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Jaynes makes case for school tax increase

Universal preschool, upgrades part of plan to improve test scores

BY MARK CAMPBELL
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Carroll County Superintendent Casey Jaynes was making the rounds this week presenting his case for a property tax increase that would allow a restructuring of the local school system and, more importantly, provide resources for more students to get off to a better start in education by attending preschool.

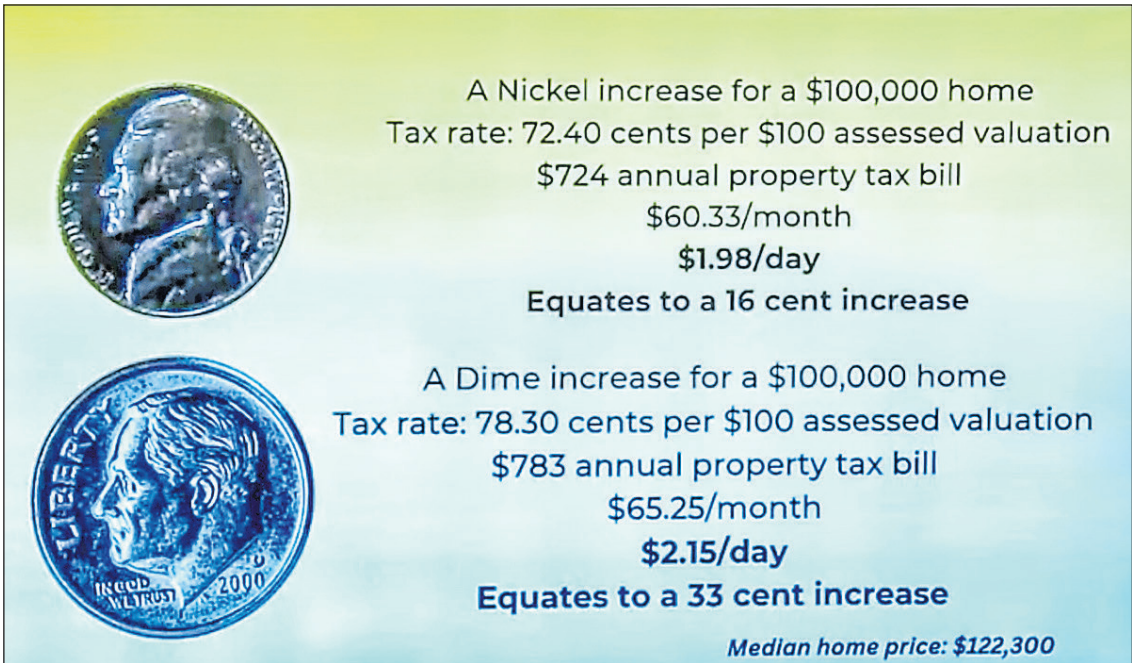
Jaynes made presentations to Carrollton City Council on Monday night and Carroll County Fiscal Court Tuesday morning noting that the district's students would be better prepared for academic success — and improving test scores in low performing areas like reading and math — if the school system made universal preschool available to all Carroll County children.

He said data from school districts with universal preschool shows that providing preschool leads to better educated students. With single parent homes or both parents working, many families no longer make or have the time to read

to children and provide the academic foundation that prepares children for kindergarten. Having preschool should result in higher test scores, better educated students and ultimately a stronger Carroll County workforce.

According to Jaynes, only about 50% of Carroll County's children attend the district's preschool program — mainly those from low income families who qualify for assistance — and 50% off the county's students don't read at a third grade level by the time they're supposed to. That lack of academic foundation follows some students throughout school impacting other areas of study.

Jaynes said local educators want to implement a district facility plan that would "offer" preschool to all children. "We would offer it. It would not be a requirement," said Jaynes. However, he said the goal is to have 80% or more of the county's children participate in the program and added that with limited daycare and preschool options in the county, many parents would opt in as a con-



One of the slides Carroll County Schools Superintendent Casey Jaynes displayed showing the local impact of a nickel and dime tax increase for local schools.

structive way to meet some of their childcare needs.

But offering preschool to such a large group of children will require facility improvements and staffing in a school district that is already facing needs. The proposal he presented would be to convert Carroll County Middle School into an elementary school for the county's roughly 650 students in grades 1-5, shift mid-

dle school students — grades 6-8 — to the current Cartmell Elementary located next to Carroll County High School and expand the high school by developing a junior high/high school campus. Those moves would then free up Kathryn Winn Primary for use as the county's preschool building.

Jaynes noted that some remodeling will be needed at the middle school — mainly

in the cafeteria to be able to handle that many students at lunchtime — and the high school campus would be redesigned and developed in a way that creates more options for programming at both the middle school and high school. There would be a new auditorium, space for technology and improved band and athletic facilities among others and the

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CHARLIE'S BEAT

MadPaddle resumes weekend music

Mad Paddle Brewery is back open after a year-long dormancy, but the new owners are just as committed to live music, and creating the fun, convivial atmosphere we all came to appreciate back in the old MadPad glory days.



CHARLIE ROHLFING
CHARLIE'S BEAT

As of right now you can count on music happening every Friday and Saturday night, but as always, check the weekly music calendar at MadisonMusic.org for updates and schedule changes.

Before we get into our conversation with the new owners, Travas and Brenda Cooper, we need to give a nod to the man who built Mad Paddle up from scratch, Mr. Jerry Wade. With a huge investment of energy and money, Jerry turned a derelict old feed mill into a fully modernized brewery, distillery and taproom, including a large state-of-the-art live music venue. We owe Jerry a debt of gratitude for elevating the live music and entertainment scene in Madison.

Travas and Brenda Cooper own a successful industrial services company over in Milton, Kentucky, but they've always had a bucket list item they wanted to cross off. "My grandparents owned a bar when I was a kid, and I always wanted to try it for myself," explains Travas.

Brenda continues, "We started looking at Mad Paddle



Charlie Rohlfing

Travas and Brenda Cooper, new owners of Mad Paddle Brewery in downtown Madison.

about a year ago. The historic building, the atmosphere, the location ... it just has so much potential to be such a special place."

The Coopers left a lot of things unchanged. "The amazing self-serve beer wall is back open with 20 plus choices. We're even bringing back the super popular Blood Orange Mad Paddle beer. We will be opening the patio again, we've heard from a lot of folks how much they loved that. But we've tweaked a lot of things, too."

"We have full liquor service

at the bar now, that was a big request from customers. The beer prices are generally lower, especially domestics. We are changing out the tables in the big Truss Room, from the beer hall benches to a more traditional table and chair setup. And in the upstairs room, we are really leaning into making that a sports bar concept, with lots of TVs and table service."

"But actually the big change we are very excited about," continues Brenda, "is we are

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Cindy Warrick

Trimble County Board of Education members Scott Burrows (left) and Suzy Turner (center) are administered the oath of office by Finance Officer Phil Harmon at the first meeting of the year after being reelected to the board in November.

Snow days have Trimble schools juggling NTI limits

BY CINDY WARRICK
THE TRIMBLE BANNER

Inclement weather over the past week has led to Trimble County using five of the 10 non-traditional instruction (NTI) days allowed by the state through last Friday so the district will be closely monitoring that situation for the remainder of the school year.

Trimble had been scheduled to return to classes on the first Monday after New Year's Day but winter weather prevented that and has continued to impact in-school classes since then. Therefore, the district must exercise caution when taking NTIs and canceling classes to prevent students and staff from having to go makeup days into June.

The Trimble County Board of Education last week adopted a new school calendar that will be posted on the school's website soon. The 2025-2026

school year will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 12 and close on Friday, May 22, 2026. The school day will begin at 8:15 a.m. in all three schools — Bedford, Milton and the junior-senior high school — and conclude at 2:55 p.m.

In other business, newly elected board members were sworn including returning board members Scott Burrows and Suzy Turner by Financial Officer and Notary, Phil Harmon. Amanda Henderson was unable to be at the meeting. Allie Wright was re-elected school board chair and Turner the assistant chair.

The term for District 4 school board member McKenzie Harper expired at the end of last year but no candidates filed for that position in the November election. Anyone interested in serving

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RIVER LEVELS -15.00 FT.

Forecast

January 18 — 14.60
January 19 — 15.02
January 20 — 16.00

— at Markland Dam, provided by the NWS

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