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For Nicholas County

Employment figures could be misleading

By William Millon
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - Figures from the state and local sources show the unemployment rate reported for December in Nicholas County may be misleading.

For the month of December, Nicholas County reported a jobless rate of 13.9 percent, a one month increase of 97 percent.

In November 1990, 217 people were looking for employment, according to figures provided by the state Department of Human Resources.

In December 1990, that number had increased to 424 countians.

Spud Marshall, Executive Director of the Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Authority, schoed earlier doubts about the accuracy of the figures.

Many of the people filling for unemployment in December were not a result of terminations, but of job layoffs or furloughs.

A spokesperson for Jockey International, Nicholas County's largest employer, confirmed they had a furlough of one to two weeks in December. All of those employees are now back to work.

Marshall believes that the Jockey furlough, and manufacturing layoffs in the city caused the rise in the number of countians seeking unemployment.

In the past, the figures for December have not been good, because of layoffs and a lower

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Council votes to hold two meetings monthly

By Maynard L. Almjeld
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - Carlisle City Council will now be holding two meetings each month.

In the second reading of Ordinance No. 1, 1991, Carlisle's City Council voted Monday night to hold two meetings monthly beginning Monday, February 25.

The meetings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays.

Council will also be meeting at a new time. Just before adjournment, council members amended the ordinance to change its meeting time to 7:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. also effective with the February 25 meeting.

The new meeting time passed unanimously, but changing to two monthly meetings met with less enthusiastic backing.

Council members Betty Barton and Charles Fay voted against the change in

monthly meetings.

Fay remembered how he had served on a council which used twice monthly but soon changed to monthly meetings.

Tommy Vaughn, who cast his vote in favor of the two monthly meetings, asked that the city council try to limit its meetings to two hours.

City employees will benefit from Monday's meeting as council also voted a 2.5 percent cost of living raise for all city employees.

Barton made the motion with a second from Councilman Ronnie Clark. The issue passed unanimously.

In another money matter, council members gave first reading to an ordinance to increase council salaries from \$1,500 to \$2,000 annually beginning with the council to take office in 1992.

The ordinance will also add \$1,000 to the mayor's salary, but not until the

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Nicholas Schools have to comply

By Susan L. Boling
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - Nicholas County Schools will have to comply to qualify.

Nicholas County Schools Superintendent, Cabert Gilbert, recommended to the Nicholas School Board that participation in Kentucky School Facilities Construction Commission Program was necessary in order to qualify for much needed funds for the construction projects in the elementary school.

In a report published by Woody J. Barwick, KED, Executive Director of the Kentucky School Facilities Construction Commission, he said, "The state's reform effort is requiring the school districts to make sweeping changes."

"Historically, inadequate and inequitable financial resources in rural Kentucky districts led to aging buildings and a woeful lack of

inadequate equipment and laboratory facilities for teaching."

Kentucky spends less per pupil on capital outlay and interest than the national average," according to a study done by David S. Honeyman, an authority on school facilities and state mechanisms which support school construction.

The Kentucky Education Reform Act created an opportunity for all school districts to levy or commit at least an equivalent tax of five cents to state service, new facilities, or major renovation of existing school facilities.

"A nickel local tax levy will generate \$42 million annually," according to the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of School Finance.

Kentucky created two sources for fund identification: Support Educational Ex-

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The Carlisle Mercury's William R. Miller Photo

Double Royalty

1991 Basketball Homcoming Queen Margy Segal, right, was crowned by 1990 winner Chesa Ausler Friday night. The ceremony took place between the JV and Varsity boys' games against Bath County.

Nursing Home gets perfect mark

By Maynard L. Almjeld
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - The Johnson Mathers Nursing Home passed its annual licensing inspection with a perfect state.

The inspection, conducted by the State of Kentucky Board of Licensing, revealed not one deficiency for the 51 bed facility.

According to Dan Miller, administrator of Johnson Mathers Health Care, including Nicholas County Hospital and Nursing Home, "Our employees receive all the credit."

"They are a very caring and dedicated staff who make a lot of personal sacrifices and go out of their way to give extra care to our residents."

"The state's chief inspector even added to this after the inspection," Miller added.

The deficiency free inspection allows the Johnson Mathers Nursing Home to renew its license while maintaining its superior rating.

"One factor that made this such a major achievement," Miller said, "was that the rules are and a request that govern nursing home facilities in Kentucky were completely revised on October 1, 1990 and we've had to develop

new procedures for our staff during that very short period of time."

"A benefit the nursing home receives from the new rules and regulations governing this inspection is that all 51 of our beds now qualify to take skilled patients compared to 17 beds under the old regulations," Miller added.

"Under the old rules, our other 34 beds were for intermediate residents who didn't require a certain number of registered nurses or specific ancillary services."

"Additional skilled patients will require more services but that translates into additional revenues from Medicaid and Medicare, and it also means patients won't have to be turned away from the nursing home because the 17 beds for skilled patients are already taken."

"Policy of the 51 beds at the nursing home are full and Mathers - Johnson has waiting list of nearly 200 people including 100 from Nicholas County."

In a related update, Miller confirmed the nursing home's request for a \$1.25 million, 50 bed expansion is on a class action suit filed against the Kentucky Certifi-

cate of Need Board.

"A small group of proprietary nursing homes are objecting to the public hearing process. It is a matter of the way the process is set up. There are 104 applicants wanting over 4,000 new beds and each applicant is going to have its own hearing. These proprietary homes are contending in their suit that only one hearing should be held."

"The Bluegrass District Number 15, which includes Nicholas County, has a need for 350 beds based on the number of people over the age of 65."

But, according to Miller, this does not address the urgent need for beds for meeting patients.

"These people need the care available in a nursing home during a more lengthy recuperation period after a short hospital stay," Miller said.

If Mathers - Johnson is granted its additional nursing home beds it would require 35 to 50 more people on its payroll."

Miller said, "That would make our payroll over one-half million dollars and that would be very good for Nicholas County's economy."

The hospital and nursing home facility is also continu-

ing its recruitment of physicians.

"Two doctors looked at our facility last week," Miller said, "and they had a good reaction to the community."

Miller added hospital board members and community leaders have been very helpful in putting the hospital and Carlisle in a very favorable light.

"We are recruiting four or five doctors and are looking at potential plans for a doctor's office building on the Johnson - Mathers medical facility campus," Miller added.

On the status of physicians serving this area through the Nicholas County Hospital and Mathers - Johnson Nursing Home, Miller reported that Dr. Allen J. Hanson has returned to practice on a part-time basis. Dr. Ossa Wilber continues his surgery and general practices. Dr. Pamela Combs is a consulting internist with cardiology clinics at the hospital on Mondays and Wednesdays. Dr. Brenda Curtis is on the hospital's courtesy staff and operates Dr. Kingsolver's old practice, and Dr. Jack T. Morford continues to work with the Nicholas County Hospital.