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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

Vol. 134, No. 17 Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867 Thursday, April 27, 2000 50¢

Band looking for donations to purchase new uniforms

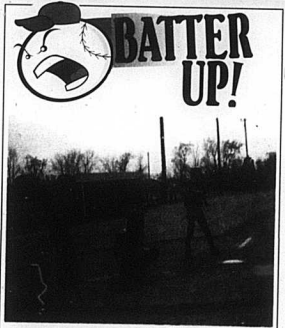
The Nicholas County Marching Band has a lot of activities planned for the coming marching season. They will be going for two nights to Bowling Green for the State Competition. There will also be a trip to Indianapolis to perform in a National Competition. This is a very huge and expensive undertaking.

They have many fund raisers planned to raise money for the expenses that will incur during this year's exciting marching season. The boosters will use this money for any and everything that Mr. Hale needs for this show. However, this year's uniforms, which are five to seven years old, need to be replaced with new ones. In the past five years, these uniforms have seen on 5th place finish, two State Runners Up, and two State Championships. They have also seen many alterations such as hemming, taking in and letting out and many mending. Performance of an excellent band is not the only component to success in band competition, appearance also plays an important role as well. We have received a price of \$10,000 for the new uniforms.

As of today the band is half way to reaching their goal for buying these new uniforms. Now they are asking for any monetary donation that you feel that you are able to give to them so that they may keep the Nicholas County Band one that other schools in the state dread and are in awe of when they hear it announced during a performance.

Mr. Hale and the Nicholas County Marching Band are proud to be representing such a generous and outstanding community and greatly thanks all who donate to the award winning Nicholas County Marching Band.

If you wish to make a contributions checks are payable to Nicholas County Band Boosters, send donations to Rose Vice, Rt. 1, Box 419, Ewing, KY 41039.



BATTER UP!
Jimmy Tincher/THE CARLISLE MERCURY
Jay Grant hit his first home run of the year on Tuesday against Paris. The Bluejackets have a total of 20 home runs for the year with Ed Tincher and Josh Fryman, leading the pack with four each. The Bluejackets know hold a record of 11-1, and will be participating in the Woodford County Tournament this weekend.

Tobacco bills among the top concerns for new bills

House bill 611, which dictates how the \$184 million agricultural portion Kentucky expects to receive from the Master Tobacco Settlement will be spent over the biennium, was resolved in conference committee in the final week and came up to the House for a vote Friday.

Conferees decided to reserve \$40 million to "prop up" payments sent directly to tobacco farmers as part of the Phase II settlement between the tobacco companies and five states including Kentucky.

Of the remaining funds, 65 percent will go to the 21-member state Rural Development Board, comprised mostly of Kentucky farmers, which will decide how to spend the money. Local boards will have a say in how to spend the remaining 35 percent, although the state would have the final say on how the money is spent. The legislation will go to the Governor for his signature.

Another tobacco-related bill, Senate Bill 49, which passed the House by a 95-0 vote this week, will permit the Legislature's Tobacco Task Force to study contract buying between tobacco companies and the state's small tobacco growers this year and next. Also placed in the bill was an intent to support federal price supports for tobacco to help Kentucky's small tobacco growers survive financially. The bill now goes to the Governor.

General Assembly budgets \$435,000 for Nicholas County

Lawmakers ended the 2000 session of the Kentucky General Assembly last Friday after passing a two-year, \$14 billion budget plan that increases four projects for Nicholas County.

On Friday a compromise budget was brought to the floors of both chambers and passed. The compromise was a good one. All the community development projects that Sen. Ed Miller and Rep. Carolyn Belcher was proposing were restored in the final version.

"Despite a long and often contentious budget debate, we were able to ensure that Nicholas County was well-represented among the project recipients," Miller, a Cynthiana Democrat, said. "This community is an important part of our state's efforts to move forward in terms of economic development, and to advance that goal, we need to strengthen our basic services and infrastructure. This budget helps us do just that."

The following funds for Nicholas County were confirmed in the two-year budget:

- \$60,000 for Dale Highway Water Lines;
- \$60,000 for Johnson Road Water Lines;
- \$65,000 for Milltown Water Project;
- \$250,000 for Nicholas County Health Department.

In other matters before the houses a tax on interstate phone calls will help balance the budget. The budget sets the out-of-state call tax at six percent instead of an earlier proposed seven percent and removes an earlier proposal to tax satellite and cable services.

To reduce the impact of the \$65 million annual revenue increase in the telecommunications tax, conferees agreed to cut employer unemployment insurance taxes by at least \$25 million annually.

"It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Representative in Frankfort during the 2000 General Assembly. Legislative disagreements can at times be

very frustrating, but I believe you will agree with me that our system of government is the best way to legislate for the common good. I look forward to the work before me as your legislator and welcome your input into your Legislature's work," said Belcher, an Owingsville Democrat.

The conclusion of the 2000 session is not the end but rather the beginning of a time to bring new ideas into the public arena. If you have an idea or comment to share with Sen. Ed Miller or Rep. Carolyn Belcher, you may contact them by calling the legislative toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181, in Frankfort and leave a message.

Budget Overlook, part 2 Criminals are costing the county plenty

This is the second part in the series of four that we are reviewing on the Nicholas County Fiscal Court General Budget.

Last weeks review was on the Nicholas County Ambulance Service and we hope that members of the community found the information beneficial.

This weeks topic is on the rising cost of housing and taking care of prisoners.

To date the Court has paid out almost 116,000 in housing and medical cost for adults and juveniles.

The adults are running about \$92,000, while juveniles are costing about \$18,000. Medication are costing the court around \$5,000.

Although the court is forced to house prisoners, most court cost that are charged to the criminal goes back to the state.

The only time the state picks up on charges for criminals is if the case is a felony. All misdemeanors are property of the county where the charges are served.

Almost all criminal prisoners are incarcerated by the State Police and the City of

Carlisle, but financial responsibility is put forth on the County, and just not the court but all taxpayers.

"We are forced to pay charges that we have no control over, such as medical expense that normal citizens would have to wait for or settle for a cheaper process," said Nicholas County Judge Executive Larry Tincher.

When a criminal goes to jail they lose what ever medical benefits that they have. If they get sick, the county pays the cost, no matter how minor the condition might be, and if the doctor prescribes a name brand prescription, then the court must pay an unnecessary fees that could be saved by prescribing generics.

If I can thank full that we have not had to be faced with major medical expenses like other counties in Kentucky. Lewis County was faced with over a \$100,000 medical bill for a prisoner who had to have emergency heart surgery. We are faced with outrageous fees, or we are faced with turning criminals free," said Tincher.

Next weeks column we will be looking at the Salaries of county employees over other counties in area and size compared to ours.

Students honored by KHSAA



Nicholas County Athletic Director Paul Mullins presents Jennifer Earlywine with her certificate of recognition from KHSAA.



Nicholas County Athletic Director Paul Mullins presented Josh Earlywine with her certificate of recognition from KHSAA.

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Partly sunny
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