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Cheerleaders
receive awards
Pages 8-9-12

Residents receive
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Page 3

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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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No way to keep school system out of deficit says superintendent

Overstaffing, enrollment blamed for financial woes

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
Nicholas County School Superintendent Randy Everly doesn't see any way the district will be without a deficit by the end of fiscal year June 30.

Sadly, he said, it's a situation he's told school board members about since he was hired summer of 1991.

"June 30 will get here and we'll be in the red. I've announced that along the way. At this late date, there's not much you can do," Everly said Monday morning.

"I've told them that the high school and the elementary were both overstaffed. Check your newspaper back in 1994.

Everly said the way the budget is arranged has changed, per the state's suggestion.

Money used to be all piled into the general fund making it look like there was more money available than was there. But recently the new budget system has put money into various categories, but the system is new and needs to be understood.

HISTORY
According to the Nov. 17, 1994 issue of *The Carlisle Mercury*, the auditor Jim Smith's offered a recommendation. Smith recommended that the board develop other extracurricular funds so that money in the district's general fund wouldn't give a false sense of security.

Board Vice Chairman John Cleaver said, "That's what makes it look like you've got a million dollars, but you don't really have that much."

Board member Sammy Vice replied, "That day you do."

The April 27, 1995 issue stated, in an article headlined,

"No pink slips for Nicholas County Teachers." "We came up with some things to sort out before considering letting teachers go," said Janet Kay, Smith of the staffing committee.

Board member Louise Zachary said the board would be "in the black" by June 30 of this year. A staffing committee to look at possible cuts was formed.

The May 18, 1995 *Mercury* stated the following quotes from Everly concerning possible staffing cuts: "I really didn't want to do any of these things either. We have to do something to save money. At no time have I ever said we'd cut curriculum. You know as well as I do some teachers aren't half bad. I'm not trying to run around and fire everybody like people passing out leaflets try to say."

CURRENTLY
Now, a staffing cutback of

Continued on Page 3

State hasn't named Nicholas County Schools a deficit district

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

Although a top Kentucky Department of Education official will state he believes the Nicholas County School District is likely to have a deficit by fiscal year end June 30, that word isn't official from the department.

Tom Willis, associate commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Education explained to *The Mercury* Tuesday afternoon, "I've never told anybody that they are a deficit county. It's Nicholas County saying it's going to have a deficit, not us. They are on our watch list because they're under their two percent contingency and their numbers have declined over the years. But we have never said anything about the district having a deficit."

Currently, Willis says Russell County, Floyd County, Franklin and Harlan County are also on the watch list. Letcher County is the only county where the state department of education has officially taken control of its finances.

State law states that school districts in Kentucky must not carry a deficit past June 30 each year - or the KDE can be given to control district expenditures.

The above mentioned districts came to the state board "They said they didn't believe they would be in the black. We've worked on a plan for them that they have asked for some assistance."

"This is what happens when expenditures exceed the revenue."

Meanwhile, Willis was clear that the state would not take over the Nicholas County Schools July 1.

"It's a very long process. It's not the state taking over by a long shot, he said adding that the board of education may have a more clear picture of finances by July 15 or when the annual report is completed, showing whether there's a deficit and

how much. "We look at it and confirm it. Then, the state board meets in August. They meet every two months. If it's determined there is a deficit prior to August, either by us or them, the normal procedure is that the board declares an emergency. They said they didn't believe they were in the black. We've worked on a plan for them that they have asked for some assistance."

The next step is for the Chief State School Officer, Dr. Wilmer Cady, to approve in writing, for all the district's expenditures. Willis said he put his name on some purchase orders now, rather than Dr. Cady.

Willis was hesitant to comment on whether he thought the district would be in the red June 30. "Obviously, if the district is \$300,000 in debt, it can't come up with that by June 30."

Willis said comprehending the district's finances could be a bit of a challenge to someone's household budget. The figures are not as clear as they always are.

How many times have you looked at your bank statement?

Continued on Page 3



All welcome to Good Friday service

The Rev. Jim Doughton of United Methodist Church enjoyed being with the community after a time around Tuesday's Holy Week Lenten service. A special lunch was served by church ladies. The Good Friday Service is 2 p.m. at Carlisle United Methodist with all welcome.

Officials ask governor for industrial funding

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor

A carload of Nicholas Countyans visited the Kentucky Governor Paul Patton with a wish list last Wednesday.

The first item on the list was to bring the state would provide financial assistance to repair the Nicholas County Courthouse.

The other financial request was to see if the governor would help get funding for a new industrial park since the present one located off Concrete Road has been deemed contaminated.

Within the last 30 days, an engineering firm told the Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Development Authority its present industrial park was contaminated.

"It located behind that landfill and we found out it was contaminated. Now we need another park. Some men from the state will be here sometime soon and look at whether we've chosen," said Nicholas County Judge Executive Chuck Smith.

Industrial Authority Chairman Mike Pryor, also Chairman of the Nicholas County Democratic Executive Committee, was along for the trip, along with Carlisle Mayor Bonnie Clark Judge Smith, Dr. Bob Sparks, and Dorey Watkins.

The governor was enthusiastic to help and will do as

much as he could but he is expecting local participation, Pryor said Tuesday evening.

"I don't think there's any question. He will help us," commented Dr. Bob Sparks about Patton's enthusiasm for the requests.

Pryor, as did all the men, credited Dr. Bob Sparks, a local dentist, for setting up the meeting with the governor. Dr. Bob Sparks is our local contact person. He's went out of his way to help this county. He deserves a lot. He helped lot of organizations and he lives here and has a local interest. He's A-Number One.

Pryor said the industrial authority study came about because a potential lot owner

"I don't think there's any question. He will help us."

Dr. Bob Sparks on Gov. Paul Patton

wanted to locate on the site if it were proven environmentally safe. There are no businesses located on the site at present.

Pryor said board members Larry Hutchison, Larry Willis, Phil Fack, Randy Schelling and Charles Faye would like to see something positive come into Nicholas County and hoped it would be long before there to

Continued on Page 3

-In Brief- U.S. 68 hearing

A Design Public Hearing has been scheduled by the Transportation Cabinet, Dept. of Highways, for April 9, from 9 to 10 p.m. at the Worthington Center, Blue Lick State Park, located on US 68 approximately 8 miles northeast of Carlisle, Kentucky.

This is scheduled to afford all interested persons an opportunity to express their opinions concerning project.

Garrett's Gusts

Edith Noffinger of Nicholas County was one of more than 100 local citizens to get WLEX bottom to support Big Blue. The University of Kentucky Wildcat's in the team bid to win the championship for the second consecutive year.

I've been a Big Blue fan for 57 years, stated the retired county agent proudly at Garrett's Restaurant early Tuesday afternoon.

Garrett's hosted WLEX "Four Blues Brothers, Jim Allison and Larry Nouzal as the pair, dressed as the John Belushi Blues Brothers in dark suits, hats and sunglasses, presented buttons to happy customers and visitors.

Fish & Game

Nicholas County Fish and Game Club will meet Friday night, March 28, 7:30 at the Club. Super will be Patrick.



Jonathan Tabor

Student of the Week

This week's Student of the Week is Jonathan Tabor.

Tabor, a senior at Nicholas County High School, is the son of Betsy and Jerry Tabor of Moorefield.

He likes playing basketball and being in the school chorus and FFA.

Upon high school graduation, he would like to continue his education and study for a career involving math.

He has a 3.0 grade point average for the year. Nicholas County High School Principal Greg Reid nominated Tabor for this honor. "Jonathan is

a good, all-around student and he does anything you ask him to do and he doesn't complain. Basically, he is a good, stable kid, someone you enjoy having in school. He always has a smile on his face."

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