

FEB
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1994

NCHS takes bus for supporters
Nicholas County High School will be taking a fun bus to the State All A Classic. Only 55 seats are on the bus and placements are reserved by sign-up. On Wednesday, the bus will leave for the girls game at 6 p.m. and on Thursday, the bus leaves for the boys game at 7:30.

Magic Show set for this Friday
The Nicholas County Lions Club has scheduled Roger and Lee Ann's Grand Lusion Magic Show which will perform at Nicholas County High School, 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club's eye clinics for the needy program.

CPR class registration deadline is February 10
Johnson Matheis Health Care will sponsor a CPR class which will also teach the Heimlich Manuever for adults. Registration deadline for the class is Thursday, February 10. The class will be taught at the hospital Friday, February 11 at 2:45. For more information or to sign-up, contact Wendy Price, 289-7181.

Support Nicholas County Teams!
Both the Bluejackets and Lady Jackets have won the 10th Region All A! The girls play Webster County 6:30 p.m. in Richmond at McElroy Arena. The boys play 9:30 p.m. also in Richmond. See page six for Bluejacket pics and final game story. See page 7 for community support page.

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Board fails to renew N.C. Superintendent's contract
Residents make supportive comments; opposition silent

By Heather Matheis-Harris
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARLISLE - Cobert Gilbert has not been rehired as Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools.
On Monday, January 31, the Nicholas County School Board held a called meeting and decided to establish a screening committee to hire a new superintendent of school.
The school board took no action to renew Superintendent Cobert Gilbert's contract, which officially expires June 30.
The board was required to contact Gilbert concerning the status of his contract by February 1.
Many community residents, including faculty and staff members of Nicholas County schools and members of the business community, wrote to the board and were placed on the agenda.
Louise Zachary said that according to Robert's Rule of Order, those who write beforehand were placed on the agenda.
"I don't want tonight to be a three ring circus. It is the consensus of the board not to address individual questions and concerns at this time. And you must understand, anything that is discussed in closed session cannot be discussed in public, it is against the law," Zachary said.
At the opening of the meeting, Gilbert spoke on his own behalf.
"First of all I would like to say this meeting was not my idea. Personal matters are usually handled in closed session and this is not usually the way this is handled," Gilbert said.
"Superintendents are hired by virtue of their education and background. They work with federal and state laws and carry out school board policy.
I've been on the board for nine years, always before, when we got through an agenda we gave everyone a chance to speak. I know there were at least 35-40 people there who would have loved the chance to speak," Claver said.

"On April 13, 1990 I was interviewed for six hours and 20 minutes - the longest interview I had ever experienced. Afterwards, John Claver and Herbert Duncan visited me in Stanton. They said they had talked to various business people in the community.
"Louise Zachary and David Smoot also visited me. They stopped at stores, the library, and other places in Powell County and said they couldn't find anyone who didn't like me.
"On May 4 I was awarded a four year contract. I would have been renewed any time during the last year, but I wasn't. I am very proud of my four years here. I'm proud of my school system.
"In November 1993, Claver came to see me in my office and said he could no longer support me. He said we could do all the strategic planning we wanted to, but it all came down to what board members wanted to do.
"In June David Smoot said some people did not trust me. My father and mother brought me up to be trustworthy. I pride myself in my integrity and my honor, and I stand by that.
"Only two board members wished me to move here, we bought a house in Nicholas County. I own a house in Powell County as well, but maintained residence here as the board wish for me to do. My son will go to college next year, my daughter will be a senior at Nicholas County High School and my wife teaches here. So if I am forced to go to another school system, my family will not be able to stay together.
"My wife and I will be separated for three years. Since she has been teaching 18 years, she cannot join me until she has taught for 20 years. I took my daughter out of a school system when she was in junior high when I came to work here. I placed her in an open concept school - something I was reluctant to do, now she will be a senior and would love to graduate from Nicholas County. In short, I would like my family to be able to stay together.
"My parents raised me to put God first, family second and vocation third. I tried to communicate that to my staff and family and feel I have been successful in that and up to now, I don't feel we have had any problems," Gilbert said.
"And getting a job somewhere else is difficult, since I have been left to this late date to make a decision concerning my contract, by reputation has been questioned. I do have a couple of options. If an opening does come up I will take that opening, but

board members would not do it. In June David Smoot said some people did not trust me. My father and mother brought me up to be trustworthy. I pride myself in my integrity and my honor, and I stand by that.
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The Nicholas County School Board, seated from left to right, John Claver, James Dale, Sam Vice and Chairperson Louise Zachary join school board attorney Dawn Letcher and Superintendent Cobert Gilbert. The school board failed to renew Gilbert's contract which expires June 30. With Zachary's opposition and directly following a closed session, board members voted to establish a screening committee designed to begin the search for a new superintendent. Board members would neither cite grievances nor reasons for the decision.

School board members unaware of agenda

By Heather Matheis-Harris
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARLISLE - During a called meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, which acts as the Nicholas County Hospital Board since the corporate restructuring of the hospital after it was built, the court board accepted a bid from the First National Bank of Carlisle for bond sales in order to finance an addition and remodeling of the hospital and nursing home.
Hospital Administrator, Dan Miller, said the hospital had come full circle after a series of cycles.
"We've gone through a real history here. And now we are reaching another milestone - realizing a long range plan - as a complete financial picture for this \$2 million renovation and expansion project, Miller said.
Miller explained the renovation and expansion is crucial to the continuance of the nursing

board members would neither cite grievances nor reasons for the decision.
Claver also said board members could not speak on any subject discussed in closed session.
"It's against the law to discuss this, and rather than incriminate ourselves, we decided not to discuss it in open meeting," Claver said.
Claver also felt all board members were representing their district to the best of their ability.
"Space needs to be added for activities and extension work needs to be done on the electrical system."
Hank Reid, financial counsel for the enterprise, explained bonds needed to be sold by the Nicholas County Hospital Corporation.
The fiscal court and the hospital corporation are separate entities, even though members of the corporation consist of fiscal court members, the county clerk and the judge executive, Miller said.
Care Inc. is the operating company for the hospital and nursing home," Reid said.
"The fiscal court is involved in the chain so the bonds will be tax exempt. And because the county is involved the bonds must be made for public sale.
But also a fact of financial life, is that there are not many institutions that wish to invest from multiple sources. Some patient rooms stay as hot as 72-78 degrees," Runk said.

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In Brief

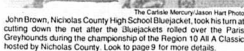
Weather turns to cold in Carlisle
Thursday and Friday the high temperatures will range in the mid to lower 20s. Mostly sunny skies prevail, but overnights look to be in the 30s.
On Saturday and Sunday skies are overcast. Chances of precipitation are highly unlikely. High stay in the mid 20s. Overnight lows range between zero and 10 degrees.
Take care with infant seats
Parents who use automobile infant seats which face toward the rear should not use them in the front seats of cars with air bags.
If an accident deploys the air bag, it can inflate with a force powerful enough to seriously injure the baby.
The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration now requires warning of the possible hazard on sun visors of cars and in the owner's manual. In addition, a new regulation will be issued soon to require a warning label on rear-facing infant seats.
CORRECTION
Due to a composition error, two names were omitted from Babies of '93 section last week.
Louise Sauls, father of Shylene Sauls name was omitted, as were John and Sandy Hamilton, grandfathers of Hannah Renee Childers.

Bids accepted by hospital corporation

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The Carlisle Mercury has two photos. John Brown, Nicholas County High School Bluejacket, took his turn at dropping down the net after Bluejackets rolled over the Pats Greyhounds during the championship of the Region 10 All A Classic hosted by Nicholas County. Look to page 9 for more details.