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KU wants 12.4% rate boost

Kentucky Utilities Company filed retail electric rates with the Kentucky Public Service Commission seeking a 12.4 percent increase, or \$29.3 million, in annual revenues. William B. Buchanan, company president, announced that KU also requested an immediate interim increase of \$29.2 million, which is three-fourths of the full amount.

The increase would amount to \$1.29 monthly for a typical residential customer without electric heating who uses 616 kilowatt hours (kwh) per month. The bill of a typical all-electric residential customer using 1,513 kwh monthly would increase \$4.12 per month.

"We sympathize with our customers' frustrations over rising electric costs," Buchanan said. "Our employees are working hard to hold down costs, and we are pleased that our rates are well below the national average, even with the proposed increase."

KU's president said that inflationary pressures, rising labor and material costs, and increased debt and other capital requirements required KU to seek rate relief now. "We will continue working to keep expenses as low as possible, but it is inevitable that these costs will continue to rise," Buchanan noted.

"The Company's earnings dropped from \$2.80 per common share in 1979 to \$1.51 in 1980," he commented. "Inadequate earnings have impaired our company's credit and operations, and will continue to deteriorate unless we receive a favorable response to our interim request."

KU's current rates were approved last October, when a 3.4 percent increase was granted, and are based on the cost of operations during the 12 months ended Jan. 31, 1980.

"In spite of operating economies and efficiencies, costs have risen substantially since then," Buchanan said. "Present rates do not produce sufficient revenue to meet current and future financial obligations and to maintain dependable service to our customers."

He outlined three examples of increased costs: —Construction expenditures to meet projected customer needs will total \$25 million for the five years, 1981 through 1985. This will require substantial new capital at sharply increasing costs which will include \$106 million in debt and equity securities scheduled during 1981.

—Environmental costs totaled about \$3 million through 1980, and by the end of 1983 KU projects expenditures will total \$150 million for protecting the environment.

—The cost of borrowing money has risen enormously. In January 1980 the average cost of long-term debt (the amount paid to bondholders) was 8.16 percent. By the end of the year, it had risen to 9.82 percent. The average interest rate on KU's short-term borrowings rose from 12.24 percent to 19.25 during the same period.

"This means, of course, that we must



'Praise' wins
The 4-H Guess Who's Teen Club were selected to appear at the Bluegrass Fair June 20 on Saturday night's 4-H Talent Show. They did a vocal rendition of "Praise." Seated, from left, Jeff Curtisinger, Nancy Woolley, Deon Weddle, Kevin Watkins. Middle row, Barbara Payne, Woodie Buzzard, Robin Howard, Pauline Dole, Barbara Dole. Top row, Jeff Curtisinger, Solon Jones, Mary Ann Clarkston, Kevin Watkins, Leslie Ishmael and Colly Ellen Dampier. — Mercury photo.

Community Action Outreach offers help

In the Outreach Department at the Nicholas County Community Action Center we have many different functions. One of our biggest is transportation. We have a van that is operated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This van is equipped to transport people in wheel chairs as well as elderly people and less severely handicapped persons. We ask that anyone needing our services in this area please call in one day in advance whenever possible. We will also transport people on Tuesdays and Thursdays if it is an emergency for doctors, hospital, or for medicine.

We also operate a Clothing Bank where anyone that has clothing they can no longer use can donate and receive a tax write off for them. People who need clothing can then come to the Clothing Bank and the clothing is given to them.

We also do home visits to inform people of our programs and see if we can be of any help to them.

We have eight active Community Groups in Nicholas County, where we meet with people in their own areas to help solve problems and to get people together who have similar problems.

We help people with all kinds of forms and papers that they may not understand well enough to fill them out on their own.

If anyone should need our services or know of anyone who might, feel free to call 289-7172.

—See KU worth, page 12

Kent Hensley enlists in U.S. AF delayed enlistment program

Kent Hensley became a member of the United States Air Force recently during ceremonies conducted in Louisville. Sgt. Michael Phillips, Air Force recruiter for the Bowling/Nicholas County area, said that Kent will remain here until June 1 when he will leave for Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to begin his basic training.

Kent, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hensley of Bowling, is a 1980 graduate of Nicholas County High School.

While in basic training, Kent will learn about Air Force history, customs, physical training, ceremonies and other subjects designed to make his entry into the Air Force as smooth as possible. Sergeant Phillips explained that the six-week basic training is primarily an air Force orientation course.

Upon completion of his basic training, Kent will continue his training in the Mechanical Career Field. He will be earning credits toward an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences through the Community College of the Air Force.

Sgt. Phillips added that if anyone is interested in learning more about these or any of the many Air Force opportunities to contact him at 696-252-540 (collect) or to visit him at the Bluegrass Commerce Building, 400 East Vine Street, Lexington, Ky.

—See Medical applications, page 12

Medical applications are now being accepted by RKMSF

The Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund (RKMSF) is in the process of accepting applications from Kentucky residents who have been accepted to study at one of the state's two medical universities. The fund provides \$4,000 loans per year to recipients who are willing to practice in rural Kentucky for one year for each loan they receive. Special forgiveness of loans is available to those recipients who provide practice in critical service areas for each year they receive a loan.

The fund is the oldest and most successful in the nation. The fund has

Eight fires reported during 6-day period

Woodrow Wilson, county fire chief, reported eight fires from March 14 through March 19.

On March 14 there were fires at the Brooks Russell farm, Saltwell Road, a grass fire caused from burning brush; Randall Ritchie, Saltwell Road, grass fire, cause unknown; Wayne Jody, Somerset Road, grass fire caused from burning tobacco beds; Gayle Tinscher, Myers Road, bales of hay, cause

vandalism; Woody Cox, Highway 66, house fire, complete loss to house and contents, cause unknown.

On March 15 a fire was reported at Gayle Tinscher's, Myers Road, grass fire, cause unknown; Floyd Gilson, East Union Road, grass fire, cause burning brush.

On March 19 a fire at Phil Hillock's, Short Stoney, cause was burning root in chimney.

Council election to be in April

The Nicholas County Schools Title I program will be electing a Parents Advisory Council to serve in planning, implementing and evaluating the Title I program for the coming two school years. Any parent of a child attending Nicholas County Schools may serve on this council. The majority of the members must be, however, parents of Title I eligible children. The local school district may receive funds under Title I only if this council is established.

On April 1, 1981, consent to serve forms will be sent home with each child in Nicholas County Schools. Those parents wishing to serve on this council may have their names placed on the ballot by completing the consent-to-serve form and returning it to school.

After this process is completed, ballots will be prepared containing the names of those parents who wish to serve on this council. This ballot will be sent to all parents of Title I eligible children so they may vote. The results of this balloting will be announced as soon as the election process is completed.

Anyone needing further information about this election may contact Bill Guthrie at the Nicholas County Board of Education.

Six marketing cards still unreturned

All but six marketing cards have been returned to the ASCS Office. Those farmers who have not returned their cards are reminded to do so at once. Burley tobacco notices were mailed on March 16. All burley tobacco producers should have now received their quota notice.

Quota notices are being held on some farms for the following reason: Failure to return the marketing card; failure to return the card certificate; unmarked tobacco; errors made on sales shown on the marketing card; and late sales which have not been recorded.

Burley leases are being held on some farms for the following reason: Failure to return the marketing card; failure to return the card certificate; unmarked tobacco; errors made on sales shown on the marketing card; and late sales which have not been recorded.

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Contact Rep. Arnold with problem interim committees may help solve it

Rep. Adrian Arnold, D-Mt. Sterling, encourages citizens in Nicholas, Bath, Fleming and Montgomery Counties to contact him if they have a problem they would like members of the General Assembly to study during the legislative interim.

"The 1981 legislative interim is at its half-way point," Arnold said. "If anyone has a problem they want reviewed by the 1981 General Assembly, they should begin now getting information to me or other members of the legislature as soon as possible so the interim committees can begin studying the issue."

The legislative interim gives members of the General Assembly an opportunity to study issues in greater depth than the hectic 90 days of a legislative session, Arnold explained.

Representative Arnold's interim activities include the interim committee studying county government and its problems. He is co-chairman of that panel, and chairs the subcommittee that is concerned with Kentucky's county jails. The subcommittee has

toured a number of county jails and talked with jailers about their problems of county government and diet and medical care for prisoners.

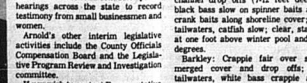
The Interim Joint Committee on Counties and Special Districts is also reviewing the financial problems of county government and attempting to develop legislation that will allow local officials to invest life funds until the state revenue department.

In addition to chairing the counties committee, Arnold is also a working member of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and its subcommittee on agriculture.

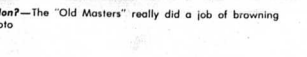
He is a member of the Small Business Task Force which has conducted public hearings across the state to record testimony from small businessmen and women.

Arnold's other interim legislative activities include the County Official Compensation Board and the Legislative Program Review and Investigation Committee.

If you wish to contact Representative Adrian Arnold, he can be reached by phone at his home (606) 496-2004, or by mail, Route Three, Mt. Sterling, Ky. 40353.



Rep. Arnold



Remember this occasion?—The "Old Masters" really did a job of browning chicken.—Mercury photo

FISHING SLOW Winter-like, but officially it's spring

Although it's officially spring, winter-like weather still prevails in Kentucky and fishing activity on the state's 15 largest lakes is light. The lake-by-lake rundown, as compiled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is as follows:

—Kentucky: Crapple slow over creek channel drop offs (7-12 feet deep); black bass slow on spinner baits and crank baits along shoreline cover; in tailwaters, catfish slow, stable at one foot above winter pool and 47 degrees.

—Barkley: Crapple fair over submerged cover and drop offs; in tailwaters, white bass submerged and catfish fair, clear to murky, stable at one foot above winter pool and 47 degrees.

—Barren: Crapple slow over submerged cover; clear, rising slowly, 10 feet above winter pool and 46 degrees. Nozin: Crapple slow over submerged cover; black bass slow on jigs and crankbaits off rocky points and steep banks; clear to murky, stable at 11 feet above winter pool and 47 degrees.

—Rough River: Crapple slow in cover and over submerged cover; clear to murky to muddy, rising slowly, 13 feet above winter pool and 46 degrees.

—Harrison: Crapple fair in upper lake over submerged cover (6-8 feet deep); black bass slow on jigs and plastic worms off points and steep banks; clear to murky, stable at 15 feet above winter pool and 46 degrees.

—Green: Crapple slow over submerged cover; clear to murky, rising, three feet above winter pool and 50 degrees.

—Chamberland: Crapple slow over submerged cover (10-15 feet deep); black bass slow on jig and pork rind combinations off points and steep banks; in tailwaters, trout good (but small); clear to murky, stable at 20 feet below timberline and 44 degrees.

—Dale Hollow: Crapple good but small over submerged cover (10-12 feet deep); clear to murky, stable at six feet below pool and 46 degrees.

—Laurel: Trout fair still fishing warm, cheese or corn and by trailing small crank baits; clear, stable at 20 feet below power pool and 46 degrees.

—Can Run: Crapple slow over submerged cover; clear to murky, stable at winter pool and 41 degrees.

—Bockhorn: No activity; murky to winter pool and 46 degrees.

—Grayson: No activity; clear, stable at winter pool and 43 degrees.

—See Winter-like, page 12