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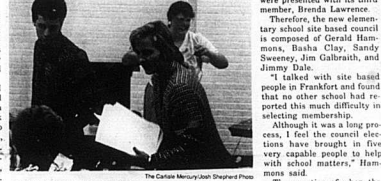


The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd Photo
Brenda Lawrence, Sandy Sweeney, and Basha Clay form the three teachers who will be part of the new Nicholas County Elementary School Site Based Management Council. Parent members, not pictured, are Jimmy Dale and Jim Galbraith. Principal Gerald Hammans presides as chair of the council. It took two days, three hours, and over 20 votes before all three faculty positions could be filled. The next step will be for the council to decide when it wants to activate.

Elementary school elects site based council after over 30 votes

By Josh Shepherd
The Capital Mercury Staff
CARLISLE — After well over 30 separate votes over two school days, a site based council for the elementary school was finally elected Monday afternoon.
Faculty at Nicholas County Elementary school spent over three hours Thursday afternoon trying to select three faculty members to council. The vote, which began shortly after the end of class session, elected Sandy Sweeney and Basha Clay, seventh grade home room teachers. But the rest of the afternoon was spent trying to decide among the remaining candidates whom should occupy the third position.
In order to be elected, Gerald Hammans, principal of the elementary school said,

nominees needed a majority of the faculty vote. A simple majority was not sufficient according to the protocol established by Frankfort, he said. Therefore all those elected required a minimum of 26 votes members was needed and to assume a council seat after four times through Jim Galbraith and Jimmy Dale were elected as parent council members.
But the final seat was still left open until Monday. Statutes concerning the site based council left no alternatives open in case of a hung election, Hammans said. Therefore the school's only recourse was to continue voting until a faculty finally agreed on one.
That final decision came quickly Monday afternoon when elections resumed in the elementary school library. With only one vote, faculty were presented with its third member, Brenda Lawrence.
Therefore, the new elementary school site based council is composed of Gerald Hammans, Basha Clay, Sandy Sweeney, Jim Galbraith, and Jimmy Dale.



The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd Photo
Several hours after receiving word of being admitted to the Kentucky Bar Association, Dawn Letcher concludes an evening as proctor for the Nicholas County Licensure League competition.

Letcher passes bar exam

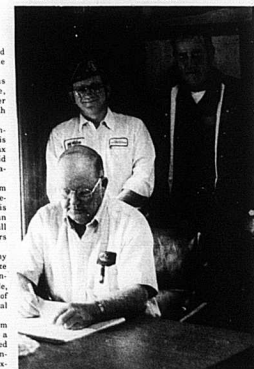
By Josh Shepherd
The Capital Mercury Staff
CARLISLE — On the day Dawn Letcher found out, she and her husband, Pat Letcher, were busy taking their youngest daughter, Jordan, to the hospital for stitches. Children and accidents always seem to walk hand in hand.
The letter from the Kentucky Bar Association was still in her pocket, unopened because she was told about her daughter's accident at the post office seconds after she received the envelope.
Dawn Letcher knew the results of the bar exam were coming the next day. She barely slept that night and the anxiety, the questions bouncing around in her head, were noticed by Jordan and Jessica, her oldest.
"They told their mother she had done all right."
In 1985, when she graduated from Nicholas County High School, Jessica was only a few months old. Her marriage to Pat Letcher was several months older than that.
According to statistics, college was no longer an option. According to statistics, her life had come to an early halt.
But Letcher didn't read those studies and paid no attention to statistics. She had made the decision to enter school in the fourth grade, she said. And with the support of her parents, her husband, and her new family, she embarked on a seven year schedule that came down finally to a thin envelope and Jordan pitching a fit over stitches at Nicholas County Hospital.
"When the girls celebrate their next birthday, it will be the first one they celebrate with me not going to school," Letcher said. "They'll find it kind of odd, I think," Letcher added with a laugh.
When Letcher remembers simultaneously beginning a family and college, it is not a memory of acquired hardship. The reason, she said, is because she never knew any other life than her family and her study.
"It was strange transition I went through between school and home because for seven years, I've commuted back and forth. On my way to school, I became the student, worrying about papers, lectures, exams that were coming. When I came home, though, I was mommy again. I had a husband and two young daughters, one starting college."
Fire department picture drive to begin this week

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County Fire Department's annual family portrait drive begins this week. According to Fire Chief

Peters begins transition from Canada to Carlisle

By Josh Shepherd
The Capital Mercury Staff
CARLISLE — On Sunday afternoon, Dr. Geoffrey Peters was busy trying to untangle the accessories of a jungle gym in the side yard of his home on Oriole Street. The wood and rope ladders appeared to be hopelessly tangled together and, unfortunately, he lacked the benefit of guides.
"It's a little difficult to do from memory," he said as he laid the attached sections of wood and rope on the ground for later. So far, he said, setting in Carlisle has been much easier than the assembly of the gym.
But then, the transition between his Canadian home place, Kemptville, to his new Carlisle residence has taken considerably less effort. That was a decision he and his wife, Sue, made on purpose.
"When we were first considering the move to the United States, the one thing we knew we didn't want was to settle in an urban area. We'd already been through living in Toronto, and while it's a nice place to visit, you wouldn't want to live there," Dr. Peters said.
Even New York had little appeal to their self-described spirit of adventure. But, with New York, at least, there was a more grounded reason for their distaste, as Sue Peters explained.
"Her mother works as a tour guide and one, several years ago, she was helping lead people on a bus trip through New York City.
As passengers disembarked for dinner and lodgings, tourists and guides were shocked as they watched thieves steal the bus, apparently, for a joyride. Fortunately the bus was discovered abandoned several hours afterward.
However, it was not simply an aversion to city life that led the Peters family to Carlisle. Peters prefers rural communities. Kemptville, located several miles south of the Canada's capital city, Ottawa, bears a great deal of similarity to Carlisle.
"Kemptville is actually more of a bedroom community. Most residents have jobs in Ottawa, so in that respect, it's quite similar to a little bit further west," Dr. Peters said.
It has actually been the couple's plan, when Dr. Peters was first establishing a medical practice, that they would venture to the more sparsely inhabited areas of northern

Canada.
"We had sort of a wanderlust, an adventure of sorts, to go farther north to work."
"But then Agnew was born, then Graham and Spencer, and patients were needing attention, and before long we had a family and a house and we found ourselves settled in. So when friends suggested we come to the United States, part of our impulse to at least look was sort of a fulfillment of the adventure," Dr. Peters said.
Sue, however, had another impulse to add.
"I hate the cold. In January and February in Kemptville, it gets to about minus 20 to 30 degrees below zero Celsius, where it's dangerous to go outside. I like the idea of moving to a warmer climate," she said.
Although fall weather has been a seesaw of cold and warm temperatures, the Peters and the welcome from neighbors has been overwhelmingly warm.
The most significant adjustment Dr. Peters has worked to make in the past week is the most basic: The Canadian Health Care system, often referred to as socialized medicine, is considerably different from the private, business-oriented health care system in the United States.
Considerations such as medical fees, insurance, charges, in fact, were never something he discussed with his patients.
"Health Care is under control of the government and is paid by income and sales tax collections. At no time did money transfer between patients and doctors."
"In many ways, the system in Canada is similar to the reform plan the government is proposing. Not all Canadian Health Care centers are full service hospitals," Dr. Peters said.
As a result, whereas many U.S. doctors tend to specialize in a given field and less general physicians are available, approximately 70 percent of Canada's doctors are general practitioners.
"The way the system works, patients must see a general doctor and be referred to a specialist. Patients cannot go directly to one," he explained.
However, as appealing as the Canadian system may sound, there are weaknesses. There is a stereotype that



The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd Photo
Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot, with Richard Ermson, Sr., Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 12, and DAV member Charles Fling, proclaim this Saturday as Forget Me Not Day. On Saturday, Forget Me Not's will ribe sold to assist the Disabled American Veterans fund.

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