

**JUN
26
1997**

**Teacher/Coach
Hopkins seeks
new position**
Page 3



Jockey p... awards
Carlisle helps others build homes
Page 6

THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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School system could be deficit-free June 30

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
The Nicholas County school system could be deficit-free June 30. The school system was been

on the state's "watch list" since indications have been in recent months the school system may have a financial deficit June 30. "We'll probably have \$100-\$200,000 in the black," said Superintendent Randy Evely.

Superintendent Randy Evely Tuesday. "We've cut spending. We've quit purchasing things. The schools have both quit purchasing things, instructional things. It doesn't take long that way to save \$40 to \$50,000. But we're looking at big bucks, even in our small district." Board members will have a clear indication of where the district stands financially at the special called June 30 meeting said Evely.

The system has approximately \$24,000 in new funds that can be used to put the district in the black, without a deficit. The \$140,000 put into the building fund to show bonding potential for a new school would be part of the money that would have to be Continued on Page 3



Sensational Salsa
This year's Kids College featured everything from a ride on the Internet to a salsa treat in Spanish class. Paula Hunter, standing left, and Becky Reed, right, co-directors, loved the mini courses as much as the youngsters. Here, they give student participants to sample some salsa, courtesy of guest instructor Carol DeVine. See Page 8 for more on Kids College.

Should I be asked The Mercury Tuesday afternoon. They've made it clear to me they don't want anybody here financially responsible and won't let them dictate who personnel are here. Preliminary charges against Evely were reportedly sent to Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Wilmer Cook. Anne Keating, legal counsel at KIE, said Monday, she thought KIE attorney Kevin Noland was discussing a response to the Nicholas County Board of Education's letter to Anderson retired last week. Evely said in his opinion, it's not too late for a teacher to work in Kentucky. More than 5,000 positions are listed in the state publications for teachers. Five hundred jobs are listed for special education teachers alone, he mentioned. Evely gave notification to those rehired last week. He'd spent the last several weeks going through certifications and figuring out which teachers would meet the requirements of the school site-based councils. "Sometimes anxiety had to factor in the area of certification. If two teachers were certified for an area and only one position was open the teacher with the most seniority got the job." Continued on Page 3

Commissioner's reply expected

Evely silent about possible job prospects

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
Nicholas County School Superintendent Randy Evely won't disclose whether he's looking for a job outside the Nicholas County School District. "Should I be asked The Mercury Tuesday afternoon. They've made it clear to me they don't want anybody here financially responsible and won't let them dictate who personnel are here. Preliminary charges against Evely were reportedly sent to Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Wilmer Cook. Anne Keating, legal counsel at KIE, said Monday, she thought KIE attorney Kevin Noland was discussing a response to the Nicholas County Board of Education's letter to

-In Brief-

- Pet Show**
The Blackberry Festival Pet Show will be held 9 p.m. Saturday, July 5. The date was changed due to the hot weather.
- Education Foundation**
The Nicholas County Education Foundation will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 14 at the Board of Education Office.
- Fish & Game Club**
The Nicholas County Fish and Game Club will meet Friday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Club. The meal will be pot-licked.
- Cancer Coalition**
The next meeting of the Nicholas County Breast Cancer Coalition will be Thursday, July 10, 9 a.m. in the Johnson Mathers Health Care Conference Room.
- Zones Reunion**
On July 12, 1997, starting at 5:30 p.m., small shelter at Blue Licks Park. Please come and bring all family members and food and drinks and own eating utensils.
- Fiscal Court**
The Nicholas County Fiscal Court is having a called Court meeting on June 26 at 4 p.m. The items on the agenda are the second reading of the FY 97-98 budget, discuss Senior Citizens' renew workman's compensation, and open bids for courthouse renovation.
- Ellisville School**
Ellisville School Reunion will be held June 29, 1997 from noon till 3 p.m. At the Carlin Depot, with potluck lunch. For information call Ann Poyam (606) 259-2012 or Jane Wilson (606) 259-2518.

School staff cutbacks cancel at least 16 jobs

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
The financial cutback in the Nicholas County Schools has resulted in about half a dozen certified and 10 classified staff members of the Nicholas County Schools not being rehired for work this coming school year. Nicholas County School Superintendent Randy Evely said Tuesday. "We've had some re-

irements, some in classified personnel (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, teacher's aides). There was at least one bus driver who retired and won't be replaced." All tenured personnel were rehired. Evely noted tenured personnel in the Nicholas County Schools are teachers who have worked four consecutive years and were hired for

Anderson retired last week. Evely said in his opinion, it's not too late for a teacher to work in Kentucky. More than 5,000 positions are listed in the state publications for teachers. Five hundred jobs are listed for special education teachers alone, he mentioned. Evely gave notification to those rehired last week. He'd spent the last several weeks going through certifications and figuring out which teachers would meet the requirements of the school site-based councils. "Sometimes anxiety had to factor in the area of certification. If two teachers were certified for an area and only one position was open the teacher with the most seniority got the job." Continued on Page 3

KEA's involvement closes with staff rehired

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
The Kentucky Education Association's involvement in determining if Superintendent Randy Evely acted in error regarding staffing reductions is over. Jeff Walther, legal counsel for the KEA in Lexington, has been looking for errors in how Evely handled staffing reductions. He was called into the matter when the Nicholas County

school teachers visited Evely after school Monday, April 28. About 50 teachers and support staff went to the Central School Office to ask Evely a series of questions about staffing practices. "I haven't heard another word," said Evely Tuesday. Walther, an attorney with McDonald, Walther Boark & Gay, Lexington, said Tuesday evening his role with Nicholas County teachers in KEA was finished because the teachers

he represented, fewer than six, were all rehired. Walther said he got involved after everyone in the district received a "pink slip." He described his role. "My role has been to clear up the situation with my clients ultimately receiving notice of being rehired." Walther described his area of interest as education. He was unclear about where alleged errors were in Evely's handling of staffing reductions at Nicholas County Schools. "There are a number of statutes which govern how teachers are to be hired and how to do a reduction in force and how it meshes with site-based council rules. In my view, the Superintendent did not comply with applicable laws in regard to the teachers, but as for my clients, it is over. All of my clients have received notice (of being rehired)." Walther would disclose the names of his clients stating he needed their permission. He stressed he didn't represent all



Amanda Gaunce

Student of the Week

Amanda Gaunce is this week's Student of the Week. She was nominated by art teacher Mrs. Johnson for being a hard worker.

school graduation she'd like to attend Georgetown College and be a forensic psychologist. "I just like the idea of it," she said.

Gaunce will be a sophomore at Nicholas County High School this fall and is the granddaughter of Louise and H.A. Gaunce of Carlisle. She likes foreign language and being on the academic team. Upon high

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