

Fiscal Court gives nod to renovation of nursing home

By Heather Mathes-Harris
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARLISLE - During a regular session of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court held Tuesday, the court approved actions being taken by Johnson Mathers Health Care for the total renovation of the nursing home.

The fiscal court, which also acts as the Nicholas County Hospital Corporation as the court holds title to the real estate, heard the first reading of an ordinance approving the private sale of bonds through a local bonding institution.

According to Dan Miller, Johnson Mathers Health Care Administrator, the total cost of the project is \$2.1 million.

"The total amount we will borrow is \$1.5 million, we will put up \$500,000 of our own funds," Miller said.

The total renovation of the nursing home includes the addition of 11 to 12,000 square feet.

The nursing home will be mortgaged, however, the hospital will not be involved in the mortgage.

"We will still have 55 occupied beds. The nursing home was built in 1965 and it needs everything done - plumbing, heating, bathrooms, air conditioning, roofing, a new sprinkler system, and a new fire alarm system," Miller said.

"And this is of absolute necessity, the nursing home does not meet fire safety codes. We are talking about 55 Nicholas County residents. No one here would live in a house 30 years old and do some renovations."

As Miller explained, the hospital is using the fiscal court as a conduit to obtain a lower interest rate.

"The variable rate is set at 6 to 8 percent on a 20 year period. Without the fiscal court the rate would be much higher," Boris Ecton said.

Jack Conley, court attorney, said financing is approved on a year to year basis.

"I think you should be aware the only time you would become financially responsible is if the hospital and nursing home both shut down. And you would only be responsible for years," Conley said.

Ecton assured the court the hospital is also setting aside funds that would cover a year.

Beno Blank, architect for the project, said Shared Construction by Winchester was the low bidder.

"We hope to get this moving before the first of the year so we can keep construction costs down," Blank said.

Miller said even though the amount of beds provided in the nursing home would not be increased, patient services provided by the hospital would increase because of the added space.

"We will have 31 new beds in the south wing because we can not work on rooms while they are occupied," Miller said.

"That extra space will be used as offices and records currently housed in the hospital. The records are currently right next to the emergency room, when they are moved there will be more room in ER and also we will expand respiratory therapy."

Floyd Buswell, magistrate, asked why the state had not closed the facility if it were not up to proper code.

"The state has kept their hands off because we have shown progress, doing a feasibility study, letting and bids for a contractor. But the state could close the facility at any given moment, so the fiscal court must make a decision now."

Ecton also told the court the hospital's level of capital expenditures will decrease as the hospital has installed a new Cat Scan and has new lab equipment.

The second reading of the ordinance will take place at the next meeting of the fiscal court, December 13, 6 p.m.



The Carlisle Mercury Staff Photo: "Planning Today for a Successful Tomorrow" a forum for the concerned adults in the community was held at the Nicholas County Elementary School. The program, sponsored by Johnson Mathers Health Care, Nicholas County General Citizens and the program ombudsman, featured speakers on a variety of topics and also showcased the talents of area health professionals who performed blood pressure checks and checked weight.

Court decides on Festival site

By Amanda Capps
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARLISLE - The Nicholas County Fiscal Court met Tuesday and primarily discussed the future site of the Blackberry Festival.

Several members of the community representing opposition viewpoints on the subject were present to discuss the matter with the fiscal court.

Many felt the Blackberry Festival should be held in the courthouse yard because it is a long, honored tradition in Carlisle.

"We don't want to do away with the Blackberry Festival at all, but many people in Carlisle feel if the organization, which puts together the Blackberry Festival would get together with the extension office and have that 400 feet at the same time we could build on the Festival and make it better," Doris Whaley said.

Others felt that the festival should be moved to the West End Park.

"Each year the traffic has increased. There is no where to park and the amount of people walking around the courthouse grounds is increasing."

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Dale sworn in as new board member

By Heather Mathes-Harris
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARLISLE - Jimmy Dale, Nicholas County School Board member, was sworn in by Dawn Lether, school board attorney, at the regular meeting held Tuesday evening.

Michelle Hopkins, state championship track team member, was presented a state championship ring by Superintendent Robert Gilbert.

During the meeting, Bill Guther, federal programs coordinator, explained and defined board members on the Nicholas County Schools Technology

Food Waste urgent issue warns Kelley

By Jason Hart
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARLISLE - City Council heard one again from Sewer Plant Supervisor Gene Kelley on the problem of food waste Monday night.

Kelley had addressed council in regular session last month concerning food waste he says is generated by Nicholas County



The Carlisle Mercury Staff Photo: "Your not going to take my picture right now are you?" says this Nicholas County Elementary student while trying to grab a bite of lunch in between camera clicks. His buddy doesn't bother to look up, choosing to make eye at his burger instead.

In Brief

Meeting set for foster information

An information meeting for persons interested in being foster or adoptive parents will be held Wednesday, November 17, 1993 at 6 p.m. in the basement of the Nicholas County Public Library, 223 Broadway.

For more information on foster parenting or an adoption call Marie Halpin, 289-7123 or 987-4055.

Community meeting calendar posted

Cub Scouts meet each Wednesday evening, 7 p.m. at Nicholas County Elementary School. For more information on Cub Scouts, call Terri Salter.

The Nicholas County Water District will meet 7 p.m. at the courthouse.

Labor rates published

Jobless rates and labor force, employment and unemployment meet data for the Nicholas County had the highest rate of unemployment in the AHD district with 9.4 percent unemployment.

However, based on the actual number of people who are currently without employment, Nicholas County reported the lowest figure with 316 unemployed people.

The percentage is higher while the actual unemployed amount of the work force is lower because Nicholas County's civilian labor force stands at 3348, the lowest in the AHD district, and employs 3032 of that number.

Key to Diabetes management is education

An estimated 188,000 Kentuckians have diabetes, a disease that can cause serious complications if not properly controlled.

Health professionals advise the key to staying healthy lies in education. For more information on Diabetes education call the Nicholas County Health Department, 289-2188.

Myers Station youth hurt in fall from car

By Jason Hart
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
MYERS STATION - A Myers Station youth was injured Tuesday evening in a fall from the rear of a moving vehicle, according to Kentucky State Trooper Kenny Jones.

According to Jones, Christy M. Gammon, 16, sustained head and back injuries after she fell from the rear of a 1982 Camaro driven by Edward Wayne Shane, 23, of Lexington.

Witnesses say the driver, Mr. Shane, and his passenger had stopped to talk to Miss Gammon and her sister, Beverly, and were moving away at 2 to 5 miles per hour, said Jones. Gammon apparently jumped onto the back of the car as it started to move away. When the driver became aware that she was on the car, he stopped. Gammon then fell off onto the pavement.

Gammon was transported to Nicholas County Hospital. At press-time, her condition was listed as stable.

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