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50 cents per

A debate of county economics

Officials bandy jail issue

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - Sometimes, it's better to live life on the run, especially for criminals from Nicholas County.

"On the run" means being transported to jails in Bourbon and Montgomery counties for misdemeanor and felony crimes, Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot and Deputy Jailor Dick Garrett said they agree. Bush said Monday that using others' jails is much cheaper than Nicholas County maintaining one itself.

Smoot said the cost to build a detention center that fit state standards would cost the county at least \$2 million.

Some of the standards include detox units, conference rooms for inmates and attorneys, visiting areas with phones, an outside recreational area and a booking room where inmates are admitted to the facility, accord-

ing to 1992 state corrections guidelines.

"The state also requires that a male and female guard be available 24 hours a day to transport and conduct booking procedures of inmates of his or her same sex."

"You would have to have five extra employees, and you're talking minimum wage," Smoot said.

"It'd probably cost more than you're spending to transport our prisoners."

Included in that cost is the \$20 per day cost of housing each of Nicholas' prisoners in Bourbon County, according to Smoot.

Also included in the cost is the \$225 to \$275 monthly expense incurred by making 20-25 trips to Bourbon County to transport approximately 10 prisoners per month, according to Deputy Jailor Tim "Dick" Garrett.

"That cost also involves taking them (the inmates) to

court," Garrett said.

According to Kentucky Department of Local Government financial adviser Tom Dobson, the Nicholas County Fiscal Court spent only \$90,000 on jail fees and still had a deficit of \$18,548.

"In a small county like this, it's just not feasible to have a new jail," Smoot said.

Some of the candidates for the office of magistrate and county judge, however, would like to see some changes in the way inmates are handled in Nicholas County.

Magistrate Carl Cohorn said he believed it is time the county researched whether or not building a jail or transportation only is the best route to take with inmates.

He believes that the county might be able to profit from its own jail if it houses state and federal inmates as well as those from other counties.

"A new, larger jail that Continued On Page 2



The Carlisle Mercury/Rebecca Mullins Photo

When all else fails, walk. Over 100 vehicles of slow moving Nicholas County and surrounding areas Monday night, making driving very hazardous, and as shown by the picture above, cutting down on foot travel as well. Few traffic accidents were reported, however, despite slick roads.

Economic reform reaches Nicholas County in planned town meetings

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - At the request of Governor Brereton Jones, Carlisle and Nicholas County officials are working for change in the community.

At a meeting last Tuesday night, the Kentucky 2001 group, an advisory group for the Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD), discussed what technology is most needed locally to help Nicholas countians change their way of life to fit the modern world.

According to Donald Hassall, assistant executive director of the BGADD, Nicholas County has several economic deficiencies that need to be solved. One of those involves the lack of employment of Nicholas countians in their home county.

The current commuting patterns for Nicholas countians, according to the strategic development program for the county devised at the meeting, show that 433 more Nicholas countians leave the county to work than remain here to work.

The counties receiving their tax dollars include Bourbon, Harrison, Fayette, Fleming and Montgomery counties.

Only 330 persons commute currently to Nicholas County to work. These include residents of Fleming, Bourbon, Fayette, Bath and Robertson counties.

According to the report, only 1,746 of the county's 6,725 residents were employed in Nicholas County in 1990. The high numbers of Nicholas Countians employed out-of-county may also be responsible for another problem: the county's population decrease.

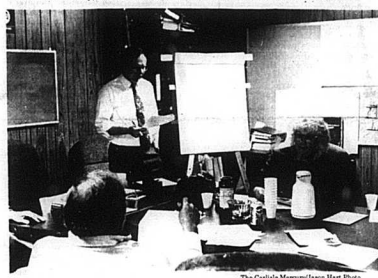
In 1980, the county's population was 7,157. It is now 6,725. The emigration combined with the small birth/death ratio in the county in that same 10-year period (only 170 more deaths than births) left the county with an 4.4 percent population decrease from 1980 to 1990.

"(Population decrease) will probably continue until someone stops it," Hassall said Friday.

Another problem discussed by the group was the number of families and persons living below the poverty level in Nicholas County in 1990 compared to the state as a whole.

The percent of persons below poverty level in Nicholas County was 22.6 percent, with 18.3 percent of families in that situation.

In Kentucky, the numbers Continued On Page 3



The Carlisle Mercury/Rebecca Mullins Photo

Don Hassall, of the Bluegrass Area Development District addresses a town forum meeting held at Carlisle City Hall last week. Hassall said several more meetings will be scheduled to discuss economic priorities and strategies for Nicholas County.

Troutman to speak at Chamber dinner

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - If you like to talk about money and business, the annual membership meeting of the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce should be on your calendar.

Fred Troutman, the communications director for the Cabinet for Economic Development will be speaking about how Carlisle and Nicholas County can begin bringing in more jobs at the meeting February 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Nicholas County Elementary School.

Two types of industry Troutman said that Nicholas County could possibly excel in are telecommunications and data processing.

Because of the absence of an interstate in Nicholas County, heavy raw material import and export industries is dubious in the area, Troutman said Tuesday.

"Realistically, if you're looking for an industry that imports raw products and exports of finished goods, the greater access to interstate, the more favorable the loca-

tion," he said. Nicholas County needs to promote strengths that wouldn't be so dependent on transport."

Troutman said his speech will incorporate an explanation of the Economic Development Partnership Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1992.

The law did away with much of the power of the state Cabinet for Economic Development by investing that power in 15 regional offices around the state.

The regional office for Nicholas County, the Department for Community Development, is located in Frankfort.

Troutman said he will discuss also the Kentucky Rural Economic Development Act, which was passed by the 1992 General Assembly.

"I will give an overview of the new Kentucky Economic Development Partnership, which is now the governing body for the Cabinet of Economic Development, with a major factor being the citizen-member impact," Troutman Continued On Page 3



The Carlisle Mercury/Rebecca Mullins Photo

Royalty of Love

Lucille Terrell and Robert "Jumbo" Hutton were named Valentine King and Queen of Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home during a special Valentine activity day Friday. The new found royalty were happy as little "love birds" to be in the spotlight among their peers. To read about this special celebration, turn to page 7.

AIDS policy is urged by high school council

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - The Nicholas County Site-Based School Council met last Tuesday night to request the board of education deal with the issue of AIDS in the schools.

"It's right here," Nicholas High School Principal Greg Reid said Friday. "There are state plans on it. We'll have the district write up a policy for it."

The council voted 5-0 the request be presented to Superintendent Covert Gilbert and the Nicholas County Board of Education. The policy should apply to both the elementary and high school, according to the request.

According to Reid, District Policy Coordinator Bill Gutrie will be devising the policy at the request of the council.

To date, the Nicholas County Health Department and other medical officials have reported no AIDS cases in Nicholas County. AIDS testing is free and confidential at all state health depart-

ments. The council also voted to contact the attorney general's office to voice teacher concerns about the Algebra I curriculum.

"For a number of years the elementary school has offered algebra I at the sixth grade level," Superintendent Covert Gilbert said Tuesday. "The high school council has decided they don't want to count the elementary school credit as a high school credit."

The one credit students receive in eighth grade allows them to advance to Algebra II, geometry and calculus earlier in their high-school career, Gilbert said.

Gilbert said he is currently reviewing the credit dilemma with other districts in the state and will respond to the council in April with his opinion.

In other business, the council set the graduation date for 1993. Seniors will march this year on June 6, 1993, pending further snow days. The council also voted 5-0 to Continued On Page 3