

# Public comments on "recallable nickle"

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Bicknell added that he would be for the nickel tax if it was going for the right thing but adding on to Estill Springs and it being located in a flood plain was not the right thing. He said he also felt like the architect that had been working for the school district for many years was just making himself jobs because they had done the renovations at South Irvine like he had recommended and now they are talking about closing South Irvine and moving them all to Estill Springs. He said less than ten years ago a million dollars was spent at Estill Springs to fix the driveway and now plans are in the works to tear it up again.

"It's been a constant of little fixes here and there but

we have been out millions of dollars in the past few years and we need a plan," stated Bicknell.

Susie Starling spoke in favor of the nickel tax. She said that the opportunities that were available at the career and technical center would provide a solid foundation for students. She said that in years to come a shortage in the medical field would probably occur and the new technical center would be able to provide training for students who were interested in possibly doing medical records. She said she felt like it would also help bring the students back to Estill County to work rather than going to another county to start their career.

Tom Hart also spoke in

favor of the nickel tax. He said that he didn't have any children in school but he did have children who worked for him and he cared a lot about them and he felt like it was important to give them the best education that they could afford.

Hart said he thought the idea of a technology center was one of the greatest things that the school board could do for this county. He attributed the recent decline in enrollment to the lack of job opportunities in the county and said he felt like the new facility would be in the best interest of the kids as well as the economy.

Robbie Starling said that he didn't think the district could afford NOT to take the nickel tax. He said for years while he was on the

board they had taken the compensating rate and to his knowledge they had lost money.

Chris Harris said that he was still confused about the nickel tax and what would happen if it didn't pass during the election. He said he had read in the newspaper that the four percent tax increase would automatically kick in but wasn't certain how that would work.

L.W. Beckley replied that if there is a petition and the board chooses not to take it to election then they would set their own rate in August like they do each year. However, if it did go to election and failed then the four percent tax rate would automatically kick in for one year.

Kathy Samples said that

she supported the nickel tax and she thought they should look forward to what is best for the children of Estill County and not dwell on what had happened in the past. Samples said that she felt like the technology center was one of the best ideas the board had ever had and commended them for stepping up to the plate and obtaining the grant for the center.

"Let's go forward and not backwards and put the past behind us," stated Samples.

Mr. Saylor spoke about the architect that had been working for the district. He said the board was not bound to that particular architect and that they could get proposals from other architects before moving forward. He said the cur-

rent architect had asked if the board was interested in them drawing up a plan for the new tech center and he told them no, that the board would have to discuss it and weigh their options.

Robbie Starling asked the board if the nickel passed would it only affect property owners.

Saylor said that was correct that it would be a tax on real and tangible properties. He added that property owners who rented their properties could choose to pass some of that extra cost along to their renters but in essence it would only effect the property owner.

The public forum concluded before moving into the regular monthly meeting.

## Local Police Activity Report

Joseph Edward Moran, 40, of Lexington, was charged with theft of identity of another, drug paraphernalia - buy/possess, and public intoxication of a controlled substance on June 17 by Deputy Daniel Smith.

Smith was dispatched to South Irvine Road because a vehicle had pulled into someone's yard and many people were hanging out in the yard.

Moran reportedly told the deputy that he had used meth that day and had been up for days. A search of his backpack had eight money cards and food stamp cards with other people's names on them, Smith stated. He added that a cheetos bag contained dozens of syringes, small plastic baggie, and scales.

Moran's bail was set at \$5,000 cash.

Jacob Lewis, 20, of Lincoln Avenue, Irvine was arrested by Deputy Smith on June 15 for third degree assault of a police officer, criminal mischief third, resisting arrest, and public intoxication of a controlled substance.

The deputy was dispatched to Ridge Road to investigate a man tearing up the house and threatening people.

When he arrived on scene, he said he observed Lewis running to the back of the house. When he entered the room, he said Lewis threw something at him.

Smith said he pepper sprayed Lewis, who came running at him and swinging. During the fight, Smith stated that Lewis hit him a few times and bit his hand. He spit in his face and grabbed him in the privates.

The deputy said that Lewis had threatened the people in the home and the neighbors. He reportedly threw an oxygen tank through the window and trashed the house.

Smith said that Lewis stated he was Rony Ramos. He reportedly took his pants off in the cruiser and was wearing only a winter parka.

Jaydon M. Samples, 18, of Richmond was

charged with possession of marijuana on June 9 by Officer Colton Lewis.

The officer said that Samples was a passenger in a vehicle that he had stopped for speeding.

Lewis said a small baggie of a green leafy substance was found in front of the passenger seat where Samples was sitting.

James Tipton, 46, of Elm Street, Ravenna was arrested for public intoxication June 8 at the intersection of Broadway and Sycamore by Officer Lewis.

Chief Brad Smith served a bench warrant June 8 from Laurel County on Windy Turner, 35, of Corbin.

The warrant charged her with theft by unlawful taking or disposition and criminal trespass, first degree.

Ryan Casey Riddell, 21, of Pea Ridge Road, Irvine and Samantha P. Walters, 20, of Spout Springs Road, Irvine were charged with possession of drug paraphernalia on June 15 by Irvine Officer Colton Lewis.

The officer said he responded to 307 Poplar Street in Ravenna at the request of probation and parole.

A search of the residence revealed a box containing needles, aspirin, and a pipe. The officer said that Walters told him the items belonged to her.

The officer added that several baggies of drug paraphernalia were found on Riddell during a search.

The couple were issued citations to appear in Estill District Court on July 19.

Haden Barnes, 22, of Main Street, Irvine was arrested June 12 by Irvine Sgt. John Sturmiolo and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and falsely reporting an incident.

The citation states that Barnes called 911 Dispatch and reported that a vehicle had been chased him and had fired three gun shots at him. The officer said the man's story was confusing, but he told the officer had taken percocet, marijuana, and xanax.

Crystal Rawlins, 39,

of Cantrill Street, Irvine was arrested June 13 by Sgt. Sturmiolo on charges of public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of license when suspended, and permitting unlicensed driver to operate motor vehicle.

The sergeant said that Rawlins was a passenger in a vehicle when he made a traffic stop on Northwood Drive.

Charles J. Hamilton, 41, of John Rawlins Road, Irvine and Blake Edwin Brown, 28, of Poplar Street, Ravenna were arrested June 17 by Officer Lewis at 300 Chamberlain Branch, Irvine.

The officer was called to Chamberlain Branch to investigate a call of a female in distress.

Brown was charged with drug paraphernalia buy/possess and public intoxication of a controlled substance.

Hamilton was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia buy/possess, resisting arrest, and ?

James Tipton, 46, of Poplar Street, Ravenna was arrested June 17 for public intoxication by Officer Lewis.

Officer Lewis arrested Natasha A. Rogers, 30, of Irvine on June 1 for alcohol intoxication at a public place.

He also served a bench warrant on Rogers from Lee District Court. Judge William Leach said that Rogers had failed to appear on charges of public intoxication and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

A Lee County bench warrant was served by Irvine Chief Brad Smith on Ginger Sandy, 59, of Beattyville on June 19.

The warrant, also from Judge Leach, said that Sandy had violated the conditions of her release because she failed to report to pre-trial services. Her original charge was menacing.

A Powell County bench warrant was served on Dustin L. Barnett, 34, of Stanton on June 17 by Officer Lewis.

The warrant by Judge K. Proffitt says that Barnett

failed to pay. His bond was set at \$130 cash.

John C. McCormick, 46, of Winchester, was arrested June 5 for a drug related charge on Harris Ferry Road, Irvine by Deputy Doc Morris.

The deputy said he was dispatched to Harris Ferry Road because a man was driving up and down the road and yelling at people.

He stated he located McCormick about a mile up the road, and McCormick failed field sobriety tests.

McCormick was taken to Marcum & Wallace Hospital for a blood draw, which he refused.

Deputy Morris stated he located an unspecified pill under the seat of his cruiser where McCormick had been sitting. He had checked the vehicle prior to putting McCormick in it.

The man reportedly told the deputy that he had purchased a suboxone strip from a co-worker five days earlier for \$15. The pill was sent to KSP lab to be identified.

McCormick was charged with driving under the influence, second offense; possession of a controlled substance, second degree; tampering with physical evidence; and trafficking in a controlled substance, second degree, first offense.

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

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Tax bills are mailed by the Estill County Sheriff's Office to property owners on October 1. Sheriff Gary Freeman collects the taxes and distributes them to the taxing districts.

Supt. Jeff Saylor has stated the board will take a four percent tax increase in tax revenues if the recallable nickle does not pass.

The four percent increase requires two readings, advertised in the newspaper, and a public hearing. However, the board's vote is not recallable.

## Fiscal Court Meets

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Taylor said two 911 dispatchers are scheduled to take professional training in the next several months.

All new hires are trained in-house. There are now also two dispatchers working at a time.

The fiscal court is not required by law to approve the ambulance service's budget. The ambulance service is a taxing district so its' budget must be entered into fiscal court records.

The fiscal court opened two bids for a van to transport prisoners to jails in other counties. They approved both bids.

"This is something we have been looking at for years," stated Magistrate Gerald Rader.

Jailer Bo Morris said on Monday, there were 67 inmates housed in other county jails.

He said a construction company had repaired the valve in the jail's sprinkler system, but another valve was found to be defective.

Animal Control Officer Tommy Mullen reported to the fiscal court on a new microchipping program.

He added that Wolfe County will be opening their new shelter in a few months and will no longer be using the Estill County regional shelter.

He said he was disappointed the fiscal court was letting go of his part-time employee because he has stayed under budget. He

added that he also has been unable to get KTAP workers.

He stated the closed jail had a \$2,300 water bill where 160,000 gallons of water had leaked out.

Morris said it was an outside spigot, and he had it worked on twice.

Mullen replied that Morris should have seen the leak. That was enough water to flood the downtown of Irvine.

Mullen walked out of the meeting.

County Attorney Rodney Davis said he was expecting good news on the Rocket Docket program on Tuesday.

He said the program will help out the sheriff's department and jailer tremendously, Davis stated.

Freeman said since the jail has closed, his office has not been transporting as many prisoners.

Tracy Neal and Magistrate Eldridge were appoint to serve on the board of Hollerwood Park.

The fiscal court heard complaints on two roads before adjourning.

One road is off John Rawlins Road, which the residents said was maintained by the county until recent years. The road committee will look at the road and report back to fiscal court.

Both Taylor and Magistrate Darrell Johnson said they thought the other issue had been taken care of.

## School Board Meeting

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The board accepted resignations from Vonetta Blevins, Brian Hall, Whitney Horn, DeAnna Martin, Bonny Mills, and Margaret Wood as assistant athletic director at the high school. Retirements were accepted from Shonna Ballard, Mary Martin, Bobby Muncy, Connie Pasley, Cynthia Robinson, and Randy Sutter. No new employments were listed.

Jon Bicknell apologized for his behavior during the public forum. He said that he was in early stages of Parkinson's Disease, that he is getting slower, and has a hard time writing. He said he basically thought the individuals in the back of the room were making fun of the man who was talking during the public forum and trying to call time and it made him very irate.

The board meeting adjourned and went into closed session to discuss the future acquisition or sale of real property.

### Free Waste Tire Disposal One Day Only

Estill county Judge executive Wallace Taylor, will be conducting a waste tire program for the citizens of Estill County, for ONE DAY ONLY. Disposal will be based at the County Lot located at Cow Creek Road, in front of the Animal Shelter, in Ravenna. Hours of operation begin June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

This program provides a one-time opportunity for private citizens, farmers and some businesses to drop off their unwanted waste tires free of charge. Tires on rims will not be accepted. Off the Road tires (OTR) and solid tires with pressed-on rims will not be accepted. Tire retailers may not participate in the program.

For additional information regarding the Estill county's Waste Tire Disposal Program, contact Kim Dawes at 723-7524.



Miles of empty train cars are being stored on CSX tracks in Estill and other Kentucky counties. On Saturday, all crossings were clear. Trains were only in place where a side track was present. Due to space limitations, the article will appear in next week's Tribune.