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# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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## Declining enrollment makes school funding difficult, Superintendent Everly says

### Work in process on new budget

Declining enrollment in the Nicholas County School system is making it more difficult to draft a proposed budget for the upcoming school year, according to Randy Everly, superintendent.

"We're losing enrollment, which causes us to have to struggle to make ends meet," said Everly Tuesday. "Teachers need raises, and I sure hope we don't have to lay anybody off. It will remain to be seen whether teachers get raises or not."

"We're projecting a possible two percent above step raises, but it depends on the legislature and how much of an increase we get from the state level," he said.

Everly gave a proposed budget of \$4.5 million to school board members Jan. 23 for the 1998-99 school year. That figure reflects only \$200,000 more for the upcoming year than the \$4.7 million budget last year. Of the total proposed budget, \$2.8 million is earmarked for instructional expenses, which includes teachers' salaries, but does not include money for support personnel, maintenance and programs.

Eighty percent of the budget goes for salaries, Everly said.

"We're looking at maybe \$35,000 in new revenue in the budget when it's all said and done," Everly said. "It takes about \$95-\$170,000 for step increases for teachers, though."

There are 93 teachers on staff in the county school system, he added.

The board will work to tune the budget to fit the needs of the school system in the upcoming months, but there is not enough money in it to upgrade facilities like the superintendent wants to.

"We need more space for students. We've needed extra room for special programs mandated by KERA (education reform) since it was implemented," Everly said.

He said that 15 schools meet or exceed state standards, but that's not in the foreseeable future. The current high school is 16 years old, Everly said. Other school officials have mentioned the county needing a separate middle school, also.

"We're a poor county. There is no industrial base so far as taxes, and with enrollment going down, we couldn't support these buildings," Everly said. "We just completed a state facilities survey, and the committee wanted a new high school, but we just didn't have the funding source," Everly said.

"We've funded next year on the average daily attendance we have this year, and it has gone down for the past five years. We have 1,228 students now, and most are in the elementary school," he said.

People are moving away to take jobs elsewhere, Everly explained. The average age of a Nicholas County resident is eight years above the state average of 35 years of age.

"Many people around here are out of the child-bearing years, so the demographics don't speak well for school funding. Younger folks are having to move away for employment," he said.

"I'd like to see the legislature put more money in facilities construction in the state budget," Everly said. "We need to do something about that high school building."

But it will probably take all our bonding capacity just to bring the high school up to state code. If there is any renovation, that school needs it first."

"We just don't have any single room in the budget that's the problem," Everly said.

The next meeting of the Nicholas County School Board, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.



**Shaping and sizing**  
Chad Ockerman, 6, left and Britany Rink, 8, try their collective hand at adding different shapes and sizes to genetic patterns in Hannah Gabriel's first and second grade classroom Tuesday, Feb. 5.

## Five competing for county judge's seat in May primary

Five candidates are competing for the highest elected office in Nicholas County in the May primary, along with 23 other candidates who have filed for various county offices.

The deadline to file for candidates to file was Jan. 27. The list is in and the campaigning is about to begin.

Judge-executive candidates are Charles Smith, democrat, incumbent; Larry Trichter, democrat; Ronnie Clark, democrat; current mayor, Billy Dale Crawford, democrat, owner of the Nicholas County newspaper; and Jimmy Wells, republican.

Magistrate candidates are as follows:

District 1: Melvin Fryman, incumbent; Dennis Allison, Billy Dixon, Jeff Doyle, Betty Gates, Pur and Shirley Gardner, all are democrats.

District 2: Daryl Stacy, incumbent; Donna Kay Ritchie and Lynn Bowles, all are democrats.

District 3: Avey Thornburg, incumbent; Earl Lee Flank, William Dampier and Shirley Trussell, all are democrats.

District 4: Danny Hughes, incumbent; James Dean, Jackie Bromagen, Barbara Liddle, Floyd Russell, Betty Crockett.

Fay, Henry Peters and Jeff Randolph, all democrats.

District 5: Juanita Smith, incumbent; Steve Hamilton and Norman Watkins, all democrats.

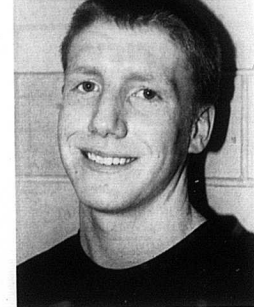
Two are running for sheriff: Charles Ring, incumbent, and Gayle Kelley, both democrats.

Two are competing for property valuation administrator: Ross Brady, incumbent, and Michelle Knappke, both democrats.

Races in which there is no opposition include the county clerk, coroner, transportation officer (qualifier) and county attorney.

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## Anderson, Snapp Students of Week



Jonathan Anderson

Jonathan Anderson, 16, a sophomore at Nicholas County High School, has been named Student of the Week.

He is the son of Billy and Brenda Anderson of Bourbon County. Both are teachers at Nicholas County schools.

Anderson's extracurricular activities include being on the basketball team, the baseball team, Future Farmers of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"I enjoy playing basketball and baseball, farming, and watching wrestling," he said.

Anderson's favorite subject is history. He likes learning about the Civil War, and World War I as well.

He plans to attend college, hopefully major in history, and become a teacher. He also would like to coach basketball and baseball.

He was named Student of the Week by Henry Tarkenton and James Hanson, who nominated Anderson for Student of the Week, said he is highly motivated and a pleasure to have in class.

Anderson also helps his dad on their farm, raising baby calves and feeding cattle.

Cristi Snapp, 16, a sophomore at Nicholas County High School, has been named Student of the Week.

She is the daughter of Charlette Snapp of Morefield and the late David Snapp.

Snapp is a Boy's Varsity Cheerleader, and participates in gymnastics.

"I'd like to become a nurse, but my main interest has always been veterinary medicine," Snapp said.

She plans to attend college and possibly major in business and English. English is her favorite subject, she said.

At home, Snapp likes horseback riding. She has several pets she takes care of, especially when they get sick.

James Hanson, teacher who nominated her for Student of the Week, said she is a student who he has enjoyed having taught this semester.



Cristi Snapp

## Millersburg PTA to hold Sweetheart dance on Feb. 7

The Millersburg PTA will hold the first annual Country Sweetheart Dance, featuring Betsy Lester and the Midnight Riders, on Feb. 7, from 7-11 p.m.

Admission is \$2 per person. Advance for children ages 2-11 is \$1. Doors open at 6:30.