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Zakk Clapper took advantage of a huge pile of snow in the parking lot at Renfro's Paint and Collision by turning it into an igloo during last week's snow storm.

School looks doubtful until weather warms

by CATHY DAWES Estill County Tribune

Students in Estill County are getting an unexpected vacation after Mother Nature dumped over a foot of snow last week. As of Monday students have missed twelve days so far this year and according to Interim Superintendent Randall Christopher, he doesn't think that students will return to the classroom anytime this week.

Christopher stated that the snow was so deep that crews haven't been able to do much with it as far as getting parking lots cleaned off. Another big factor that comes into play is the busses having a place to turn around on their routes. The roads that have been plowed have snow piled up so high on the sides of the road that it would make it difficult for a bus to turn around.

On Monday a water shortage advisory was issued for Estill County which has

added to the problem. The schools use a very high amount of water each day and until that problem has been resolved students won't be able to attend classes, added Christopher. He did say, however, that he hopes to bring in staff later on in the week for at least one day which would count as a 'bank' day.

"It's a little early to speculate about spring break but at this point, if we miss all of this week there's always that possibility," said Christopher.

In the past some snow days have been forgiven by officials in Frankfort but Christopher said he hadn't heard anything from them yet. Last year students in Estill County missed a total of 27 days and were in school until June.

"All cards are on the table at this point and we just have to wait and see," stated Christopher.

Warming shelter opens

by CATHY DAWES Estill County Tribune

The winter weather that crippled the entire state last week meant no school and no work for many people. However, those that did have to get out and brave the elements were provided a place where they could go to warm up and get a hot meal if they chose to do so.

Genia McKinney, who works closely with Helping Hands Ministry and is also chairperson of the warming shelter, said that they were contacted on Monday by Emergency Management and asked if they would be willing to open a warming shelter at Estill Springs Elementary. McKinney said that Estill Springs was chosen because of its central location and volunteers showed up to help prepare the school.

McKinney said that the shelter was staffed at all times with one female and one male volunteer to assist those in need. She said that many people who utilized the warm-

ing shelter during the week were emergency workers who were out transporting patients to doctor visits and running medication to those that weren't able to make it out to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions. She added that a few citizens who were walking by the school did come in out of the weather and enjoy a hot meal.

The shelter was open all week long due to the extreme temperatures and threat of power outages from the freezing rain that fell on Saturday. McKinney said that even though there were power outages throughout the county that none of the residents utilized the shelter but they remained open just in case they were needed.

Helping Hands is currently looking for a location for a permanent shelter outside city limits. McKinney had said that a temporary building on River Drive had been donated to them to utilize as a shelter but unfortunately due to a controversy has been put on hold for the time being.



Lyrica Rogers, age 6, daughter of Luke Rogers and Hailey Joiner of Ravenna, spent hours building a castle out of snow on Sunday.

Proposed homeless shelter gets another setback

by CATHY DAWES Estill County Tribune

Members of the Irvine City Council met before a large crowd on Monday night to discuss the location of the temporary shelter on River Drive. The building belongs to the River Drive Christian Church and would be used until a permanent location could be located outside of city limits.

Genia McKinney, chairperson of the shelter board, told the council that she had spoken with Kenny Cole as well as Jack Rivel about the shelter and was told that everything was fine as far as

they were concerned with opening up the temporary shelter.

"We're not here to cause friction. We are here to help the community," stressed McKinney.

Councilman Tim Burkhardt informed McKinney that the problem with the location of the shelter is that it is zoned as a residential area and a shelter wouldn't be allowed in that area. He said even though the church is located on River Drive in a location that is zoned for businesses the building for the shelter is in fact located in a residential area accord-

ing to the map.

"Zoning is great when it's protecting you but when it's preventing you from doing something you want to do then it's a different story," stated Tobo Bryant.

The mention of the pregnancy center raised eyebrows of council members as no one had any idea that the center was being operated in a residential area as well. Burkhardt said that whoever was operating the pregnancy center had never been before the council so it isn't compatible with the zoning either.

Tom Kirby asked the

council if there had ever been an adjustment made to the zoning map. He was told that there had been changes made before but it would ultimately come back to the council for approval.

"What happened to the shelter being in Ravenna?" questioned Bryant.

Genia McKinney said that the building belonged to the county and that it needed a lot of work to make it operable as a shelter so Helping Hands was using it as a storage facility at this time. She said the goal was to get the building open on River Drive as a warming shel-

ter before bad weather set in but instead a shelter was opened up in Estill Springs last week during the snow storm.

In other news, Mayor Noland recommended that Regina Robertson be chosen for the Irvine Municipal Utilities board of commissioners. He said that Robertson would occupy the position that had been held by Jr. Blackwell. Noland said that Blackwell hadn't been at any meetings recently and he felt like Robertson was a good candidate for the position.

"I hate to appoint some-

one else without hearing from Jr. first," said councilman Billy Arthur.

Councilwoman Nelle Williams asked about the snow removal from city streets. Mayor Noland said that at this time the city only had one truck with a salt spreader and a scraper on it. He said that the plan was to utilize Chi's that is located on Dry Branch Road but at the time the snow hit, all three of their trucks were broken down. He added that the city was looking at purchasing another truck but it wouldn't be in until sometime later in the year.

Obituaries
Kenneth Bingham, 65
Rebecca Chaney, 71
Larry Feagins, 69
Barbara Hawkins, 66
Kenneth Shuler, 71
Bessie Wilson, 95
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Fiscal court discusses roads and bridges

Local roads, bridges, and decreasing road funds were the main topics at Monday's fiscal court meeting.

Craig Lindon with District 10, Dept. of Highways attended the meeting to discuss road funds and projects with the fiscal court.

Lindon said Estill County has been allotted \$1.1 million from the Rural Secondary Program. The county judge receives

\$3,862.00 from that, the same amount each county judge receives statewide.

This county will also receive \$153,535 to be used only for resurfacing county roads.

Approximately a half million is reserved for maintenance, such as mowing, ditching, patching and snow removal. Lindon said it costs \$7,082 to maintain each mile of secondary road.

That leaves \$444,461 to be spent on state maintained roads.

Lindon recommended .458 miles of KY 499 West Irvine - Wisemantown - Blackburn Road, 2.6 miles of Crooked Creek - Red Lick Road, and 2.050 miles of Wagersville - Alumbaugh - Arvel Road be black topped. The total cost of these three roads is estimated at \$554,720.

The fiscal court was asked to rank the roads in order of priority and they agreed with the state's recommendation. Lindon discussed decreasing state revenues because state taxes go down as gas prices decline. He asked the fiscal court to support Senate Bill 29 which would freeze the gasoline taxes at the current rate. He added this is not a tax increase. The lower gas tax also

affects the fiscal court, because they got a smaller payment from the state than was anticipated.

"There may not be a remaining payment in April or May," Lindon said.

He said that fiscal courts may have to lay off county employees.

Magistrate Darrell Johnson asked about painting of the bridge crossing the Kentucky River in Irvine.

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