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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867
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Elementary School Council cuts three positions

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
A 6th grade teacher, primary teacher, and guidance counselor were cut from next year's staff at Nicholas County Elementary School at Monday night's site based decision making meeting.

But that doesn't mean they won't return to Nicholas County Elementary in August.

Council attached recommendations that federal money in the categorical funding areas of the federally funded programs, such as Chapter I, be shifted to the people in those positions who still have a job. Federally funded programs are included in the general fund of a school district.

After more than two hours of discussion, the NCE Council unanimously agreed to cut three positions from its staff in an effort to be within next year's budget allocation.

Total NCE salary and fringe benefit allotment was \$1,345,684, and the elementary council spent \$1,222,000, so it was \$123,684 more than what was absolutely necessary.

The school district has expe-

rienced financial difficulties this year so it asked council members to make cuts in the physical education program and teacher aide positions. Which staff members to be cut will be determined by Eversly.

The district's classified staff are supposed to be sent a letter from Eversly this week stating a reduction in force that means they will be out of his office late Tuesday afternoon and could not be contacted to find out whether the letters were sent. Transportation Director Rob Lane said he didn't think the letters had been sent.

Elementary Council voted to cut three aide positions. He's right. Eversly jinxed himself. The classified people in effect, all categorical aides were cut, too, so I don't know how many will get to come back. Hammons said adding he didn't know if the board would have to change the salary schedule to pay lower if they were hired back they'd still have the same number of

positions in and those things are determined in steps. Hammons said he didn't like giving anyone a lay-off notice.

"It puts people in limbo. It's a bad situation. A lot of school districts do it every year."

Gerald Hammons
NCE Principal

"It puts people in limbo. It's a bad situation. A lot of school districts do it every year, re-

gionally. It gives you breathing room. That doesn't agree with it. Positions, not people, were to be thought of in making the decisions, stressed NCE Principal Gerald Hammons before Wanda Bonathan made the motion to make those cuts with a second by teacher member Jack Massee after about a half hour. Parent members Randall Dale, Freney Darrell and art teacher Nicolette Malloy were all in agreement.

Council were not allowed

to use names. You say we're cutting positions. Folks, that don't work. You're talking about people you work with every day, Hammons commented.

Once the decision is in to Eversly, it is up to the superintendent to base his staffing cuts based on tenure, certification and seniority, Hammons said.

The site based council did put in a recommendation to Eversly that since there was money left in the allocation, they had the right to hire back a

position with that money. Hammons noted that in a local paper Eversly was quoted that once the allocation is made, it cannot be retrieved.

Hammons began the session promptly at 6:30 p.m. with about 25 in attendance and gave his outline of two possible plans from which to choose. His first words were, "We looked at so many figures in the past two weeks I'm totally confused."

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U.S. 68 widening project introduced

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
It may happen within your lifetime.

Imagine the narrow, curved and sometimes flooded U.S. 68 wider, straighter and with virtually no flooding and you have the idea behind the reconstruction project the Kentucky Department of Highways is studying together.

"Will this all be done by the Year 2010? I asked Bluegrass Area Development District Transportation Committee Member Allen Clay State of District Engineer Robert at Tuesday night's public hearing at Blue Licks State Park in Warburton Center.

"Yes, that's a fair prediction, but it's hard to say," replied Keith.

More than 150 Nicholas and Robertson County community members, all interested in the proposed 5.8 mile reconstruction, crowded around the large maps of the design.

"People want to know our course how they'll be affected.

They look on the map and find their property. If it looks like it is, we'll try to tell him how close, Keith said.

The widening project begins at KY 32 Northwest of Carlisle Northeast to KY 1244, approximately 1.2 miles south of the Nicholas-Robertson County line.

Nicholas County Magistrate Avery Thornburg commented, "I don't think there will be any reaction for quite some time in Nicholas County. In 12 years from now, a lot can happen. But, in my opinion, it is something we really need. We have a lot of wrecks, mostly people in cars having accidents with tractor trailers. Seems like we have one of those once a week.

Stone believes the project's completion will be a boon to economic development, one that is requested since the very early days in Kentucky history. "This will finally give a better access to the Ohio River and much greater access to industry."

Henry Clay, back as a joke.

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Junior Honor Society visits Chicago
The Nicholas County Elementary School Junior Honor Society traveled to Chicago April 1 as a reward for a terrific academic year. While at Planet Hollywood, movie actor Jean Claude Van Damme stops by (See Amber Gudger's photo on page 6). "It was a full day," said adviser Tony Smith. Pictured are Alison Darrell, Andrea Hutchinson, Lindsay Cokerman, Rob Bassett, Jay Grant, Ryan Horner, Dustin Hill, Jacob Broderick, Alex Wilson, Amber Gudger, Jennifer Dryden, Stuart Baird and Brent Holbrook. Several teachers went as chaperones. Fundraisers and parents funded the trip.

-In Brief-

Pep Rally
Everyone in the community is invited to an Academic Pep Rally to be held at the Nicholas County High School gym on Friday, April 11 to precede the school spirit for the KIBBS testing which begins Tuesday, April 15.

Speakers will provide encouragement for the test group. The NCHS Band and some special guest cheerleaders should provide fun and entertainment.

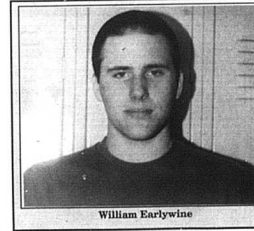
Cancer Coalition
There will be a meeting of the Nicholas County Breast Cancer Coalition at the Johnson Mathers Hospital Conference room 9 a.m. Thursday, April 10. This will be the beginning of the regular monthly meeting on the second Thursday of each month. Refreshments will be provided.

Blue Licks
Luncheon appreciation week end at Blue Licks State Park will be held Apr. 25-27. Pay for Friday night, camp Saturday night free for more information, you may call (606) 289-5507.

Lady Jackets
The Lady Jackets cordially invites the public to attend the annual banquet 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 12 at Nicholas County High School.

Retired Teacher
The Nicholas County Retired Teachers will meet Monday, April 14, at 2 p.m. at the library. All members are urged to attend.

Basketball Night
Basketball Little League Trophy Night and Dance is 6 p.m. Saturday at Nicholas County High School.



William Earlywine

Student of the Week

William Earlywine is this week's Student of the Week.

He is the son of Libby and the late Allen Earlywine of 103 Cardinal Lane, Carlisle.

A senior at Nicholas County High School, he named English as his favorite subject - next to break time!

While not at school, he prefers deer hunting and fishing.

Upon high school graduation he will attend Eastern Kentucky University and become a state police trooper.

"I want to be a state policeman because my dad was a policeman," he said.

Assistant Principal Ron Baker nominated Early-

wine for this honor. "William has been a good citizen at our school. He's helped me get sand for the athletic field and he's a good guy."

Principal Greg Reid added, "William's good to be around. He's good natured and never a problem. He's just a good citizen - the kind that we'd like to have more."

The Carlisle Mercury will profile one student each week, chosen by the faculty of their respective school. Watch this space in future issues.