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Parents get action Moorefield residents square off with bus driver at board meeting

The school board moved bus driver W.C. Jefferson from his current route in the Moorefield area to a town route after a group of Moorefield parents expressed their anger with Jefferson's disciplinary policies at Monday night's board meeting.

The action came after the board heard from the parents of children at the local elementary school, Jefferson, and NCHS Principal Gerald Hammons, and after a lengthy meeting in closed

executive session. The five parents who came before the board charged Jefferson with prejudicial administration of punishment, and with physical and verbal abuse.

Jefferson denied the charges, but did admit to "smacking" one child and "shaking" another.

"I just try to do for the safety of the kids and make them sit down and behave," Jefferson said after being called to the board meeting by Superintendent Don Eide.

"Our children are scared to death of this man," Mrs. Lloyd Gilvin told the board. "We don't say our kids are angels," she continued, "and maybe kids do exaggerate at times, but all of the kids on the bus can't be lying all of the time."

John Scott told the board that he wanted his child to be "made to behave," but he charged Jefferson with selecting whipping boys to take the blame time and time again.

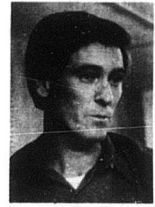
Jefferson flatly denied the allegations and said that all the punishment received by the children was deserved. "Get on the bus and ride," he offered to Scott.

Handy Insko, in a heated exchange, expressed his displeasure at the way Jefferson made children clean up the bus as a punishment for throwing

paper. He argued, like Scott, that the same whipping boys were getting stuck cleaning the bus regularly.

"If he (his child) did it (throw paper), then he should be made to clean it up," Insko said, "he doesn't do that at home." But Insko wanted the children to be able to clean the bus up after school in the afternoon so they wouldn't have to get dirty in the morning. "We don't send them to

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John Scott



W. C. Jefferson



Choo-choo Claus Santa reared, or chugged, into Carlisle last Friday evening on a TTI rail road coach. A large crowd was on hand to greet Santa and to see the crowning of the annual Snow Queen, while the Nicholas County High School Band provided musical entertainment. — Mercury photo.

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City council hears of radio improvements

County Civil Defense Director Russell Bell was on hand at Monday night's city council meeting to give a progress report on the two-year effort to establish improved emergency and law enforcement communications locally.

Bell said that the current license which gives the county two channels, one for emergency services and one for law enforcement, will run through 1986. Prior to the procurement of the two-channel license, local emergency services had been operating on a law enforcement channel contrary to FCC regulation.

Bell also said that in the early stages of recognition he discovered that the county had been operating for six years on an expired license.

The new channel is licensed to handle all calls pertaining to city or county business, which includes the proposed ambulance service.

A new antenna has been installed on the city building, and new mobile units have been installed. Bell feels that the quality of communication between base and mobile units in the city and county government agencies has improved tremendously, but hastens to add that there are still some minor adjustments which are being looked into and worked on at the present.

Bell told the council "that no matter what you hear on the street (about the old one), the problem most of the time

is personnel, not the units." He clarified this statement by explaining that it takes time for the unit operators to adjust to the new system which even involves a reassignment of unit numbers.

Bell also explained that there were still going to be some low lying areas in the county where communication would be impossible.

A new hand unit, which he displayed for council, will soon be issued to the City Fire Department.

The funding of the new system is shared jointly by the state and city and county governments. The trial period of implementation and adjustment is still in effect. The total cost of the operation will not start until the first

quarter of 1982. City Fire Chief Arthur Hazard asked Bell if the unit on the city truck could be changed to come on and go off when the truck key was used.

The county fire truck unit is operated in that fashion and mayor-elect Frank Hughes commented that it was better "because that's one way you won't forget to turn off the unit."

Bell was more than willing to see that the change was made. His comment: "Anything to please."

Other business discussed at Monday's meeting: No kids were turned off installing new heating system in upstairs apartments in city building. Clarence Cord will discuss matter with

Clay Mynear. Ohio Valley Communications (OVV) wants to install a T.V. satellite antenna near the tower at the city lake. Question is over property ownership surrounding tower.

Again talked problem of sewer customer water leaks and sewage part of bill.

Hughes related a request for a brighter street light at corner of old depot (Historical Society building). Nothing decided.

Mayor and council members invited to Christmas dinner at Senior Citizens Center Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. Motion passed. To advertise for bids for trash pickup service under some specifications

as in past (two-year contract). Bids to be opened at Jan. 4 meeting. Bernard Sturtz, who operates service in Millersburg, and his partner Woody Mynear were at the meeting.

Adopted annual budget proposal on second reading.

To give Junior Inhamel the old stripped down 1975 police cruiser parked at the city barn.

Removed the "no parking" sign from Main Street to the alley on the west side of Walnut Street. Requested by David Torres so customers can park near his restaurant. Council, at request of Bob Paul, went into a 15-minute closed session to discuss a legal matter. No action taken following meeting.

County Democratic chairman resigns

Paul Pryor resigned his post as Democratic party chairman last week. Citing personal health reasons, Pryor's letter of resignation was sent to the state Democratic party headquarters in Frankfort and said that the resignation was effective as of Dec. 7.

Pryor, who has been hospitalized twice in the last two months, said last week that due to "ill and failing health" he just could not perform the duties of the office "as they should be performed."

The now former Democratic chairman said that he felt the resignation was "best for the party and all concerned" and that he particularly enjoyed all "the friendships across this vast state" that he made since being selected chairman in April of 1980.

According to bylaws of the Kentucky

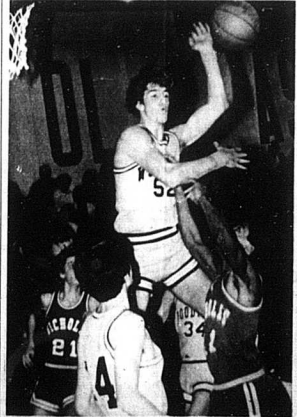
Democratic Party, Vice-Chairman Mrs. Walter Hovvermale will fill in for the chairman until a new chairman is selected.

The party's bylaws state that the County Executive Committee "shall... have thirty days to fill the chairman's seat and to furnish the name of the new chairman to the State Central Committee."

If the local committee fails to do this within the allotted time, the chairmanship of the State Central Committee shall fill the vacancy, notify the new officer, and furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the new officer to the secretary of the affected County Executive Committee.

The party bylaws also state that the chairman and vice-chairman must be of different sex.

Rough road continues for Jackets



Nicholas County's freshman guard Rocky Young put up an inside shot in the fourth quarter of the Bluerockets' game with Woodford County only to have Brent Huffman jump from the middle of the lane and swat the ball back toward center court. — Mercury photo.

Nicholas still winless in season's second week

Two tough opponents combined with Nicholas County's overall inexperience to lead the Jackets a couple of defeats in basketball action last week. The Jackets fell 86-60 to defending regional champs Mason County last Tuesday, and 94-60 to a hot-handed Woodford County last Friday.

The losses dropped the Jackets' record to 0-4 through the first two weeks of the season.

Coach Mike Kenney was full of talk about frustration and lack of confidence after Friday's point drubbing by Woodford County.

"The worst thing is that our young people don't believe in themselves enough to play together," he said. "They lack confidence in themselves and in the people they're playing with."

Kenney said the Woodford County game was a "catch-22" situation for his young squad. The big had produced frustration in his players, and that "frustration leads to other mistakes."

He was also full of praise for a Yellowjacket team that pumped in 34 points in the second quarter and shot a blazing 69 percent from the floor in the first half.

"Woodford's sports program is top-rate," Kenney said, "they have a basketball program that always comes up with a win."

But Woodford was not the Jackets' biggest enemy Friday night, according to the Nicholas County coach. "Our inexperience and lack of confidence hurt us more than their being able to play."

"Every kid on the floor tonight played his heart out," he said, and pointed to some areas of promise in the seemingly decisive victory.

Kenney feels that his team just needs some more time "playing together." And he won't make any bones about the fact that he'd like to have sidelined star David McGuffey back in action.

"But some way or another, we've just got to get some defense," he said. "Jackets' opponents are averaging nearly 87 points a game through the first four contests."

As unlikely as it might seem in light of the final score, the Jackets came on strong in the game's opening minutes and were leading by a bucket 18-16 at the end of the first quarter.

But after a tip-back began to the opening minutes of the second quarter, Woodford County's Jeff Haidner took up where he left off as quarterback of the Yellowjackets football team this fall, and lit up the inside scoreboard at NCHS under the "Visitor" column.

Before the quarter was over, the Jackets had fallen behind by 20, at a 26-0 half-time mark.

The second half was a nightmare for the young Nicholas Cougars. They showed signs of consistency in the third quarter, but "almost-steals" turned into Woodford penalties on innumerable occasions. The fourth quarter saw the Woodford lead increase even more as both teams began to substitute freely.

Woodford's defense was able to nullify the performance of what has turned out to be the most surprising aspect of Nicholas County basketball this season — the play of sophomore

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Inside

Circuit Court Clerk Beulah Hughes was the guest of honor at a reception honoring her 26 years of service to the county last Friday. (More details inside, page 5.)

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