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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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Nicholas County firefighter Maurice Ash extinguishes a trailer fire before it gets too serious. Firefighters received a call at approximately 9:15 a.m. at the home of Omar Hall and family in Section 3 Trailer Park. The Hall's noticed smoke beginning in the interior of the trailer, but could find no reason for it at all in the trailer. When firefighters arrived, they discovered the source of the fire was coming up from the floor of the hall home. Calvin Denton and Ash quickly worked away the metal siding from outside the bottom of the trailer. There they discovered the problem. A leak in the gas line had ignited when an electric wire shorted through the house. Insulation began to smoulder, causing the smoke. Ash and Denton quickly removed the burnt sections of insulation and squelched the flames.

House Redistricting bill passes 62-34; Nicholas loses Arnold, Gains LeMaster

By Josh Shigobert
The State Representatives Redistricting Bill was barely out of committee before house members passed the measure along very strict party lines. The bill, which passed by a 2-1 margin, 62-34, in special session late Monday afternoon, was strongly opposed by House republicans.

The bill's principal feature, a new black-majority House district in Fayette County, has caused neighboring districts to expand eastward, and plopped Nicholas County into the 22nd district with Bourbon County and a section of east Fayette County.

The result is a change in Nicholas County's House Representatives from Adrian Arnold to Bourbon County's Jim LeMaster.

Although the bill has not yet become official, it still requires Senate approval and recently inaugurated Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones' signature, according to Arnold, the bill is already more than two-thirds the way through.

"It's not very likely the Senate or the Governor will reject the bill since it only affects the house," Arnold said. However, there is a serious question of whether republican members of the house will challenge the bill in court.

House GOP members entered their own bill into the House prior to Monday's vote to give minority party members the right to file suit challenging the current redistricting plan offered by the democrats.

There have been complaints, Arnold said, from GOP representatives and leaders that the redistricting bill unfairly cuts out predominantly republican districts.

"The only way, really, for House redistricting to be halled now is if the republican's complaints reach the court and judges issue an injunction on the bill," Arnold said.

Should that possibility occur, the election process for state representatives would be hopelessly muddled for the next three years. An injunction would force all districts to remain the same through the 1992 election year. Following the election, a group of judges would be appointed to re-draw district lines and a new election would be held for state representatives to serve a one-year term. Arnold said. These complications may be the one reason republicans may be dissuaded from taking their plea to court, he added.

As for the loss of Nicholas County, Arnold expressed considerable regret despite entering his own "yes" vote to the redistricting bill during Monday's session.

"There was little else I could do under the circumstances. The population shifts and the need for the minority district in Fayette left me with no choice but to accept the redistricting plan as written," Arnold said.

The new plan, which meets requirements established by the 1990 Voting Rights Act, will be enacted officially in January. At that time, LeMaster will be seeking reelection in a district where his representation of Fayette County will be reduced by nearly 1,000 voters.

"LeMaster brings a great deal of experience to Nicholas County and will represent Nicholas County well," Arnold said.

Nicholas County, once part of a representative district with Bourbon and Fayette under Brooks Hinkle until 1972, when population fluctuations in eastern Kentucky caused it to become part of a district with Bath and Montgomery Counties, is really coming back into its own age old place, Arnold said.

911 Survey shows majority support

By Pam Bowles
The Carlisle Mercury staff reported back to the Nicholas County Fiscal Court the results of the month long 911 survey.

The survey was based on 78 percent of the Nicholas County telephone subscribers. Of those reached 76 percent were in favor of a 911 service, 10 percent were opposed and 9 percent undecided.

According to the report presented by Donna Broderick of the Carlisle Community Woman's Club, a clear majority of Nicholas Counties were in favor of the 911 service.

Broderick discussed with the court a different and more cost effective system the Kentucky State Police has offered.

Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot said he had heard of the plan.

The State Police in Dry Ridge would be the central location where the dispatching would done.

Anyone dialing 911 would reach State Police Headquarters in Dry Ridge and they would dispatch the needed personnel in the proper area.

The advantage to this program, Broderick said, would be a state certified and qualified Emergency Medical Technician would take the call.

Smoot said he would contact the state police and have preservative come to the next meeting.

Broderick said she had spoken to a Captain Lyle and made it known that court may want him to come and explain the service if he would be willing.

The system still would be under South Central Bell, she said, the only difference would be where the information would be dispatched from.

Carlisle Community Woman's Club representatives said they had received favorable responses from the majority of the people they called. They also felt the high percentage in favor of the 911 service indicated the people of Nicholas County wanted the service.

Broderick said there were some people who felt the extra dollar a month on the phone bill would be too much and they didn't want to pay extra. A few others said if they needed help they could call the local emergency number or a friend.

Magistrate Carl Cochran said he called the people in his district and the majority told him they did not want the 911 service.

The reason he gave was the people didn't want the additional cost and they could call the regular number.

Broderick said she felt he received this type of response because of his own opinion of the service.

She said when she called the people it was a positive call in favor of the service.

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Santa Claus to visit

Continuing his tour of the Nicholas County area, St. Nicholas, also known as Santa Claus, will be visiting with boys and girls and giving out candy and fruit December 21 from 2-4 p.m. at the Nicholas County Fire Department.

Members of the fire department will ask for people's help in donating toys for their "Toys for Tots" program. They ask all parents bringing their child to meet Santa to donate any toys to the program, in good condition, so that all Nicholas County children can have a Merry Christmas as well.

Claus, who will be transported through town on top of the Nicholas County Fire Truck, said his reindeer have been working out and getting in shape for the big Christmas Eve ride.

"Cupid and Cupid have not been very active this summer and as a result, in a drag on the whole team," Claus commented in one of his earlier visits.

"I am very grateful to your fire department for inviting me down so I can have one more chance to talk with the children, and for providing me transportation so the reindeer can become more fit before taking on Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas From

The Mercury Special Hours Next Week

The Mercury will printed on Monday, December 23. Deadlines for materials to be included in the December 26 edition will be Friday, December 20, at 5 p.m.

The Mercury will be delivered to the post office, December 23, and local delivery should be on December 24. Due to heavy mail, some postal delays may occur.

The Mercury office will be closed December 24 and December 25.

The office will re-open, Thursday, December 26 at 8 a.m.

New Year's Hours

The Mercury will observe the same type of printing schedule for the New Year holiday.

Deadlines for the January 2, 1992 edition will be Friday, December 27 at 5:30 p.m.

The paper will be printed on Monday, December 30 and again be delivered to the mail boxes early.

The Mercury office will be closed December 31 and January 1.

The office will reopen, Thursday, January 2 at 8 a.m.

We wish you the best of holidays.



For those concerned, Santa Claus has not traded his reindeer and sleigh for a steam engine. He has begun his pre-Christmas promotional tour of central Kentucky and last Saturday morning made a stop over in Nicholas County to celebrate the holidays and meet with boys and girls before the big Christmas Eve ride around the world. Claus, still quite jolly and energetic despite his advanced years, said the reindeer are fine and getting in shape for the ride.