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Annexation plan draws opposition

The City of Carlisle's announced intention to annex an area containing about 40 homes in the Kennedy Heights section of Carlisle ran into opposition at Monday's council meeting.

The area in question includes a subdivision owned by Russell Alexander that has been a subject of controversy at council meetings for three years now.

Harry Budden, attorney for a citizen group, attended the meeting with Bob Paul, one of the residents of the area.

Harry Budden asked council member Frankie Hughes if his motion for annexation meant that Alexander could go ahead and begin construction on 10 additional houses in his subdivision.

The 10 houses have been opposed by neighborhood residents who charge that the increased population will cause traffic and sewer problems in that area.

Hughes replied that his motion for annexation was made in mind with adding the 40 homes to the city's tax base. It was brought out later that all

the homes in question now enjoy city utility services.

Budden said that the addition of any hook-ups to the city sewer service would tax an already overran sewer plant. He produced April flow charts that indicated the plant ran over capacity 40 percent of the days in that month.

Budden's argument was that the

sewer plant is running more than its design capacity now of 100,000 gallons per day and that any further additions to the system would only result in more sewage discharge into Brush Fork Creek.

The sewer plant's capacity was the subject of much discussion. Budden

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Last

The last baby born in the old Nicholas County Hospital was Christina Lynne Earlywine (right), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Earlywine Jr. of Route 1. Christina Lynn was born June 9 at 6:05 a.m. and weighed nine pounds. — Mercury photo



First

The first baby born in the new Nicholas County Hospital was Ryan Lynn Watkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gene Watkins of Route 1. Ryan Lynn was born June 6 at 10:10 a.m. and weighed eight pounds and one ounce. — Mercury photo

Guard leaves for camp

The Carlisle National Guard unit of the 201st Engineer Battalion left June 8 to begin annual training at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Approximately 60 troops from Ashland, Cynthiana, Olive Hill, Carlisle, Jackson, and Hazard units of the 201st Battalion will spend the first week in a simulated combat environment. Scheduled tactical field exercises include

construction of roads, helipads, and bridges; demolition training using explosives; land mine and chemical, biological and radiological warfare exercises.

In addition to providing time for intensive training, the two week period of maneuvers will allow members of the 201st Battalion to realistically test their ability to effectively use the

equipment assigned to the units.

According to Lt. Col. Edward Gill, 201st Commander, the military convoy will probably be the largest one ever assembled for the summer camp. With 187 vehicles making the trip to Virginia, the convoy will stretch approximately 125 miles. The troops plan to return to Carlisle on June 23.

Morning Glory

More often than not Morning Glory (read in northwestern Nicholas County) lives up to its name: it you're there early enough. The Mercury photographer caught a display of sun rays the other morning on Morning Glory (left).



CAIF to use old hospital

Community Action Lexington-Fayette (CAIF) is expected to assume occupancy of the old Nicholas County Hospital building tomorrow for what is eventually seen to be a one-stop community services center including a day care facility.

CAIF and the Nicholas County Fiscal Court entered into a tentative agreement during a meeting in May to turn over occupancy of the building to the community services organization.

The building is eventually expected to house the following services:

- Head Start
- Senior Citizens
- Outreach and Transportation
- Clothing Closet
- Day care

James Matthers Health Care, Inc. board chairman John Anderson said the board was pleased to find an occupant for the building so quickly.

"It was" one of Ralph Shearer's biggest concerns when the new hospital was approved," Anderson said. "He didn't want the old hospital to become like the old school."

The possible use of the building for such a facility was first broached to the court by Mrs. Margaret Hunter, of the local Head Start office.

Mrs. Hunter asked the court to consider that use of the building. After some discussion the agreement was reached and presented to the CAIF.

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Winner

Jack Guthrie shows the medal he received for being one of ten first place overall winners in the Nicholas County Elementary Science Fair. The medals were presented at last week's awards day at the elementary school. For a look at the other overall winner and the DMR award winner see inside this week's Mercury. — Mercury photo

Legislature needs more independence

By S. C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT. One of the first orders of business of the 1980 General Assembly should be an independent audit of the Finance Department every fiscal year.

Or the General Assembly should appropriate sufficient funds for the State Auditor's office to make it an independent arm of state government and require an annual audit of the Finance Department and the budget as well as all other high spending departments of state government.

The indictment returned last week against two Western Kentucky automobile firms and Howard Woodall of Paducah, Gov. Julian Carroll's friend, are sufficient reason for the legislature to take such recommended action.

The \$7.6 billion in this biennial budget provides ample skepticism among taxpayers to require a public accounting of expenditures.

Two truck deals, one deal for school buses and rental payments on property to Woodall that belonged to the state are indicative of the looseness and lackadaisical record keeping in the Finance Department.

The Franklin County Grand Jury criticized the lack of record keeping on transactions and particular of logs of communications between heads in the Finance Department and the Department of Transportation.

Another primary order of business for the 1980 Legislature should be passage of legislation to require every department of state government to furnish the Ap Appropriations and Revenue Committee of the Legislature every detail of budget requests exactly as submitted to the governor.

A & R gained a measure of independence for the legislature in the 1978 session in its budget review process, but this effort was too late. A & R didn't have the budget information before the budget was drawn, and it was too late when it began to review the budget as presented by Gov. Julian Carroll. Fact of the matter is, the department heads were ordered not to give advance budget information to A & R. It was the governor's document from beginning to end although A & R was tossed a few crumbs through allowed changes.

This was the principal motivating factor in prodding House Speaker William Kerton to press for passage of the constitutional question changing election dates for legislators.

The question will be on the November ballot. It provides for election of legislators in even numbered years instead of the same year the governor is elected. This will give legislators especially new legislators, one

year to study government through the interim committee process before they convene to exercise with government problems in the legislative process.

Former Gov. Louis B. Nunn, the Republican nominee, has already publicly stated that he is for the amendment and for more legislative independence.

In fact, Nunn is the man who started the legislature on its road to gaining more independence. He put sufficient funds in the 1968 budget to provide for the interim committee system for the Legislative Research Commission, the research and service arm of the legislature.

Historically in Kentucky the legislature has done the bidding of the governor since the Constitution provides for a 60-day session every two years. They pass the budget and go home. They have no control over government after the session ends and the process starts all over again with the next legislature.

The 1978 legislature did provide for A & R to have a subcommittee review of expenditures, but the only teeth the committee has is public exposure of transactions.

Not until the legislature gains more independence and has some control over government between legislative sessions will the people be truly represented through our three-branch governmental system.

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