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Fire classrooms built

By Josh Shephard
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department exemplified the word "volunteers" in their efforts to build, from the ground up, a brand new classroom upstairs in the back of the Carlisle Fire Department garage.

Carlisle Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Crawford said the room to train for a great deal of time. The idea of building their own training room has been an idea and wish of the city fire department for quite awhile. But the costs were prohibitive, Crawford said.

Finally, after years of wishing, the fire department decided to take matters into their own hands.

With money provided the city fire department through Area Development District funds and a host of monetary donations from South Central Bell, Deposit Bank, and Rent and Vice hardware company, the volunteer firefighters managed to keep the costs to the city low.

In sum, the classroom cost the city council \$1234, a considerably lower price than the \$15,000 estimates professional contractors were quoting, Crawford said.

However, Crawford said labor costs were nullified through the volunteer efforts of all members of the City Fire Department, and most notably James Hiddle, Jerry Berry, Ron Royster, Darrell Faulconer, Jeff Jefferson and who put in most of their week and night hours to finish the basic construction of the classroom.

However, Crawford said, the department is very much indebted to the low cost services of Harold Bassell, who installed the electric wiring, and to Robert Hopkins and his volunteer crew who hung the dry wall in matter of a few hours free of charge.

The change in the department's ability to train, and the space for the department building addition through the job wouldn't take so long. But though their optimism remained steady, progress on finishing the building took much longer than the month they expected to spend on it.

But by the first week in December, the city fire department held its first meeting in the new building and the needed hours of training for certified fire personnel were met.

The fire department couldn't be more pleased with the way things have turned out, Crawford said. Not only have they got a classroom they needed, they got it with a minimum of cost. Not a bad deal any way you look at it, Crawford said.

Hey Mom!

The Nicholas County Bluejackets have a right to celebrate in Greenup County Saturday night. They finally brought home honors from a December Holiday tournament, the first tournament any Nicholas County basketball team has taken first place in the last year. Their battle through their opponents was hard fought and well earned, and according to Head Coach Ed Ockley, the Bluejackets worked once again as a team, each performing up to a high standard on the court. See how they did it on Page 6.

LeMaster's views on law session

By Josh Shephard
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

PARIS — Here's a recipe for a legislative headache. Begin with the 1992 Kentucky legislative session starting January 7 in Frankfort, add about 7,000 new voters in a recently re-districted representative voting district. Include generous portions of Kentucky's budget shortfall. Shake well and you have a situation much akin to the one 73rd district representative Jim LeMaster has before him.

LeMaster, Paris resident and 17-year veteran of the Kentucky House of Representatives said he intends to remain in this district's representative on the house floor and should there be someone planning to run against him, more or less officially stated he would seek re-election to the post.

However, since the special legislative session in December, in which Kentucky Congress drafted and approved re-districting of all Kentucky voting districts, LeMaster faces a new voting district. One where Nicholas County replaces a lost section of Fayette County.

LeMaster welcomes the change.

"The re-districting actually gives me a more homogeneous district. Granted, there are some obvious economic advantages in the remaining section of Fayette County I represent that Bourbon, and especially Nicholas County do not have. But, all precincts in my new district are primarily rural," LeMaster said.

Though the trend in economic development from Fayette to Nicholas descends markedly, the district faces much of the same problems, LeMaster said. The key problem, he continued, is jobs.

There is a strong dependable labor force through LeMaster's district. But the business of supplying jobs must go beyond providing a mere labor force.

"In every precinct, the same thing is occurring. More and more, the best and brightest of our young people are forced to leave their home communities because jobs are just not there for them. You can't expect them to live on minimum wage," LeMaster said.

As a member of the Kentucky House "Fayette delegation," LeMaster maintains good rapport with state representatives from an important housing block.

"I don't see where there would be any problem to call on these friendships to help entire industry in this district," LeMaster said.

In fact, economic development in one area LeMaster expects "will make up an important part of the '92 legislative session.

The Legislative Session: Economic Development

The problem since LeMaster has been with the state legislature, has been a lack of long term planning on the part of state government to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for economic development in Kentucky.

Currently, however, LeMaster said there is an economic link force in Frankfort working to develop a blueprint for long range economic development in the state. There are already some proposals ready for consideration in the '92 session, he said.

As an aid to these measures, Governor Breerton Jones decision to appoint Lieutenant Governor Paul Patton as Secretary of the Economic Development Cabinet is wholeheartedly supported by LeMaster.

"Jones' decision is a very important way state government can develop some semblance of continuity in state government," LeMaster said.

"Jones decision works well in two ways," he said. "When it came to legislation, Lieutenant Governor had no input. But Jones has given Patton an elected position with real teeth. He will have hands on look at the way state government runs and, if elected, governor the next time around, they know what to expect. There is little or no down time for a new governor to learn the ropes," LeMaster said.

But most importantly, Patton's appointment provides the possibility for continuity in the state's executive branch. Committed to developing government in Kentucky, LeMaster is not opposed to Governors being able to succeed themselves, he said there must be significant reform in election campaign laws before succession can even be considered, LeMaster said.

Campaign Reform

One of three of the most important issues to be addressed in this legislative session is campaign reform, LeMaster said.

"In this day and age, it is veritably impossible for anyone below the status of millionaire to even approach the idea of becoming a governor in the state of Kentucky. If we don't pass the proposals on election reform in this legislative session, none of us will be long in office," LeMaster said.

Among the bills to be considered in the legislature are those which limit campaign donations from \$500 - \$1,000. If passed, the bill will mandate controls on massive donations candidates have

Carlisle man stabbed

By Josh Shephard
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Carlisle police arrested and charged a Nicholas County man with second degree assault early Sunday morning following a fight that put another Nicholas County man into the hospital suffering from apparent knife wounds to the stomach and arm.

According to a report filed by Carlisle Police officer David Hardin, II, police arrested Johnny L. "Bran" Smoot for second degree assault after a fight between Smoot and William Mynear in front of the Baker Apartments on Main Street.

The arrest, which occurred came on the tail of an apparent fight between Mynear and Mynear in front of the apartment building.

When police arrived at 4:15 a.m., city officers Hardin and Brent Wade discovered Mynear severely injured from a large cut across his stomach and another large laceration under Mynear's left arm pit. Mynear alleged he had been cut with a knife.

Police report alcohol was involved in the incident.

Mynear was transported by the Nicholas County Ambulance Service to Nicholas County Hospital where he was treated for his wounds and listed in stable condition.

Smoot was arrested, charged, and turned over to the Nicholas County transportation officer.



Jim LeMaster

Continued on Page 3