sugar Hollow, Buck Creek, Doe Creek, Comp Care, Barnes Mt. |

"Mommie & Me" and Storytime
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Four Seasons Garden Club to host a tea and program on Monarch Butterflies

The Four Seasons Garden Club of Irvine-Ravenna will host a tea on Thursday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m.

The speaker will be Linda Porter, Garden Club of Kentucky Chair, President's Special Project on Butterflies. She is from the Garden Club of Danville. Linda will be sharing information on how each of us can help to establish friendlier and more supportive environments for butterflies, like Monarchs, as they migrate through our state, or live year round in our home and public gardens. She will also share informa-

tion on setting up a Monarch Waystation.

Club members will be serving tea sandwiches, cookies, and a variety of teas. The tea will be at the Wisemantown United Methodist Church's outdoor pavilion, 1358 Wisemantown Road, Irvine.

Contact Patti Reese, club president, at 723-1275 to RSVP. The event is open to the public and free of charge. Think butterflies and come join us!

The Four Seasons Garden Club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

Scanned VA Claims are not processed to speed

Veterans Post by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has converted more than 30 percent of disability claims into digital files, according to a recent VA report. So far, 165 million pages have been scanned and uploaded by contractor Systems Made Simple from paper, photos, faxes, DVDs and flash drives.

Those files now are at the fingertips of claims raters, and finishing up claims should move along faster. But results so far are mixed, and success in speeding up the process depends on the region of the country. Here are a few locations compared with a few months ago:

--White River Junction, Vt., had 834 veterans waiting an average of 239 days. Wait time for first claims was at 559 days. Now there are 869 veterans waiting an average of 193 days, with 525 of them over the 125-day mark and 183 waiting over one year. First-time claim average wait is still 559 days.

--Lincoln, Neb., had 2,560

veterans, with 695 over 125 days. Average wait time was 143 days. Now there are 3,002 veterans waiting, 841 of them over 125 days, with an average wait time of 106 days.

--Fargo, N.D., had 1,122 veterans with 375 waiting more than the 125 days. Average wait time was 131 days. Now Fargo is up to 1,357 veterans with 395 of them waiting over 125 days, but the average wait time is down to 105 days.

--St. Petersburg, Fla., had 50,492 veterans waiting an average of 319 days. Of those, 34,860 were over the 125 days. Now there are 49,928 veterans waiting an average 233 days. Of those, 35,734 are over 125 days and 11,091 veterans have waited over one year.

To reach its goal of claims being processed in 125 days, the VA has a very long way to go.

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com.

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| Sausage..... | \$3 ⁰⁰ Lb. |
| (Hot, Medium or Mild) | |
| Cured Ham..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| (Whole or Sliced) | |
| Ham Steak..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| Ham Cutlets..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| (Similar to cube steak, only ham) | |
| Bacon..... | \$4 ⁰⁰ Lb. |
| Jowl Bacon..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| Pork Tenderloin..... | \$4 ⁰⁰ Lb. |
| Pork Chops..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| Spare Ribs..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| Country Style Ribs..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| Baby Back Pork Ribs..... | \$3 ⁰⁰ Lb. |
| Pork Burgers..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |
| (Ground, pattied pork with no seasoning) | |
| Bratwursts..... | \$3 ⁵⁰ Lb. |

| Bundle packages | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1/4 processed hog..... | \$115. |
| 1/2 processed hog..... | \$210. |
| Whole processed hog..... | \$400. |

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Things to Always
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9. Clothes
10. Kitchen goods

Source: www.mainstreet.com

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