

**FEB
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Update nearly complete

CARLISLE — A \$600,000 South Central Bell project that will upgrade telephone service to Nicholas County is scheduled for completion the first week of March.

According to Bell officials, the update will provide the Carlisle exchange the most modern telephone service available.

"To our customers, this major investment means new services and a modern telephone network that paves the way for continued growth," said South Central Bell Manager Tom Tucker.

"It will provide a state-of-the-art telecommunications network in Carlisle that will help attract high-tech business and industry to the area," Tucker said.

"The new digital system will put us in an enviable position when more Information Age services will be introduced," Tucker said.

Tucker said the digital system will make available such conveniences as shopping and banking by phone and extensive information from electronic libraries and data banks.

"We'll have the kind of telecommunications network that high-technology businesses are looking for when they're considering where to locate."

Changes to be made locally

"Customers will now have to dial seven digits to complete local telephone calls, instead of five digits."

"Customers may notice a different — softer and more electronic sounding — dial tone."

"The new digital switching system will make custom calling services available for an additional monthly charge. Those services include waiting on hold, forwarding, 3-way calling and speed calling. Customers wishing to subscribe to these services can do so through May 15, 1990, without paying the usual \$18.00 connection charge."

"Also available for an additional monthly charge will be..."

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Taking a ride
 Scott Newton takes a crane ride while working on the Licking River Bridge on Route 32 at Myers Station. Construction is scheduled for completion by fall of this year.

County payroll tax generates \$256,847; books get thumbs up

CARLISLE — Nicholas County's payroll tax generated \$256,847 in 1988-89 fiscal year, according to a recently released report by the state auditor.

In his report, State Auditor Bob Babbage commended the county for investing funds to earn 395,873 in interest income for the year audited.

"As in prior years, we found the county's accounting procedures and compliance policies in good order. We wish to commend the county for its effort and urge that similar efforts be made in the future," Babbage stated in a press release.

The county received a total of \$344,739 from the state for the County Road Aid fund, according to the report.

In his report, Babbage told county officials to maximize their financial resources in every possible way such as investing funds to earn interest and the collection of arena fees.

Babbage pointed to the loss of federal Revenue Sharing funds as a need to maximize revenue locally.

"Many local governments are struggling to meet their budgets and provide services for the citizens they serve," Babbage stated.

Babbage also stated in the press release that calls to the auditor's KY-ALERT line have increased by more than 600 percent.

The toll-free phone line is for citizens to use if they suspect waste, mismanagement or fraud in the use of tax dollars.

Citizens also call to make positive suggestions for improvements in government, Babbage said.

"Based on the large number of calls our KY-ALERT line gets..."

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SOUTH EXTRA — Inside back
- School board action**
CARLISLE, Feb. 19 — The Nicholas County Board of Education met in closed session Monday night to review applications for school superintendent to replace Don Elder.
- The deadline for applications in Feb. 23. Board Chairman James Anderson said 25 applications have been received. Further consideration.

Educators weigh pros, cons of open concept

CARLISLE — The task force on education reform in Frankfort recommends leveling grades K-3 as a means of improving primary educational standards in Kentucky.

For Marium Williams, assistant principal at Nicholas County Elementary School and Betty Conrad, director of pupil personnel at Nicholas County schools, the recommendation is a mixed blessing.

Williams said eliminating grade delineations for the first three grades is a positive step for Kentucky education, as long as it is handled correctly.

The danger involved in such an open concept in the primary years of schooling is tracking, where a student is placed in a program based on his or her perceived intellectual capacity by early performance on testing.

"When a student is categorized as slow, that is a hard oversimplification for a young student to break. It is also demoralizing to the student to be put in a class labeled 'slow.' It gives them a message: 'stalled,' Williams said.

However, the pitfalls in handling the open concept can be avoided if the system is handled correctly, she said.

"The open concept can integrate growth in learning as well as giving a teacher room to try experimental approaches and methods to learning," Williams said.

However, before the state education task force ever recommended the open concept, Nicholas County had all ready put the plan into practical application.

Conrad served as assistant principal of the elementary school while the open concept was put into effect in 1972.

The concept involved a multi-faceted approach to teaching where communication and continuous record keeping kept teachers very busy, Conrad said.

The idea behind the open concept was to remove the system of grades, preferring instead to advance students in a variety of levels. But for the program to work effectively it required multiple evaluations of student progress through a system based on personal referrals from teachers, student attitudes and testing, Williams said.

This was particularly important in the first and second grade age students, she said.

Students were taught, very basically, on two levels: Homogeneous, where all students were taught on basically the same level, and heterogeneous groups in the language arts and mathematics, which were based on their ability and grasp of material, Conrad said.

"The students were never identified as either slow or advanced. Instead the teaching was more fluid and established more of a continuum of learning rather than have children rush to get down as many principals of their first grade learning as possible in order not to be behind upon advancing a grade," Conrad said.

Conrad and Williams agreed the open concept allowed greater time to be spent on troubling subjects and the learning process.

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Williams
 The open concept was once used locally. For a look at the program, see Page 6.

Organizer says

Farmers can hook into boon with fish

By Josh Shepherd
The Carlisle Mercury

LOUISIA — Howard See, CEO of Greater Life in Fish, a non-profit organization, said he has a possible way of reclaiming strip-mined land in eastern Kentucky for use in a potentially profitable industrial venture in aquaculture.

GLIF, Inc. is an offshoot of the Greater Louisiana Industrial Foundation, an organization founded by See, and others, to help industrial expansion in Louisiana.

Aware of the expansion of the industry in Texas, See felt there was a possibility of implementing a program in Kentucky and the foundation he founded expressed an interest in the project.

He returned to Texas to observe fish farming more closely and got in touch with the Texas A&M school of aquaculture, one of the leading universities in the field.

He said professors were surprised he had gone to them for information when he had all the expertise he needed from Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

"RSU has developed a full facility dedicated to fish farming and has developed a reputation as one of the leading universities in aquaculture research and development," See said.

After gaining information from RSU, See continued to talk with other universities, Auburn and the University of North Carolina to name a few, with aquaculture workers into a curriculum.

See wanted to acquire a wide diversity of information from experts to sort out the best way to proceed with the project.

But as he got deeper into the subject, See realized undertaking the project was developing into something larger than merely aiding in developing Louisiana's economy.

For the project to be feasible he needed to take in a sizeable portion of eastern Kentucky.

"To succeed in the business, it is necessary to not transportation and importation costs by having fish feed available locally as well as a local processing plant and marketing strategy. There is also need for large, local fish hatcheries anywhere they can be developed," See said.

In order to move out of the confines of Lawrence County, GLIF, Greater Life in Fish, was incorporated in 1983 and a diverse board of directors formed. Among them were egg and poultry representatives from nearby Boyd County, where an established feed mill agreed to produce catfish food.

See also talked with the Brown Food...

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