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Group effort
From left, George Livingston, Matt Stone, John Hamilton and Nicholas Lincoln read classics while studying in the high school library. All are juniors this year.

Seventh grader wins DAR essay contest

A seventh grade Nicholas County student was chosen as the winner of a recent essay contest, sponsored by the local Jeannette Johnson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Adam Hunter, 12, son of Paula and Randy Hunter of Bald Hill Road, won the annual contest while competing with four other students.

His topic was "Fate in American History," and the contest was 400 words long.

Adam will go to Duncan Tavern Saturday, Feb. 7, to read his essay aloud at a special luncheon and tea.

"I'm very proud of him," said his teacher, Stephanie Duncan. "I sent five excellent papers to be judged," she added, saying that all the students had a good chance of winning.

"He works very hard for his recognition," Duncan said.

Adam's brother, Ryan, won the contest two years ago, and Adam was very pleased he could join the ranks of another family member who has won the contest.

"I felt good about winning. I was surprised and my parents were happy," Adam said. "I was surprised because I didn't know I won."

Duncan said the DAR sponsors the contest every year. The students are directed to spend a week in the library researching their topics.

Adam said after the week in the library, it took him only three hours to write the essay.

Duncan and five other teachers picked the best essays from the school and sent them to the DAR chapter to be judged.

Although his essay was about American history, Adam said his favorite subject in school is still biology.

"I like studying plants and animals," he said.

He plans to go to college, but hasn't made up his mind yet as to whether he wants to be a science major or not. He also likes to play football, basketball, and track.

Adam said his favorite part of the essay was "Fort Sumter, when I was talking about the fort, when it was built."

Adam lives on a farm with his family. He helps raise and strip tobacco and helps raise cattle.

He has a dog named Nala.

The following is the essay "Fate in American History," Fort Sumter.

Work on Fort Sumter began in 1825 and was finished in 1829.

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Board takes no action on offering community Spanish

The Nicholas County Board of Education took no action Monday night, Jan. 26, on offering community Spanish classes for adults.

Board member Donna Gill Mattox said Tuesday that the board would like to offer the classes for farmers, especially because they have a fair amount of Spanish speaking people on the farm.

But Mattox said, the action was tabled because the board is still looking into the legitimacy of offering community classes through the school.

"We're going to look at other avenues right now. It would be a fabulous community service if we could offer those classes," a Superintendent Edna Eversly was in a meeting Tuesday and could not be reached for comment.

The board also discussed and then tabled action on creating a sick leave bank for classified personnel, such as administrative assistants and other support employees.

"We're still looking into the legitimacy of creating a sick bank for classified employees," Mattox said. "We want to do it and we want it to work, but we still have to go a step further, which means looking at how other counties handle their sick time."

No action was taken on the discussion of creating the position of a finance officer at the local level.

Mattox said the board is still in the process of creating a job description for the position and there is nothing concrete on the subject at this point.

"The board discussed but took no action on listing the criteria for the selection of a new superintendent to replace Eversly."

Education requirements for the position are set by the state, but the board is looking at traits such as communication and leadership abilities.

Mattox said the search committee to hire a new superintendent has been established, but no one has applied for the position yet.

"We're still in the preliminary stages of the search, and we hope to advertise for the position in the next week or two," Mattox said.

The board approved the treasurer's reports for November and December.

A final budget for the 1998-99 school year was presented to board members from Eversly.

No action was taken on the proposed budget, but board members acknowledged receipt of the draft.

A budget figure was not obtainable yet, as the superintendent was out of town Tuesday.

Gov. Patton recommends industrial park funding

Gov. Paul Patton traveled to Morehead Monday to announce the recommendation of funding for the proposed regional industrial park located on KY 101 near the I-64 interchange.

"Mark this day on your calendar as the beginning of a new era in Rowan County," Patton told nearly 500 in attendance at the Rowan County Senior High School gymnasium. "Make a commitment to yourselves today in 20 years from now. This has the potential to make a difference in the lives of many people."

If approved by the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet Finance Authority, the \$18-acre park, at a cost of \$5 and 1/2 million, will be funded through multi-county coal severance tax money, targeted for the industrial park program.

The park has the potential of creating 4,000 jobs, generating \$50 million when it is in full swing in 10-15 years.

The regional industrial park concept is a major initiative of the Patton Administration, and Rowan is one of only four parks in the state to be recommended for funding at this time. Nine sites had applied for \$30 million.

Much of the necessary infrastructure, such as sewer and water, is already in place, so marketing of the site to potential businesses can begin immediately, according to Gene Strong, secretary of the economic development cabinet. Site preparation should begin this summer.

"The goal of my administration is to raise economic opportunity to a level above the national average," Patton said, "and this is the first step toward doing that in the coal counties of Kentucky. We expect that this park, because of its size and considering expanding in the Commonwealth."

The concept of a regional industrial park in Kentucky is unique. The idea is to create large blocks of available, accessible, marketable industrial land in an economical way without regard to county boundaries that will result in greater development and more job opportunities, Strong said.

The local project was developed through a consortium of Rowan, Morgan, Menifee and Carter counties.

"Rowan County alone would not have been eligible for the tax money, since it is not a coal producing county. However, with the help of the surrounding counties joining the partnership which have produced coal, the idea became more of a reality. While Rowan provided the location, the other counties helped meet the requirements for coal-producing counties to benefit from the park."

Patton said the manufacturing component is vital to Eastern Kentucky's economy, but emphasized that a trained, educated and productive work force is essential.

Gov. Brenton Jones, he helped create a program to set aside coal severance tax money for beneficial projects to be located in Eastern Kentucky.

"We're making a historic commitment," Patton said. "Now we're seeing the fruition of the decision made in 1992. About 28 percent of the coal severance tax money is committed to Eastern Kentucky."

He thanked the four judges, executives, who attended the announcement, for making the project come together: Clyde Thomas, Rowan; Bill Stewart, Morgan; Hershall Stanton, Menifee; and Joe Ritchey, Carter.

"I commended the county judges/executives for having the vision and the wisdom to be more concerned about economic opportunity for their people than they are in county boundaries, and more interested in the than in turf battles," Patton said. "They are demonstrating to the rest of the state what can happen when cooperative becomes more important than competition."

He also thanked Morehead-Rowan County Economic Development Director Tom Culbert regarding his savvy by being able to acquire the property for the site.

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Hospital Auxiliary to meet

The Hospital Auxiliary will meet at the Library February 10th, Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM.

Conservation board to hold meeting Feb. 4

The Nicholas Conservation Board of Supervisors will meet Wednesday night February 4, at 7:00 P.M. at the old armory in Carlisle.

Forrest Hunt is Student of Week

Forrest Hunt, a freshman at Nicholas County High School, has been named Student of the Week.

Hunt is in Dreams Griffith's class.

He participates in class discussion, works very hard, has a positive attitude and is a good role model for other students, according to Griffith.

The son of Deanna and Katie Hunt, Forrest is active in the boys varsity football team, varsity basketball, track team and pep club.

"Forrest is not hesitant to give his ideas and input for discussion," Griffith said. "He goes beyond simply trying. He gives all his work his best effort."

Forrest said he has thought about going into the physical therapy profession in the future.

"I'd like to do anything involving sports medicine," he said.

The 15-year-old said he likes going to school and socializing.

Homecoming is Feb. 6 at NCHS

Homecoming will be held Friday, Feb. 6 during half-time of the Nicholas County Basketball game.

The homecoming court will be announced at half-time and a dance will follow the ballgame.

The game starts at 7:30 p.m. when the Blue Jackets take on the Rams.

That afternoon, a pep rally will be held at the school at 2:45.

Homecoming Queen candidates are court, to be announced, will consist of four seniors in each class.

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