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Wilkinson plan includes two county bridges

Kentucky Governor Wallace Wilkinson unveiled a 5-year plan to replace all bridges in Kentucky less than 50 feet in length that cannot bear the weight of a loaded school bus.

In Nicholas County two bridges have been marked: Garrett Road over Cracked Creek which is 40 feet in

length and has a weight limit of three tons.

Another bridge is Milltown Point Road over Big Branch with a length of 27 feet and a weight limit of six tons.

"Kentucky first means safety first," Wilkinson said. "Safety first means the

safety of our kids. Many of these bridges are unsafe for even the lightest traffic and yet we expect them to transport bus loads of children to and from school."

One of the reasons this program is needed, noted Wilkinson, is that when these bridges are located on bus routes children have to get off

the bus, cross the bridge on foot and get back on the bus before they can proceed.

"I want the children of Kentucky to know that they're not going to be impoverished anymore by having to load and unload buses at these bridge sites. When our children arrive at school, I

want them to arrive safe, alert and ready to learn.

The program will involve 1,011 bridges in 115 counties. It is a cooperative program between state and county government with the state providing 80 percent of the funds and county government the remaining 20 percent.

The total cost of the program will be about \$50 million.

Wilkinson called the bridge program a major victory for Kentucky and especially for rural Kentucky.

"We're winning in Kentucky because we're putting kids and family first."

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Lens transplant operation a step forward

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

The Nicholas County Hospital is expanding its services to include cataract surgery and ocular lens implantation.

Rob Hester, chief administrator of the hospital, said

Dr. Georges Birenbaum, an ophthalmologist in Paris, approached him about including the service at the hospital.

"We've never been able to offer this type of eye surgery before, so I was very inter-

ested. Dr. Birenbaum supplies the microscope needed for the eye surgery and we supply the necessary instruments and lenses," Hester said.

"We've had the service for about a month now and though patients have been

trickling in, when more people are aware that we can offer cataract surgery, I think they will take advantage of the opportunity."

Birenbaum, originally from Brussels, Belgium, graduated from the Univer-

sity of Kentucky Medical School and completed his residency at the University of Cincinnati.

He said he can offer the same kind of work larger hospitals offer.

The cataract surgery involves microsurgical technique in order to implant the interocular lenses under the cornea of the eye.

Basically, a cataract is something that comes between the lens of the eye and the optic nerve resulting in blurred vision because less light gets through to the nerve. In the operation, the cornea is opened like the crystal over a windshield, the cataract is removed, and then the lens fills in the place where the cataract was. The lens, the power of which is calculated by computer, aids in both near and far eye focusing," Birenbaum said.

"In many cases, it can improve vision to almost, but not quite, 20/20."

The surgery takes about an hour and the patient is usually awake during the entire procedure. Birenbaum said the Doctor Birenbaum at his of- fice in Paris. Eye surgery is made in an out-patient basis under six years of age. How- ever, Birenbaum said, eye surgery for young children

requires clearance from the Federal Food and Drug Administration and is not advised unless there are special circumstances involved.

The field for interocular lenses is only beginning to open up. Along with the normal lens, there are also lenses for bifocal focusing as well as several areas of investigation on improved methods of lens implantation.

One method being investigated is using a folding lens that can be inserted in a small pocket made in the cornea for the lens and requires only one suture for closing. In time, ophthalmologists may be able to accomplish the same sort of operation making virtually no incision at all," Birenbaum said.

Though the hospital is offering only cataract surgery by computer, aids in both near and far eye focusing," Birenbaum said.

Those interested in cataract surgery may schedule an appointment with Doctor Birenbaum at his of- fice in Paris. Eye surgery is made in an out-patient basis under six years of age. How- ever, Birenbaum said, eye surgery for young children



Dr. Georges Birenbaum performs an ocular lens implantation and cataract surgery on Cornelius Watkins of Carlisle. The Mercury appreciates Mr. Watkins allowing us to take pictures during the surgery. — Josh Shepherd Photo

Change approved by Carlisle council

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

On Thursday, the Carlisle City Council met and approved a change in the city zoning map.

The Council approved Ordinance 13 changing property owned by Allen Waugh, at 388 W. Main Street, and Bobby Crockett, at 386 W. Main Street, from Residential Zone 2 to Commercial Zone 2 to facilitate the construction of a full service drive-thru branch of the Deposit Bank on those lots.

Carlisle Mayor Lee Bents said Jim Brown needs approval of the ordinance because of his wish to finish construction of the branch by November 1 of this year.

The Council also amended the city budget on Gas from \$906,421 to \$925,144 which will increase the total appropriations for this year's budget from \$4,680,382 to \$4,691,105.



Carlisle Main Street manager Jo Lynn Garrett, left, WAVE-TV's personality Bob Dominic, and two representatives of the Kentucky Lottery Commission were on hand last Wednesday at the Old Army in Carlisle for a drawing in the 3 for the Show state lottery. Garrett drew five names from the hopper, but none were from Carlisle. — Josh Shepherd Photo



An early visit . . .

Santa took a break from a mid-summer vacation visit to Hawaii to visit residents of Carlisle during the Christmas in July celebration last weekend in Carlisle. Santa passed out candy to youngsters and heard a variety of early girl lists from the children. — Josh Shepherd Photo