

**Literacy Program gets \$2,000 Grant**  
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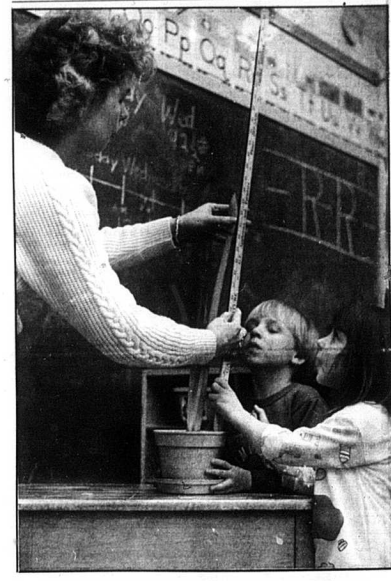
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**FCA Weekend Called A Big Success**  
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Students in Georgia Becker's kindergarten classes are studying plants and measurement by charting the growth of an amaryllis plant in their classroom. In the picture above, Mrs. Becker helps Mitchell Hamilton and Kara Walton with their daily measurement. — Bob Conroy Photo

## Vote on application Monday For sewer grant

By Jack H. Deason  
Of The Mercury Staff

Carlisle City Council is expected to approve a resolution next Monday night, to allow application to the state for a federal grant for renovation of the municipal sewer system.

At a called special meeting, Tuesday night, council heard Don Hasel, director of the department of community and economic development for Bluegrass Area Development District, explain the grant application.

Council did not vote on a final resolution to file the grant, Tuesday night, since the time period for public comment on the matter was not scheduled to expire until 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 4.

The grant, if approved, will qualify the city to receive funds from a U.S. House and Urban Development HUD Community Block Grant.

The number of grants will be reduced this year, making the timeliness and qualification for application more important than ever.

"I wanted to give council members time to ask any questions they might have concerning the application," Hasel said of the special meeting.

"If there was anything they wanted to know I wanted to give them a chance to voice that, before passing the resolution and continuing on with the grant application."

**CDBG FUNDS REQUESTED \$750,000**

**OTHER FUNDING SOURCES**

Carlisle Cash	\$100,000
Ky. Development Grant	\$100,000
Carlisle	\$100,000
Financ Authority Loan	\$100,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$1,100,000

The total cost of the sewer project, including costs paid the actual engineering and design, totals nearly \$1.3 million.

The application, if approved, would give the city \$750,000 toward the total cost of the project.

The city will be required to come up with \$100,000 cash, plus an additional \$50,000 in equipment, manpower and material sufficient to complete the project.

The \$100,000, which must be supplied from the city, will come from the city's sewer system reserve account, which will be applied to this wastewater project, contingent upon the approval of the HUD grant application.

That equipment, manpower and materials valued at \$50,000 will be provided by the city to undertake identified sewer rehabilitation efforts associated with this same wastewater project, contingent on grant approval.

In addition, to even quality for the grant application, a survey was conducted to determine how many users of the service are law to

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## From Kentucky DOE Literacy program gets \$2,000 grant

By Benny Faust  
Of The Mercury Staff

Nicholas County Board of Education has been awarded a \$2,000 grant for its adult literacy program.

Kentucky Literacy Commission has recommended 21 grants totaling \$9,179 to local adult literacy programs. The awards, made by Governor Martha Layne Collins, are the second series of grants under a program approved by the 1986 General Assembly.

The grants were approved January 22 at the Literacy Commission's quarterly meeting.

According to Jane Becker, Nicholas County Adult Literacy Program Director, the check from the state is expected to arrive soon.

"We have already begun instruction with three students, even though funding has not arrived," said Becker.

"Nicholas County Board of Education will fund the project until we get state money," she said.

The grants include the first seven awards for innovative programs such as computer-assisted instruction and a state literacy newsletter produced by Operation Head in Lexington.

The remainder of the grants will be used by local programs, which are largely volunteer efforts, for such things as part-time coordinators, supplies, public awareness and books and materials.

"The money we receive will be used primarily for books and supplies, since the program is free to participants," Becker said.

"Also included in the funds is a nominal salary for Mrs. Hamilton, the program coordinator, but she will also be performing in many hours of her own time.

Tutors, eight of whom have already received several hours of required training, are working strictly on a volunteer basis, paying their own travel costs, when needed.

The latest grants bring the total of funds awarded to local programs since July 1, 1986 to \$41,872.

Funds have been awarded to adult literacy programs in all 102 counties of Kentucky's 120 counties, according to Jane Becker, chairperson of the Literacy Commission.

A total of \$12,000 from the first year's appropriation remains. The commission is taking applications from programs which received funds in the initial round of grants for supplemental funding. These grants will be awarded later this spring, said Becker.

According to Becker, Nicholas County's grant application, received for consideration in January, is the state terms the "mid-year cycle," was not included in the initial round of grants, therefore, not qualifying for supplemental funds.

The latest grants range from \$1,100 to \$13,986 to Seftonwood to Head, Inc. of Morehead, a program in which juvenile offenders with low reading levels are placed in reading programs.

"We're pretty well set for tutors," said Becker. "Now all we need are more students."

"We have contacted some through Adult Education, those who have had trouble with classes because they lack basic reading skills," Becker said.

"Up to this point," she continued, "our emphasis has been upon recruiting tutors, but now we need to concentrate on getting the word out to people who want to learn to read."

"We haven't even had any delayed school days, this is something done when conditions are not too severe. Our worst years were 1983 and 1985," revealed Conrad.

According to Conrad, severe weather conditions usually cause schools to be closed an average of eight days in the month of January.

"This year the weather has not interrupted school attendance at all—and that's a very good record."

## Dropping out A trip to nowhere

By Hank Reed  
Of The Mercury Staff

It's not unlike many challenges students face every day, but it's especially important to several young people every year.

One of her responsibilities is to make sure a consistent watch is made for students, who might drop out of school.

Conrad is quick to say she has a lot of help, throughout the Nicholas County School System.

"We have a fine system in Nicholas County. It is a process."

"The student's teacher begins by checking on unusual attendance patterns right away. If the teacher suspects there is a problem, a strong emphasis is put on working with the student."

"If the problem continues, the teacher will review the problem with the school's counselor."

"Once this referral is made the counselor will work with the student and the parents to make every effort in assisting the child in understanding the importance of regular school attendance."

"Teachers will work as much as possible with the students. There also is some additional out-of-classroom assistance available."

In 1985, 26 students dropped out of Nicholas County Schools. In 1986, the number was reduced to 27, and in 1987 the number was reduced again to 18.

In addition, of the 18, 10 have returned to school in 1987, and Conrad hopes these will continue in school.

"The school system, along with the Kentucky Department of Education has been looking at the overall picture."

When it is possible, if the child is having academic problems we will do everything possible with the class scheduler to help the student attain passing grades.

"Teachers will work as much as possible with the students. There also is some additional out-of-classroom assistance available."

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**NEXT—How the laws have changed for dropping out of school.**



## Snow going slow

By Benny Faust  
Of The Mercury Staff

Nicholas County food crews are not sure whether or not it was really January that had not gone by.

According to Nicholas County Judge-Executive Dennis Stone, it has been a long time since Carlisle has received so little snow in January, usually one of the most brutal winter months.

"This is the first time I can remember the whole month of January without the schools being closed at least once on account of snow," said Stone.

Although Kentucky State Highway Department crews have been out on several occasions, the Nicholas County road department has only sent men out a few times to spread salt.

"Wednesday (January 28) was about the sickest day we've had so far," Stone said. "But we still didn't need the snowplows."

"In the twelve years since 1975 Betty Conrad has been at Nicholas County Board of Education, there has never been a January without any school closings."

"We haven't even had any delayed school days, this is something done when conditions are not too severe. Our worst years were 1983 and 1985," revealed Conrad.

According to Conrad, severe weather conditions usually cause schools to be closed an average of eight days in the month of January.

"This year the weather has not interrupted school attendance at all—and that's a very good record."