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Meeting spurs look into local development

Local business, civic and political leaders formed on Monday night a private discussion group of stimulating economic development in Carlisle and Nicholas County with Wayne Foster from the Blue Grass Area Development District. Plans that meeting developed a group to investigate possible alternatives in a local movement for economic development.

At the suggestion of local attorney Charles Cox, an informal five-man board was formed to investigate existing what type of organization would be most effective in leading a local effort to promote economic growth.

Cox suggested that John Burke, local K.U. manager and president of a new defunct Chamber of Commerce, might be a logical executive force behind the body.

Foster told the group that his experience showed that a private corporation usually worked better. "Industrial Authority," he said, "was often formed quickly and with little money."

But Foster said that there would be "some organization, hopefully one organization, in charge" of leading an effort to ready and then promote the county for new development.

Foster said that most businesses are going "pretty slow right now" in terms of actual relocation, but that many "are still looking."

If the community's goal is to attract new industry, Foster said an important step is to work closely with the state commerce department. He said that probably "80 or 90 percent of all industrial clients will come through the commerce department."

Foster also said that new programs need to be implemented to increase the "screening" role of the commerce department in making committees and industries considering expansion and relocation.

The Blue Grass ADD consultant said that all but three counties in this district have some form of industrial authority, but that most are not very active. "If you can get organized and really start pushing, it would make a big impression," he said.

Foster said that the county would need some research into areas that both the commerce department and prospective industries would be interested in. Those statistics would include things like available labor supply, prevailing wage rates, sewage and water capacity etc.

He also said that a prospective industry would look very closely at a local industrial site, the labor supply, commercial development, and local financial management. In addition to things like recreation, education and available transportation.

"The ribbon cutting is the glamorous part," Foster said, "there's a lot of hard work in getting your community ready."

But president Don Haney told the group that he felt "it's a mistake to talk about new industry now." Haney said that the community needs to concentrate on what it can offer as an industry first. Haney said that he currently has

five employees at the local plant who are unable to find housing locally.

He said that expansion in the future plans for BCI, but "what are we going to do for housing, what have we got to offer executives?"

Haney also questioned statistic John Burke had given to the city council and that were cited in The Carlisle Mercury which showed that BCI had fallen from being the state's 11th largest employer in 1963 to 30th in 1981. Haney said that the difference between 1963 and 1981 at the Carlisle plant was only 20 persons. Burke responded that the figures he cited were obtained in a January edition of Kentucky Business Ledger.

Foster told the group, in response to a question from William Haddock, that

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Court considers insuring county against lawsuits

The fiscal court met with local insurance agent Clutter Blair and a representative of the Kentucky Local Government Insurance Plan Monday night to discuss the possibility of insuring court members and county employees from lawsuits that arise in relation to their public duties.

Larry Hartman, of Louisville, told the court that the Supreme Court had taken an interest in a bill that would exempt county members, and that magistrates could now be sued personally and held personally liable for injuries caused by an agency or employee of county government that they are responsible for supervising.

Magistrate Harold Mitchell and Judge/Executive Reese Smoot both expressed concerns about the potential for lawsuits that exist at the county jail. They stated their worries that failure to administer prompt medical attention to a prisoner could result in litigation.

One of the options in the package offered the court even provided coverage for punitive damages.

Clutter Blair was to obtain information on the county for Hartman, and he was to return with a price quote for the coverage. He is tentatively set to meet back with the court on Feb. 3, at 10 a.m.

In other action, the court approved sheriff's retirement on county taxes. The settlement should be collected \$104,823.11 in 1981 county taxes, and left a balance of \$22,719.43 for the new sheriff's department to collect.

Approved the revenue sharing budget additions that came as result of unapproved federal funds totaling \$90,850 being sent to the county.

At a called meeting of the court last Tuesday, the following business was conducted:

John Burke, local K.U. manager, discussed possibilities for a local industrial authority, and arranged Monday night's meeting.

Local Civil Defense director Russell also discussed the purchase of two walkie-talkies plus one charger from Matthews.

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Snowy farmyard
Cattle were about the only thing one could find braving the icy winter temperatures around the county Sunday, as record-breaking lows once again dominated the weekend.

1982 agricultural forecast predicts lean year for farm income

Nicholas County farmers won't receive any encouraging news from a recent 1982 agricultural forecast prepared by ag economists at the University of Kentucky. But then, they probably won't be surprised.

The bottom line: "Little evidence exists at this time for predicting a good year for farm income. Cash income could be down another \$1 billion to \$2 billion and inventory adjustments reflecting 1981 crop developments could further reduce net farm income this year, reports U.K.'s Dr. W. Wilson Houston.

Houston said overall farm prices are being depressed by prospects for large U.S. crops as well as by slow economic growth here and already high interest rates and the strength of the dollar on foreign currency markets.

"Weak economic conditions worldwide and a more expensive dollar are curbing U.S. agricultural exports,"

the economist in his report published in the current issue of Kentucky AgriBusiness News. He noted that the absence of strength in all major sectors of final demand "should curtail the prospects for growth during the next several months will be modest at best."

Here are summaries of the outlooks prepared by the agricultural economists:

BURLEY TOBACCO

Burley tobacco should be a very profitable crop for producers in 1982 because of heavy burley use expected in both domestic and export markets, according to Dr. D. Milton Shuffert, who attributes this prospect to the more normal supply available as a result of the large 1981 crop, estimated to be 716 million pounds.

Shuffert said the strong market for burley crop and the purchase of most

Local woman is hospitalized after accident

A two-vehicle accident on a slick Scribner Road Saturday left one local woman hospitalized with multiple head injuries, while the driver of the second car escaped unharmed.

Mrs. Lee Peters, Route 2, Carlisle, was rushed to the Nicholas County Hospital after a car she was driving collided with an oncoming car driven by Jeffrey J. Fink of Carlisle.

According to the police accident report filed by Patrolman Terry Truesell, Peters' car was traveling east on Scribner Road while Fink's car was traveling west on the narrow county road when the accident occurred. The report states that the accident was caused when "they slid on ice and collided." The accident occurred around 3 p.m.

Mrs. Peters was released from the local hospital Monday, after receiving care for head lacerations and a

"See Woman hospitalized, page 18"

Abraham's is closing

After over 45 years of business in Carlisle, Abraham's Ladies Shop on Main Street will be closing its doors for good in about a month.

Rose Marie Farah, who has managed the store for the last 13 years, says that a busy schedule and "four active, growing kids" are prompting her retirement.

Mrs. Farah said that she and her husband Letha, have not been able to find a buyer for the apparel shop. She said that they have been trying to sell the shop through an ad in some realtor.

"We've had possible buyers," she said, "but with the local financial situation the way it is, they've backed off."

"This is a happy going out of business story," Mrs. Farah said, leaving the business to spend more time with her family.

Mrs. Farah said that the decision to close the shop "has been on the works

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Sen. Ford reveals impressions of early legislative action

Local senator opposes mandatory kindergarten; likes more competitive tobacco warehouses

Sen. Ed Ford said Saturday at the local courthouse that he feels two issues arising early in the 1982 legislative session have particularly strong implications for small rural areas like Nicholas County. Those issues are the administration's proposal to make kindergarten mandatory, and a bill that would allow tobacco warehouses to offer a lower fee for burley farmers who bale their tobacco.

Sen. Ford said he will oppose the move to make kindergarten mandatory for Kentucky children. "There's no question about the benefits kindergarten provides to children," he said, "but I do question taking the decision away from the local schools and parents."

"No other state in the nation has mandatory kindergarten," the Cynthiana lawmaker said. "What it would be doing is to require every child 13 years" of schooling.

Ford said he questions whether this is the right time to "start new programs when we are so short on

money."

His major objection to mandatory kindergarten is that there is no state budgetary provision for transporting the children in and from schools in local school boards, which operate kindergarten on a half-day basis (that Nicholas can finance only one-way transportation, and if parents cannot provide transportation, "those kids could be wards of local school boards for a full day a day." They would have to ride the regular morning bus and then come home on the regular afternoon bus.

"That's an awfully long day for a five-year-old child," Ford said.

Another item that Ford says will have significant impact on the local community is a bill that has already been passed in the Senate that would allow tobacco warehouses to charge farmers a lower fee for baling burley tobacco that is marketed in bales.

Ford says the bill holds "distinct advantages" for Nicholas County

farmers. The move "should create an air of competition between the warehouses," Ford said, "and that should work to the farmer's advantage."

Ford predicted that the bill should pass in the house this week.

In other areas, Ford said that it is a "total agreement" with the work Rep. Adrian Arnold is doing in efforts to allocate some of the problems of the state's crumbling jail system. He said that Arnold's role in the interim investigation of the problem puts him "on the level" of jail reform measures in the legislature. Ford said that he will "hold him up."

As for redistricting, Ford said that a Senate bill already introduced would not substantially alter his district (Burlew, Fayette, Harrison, Nicholas, Robertson, Scott and Woodford). Although he did say that he could be making a three percent gain in constituents with the addition of some of Fayette County.

In action surrounding congressional redistricting, Ford said the latest plan he saw had once again moved Nicholas County from the seventh district to the sixth district. The district is currently represented by Congressman Carl Albert. The Sixth is currently represented by Congressman Larry Hopkins.

Ford said that among the people he had talked to in the county about the matter, it seemed an "even split" between those who favored one district over another. Ford encouraged local residents to let him know their preference so he can work to get the county in the district where its citizens feel they will be best served in Washington.

On the fact that both he and Rep. Arnold are chasing the counties and special districts committees in their respective houses, Ford said that the situation should prove very beneficial to both legislators. "Adrian and I work very closely together," he said.

That committee exercise legislation directed at local county governments ranging in scope from taxing and

"See Cynthiana lawmaker, page 18"

Senator Ed Ford checks over some notes during a break in the action of the 1982 legislative session. —Mercury file photo.

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