



Free at last!

As the Nicholas County High School band played "America the Beautiful", the

student body released balloons signifying their pride in America during ceremonies

Monday at the high school. —Photo submitted.

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## Salute to freed Americans

Nicholas County High School and Nicholas County Elementary School joined together in front of the high school Monday morning at 9 a.m. to pay tribute to the 52 Americans who were freed Jan. 20 after 444 days of captivity in Iran.

Those participating in the short program were members of the ROTC class and Color Guard, the Nicholas County High School Band, school superintendent Don Elder, high school

principal David McMillan, Mrs. Fat Manick, and Sherry Fryer, who read "I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman. ROTC members released 52 yellow balloons as the band played "America the Beautiful", after which the student body released over 400 red, white and blue balloons.

At the close of the program Bobby Frederick played Taps in honor of the eight men who were killed in the rescue attempt. Also in honoring those men,

the flags at the high school and elementary school were lowered at half mast for the rest of the day.

Additional pictures of the balloon release may be found on page 2 in this week's Mercury.

### Students prepare for snow days

Nicholas County students will be attending school Friday, Jan. 20. This date had been previously scheduled as a holiday (Franklin Delano Roosevelt's birthday) on the 1980-81 school calendar.

School will also be in session on Monday, Feb. 2, Monday, March 9 and Friday, April 17. These dates were scheduled as in-service days, but will be used as make-up days for school missed on Jan. 7, 8 and 9.

The Jan. 20 make-up date will be held in reserve for another possible snow day.

### Certificate of merit is awarded

The Nicholas County school system has been awarded a certificate of merit for outstanding achievement for their efforts in helping prevent work-related accidents for their employees by the Kentucky School Boards Insurance Trust.

A review of the Nicholas County

School district's performance has shown that they played in the top 25 percent of the 138 member Trust.

The board of education and their employees were commended highly for exceptional efforts in the areas of safety and reduction of work related accidents.

## A criminally romantic bit of Kentuckiana—moonshine

By Jim Smith

"The gods sent not corn for the rich men only."  
—William Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*

The frightened cry of "Reverem!" is one that hasn't been frequently heard around Nicholas County for quite a while, and one that will probably be heard a lot less in the future. For the days of "the world's second oldest profession" seem to be numbered.

The age-old art of moonshining thoroughly permeates the folkways and backhills lore of Kentucky. It has been immortalized by the greats of song and stage. And in most cases the legends of the best corn whiskey, that glorious libation that really separates the men from the boys—have their roots deeply imbedded in the hills of Kentucky.

When local and state law enforcement officers broke up a still in Nicholas County last fall, we learned that a startling new twist had been applied to the labeling of moonshine. Keeping within the historical framework of appropriately naming the product after the fashion in which it

—Please turn to page 11



unsanitary looking isn't it



Oratorical winner  
Angela Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wilson and a junior at Nicholas County High School, won the Oratorical Contest sponsored by the American Legion Post No. 17. The topic was "The Constitution." Pictured left to right are Mrs. Debbie Vice, English and Speech teacher, Angela, and John Ecton, commander of the Post, presenting her with a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond on behalf of the local post. Angela will compete Feb. 1 in Mt. Sterling against other winners in the state. The national winner will receive a \$16,000 scholarship. —Mercury photo.

## How to increase 1981 tobacco yields

You may think that it's too early to start thinking about the 1981 tobacco crop, but with it still fresh on people's minds, now may be the time to remember what happened to crop yields last year so that the same problems can be avoided this year.

Joe Smiley, Extension tobacco specialist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, attributes the short 1980 crop to three factors: weather stress, disease and low soil fertility.

"There's not much that we can do about the weather — we have to take what we get." But, he adds that

farmers do have control over the disease and soil aspects of the crop.

"First, we need to think about what variety to use in growing this year's crop," said Smiley.

The specialist reminds farmers that if they had black shank on their tobacco ground this past year, they need to select KY 17, the highest yielding black shank resistant variety.

"If you were fortunate not to have the disease in your 1980 crop, it would be to your advantage to grow KY 10, 14 or 15," suggested Smiley.

A good fertilization and liming program is essential for growing tobacco.

"Right now, farmers can obtain a soil test to see what materials they are going to need to get the soil up to recommended levels," the specialist said.

Smiley advises producers to go ahead and apply lime, if it's needed, so that the soil can start reacting to the change.

"We need to increase our yields this year because we've exhausted our supply," commented Smiley.

Also, improved yields will mean higher profits when it comes time to market your burley crop next year.