

JAN
23
1992

Class A Tournament Preview on Page 6 and 9

Celebrating 125 Years
in 1867
1792
the
1992
Kentucky

THE CARLISE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

125th Year, No. 4

Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

Thursday, January 23, 1992

50 cents per copy



The Carlisle Mercury/Pam Bowles Photo
Starley Rose and Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff, Chuck Smith talk with Lexington Mayor Scotty Baesler as he bids for the congressional district on the west side of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jim LeMaster addresses health and budget issue

By Josh Shepherd
of The Courier-Journal Staff

FAHIS — The first week of the 1992 Kentucky legislative session has passed with the usual amenities and ceremony. From this point until May, legislators will get down to the business of lawmaking.

In part two of an interview with Nicholas County's new state representative Jim LeMaster, he addresses one issue upon which all other laws and bills will have to depend.

The State Budget

As a member of the appropriations and revenue committee, LeMaster said the shortfall in state revenues will call for serious cuts in some state program budgets.

The key question in legislators' minds are where the cuts are to be made. LeMaster said at this early stage, before the session actually begins, it would be premature to predict just where cuts would be made.

But of one thing, LeMaster is certain. Education won't be cut.

"We've only just begun implementing an entirely new education program and all the nation's eyes are on Kentucky now, waiting to see if our reforms work. It would be detrimental, if not utterly absurd, to cut the education budget during the time we're implementing the program," LeMaster said.

Not only would it be absurd, but LeMaster feels education ties in greatly with economic development. To cut the education budget would seriously damage Kentucky's growing reputation as a national economic and education leader.

But budgetary cuts will have to be made, LeMaster said.

The reason behind the shortfall at the end of this fiscal biennium is two fold, LeMaster said. The recession, which hit unexpectedly in late 1991 skewed all of Kentucky's

revenue estimates on the high side. Expectations were for much more revenue than the state received, LeMaster said.

The other reason is the massive funding required by the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). Kentucky approved a bill that climbed to the tune of \$900 million, LeMaster said. Although the initial cost of implementation of KERA is high, later years will see the amount of cost shrink steadily, he said.

LeMaster said the revenue shortfall Kentucky has suffered in the last year is expected to be a temporary setback. Revenue projections for the latter half of 1992 predict an increase of new money coming into the state and will allow Kentucky to regain its feet.

Health Care

The last major item LeMaster said the 1992 legislative session will have to face is the rising costs of health care and insurance and the inability of many rural Kentuckians to afford to stay healthy.

In Kentucky, LeMaster said, there is an alarming amount of residents who carry no health insurance at all.

Due to the high cost of health insurance, many small businesses can't afford to provide it as a benefit to their employees, nor are they required to do so as part of a benefit package.

According to LeMaster, it is estimated that 700,000 Kentuckians, or roughly 20 percent of the population, are without health insurance.

What it amounts to is a very serious state dilemma and legislators are looking into developing a comprehensive Health Insurance Pool which would provide basic health coverage to high risk individuals at a reasonable price.

But, LeMaster said, legislators don't think this particular health insurance measure will be enough.

The state is actively researching ways in which small businesses provides health insurance coverage to employees, LeMaster said. High insurance costs prevent some small businesses from including insurance in their benefit package.

Lawmakers are in the process of reviewing a credit incentive program for businesses to provide health insurance coverage. The situation can be accomplished through a Small Business Health Accreditation Program, LeMaster said.

"If several small businesses can join together, pool their efforts to see their employees receive health care, the government will help. What we are doing is avoiding a mandate on all small businesses to provide health insurance."

"In many cases, forcing businesses to do so would drive many businesses under. So a mandate would do much more damage than good," LeMaster said.

Yet despite the dangers, lawmakers recognize that business may be the only means middle aged working families have to receive adequate health care through insurance benefits.

"Health care availability will become an issue nationally in the 1992 presidential campaign," LeMaster predicts.

With the coming session LeMaster is most interested in getting feedback on many of the issues the state will be dealing with in this legislative session.

If anyone wishes to voice their opinion on any issue to be brought up in the session, he is willing to talk. His office number in Lexington is 606-231-8500. At home it is 606-987-7673.

"I want to know what concerns the people of my district, and especially from my new Nicholas County constituents. Please feel free to call me and voice your views."

By Pam Bowles
of The Courier-Journal Staff

CARLISLE — Lexington Mayor Scotty Baesler began his congressional campaign with a personal tour of the district Wednesday in his bid for the United States House of Representatives.

Baesler began his day in Bath County and then proceeded to Nicholas County. He plans to personally visit every county in the congressional voting district as part of his campaign strategy.

While in Nicholas County, Baesler explained how his position as mayor of a metropolitan Kentucky city won't cloud his judgement as representative of a primarily agricultural district.

After all, he is a farmer himself. His background as a tobacco producer will be of great benefit in Washington, Baesler said in an interview.

Baesler said, "Since becoming Lexington mayor, my wife, Alice, has been taking care of the farm. Right now, I believe it is in the stripping room. If it weren't for the campaign, I'd be right there with her."

"I believe strongly in the tobacco program and I will fight for better support of the crop in Washington."

Baesler said, "I have tried raising vegetables as a farming crop. I know fall well how impractical and costly it is. Nothing has worked as successfully as tobacco and it needs to remain Kentucky's primary crop and deserve the same kind of federal support other agricultural products receive."

Kentucky needs tobacco. It is vital to our survival as an agricultural state," Baesler said.

By Pam Bowles
of The Courier-Journal Staff

CARLISLE — The firm of Clotfelter and Associates and Omni Architects presented programs to the Nicholas County Board of Education on their ideas for a new high school on Wednesday night.

Clotfelter and Associates were the architects in charge of the bus garage and the renovation on the elementary school.

Jack Clotfelter told the group the firm has designed more than a 1000 school projects and the mark was hit in 1988.

They were published in the Rural Electric Cooperative magazine in 1988 in an edition on education.

Some of the schools they have designed are Powell County Middle School, Pendleton County School, Russell County High School, Southern Pulaski County Junior High, etc.

Clotfelter does approximately 30-35 school projects a year with 99 percent of the work being done on schools.

Scott Jackson is in control of the management portion of the company.

He said, they wanted to work with board of education and the needs of the faculty

*****ADVERTISING DEPT. 405
LESTER PETERS - OWNER, 1211 1/2
N. W. 4TH STREET
LEXINGTON, KY 40506

Although he is mayor of Lexington, Baesler has lived on his family farm in Athens for well over fifty years. His wife moved to the family farm after their marriage and they have raised their two children on the farm.

Fayette County is three-fourths a rural farm land. His eldest son, Scott, 24, is a graduate of Transylvania University and his daughter, Ashley, is a senior at the University planning to go to law school.

But most importantly to Baesler's campaign, he admits, is his knowledge of the congressional area. He is a native Kentuckian, played high school basketball at Athens High School, and, as is well known to many hard-core Kentucky Wildcat fans, was captain of the team under legendary coach Adolph Rupp.

But it was his high school experience, Baesler claims, that introduced him to the area and gives him a special connection to the district for the present race — incumbent representative Larry Hopkins, who announced his decision to withdraw his name from the race last month.

Hopkins would have been a worthy opponent in the race. I had announced my intention to run before Hopkins withdrew from the race," Baesler said.

Baesler feels he will be able to do a good job for his congressional area because as mayor he has run on the non-partisan ticket.

"I want to work for the people not just democrats or republicans."

The operation needs to be easy, friendly so it can be easily maintained and not specialized.

Clotfelter said the only fee they charge is not more than five percent of the total job.

When deciding on a site at least once a week and several factors taken into consideration.

A site maybe concerned with the central location of other schools, which school is to be the primary stand-out, but cause the community is important."

Clotfelter and Associates show off their ideas for a new Nicholas County High School to the Nicholas County School Board on Wednesday night. Omni Architects also gave a presentation.

Clotfelter and Associates show off their ideas for a new Nicholas County High School to the Nicholas County School Board on Wednesday night. Omni Architects also gave a presentation.

well in the U.S. House of Representatives.

One thing going for Baesler, besides name recognition, is the Congressional redistricting passed last December by the state legislature. Because of the change, Baesler's campaign district is located in a base of voters who strongly supported him in his last campaign bid for Kentucky Governor.

One benefit I feel from the new redistricting of the state is I am about 45 minutes from my farthest county," Baesler said.

Even with Nicholas County being divided between Baesler and Hopkins, Baesler said, he doesn't feel there will be a problem, because he is willing to work with Representative Jim Bunning.

Baesler said, "I want to be in constant contact with all my constituents."

"We plan to set up an office in Lexington, and I and my campaign staff will accessible to all the other counties in the district," Baesler said.

Continued on page 10

School Board continues architect interviews

and community.

There needs to be a good schedule and budget control.

Clotfelter said the only fee they charge is not more than five percent of the total job.

When deciding on a site at least once a week and several factors taken into consideration.

A site maybe concerned with the central location of other schools, which school is to be the primary stand-out, but cause the community is important."

Clotfelter and Associates show off their ideas for a new Nicholas County High School to the Nicholas County School Board on Wednesday night. Omni Architects also gave a presentation.

and community.

There needs to be a good schedule and budget control.

Clotfelter said the only fee they charge is not more than five percent of the total job.

When deciding on a site at least once a week and several factors taken into consideration.

A site maybe concerned with the central location of other schools, which school is to be the primary stand-out, but cause the community is important."

Clotfelter and Associates show off their ideas for a new Nicholas County High School to the Nicholas County School Board on Wednesday night. Omni Architects also gave a presentation.