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Coffee County Commissioner Jackie Duncan, who represents Tullahoma, meets East Lincoln Elementary School second grader Desmond O'Quinn Thursday during a special school tour involving elected and community officials. Mayor Lane Curlee set the meeting as one in a series at each city school to assess what each individual institution's needs are and how the community can help out.

—Staff Photo by Brian Justice

East Lincoln student enrollment up

By BRIAN JUSTICE City Editor

The new East Lincoln Elementary School is much larger than the facility it replaced, but the additional scope is needed to meet an increasing student body, according to Tullahoma City Schools administrators.

The new school, at 700 East Lincoln St., has led to new hope among educators and their students about how an improved learning envi-

ronment can lead to better student achievement.

Mayor Lane Curlee has set tours to each Tullahoma city school with elected and community officials attending to see what the facilities offer in education and what might be needed from the community to help their overall learning environments.

"I just see this as an opportunity to communicate individually with people in the community about what the needs of the schools are," he said, add-

ing that civic groups, community organizations and church groups might see ways in which they can help the schools.

"They all have an opportunity to help," Curlee said. "This is an opportunity where we all can help. We also want to make people aware because there are a lot of good things going on, and this is a way to say thanks to the teachers and their staffs."

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ERPUD to begin \$900K gas main project at AEDC

By ANDREA AGARDY Staff Writer

The commissioners of the Elk River Public Utility District (ERPUD) voted on Monday morning to approve an \$875,000 expenditure to extend the natural gas mains at AEDC.

Discussion of the project began back in January, when Eddie Moffitt, ERPUD's manager of operations, informed the board that AEDC officials were considering running natural gas lines to heat roughly a dozen buildings in an effort to reduce demand on the inefficient steam plant.

This week general manager Mike Gundersen told the commissioners AEDC has completed about 60 percent of the engineering work required for the project to move forward, adding that the number of buildings to be served by the new mains could be reduced to nine.

Gundersen said ERPUD had estimated the main expansion would increase the AEDC's natural gas load by 234,000 therms per year, adding that AEDC engineers project the additional load will add up to 231,120 therms per year.

"This is our biggest customers and this is a good load for us," Gundersen said.

The general manager said ERPUD already has "a major investment" in place at AEDC, totaling roughly 18 miles of natural gas pipe.

Gundersen told the board ERPUD could expect to recoup the installation costs in approximately 13 years, a figure which prompted commissioners to ask what assurances ERPUD would have that AEDC would continue to operate in such a way that the anticipated additional load would be used.

"There's got to be some responsibility on AEDC's part if we spend this money and they pull out," board member Jerry TeVrucht said.

Gundersen said that although there is no contract in place at this time to address the board's concerns, he pointed out that AEDC has already spent a considerable amount of money on this project, which he said was an indication of the base's commitment.

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Most campaign funds spent out of districts

By IAN SKOTTE Staff Report

(Editor's Note: This is part two of a series on election year spending by candidates in this year's race.)

Republicans in local races for state Senate and House seats are outspending their Democratic counterparts by a

Republican State Rep. Judd Matheny in the 47th District race, State Rep. David Alexander in the 39th District race, and Janice Bowling in the 16th District race have spent \$101,544.11. Their Democratic opponents, Scott Price of Manchester, Doug Clark of Winchester and Jim Lewis of Kinnhall, respectively, have spent

