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Relay For Life  
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**Estill County Fair  
Begins July 1st  
67th Catalogue  
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## Public weighs in on "recallable nickle"

by **CATHY DAWES**  
Tribune Staff Writer

A public forum was held on June 15th at Central Office pertaining to the recallable nickel. The forum gave those attending the meeting the opportunity to voice their opinions on the matter whether they be for it or against it.

Leon Roberts spoke up against the tax increase and asked Superintendent Jeff Saylor who gave him the authority to go to Powell Coun-

ty and tell those people that the students would be able to come here free of charge.

Saylor explained that the career and technical facility would be a state funded facility and that it would cost the students of Powell County nothing to attend just like it doesn't cost the students of Estill County to attend the facility in Madison County at this time. He went on to explain that the Estill County school district would in fact receive almost \$100,000. per

year from the state for the students from Powell County. "The facility will belong to the school system but the operations of that facility will be paid by the state," stated Saylor.

Mr. Roberts asked Saylor if he had intentions on leaving Estill County in two years to run for county judge in Powell County. He (Roberts) said that he had lots of friends in Powell County and that was the rumor he was hearing.

Saylor said that he had no intentions of leaving Estill County and that he still had two years left on his contract and that if the board decided in two years that they didn't want to renew his contract then he would do something different, but until then he planned on working hard for the students of Estill County just like he had since the day he arrived here.

Board member Jon Bicknell interrupted the conversation between Roberts and

Saylor and said that there were employees in the back of the room who were being disrespectful and were tapping their watch to indicate that Roberts' allotted time to speak was up. Bicknell went on to say that he had documentation to prove that the move to push for the recallable nickel at this time was fraudulent. He said that in those documents it "outlined when was the best time to present the recallable nickel to tax payers and that

board members should not speak out against the tax increase."

"This is crooked and corrupt and I will not back it and I will not back you because I just think it's dirty," Bicknell said to Saylor.

Saylor said that he didn't see how it was crooked and corrupt when he has presented the information to the public from day one and has been open and honest about it from day one.

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Survivors lined up to take the first lap around the track on Friday night during Relay for Life. Event coordinator Rebecca Wolfenbarger stated on Monday that they had raised just under \$25,000 on Friday night.

Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

## Committee forms to get "recallable nickle" on ballot

A five-member committee has been formed to request an election on the "Recallable Nickle" passed Thursday by the Estill County Board of Education.

The committee presented their paperwork to County Clerk Sherry L. Fox on Monday afternoon.

Members of the committee include Leon Roberts, Jerry Kelly, Greenville Estes, Bobby Carol Noland, and Dale West.

The committee now has 45 days from June 15, when the board passed the tax, to get signatures of 573 Estill County voters before an election will be held on the recallable nickle.

Ms. Fox said the 573 voters is based upon 10 percent of the voters in the last election, which was the presidential election in November.

Persons signing the petition do not have to be property owners.

Ms. Fox said the 45th day

after the board's final vote will be on July 30, which is a Sunday. Therefore, the committee has until the next day, Monday, July 31, to turn their petition in.

After the petition is turned in, Fox has 30 days to verify the signatures are of registered voters. Once that is done, an election will be set.

The Board of Education has set aside \$30,000 in their budget for the election, which the law requires them to pay for.

It is not likely the recallable nickle, if voters approve it, will be on this year's property tax bills because of time limitations.

Tax information is required to the county by taxing districts, including the board of education, by September 1.

Once the rates are all set, the bills are printed by Property Valuation Administrator Jeff Hix.

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## Board votes for "Nickel" after hearing

by **CATHY DAWES**  
Tribune Staff Writer

During the regular school board meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2017, Will Burkhardt and Lindsey Wood were recognized for participating in the Governor's Scholars program. The program is held during the summer and Superintendent Saylor said that the program was a great honor to be a part of.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the recallable nickel. The projected tax rate is 51.3 but the final rate won't be determined until sometime in August.

Jenny Jo Niece said that in speaking with people from other districts who had approved the recallable nickel and hearing about the facilities and upgrades they have been able to make with

that money she would like to see the same for the students in Estill County. Niece made the motion to move forward with the nickel tax.

The motion passed with Jenny Niece, Rhonda Hardy, and Donna Isfort voting in favor of the recallable nickel. Jon Bicknell and L.W. Beckley were opposed.

Mr. Saylor said that the 45 day window is the petition period which would allow the people to decide whether or not they want to see an election. He added that anyone wanting more information regarding a petition could find that information at the county clerk's office.

"We want to make this clear to the public, we have not tried to hide anything and do not wish to do so," stated Saylor.

The first reading of the KSBAs policies was approved by the board. The second reading will be done at the July board meeting.

Under consent items the board approved ten items including a resolution pertaining to the duties of the board attorney. The board attorney also asked the board to approve an amendment to his contract in regards to his insurance liability. Jason Riley said that the insurance rate had went up by 33 percent for a million dollar coverage. A reduction to a \$50,000 policy would still have a 15 percent increase. Riley asked the board for an extra \$800 which he felt would cover the increase on the million dollar policy. The policy is for a malpractice liability in the event something did hap-

pen.

L.W. Beckley made the motion to amend the board attorney's contract to reflect the \$800 amount needed to keep his insurance policy at one million dollars. All members were in favor of the motion.

The superintendent's evaluation deadline is June 30th by the Kentucky Department of Education. Saylor said that was something that could be discussed in executive session or could be put off until July even though it wouldn't meet the KDE guidelines and would become invalid. The board agreed to discuss it in closed session and Saylor said they could take a vote on it once they came out of closed session if they chose to do so.

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## Obituaries

- Pete Barnes, 61
- Barry Boswell, 52
- Thurman Hisel, 81
- Jean Miller, 89
- Janice Townsend, 76
- Billy B. Watkins, 64
- Benjamin West, 35
- Margie Vinson, 90

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New Obits at  
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## Budgets cause tensions at Monday's meeting of the Estill Fiscal Court

Monday's meeting of the Estill Fiscal Court got off to a rocky start with Judge Wallace Taylor and Magistrate Bill Eldridge voting against the Ambulance Service's budget.

Taylor explained why he voted against the budget. "A few months ago, we raised the 911 fee," he stated.

The fiscal court had asked the ambulance service to contribute \$27,000 this year for a 911 dispatcher's salary and benefits. The proposed ambulance service budget only included half that amount.

(When 911 began in Estill County, the county, the ambulance service, city of Irvine each agreed to pay one dispatcher's salary. Ravenna paid a smaller amount because of its small population. Residents of Estill County also paid a 911 tax on their landline phones to help fund the dispatch center.)

Jimmy Wise, director of the ambulance service, explained why they were unable to pay the \$27,000.

He said the dispatchers were on the front line, and the ambulance service supports them 100 percent.

He stated that every dime the ambulance service has goes into the service, which makes 4,000 to 4,200 runs a year. It also has 40 employees.

He added they are making more runs because the use of opiates is on the rise.

"We have an excellent dispatching facility," Wise stated. "We have excellent dispatchers."

He stated that he would like to see a board formed to oversee 911 and he was willing to serve as its chairman.

He also wanted to see the 911 dispatchers be certified with their training.

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Suzi Freeman, her daughter, Aleisa Webb, and grandson, Sawyer Webb, watched the Lionel Train Display on Saturday at the Estill County Public Library. The display was brought to the library by the Bluegrass Railroad Club, Inc. of Lexington. Members present were Scott Beckler of Irvine, President Jerry Goerz, and Joshua Johnson.