

Project Graduation Underway
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Nicholas County High School Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America is video taping and fingerprinting first grade students so that parents might have a record of the child's vital data. Pictured above, FFA member Sheila Livingood fingerprints Tonya Plank, a student in Mrs. Ammerman's class. —*William Owen*

The beginning : Project Graduation

By Hank Line
of the Mercury Staff

It's only a beginning, but we're heading in the right direction. These were the comments of Sue Kirby, a teacher at Nicholas County High School, about Project Graduation. The project's concept found its beginning in the state of Maine in 1980 when a team of school and community members, kids and adults, were determined not to bury as many babies as it had the year before during the graduation season.

There had been 11 deaths during a graduation period at a Maine high school, and that prompted the planning of the event. Many errors saw alcohol as the gradual cause, an inappropriate way to celebrate one's graduation from high school.

And many parents accepted that view, even when they had misgivings. So the initial idea of an alcohol or drug free graduation did not receive favorable reviews. The Maine school held one and was a big party at a local resorting club, featuring games, ping-pong, dancing, swimming and more... and got local television and radio stations, along with newspapers to publicize it.

With the party, the school's graduation season was celebrated without a single fatality, no drug or alcohol related accidents and no student arrests for operating under the influence.

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By Nicholas Fiscal Court Burning ordinance reviewed

By Benny Faust
of the Mercury Staff

Some discussion followed about the possibility of revising the ordinance. Work needed around the courthouse entrance is also being considered.

The county would pay for the repairs, then be reimbursed by a U. S. Administrative Office of the District Court, said Sood.

John Ertan reported the rock crusher at the quarry would be done for two or three days, but be operational by the middle of this work, on about January 21.

According to Harris, out of 120 counties approached, only six have decided against implementing the proposed ordinance.

Prevention of violators would be by local law enforcement agencies. The penalty for operating during a no-burns period was recommended to be set between \$50 and \$250.

Sneed asked the court to review the proposed ordinance, distributed during the meeting to each member, for further discussion at the next meeting.

In other business: A motion was passed to amend the 1986 Kentucky General Fund project to extend to include 1987.

Kentucky Group, formed by the joining of counties throughout the state for the purpose of providing low-cost housing, was unable to receive state funds in 1986.

Work on the upstairs courtroom has been finished for the most part, painting and refinishing completed. It had been 12 years since the courtroom interior had been renovated.

Other activity included approval of transfers from the Jail Fund to be used for various operating expenses. After a report on delinquent tax collections by Conley, a motion was carried that the \$1,100 commission still in his account be carried over for the county attorney's future office expenses.

It was noted that \$4,000 be transferred from the Revenue Sharing Fund to meet the county's obligation with Nicholas County Senior Citizens Center. The next regular meeting is set for 6 p.m., February 4, in the downstairs courtroom.

Bell pays city taxes

South Central Bell, one of the area's largest taxpayers, has paid taxes totaling \$17,263.18 to Nicholas County.

Tom Tucker, Manager, delivered the check to Carlisle, January 19. The payment is just part of an estimated \$2 million in taxes that South Central Bell will pay this year to cities, counties and the state government.

"As one of the state's largest businesses, South Central Bell's contribution to Kentucky's economy is substantial," Tucker said.

"And that contribution goes beyond tax dollars," Tucker added. "We've a tremendous investment in Kentucky's modern telecommunications network, which is a valuable resource in helping to attract businesses to the state and to keep those already here."

South Central Bell serves approximately 70,000 customers in 18 counties across the state.

Health proposal hearing set

The Commission for Health Economics Control in Kentucky has scheduled a public hearing on a central Kentucky home health proposal.

According to the proposal, MANACT Home Health Agency, Paris, would be established to serve Bourbon, Harrison, Clark, Nicholas and Scott counties. The proposal involves a \$74.96 capital expenditure.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. January 28 in the first floor auditorium, Department for Health Services building, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort.

The hearing will be conducted by the three members of the commission.

Grant sought by NCVFD

Forty thousand dollars in grants to assist rural fire departments in upgrading their equipment will be available again this year, according to Charlotte Baldwin, secretary, Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet.

"I just finished filling out the paperwork on the weekend," said Mark Hughes, chief of the Nicholas County Fire Department.

"We have received grants for the past two years of \$400 each, and that's the maximum amount of the grant," Hughes added.

NCHS students In The Know this Sunday

Nicholas County High School will meet Somerset High in academic competition on IN THE KNOW Sunday, January 25, at 10 a.m. on WLEX-TV 18.

A team from Nicholas County will meet the team from the second round and a team from the 1986 IN THE KNOW championship.

IN THE KNOW is a bi-annual year of academic quiz competition in Lexington, N.C. It is a bi-annual year of academic quiz competition in Lexington, N.C. It is a bi-annual year of academic quiz competition in Lexington, N.C.

The year began with 64 schools from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Nicholas County High is one of 16 teams remaining in contention for the IN THE KNOW championship. This year's champion will be crowned in early 1987.



Members of the Nicholas County High School Academic Team, which will participate in WLEX-TV's In The Know program, Sunday are left to right: Brian Scott, Scott Johnson, and Anna Lavelle. Pictured in the back row are alternate Joshua Gaudre and team sponsor Kathy Green.

