

News-Democrat & LEADER

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Petition launched to force public vote on ‘nickel tax’

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

A recently adopted “nickel tax” by the Logan County School Board, intended to fund school improvements and address overcrowding in the district, has received opposition with the filing of a petition by a group of county residents asking that the tax be placed on the ballot for a

vote countywide.

“We are not against funding our schools,” said John Dawson, one of five members of a committee formed to push for a ballot vote, adding that they want good teachers and want them to be paid reasonable wages, but they “don’t want to see waste.”

The school board unanimously adopted a nick-

el-equivalent tax levy on June 6. This tax will enable the board to plan for the future and address overcrowding at Auburn Elementary while also addressing aging HVAC systems, roofs, and maintenance needs at the other schools.

With the approved levy, Logan County property owners will pay an additional 5.9

cents tax per \$100 of assessed value on real and personal property or an extra \$59 per \$100,000 of property value.

Funds generated from the nickel tax can only be used for major renovations of existing school facilities, new construction, or debt service. These funds cannot be used for other purposes, such as salaries.

Logan County Schools Superintendent Dan Costello noted the district’s last construction nickel tax, passed in 2014, funded the career and technical center and still has a few years remaining on its 20-year bonds.

County Clerk Stacy Watkins

SEE **VOTE/PAGE A6**

County appoints Code Enforcement Board

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Logan County Fiscal Court moved to establish its new Code Enforcement Board and engaged in a spirited discussion regarding the funding of School Resource Officers during its meeting on Tuesday, June 8.

Five members were appointed to the newly formed Logan County Code Enforcement Board, with each serving a five-year term and receiving \$500 annually.

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Commission educates businesses on transient room taxes

BY CHRIS COOPER
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Logan County Tourist & Convention Commission is issuing an important reminder to all local nightly lodging providers regarding the legal requirements for collecting and remitting transient room taxes. This includes hotels, motels, cabins, bed and breakfasts, nightly rentals, and campgrounds

SEE **TAXES/PAGE A2**

CELEBRATING AMERICA



Driving in the annual Bob & Joyce Guion Kiddie parade. As Americans celebrate the 249th year of our nation’s freedom and prepare for the America250 celebration next year, some hold fast to traditions, including the annual Bob & Joyce Guion 4th of July Kiddie Parade. Parade participants gathered on West 8th Street in Russellville, in front of the Guion’s former home. Led by members of the Colonel Benjamin Logan Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, the crowd headed north on Main Street, rounding Carrico Park Square and exiting onto West 4th Street. From there, a left turn onto Winter Street took parade-goers back to the beginning, where refreshments ranging from hot dogs and popcorn to pickles on a stick and cookies awaited eve. See more photos on **Page A6**.

Denise Shoulders/
News-Democrat & Leader

Open Hearts Open Hands expands with new satellite distribution in Dunmor

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Open Hearts Open Hands, a local food outreach organization, is expanding its services with a new satellite distribution location at Dunmor Missionary Baptist Church, offering an additional day for community members to access essential food items.

Tammy Heltsley, chairman of the board for Open Hearts Open Hands, said

the expansion originated about two months ago when Troy Klein, a member of Dunmor Missionary Baptist Church, approached her with the idea. Klein, who has volunteered with Open Hearts Open Hands for several years, was inspired by his church’s resources and desire to help the community.

“The church has been fantastic and wants to do whatever we can to help,”

said Pastor Austin Weist of Dunmor Missionary Baptist Church, expressing gratitude for the partnership.

Klein has been helping on distribution days for a few years. He expressed that he has been praying about how to help the community and “be the man God wants me to be.” Klein has been exploring various ministry opportunities.

Heltsley described the

expansion as “a dream starting to come true,” noting that growth and outreach, including reaching as many people as they can, have always been core goals for the organization. Many individuals from Muhlenberg County already seek assistance from the North Logan-based organization, and the new location aims to better serve them.

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