

THE STURGIS NEWS

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NUMBER TWENTY-ONE



STEVE CARTER AND Ryan Baker attended Thursday's Union County Board of Education work session to review an energy savings plan with the board. The plan would allow the district to save an estimated 20 percent on utility costs depending on which plan they may opt to use. The AFP representatives shared a power point that reflects thousands of dollars in energy savings that could come from a plan that includes rooftop solar energy or a plan that includes just upgrades to area of the school like lighting, window, doors and appliances.

Board Of Education Hears Energy Savings Presentation

The Union County Board of Education met in a work session on August 20, that included a review of Monday night's agenda, a discussion regarding the district's 2026 tax rate and a presentation related to energy savings.

Treasurer Amanda Davis and superintendent Dr. Terra Caudill recommended the board of education set the 2026 tax rate for both real and personal property at 69.7 per \$100 assessment. The rate includes .1 cent allowable for exonerations. In 2025, that rate was 69.6. The board must publish the rate two times with a special called meeting scheduled for September 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to adopt the tax rate.

The board briefly discussed enrollment, but according to Hancock it is still too early to know the exact numbers of those attending school in person, those attending virtually, although, Hancock noted that virtual enrollment is capped at 100 students.

Board members also approved a request that will allow students to be transported the Henderson Community College for dual credit welding three days a week. Those classes were scheduled to begin Monday, August 24.

Dr. Hancock reviewed Monday night's regular meeting agenda with the board. That agenda includes the recognition of Apples Childcare staff, a report regarding Victory Tech High School and 14 consent items.

The consent agenda include an increase in adult lunches and breakfast. For the 2026-27 school year adult lunches will be \$5.25 with breakfast prices set at \$3.50. In other meal related items, the board is expected to approve the Community Eligibility Provision Intent to participate in the federal

meal program,

Other items on the Monday night agenda for approval include the Audubon Area Head Start contract for vendored meals, the fresh fruits and vegetable grant of about \$70,000, an update to the district's school nutrition procurement policy and a service agreement with Darla O'Nan for consulting services.

The superintendent also reported that the agreement with Audubon Area Head Start is on the agenda for approval for the 2026-27 school year. The board will also approve the 2026-27 United Way funded program agreement for UC FRYSC on Monday night as well as an \$11,400 change order for excavation and storm drainage on the present construction projects. The board was also expected to approve a PSST employee data base service agreement on Monday night.

Also discussed during Thursday's work session was the use of metal detectors at the schools. Hancock told the board that she has done some research but in for sure about implementing the use of them locally. The board also heard an update on legislation that prohibits the sale of drinks, food, candy, beef sticks, etc, during the regular school day. According to food services director Nikki Hancock, school-based enterprises can sell items with board approval, but those food stuffs must be compliant with federal nutrition rules. Violations could result in a fine for food services with the district's general fund having to cover the cost of that fine, Hancock said.

Before the meeting adjourned, the board heard a presentation from Steve Carter and Ryan Baker of Ascendant Facility Partners (AFP) regarding an energy savings program

the company offers. An agreement with AFP would help the district update and improve facilities by using "overspent" from existing utilities to pay for maintenance upgrades. Should an agreement be approved by the board, the district could complete the remaining interior and exterior lighting to LED, made building thermal improvements, replace windows, make water conservation upgrades, use solar, make HVAC improvements and upgrade building automation and controls. The program would give the district the opportunity to save significant dollars in utility costs and convert those dollars to other improvements.

AFP offers a saving program that guarantees a 20 percent energy savings—one with the inclusion of solar panels and one without. The

program also include an income tax credit (rebate program) with the savings payback coming in eight to nine years rather than 20. The utility-based savings program helps districts identify "needs" and evaluate and prioritize those needs to convert them to savings. The cost reductions guaranteed by AFP for utility and operation expenses allows the district to reallocate savings to be used for other school need. Should the savings AFP guarantees not come to fruition, the company will pay the difference. According to Carter and Baker, participating in the program does not impact district bonding potential; rather, it is a separate energy bong.

Carter projects that participation in the program without including rooftop solar

Continued on Page 3

Two Arrests Made In Murder Investigation

Kentucky State Police Post 16 continues to investigate a Union County death. On Monday August 17, 2026, Kentucky State Police Post 16 was contacted by the Union County Sheriff's Office regarding a death investigation at 115 Road 15 in Morganfield. Mr. Jami M. Fletcher, 25, was located deceased at the scene by arriving officers. The initial investigation by Kentucky State Police Post 16 indicates foul play.

Kentucky State Police encouraged the public to contact Kentucky State Police Post 16 with any tips or information regarding this investigation.

On Friday August 21, 2026, Kentucky State Police announced the arrested of a juvenile subject in connection to the death of Fletcher. The juvenile was charged with Manslaughter 2nd Degree and Tampering with Physical Evidence in relation to the case.

On Monday August 24, 2026, Kentucky State Police Post 16 arrested a second juvenile subject in connection to the death of Fletcher. The juvenile was charged with Manslaughter 2nd Degree and Tampering with Physical Evidence in relation to the case. No other information is available at this time.

Kentucky State Police Post 16 continues to encourage the public to notify authorities about any tips or information about this case. This is still an active investigation and no other information is available at this time.

School Board Conducts Routine Session Monday

The Union County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday night with Superintendent Dr. Terra Hancock and four board members present. Also attending was Chief Financial Officer Amanda Davis and several staff members in the district.

Board member Donnie Gatten was not present for the meeting.

The board of education recognized the APPLS Child Care staff for their dedication to the students in the district. Staff members provide after school child care from the time school dismisses until 6:00 P.M. on a daily basis. On Monday night, Evan Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Public Relations told those present that APPLS staff provides services on days when

school is not in session and during breaks in the school year. When school is not in session, that service runs from 6:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

John Paris, principal at Union County Middle School, presented a "Heart of a Brave" certificate to Jennifer Duncan, a secretary at the middle school. He thanked Ms. Duncan for her dedication to students and staff at UCMS.

In her report to the board Dr. Hancock presented an overview of student activities in the first week of school that helped get the year off to a successful start. He discussed the "Adventure Trailer", a project promoted by students at Union County High

Continued on Page 3



Leila Simpson



Cate Clements



Mallory Hendrickson



Mattie Lovell

2027 DWY Program Is Saturday

Union County's 2027 Distinguished Young Woman (DYW) will be named Saturday, August 29, when four UCHS seniors take the stage to highlight their talent, their self-expression and their physical fitness. The 4:00 p.m. program, which will be held in the high school auditorium, will culminate in the selection of the county's 52nd DYW..

DYW is a scholarship program that allows senior girls across the nation to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships as well as show off their talent and their physical fitness, both of which will be judged in the local program on Saturday. Judges will also be watching the

young ladies' self-expression in one portion of the program. Before Saturday's Union County's four contestants will have already been judged in the scholastic and interview portions of the program.

This year's contestants include Leila Simpson, daughter of Kevin and Rewa Simpson of Morganfield. Leila will present a piano solo as her talent. Cate Clements, daughter of Brad and Nicole Clements of Morganfield, has prepared a monologue for the talent portion of the program; Mallory Hendrickson will perform a vocal number. She is the daughter of Brian and Nicole Hendrickson of Morganfield,

and Mattie Lovell, the daughter of Matt and Julie Lovell, has a monologue prepared for the talent.

Each contestant will be highlighted individually during the physical fitness routine and the self-expression portion of the on-stage judging.

The 2027 Union County DYW will compete in the state program in January hoping to move on to the national competition that wkl be held in the summer of 2027.

Family and friends of the contestants may attend Saturday's program at the high school to support their favorite DYW.