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It's Back To School Time -Special Inside This Week's Mercury
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Keeping You In Touch

Truck ignites, explodes in Nicholas; worker is injured fighting blaze

A truck carrying explosives ignited last Wednesday in a field just off U.S. 68, forcing evacuation of 10 homes in the area.

The truck was in a field on the farm of Taylor Asbury, Feather Ridge Farm, doing contract work for South Central Bell.

The truck, owned by Kelly and Wilmore Construction Company of Owensboro, apparently caught fire when grass under the truck caught ignited.

The blaze caused three dynamite caps to explode; however several sticks of dynamite did not.

David Watkins, 32, of Carlisle, was working on a ruger attached to the truck when he discovered the fire. He attempted to contain the blaze with a fire extinguisher, however, the fire flared up as he approached and he received first and second degree burns to his back and stomach.

He was admitted to Nicholas County Hospital, after being transported by private vehicle.

Members of the Nicholas County Fire Department and Millersburg Fire Department responded to the scene and applied over 8,000 gallons of water in an attempt to cool the dynamite on the truck.

The truck also contained an amount of jell type explosive, however, it reportedly would have only burned and not exploded.

Seven Nicholas County firemen responded to the 1:45 p.m. call, along with Nicholas County Ambulance personnel, members of the Nicholas County Sheriff's office, Kentucky State Police troopers and members of the Nicholas County DES.

Larry Henderson, Hazardous Devices Coordinator for the Kentucky State Police also investigated the incident.

The State Fire Marshall's office informed firemen at the scene it would take at least two hours for the temperature to cool near the dynamite. It was also stressed a lowering of temperature could cause the dynamite to explode.

Firemen cleared the scene in the early evening hours, with no apparent problems.

The fire and subsequent work caused traffic to be rerouted around the scene, through Carlisle and Kentucky 32 west of Carlisle.

According to state and local officials the incident remains under investigation.



Nicholas County Fireman Jeryl Jones (left) applies water to a truck carrying dynamite. The truck had ignited earlier causing three dynamite caps to explode. At top, Larry Henderson, Hazardous Devices Coordinator for the Kentucky State Police, inspects the truck following the Wednesday afternoon fire and subsequent explosion. The incident occurred on the farm of Taylor Asbury. - Julie Pfeiffer Photos.

Court approves plan

By Heather Mathes

Nicholas County employees have a new insurance plan.

Nicholas Fiscal Court met in special session Monday, and passed a motion allowing a new county employee insurance plan.

Charles Watkins, representative of National Insurance Services, was before the court to offer information about the plan.

Court had approved the plan, but withheld action to have clarification on some information.

Watkins said, "This quoted premium will be different and will include more options for the employee to choose from."

Included in the package are health, life, dental, maternity, eyeglass and prescription benefits for single or family plans, with a \$250 deductible.

Watkins said, "Next year I would advise appointing a committee and letting insurance representatives talk to them and they make recommendations to the whole court."

On another matter, Watkins said he would like to discuss something to do with the county fire department.

"Because the county has a class 10 fire department, instead of a class nine, homeowner's insurance rises substantially."

"I had to estimate one homeowner's insurance over \$600 today (Monday) because you have a class 10 department. If the county was class nine, it would have been \$300 or under."

According to Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark

Hughes the department is in the process of attempting to get a new rating.

"Now that the department has a new truck with the proper pumping capacity, an effort is being made to lower the department's rating to class nine and hopefully better," Hughes said in an interview Tuesday morning.

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Court approves plan

By Hank Bond

Nicholas County Board of Education will meet in special session Thursday to consider revisions to its kindergarten transportation policy.

Monday night the board gave tentative approval to an interim amendment to the policy which will amend the policy to adopt on an interim basis a policy which will amend the current policy until it can be reviewed and a permanent plan put into effect.

In approving the interim plan the board agreed its primary concern has to be maintaining proper classroom size.

State guidelines mandate no more than 28 students can be scheduled for a kindergarten class in the Nicholas County system's operation.

For the 1988-89 school year, Nicholas County will continue to hold half-day, twice a day sessions, five-days-a-week for the entire school year.

The alternative of holding day long, alternating session kindergarten surfaced at the

board meeting again, however, it was never considered as an alternative for this school year.

"The policy revision and subsequent scheduling of a special session came about as Billy Minton and Paula Hunter approached the board asking for a session change for their children."

Minton and Hunter asked

for a different session to allow proper transportation of their children.

Board member Jahn Cleaver said, and other board members agreed, "Maybe it's time to reconsider the policy on transportation. For the past three years I have supported following the policy to the letter, however, maybe it's time

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Kindergarten transportation to be reviewed

By Julie Pfeiffer

of The Carlisle Mercury

Monday night the Carlisle City Council voted to blacktop the following sections of road: the alley on Locust, behind the city building, Symamore from North Street to Second Street, Douglas Court off of West Main to the end of the street, Cliffway off of 36 to Road, Entrance of Jockey International.

There were two bids for the blacktopping work, and Area Smith of Mt. Sterling was awarded the job with the price of \$36.4 million.

Doug Garrett then requested that the city close Main Street and Broadway for Court Days during the last weekend of September (22-24). The council will discuss this

Carlisle Council gives go-ahead for blacktopping

at a later date, Carlisle Mayor Lee Bents and councilman Cartmell Lester expressed various concerns about his proposal.

"Well, I think that would be a good time to take my vacation," Lester said during the meeting. Later, when he was asked to clarify his feelings about closing the streets, he said he would rather not comment.

There was a second reading of an ordinance amending the 1988-89 budget and the council voted to approve this ordinance.

Council approved a water contract with the Sharpshooter Water District. Skip Watson, Carlisle City Attorney said this is simply an agreement to sit down and negotiate and

is not binding."

Council also approved the purchase of a 1985 Dodge Diplomat which they have borrowed to decide whether or not they want it. Bents said several people have checked the car out and it is in top condition and has 80,000 miles on it.

Its approval was based on fact that it will be the new cruiser and will soon be equipped with a police radio and lights. The two older cars will be put in reserve, the mayor said.

In other business Council:

- approved a 22 cent property tax per \$100 value.
- approved a 22 motor vehicle tax per \$100 value.
- discussed an agreement Saturday morning when a dispatcher was away from the radio for 12 minutes.
- discussed a street problem with East Catherine Street. There is a three inch shoulder and the crown of the road is too high, also.
- In following up on a Nicholas County School Superintendent Don Elder's request for dispatching services from a security system, councilman Jeff Tyer spoke with the superintendent. The security system will be installed, Tyer reported, and agreements between the school and the city will be drawn up later.

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