

**JUN  
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# Tax collection delayed

## Fiscal Court waiting on Casey County appeal

**By Marsha Livingston**  
 of the Carlisle News staff  
 To avoid potential repayment of funds collected through the occupational tax enacted by Nicholas County Fiscal Court April 1, court voted to amend the tax ordinance delaying collection. The original ordinance called for collection to begin July 1, 1987, however the amendment will push

collection up to begin January 1, 1988. Court approved the drafting of the ordinance amendment in regular session, June 3. In mid May, Casey County Fiscal Court voted that a 1 percent payroll occupational tax levied by Nicholas County Fiscal Court unconstitutional. Even though the ruling did not directly affect Nicholas County,

Nicholas County Fiscal Court voted to delay the collection until a ruling has been reached in the Casey County case, which has been appealed. According to Shirley Gardner, secretary to Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot, officials in Frankfort said unless someone contested the Nicholas County decision, the county could proceed with plans to collect the

occupational tax in July. However, she did not receive a definite answer to the question of repayment of the funds, should the decision be ruled unconstitutional. "If someone contested the decision after the money collected from the tax has already been budgeted," Gardner explained, "the people in Frankfort could give me an answer as to whether we would have to refund the

money collected. "I have done research," Nicholas County Attorney Jack Conley said, "and even though I cannot find in the law where we would be required to refund the money, it is something to consider. "I feel we would be required to refund the money, should the decision be ruled unconstitutional," Conley added. After members of the court

questioned if the Casey County decision would be ruled upon in time to collect on the occupational tax to benefit the 1987-88 budget, Conley was not optimistic. "The people I talked with in Frankfort said they felt it would be a quick ruling," Smoot said. "But quick in court terms is not the same as quick in our terms," Conley answered. "We are in between a rock and continued on Page 13

### Hourly county employees cut to 32 hour work week

**By Marsha Livingston**  
 of the Carlisle News staff  
 Trimming the payroll more than \$50,000, Nicholas County Fiscal Court has cut back hours for all hourly county employees. Meeting in regular session June 3, court found it necessary to manage a budget with the loss of revenue sharing funds and without collection of the occupational tax to cut all positions and hourly work queries and landfill employees' hours by one fifth. Effective July 1, 1987, these employees will work 32 hours a week, paying days off to the day service will remain intact. However, this decision was not reached without extended discussion and deliberation. Magistrate Oville Atkinson brought up the subject of laying off three employees before court. "When the payroll tax was passed," Atkinson said, "people griped about the rock query and having three janitors in the courthouse. "Of course, we moved one janitor to the rock query, but we still have two during the winter months (December through March), but would need them again for the summer months."

Atkinson pointed out that this would only cut the cost of approximately one salary. Magistrate Elmo Myers voiced strong opinions against laying off employees. "I can't bring on maintenance another man's job," Myers said. "And I can't cutting three or four men just to keep the ambulance service for \$30,000," he added. Nicholas County Treasurer Wanda Dettle Atkinson said, "The county needs the ambulance. "Do we need employees working that don't have enough to do?" she asked. Russell, who pushed for the elimination of one janitor at the last court meeting, said he felt two janitors could handle the job of maintaining the courthouse. "It looks like we're going to have to lay someone off," Russell said. "I think it has to be a janitor, but if someone sees better way, I'm listening."

"You are concerned with laying off three or four men," he continued, "but we have to cut the ambulance service, the senior citizens center, the county extension office, and conservation and the department of parks and recreation, they're listening." Continued on Page 13

### Ambulance service gets six month contact offer

**By Marsha Livingston**  
 of the Carlisle News staff  
 Nicholas County Fiscal Court has accepted a bid of \$18,000 from Bonnie McDonald for provision of an ambulance service for the next six months. Meeting in regular session, June 3, court asked McDonald if she could lower her bid 10 percent. "No," McDonald answered. "I could take the cut of the court could provide a 24 hour dispatcher," he added, "but that didn't work out." McDonald had previously agreed to provide dispatch service as a phone unit in the judge-executive's office, however, this did not materialize. At the May 13 meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, McDonald bid \$30,000, an opponent former bid in 1984 of \$24,000. This bid, however, was for a one-year contract period.

McDonald said the Mercury 19 April since obtaining the \$24,000 contract, the cost of running the ambulance service has increased substantially. "Vehicle insurance has doubled, workman's compensation has increased, and there is more equipment required now than in 1984," McDonald said. McDonald explained that court cost of personnel is a factor, even though his employees are paid minimum wage for a 40-hour work week, yet are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Some court members did not agree with the increase in McDonald's bid. "We months ago, McDonald

### Schools to receive program from Farm Bureau

**By Marsha Livingston**  
 of the Carlisle News staff  
 Nicholas County Farm Bureau Board will be funding a computer software program designed for grades 4-6 at Nicholas County Elementary School. Joe Clason, Kentucky Farm Bureau, and Matthew Kentucky, representative of the Nicholas County Farm Bureau Board, came before the Nicholas County Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday, June 8, to explain the program, which is designed to help students become both agriculturally aware

and computer literate. "So many children go to McDonald's to eat," Clason said, "and don't know where the hamburger they're eating or the milk they're drinking comes from. The program, called Farm and Food Files, is an enrichment exercise for language arts, science, math and social studies, geared to familiarize students with agriculture. Instructors teach these academic subjects while blending in agricultural learning via the computer program. The package includes a double-sided computer diskette, an eight-page documentation, teacher's guide, and a student study manual. The cost per unit is \$29, which Kennedy said the Nicholas County Farm Bureau Board would cover. All science classes in grades 4-6 have an agriculture section," Dan Elder, Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, said. "I think it would be a good place to implement this program." Clason said the program had already been implemented successfully in school systems in

### Council takes no action on ambulance request

**By Janis R. Duncan**  
 of the Carlisle News staff  
 Carlisle City Council members put a delay on Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot's request to fund a public hearing concerning the abandonment of the farm money on June 22. The request was made at Monday night's regular city council meeting. The request is regarding an six-month extension to its old contract with the court. The extension expires June 30, 1987. Council has already paid the court \$1,000 for the \$6,000 it would like to fund the ambulance service. They are waiting until the court has

formed up a new contract before giving the other half of the promised money. Nicholas County magistrates and the judge did not attend the meeting. It will be decided if the money comes out of the \$10,000 Revenue Sharing fund which will be discussed at a public hearing concerning the abandonment of the farm money on June 22. Passage of the 1987-88 Carlisle city budget ordinance has stalled for the time being mainly due to possible continued fuel oil cost suspension by Jockey International's having filed and the environmental \$10,000 donation made to the Nicholas County Industrial Authority several months ago. There is no meeting agenda for July started when fuel oil prices are

changing the budget before the second reading. The final draft and adoption of the budget will be held June 22. Jane Stephens, an administrator with Blue Grass Area Development District, was heard Monday night to assign council members being forwarded the \$174,700 HUD block grant last week, which was awarded through Governor Martha Layne Collins' office. Stephens explained that the funds enable distributed through the state Department for Local Government. She also explained that \$31,000 of the grant money is earmarked for administrative costs with the interest rate lower than three percent. Stephens asked council members they had the option of

Continued on Page 14



### Jaws of Life now available

**By Marsha Livingston**  
 of the Carlisle News staff  
 Nicholas County Fire Department was organized in 1964 by the Nicholas County Fiscal Court. Even though the fire department is operated by funds collected through county taxes, a three-man committee supported by the county judge executive has complete control of the fire department. This committee, made up of Ruble Williams, treasurer, Billy Hunter, secretary, and Kenneth Stevenson, chairman, meets with Hughes the first Saturday of each month to make use of the equipment in up-to-date, to approve requests for new equipment, and discuss the general operation of the department. The rescue squad is funded by the state department of disaster and emergency services. According to Hughes, of all his men certified in first aid and CPR, each taking a 120-hour course last year to obtain this status. "This is the first time since 1964 that the entire squad has been certified," Hughes explained. Hughes' nighttime assistant and brother, Miles, is an emergency medical technician. Hughes explained that several of his men are presently taking first responder classes, a status that is a "notch below an EMT class class fall," Hughes said, "I hope to have more EMTs on the squad in the near future." However, with first responder training, Hughes explained that his men could administer some medical attention until the ambulance service could reach the scene of the accident. The squad meets one night a

Continued on Page 10

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