



NCHS cheerleaders

Nicholas County's Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleaders will be cheering for their team at the opening game Friday night at Fleming County. Junior Varsity are in front. From left, Melissa Ritchie, Tracy Holler, Tamara Anderson, Anestha Hunt and Kelly

Jackets respectable in Gridorama

The Nicholas County Bluejackets played very well against the Jessamine County Colts in the CMC Gridorama at Versailles last Friday evening. The Bluejackets played two 30-minute halves with Nicholas County edging Nicholas by a score of 87 to the second half. The Colts made their only drive and score against Bluejacket reserves.

The scoring included a 75 yard touchdown pass of the flea-flicker variety from Steve Anderson to Eric

McGuffey to Kevin Wells. Eric McGuffey kicked the extra point. The second touchdown was a three yard run by Robert Hopkins and one reception, 75 yards, one carry, two yards.

DeWayne Baker made the most sacks with eight; Rocky Young had seven. Eric McGuffey and Pat Pope each had four; Darren Robinson, Tony Curtis, Robert Hopkins, Leta Parks, Keith Howard, Chris Hollar and Steve Ledford had three each; Brian Watkins, Steve Anderson, Terry Ledford and Jeff Sallee had two; Kevin Wells, Scott Ramsey, Ron Allison and Allen Hardin had one each.

64 yards, two punt returns, 20 yards; Scott Ramsey, four carries, 60 yards; Pat Pope, one carry, three yards; Kevin Wells, one reception, 75 yards, one carry, two yards.

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County tax rate lower; old armory gym rented

Park to commemorate 'Battle of Blue Licks' on Saturday and Sunday

Gloryland Quartet will sing gospel songs and afterwards there will be a vespers service at 6 o'clock. The vespers service is being organized by Philip Hastings, minister of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church and president of the Nicholas County Ministerial Association.

The museum and gift shop will be open from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. both days. Swimming pool hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hiking, picnic areas and shelter houses are available for visitors as well as overnight accommodations in the 31 site campground.

Nicholas Fiscal Court, meeting last Wednesday, Aug. 10, set the tax rate for 1983 for all real estate in Nicholas County. County tax rate was set at 11.1 cents per \$100 assessment which is 8.2 cents lower than last year's rate. Personal property rate remained at 15.4 cents per \$100 assessment.

Magistrate Elmo Myers made the motion to lease the gym to Kenneth E. Thornburg and Darlene Thornburg for a period of one year, County Attorney Jack L. Hays seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Judge/Executive Elmo Myers, Mayor Earl Plank; against — Orville Atkinson; not voting — William Fryman.



J.R. Ham

Emergency grazing acreage

The Nicholas County AEC Committee has been notified that producers in Nicholas County will be allowed to graze their livestock on their own conservation use acreage.

Conservation use acreage is land that has been removed from production and devoted to approved cover as a requirement for the acreage reduction program, paid development and the payment-in-kind program.

Requests for permission to graze should be made to the local AEC office. Approval for the special grazing provisions is on a county-by-county basis.

These special provisions are for "see Emergency page 14"

Sherriff's office provides fun for 3 boys

Three boys from Nicholas County, Chris Emmons, Frank Johnson Jr. and A.D. Payne Jr. attended the Kentucky Sheriff's Ranch in Gilbertville, Ky. this summer. Their attendance at the ranch was made possible by Sheriff Charles King and the Nicholas County Sheriff's Department and deputies.

There was an all time record of boy attendance at the ranch this summer. Besides the good wholesome recreation, the Kentucky Sheriff's Boys and Girls Ranch provides delicious food, religious training, programs to combat drug abuse, swimming and many other fun filled activities.

Check this out! Library offers instant camera

There are plenty of good reasons for getting the Nicholas County Library — great views, rare journals, valuable reference books and Polaroid instant cameras that can be borrowed free of charge.

What are cameras doing in the public library? "As of today, they're part of our circulating collection," said Jerita Anderson, librarian. "Like our books, magazines and records, they're here for the public to use and enjoy. Come in and check one out for your vacation, party or family get-together."

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For home room assignments

School officials and the Mercury advise you not to call the school offices or the Mercury office if your name is not on the list.

Simply report to school on the first day as scheduled, and you will be placed in the proper home room by school officials.

Curious ? see page 4



State jail standards—another effort to protect taxpayers

By Rep. Adrian Arnold
Jail standards were not drafted to cater to criminals. Jail standards recently adopted in Kentucky are an effort by state and local officials to protect taxpayers from the cost of the jailer, the county judge/executive and members of the fiscal court from excessive lawsuits and settlements in federal court.

Contrary to the belief of some, jail standards do not provide prisoners with fancy housing or a "holiday Inn" atmosphere. Even the newest and best of jails across the nation are no more than concrete walls, concrete floors and steel bars built to comply with fire and life safety standards.

As a legislator, I have been following the jail legislation and jail standards from the beginning of their preparation. I would like to share with my constituents the "bottom line" about the need for jail standards and the direction our work with local jails is taking.

Most of Kentucky's county jails had about, in one way or another, standards or requirements set for jail facilities by the U.S. Constitution.

These shortcomings are due to the age of the jails and inadequate funding of jail operations. Many were built to meet the needs of another era and have deteriorated into safety hazards.

Consequently, many jails do not meet either by state and local officials to protect taxpayers from the cost of the jailer, the county judge/executive and members of the fiscal court from excessive lawsuits and settlements in federal court.

Similar jail operating expenses in a number of counties are not being adequately met by combined state and county budgets. As a result, many jails are underfunded and lack such essential programs as basic medical care.

Because of these shortcomings, conditions and treatment of prisoners in many county jails may violate certain rights that the federal courts have said are guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

Similar jail conditions and treatment of prisoners in other states have been the focus of lawsuits under federal anti-racism laws. Because of these cases, many Kentucky jails are ripe for suits that could be devastating to the county officials and for county budgets.

Preventing the real liability for damages and attorney fees could fall on the county officials personally or the

county treasury. Other cases have shown that federal courts might order jail conditions and specify in precise detail how the jail must be run.

This staggering liability faced by county officials has brought about legislation that would mandate jail officials attempt at jail reform. Local officials petitioned the General Assembly last fall for solutions to the problem. The Legislature, in their last session, took positive action to prevent lawsuits and federal court judgments on jail standards, created improvements. Much of the 1982 legislation is in effect by the state getting its own house in order on its own terms before the federal courts begin to dictate the terms for jail reform.

The jail reform legislation would not have been successful if the General Assembly had not had the full support and active participation of county judges, magistrates, jailers and advocacy groups. Because of this support, the proposed legislation passed easily; two major bills were enacted with only seven dissenting votes.

One of these bills was House Bill 440 which abolished the antiquated fee system, placed the jailer on a salary, and required the development of

minimum standards for local jails. A second bill, House Bill 441, created the Local Correctional Authority to assist counties with the cost of new jail construction and maintenance.

Action directed toward improving Kentucky's county jails did not end with the close of the General Assembly, however. Since the session an executive commission on jail standards, created by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. has drafted the new standards and is being reviewed by the General Assembly.

The commission's task is to bring Kentucky's jails into compliance with federal law. The Jail Standards Commission which developed these new rules was composed of legislative representatives of the Correction and Finance Cabinets, circuit and district judges, county judge executives, prosecutors, sheriffs, circuit and district judges, county jailers, circuit and district judges, county judge executives, public defenders, county attorneys, attorneys and private citizens.

Through this process the commission was united by one guiding principle: the state will contribute over \$11 million or about 20 percent of the money spent on running county jails. Under the old fee system, when jailers were paid a per diem or daily fee for each prisoner by the state, certain

acquisition developed over time. However, enforcement of standards

has not been a painless process. In many counties meeting even the lowest requirements for fire safety, jail fencing, square footage requirements per prisoner and other demands will be required. It is in fact, however, that through state enforcement of standards the upgrading of jails will be much less painful and expensive than the improvement cost of litigation and the demands of federal court orders.

Since the last General Assembly several groups have been planning for the next session. The Jail Study Commission created by House Resolution 16 is looking into ways of assisting counties with jail financing, studying the jail population in the hope of reducing the number of prisoners and working on a state jail plan to guide the overall improvement of the system.

Kentucky, unlike other states, contributes a significant amount of county jail operating funds. The fiscal year 1982 the state will contribute over \$11 million or about 20 percent of the money spent on running county jails. Under the old fee system, when jailers were paid a per diem or daily fee for each prisoner by the state, certain

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