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with Mrs. Fred Hollar**

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# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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## School district heads toward budget deficit

Staffing cuts discussed; special meeting today

**By Leigh Stone  
Managing Editor**  
More complete budget information is needed, but an initial look at the financial status of the Nicholas County School District shows it is headed toward a deficit.

Staffing cuts are being considered. Even a remark was made to call a new school bus being built for the district. However, no decision was made about cost reductions at Monday night's meeting which

lasted more than four hours. Board members agreed, on their knowledge, the district had been close to having a deficit last year, but not as close as they thought. One problem with making precise cost reductions is the incomplete information provided in the draft budget. The board complied with the law to approve the draft budget. But the budget has areas noted with question marks and categories not clearly indicated, such as "miscellaneous."

Neither Superintendent Every, Treasurer Faye Robinson nor Assistant Treasurer Shelly Calkins could readily decipher some of the draft budget's codes during the meeting. The reason was because some of the information came from personnel at each of the schools.

School Principals Greg Reid and Gerald Hammons told Superintendent Every their school site based councils would have to cut three to four persons, depending on salary. Work items by Board Vice Chairman Donna Gail Mattow and second

by Ricky Hicks, the board approved the principals to withdraw current staffing allocations submitted by the council. The allocations will be re-submitted to the councils by the board as soon as practicable. March 31 was the deadline, which was waived by the board. However, Superintendent Every said the deadline could not be legally waived since the deadline was an administrative regulation. Mattow replied that other deadlines had been missed and this was a needed move in time.

All board members voted in favor to have a special called meeting this morning (Thursday, March 20) at 10 at the Central School Office with Dr. Fred Williams of the Kentucky Department of Education to determine how best to settle the district's financial needs.

According to state law, all school districts in Kentucky must be without a deficit each June 30 at the State Department of Education can control the district's finances.

Even with the \$505,000 in assets, Hicks figured the district in the hole at the amount of \$190,000.

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## -IN BRIEF- Holy Week

Carlisle United Methodist Church will host the Community Holy Week Luncheon March 24-27. At noon each day Monday, March 24 through Thursday, March 27, the Devotional Service will be without a deficit each June 30 at the State Department of Education can control the district's finances.

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## Book captures preacher's spirit

Man preached in Nicholas County

**By Greg Kendrick  
Special To The Mercury**  
An inspiration, a fighter, a man with compassion. Ask folks who knew the late Rev. Clifford Hutchinson and they have no doubt that his life story should be written down. "We had a homecoming a few years ago and Cliff made it there despite being tremendously ill," said the Rev. Max Milburn, of the First Church of God Tabernacle in Clarksfield. "We weren't expecting him to preach but he moved that crowd. He never gave up."

Now there is a book that conveys the spirit of the evangelist. "A Giant in the Valley" by the Rev. Gary Agee tracks the life of one of the most charismatic evangelists in the region, from his humble beginnings in

Morehead to his defiance to succumb to life threatening illnesses - even after doctors had written him off.

"He is one of those guys that is larger than life," said Agee, now pastor of the Hopewell First Church of God in Westchester, Ohio. "My brother would go on the front row to see his antics that went along with the sermon."

Hutchinson was already a legend when Agee grew up around the Grand Avenue Church of God in Middletown, Ohio. He remembers as a child mesmerized by Hutchinson's fiery sermons from the pulpit.

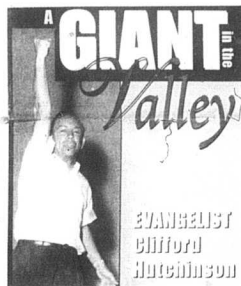
"People talk about Cliff like you would talk about some sort of sports hero," he said. "I remember him as a powerful, provocative preacher that had the ability to touch people."

He preached with such enthusiasm and wit was every word witty," he added. "My brother would go on the front row to see his antics that went along with the sermon. He'd kick a leg up, throw a great sermon, then in the end he would come down and give my brother a quarter and tell him to go buy a Pepsi. 'Cliff loved to drink Pepsi.'"

What was once a thesis on Hutchinson's ministry and radio career turned into a desire by Agee to showcase the man's entire life. "A Giant in the Valley," published by Information Publishers, retails for \$19 and will be available at six Churches of God and local bookstores.

Agee's book is divided into two sections. The first tracking Hutchinson's childhood career and the barriers he had to overcome. The second focusing on the pastor's theology about faith, hope and community.

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A Giant in the Valley about a very interesting evangelist. The Rev. Hutchinson, promises to be a thrilling read.

## Kindergarten teacher asks program be spared

By Leigh Stone  
Managing Editor

Staffing cuts are seemingly imminent in the Nicholas County School District, but there's one area kindergarten teacher Anne Baird hopes will be spared - the district's all day kindergarten program.

"We're hearing there's a possibility of the kindergarten program being cut in half. I want to talk to you about how it's not going to benefit the children," Baird said at an hour and 15 minutes into Monday night's regular meeting of the Nicholas County School Board.

Baird began her talk by stating it may be premature since all budget figures aren't in. But she wanted to ask board members to think, strongly against diminishing the district's all day kindergarten program in an effort to save money.

According to her research and in talks with Dr. Randy Kunkrough and Tom Wittie, both financial advisors with the Kentucky Department of Education, reverting back to the half-day kindergarten program doesn't save money. The food service program could lose

money and there'd be an additional cost with bus transportation. The need for all day kindergarten goes beyond the needs of working parents. In the Nicholas County Schools, kindergarten children do have rest time in the afternoon the first half of the year, but in the spring semester, the rest time is discontinued with a real press on academics.

Baird praised board member Don Elder, for helping her initiate the all day program back in 1977. Elder was then district superintendent.

Baird asked if the board had

the authority to do away with the all-day program in lieu of the state-mandated half-day. "It's my understanding that if we feel we can't afford it, we could amend our policy," Baird Chairman Monty Vice, replied after looking at the information packet Baird supplied all board members.

"I don't see cutting a very good program," Baird insisted during the meeting. "Since the board approved all day, the ratio is 24 students to one aide."

Baird concluded her discussion. "That's what I said, maybe I was premature with this but I wanted to get my plug in."

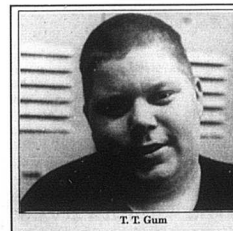
Randy Every  
"That's OK," Baird exclaimed. Every replied there was more than financial cost to consider in the matter.

Every said at the present time, there was no plan to cut the number of kindergarten teacher's aides. The state mandates there should be one aide for 48 students on the half day program. Since the board approved all day, the ratio is 24 students to one aide.

Baird concluded her discussion. "That's what I said, maybe I was premature with this but I wanted to get my plug in."

## Red cross

"Thanks for all the help with clothing, food, and all the donations," said Dana Price, secretary of Nicholas County Judge Executive Chuck Smith about the community-wide drop off established at the former National Guard Armory on Main Street. "We want to thank everyone for their help. The American Red Cross has stepped in and has helped us and they're located at the county fire department." Price said.



T. T. Gum

## Student of the Week

T. T. Gum is this week's Student of the Week. The son of Tim and Robin Gum of Carlisle, T. T. is a sophomore at Nicholas County High School. He enjoys participating in tractor pulls, basketball and being with friends. Upon high school graduation, T. T. plans to continue his education. "I want to work with computers, maybe some sort of technician." T. T. was nominated for this honor by NCHS

Principal Greg Reid. "T. T. is a good-natured young man and the kids love him. He seems to be always up - never down - and he strives to work hard and overcome obstacles."

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