General News

Board fixes .....

Continued from Page 1

of the handicapped bus met state requirements and has helped in the handling of handicapped children in the district. Lane also mentioned to the board the loading and unloading of children at the elementary school has been redesigned to maximize supervision of children and make the loading safer for all involved.

Lane also mentioned the need for the county to begin purchasing new buses. Only two new buses have been bought in the past two years and the fleet is rapidly depreciating and aging.

Both Gilbert and Lane pointed out to the board the state financing for transportation makes it possible to buy two new busses per year from the money the state gives schools for bus depreciation. While no motions were passed, the superintendent said he hopes to buy six busses over the next two years, either on a three-three plan or a four-two plan.

The transportation chief for the county system also asked the board to consider buying diesel busses when it looks into purchasing actual vehicles.

"A gas vehicle gets four to five miles per gallon and a diesel vehicle will get 10 to 11 miles per gallon," Lane stated.

In addition, Gilbert said the cost of gas and diesel is very close now, given the situation in the Persian Gulf, and it might be more economical to purchase diesel busses in the future.

"Whatever the choice," Gilbert noted, "it is going to take good management to make the program pay for itself."

A major issue the board dealt with and passed was the recommendation of the superintendent on the school district's contract with the Community Action Council's Head Start Program.

Under the conditions of a contract several years old, Nicholas County Schools provide transportation of 4 year olds to Head Start for the fee of $250 per student per semester.

Gilbert said the county has been informed by the state that the cost of performing such a function is $268 per student per semester.

The state education department has written the superintendent stating Nicholas County must be fully reimbursed in this program.

Gilbert informed the board of several meetings he has had with Head Start officials and recommended to the board the increase be charged to Head Start at the beginning of the 1991-92 schoolyear.

The reason for delaying the increase is to avoid creating hardships for Head Start. Since Head Start is a federally funded program its budget was set in April and all money was allocated at that time.

The board unanimously passed the superintendent's recommendation.

Other motions the board passed in Monday's three hour session were:

- Acknowledged the resignations of Anthony Smith and Glenna Norton.
- Acknowledged the hiring of certified employees Kerrie Logan and Bonnie Darbro.
- Hired substitute teachers Barbara Hopkins, Caroline Kirkpatrick, Emma Courts and Bruce Barnes.
- Hired substitute cooks Joan Cartmill, Glenda Harmon and Susan Gillespie.
- Hired Patsy Ecton as substitute bus driver.
- Hired part-time employee Charles Guthrie as substitute custodian.
- Passed a motion making a Chapter II application.
- Passed motion filing for a mathematics grant.
- Accepted the annual performance report.
- Retained MacGregor and Associates of Winchester to perform the psychological testing the state and federal governments require with special education children.
- Approved use of the school building for Nicholas County Little League Basketball. The school retains priority.
- Granted permission for Ms. Lottie O'Bannon to take special education athletes to Special Olympic events.
- Granted field trip requests to Home Economics, the FHA, the FFA, the band and the senior class trip to Morehead State University.
- Gave the Carlisle National Guard Unit permission to use the high school football field on October 16, 1990 for their physical fitness test.
- Tabled a request by the Lady Jacket Basketball Booster Club to hold a haunted house in the red barn below the elementary school. The superintendent and the board were concerned about the safety of the building and will wait until the building has been checked before granting or denying the use of the barn.
- Approved the request of the Men's Sunday League to use the elementary school gymnasium from October 1 to March 31. The men's league must obtain the appropriate liability insurance, however.
- Entered into a professional development consortium with the Kentucky Educational Development Commission.
- Entered into a contract with Johnson-Mathers to have physical therapists treat special education children who need therapy and medical attention.
- Approved contract with Head Start in which Head Start wil teach and run the at-risk 4 year old program mandated under the new education laws. Head Start will handle the program in 1990-91 and Nicholas County will take the program over in the future, provided it has the room to educate the 4 year olds.
- Authorized South Central Bell to install a new phone system in the administration building. The present phone system has been struck twice by lightning and is nearly obsolete. The new phone system will cost $4100 and will allow multiple hook-ups. The new system will also allow for a computer link with the Kentucky Department of Education in Frankfort, which is mandated beginning in the Spring of 1991.

Have A News Tip? or A Great Story Line? Call Tim Jones The Carlisle Mercury 289-2464

The best are best again in 1990

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Kentucky school systems which traditionally score the best on achievement tests are the best again this year.

The Anchorage Independent school system scored highest on the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills for the second year in a row. Ft. Thomas, Southgate, Beechwood and Russell, all independent school systems, round out the top five.

In fact, every school system in the top ten was an independent, city school.

Education professionals interviewed indicated the independent, city systems perform better on tests for two reasons.

First, the parents in the cities with excellent systems tend to emphasize education in the home.

Gerald Hammons, principal at Nicholas County Elementary School, used the Anchorage school system as an example in a Thursday morning interview.

"The parents of the children in the Anchorage school system tend to be professional people and put a great deal of emphasis on education."

Ken Draut, Director of Unit Assessment, Division of Evaluation, Kentucky Department of Education, agreed with Hammons point.

"The best school systems are generally in the highest socio-economic areas. These areas have parental support and a family background in education poorer areas don't."

Traut added family support of education plays a large role in the academic development of the child.

Hammons and Traut both point to money and the abundance of it in independent systems as a reason for better education and better test scores. Traut noted independents have more money to spend on actual learning and teaching because they do not have the logistical requirements of a county system.

"Most of the kids in city systems walk to school," Traut explained, "this frees up money that county systems spends on bus fleets to be spent on instruction."

Likewise, there is simply more money in city systems because there is more money in cities.

"Historically, towns have been the center of the counties," Traut noted, "and businesses are there and factories. There is simply more to tax and the tax rates tend to be higher."

Hammons supported this idea. "Anchorage pays a tax rate of 79 cents for every $100. They have money for extra programs and small classes."

Phyllis Ramey, assistant principal at Nicholas County Elementary School, thinks the small classes are the key to the independent schools success.

"Most independent schools have really small classes," the assistant principal noted, "and small class size has a lot to do with a child's education."

The more money a school system has also produces results in other places.

"Independent schools tend to get excellent teachers," Jane Becker, the CTBS testing coordinator for the Nicholas County system said, "simply because they can pay more money for them."

Traut summed up the importance of money in schools when he pointed to other factors the State Department of Education felt are important in a school's educational effectiveness.

"We list such things as curriculum, teachers, structure of the school and school climate. But the one thing we see time after time, and while I can't say this definitely causes it, there is a very high correlation. The better off the area is socio-economically the higher grades and test scores are."

Nicholas scores improve .....

Continued from Page 1

class show the third grade class scoring best at 55.6, the fifth graders scoring 43.3, the seventh graders 51.5 and the 10th grade 51.7.

Nicholas County officials, while pleased to have moved up on the Herald-Leader list, do not believe the test is a fair indication of a school's instructional abilities or of its artists abilities.

Gerald Hammons, principal of Nicholas County Elementary School, said that while the ranking was up 10 places over last year, he was not particularly happy about being listed at 149.

"I'm not overly concerned about it, either," Hammons stated. "The test is only based on grades three, five, seven and 10. Our score was 50.6 and Fleming County, ranked 36 on the list, had a 57.0. That means there is 113 schools between us and Fleming County on the list but only 6.4 test points. Those 6.4 test points is a marginal difference. It is not statistically significant."

Peg Reid, principal at Nicholas County High School, agreed with Hammons assessment.

"Public perception is important and most of the public doesn't realize the very small difference between 30 and 150 on the list."

The list and the inevitable comparisons it generates between school systems is one the biggest concerns the school officials have.

"The ranking system leads to the biggest misconceptions about schools," Reid said.

Calvert Gilbert, Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools said the Kentucky Department of Education releases the rankings to show the public the improvement in Kentucky schools overall. This leads to a comparison of school systems which the first year superintendent sees as unfair.

"I wish the Department of Education would send the results to the school and let the school work on the areas the test points out," Gilbert said. "The tests have become more of a comparison of schools than an educational tool," he added.

Gilbert felt if Nicholas County was to emphasize the test and teach the test, scores would rise dramatically but education would suffer.

"Some schools teach the test," Gilbert bluntly said, "and it's not ethical and it's not right. How else could schools increase so much in just one year? After all, you've got the same kids and you can't change students' abilities significantly in one year."

Gilbert, Hammons and Reid all stress Nicholas County's compliance with state regulations when administering the test.

The Department of Education has many regulations which are to be followed when giving the test. According to Betty Ballard, the guidance counselor at the high school, there are enforced time limits, a code of ethics, test security and the test must be taken between the 160th and 170th day of instruction. The official responsible for the test must also give a signed statement swearing that the test was not leaked.

"The Code of Ethics is taken very seriously in Nicholas County," Hammons said. "We adhere to the letter of the law. The tests are stored in a separate room and teachers see tests only on days tests are given. We test 99.9 percent of the students and encourage children to be in school on the day of the tests and give them incentives to be there."

Phyllis Ramey, assistant principal at the elementary school, said make-up days are even ran to make sure the school gets as many students as possible to take the test.

CTBS fair but can create problems

School officials are also quick to point to the problems tests can create.

Hammons said the staff at the elementary stresses the importance of the tests to the youngsters but they don't always get the point.

"Last year some of the fifth graders finished the test in four minutes. I take ten minutes just to read the test and these scores count with all of the rest," he said.

Jane Becker, the testing evaluator for Nicholas County said the tests are more difficult for some children than others.

"It's a timed test and some children don't perform well under those conditions."

Likewise, the test, if used incorrectly, can cause education to suffer.

Betty Ballard, the guidance counselor at the high school, said this type of test meets the basic needs of the school administration but because the school staff seeks to avoid labeling children other indicators besides the tests are used to evaluate students.

"We try to use the tests as a tool to improve," Ballard said.

"Several teachers have already checked with me to see the areas the faculty and students need to improve in. We also use it to plan curriculum around and use it some in student placement."

The two principals agree the test meets its purpose.

"The test fulfills its purpose," Reid said, "it generally does what its supposed to do."

"In general, it's a fair test," Hammons said. "The Kentucky average was 54 and that's four points above the national average. Only 20 school systems in the state were below the national average. Nicholas County's scores indicate a solid school based on the national average."

Other ways to judge schools besides the CTBS

Administrators also point out other ways parents and the public can judge Nicholas County schools besides using the CTBS.

Gerald Hammons believes the best way to measure an educational system is by the track record of its graduates.

"Nicholas County turns out a lot of college people and professional people who are successful in life and I believe this is the best way to measure success," Hammons said.

Jane Becker indicated Nicholas County has more students than ever attending colleges and vocational schools. Ballard also indicated this was an important consideration for a school and said 49 percent of the class of 1990 went on to college or other post-secondary institutions.

"Of our 1990 class, 37 of the 86 graduates went on to college and 38 of them took the American College Test."

The ACT, administered to juniors and seniors as a college entrance exam, is based on a student's knowledge of English, Math, Reading and Science Reasoning.

Overall, according to statistics given by the school administration, the Nicholas County students do better than the Kentucky average. In addition, Nicholas County students also perform better on the Scholastic Aptitude Test than the average college bound Kentucky student.

Reid, the high school principal, believes the school's performance in the academic league is another indicator of the quality of education the system gives students.

"Our academic team has dominated the academic league in the past," Reid explained, noting the academic league includes several schools ranked well above Nicholas County in the CTBS listings.

The major point all school administrators are interested in is insuring a fair comparison is drawn between Nicholas County and other schools.

"My biggest concern is that people draw a fair comparison," Reid said.

Gerald Hammons, also concerned about the comparisons, felt the success of graduates and the concern of the administrators for the children' education and welfare makes Nicholas County a competitive system in academics and instruction.

"What I want the public to know," Hammons said, "is that children can get a good education in Nicholas County if they want it."

Statewide .....

Continued from Page 3

With more school money and a school-reform spirit that seems to be taking hold, "I think we stand a good chance to jump significantly above the rest of the nation," Brock said.

He said two features of Kentucky's new education laws should be particularly effective: statewide preschool, which would be of greatest benefit to children otherwise most at risk of becoming dropouts, and expanded remediation programs.

Scores released September 4 were from the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills, which was given to Kentucky pupils in the third, fifth, seventh and 10th grades last spring.

There were five test categories for each grade: reading, language, math, spelling and total battery. There was a sixth category — study skills — for all but third-graders.

Tuesday's figures allowed comparisons to Kentucky's 1989 scores and to norms that were set in nationwide testing in 1988. New norms are established about every seven years.

1989 results better than ever

Kentucky pupils in 1989 scored below national norms in third-grade math, seventh-grade spelling and seventh-grade study skills. Each was slightly above average this year.

A comparison with the 1990 scores of pupils in other states will be possible when more figures are available in the spring, Brock said.

There was no ranking of Kentucky school districts, but rough comparisons of individual grades were possible.

There also were several financial and demographic statistics for each district, including pupil-teacher ratio, instruction costs, dropout rate, assessed property value and percentage of pupils that are economically deprived.

Scores generally were higher in more prosperous districts.

General News

The Carlisle Mercury/Tim Jones Photo

20 Year Award

Lanny Hutchison, president of First National Bank of Carlisle, presents Judy Scott with a 20 service award at the bank.

ONTHERECORD

Continued from Page 9

Lexington Credit Bureau vs. Mary Ellen Roberts. Motion. Default judgment.

Les-Bhar Grass Federal Credit Union vs. Highland Jolly. Motion. Default judgment.

Lexington Credit Bureau vs. George Mitchell. Motion. Order of dismissal.

Nicholas Grand Jury Indictment
September 6, 1990

Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. Robert D. Herrington. 1) Arson second degree KRS 513.030. 2) Burning personal property to defraud insurer KRS 513.060. 3) The Grand Jury charges that on or about the 9th day of March, 1990, in Nicholas County, Kentucky, the above-named defendant committed the crime of Second Degree Arson by starting a fire in a building he owned with the intent thereby to destroy or damage said building in order to collect insurance proceeds for such loss. 2) The Grand Jury charges that on or about the 9th day of March, 1990, in Nicholas County, Kentucky, the above-named defendant set fire and burned certain personal property owned by him in order to collect the insurance on said property.

Driver's Licenses Issued

Tacy J. Estlywame, 109 Mockingbird Lane, Carlisle.

Patricia F. Cox, 1759 Moorefield Road, Carlisle.

Belinda D. Cassidy, 962 Saltwell Road, Carlisle.

Aaron K. Linville, 900 East Union Road, Carlisle.

A medical insignia decal, which may be affixed to the lower left side of the front windshield, may be purchased for $1 at the Circuit Clerk's office. This decal would, in case of an emergency, alert emergency personnel of any special medical problem.

Commercial driver's license manuals are available at the Circuit Clerk's office.

CORRECTION

Connie Carmical an daughter Karma have returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee after visiting her mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Aces Hicks of Elm Street.

While in Carlisle, Mrs. Carmical and Karma also visited her grandmother, Eva Wills of Sycamore Street.

OBITUARIES

GEE

David Ray Gee died August 23, 1990 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida of cancer.

Born December 3, 1957 he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Gee of Myers Station.

He was a member of the Army Reserves for seven years and was a manger of Hardees in Lexington and Paris before moving to Florida.

Surviving besides his parents were five sisters; Carol Jean Moore, Laura Mae Fryman, Barbara Willoughby, Brenda Kay Conley, Dianna Glass, two brothers, Donnie Gee and Ronnie Gee; nine nephews; one-half brother Alvie Gee, and one-half sister, Joyce Worthington.

Burial was held in the Mt. Tabor Cemetery, September 8, 1990, attended by friends and family.

Continued on Page 14

NICHOLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Bobby Hatfield has been selected as Student of the Week for the week of September 4-7 at Nicholas County High School.

Bobby, the son of Ellen Hatfield of Carlisle, plays football and is interested in helping with the basketball team and collects baseball cards.

Bobby would like to be a trainer after high school and was nominated to be Student of the Week by his fellow football players.

NOTICE!

The PVA Office is moving this week from the second floor of the courthouse to the basement of the courthouse.

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1990 Pontiac Grand Am - 2dr.	$9495	1985 Olds Ciera Brougham - 4 dr.	$5495
1989 Chev. Cavalier - 4 dr.	$7495	1985 Cadallic Seville	$8495
1989 Chev. Beretta	$8895	1985 Olds Delta - 2 dr.	$6995
1989 Ford Tempo - 4 dr.	$7995	1984 Ford T-Bird	$4695
1988 Pontiac Grand Am - 4 dr.	$7895	1984 Ford Crown Victoria - 2 dr.	$4495
1988 Chev. Cavalier - 4 dr.	$6995	1984 Chev. Z-28	$5995
1988 Mercury Cougar	$9995	1984 Buick Riveria	$3995
1988 Buick Regal	$8475	1984 Pontiac Grand Prix	$4995
1989 Olds Delta - 4 dr.	$9995	1984 Pontiac 6000 Wgn.	$3995
1988 Plymouth Reliant - 4 dr.	$5995	1981 Chev. Citation - 4 dr.	$995
		1981 Chev. Im sold	$1995
1987 Plymouth Sundance - 4 dr.	$4995	1980 Datsun 280Z	$3995
1987 Buick Regal Limited - 2 dr.	$7995	1979 Chev. Chevette - 4 dr.	$995
1987 Olds Delta - 4 dr.	$8295	1978 Chev. Monte Carlo	$3495
1987 Olds Regency - 4 dr.	$9495		
1987 Plymouth LE - 4 dr.	$5495		

TRUCKS

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1984 CHEV. S10 4X4 PICKUP $2995	1986 DODGE D100 PICKUP $5995
1982 MACK MID-LINER 22 FT. BOX $9995	1986 DODGE D150 4X4 $5995
1978 FORD F150 4X4 $1995	1956 FORD BRONCO II $7995
1978 CHEV. K20 PICKUP $2995	1996 JEEP GRAND WAGONEER $9995

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