

News-Democrat & LEADER

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Fiscal Court votes to lower tax rate, increase revenue

BY CHRIS COOPER
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Logan County Fiscal Court voted Tuesday to lower the county's real and personal property tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year despite an increase in property values. The decision, which will

result in a public hearing, was made to capture additional revenue while simultaneously decreasing the tax rate for property owners.

REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

For the 2025 fiscal year, the court approved a motion to

set the real property ad valorem tax rate at 0.126 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate is lower than the previous year's rate of 0.127 and represents a 4% increase in revenue for the county.

"Regardless of which way we go, the tax rates are

going down; the tax rates will be lower than in 2024," said Judge-Executive Phil Baker.

The move was made possible by a significant increase in the county's total real property assessments, which rose from \$1,743,872,282 to \$1,864,687,745. Magistrate

Tyler Davenport highlighted this as a positive sign of growth for the county, with new homes and families moving in.

"The only revenue increase we can do each year is this

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Denise Shoulders/News-Democrat & Leader

Logan County's Department for Child-Based Services workers help celebrate the ribbon-cutting for Isaiah 117 House.

Isaiah 117 House opens first Kentucky location in Logan

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

A crowd gathered Friday to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of the Isaiah 117 House, the first of its kind in Kentucky and the 32nd location for the national nonprofit. The organization's mission is to provide a welcoming space for

children in the initial hours of foster care.

The house, located in Russellville, is designed to be a safe haven for children who are being removed from their homes. Instead of spending those first hours in a sterile office, children can now find a comfortable bed, a warm meal,

and caring volunteers.

Lori Gafford, who initiated the project after seeing a video about the organization, now serves as the location leader. She said the vision began with five foster mothers and has since grown into a

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Petition forces vote on Logan County school tax

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

A petition to put a special "nickel tax" on the ballot for a county-wide vote has been certified as sufficient, according to County Clerk Stacy Watkins. The petition challenges a tax levied by the Logan County Board of Education on June 6.

The petition, which was filed by John Dawson, Daniel Kemp, Lonnie Epley, Jon Keith Smith, and John Walpole, asked that the tax be placed on the ballot for a countywide vote.

Dawson was contacted for comment and said, "I am not sure I have anything or not."

The school board had unanimously approved the tax to address several facility needs, including overcrowding at Auburn Elementary and aging infrastructure like HVAC systems and roofs at other schools. The revenue from the tax is restricted to capital projects such as new construction and major ren-

ovations and cannot be used for salaries or other operational expenses.

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.

According to KRS, the petition required 1,043 qualified voters' signatures. According to Watkins, petitioners collected 1,756 signatures. Despite several reasons for being rejected, including Russellville Independent School District residency, wrong birth date information, duplicate signatures, and being non-registered voters, Watkins confirmed that her office determined 1,561 of them met the requirements of KRS 132.017(2)©. The petition contains enough signatures to place the ordinance, resolution, or motion before the Logan

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Russellville Engineered Castings to close, 90 jobs lost

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Russellville Engineered Castings, a fixture of the city's manufacturing landscape, is set to permanently close its doors Friday, the company announced in a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification filed with state and local officials.

The closure will affect

90 employees, including 83 hourly and seven salaried workers. The company cited the unexpected loss of its largest customer and its lender as the cause.

With the closure, the City of Russellville will lose the tax base provided by Russellville Engineered Castings; however, that amount cannot be released according to

the City of Russellville under KRS 131.190.

Attempts were made to contact Russellville Engineered Castings for comment but were unsuccessful.

Russellville Engineered Castings came to Russellville in 2023, a manufacturer of industrial equipment for the automotive, appliance,

SEE **JOBS/PAGE A3**



Denise Shoulders/News-Democrat & Leader

Russellville Engineered Castings announced to its employees that the plant is closing; tomorrow is their last day.



OBITUARIES

Tom W. Gray, 85
Anthonye Carol Nuckols, 70
Chris Webster, 29
William "Bud" Ramsey, 85

Gloria Ann Funk, 83
Tommy Lee Mackey, 93

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WEATHER

HIGH, **85**
LOW, **66**
Partly cloudy



LIVE HORSE RACING
AUG 28-SEPT 10
FRANKLIN, KY



TheMintGaming.com