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Sentinel

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E.B. district raises taxes

Increase will guarantee money for new school

The increase
 The owner of a \$100,000 house in East Bernstadt will pay \$392 in taxes this year, as opposed to \$295 last year.

BY TARA KAPROWY
 STAFF WRITER

In order to get funding from the state to build a new school, East Bernstadt Independent school board members voted Monday to significantly increase taxes. The owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$392 in taxes this year. Last year, that same owner only paid \$295.

The increase breaks down in three ways. First, the state gives school boards four tax rate options to choose from, as set in House bills 44 and 940.

On Monday, school board members chose to go with the option set out in House Bill 940, which raised the rate from 29.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 32.7 cents.

By choosing the rate set in House Bill 940 — and only by choosing this option — school board members were allowed to also tack on a 5 cent equivalent tax.

The 5 cent equivalent tax for East Bernstadt is 6.2 cents. That number is determined by the state to help equalize school districts' abilities to collect taxes. The state only allows 5 cents in districts they expect to grow in population. Because East Bernstadt is small and unlikely to grow, the state allows more than 5 cents. Finally, members had the option to tack on 0.3 cents for exoneration, which makes up for taxes that were not collected last year.

All told, East Bernstadt residents will pay 39.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real estate and tangible property. The motor vehicle tax stayed

SEE TAXES, PAGE 3

HOW HEALTHY ARE WE?

The statistic creeps up repeatedly in medical journals and newspaper articles: This generation of American children is expected to have a shorter life span than the one before it. In Laurel County, many doctors have said they are seeing children and parents who are sicker than they used to be. **Over the next five editions of The Sentinel-Echo**, we will explore the state of wellness in Laurel County. We will examine the issues of obesity, tobacco use and access to health care, with local doctors, state officials, public health workers and other medical experts offering their thoughts. The result is an in-depth portrait of wellness in the area — where we stand and **what is being done to make Laurel Countians more healthy.**

Signs of ill health

Kentucky's 5th Congressional District ranks last in national study

Wellness Facts

Population 57,749 (Laurel)

Health indicators	Percent affected
Obesity	35%
	% of population
Not enough physical activity	37%
Uninsured	14%
Adult smokers	30%
In poor or fair health	30%
Missing six or more teeth	43%
Children in poverty	30%

5th District overall health	Ranks 435 of 435
State's overall health	Ranks 49 of 50

Statistics based on a Kentucky Institute of Medicine study and a study by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Rankings by the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. Population estimate from www.census.gov (2009).

■ The 2009 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index concludes Laurel County is part of the least healthy congressional district in the U.S. — with obesity and tobacco use marked as major problems.

BY TARA KAPROWY
 STAFF WRITER

The scenes inside a grocery store are all too familiar: A little girl begs her mother for candy as she stands in the check-out aisle. A man pulls out a cart after walking through the swish of the doors. A woman unloads groceries onto the conveyor belt. A 49-year-old grandmother sits in the pharmacy, waiting for her heart medication.

COMING WEDNESDAY

Obesity is the new epidemic in Laurel County. In part two of our wellness series, medical professionals will discuss what is causing the problem, and local residents will share their stories of battling it.

In every instance, there are signs of ill health. The little girl is already overweight, as is her mother, who readily gives in to the candy request. The man has just mashed his cigarette into the pavement before walking in. The woman only unloads chips, soda, hot-dogs and frozen pizza onto the belt. The 49-year-old doesn't have insurance and has had to skip her medication for the past four months.

While these scenes occur everywhere in the country, in Laurel County they are especially frequent.

And now several studies confirm it. The 2009 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

SEE HEALTH, PAGE 3

Where do we rank?

A look at surveys that ranked all 120 counties in Kentucky on several health indicators:



	Ky. Institute of Medicine	Population Health Institute
Pulaski	11	49
Laurel	68	82
Knox	81	105
Rockcastle	86	76
Whitley	97	108
Jackson	106	97
McCreary	116	112
Clay	119	113

Oh, I wish I could see an Oscar Mayer Wienermobile

Beloved vehicle visits Saturday's Cruisin' on Main car show

BY NITA JOHNSON
 STAFF WRITER

The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile will make its first-ever appearance in this area Saturday as Cruisin' on Main takes to the streets.

The next-to-last event in the Cruisin' series kicks off Friday with a block party in Kmart's parking lot and winds down

with the arrival of the oversized, drivable hot dog. This month's featured vehicle is the Camaro.

The Wienermobile has been a trademark for Oscar Mayer wieners since 1936 and travels across the country for displays and car shows.

Organizers of Cruisin' on Main are excited about the attraction

and hope to draw large crowds for this month's show.

"It's sometimes busy before you can get it on the schedule," said Tonya Lewis, chair of the Cruisin' on Main committee. "We tried to get it last year but they were already booked. We were fortunate to get it this

SEE MAYER, PAGE 3



The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile will be on display at Cruisin' on Main Saturday.

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