

MAR 11 1993

Federal troops called to extinguish tire fire

By Jason Hart Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff ELLISVILLE - A major fire erupted in Ellisville Monday night, with over 100,000 used tires going up in billowing clouds of black smoke.

Nicholas County firefighters were summoned to the scene of the fire approximately 8 p.m. Monday night. According to fire chief Mark Hughes, original estimates as to the number of tires ablaze ranged from 20,000 to 2 million.

"We don't know for sure how many tires there are burning right now," Hughes said. "But it's a very large number, to say the least."

Hughes said county fire trucks were unable to reach the scene, which was located on top of a steep hill off U.S. 68.

"The snow and rain we've had recently have made it very muddy, and we just aren't equipped to get up there."

Hughes said it was unlikely that water applied to the blaze would have done any good.

"These tires burn so hot water would just evaporate from the heat," Hughes said. County firefighters used an all-terrain vehicle to reach the scene and assess what.

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Ellisville residents, livestock endangered

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff ELLISVILLE - When 100,000 to 200,000 tires burned in towering flames Monday evening on a hill in Ellisville, Garnetta Letcher and her husband Carl were watching down below.

"It just lit up all around here," Garnetta said Tuesday morning.

Their home is located on Mayville Road, directly down from the three acres of tires State Fire Field Inspector Kenny Johnson said were at the top of the hill.

At thick, black toxic smoke poured over the Letcher's fields, sheltered cattle and home, Garnetta said she felt very uneasy.

"I was up three or four times during the night," Garnetta said.

She was especially worried about the couple's 49 head of cattle which graze up near the tire dump on the hill.

"They were at the barn that night," Garnetta said. "But we don't know what happened."

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A towering inferno... Nicholas County firemen stand by while an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 used tires go up in flames Monday night. The trees, which fire Marshal Kerry Johnson said were set alight by person or persons unknown, may represent a greater ecological hazard after they have been extinguished than the actual fire itself, due to carbon residue left behind. Kentucky National Guard engineers constructed a containment dam Tuesday to contain runoff from the site.

State suspects rashes and itching among students at NCES is psychosomatic

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff CARLISLE - Rashes and itching experienced by children at Nicholas County Elementary School may be nothing more than childhood imaginations, according to the

state's Department of Human Resources. For the past three weeks, about 20 children located in a classroom placed in the school's old hand room have complained of itching.

The itching and rashes associated with "it" cases, however, when the children return home.

Superintendent Robert Gilbert has examined some of the children affected by the itching himself. He believes the children are having some physical reaction in the room, what it is, however, neither the state nor the board of education knows.

The room hasn't been re-

modelled since the school was built, he said, and former student placed there never complained of the rash or itching symptoms.

The temporary nature of the reaction and lack of evidence of harmful conditions in the room has led the state and the county board of education to believe there is apparently nothing wrong with the composition of the room.

Gilbert had an environmental testing company from Lexington test the air quality in the room last week. Nothing has been discovered yet as a result of those tests, Gilbert said.

The Nicholas County Health Department examined the room two weeks ago and could also find no need for child or parental concern, he said.

Gilbert said the itching may be caused by poor airflow in the room. Others causes may be wool sweaters or dry skin.

Dr. Reginald Finer of the state Department of Human Resources also came to the school to check the children complaining of itching. He also could find nothing of public concern, Gilbert said.

Richard Harter, an official with the Department of Education's Division of Building

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Former student's family thanks county for sympathy after loss

Dear Editor: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF NICHOLAS COUNTY

In a time when everything you hear about teenagers is so negative, in a society where everything you see or hear is that all teenagers think about is FUN, SEX, DRUGS, and DRINKING, this family would like to say, concerning the students of Nicholas County High School, THAT THAT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE!

When God saw fit to take our beloved "Shane" from us, He sent a whole "passel" of kids to help us in our time of grief. An entire school wanted to be with us as we laid him to rest. What an out-pouring of love! And what a comfort they have been.

Many young men and women have spent time with us, reliving happy moments, so that through their eyes, we could see what Shane had meant to them, and could see what a loss they were also suffering.

As the school year continues and graduation draws near, it is with overwhelming love that we ask God's blessing on all of these students and their families, and that He sustain them in their future, for without their expressions of love, and their compassion, we most surely could not have borne this tremendous burden.

Yes, the people of Nicholas County, should be proud of these young people and be sure to tell them how O.K.-A-Y they are. THERE ARE SOME GOOD TEENAGERS OUT THERE! We certainly feel that way toward each and every one of them.

Jerry, Carol, and Bob Mann

Industrial Authority asks county and city for \$50,000 incentives

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff CARLISLE - The Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Authority requested the Nicholas County Fiscal Court with a promise it had made in 1988 to give \$50,000 as an incentive for new industry Tuesday morning.

Authority director Spud Marshall, the fiscal court passed a motion in June 30, 1988 to offer the industrial authority County. He would not elaborate on the company's name or the products they produce.

The motion stated that the court would offer a 50 percent matching grant, not to exceed \$50,000 contingent on a new factory locating in Nicholas County.

The authority told the court it has two industrial prospects that hope to locate in Nicholas County. He would not elaborate on the company's name or the products they produce.

At Tuesday's meeting, however, Marshall asked the court for \$50,000 in cash to offer as an incentive for a tool factory locating in Nicholas County.

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The Nicholas County Lady Jackets succeeded Friday in winning the 37th District Girls' Tournament for the third time in recent history. The team is currently stopping the competition in the regionals in Winchester, where it beat St. Patrick 86-45 Monday night (see page 6).

NCEs reviews primary program problems

By Rebecca Mullins Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff CARLISLE - A group of 10 to 15 parents and teachers met at the Nicholas County Elementary School last Wednesday to discuss a major overhaul of the primary program.

The ungraded primary was implicated two years ago through the state legislature's 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act.

There are currently 16 primary classes at Nicholas County elementary school, according to the school office.

Primary involves multi-age, multi-level teaching of students who would formerly have been separated into kindergarten and first, second and third grades.

Many parents at the meeting felt that their children weren't being challenged enough or weren't doing well socially in the multi-age groupings.

"I've had a couple of parents tell me their children who were also first-grade students weren't excelling like they could," said council member James Dale.

A large percentage of teachers felt like those parents do. In a recent survey given to teachers, 137 out of 200 said they thought kindergarten children, much younger than the second and third graders with whom they share a classroom, should be left out of the primary program.

Some of the parents even advocated a return to the grade system, where children are grouped only with children their age.

Principal Gerald Hammons listened to recommendations from board member Brenda Lawrence and parents who had suggestions on how to deal with the primary.

They recommended such methods as placing teams of teachers trained to deal with each age group in a classroom to alleviate educational or social problems for the children.

Another recommendation, made by Hammons, was to separate different age groups part of the day and allow for progressive social and educational development in the children.

Hammons and the council decided to appoint a committee to plan next year's primary program. The committee will

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