

News-Democrat & LEADER

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‘Nickel Tax’ adopted to build new Auburn school

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Logan County School Board unanimously adopted a nickel-equivalent tax levy on June 6. This tax will enable the board to plan for the future and address overcrowding at Auburn Elementary.

Superintendent Dan Costellow stated that, as of December 2024, the district does not have the bonding capac-

ity to build a new school in Auburn, and constructing one would take years. The nickel tax will allow the school system to increase revenue and improve its bonding capacity. “This construction tax will allow us to complete the new Auburn School in two to three years. Without this, it will take us 10 years to build adequate bonding capacity,” Costellow explained.

Despite a building capacity of 712, Costellow reported that Auburn School’s enrollment was 767 students as of May 1 for the last four years. “We are growing. We need a place to grow,” he said.

In the short term, immediate solutions began with redistricting the Auburn and Adairville school zones, effective for the upcoming school year. In fact, Costellow said

redistricting is the only option without the ability to construct a new Auburn School. However, the average age of the K-8 buildings is 31 years, and according to Costellow, “Due to the age of these buildings, we are also facing end-of-life costs for roofs, HVAC, and other building components, as well as ongoing improvements at each school.”

With the approved levy,

Logan County property owners will pay an additional 5.9 cents tax per \$100 assessed value on real and personal property or an extra \$59 per \$100,000 worth of property. This tax increase will take effect with the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which begins on July 1. Costellow explained that the small amount “will

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Fiscal court debates SRO funding amid talks

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Logan County Fiscal Court is grappling with budget intricacies, including the contentious issue of funding for school resource officers, a topic that has generated considerable discussion.

Judge-Executive Phil Baker presented his budget to the magistrates during the May 13 meeting.

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Johnson’s life sentence affirmed

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Kentucky Supreme Court has issued a mixed ruling in the appeal of Earl Johnson, who was convicted in January 2023 by a Logan Circuit Court jury in connection with the 2015 shooting death of Bob Wetton, who was found by his wife, Pamela Wetton, unresponsive in a barn on Ellis Rd. in Logan County.

Johnson, who was extradited from Arizona, was convicted on four counts of complicity to



Earl Johnson

SEE **LIFE/PAGE A3**

County Fair kicks off



Matt Tinsley/News-Democrat & Leader

Logan County’s annual fair kicked off this week with a plethora of events, rides, food, and family fun. The fair runs through the weekend at the Logan County Extension grounds, 255 John Paul Rd., Russellville. You can find out about all the events at the fair and times held by visiting Logan County KY Fair on Facebook.

Logan County senior Blann leaps to national long jump title

BY WES ELROD
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

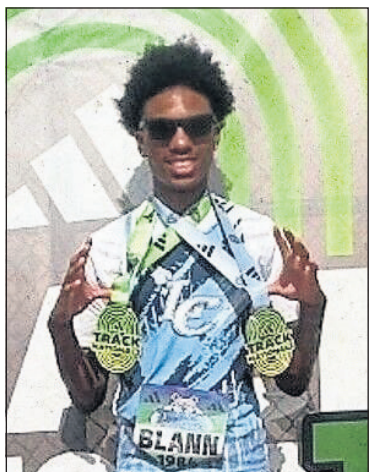
After making a big splash in his first season of running track, earning a

state title in the Class 2A triple jump event, Logan County senior Nick Blann

SEE **BLANN/PAGE A2**

After finishing 4th in the Triple Jump on Saturday Logan County’s Nick Blann came back with a statement on June 22 — 1st Place in the Long Jump competition. Along with the finish, Blann brought home the National Champion title in the event.

Submitted



OBITUARIES

Clelton Scott Koger, 55
Glen Hatler, 86
Mable L. Farmer, 94
Teddy Michael

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