the rights of us, the that are imp the extreme when said said. buy a home. river, you have spectation to it. Coleman said ponded their Highway B in ever had to a soap of op said county treating the they're better else. ing to keep peace I have. one of you want this in 'd, "Coleman inning com

MUD BOG — A competitor races across a pit of mud during an event at the Hickory Ridge Motorsport Park on Highway B. The track for mud runs and truck pulls has been subject to legal challenges from area neighbors who believe it causes a disturbance. Submitted photo.

and vendors. In my opinion there is ample room for more spectators than is currently allowed," Volsen told the planning commission.

Warren County Ambulance District Chief Tim Flake and Sheriff Kevin Harrison said their staff were either at the venue or in the area on event days, and had no reports of incidents at the events. Harrison said he later received two comments related to concerns about traffic and noise.

Commission tables decision

As is common for the planning and zoning commission, the members voted unanimously Oct. 17 to postpone a final decision on the changes until their next meeting Nov. 21.

The commission debated the requested changes to the Hickory Ridge CUP, as well as some additions to the permit that members hoped could alleviate neighbors' concerns.

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PROP J

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develop a curriculum," Kavalier explained. That way, the training provided by SCC is in line with the credentials local industries are looking for.

How to justify taxes on the elderly?

One of the primary concerns surrounding any tax proposition, including Prop J, is that tax hikes are increasingly difficult to afford for senior residents who live on a fixed income.

"When I can't make my house payment, what am I gonna do?" demanded a man at Monday's forum.

It's a question that proponents of Prop J have struggled to address. Etcher said one of the primary benefits for senior residents is that people trained in skilled trades, such as electricians or plumbers, will become more common and available to provide services that seniors need. Many currently leave for better paying jobs to the east, he said.

How many people would use training?

About 300 to 500 Warren County students commute to attend classes at SCC in St. Charles, Kavalier said. It's hard to say how many changes would change if there were programs based in Warren County.

Kavalier said based on the history of growth in St. Charles, he predicts the need in Warren County will continue to fordlable. Ranken charges over $600 per credit hour, while SCC's in-district charge is just over $100 per credit hour.

Why can't businesses offer apprenticeships?

Another common criticism of Prop J is that businesses who need skilled workers could just train those workers themselves.

"You can go to a lot of places and they'll train you at no cost," pointed out one person at the forum.

"Actually, businesses are looking at community colleges and technical colleges to offer their apprenticeship programs," Kavalier replied. "We just received a federal grant this summer for $1 million to work with businesses and industries for apprenticeship programs."

What do businesses pay?

The reverse of that question is if businesses aren't doing entry-level training, how committed are they to paying for workers to get that education?

"There's a lot of companies that have tuition assistance programs. They will pay for their employees to get trained. They will pay off student loans if that's what it requires," Etcher said. "They're looking for talent. They're investing in their people."

He added that it's much easier to send a full-time employee to evening classes down the street after work than sending them on an hour round-trip to St. Charles.