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City sets tax rate

The Carlisle City Council—or half of it—approved a 1979 tax rate Monday of 23 1/2 cents per \$100 of valuation, a figure that will bring the city four percent more revenue than it obtained through taxes in 1978.

The figure was reported as eight percent in last week's Mercury. However that figure was arrived by using information submitted to the city's public notice about the hearing. It was later learned the figures in the public notice also included homestead exemptions, utility assessments and new property, none of which are used in figuring the four percent.

The four percent was an important figure. Under the provisions of House Bill 44, passed in the 1979 special session of the Kentucky General Assembly, a taxing district may generate no more than four percent more revenue than it did the previous year without the rate being subject to a recall election.

Passage of the rate followed a public hearing at which 10 citizens—and only three council members along with the mayor—attended.

According to House Bill 44 a taxing district, such as the city, can set a rate that will bring in up to four percent more revenue without being subject to recall. However, if such a district decides to raise its tax rate to the four percent figure it must first call a public

hearing to explain why it is seeking the extra revenue.

And while the mayor and council were not specific as to how the extra revenue would be used they did tell the citizens present that many city services were not paying their way and were running at a deficit.

Among the revelations at Monday's meeting:

1. The city was forced to borrow \$100,000 in the past year of which \$90,000 is still outstanding.
2. A recent audit of the city, begun in January, was not published "because it would cost too much money" according to Mayor Power. However, Power said that a copy of the audit was available if anyone wanted to examine it.
3. One of the steps that may be taken to alleviate the city's financial difficulties is the passage of an occupational license and payroll tax. This tax would set license fees for various businesses in the city and may also include a tax

the payroll of each employee of a business located within the city limits. "It's a good tax," Power said.

4. Future city council meetings may be televised over the cable television system now being installed in the city.

Concerning the latest audit, Mayor Power said the auditors informed him that there was no information available on which to base legal action. He added he turned what information he had over to the city's bonding company but no action has been taken.

The three council members present—Carl Sparks, Frankie Hughes and Clarence Goad—, answered questions from the citizens present for nearly two hours before okaying the rate.

Mrs. Sparks said, "One of the purposes of House Bill 44 was, as I understand it, to put a lid on property tax increase and also to increase community education."

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Bluejackets win 'brother battle'

By Kay Conley

The script had been previously written. The time, place, and date were all known beforehand. The outcome was the only factor questionable when the Nicholas County Bluejackets overcame the Bath County Wildcats, 15-4, here last Friday night.

Bluejackets scored their first touchdown. The score was a completed one-yard pass from Sowell to Mike Hatton, a few plays following a Bath County punt. Sowell's extra-point kick was successful as the half ended 7-0 in favor of Nicholas.

It was titled the "battle of the brothers" as Coach Robbie Barr, of Nicholas, and his brother, Coach Gary Barr, of Bath, met each other for the first time on opposite sides of the football field.

That "battle" got off to a bombing start in the first quarter. A completed pass from Mike Sowell to David McCaffrey gave the Jackets a thirteen-yard gain and a first down. A blocking tackle by senior Mike Mattox sent Wildcat Mark Swartz siddling to the sideline. The battle of the quarter ended 0-0.

The third quarter was a "rouse fire" in the battle as neither team scored. Sowell's pass to McCaffrey for 28 yards moved the Jackets closer to the goal just as time ran out with the same 7-0 score.

The sweet smell of victory came to Nicholas in the fourth quarter. Five plays into the quarter, Todd Allison took advantage of the previous 26-yard gain and plowed four yards to get a touchdown. A pass from Sowell to McCaffrey completed a successful two-point conversion. The Wildcats still had a fight, however, as they scored on a pass-play from Swartz to Tony Potts.

The war was on in the second quarter. A fast defensive spread by Steve Davis broke up an attempted Bath County pass. A hop, skip, and jump maneuver by Sowell added 12 yards. But the war really got into full swing when the

The attempt for a two-point conversion, following the 26-yard touchdown, failed because of tackles made by Davis and Jackie Wells. The game soon ended in the Jacket's victory.

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Open House

It's not the Nicholas County Hospital any more; it's the Nicholas County Center, an affiliate of the Community Action Lexington-Fayette, Inc. (CALF) and it will hold an open house and grand opening next Monday, Oct. 8. The Nicholas County Center, located in the old Nicholas County Hospital on the Moorfield Road, has under one roof, Head Start, elderly services and community clothing bank with a day-care center planned in the near future. The Head Start classes are shown her under a flag that flew over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The flag was donated to CALF in Lexington by Sixth District Congressman Larry Hopkins and forwarded to the Nicholas County Center.—Mercury photo.

LVPA to meet Friday

The Licking Valley Protective Association and the Kentucky Rivers Coalition will hold a joint public meeting this Friday, Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nicholas County Courthouse.

The topic of the meeting, according to LVPA president Darrell Feagen of Germantown, will be the proposed Falmouth dam and reservoir. Both the LVPA and the Kentucky Rivers Coalition oppose the building of the dam and reservoir, which would flood hundreds of Nicholas County acres along the Main Licking River.

All farmers, businessmen and concerned citizens are invited to attend. Chuck Hoffman and Tim Murphy will appear on behalf of the Kentucky Rivers Coalition.

Survey is topic of meeting

All persons interested in the survey of historic sites in Nicholas County by the Kentucky Heritage Commission that is now in progress should plan to attend the annual meeting of the Nicholas County Historical Society to be held tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the Carrico Country Club.

Guest speaker Beverly Camille Wells, a historian with the Kentucky Heritage Commission who is currently working on the Nicholas County survey. Also expected to attend is Robert M. Polgrove, survey coordinator for the Kentucky Heritage Commission.

The meeting will also include a business meeting of the Nicholas County Historical Society, Inc. at which the old I. & N Depot will be discussed as well as election of the board of directors of the society.

The survey, which began Sept. 24, will attempt to designate various sites of historical interest in Nicholas County.



Health fare

Nicholas County High School students listen to UK College of Pharmacy students tell the different uses of narcotic drugs. The UK students also answered questions on their profession at the WEDCO Health Fair held Monday at Nicholas County Elementary.—Mercury photo.

Flood insurance available

Under an emergency measure passed recently the entire city of Carlisle is eligible for low-cost federal flood insurance according to Russell Bell, Nicholas County Civil Defense coordinator.

The program will be administered through the local insurance agents rate. He has furnished them with flood plain maps and other information on the program.

The program, called the National Flood Insurance Program, is administered through the Federal Insurance Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Normally, Bell said, only those areas which are indicated on federal flood plain maps would be considered eligible. However, after the heavy rains and flooding that occurred in Kentucky this summer the emergency measure was instituted.

The average cost of the insurance is 25 cents per \$100 for a residential structure. Non-residential structures will be assessed at a slightly higher rate. In addition the insurance covers contents also for a 35 cents per \$100 charge for residential to 75 cents per \$100 non-residential.

The program has a ceiling of \$25,000 worth of coverage on single-family residential units and \$10,000 for contents on such a structure. The limit on non-residential is \$100,000 for the structure and \$100,000 for contents.

Bell noted the flood plain map included those Carlisle residents who live along Brushy Park and Sycamore Street. However, under the emergency provisions all residents are covered.

"People who don't live in the flood plain but who have trouble with water in their basements during heavy rains should consider this insurance," Bell said. "It is being offered throughout the city for a limited time only. After the program expires I doubt if any structure of residence not included on the flood plain map would be eligible."

There are flood plain maps available for all of Nicholas County, Bell said, and county residents are eligible if their residences or buildings are shown on the flood plain.

Blue Licks—now or never?

By Jeff Kerr

Former parks commissioner Ewart Johnson may be excused if he was seen carrying a rather glum expression at the public hearing on Blue Licks last week.

Johnson, a Winchester native, recently chaired a similar meeting in his hometown concerning Boonesborough Park backers in that area, like this area was a lodge for their park.

But unlike the Blue Licks supporters the Boonesborough backers stayed away from their meeting in large numbers. The Lexington television news crew that covered both meetings said there were about 35-40 people present at the Boonesborough meeting. Last Wednesday night close to 300 people and from as far away as Vanceburg, turned out to enlist their support in the Blue Licks cause.

Those numbers are significant—or should be. The governor's task force charter says that citizen interest and comments will weigh heavily in any decision by the next governor. And Boonesborough, which has a beach front, bathroom, camping area and reconstructed settlement, evidently found little interest in a lodge.

Not so for Blue Licks. The lodge was one of the items most often mentioned and most agree that it is needed. For unless Blue Licks State Park can obtain some sort of overnight accommodations for the many people who visit it each year it will never be in the big league of Kentucky parks.

Which it should, if the report given by Dr. Allen Worms is any indication. Dr. Worms is deputy commissioner of the newly-formed Tourism Department of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He summarized a report of a study made by Dr. Clare Gunn of Texas A and M University.

Dr. Gunn, a well-known figure nationally in tourism development and site study, said Blue Licks has at least five areas that could make it a site of national significance. Prehistoric remains, the Revolutionary War battle and the emergence of Blue Licks as a health resort in the latter nineteenth century are all factors that contribute to Blue Licks' significance.

But there may be another, invisible factor that will play a larger part in determining whether or not Blue Licks will get the development that people in this area have been seeking for years.

The invisible factor may be called the "park that was" or the "lodge that's not there." It was graphically illustrated last week when a map showing Kentucky's parks that also have lodges was shown to the group.

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