1981: The year in review

Continued from page 1

primary election was up by 12 percent over the 1980 general election.

The NCHS track team won a regional championship and qualified in 11 events at the state meet.

At the state track meet, David McGuffey and Donald Markland became state champions, and the NCHS teams placed fourth overall. McGuffey won the Triple Jump and Markland won the 110 Meter High Hurdles.

A motorcycle accident claimed the life of David K. Fryman, Route 2, Carlisle. Also injured in the crash on Cassidy Creek Road was Darrell D. Burke, Route 4, Carlisle.

Blue Licks State Park Superintendent Gene Hughes said that he was having trouble getting state funds for repair of a dangerously deteriorated porch on the park's gift shop. The cost of the repairs was estimated at $1,000.

Sen. Ed Ford, Judge Reese Smoot and PVA Rose Brady were big winners in the county's primary election. Charles Hing was elected Sheriff and Sally Watkins defeated 36-year incumbent Beulah Hughes for the Circuit Clerk's office.

Charles Lenz was declared winner in the jailer's race. In magisterial races, Earl Lee Planck upset incumbent Bob Livingood and Elmo Myers ousted incumbent Andrew Bretz. Harold Mitchell, Bus Atkinson and Melvin Fryman all won re-election.

The city council held an emergency meeting over the firing of patrolman Jim Coy without formal reason or hearing by Mayor Bill Power. Council passed an ordinance that would prohibit such action in the future by requiring a majority vote of council before a police officer can be dismissed.

A re-census of the county's primary election vote resulted in an upset in the jailer's race, as challenger Leroy Bowles unseated incumbent Charles Lenz by 42 votes in the recount.

The announcement was made that Rev. Herman B. Kamlage, after 13 years of service to the Carlisle community, would be leaving the local parish to go to Lancaster. The move was to be effective July 1. Kamlage was replaced by Rev. Joseph Saulino.

The front of the Carlisle Wesleyan Church building on the corner of Main and Dorsey was extensively damaged in a single car accident.

Patrolman Jim Coy successfully settled out of court on a $125,000 lawsuit he filed against the City and Mayor Bill Power over his firing from the police department. — Mercury photo.

June

Lee Edward Watkins, 37, of Salyersville, was arrested by KSP Trooper John Hall and charged with the theft of some tools on the Heaven Il Farms property.

The city council went into a lengthy closed session to discuss threatened legal action by fired patrolman Jim Coy. After emerging from the executive session, the council declined to reinstate Coy and took a "no action — no comment" stand on the situation.

Twenty-year-old Karen Sue Sallee, 401 Sycamore Hill, was killed in an automobile accident in Mason County.

The fiscal court moved to place speed bumps on Mockingbird Lane after several residents of that street appeared before the court and complained of speeding cars endangering the safety of the many children who live and play near the road. The speed bumps' installation has since been tied up in a lawsuit by residents of the street opposed to their construction.

The Nicholas County Board of Education granted a seven percent across-the-board pay increase to all classified personnel such as bus drivers, cooks, aides, etc.

The "Catch 22" predicament of Mr. Andy Holland was revealed in a Mercury feature. Mr. Holland was caught between spools of bureaucratic regulations that were threatening to move him from his home because he had the misfortune to have his health condition improve.

An eruption of violence in the Nicholas County Jail ended in the attempted suicide of a 35-year-old local resident, and left the jail in a water-soaked shambles after inmates vandalized the main cellblock's plumbing. The two inmates charged in the incident, Gerald Kimes Jr., and Jackie Flora both pled guilty to criminal mischief in the third degree and were handed down fines and jail sentences. Kimes attempted to hang himself with his belt during the night of the disturbance.

Lt. Gov. Martha Layne Collins was in town to address a group of local Rotarians at the Carnico Country Club.

The fiscal court awarded a contract for repairs to the courthouse bell tower to Harschal D. Spilmon, Harrisburg, Ill. Spilmon's bid was $11,347 for labor on the project.

Jim Coy's retained counsel Jim LeMaster announced that he was definitely going to take legal steps against the mayor and city for the patrolman's firing. LeMaster said that "...we have no other choice than to seek recourse through the courts."

An investigation into alleged voting irregularities in the county's primary election by the Kentucky State Police ended with no formal charges being filed.

A violent storm that packed winds in excess of 40 miles per hour swept through the county and left thousands of dollars in property damages in its wake. Included in the damages were the complete destruction of a house trailer belonging to Richard Mitchell on the Moorefield Road and severe damage to the roof of the new armory.

The county's high school teachers petitioned the school board to increase the number of credits required for graduation from 20 to 20 units.

Blue Licks Superintendent Gene Hughes announced that repairs to the park's gift shop porch were scheduled for completion by the state on June 29.

On June 30 the fiscal court received a letter from Mathers-Saunce and Clark Funeral Homes stating that the local mortuaries would be going out of the ambulance business as of midnight, Dec. 31.

In setting up the new fiscal budget, the fiscal court voted to provide a $100 per month expense account to each of its magisterial members. The money to provide the accounts was taken from the Road and Bridge Fund.

The Carlisle Mercury was awarded a first-place plaque by the Kentucky Press Association for its role in protecting the Freedom of Information.

July

A report from the Fayette County Coroner's office revealed that the death of a local minor who died as a result of a gunshot wound would be classified as suicide. The findings of the medical examiner's autopsy indicated that the bullet wound to the head was self-inflicted.

The battle over assigned responsibility for repairs to the gift shop porch at Blue Licks State Park heated up when Floyd Readnow, Director of the Division of Maintenance for the Kentucky Department of Parks said that local Superintendent Gene Hughes has had the money to make the repairs since back in May.

Violence broke out again at the Nicholas County Jail as inmates once again tore up the facilities' plumbing and set fire to their mattresses and pillows. Charged in the incident were inmates Robert Curtis and Robert Hogsten.

Gene Hughes' men put a new concrete porch on the gift shop at Blue Licks State Park.

Miss Debbie Fryman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Fryman, Route 1, Ewing, was crowned the 1981 Blackberry Festival Queen by Sen. Ed Ford.

Arson was suspected to be the cause of a fire at Crocket and Gaunce Foodtown on Market Street. The blaze began in a trash bin and spread into the insulation of a large cooler.

Eighteen-year-old Eleanor Bell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bell, was one of five persons who were killed in a one-car accident on Interstate 75 near Piqua, Ohio when their car left the highway, crashed and burst into flames.

David Everhardt, 22, of Indian Lakes, Ohio, and Sarah Conners, 18, of Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania — both carnival workers for the Atlanta Amusement Company — were married by Judge Reese Smoot in a ceremony on the courthouse steps during the Blackberry Festival.

A report of bank profitability by the Kentucky Business Ledger listed the Carlisle Deposit Bank as the 21st most profitable bank in the state. The local bank has a return on average assets of 2.29 percent.

After extensive debate and one failed motion, the board of education responded to the NCHS faculty petition and increased the number of credits required for graduation at the local high school from 18 to 20. The new requirements were to apply to all subsequent incoming freshman, but not to any group before the class of 1985.

The city council voted to sack up downtown parking meters and stop collecting parking fees in order to help spur downtown business. The move was to take effect in January 1982.

Inmates Jackie Flora and Johnny Mercer dug their way out of the Nicholas County Jail, only to be apprehended a few hours later at Morris' home in Paris.

An inspection of the roof at the local library turned up problems in the trusses supporting the structure's roof. The facility had to be closed for a couple of weeks while repairs were completed.

County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot and Sheriff J.W. Ecton asked the fiscal court to provide their offices with secretaries when the CETA funded employees would lose their jobs due to federal cutbacks. The court agreed to pay Judge Smoot's secretary $3.35 an hour for 35 hours a week until all of the CETA workers had been terminated. She was in charge of coordinating the program. They furnished Sheriff Ecton with a secretary at $3.35 per hour for 30 hours a week from the time the CETA program ends, until the first of the year.

Investigators from the Kentucky State Police's Office of Professional Standards were in Carlisle checking into complaints against local trooper John Hall. While not specific in his explanation, Gene Peter, whose department was in charge of the investigation, said that the complaints were "in relation to performance of duty." Had the investigation post the Carlisle was raided by the Kentucky State Police and 163 containers of beer and a quantity of other alcoholic beverages were confiscated. Charged in relation to the incident were Ruby King, Billy Dixon and the legion post itself.

The city council and the fiscal court met in joint session and formed a task force to look into possible alternatives for solving the impending ambulance crisis.

A group of local merchants met with the city council to express their concerns about the planned removal of parking meters downtown. The merchants were afraid that all of the good business spaces would be tied up if some measure of control were not utilized. Council set the matter for further discussion at the regular August meeting and decided to leave the parking regulations downtown in their present form.

Demolition began on the building which housed the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Twenty-three-year-old David Snapp, Route 2, Carlisle, was killed when a telephone pole he was working on fell and crushed him in Franklin County. Snapp was a technician for South Central Bell.

August

The Mt. Zion Christian Church celebrated its 150th anniversary throughout the first week of August.

Thieves entered Hopkins Drug Store and made off with a variety of Schedule 2 Narcotics. Among the missing drugs were percodan and valium. In addition, $60-$100 in cash was missing.

The KSP investigation into charges against local Trooper John Hall ended with a dismissal of the allegations as "unfounded." KSP spokesman Gene Peter said that the investigation failed to produce substantive evidence to indicate any impropriety in Hall's actions.

Park board member Larry Wills and Judge Smoot went to Frankfort to meet with state officials about funding for a proposed ball park near the new armory.

Government cutbacks in subsidizing the school lunch program forced the local school board to increase lunch prices by 10 cents. Regular elementary and high school lunches moved to 50 and 55 cents respectively.

Eight-year-old Leonard Biggs suffered a broken leg and various abrasions and contusions after he was hit by a car while crossing Highway 36 near the new armory.

Tim Dudley fired a course record 66 during the opening round of the Seventh annual Carnico Country Club Member-Guest Golf Tournament. The old record was set in 1974 by Tim's father, Andy Dudley, at 67.

Mayor Bill Power announced a 25 percent hike in gas bills for those purchasing the fuel from the city. The rate went into effect September 1.

Inspection of the county's tax books showed that the overall assessment for Nicholas County increased by nearly $3.5 million in 1981. The total property valuation assessment for the county was set at $75,700,245.

James R. Brady, Route 3, Carlisle, was killed in a work related accident on his farm near Headquarters. Brady was reportedly cleaning out a pond on his farm when his pickup, which was parked on an adjacent hillside, reportedly jumped out of gear, rolled down the hill and ran over him.

County schools opened the 1981-82 school year on August 24.

The county school system received a $66,927 budget cutback as result of state curtailments of educational expenditures.

Projecting a loss of 50 percent of the tobacco crop, the local Emergency Disaster Board submitted a proposal to have the county declared a disaster area and thus become eligible to receive low interest, government emergency loans. The board estimated the loss on the crop could be as high as $3 million for 1981.

Between 55 and 75 local Blue Grass employees found themselves without jobs, as an indefinite lay-off from both Knitting and Industries went into effect. Knitting laid off 25, according to Plant Manager Henry Peters. BGI did not disclose the exact number laid off at the sewing factory.

The Nicholas County Bluejacket football team opened the season with a 21-6 thumping of Fleming County in Flemingsburg. The Jackets rolled up 281 yards offensively, while holding the Panthers to only 80.

A petition was drafted and began circulating that would place an ambulance tax referendum on the November ballot. The petition needed the signatures of 100 registered county voters, and would test the support for a 10 cent per $100 valuation tax on local property holders.

Sixty-nine-year-old Otis McCarty was found dead in his Dorsey Avenue home as result of a gunshot wound from a .32 caliber handgun. Local law enforcement officers ruled the shooting death suicide.

September

The Sept. 3 issue of the Mercury carried a story about the hectic life of Nicholas County native Michael Judge, who recently took over the job of Director of Farms at Eastern Kentucky University. Judge is responsible for overseeing EKU's 1,200 acre farming operation.

Victories over Mason County, Fairview and Fleming County highlighted the month for the Bluejacket football team.

An attempted jailbreak at the county jail was foiled as local law enforcement officials surprised the escapee, Johnny Morris, as he was lowering himself from a second story escape route on a makeshift rope of blankets and bedsheets. Morris used a piece of pipe, a brick and a section of an old broom handle to dig a hole above the jail's ball pen.

With 121 signatures from county voters, the fiscal court placed the ambulance referendum on the November ballot.

Former policeman Jim Coy named Carlisle Mayor William Power and the City of Carlisle in a lawsuit he filed in Nicholas County Circuit Court. Coy and his lawyers called for a $125,000 settlement in the suit.

City Councilman Frankie Hughes and local resident Lee Bentz announced their candidacy for Mayor in the November election.

Nine local residents filed for six city council seats subject to the November election.

Bethel's Eighn Church, the operator of one of the state's largest farm machinery dealerships, died at age 63.

The city council moved to furnish water and sewer hookups to 12 lots on Oriole Street in the Alexander subdivision.

The Central Kentucky Fishunters Association kicked off a four-day hunt at the Clay Wildlife Management Area near Carlisle.

Plans for a county-run ambulance service dominated the news during the month. No specific proposals were issued.

The fiscal court set the hospital tax rate at 21.5 cents per $100 valuation and moved to hold a hearing for setting the general county rate. The fiscal tax was expected to generate $203,779 in revenue.

Peggy Stewart was crowned football Homecoming Queen during ceremonies prior to the Jackets 14-13 victory over Fleming County.

Tommy Barnett, Route 3, Carlisle, was injured when an automobile he was working on fell from its supports and crushed down on his head and upper body.

Nicholas County's Deputy Sheriff-Elect Charles Smith was rushed to the UK Medical Center following an accident that left him with a five-inch laceration above his eye and a fractured skull. The accident occurred as he was sharpening tobacco sticks with a mechanical stick sharpener.

A $30,000 restoration project was completed at the old L&N Railroad Depot on Market Street. The project was undertaken by the Nicholas County Historical Society.

October

Blue Grass Industries was rocked by a major management change as past chairman of the board Wayne Shumate, in a cash and stock exchange, severed ties with the local factory in exchange for Blue Grass' Paris manufacturing plant. Shumate and Speeds Holdings, Ltd., of Sydney, Australia, formed a new textile firm, Kentucky Textiles. Donna Wolf Steigerwaldt, chairman of Jockey International Inc., was named as the new chairman of the board and chief executive officer for BGI.

The support price for burley tobacco was increased 12.2 percent for the 1981-82 marketing season. The average price support jumped to $1.536 per pound, as compared with $1.459 with last year.

Attorney Stockton Wood filed a response to the lawsuit by Jim Coy in Nicholas Circuit Court in which the defendants denied that Coy was fired by Mayor Power because of a "personal vendetta" and claimed that KRS 85A.080 gives the Mayor authority to fire policemen.

The city council unanimously passed a new tax rate for Carlisle's property tax collection. The council set the rate at 34.5 cents per $100 assessed valuation. The old rate was 35.7 cents. The new rate makes for a 1.2 cent (one and two-tenths cent) reduction in the tax rate. It is expected to generate around $70,000 in revenue.

The fiscal court removed the county's dumpsters from the Walnut Grove area after a group of citizens from that section of the county appeared before the court and protested the unsightly condition created by abuse of the dumping area.

The fiscal court hiked its General Fund tax rate the maximum allowable under House Bill 44 without being subject to public recall, as the rate increased from 13.7 cents per $100 assessed valuation, to 13.9 cents. The increase amounted to .2 cent (two-tenths of one cent) jump. The increased rate should gross the county $131,745.

The board of education lowered its General Fund rate from 14.3 cents to 13.9 cents. At the same time the board increased the rate for the Special Voted Building Tax for the elementary school to 17.1 cents from last year's 16.9 percent. That increase is also the maximum allowable under HB 44 and will produce an expected $182,073.

The fiscal court also set the Fire District tax at 2.8 cents, which should produce $15,367; the Library tax at 2.1 cents, which will produce $19,904; and the Board of Health tax at 2.6 cents, which will produce $24,643.

TTI railroad, which spent a good deal of the summer updating the tracks around Carlisle, began the planning stages of a $70 million general cargo port on the Ohio River near Maysville. The plan for the cornerstone of a 500-acre riverside industrial park project, would receive funding assistance from state-backed industrial revenue bonds.

The city council and the fiscal court joined forces to submit a grant proposal for matching funds to the state for financing a county-run ambulance service. The budget estimates for the grant totaled $50,000.

A reckless driver left Roger Bowles, 455 Locust Street, with minor injuries and his wife hospitalized after a "small black car" ran his pickup truck off the road on Route 36 near Coatney's gas station. The car did not stop after the incident occurred.

Two heartbreaking last-minute losses in Raceland and the other to eventual state champs Paris, set the stage for the Jacket's 26-0 blasting of Owen County, and being named the district champions.

The tobacco price support program won a narrow 47 vote victory against the Shamansky-Pritchard amendment to the 1982 farm bill that would have eliminated the program. Congressman Carl Perkins called the battle for the support program "the toughest fight we have ever had."

The Walter Shepherd dairy on the Carpenter Pike was the scene of a shooting incident that involved a group of out-of-town juveniles and two local men. No one was injured in the incident in which a 19-year-old Lexington resident opened fire with a .25 caliber automatic pistol on a car owned by Gene Bretz, Route 1, Carlisle. Wayne Browning, also of Route 1, was a passenger in the auto.

Dick Cooksey had his Lexington firm awarded a county contract to provide local ambulance service in 1982. — Mercury photo.

November

City Councilman Frankie Hughes captured nearly 55 percent of the votes cast in the Nov. 3 ballot for the Mayor's race and defeated 25-year-incumbent William Power by a surprising 2-1 margin.

A 779-487 vote resoundingly defeated the referendum for establishing an ambulance taxing district with the authority to impose a 10 cent ad valorem tax on each $100 of assessed property valuation.

Earl Lee Planck defeated write-in candidate Lovell (Bob) Livingood for the third district magistrate position on the fiscal court. Livingood, the incumbent, had run as a write-in candidate despite his primary loss to Planck. Planck took the November race by an easy 3 to 1 margin.

Councilman Robert Paul lost his seat on the city council as he was nudged out by 15 votes in favor of Clifton Waugh. Waugh will join new councilmen Carl-mell Lester and Charles Fay and returnees Bobby Barnett, Tommy Vaughn and Clarence Cord on the local body.

Thirty-one-year-old Cynthiana attorney Jack Arnold crushed incumbent Judge Wayne Fitzgerald in the first division of the 18th Judicial District by a vote of 1319 to 224.

The constitutional amendment to allow governors, sheriffs and other constitutional officers to succeed themselves in office failed miserably in the county and across the state. The local vote was 1003-306 against the amendment.

*See 1981, page 16

Department of Education focuses on dropout rate

There is no single or easy solution that can be presented to keep a student from dropping out of school, but the Kentucky Department of Education has undertaken a new program that they hope will cure a lot of the problems.

A three-year pilot project, initially involving 17 school districts, identifies potential dropouts at the ninth-grade level and then develops strategies to keep those students in school.

In the last four years, some 20,000 Kentucky students left school prior to receiving a high school diploma. Nationally, there are approximately one million youth, age 14-24, leaving school without a diploma. This trend, both on the national level and in Kentucky, is increasing.

Raymond Barber, superintendent of public instruction, has listed the dropout problem as one of his eight educational goals to improve upon during the next two years.

The dropout plan was launched last February when a research report was sent to all school districts outlining certain characteristics that contribute to a student's dropping out of school. The report also listed conclusions drawn from a study of dropouts and persisters, or those students who stay in school.

All ninth-graders in the 17 districts volunteering to participate in the project completed questionnaires in September. The questionnaires were returned to the department's office of research and planning for computer analysis.

At a November meeting in Frankfort, representatives from the districts received a computer printout with the percent of students in their districts, along with a list of individuals who are considered high risk from the data collected.

Phase IV of the project, now under way, involves developing strategies for dropout prevention by the local districts which should result in a decrease in rate decrease. The division of student services in the Department of Education will provide assistance to the local districts in developing strategies.

"Because of the multitude of reasons why students drop out of school, no one program is appropriate for every school, student or district," said Clyde Caudill, head of research and planning. "A comprehensive dropout prevention strategy that provides certain basic elements yet allows each school to adapt to meet their specific needs would be best."

Caudill went on to say that extreme caution should be exercised so that results from the questionnaire do not classify or label students.

"This data is not intended to replace professional judgment but to be used in conjunction with professional judgement," he explained.

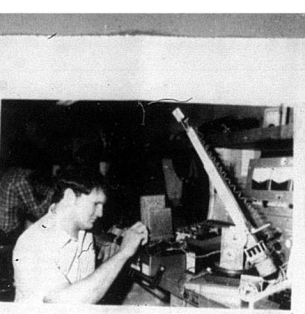
Gene Wright, director of the psychometric services unit with the department, stresses the importance of both in-school and out-of-school cooperation to encourage students.

"A student may need help in improving basic skills, learning job skills or just experiencing success," Wright said; "Whatever the need, however, a student cannot be forced to fit into a program. The program must be designed to fit around the needs of the student. Knowing why the students are dropping out is essential to developing appropriate strategies."

Hopefully other districts will see a successful prevention program work-ing well in one of the 17 volunteer districts and opt to use that same approach, according to Wright.

The program was designed on a three-year basis to allow yearly updates on the ninth-graders through their senior year in high school. This should check the accuracy of the data collected from the testing instrument, Wright said.

The optimum goal of the program is to modify the questionnaire for use in lower grades, particularly at the junior high level.



Robot repairs

David Drake, a junior at MSU from Campton, makes some adjustments on a robot recently constructed in Morehead's Department of Industrial Education and Technology. MSU is offering a course in industrial robotics during the spring semester. — Photo submitted.

Are robots taking over?

Are robots taking over?

Not totally, but industry is turning to robot labor as advances in microcomputer technology have made robotics financially advantageous, according to Meade Roberts, associate professor of industrial education at Morehead State University and a robotics enthusiast.

"However, very few people know much about robotics," he says.

As a result of his interest and a student project, MSU has become one of the less than 20 U.S. institutions involved in industrial robotics.

He reported that the University is working with industry representatives, to keep pace with robotics through workshops and a new course.

Roberts recalls that he became interested in the field about a year ago when a student built a robot as a special project.

"In our computer electronics course, several students asked what they could accomplish with computer technology outside of data processing," Roberts stated. "That led us into examining robots as realistic industrial tools."

To help MSU get into robotics, representatives from Rockwell International and Detroit Reamer and Tool met with faculty members and students to answer questions and plan for the future.

Roberts says the major concern of students seems to be the fear of being replaced by workers demanding no wages or fringe benefits and willing to work 24 hours a day.

Although Roberts says we may be on the edge of a robot age, he interprets it differently. "Clothes used to be made by hand but when sewing machines began to be used, they didn't put people out of work," he said. "Instead, they created different jobs. Robots will eliminate the need for certain types of jobs but, in the long run, they will create more employment."

MSU is offering a course in industrial robotics during the spring term to prepare students to work with robots in industry. Students will design, construct and improve a robot to demonstrate the principles of robotics. One of the robots to be built will screw indicator lights into auto dashboards and another will be a welder.

"We can teach our students how to actually work with robots, unlike engineering schools which are just concerned with research and design," Roberts says.

David Drake, Campton junior, already is working with robots in school and in his free time. He feels the opportunity to work with the machines will be to his advantage..

"When I came to MSU, I planned to become a radio and television repairman," says Drake. "But working with computers has changed my career goals. My future is robotics."

Plan is submitted to increase road revenue by $130 million

The State Highway Advisory Committee has made final proposals aimed at increasing the revenue for the state's road fund by an estimated $130 million annually.

The committee presented the formal proposals to state Transportation Secretary Frank Metts at its fourth and final meeting in Louisville recently.

Five of the eight proposals made would require action by the legislature in the upcoming legislative session.

In an effort that was termed "realistic," the committee pared its tentative proposals that would have produced $250 million a year. Committee members had earlier agreed that $250 million in additional annual revenues was needed to maintain the state's maintenance and construction of roads at present levels.

The members concurred with statements made by state representative Bob Jones (D-Crestwood) that the chances of getting the legislature to approve a $250 million increase in taxes and general fund transfers was "slim to none."

The proposals recommended to Metts were:

— To raise automobile license plate fees from $12.50 to $25. This would generate an estimated $20 million a year in additional revenue.

— To raise truck registration fees by weight class, eliminate limited registration and include the fuel surcharge on trucks with three or more axles in the registration fee. This proposal was estimated to raise at least $13 million annually.

— To change the motor fuels tax from the current nine percent of the wholesale price of gasoline to a flat 12-cent tax per gallon.

Because gasoline prices have not risen as expected, committee members recommended the flat rate tax. Members said this tax could be adjusted by the legislature when additional revenue was needed.

This proposal would increase revenue by about $40 million a year.

— To transfer sales taxes received from auto related industries, such as garages, car dealers and auto parts stores, from the general fund to the road fund. These taxes amount to about $45 million annually.

— To transfer the state's portion of the property tax on vehicles from the general fund to the road fund, about $25 million annually.

The committee also recommended removal of the tolls on the state's toll roads. However, the committee proposed that the tolls be removed only if a substantial portion of the revenue increasing measures were passed by the legislature.

About $10 million in revenue would be lost by removing the tolls, but the committee felt that the loss would be offset by lower maintenance costs on routes paralleling toll roads.

A recommendation proposed by Bill Cox of Ligon Specialized Hauler, a Madisonville-based trucking firm, proposes an increase in enforcement of registration and weight laws by the state police.

The committee passed Cox's proposal and recommended 24-hour operation of weigh stations and an investigation into port of entry check stations to enforce laws on interstate haulers.

A final recommendation to Metts called for the Transportation Department to look into the formula for distributing truck registration fees among the counties.

Under the current system, 30 percent of the truck registration fees are distributed equally among Kentucky's 120 counties.

Metts said he would review the recommendations before presenting his package of proposed legislation to the governor and the legislature.

Open meetings law is being expanded

More governmental activities would be subject to the requirements of the open meetings law under pre-filed bill HB 31. This proposal would expand the kinds of public agencies required to conduct all business in open session.

It would add judicial agencies to the definition of agencies subject to the open meeting law. It would also enlarge the definition of "public agency" to include any other body which derives at least 25 percent of its funds from state or local authority.

Presently, bodies which derive at least 25 percent of its funds from state or local authority are subject to the open records law, but not the open meetings law.

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