

GENERAL NEWS

Court tables...

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 court for equipment.
 Another discussion on tap for the court involved the Nicholas County Extension Service.
 Stroot said, "The state has recommended that we turn over the money the fiscal court usually funds the extension service and we would have to see in plan to do not think we should stick our neck out for someone we do not even know."
 He added, "I think we have a well used machine and it has always been my understanding that if something is not broken you don't have to fix it."
 Duon and Hunter asked for clarification on what kind of services the court is requesting from the hospital.
 Floyd Buswell, magistrate, said, "Providing a dispatcher would save the court 10 to 12 thousand dollars a year."
 Hester added, "I do not think it would be any problem except the main switchboard is turned off at night, but if McDonald is putting in a phone (another extension of the ones that run to his home) it would lead to the nearest station."
 "I do think it would be helpful if the numbers would stay the same because you can't tell the people to call one number if they have a heart attack before six and another if they have a heart attack after six."
 After more discussion the ambulance bid was tabled until the Nicholas County Hospital Board could call a special meeting (to be held June 16 at 7:30 p.m.) and called court meeting to be held June 16 at 7 p.m.
 The Mercury was not allowed to attend the special meeting of the hospital board. Also involved in the discussion was the acceptance of a bid for a new ambulance and equipment for the service.
 Four bids were received: Bluegrass Bus Sales in Corbin; Motor Master Inc. in First Response Inc. and Karl Lusk. A bid from Karl Lusk for Dodge Coach at a price of \$27,900 was accepted.
 Circumstances taken into consideration were the Dodge Service located in Paris, satisfactory service involving dealings with Lusk in the past and the low price.
 McDonald said, "I think you should take into consideration that Lusk has gone out of his way to help us in the past, for example, the transmission went out on the Dodge just over warranty date and he made extra effort to call the company and get it fixed under warranty except for \$100."
 Shirley Gardner reported a grant has been received for the

counties with another 36 in special political districts.
 The insurance would cover elected officials, employees and volunteers, plus any court appointed special board members and all county property.
 The only changes in the program are the coverage of earthquake and floods and a premium discount.
 Last year the court paid a total of \$47,000 in premium not Charter House, represented by Buddy Buta presented a renewal plan with a million dollar plan option.
 Conley requested the court wait until the special meeting in order for him to compile information to recommend the best plan.

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Health News

Objections raised to Blue Cross rate increase

\$20 million increase questioned

FRANKFORT (AP) — An attorney hired by the Kentucky attorney general's office said the Kentucky Blue Cross rate increase of \$20 million was excessive and should be reduced to \$10 million.

The most serious objection by James E. Hunt (Democrat, N.H.) was on the way Blue Cross implemented the rate increase. He said the increase was "unfair because they were all lumped together."

Criticism of the rates by the attorney general's office and others is that they are too high and were implemented too quickly.

The new rates were put in place last month. Insurance Commissioner Larry Morgan can let them stand or order them to be revised and refunds made. His decision is expected by early July.

According to a Blue Cross official, the new rates affect only about 45,000 of the company's customers, or 33.2 percent of the total.

At the same time, the company cut insurance rates for younger other group; family farmers; and people who leave a group plan due to divorce, termination of employment, or other reasons.

The attorney general's office said that if the rate increases are needed, they should be implemented over a longer period of time. A four-year phase-in was suggested.

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According to a Blue Cross official the rate only affects 81.2% of the company's customers.

WARNING: Billboard signs ordered

LANSING, Michigan (AP) — Billboards advertising anti-tobacco chewing tobacco would have to share space with health warnings under legislation ready for consideration by the state House.

The House Public Health Committee endorsed Thursday legislation requiring warnings on all billboards advertising

that modifies those restrictions to specify that smoking is banned in the non-administrative parts of hospitals.

Other parts of the package call for increasing the penalties for selling tobacco products to minors. The tobacco lobby says that smoking is banned in the non-administrative parts of hospitals.

Daycare for elderly a new option

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — Michael Chickillo has lost weight and developed high blood pressure as his wife's Alzheimer's disease has progressed to the point where she often forgets what she had for lunch by mid-afternoon.

"I told the doctor I'd give my right arm to make it stop," Chickillo said this week, choking back tears.

To give himself time for chores around his home in Erie, northeastern Pennsylvania, city, Chickillo has joined a growing number of Americans choosing day care for an elderly family member.

He said that smoking is banned in the non-administrative parts of hospitals.

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The boom in day care doesn't seem to threaten the nursing home industry.

coming to the United States. Mr. Joff and Mr. Howe said the number of day care centers nationwide appear to be increasing, even though many are failing financially because day care does not cover the cost of the elderly.

"There are a number that are going to get out of the business simply because of funding," Mr. Howe said.

Separate bills pending before the U.S. House and Senate would provide Medicare funding for adult day care, the bills said.

Financially sound people are eligible for Medicaid funding for adult day care in 26 states, authorities said. "Pennsylvania does not offer Medicaid funds for adult day care."

But the state has budgeted \$5.2 million through county agencies for financial assistance for day care costs, said John Halloway, who is in charge of early adult day care and senior centers for the state Department of Aging.

Adult day care costs an average of \$10 a day, less than half the cost of a nursing home, Halloway said.

The boom in day care doesn't appear to threaten the nursing home industry, however.

Many of them have adapted by starting day care centers of their own, a statewide survey by the Pennsylvania Adult Day Care Association found.

Three of the state's adult day care centers have failed and her disorientation has increased, Chickillo said. He has lost more than 20 pounds and started taking medication for high blood pressure.

Chickillo said the day care center has lessened the stress of caring for his wife of 28 years.

"This has been a great experience for me," he said.

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