

Jim Coy is back in uniform

Patrolman's lawsuit settled out of court

James W. Coy is a happy man again. Last Friday night he put on his blue and gray uniform, pinned on his badge and climbed behind the wheel of a cruiser for the first time since May 29. And since that day in May, Coy has been embroiled in a legal battle with the mayor and City of Carlisle to the tune of a \$125,000 lawsuit charging that he was fired from the local police force because of "a personal vendetta the Mayor had against the plaintiff."

But that legal battle appears to be over. Coy is back on the job and the attorneys in the case have apparently reached an out-of-court settlement.

Jim LeMaster, Coy's attorney, said Monday night that an agreement has been reached, but he preferred not to comment on its terms until it had been signed by both parties and Circuit Judge John LaF. The city's attorney, Stockton Wood, could not be reached for comment Monday or Tuesday.

One thing is for certain. Jim Coy is back on the force. And he's proud to be back.

"I feel very confident and proud to be back," the patrolman said Monday night. "I think this shows they knew I

was right all along. I know what I felt inside all along was right."

Coy said that he "got what he wanted" in the settlement (namely his job back), but wouldn't comment on the specifics until his attorneys have finished all the paperwork.

Reinstated to his full former position, Coy is third in the chain of command in the local police force.

Coy's battle with the mayor and the city began back in May when he was fired from the force without reason by Mayor Bill Power.

In a special emergency meeting of the City Council May 29, Council overwhelmingly objected to the firing of Coy without a hearing, and with no official reason given.

Council then passed an ordinance forbidding the future dismissal of any police personnel by the mayor without Council's consent.

However, at the June 8 regular session meeting of the Council, the body chose not to override the mayor and reinstate the former patrolman.

The City's attorney, Stockton Wood, has maintained throughout the case that the mayor does have the "statutory authority to fire policemen."

Coy and his attorneys then filed suit in Nicholas County Circuit Court the first week in September, calling for a \$125,000 judgment against the City and the Mayor.

"The suit charged that Coy was fired from his job as a police officer without the cause and in an arbitrary and unreasonable manner, thereby depriving him of his property without due process of law in derogation of his rights granted him under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments."

The suit charged further that Coy was fired "from his job as a police officer, by reason of a personal vendetta the Mayor had against the plaintiff." That, charged the suit, was an abuse of the authority of the mayor's office.

The suit demanded that the City of Carlisle and Mayor Power be forced to pay \$25,000 and an additional \$100,000 in "exemplary and punitive damages."

The city and mayor then filed a response in Circuit Court in which they denied "each and every" allegation contained in the suit, except for an agreement on one section "as alleged the passage of an Ordinance by the City."

— See Coy, page 14



After fighting a tough legal battle with the city and mayor since May, Jim Coy returned to the Carlisle police force last Friday night. Attorneys in the case have reached an out-of-court settlement which restores Coy to his former full-time position on the force. — Former photo.

Will ambulance situation affect county hospital?

With plans to provide an ambulance service in the county after Dec. 31 at a standstill, local hospital administrator Robert Hester expects the impact of the loss of service will do more to reduce the level of emergency care at the Nicholas County Hospital, than it will reduce the number of patients at the facility.

"I don't think it will hurt us as much as you would think," Hester said in an interview Monday. "The thing that worries us is the condition of the patients when they get here."

Hester said that ability of trained EMTs to stabilize a patient before he comes into the emergency room is in many cases a lifesaver. "If you have a heart attack patient who needs oxygen an EMT will begin to administer it immediately. If you draw that same heart attack patient into the back of a pickup truck and head for the hospital, Hester said, the patient's chance of survival isn't very good.

Another loss along with the ambulance service will be the advance

communication with the hospital. Hester said that when a patient is picked up by the current service "they radio in, and everyone is able to set up in 15 minutes." Hester said this setting up included knowing whether or not certain technicians would have to be called in, getting the x-ray technicians on call to the hospital, and getting doctors to the emergency facility.

Without the advance notice via radio, the hospital could be faced with the possibility of having an emergency showing up at the door, and with doctors and technicians having to be called in while they are there waiting. Valuable time could be lost in dire emergencies.

While details of exactly how (or even whether) other county's ambulance services would respond if and when they received an emergency call from Nicholas are not yet known, Hester said he was pretty sure they would come for an emergency, but the response time will be atrocious. "Can you imagine what will happen when

someone calls Bourbon or Harrison County for an ambulance and says 'I live a couple of miles from Bald Hill, or near Mexico?' We could be talking about a response time of 30 minutes or more."

Hester said he will soon be in contact with ambulance services in Lexington to check out the problems in transporting people between the local health care facility and Lexington hospitals.

Another impact of the loss of the ambulance service on the hospital could lie in the area of physician recruitment. "It will make it tough to recruit new physicians," Hester said. "When they ask about emergency medical transportation and you have to tell them that your emergency transportation is the family pickup, it could affect their decisions. It has to be considered. It is part of the medicine they will be practicing."

However, Hester doesn't think the service will necessarily cost the county two new doctors who are very close to a

— See Will Ambulance, page 14

Jackets conclude season with playoff loss to Bellevue

It was Friday the 13th, and a horde of black cats crossed the Nicholas County path during a 24-0 playoff defeat at the hands of Northern Kentucky Powerhouse Bellevue.

A string of early jacket mistakes combined with a big, strong Bellevue squad that went for broke until the final gun sounded in hand the Jackets a defeat that was unrelieved by their district championship regular-season play.

"The victory will send Bellevue into state playoff competition against Pikeville this weekend. The loss sent the Bluejackets home to analyze the results of a 54 regular season record."

"We had the most success we could have had," said head jacket coach Ben Pumphrey of his thinly staffed squad that faced three teams that ended up in post-season playoff competition during the season.

"This was probably the most pleasing group of kids I've ever got to

coach," said the veteran Jacket coach. "They played so hard and tried so hard. This group of kids really laid it on the line."

"Maybe 54 isn't a winning season," Pumphrey continued, "but for these kids, the people we played, and the way they played, that was a heck of a season."

The losses that must stand out as the most painful for the Jackets and their partisans have to be three heart-breaking losses to Bath County, Harland and Paris. In a game of inches, and with the Jackets stalling on their own 32 yard line, a disastrous mistake on the map to punter Mike Woosley handed the lead to the cranky old Tugers.

The Tigers then keyed on Jacket survivors to quickly build up a wide lead. With the Nicholas County ground

until the final minute in an attempt to run up the score.

It was a team that could walk away from a game that would leave traumatically humiliated many; not with tails tucked between legs, but with heads held high.

"There was never a time that someone said 'Coach I want out,'" said Pumphrey. "The game was never tough."

The beginning minutes of the playoff contest sent Bellevue off to the races and set the tone for the rest of the night. With the Jackets stalling on their own 32 yard line, a disastrous mistake on the map to punter Mike Woosley handed the lead to the cranky old Tugers.

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— See Jackets, page 10

Multi-party lines now thing of the past

When South Central Bell lineman Dennis Dotson climbed a telephone pole on the Sugar Creek Road and switched over the service to Mr. and Mrs. David Moran, four and eight-party phone lines became a thing of the past in Nicholas County.

With the elimination of multi-party lines in the county, all residents either have private lines or share only a two-party line. The switchover was the result of a \$54,000 project in Nicholas County, according to Carl Hiett Jr., District Manager of South Central Bell.

All the direction of Kentucky's Utility Regulatory Commission in 1972, the company began working to eliminate all four and eight-party lines in the state.

In 1979, there were more than 50,000 such lines statewide. Today there are fewer than 200. All four and eight-party lines will be gone by the end of this year.

In 1979, Nicholas County had 577 such lines.

"It will cost taken an nine years — the lines, poles and cabling equipment — needed to replace these lines," Hiett said.

"This had been a major effort on our part. We're proud of our accomplishments," he said, but admitted that he looks forward "to getting this big statewide project behind us."

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U.S. highway 68 and Kentucky highways 32 and 36 will be the first roads in the county to be cleared when the first snowfall covers Nicholas County roads this winter, according to a snow removal plan announced last week by the state highway department.

A hard winter is expected, and the state Department of Transportation is prepared, according to Transportation Secretary Frank Metz.

More than 28,000 tons of salt are stored in salt dumps throughout the state to serve as a standby supply in a weather emergency. An additional 25,000 tons of salt will be purchased which puts the state in good shape to clear the 25,000 miles of state-maintained roads when winter weather hits, A.R. Romine, assistant state highway engineer, said.

"We always budget for an average winter season," he said, "and because of the mild winter last year, most of our salt supply was carried over to this year."

In addition, the state has a newer, better equipped fleet of snow removal equipment with the purchase of 60 new snow plows, 60 new salt spreaders, 100 new single-axle dump trucks and 21 tandem dump trucks.

To keep traffic flowing smoothly during the winter season ahead, the department has prepared snow removal priority maps for each county.

"Priorities have been set so the more heavily traveled routes can be cleared first," Romine said.

The four classifications of roads in Kentucky for snow and ice removal are:

Priority One — Interstate highways,

priority two, urban expressways and other state-maintained roads of exceptional volume.

Priority Two — State primary roads, expressways, bypasses and other access roads with slightly less traffic volume.

Priority Three — State secondary roads, rural secondary roads and other roads of equal traffic volume.

Priority Four — All remaining state-maintained roads not included in one of the first three categories.

The accompanying map shows the priority rating of various roads in Nicholas County.

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The accompanying map shows the priority rating of various roads in Nicholas County.

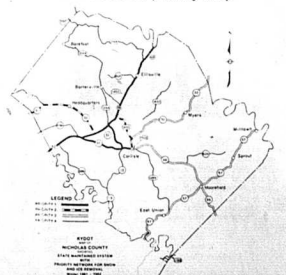
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Snow removal priority map



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Dennis Dotson