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## Nicholas Co. payroll tax declared constitutional

### By Kentucky Supreme Court

By Chip Miller  
The Kentucky Supreme Court ruling that the tax was unconstitutional for smaller counties with less than 30,000 residents. Nicholas County has 7,800 residents. "I'm glad it's over," said Nicholas County Judge Executive Beese Smoot Friday.

However, the court put on standby implementation of collection until the first of 1989 after the Casey County lawsuit developed. The tax met opposition from Nicholas County residents when it was suggested by the fiscal court. The state supreme court heard arguments of the lawsuit December 11.

## In 1988 General Assembly Arnold discusses legislative concerns

By Chip Miller  
More jobs and economic development are the two areas State Representative Adam Arnold (D-McBerrington) said his Nicholas County constituents are most concerned about.

Arnold said the legislature is expecting a proposed budget from the governor to meet the \$40 to \$50 million shortfall.

The legislature has previously considered measures offering partial solutions to the liability insurance problem by setting caps on damage awards.

"We need to start looking for economic development, both agriculturally for our farmers and non-agriculturally," said Arnold. He said jobs should be the number one concern because if people are employed, the economy would grow and the other problems facing Kentucky would fall into place.

Arnold said he favored continuing efforts for finding alternative crops and new markets for Nicholas County agriculture growth.

There's also concern about campaign expenses, vote fraud and other election abuses, he said. Arnold said he has received some responses to his questionnaire that the Carlisle Mercury carried.

## Jones wants new plan

By Hank Bond  
Nicholas County firemen answered this house trailer fire on U.S. 60 at 3:45 p.m. January 21. The trailer belongs to Freddie Frusher. Cause of the blaze is listed as possibly from a kerosene heater. The damage was estimated as a total loss. Chip Miller Photo

By Hank Bond  
I believe Governor Wilkinson is doing the right thing with the belt tightening, and in my office I have anticipated for the past year. According to Jones' figures, he had trimmed 30 percent from the budget of his office. He no longer will use the big governor's mansion in Frankfort as a residence, and he, nor his wife, will use the vehicles or the Kentucky State Police Troopers assigned to them.

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## Mercy wins four awards in KPA newspaper contest

By Chip Miller  
The Carlisle Mercury captured four awards in the Better Newspaper Contest, sponsored by the Kentucky Press Association.

The awards were presented at an awards banquet held January 22 in Louisville's Galt House Ball. The banquet was part of the winter convention of the association.

The Mercury staff report on the 1987 Kentucky Primary Election was selected as the state's best in The Mercury's class of weekly newspapers.

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## State auditor wants changes to be made

By Chip Miller  
The state auditor's recommendation said that the county did not budget the expenditures of the Community Center Rental Fund.

The auditor's report recommended compliance with the statute requiring all expenditures of the county be budgeted.

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## Dam proposal is questioned

By Heather Mathes  
The Nicholas County Farm Bureau Chapter met Monday night, January 25.

After approving the minutes the directors discussed the project for pending dams in Nicholas County from a program devised by Pendleton County Judge Executive Dick Pridgen.

Matthew Kennedy, Nicholas County Farm Bureau President said, "These dams are really for a lake that is an alternative for the Palomuch Dam."

## Bird population reduced by Carlisle City officials

By Chip Miller  
The Carlisle City Police and volunteers set out city buildings on Main Street January 20 and shot pigeons in an effort to reduce the city's pigeon population.

City Police Chief Allen Earlywine said the city department reduced the pigeon population because of complaints from various city merchants.

The problem was beginning to get out of hand, Earlywine said of the birds.

Earlywine said the shooting process was successful and the pigeon population in the city was reduced.

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