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Happy St. Pat's Day!

The Carlisle Mercury

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Gas rates may not decrease after all, new survey reveals

A gas survey conducted by Bluegrass ADD, jurisdiction of the closed Walnut Street bridge at the edge of Dorseyville, and a proposed water line extension were the "main courses" at City Council's marathon session Monday night.

It appears that city gas customers will not realize a gas rate decrease as was thought before the BGADD survey was conducted. After analyzing 1983 gas revenues and expenses, Bluegrass ADD's survey concludes that the system was $88,879 in the red.

The survey states that the total revenue needed in 1984 to operate the gas system is projected to be: Operating and maintenance $1,119,458; debt service $81,975; depreciation and renovation $38,354; total $1,239,687. Expected revenue for 1984 is $1,211,308.

Conclusion: ". . . if you maintain your current rate schedule for the entire year, we project a $28,182 deficit for the gas utility for calendar 1984".

Bluegrass ADD recommends that the city pass along (to the customers) each rate increase that Columbia Gas imposes on the city in order to cut down on the deficit.

The survey also concludes: "This projected shortfall is not what neither you nor we expected to find. We undertook this effort suspecting that we would find a surplus in the system operation and expected to be in a position to qualify the amount of rate relief that you could offer to your customers. . ."

It is also concluded that the gas system can no longer subsidize the water and sewer operations. "Surplus revenues derived from the gas operations have been pledged largely to the debt service for the renovation project."

The only relief in sight is that in August 1985 the $140,000 renovation loan from The First National Bank ($62,400 paytack annually) will be paid off, and hopefully ". . . there is a possibility of a rate decrease at that point."

At the conclusion of the survey presentation by Don Hassall and Cathy Figiestahler, Tommy Vaughn moved to leave the water, sewer and gas rates as they are according to the existing ordinance, until things can be looked into. A roll call vote passed the motion with Betty Barton voting against it.

Council also moved to accept Amendment No. 2 of the June 15, 1983 agreement with Bluegrass ADD, and instructed Mayor Franklin Hughes to sign the amendment. The amendment calls for gas survey costs not to exceed $1,250, with the expectation of completion to be April 9, 1984. The cost to date is $798. Betty Barton voted against the motion.

Bridge controversy

Eleven residents of Dorseyville were present to plead their case concerning the urgent need to have the Walnut Street bridge repaired and opened to traffic.

Emergency situations that might arise requiring an ambulance or fire engine seemed to be the main concern. With spring approaching and the possibility of high water and flooding, they feel the problem could be compounded.

* See Gas Rates, page 9

DOUGHERTY LODGE CALLS FRIDAY MEETING

Dougherty Lodge No. 65, F. & A.M. will hold a special called meeting on Friday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. All officers and members are urged to attend.

New wildlife club officers

Officers of the newly-formed Wildlife Club Inc. are, from left, Eugene Sibert, vice-president; C.T. McFarland, president, and Ricky Broderick, secretary-treasurer. To date 37 persons have joined NCWCI, which will observe National Wildlife Week March 18-24. (See story on page 12.) — Mercury photo

News Briefs

Blood donors sought for Monday's drive

Blood donors are described as the lifeline of a blood center. Without them blood would not be available for hospital patients.

The Nicholas County blood program will sponsor a blood drive in conjunction with Central Kentucky Blood Center on March 19 from 1-9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church.

Phil Hastings, chairman, said he is "counting on seeing all return donors as well as looking forward to seeing the special first-time donor.

"The role of the volunteer blood donor continues to be an important one. Central Kentucky Blood Center believes its donors are outstanding and wishes to recognize the value they have in saving of patients' lives," he said. For further information call Hastings at 289-7082.

Court to hear ordinance change

An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2, pertaining to electioneering at the polls to prohibit persons from electioneering within 300 feet of a polling place on election day, will be considered for passage at a meeting of Nicholas County Fiscal Court, Wednesday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

Text of the ordinance is on file in the office of Rose Scott, county clerk, and may be examined between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Fire destroys house trailer

Only two fires have been reported in Nicholas County so far in March, according to Chief Woodrow Wilson.

On March 8, a house trailer and its contents owned by Edward Lee James on Somerset Road, 10 miles southeast of Carlisle, were completely destroyed about 10:15 a.m.

An overheated wood stove was the probable cause of the fire.

On March 7, about 18:30 a.m. the county department was called to the home of Alan Flora on Buffalo Trace Road, nine miles from Carlisle, to extinguish a soot fire in the chimney. Little or no damage was reported.

Complete concentration

Daniel Flora concentrates on the Pinewood Derby track as he waits for his car to move. Daniel is a member of Boy Scout Troop 50. Action took place at the KNG Armory. Winners are pictured on page 4. — Photo submitted

Compile best record in 25 years

The 1984 Nicholas County Bluejackets, runners-up in the 37th District tournament, compiled the best 10th Region record since the 1959 team by advancing to the semi-finals before bowing to Pendleton County. Standing from left, Todd Hedges, Phillip Caldiron, Kevin Wells, Doug McCord, Steve Ledford, Darren Robinson, Steve Anderson, Cliff Ramsey, Rocky Young and Gary Dotson. Kneeling, Greg McNabb, Eric McGuffey and Bobby Woosley. Anderson was named to the 10th Region all-tournament team. — Photo submitted

Late rally falls nine short as Bluejackets bow in 10th

"Mr. T." of the 10th Region, Pendleton County's Talbert Turner turned in one of his finest games ever in leading his Wildcat teammates to a 62-56 win over Nicholas County Friday at Mason County.

The 5-10 senior guard popped in 39 points, 25 in the second half, to eliminate the stubborn Jackets in semi-final tournament play.

Down 13 points going into the final period, NCHS stormed back to outscore the winners 27-21 in the fourth quarter.

But it wasn't to be. Poor shooting in the early going virtually buried any hopes of a second straight upset. The Jackets surprised host Mason County in the opening round 53-52 to advance to within one win of a championship game date on Saturday night.

Instead, Pendleton provided the opposition for a while before falling to Bourbon County 89-77. The Colonels, 71-60 winners over the Jackets in the 37th District tournament finals a week before, face Marshall County in the opening round of the Sweet Sixteen at Rupp Arena.

Despite hitting only 26 of 65 field goal attempts (40%), the Jackets had two fewer turnovers (8-10) and four more rebounds (25-21) than the Wildcats.

The final margin was decided at the free throw line. The Jackets hit on four of five attempts but Pendleton sank 13 of 18, a nine point difference.

Steve Anderson again led the Jackets' attack with 22 points, despite a sluggish start (only six first-half points). Rocky Young had 11 points, Kevin Wells nine, Darren Robinson eight and Eric McGuffey six, as Coach Mike Kenney went with his five starters most of the way.

The 13-17 Jackets trailed at all the stops, 14-10, 26-18 and 44-29.

Turner's 39 points came on 14 field goals and 11 of 13 from the line.

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Anderson ended his cage career with a modern day school record 2,084 points.

The 6-2, 206-pound forward entered post season play 21 points shy of 2,000. In four tournament games Anderson added 106 points — 29 against MMI, 26 against Bourbon, 18 against Mason and 32 in his final game for the Jackets.

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The 1959 Nicholas County team was the last to reach 10th Region competition. The starting five was composed of R.S. Wills, Butch Campbell, Jack Guy, Leo Lynam and Steve Pumphrey.

These Jackets advanced to the semi-finals before dropping a one-point decision to Maysville, a 36-point winner over Scott County in the championship game the next night.

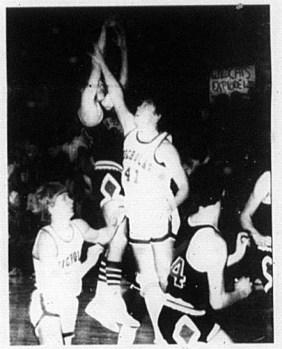
Two years earlier, the 1957 Jackets led by Ned Jennings and Donnie Hillock represented the 10th Region in the Sweet Sixteen.

Charlie Finnell holds the distinction of coaching the only NCHS team ever to play in the state tournament.

Following the Regional championship, a headline in the local paper read: Finnell's Fire-up Five Finishes First!

Other senior members of the 1967 team were Bobby Taylor, Ed Scott, Clifton Ritchie, Stanley Rose and David Small.

Career totals for Jennings and Donnie Gaunce, two of the most prolific scorers in NCHS history, were unavailable. Anyone with this information is asked to contact The Mercury office.



10th Region scramble

Darren Robinson goes for the blocked shot against Pendleton County in 10th Region semi-final action Friday afternoon at Mason County. The big junior scored eight points in a losing cause. — Photo submitted

Fund drive underway for training center

Mrs. Phyllis Cox and Bill Guthrie, local members of the board of directors of the Bourbon County Association for Retarded Citizens, report that a fund drive is underway to raise money for the Adult Training Center in Paris.

The Center is a sheltered workshop for mentally handicapped citizens. Eight Nicholas Countians attend the Center where they are taught skills which relate to working.

The Center contracts with local industries to perform such tasks as collating pamphlets and assembling parts into completed products. Those who work at the Center are paid on a piecework basis and are able to earn a limited income as well as learn work-related skills.

As with many other programs which serve the handicapped, the Center receives very limited funding and is constantly seeking funds. Although almost one-third of the clients who use the Center are from Nicholas County, in the past a disproportionately small part of the funding actually comes from Nicholas County.

The building which the Center currently occupies is too small to house expanded operations and has been cited by state officials as failing to meet proper access and safety requirements. The van which is used to transport Bourbon County citizens to the Center is in need of replacement. Both of these needs represent a considerable outlay of funds.

According to Mrs. Cox, letters have been sent this week to local businesses, religious and civic groups soliciting funds for the Center. Estimates are that the cost of buying and renovating any of several buildings under consideration would run in excess of $250,000. This cost must be raised if the program is to continue.

Anyone who would care to make a tax deductible contribution to this effort may do so by contacting Mrs. Cox or Guthrie or by sending the donation to the following address: Bourbon County Association for Retarded Citizens, P.O. Box 315, Paris, Ky. 40361.