

THE STURGIS NEWS

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For
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140TH YEAR

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EVERYONE WAS A winner in the 2026 Union County DIYW program held Sunday August 24. Cailey Divine, third from left was the named the county's newest Distinguished Young Woman, winning multiple awards including the Spirit of DIYW award. Contestants pictured left to right include Sarah Jones, Ashlynn Hargrove, Divine, Rosella Greenwell, Kyley Fowler and Allison Deibler. See additional pictures of the girls and read about the awards they won in this week's Sturgis News as they took the stage in self-expression, talent and fitness.

Court Hears Ambulance Service Update; Approves Resolution

An update on the county's ambulance service, the approval of a resolution and agreement and the rejection of bids for two county projects were among the topics discussed at Tuesday's Union County Fiscal Court meeting.

James Ivy and Don Cato, representatives from the Deaconess Ambulance service were on hand to share the service's quarterly reports with the court. According to Ivy, the ambulance service has provided coverage for multiple county events since January including the Women in Ag program and the county fair rodeos. In addition, they have provided multiple county CPR courses and monthly medical director led education programs open to all Henderson, Union and

Webster first responders.

Ivy noted that between January 1 and June 30, Deaconess Ambulance Service made 284 runs in the county with an average response time of ten minutes. The average run time to date in 2025 is about 10.2 minutes on 1001 calls. Ivy did say that 24 calls had an average response time of 14:27 with weather and distance being factors in those runs. He reported that multiple Deaconess units responded to the tornado that hit the county in May with three patient contacts. Three crews were in the county with three crews on duty in Henderson and one crew in Webster County as well as MCI activated internally with Deaconess. The agency had 27 personnel on

call back for the tornado emergency as well as additional crews from four other counties prepared for call out.

From January to June 896 emergency runs were made in Union County with 1.7 percent of those having extended response

times. Records show that 94.7 percent of the responses in all areas of the county were twenty minutes or less. Extended response times were due to system overload of 911 calls, distance from the truck location to rural county addresses, road clo-

sures and weather conditions.

Ivey also provided information related to stroke protocol compliance, cardiac arrest compliance and crew competency.

Following the presentation, magistrate Rick Wyatt expressed

his displeasure noting that "some of the ambulance crews are rude to the volunteer first responders that come out."

Ivy urged Wyatt to have those individuals report the incidents when they happen,"

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New Member On UC Board Of Education

At Thursday night's Union County Board of Education working session, board members, by unanimous vote, appointed Susan Duncan to fill the board member vacancy for District 3. Her appointment is effective immediately and will remain until the next general election in November 2026. Mrs. Duncan was officially sworn in Monday night prior to the Board's regular meeting.

Duncan lives in the Lake Mauzy area with her husband of 35 years, Paul Duncan. She attends St. Ann's Catholic Church and is a member of the Parish

Council. She enjoyed a career as a Registered Nurse for 35 years and is now retired. Mrs. Duncan is a graduate of Union County High School, and her grandchildren now attend the school system.

She shares that her passion to see all students succeed is the driving force of her desire to serve on the school board. "As a board member, I want to ensure that my grandchildren and all children receive every opportunity to be successful in life. That success begins with that fundamental education."



Susan Duncan

School Board Hears Project Update; Sets Tax Rate

The Union County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday night with Superintendent Dr. Terra Hancock and four board members in attendance. Prior to the meeting being called to order, Susan Hancock accepted the oath of office to serve as the board representative for the District 3. Union County Clerk Garrick Thompson administered the oath. Board member Donnie Gatten attended the meeting via Zoom.

Board members heard an update concerning the ongoing renovation and construction projects in the district, set the tax rate for 2025-2026, heard a report from Dr. Hancock, and approved several items on the consent agenda.

Kelli Willett, assistant principal at Union County High School, and gifted and talented teachers Brooke Morgan and Abby Wheaton recognized a number of county students who participated in summer enrichment pro-

grams. Those students were Chloe Mayes, Ashlynn Hargrove, Leila Simpson, Kate Clement, Sarah Jones, Logan French, Rider Gilmore, Ollie Gilmore, Braden Williams, and Charlotte Scott.

Dalton Jackson, project manager for the ongoing work at the vocational school, multi-purpose building, and the maintenance building near the Union County transportation garage, updated members concerning those projects. He emphasized there were no change orders on Monday night, calling that a positive. He noted that considerable progress is being made on the maintenance building. That structure has been framed, and siding is expected to be put in place in the next few days.

The change orders which were necessary for the multi-purpose building have been completed, and issues with the structural engineer have been resolved, according to Jackson.

Work is underway on new tennis courts, and crews are working on conduit for fiber location at the vocational school. Jackson noted area residents should be marked signs of progress on the projects in the next few weeks.

In her report to the board, Dr. Hancock covered a variety of issues. She presented an overview of several activities and events for students and staff, including the new cell phone policy which was put in place for the new school year, the system's strategic plan, and a memorandum of agreement with the Union County Sheriff's Department for an additional school resource office. The draft of that agreement is still being discussed with Sheriff Jason Thomas; however, the district expects to have full-time SROs at Union County High School and Union County Middle School, and an officer at Sturgis Elementary School, who will also be available for the other elementary schools

in the district.

Dr. Hancock also told members the district is currently in negotiations for an independent contractor for student mental health services.

Board members approved the 2025-2026 tax rate for real estate and personal property. The board approved the compensating rate. That rate is 69.6 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for both real and personal property.

The board approved the monthly financial report, the payment of bills, and the expenses for the superintendent's office.

Board members also approved 16 items on the consent agenda. Those items included the travel report, requests for fund-raisers, trip requests, leaves of absence, a policy revision concerning absences and excuses, approval of additional traceable communication program, a facility use agreement with

Union County ABA, approval of a shortened school day for a student at Sturgis Elementary School, a service agreement for consultant services in speech therapy, the surplus of books at UCHS and Morganfield Elementary School library, a request for clarification on the superintendent's contract, approval of the 2025-2026 salary schedule revisions for certified substitute pay, transportation, and UCHS extra service pay, approval of surplus equipment, and MOA with the Kentucky Department of Education Medicaid State Plan, and the independent contractor agreement for student mental health services.

No further business came before the board, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Union County Board of Education will be Monday, September 22, 6:00 P.M.