

## FEB

## 11

## 1982

### City looks at replacement of gas lines

The city council initiated steps last week that could lead to a \$60,000 to \$70,000 project to completely replace Carlisle's crumbling gas lines with a completely new system.

The action came when the council, in a special called meeting last Tuesday night, gave the go-ahead to a Lexington consulting firm to begin checking exact costs and financing details for the project. The consultants hired for the job are with Gas Management Associates from Lexington.

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gas lines showed that lost and unaccounted for gas had risen 18 percent over the last year. At current rates, Aher told the council, the city is losing through Dec. 30 over \$120,000 per year.

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### Cable outlets are hot topic for Council

The City Council meeting Monday night opened on a congratulatory note as member Carlisle Lester presented Mayor Frankie Hughes with a Kentucky Colonel commission.

The mayor, scripted and pleased, quipped, "Do I get a frame?"

Mrs. Fred Whaley, secretary of the Carlisle Community Women's Club, after several months of inquiry with GVC Telecommunications over the cable hook-up and rental payments on 11½ sets at Nicholas County Hospital, presented her case to Council.

Terry L. Vogt, administrative assistant for GVC, was present to answer charges and state the position of his company.

It was the understanding of Mrs. Whaley and the club and council that the original cable TV hook-up at the hospital was one of the seven free hook-ups that the city was to receive when the Carlisle Cable TV started its service several years ago. Hughes said she remembers that the verbal agreement was that the free hook-ups could be placed wherever the mayor or council wished.

Twenty-two dollars is being charged the Women's Club each month by GVC. Seven dollars is for the hook-up plus \$15.

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### Unemployment jumps in county

Nicholas County's unemployment rate jumped from a revised eight percent in November to 10.1 percent in December. These statistics were made available last week by the state Department for Human Resources.

The figures show that the number of jobless Nicholas County residents in December rose from 384 to 396 in December.

Across the state, unemployment increased to 10.6 percent in December. Ninety-six counties had rates higher than the national average of 8.3 percent.

Of those counties above the national average, 65 had rates of 10 percent or more.

See Unemployment, page 12

### Arnold unveils his jail reform bill

Rep. Adrian Arnold introduced legislation to General Assembly Monday that he hopes will begin to reform the state's sprawling county jail system.

Arnold introduced two bills which would:

- Place county jailers on a salary instead of requiring a bond court for them to be paid by the state.
- Create a central body with the authority to issue revenue bonds for jail construction and detention.
- Allow counties to close jails and contract with other counties to detain prisoners.

Arnold told The Mercury Monday morning, before introducing the legislation at a press conference in Frankfort, that the two bills are the result of two years of work that has involved the interim committee he chaired, the state Justice and Corrections Departments and the Kentucky Jailers' Association.

"I think we have a lot of support for it (the bills)," he said in a telephone interview. "We have to act now, rather than react later."

The last statement referred to one of the Mt. Sterling lawmaker's biggest fears about the current situation in most county jails.

See Jail reform, page 12



Up in smoke

Trooper John Hall and Jailer Lynn Bowles destroyed some 20 pounds of marijuana at the county landfill last Thursday as landfill foreman Bill Herrin looked on. The marijuana was seized in an arrest by Hall and Trooper Jim Curry in the county Nov. 10. Kentucky State Police narcotics agents have estimated the value of the substance, when broken down for sale, to be around \$11,000. — Mercury photo.

### Bus routes still trouble for board

The Nicholas County School Board continued to be plagued by problems with the county's bus routes, when Mrs. Thelma Poe appeared before the board at Monday night's regular monthly meeting.

Breaking down in tears several times during the meeting, Mrs. Poe complained that an earlier arrangement made by the board for picking up her eight-year-old son was not working out.

After she and her husband appeared before the board in November complaining that a 30-foot walk for her son every morning to catch the bus aggravated his health condition he has asthma, the board decided to have the bus which picks him up pull onto a bridge some 100 feet from the Poe's gate.

Monday night Poe said that the bus had not waited in her son before going ahead and turning around several times, and that the less than two-minute wait for her son was causing him to be harassed by other children on the bus and at least one parent.

Sgt. Don Elder confirmed that one unidentified parent had followed the bus from the Poe's home near the intersection of the Morning Glory and Salsbury roads, and watched the child get off the bus.

Elder told Poe that Mrs. Snapp, who drives the bus that picks up the child, had only gone ahead and turned around on those mornings when the district's

See Bus routes, page 12

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See Jail reform, page 12

### Million-dollar policy Court is insured against lawsuits

The fiscal court took out an insurance policy last Wednesday that would, among other things, insure the county or up to one million dollars against lawsuits arising out of "errors and omissions" of public officials.

The court took the policy, which carries an annual premium of \$2,111, from the Kentucky Local Government Bond Trust. The policy will be written through local insurance agent Custer Blair.

The policy also includes "comprehensive general" coverage which will replace the county's present policy. Blair said that the added coverage of "errors and omissions" and "law enforcement liability" will cost \$4.13 more than the county's previous policy. The county will get a pre-arranged refund on the old policy which was renewed in October.

The "comprehensive general" policy covers all county boards, commissions and employees for up to one million dollars in liability, Blair said the policy would also cover malpractice insurance for county-employed EMTs.

The public officials errors and omissions' policy insures county officials for up to one million dollars in the event of a lawsuit filed for an action they take (or fail to take) in their official capacity.

The policy carries a \$100,000 deductible stipulation, but will cover acts up to one year before the policy was written.

The "law enforcement liability" policy covers up to \$200,000 for suits arising from the actions of law enforcement officers. The policy covers suits for personal injury (even "intentional acts"), assault and battery, civil rights violations, and other areas.

The policy also carries \$100,000 of accidental life insurance for county employees with surviving spouses.

The entire package is set up on an "occurrence basis" which means "claims made" basis. That means, Blair told the court, that the county

See Court insured, page 11

### Industries and Knitting accepting applications

Both Blue Grass Industries and Blue Grass Knitting began taking job applications this week, and hope to hire additional workers in the next few weeks.

Blue Grass Industries, which is owned by President Don Hasey, said Tuesday that he is uncertain as to how many workers will be hired, but said "Jackie is working on some new products," and the local factory hopes to start production on the new facilities in the near future.

"We won't know for a couple of weeks how many it will be," he said.

Hasey said Blue Grass is "pretty optimistic" about the business outlook in the near future, and

"we're going to maintain and try to do some expansion in the next 12 months."

Blue Grass Knitting, which is owned by Bill Plant Manager Jerry Peters, said he had received an official word from Jackie as of Monday, but that he is taking applications "fast as one."

Peters said that "there is a possibility we'll add a few" in the coming weeks.

However, Peters said his work force at the Knitting factory is still a little heavy right now — "he doesn't foresee hiring a large number in the near future at all."

### Kentucky's population is older, more rural

Kentucky's population grew more in the '70s than in any other decade in this century. And it grew older, predominantly more female and a bit more rural.

A detailed study of the 1980 census was released last week by the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Center. The report highlighted some very interesting facts about the changes the state saw in the 1970s. For example:

- Kentucky's population growth rate of 13.1 percent exceeded that of the state as a whole, which was 11.4 percent.
- The state's population grew older, based on an increase in median age from 27.7 in 1970 to 28.1 years as of Census Day, April 1, 1980, but Kentucky residents are younger than the U.S. median age of 30.3 years.
- In Kentucky, there are 2.1 percent more women than men.
- The number of households in Kentucky increased by 19 percent over the decade to 1,262,300.
- More than 72 percent of Kentucky's citizens aged 60 years or over lived alone in 1980.
- The median value of houses shot up to \$45,200 during the ten-year span, but still remained well below the

national median of \$47,200.

The number of housing units in the Commonwealth jumped 28 percent to 1,526,000.

The number of mobile homes in Kentucky's housing stock more than tripled — from 33,773 to 107,011 — and that constituted eight percent of the state's housing.

The number of black Kentuckians increased, but, proportionately, the percentage of blacks decreased to 7.1. Other non-whites totaled 72,000, only six-tenths of one percent of the state population.

Taking a close look at the new U. of L. report comparing the latest figures with those for the 1970 census, one finds that the number of young Kentuckians (those 19 and under) decreased during the '70s to a total of 1,228,200. At the same time, those 65 and older increased 21.4 percent to 690,833. In between — those 20 to 64 years old the population total increased 23.1 percent to 3,207,133.

The largest decrease in its younger population occurred in Jefferson County which lost some 26 percent. Letcher, Campbell and Pulaski counties were close behind. Owsen County, on the other hand, had an 88 percent

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