

COMMUNITY

Elder explains school system's snow plan

By Barbara Mathes
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
With little more than an inch of snow and temperatures that dipped in the teens, Nicholas County school children reached their destination safely Monday and Tuesday morning.

Donald G. Elder, superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, explained a lot of preparation goes into a decision of whether to have or not have school.

"I am up about 4:30 a.m. driving some of the rural roads that I think we may have problems with so that I am prepared to make a decision," Elder said.

"We also have close communication with the state and county road department. If we have a road that especially needs salt or rock all I have to do is tell them and they are more than willing to cooperate, which is an tremendous help in getting the children to school safely," said Elder.

A major determination in the safety of Nicholas County children are the bus drivers that haul a number of children each day. "We have qualified and certified bus drivers that know the roads because most of them live in the area," Elder said.

"There were a few minor incidents Monday morning and afternoon that were quickly alleviated. One bus did get stuck Monday morning but we quickly sent another bus to pick up those kids that were already on the bus and a wrecker to pull out the bus."

"There were a couple of drivers that found roads that were not safe and did not travel on them. Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. we did have one minor accident that involved a bus that came to a full halt on a hill but did not cause an unscrupled assembly," added Elder.

"I would like to say that I completely trust those bus drivers' judgment and that they realize that Nicholas County Schools put safety first and they adhere to this. They also give children more time to get to the bus or be out in the cold too long," concluded Elder.

No county school has traffic incidents were reported on Tuesday.



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