

**JAN
18
1990**

County says delinquent taxpayers should pay up

By Josh Shepherd
The Carlisle Mercury

Delinquent taxpayers may face prosecution by the Nicholas County Fiscal Court if their bills are not paid.

In the regular January Fiscal Court meeting Jan. 16, Magistrate Floyd Bassell discussed the organization for 1989 occupational tax bills with administrator Shirley Gardner, when the issue of 1988 delinquent tax bills came up.

According to Gardner, in trying to collect bills from 1988, a few people have stated they refuse to pay the bill.

The normal procedure is to transfer names of taxpayers in arrears to County Attorney Jack Conley, then Conley would inform people to pay the bill. On refusal, the court can sue to process the delinquent taxes, Conley said.

The court ordered Conley to send notice to those delinquent in payment, requesting they settle before the next court meeting or the court may move to prosecute.

In related business, the court moved to require everyone to file for the 1989 Occupational Tax on their W2 forms to the judge's office whether a business would show a profit or not, to aid in updating the occupational tax file.

Gardner said there was a good response from people during the 1988 filings, even from people not owing or exempted from the tax, but the office needs forms on file to keep the occupational tax records complete and up-to-date.

"Just because a business or farm does not show a profit one year doesn't mean they won't show a profit next year," Bassell said.

Bassell suggested the court include a self-addressed stamped envelope to make reporting more convenient for taxpayers.

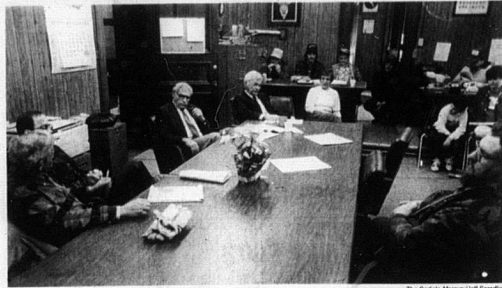
In other business, Judge Executive Reese Smoot appointed Elm Myers dog warden to take effect Jan. 15.

John Keith, district engineer for the Kentucky Department of Highways appeared before the court to present his recommendations for improvement of secondary roads in Nicholas County.

For the 68.91 miles of state road in Nicholas County, about \$238,000 has been allocated, Keith said.

Of the entire allocation, about \$217,000 is used for

Continued on Page 6



The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd

Talking with state legislators

Nicholas courtiers got a chance to meet with State Rep. Adrian Arnold and State Senator Ed Ford during a public forum held at the courthouse in Carlisle Jan. 13. Local residents expressed their concerns about legislative issues, while the legislators briefed constituents about issues facing the General Assembly.

Nicholas farm targeted for minority purchaser

By Jeff Spurling
The Carlisle Mercury

A Nicholas County farm has been targeted by the Farmers Home Administration for sale to a disadvantaged minority buyer.

The farm, formerly owned by David Tipton, is being targeted under a federal mandate.

"The law mandates that we target a certain percentage of our properties up to a year for sale to a minority buyer," said Paul Moore, FmHA inventory properties specialist for the state.

The law, titled the Agriculture Credit Act of 1987, requires that the FmHA make attempts to sell property in its possession to members of minority races such as blacks, Hispanics and Pacific Islanders.

"That's the criteria we have to choose from, even though the farm is not located in an area with a high number of socially disadvantaged minorities," Moore said.

The FmHA representative said his state office has about 20 farms in its possession at this time, and that the Nicholas County farm is the only one in the state being targeted for sale to a socially disadvantaged minority buyer.

"We only have to target 3 percent of our inventory. Some states have to target 30-40 properties," he said.

It was advertised for sale

targeted for such a sale is based on minority populations in the state, Moore said.

He said that in order for the FmHA to sell the Nicholas farm within the next year, a potential buyer must meet the racial criteria and must finance the sale through FmHA.

"They have to show they can't get credit elsewhere. They can't borrow the money through FmHA if they have the resources to buy it," Moore said.

Moore said the Nicholas County property, which is listed as a field crops and cash grain farm, has 312.3 acres and is listed for \$52,000.

It was advertised for sale

about three months ago in Nicholas and surrounding counties and must be targeted for sale to a minority for one year.

However, if the FmHA sells another farm to a minority buyer within the year, the stipulation could be lifted.

"We hope we can meet that stipulation on FmHA property to a minority, because not that many farmers meet that criteria," Moore said.

"We're optimistic that we will sell that one or another so we can untarget it," he said.

Moore said that untold FmHA property means an added cost to the government.

The FmHA office in Cynthiana is handling the sale of the local farm, Moore said.

Cowan unveils plan for public campaign money

By Josh Shepherd
The Carlisle Mercury

Attorney General Fred Cowan said his proposal for partial public financing of gubernatorial campaigns will serve to restore credibility and integrity to Kentucky's political system.

In a January 4 press conference, Cowan said the public is cynical about politics and political candidates.

The reason for this attitude is that rising costs of a viable political campaign for high offices have favored the wealthy and the well-connected.

"In the past four campaigns, we have seen the cost of electing Kentucky's governor increase over 700 percent. Since 1975, we have seen spending escalate from \$2.2 million to \$18.2 million," Cowan said.

Because of these inflationary costs, qualified and competent people cannot afford to consider running, he said.

To qualify for public financing, Cowan said his proposal will attempt to limit campaign spending to \$4.3 million per candidate in the primary and \$2.8 million for each nominee in the general election.

To be eligible, a candidate must raise at least \$300,000 in the campaign before acquiring matching funds from the government, under Cowan's proposal. Contributions from special interests would be capped at \$500.

Public financing would match the campaign dollar for dollar up to \$1.5 million in the primary and \$1.25 million in the general election, Cowan said.

Public financing of campaigns will open doors that were once shut to the people, he said.

"The lack of confidence in our government has to be erased. Public financing is one way to help do that," Cowan said.

Asked if his financing proposals would work to eliminate 30-second television advertising campaigns, Cowan said though public financing will help give others the opportunity to run, it cannot control the type of campaign a candidate runs.

Cowan said a requirement to get approved is going to be included in the KFT candidates' debate, so the issues will be addressed.

Among other proposals mentioned in his ethics code is the attempt to eliminate gifts or memorabilia over \$200.

Cowan confirmed his intention to run for governor in 1992, but said he has been involved in promoting a stricter ethical code and promoting public financing for several years, long before considering entrance into the governor's race.

County's jobless rate takes 2.9 percent drop

The preliminary jobless rate in Nicholas County for November 1989 reflected a 2.9 percent drop from revised 1989 figures.

October figures from the state showed 263 Nicholas countians, or 8.5 percent, were without work in October.

Nationally, unemployment increased from 5 percent in October to the same rate as in Kentucky for November.

Preliminary November jobs figures in area counties showed Bath County at 7 percent, Robertson, 5.5; Fleming, 5.7; Mason, 3.9; Bourbon, 2.9; Harrison, 4.7; and Montgomery, 7.6.

Kentucky's chief labor market analyst Ed Blackwell said the state's overall jobless

figures rose as an increase in the estimate of residents holding jobs was offset by a rise in unemployment.

Compared to November, 1988, rates were down in 105 counties, up in 14, and Woodford County's rate was unchanged.

Four counties had rates at 10 percent or above in November, compared to seven in October and 29 in November 1988.

Trimble County posted the lowest rate (2.2 percent), followed by Jessamine (2.3); Woodford (2.6); Fayette (2.8); Shelby (3.0); Hickman and Oldham (3.2 each); Carroll (3.5); and Boone and Grant (3.7 each).

McCreary County had the highest unemployment rate with 13.6 percent. Elliott and Wolfe had 13.2 each.

The federal estimate of Kentuckians working in November, based on census surveys, jumped 44,100 between October and November to a record 1,669,300. The estimate of unemployed Kentuckians increased 3,509, pushing the jobless rate up.

Meanwhile, a separate estimate, based on a state Department for Employment Services survey of 3,700 Kentucky employers, showed a net decline of 8,000 jobs.

"It's important to remember that our figures are estimates. Continued on Page 3

Cystic fibrosis fund-raiser planned for Nicholas County

By Josh Shepherd
The Carlisle Mercury

The Nicholas County Lady Jackets and the Nicholas County Junior High cheerleaders will be introducing to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Jan. 31 at the Elementary School gym.

Judy Hawkins, junior high cheerleading sponsor, is head of the charitable event.

For three weeks, the Lady Jackets and junior cheerleaders will be out getting sponsors for the 1-hour event.

The event will be Hawkins' first time organizing a fund-raiser, but it is not her first involvement with a charitable event.

As a second grade teacher, Hawkins appeared in a television to support the Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Center with an appearance from popular Disney character, Mickey Mouse.

We raised almost \$1500 for the Center," Hawkins said.

Hawkins was asked to be chairman of the event after an anonymous recommendation.

The event will run one hour and Hawkins said all pledges and donations will be accepted.



The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd

CF fund drive sponsor Judy Hawkins, right, and the Nicholas County junior varsity cheerleading squad.

INSIDE	
CLASSIFIEDS	10-11
COMMUNITY	8
FEATURE AT 6	8
FOCUS	9
GENERAL NEWS	4
MEMUS	10
OBITUARIES	8
ON THE RECORD	8
SOCIAL NEWS	4
YOUR WORLD	1
SPORTS EXTRA	1
INSIDE BACK	