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High school athletic field plan approved

By Pam Bowles Shephard
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County School Board voted 5-2 to approve plans for the improvement of high school athletic fields Monday night at the regular meeting of the Nicholas County School Board.

The new design, produced by Clotfelter and Samkar architects, Inc. calls for the installation of a six lane running track, and major relocation of the varsity football and baseball fields located behind Nicholas County High School.

Nicholas County Superintendent Robert Gilbert said the cost of the project, estimated at \$140,000, had already been set aside in the 1993 fiscal budget.

The construction job would not incur searches for additional revenue, he said. Surveys and plans for the project have been worked out with the architectural firm and are the best and least expensive of the variety of possibilities to have the work completed, he said.

Bids for the athletic field restructuring will be opened and awarded on October 7 at 2 p.m. at the board office.

The vote to approve new athletic field construction, however, sharply divided board members. As the motion was introduced, seconded, and a vote called, the field construction was approved 3-2. Board members Bosque Hall, David Smoot, and chair Louise Zachary approved the measure; Vice-chair John Cleaver and board member Sammie Vice opposed it.

Cleaver's primary objection was over the cost of the project. He felt \$140,000 was too much money to invest in a running track. He said the football field is in good shape and that they just had fixed the baseball field.

"We have students taking classes in the lunchroom and we are going to spend this money on an athletic field?" Cleaver asked.

Vice expressed similar concerns, suggesting that the money could be better spent

on easing congestion in high school classrooms than on extracurricular activities.

Arguments to the contrary, though, were just as strong. "We should be concerned with improving this facility, moving ahead. It can give us better athletic fields, maybe even bring us a few tournaments, a few playoffs so the school system can benefit from the revenue," David Smoot said.

David Helm, new chemistry teacher and varsity track coach at the high school, said he wants his athletes to be able to practice on a regulation track and be prepared for spring meets.

If the school had a regulation track, our athletes would not have to be on the road so much of the time. They can compete here, Helm said.

Following the athletic field vote, the board moved toward setting tax rates for the year.

The property tax rate was set for the 1992-93 fiscal year at a rate of 42.6 cents for real estate and 42.8 cents for taxable property.

Gilbert said, "Last fiscal year, real estate tax rates were set at 42.8. It is the lowest we can drop without giving up 'Tie One money.'"

The board set the motor vehicle tax rate for the 1993 calendar year at 55.5 cents, the same as last year.

The general budget for the 1992-93 school year was approved by the board.

The board approved contracts with the following districts for non-resident students attending Nicholas County Schools: Bath, Montgomery, Bourbon, Robertson, Mason, Fleming, Pendleton, and Paris Independent.

According to Gilbert, 56 Nicholas County students are going to other school districts and 25 students are attending Nicholas County schools from outside the county, for a difference of 31 students.

This ratio, Gilbert said, indicated that fewer Nicholas students are leaving the system. Last year, there were 29 Nicholas County children attending school outside the county.

The message to the local industrial authority staff came as an event went around that the organization received an excellent rating during a mock visit performed by members of the Kentucky Industrial Development Council (KIDC) at the Industrial Authority office late last month.

Industrial Authority and Carlisle Chamber of Commerce coordinator Kathy Howard received the results of the KIDC evaluation last week and commented that despite minor limitations in their ability to showcase the County for prospect, they had been praised highly for their knowledge, preparation, and hospitality during the visit.

In addition, there are 921 students enrolled in the elementary school this year compared to 819 last year. In the high school there are 393 students, compared to last year's total of 384.

The board approved transporting head start students at a cost of \$346.93 per student. Gilbert, however, said the head start program is handling most of its own transportation.

In other business, the board acknowledged the required notification from Gilbert of Kim Mastri's resignation as Girls Varsity Cheerleading Sponsor.

He acknowledged the receipt of the required notification from Gilbert of the hiring of the following personnel: Jack

Continued on Page 12

Canadian doctor to arrive within week

By Josh Shephard
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — After over a year and half of work, administrators at Johnson Mathers Health Care Center finished waiting through bureaucratic red tape. Dr. Jeffrey Peters is finally moving to Nicholas County.

According to JMHC head administrator Dan Miller, Dr. Peters contract with the Nicholas County Hospital was signed just over a year ago.

But having the contract signed was one thing, getting the Canadian physicians a visa to practice in the United States has been quite another matter.

"The process has really taxed our patience. The paperwork stuffed into Dr. Peters file is several inches thick. We first had to establish that there were no other general practitioners in Kentucky interested in the job. Then we had to prove



The Carlisle Mercury job shared Photo
The Charter members of the Nicholas County Lions Club were honored Saturday night at the Nicholas County chapter were recognized as Charter Monarchs and were recognized by current members of the club. Charter Monarchs are, from left, Eddie Carter, G.B. Feaback, G.C. Myers, Vigil Ritchie, and Frank H. Hughes. (Not pictured, Campbell Lester)

there was no other doctor in the rest of the United States interested in filling the position. Then Dr. Peters was stuck waiting for three months to get an appointment with the U.S. Consulate in Montreal just to get a VISA.

The Canadian government was no trouble at all. We took care of Canadian matters in no time at all. It was a year's worth of work the United States finally got it through the bureaucracy," Miller said.

Even federal legislators had little effect on speeding the process. With Congressman Larry Hopkins especially lobbying for Peters' admittance to the United States, the federal bureaucracy continued to progress slowly. JMHC, however, does extend their thanks to Representative Hopkins for his efforts on behalf of the Nicholas County Hospital, Miller said.

But the trials are now over. Miller said, Peters is due to arrive within the week and will begin working out a regular schedule with the hospital and deciding on the day to operate the Robertson County Medical Clinic, Miller said.

Dr. Peters, originally of Kemptville, Ontario, received his general practice degree from the University of Toronto, completed his internship at Toronto East General Hospital, and received his one year specialty training in anesthesiology at the University of Toronto's Department of Medicine.

He is married and has three children, all boys, at ages 1.3, and 5-years-old. He has been actively practicing medicine since 1988, Miller said.

One hurdle Johnson Mathers did not have to jump through, fortunately, is a competency exam which may have set back Peters' move to Carlisle several months.

Miller said, "Canada is the only country whose health care quality is rarely questioned in the United States. Peters will be an asset to the already first rate care our local medical doctors and staff give to Johnson Mathers patients. We are very pleased to have him join the hospital," Miller said.

Peters contract with Johnson Mathers Health Care is set for a year in which he will set up a general family practice and perform anesthesia, Miller said.

"Although he is a general practitioner, Peters has said he enjoys working with children most. But mostly, having one more doctor locate in the community is something this county has needed for a long time," Miller said.

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Industrial Authority earns high marks from state

By Josh Shephard
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CARLISLE — The Carlisle - Nicholas County Industrial Authority was given a morale boost when administrators received word from state industry officials that they "were over the hump" and had separate teams leading people around, we had the mayor, the judge-executive, the works. But for the rest, there was only Carolyn Dotson, Spud Marshall, Launne Kelley, and Gayle Vanlandingham and each one of them had to know everything," Howard said.

The structure of the visit was based on the idea that four members of the KIDC would pose as representatives of an industry with an interest in possibly setting up a station in town. Spud Marshall, Industrial Authority spokesman, said

"The KIDC, Marshall said, is a branch of state government composed of individual business leaders in the state and appointed members of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

Every year, the council chooses a handful of Kentucky cities expressing interest in economic development and evaluates the Industrial Authority program.

For Nicholas County, the evaluation team was made up of Sonya Roberts, a research analyst for East Kentucky Corporation out of Hazard, Rodney Brown of the economic development office, Pat Patton, of Mayer, Suddarth, and Killebrew out of Lexington, and Joe Gibson, economic development manager for Kentucky Utilities and president-elect of KIDC.

Overall rating of the Industrial Authority's performance during the visit was above average to excellent in most categories. The group chosen to meet with evaluators all displayed an impressive knowledge of the community's utility systems, schools, labor, and employment statistics and other highly detailed information concerning the county, according to the evaluation report.

Most importantly, however, the authority picked up a lit-

tle things one would normally not consider.

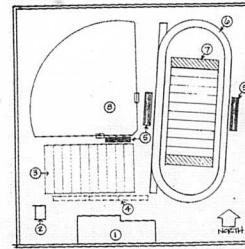
"We introduced them to the best possible financial incentive package the county and city could offer. We even took chances with showing them the dump sitting near the industrial site, and they were apparently quite pleased," Marshall said.

According to individual evaluations, the forms of which were sent to Carlisle for personal, as a selling point, the performance of the Nicholas County Industrial Park needed improvement, especially around entrance ways.

"Most of their criticisms concerned areas where we would have to spend some money to improve. But with a limited budget, there is little we can do about them right now. But one of our weaknesses has turned into an advantage, fully 'big plus,'" Marshall said.

In all evaluations of the Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Authority, the weakest point was the video presentation. Evaluators were so

Continued on Page 2



Below: Pictured is the architect's rendering of the position of the high school current athletic field (top) and Clotfelter and Samkar architects, proposal for reorganization of the field. 1. The existing school; 2. Existing weight room; 3. Existing football field (to become practice field); 4. Existing location of bleachers; 5. Proposed location of new bleachers; 6. Six lane running track; 7. New football field; 8. New baseball diamond. Graphic courtesy of Clotfelter and Samkar.