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Call for 20 credits Teachers want hike in required credits for graduation at NCHS

The Nicholas County Board of Education entertained a petition from the county's high school teachers Monday night which called for an increase in the number of credits required for graduation.

In a letter to Superintendent Elder and the Board signed by every teacher at the high school, the teachers requested the minimum number of credits required for graduation be raised from the current 18 to 20.

The letter stated that the move to 20 credits would bring more consistency into Board policy which now requires students to be enrolled in a minimum of five academic classes per year. "If a student passes all classes," the letter stated, "he will graduate with 20 credits. Yet it appears we are saying it is permissible to fail two credits if we only require the student to graduate with 18 credits."

The teachers said they feel the action is necessary to prepare students for success after graduation. "Nicholas County students graduate into a world which grows more complex with each passing day," the letter said. "They research indicates that every school system surrounding Nicholas County now requires 20 credits for graduation."

The teachers also said that their research indicates that every school system surrounding Nicholas County now requires 20 credits for graduation. They said that "in many cases" the school system has had students transfer to Nicholas County "because they could not make it at other school systems."

The letter also said that the move to 20 credits would alleviate many disciplinary problems at the high school, particularly in the "areas of absenteeism" and "early dismissal." "There is nothing more frustrating to a teacher," the letter reported, "(than) to have a student say 'I don't have to have your class, so I'm not doing a thing in here, and you can't make me.'"

The teachers also addressed the problem of students who "barely make it" under the current requirement of 18 credits. They said that they "have found the student who is genuinely interested in graduating and values his high school diploma will earn the 20 credits with ease. It is the lazy, irresponsible student who chooses to graduate with the bare minimum that critics will speak of," the letter claimed.

There was only minimal discussion of the issue by the Board and no consensus of Board opinion was discernible. Superintendent Donald Elder urged the Board members to think about the proposal before the July Board meeting.

The topic is scheduled for discussion and possible action at next month's Board meeting.

The teachers summed up their request by quoting a 1981 graduating senior who "looked at his report card and stated, 'I only needed one credit to graduate and that's all I got.'"

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Board looks at Title I program

Bill Guthrie, Director of Federal Programs for the Nicholas County school system, appeared before a called session of the Nicholas County Board of Education to discuss the Title I program and the Migrant program with the Board.

Guthrie told the board that results of standardized testing showed that local students in the Title I program were making "exceptional" gains in academic achievement. He said that this year, for the first time, "each class made a gain."

Overall, students in the Title I program averaged an increase of three school months in reading skills and nearly seven months in mathematics skills.

Guthrie also explained the process of admitting students to the Title I program to the Board. Although all students who score below the 40th percentile on their level of a standardized examination are eligible for Title I instruction, Guthrie said that the local system only takes those at or below the 30th percentile into the program.

He said that with a student at the 50th percentile being classified as average, those from the 30th to 50th (and especially from the 40th to 50th), are in many cases only "slightly below."

He said that he feels those children can be handled best by grouping in a normal classroom situation.

Guthrie presented the 1982 Needs Assessment for Title I to the Board. The Needs Assessment identifies those students who are in need of special help by virtue of their scoring below the 40th percentile. In the presentation, Guthrie noted the outstanding performance of

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Setting time above, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Smoot finish setting the last of their crop while Billy Smoot drives the tractor and looks on. — Mercury photo.

State checks into county's primary election

The Mercury learned early Tuesday morning that a State Police investigation into alleged voting irregularities in the county's primary election last month will probably end with no formal charges being filed.

Set Lewis Hankin and Detective Jeff Jett of the Kentucky State Police were both in Carlisle Monday to check into reports of irregular practices in the local primary in May.

The main area of investigation involved a list sent to the KSP anonymously which named persons who allegedly voted in the primary but who weren't residents of the county. Other areas of investigation included reports that persons who own land in the county but who reside elsewhere voted in May's primary, that five Republicans voted in the Democratic primary, and that a name had been forged on the voting list at the Myers precinct.

Trooper James Dowick, Public Information Officer for the Dry Ridge Post, told the Mercury that the incidents in question were satisfactorily explained to the investigating officers and that the investigation would probably stop at its present stage.

Trooper Dowick said that the irregularities were "explainable mistakes" and were concurred with County Clerk Rose Scott's observation that human error was responsible for most of the problems with the election. For example, the supposedly forged name in the Myers precinct seems to have come to the attention of the State Police after one voter signed his name on the wrong line and the name was later crossed out when the voter whose name was supposed to go on that line arrived.

— See Investigation, page 12

Repairs at Blue Licks scheduled for June 29

Blue Licks State Park Superintendent Gene Hughes said last Thursday that the park's gift shop is scheduled to have repairs to its front porch completed by June 29.

The problem with the porch, as described in the May 28 issue of the Mercury, has been steadily deteriorating into even further decay. But Hughes said that he got a call from a Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Parks after the Mercury's article appeared, and that he was "guaranteed" the project would be completed by June 29.

Gift shop manager Juanita Dotson said that business at the shop is better than she had expected at this time of the year, considering the weather and the condition of the porch. Although she added that the increased traffic on the porch is just making its condition worse.

Structural repairs to the Nicholas County Library will force closure of the facility throughout the month of July, according to Librarian Mrs. John Anderson.

Mrs. Anderson said the library will close its doors on June 29, and she doesn't expect to be ready for reopening until August 1.

The bookmobile is still scheduled to continue its regular service and Mrs. Anderson said that plans are being

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Now resting in the garden some 20 feet from where it sat only moments earlier, the trailer owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mitchell was totally destroyed by Sunday's violent storm. — Mercury photo.

House trailer destroyed Violent storm plays havoc locally

Packing winds in excess of 40 miles per hour, the violent thunderstorm that rolled through the county Sunday left a trail of fallen limbs and destroyed property — including one house trailer that was completely demolished.

The local National Guard Armory was also a substantial victim of the storm. The roof of that structure was stripped down to the sheeting in places. Wayne Capps reported that damage has been estimated at a "low \$5,000."

He said Sunday, immediately following the storm, that he felt an entire new roof would be required because of some damage the roof had received in a storm last year.

Also damaged in the storm were the apartments owned by Meredith Evans on Locust Street. Evans said that a window was knocked out, some venting pipe destroyed and a section of the roof stripped away by the violent winds.

Mitchell said that the trailer was insured, but none of the furnishings or appliances carried any coverage. An exact estimate of damages in dollar figures has not yet been reached.

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Another accident occurred at 9:30 p.m. Sunday when a car driven by Jackie Glass, Route 4, Carlisle, left the road and struck a traffic sign at the corner of Main and Sycamore.

Saturday night a two-car accident

Carlsale Police Chief Allen Earlywise reported several accidents in the city last week.

The first occurred last Wednesday when a car driven by Rhonda McDonald, Route 1, Carlisle, was coming off the East Union Road and turned toward town. The car went out of control and struck a tree. There were no injuries in the accident.

Juanita Dotson, Manager of the gift shop at Blue Licks State Park, surveys the ever-worsening condition of the park's gift shop porch. — Mercury photo.

— See Library, page 12

— See Accidents, page 12