

**NCHS teacher earns
Ashland's Golden Apple**

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Fun Show, Annual Blackberry Festival, fun for all!

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**JUL
3
1997**

THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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131st Year, No. 27 Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

Thursday, July 3, 1997

50¢ per copy

School system believed to be financially stable

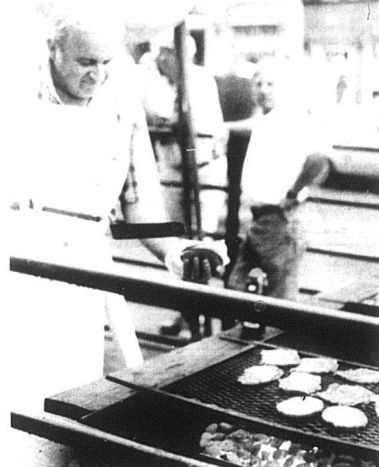
By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

Moving money out of an account, receiving \$500,000 in state SEEK funds should help pull the district out of the red.

Randy Eversly's knowledge, the approximately 16 staff members, both classified and certified, can't be hired back this fall. "You've got to plan ahead. How will we keep out of the red next year? I don't want to tell you," Nicholas County School Superintendent Randy Eversly said Tuesday morning, the day after the state's deficit deadline of June 30. "We'll know more

when we get the bank statement in probably around the seventh or 10th. I think there might be one payroll not listed. Payroll in the district is approximately \$170,000.

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Available all this week
Doug Garnett can serve a tasty sandwich so get on down to this year's Blackberry Festival, downtown Carlisle. Plenty of food booths will serve food with proceeds going for good causes. Children will enjoy carnival rides. Adults will like music by Southern Comfort and street dancing. The annual parade is tonight (Thursday, July 3). The Festival Queen will be crowned afterward. The annual festival is brought to the community each year by American Legion Post 17 with proceeds for veterans needs, title league, and other charities. The festival continues through Saturday, July 5.

Nicholas teachers ask about rehiring staff members

Board can't give that information
By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

A special education teacher at Nicholas County Elementary School asked the school board at Monday night's regular meeting questions about rehiring the 16 people given pink slips this spring.

Nicholas County High School Industrial Arts teacher Jim Simmons asked the board how it managed to pull itself out of a budget deficit at the last minute. The teachers got some answers.

Superintendent Randy Eversly said with a portion of the money transferred to the general fund, the district may have netted \$100,000 in the black. The board has fully expected to have a budget deficit this year. But if the payrolls have been posted, the \$500,000 in SEEK money that arrived June 20 will be to the good. Eversly praised the building principals (Gerald Hammons

and Greg Reid) to the Mercury for cutting back instruction expenditures — the range of \$155,000, which greatly helped keep the budget stable, he said. "This was done without cutting any educational programs. We haven't cut any programs since I've been here. In fact, we've added some programs."

Correct me if I'm wrong," Eversly said it depended whether all the checks had been posted. Donna Gail Mattax made a couple of calls to Treasurer Faye Robinson and determined all the checks had been posted.



TONY SMITH

Teacher Tony Smith began, "Madam Chairman, may I ask you some questions?" Smith asked if the people rehiring pink slips could be rehired since the district was reportedly \$400,000 in the black. He said he'd been coming to meetings and was sure that the pink slips would still be in the red. He said this year, the board thinks it will be in the red, but it always pulls out of it — but this time people lost their jobs. Let me get this off my chest. Are you gonna hire those people?" Smith

implied "Tony, we can't comment," replied Chairman Vice. "If we're that much in the black I don't see why we can't." School Board Attorney Dawn Leitcher intervened. "The board cannot comment," Mr. Eversly said.

Board member Ricky Hicks told Smith his frustration. He said school board members are responsible for the budget — but aren't in charge of day-to-day operations. He said he wouldn't run his own business like that. "I would not like to have a business where I couldn't hire and fire, where I cannot regulate activities."

Smith said due to budget cutbacks, there are several people sitting in parsonage who don't know where they will be working Aug. 15.

Yes said the realized many students didn't realize why and how the state made or how it will affect their education. Smith said to his recollection,

School Board to level charges against superintendent Eversly

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

Chairman Donna Gail Mattax with a second by member Ricky Hicks with all in favor.

That's what they told me at last night's board meeting in executive session. I tried to get them to tell me the "but they wouldn't," said Superintendent Eversly Tuesday morning.

Following a one-hour executive session, Mattax read the motion to have a special call meeting for their purpose of discussing personnel. The motion was made by Board Vice

Commissioner Wilmer Cody has replied to the board's letter about preliminary charges. Cody said he wouldn't respond to preliminary charges. He then outlined Kentucky law stating the charges must be spread on the minutes and are therefore public knowledge with the superintendent privy to them as well. Cody then has 30 days to re-

spond to the board's request for removal after an investigation is done concerning the accuracy of the charges.

Vehicles stolen in City of Carlisle

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

Three vehicles stolen from Carlisle in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 29 have been recovered.

Advice from the Carlisle Police Department is if you don't want your vehicle stolen, don't leave your keys in it. Keys were left all three vehicles taken: a 1984 Chevrolet Cavalier belonging to David Jones of Ashland; a 1984 Ford, a two-ton Ford box truck belonging to Jockey Carlisle; and a 1991 Dodge turbo 3/4 ton pickup belonging to Jim Sapp.

Two of the vehicles stolen are believed to be related, said Ben Buckler of the Carlisle P.D. A two-ton Ford kept at the Jockey Knitting Plant was found wrecked on its side, at Pleasant Spring Road. Buckler said it looked as though once it was undrivable, the assailants took Jim Sapp's pickup truck, later recovered at City View Apartments. "It looked like it had been run through a fence," Buckler recalled.

Meanwhile, Jones' station wagon was discovered by Harrison County Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Fryman. "I found it in 3200 South Indian Creek Church, back toward Cynthiana. It had hit a tree, maybe the size of a light pole or a little smaller. There were no keys in it when I found it. Maybe whoever took it took the keys," Fryman said. Buckler said the Carlisle Police Department has the thefts under investigation. The charge will be theft by unlawful taking, a Class D felony with a sentence of up to one to five years and fine up to \$15,000.

He was on staffing committee with Vice, but the committee didn't meet. A minister (as well as a teacher), Smith assured the board he wasn't preaching. "Let me ask another question. Is there really an explanation for two weeks and the money we got?" "We can't tell you," Mattax replied.

Deadline passes without new senior director chosen

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

The July 1 deadline to find a new director of the Nicholas County Senior Citizens Center has passed without a new director being named.

Meanwhile, Shirley Vice, director for the past 18 years, is staying at her post until an audit is done to meet state require-

ments — a task she volunteered to do free of charge. The audit is due Aug. 1.

"We want to keep the center open and I'll fight tooth and nail," exclaimed Senior Advisory President Betty Fay on Monday. "People need the center. I know it keeps people of the

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