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VOL. 134, NO. 8

OPINION

WRITERS SAY THE DARREST THINGS

THE GARLISLE COUNTY

"PROUD TO BE SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867"

Thursday, February 24, 2000 - CARLISLE, KY

Chamber of Commerce wants you!

The Carlisle/Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce is looking for individuals living, working, and socializing in Nicholas County to become a part of its organization. If you enjoy attending the Blackberry Festival and wish to see more activities for children, youth, adults, and seniors in our area than this is the organization for you. The Chamber is wanting to head into the future and with a supportive community like that of Nicholas County and Carlisle this objective can be achieved. Some of the activities that the group has participated in the past have been as follows: The "My Favorite Book Program" which give a book to every first grader at Nicholas County Elementary School. Entered a float in the annual Christmas Parade and placed third this year. Sent a board member to Maysville to attend a workshop on how to write grants which is very important in a small community with big ideas. Gave a \$500 grant to Allison Grant who obtained a 4.0 grade. Awards a business with \$800 each year for improvements on their location. Previous winner was Jack and Jean Conley. Their was no applications sent in this year. This is the time of the year to start off, and if you have any ideas or suggestions on the future of the Chamber than attend the March 2, meeting which will be held at the Nicholas County Public Library in the Basement at 7:00 p.m. Become a part of your community join today!

Tobacco Settlement creates squabble

Conflict erupted in the Kentucky House of Representatives last week when a proposal by Rep. Pete Worthington and other legislators on how to spend Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (Phase I) funding was denied consideration before the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee. The plan differs from House Bill 611, passed out of the committee last Thursday, in that it gives the money to the tobacco farmers for use on their farms and community. The original bill, sponsored by Rep. Roger Thomas, would keep the money in Frankfort and would allow a 20 member board to determine what part of the money would finally go to the farmers and their community. "The decision on the use of the money is much to important to turn over to the bureaucrats in Frankfort," Worthington said today. Under the plan presented by Worthington and others, the Phase I money would provide tobacco farmers with high-risk, low-interest loans, matching money for water and economic development for their county. A local board of farmers would be making the spending decision. Legislation action on the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement funding is taking place this week. Nicholas County will receive an estimated \$901,110 each year of the 20 year settlement.

Force of Nature... Flood waters damage roadways and bridges

The maximum rainfall in Kentucky is December to May, a time historically known for flooding in the state. However, until last Friday's rain, the state was by now normal. The heavy rains drenched the area and forced creeks and streams out of their banks and onto roadways. No homes were destroyed in Nicholas County by the flood, but the family of Harold Sidis had to be evacuated with the aid of a boat and the Nicholas County Fire and Rescue Team after the road in front of the Sidis home was taken over with water.

As the rains were falling Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tinscher along with County Magistrate Magistrate Billy Dixon's area is one of the more severe areas hit in the county. Tinscher said conservative estimate to repair county and state roadways and remove debris would be \$300,000. Tinscher, along with Kentucky Department of Rural and Municipal Aid Commissioner William "Bill" Johnson, and

Joe Callahan with the Kentucky Department of Highways traveled to the Bartonsville and Saltwell area of the county evaluating the damage on Tuesday morning. The Fauther/Cranton Creek area received some of the worst damages. The flood took out some culverts and destroyed the bridge of Buddy and Gracie Guy. A temporary crossing on Cranton Creek Road has been made on Tommy Whites land after the flood waters took out a 35 foot section of the main bridge. Tinscher is working with N.E.N. Co. contracting out of Mt. Vernon to replace the bridge as soon as possible.

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Magistrate Billy Dixon and Bill Johnson, Kentucky Commissioner of Rural and Municipal Aid looked over damages to the roadway on a portion of Bux Clark Rd. The damages are estimated at around \$60,000.

Celebration of Future Farmers of America Week held at NCHS

The Nicholas County Chapter of Future Farmers of America are joining other members of the 142 Kentucky FFA Chapters who have approximately 450,000 other FFA members in the United States in celebrating National FFA Week, which started Saturday and ends this Saturday. Governor Paul Patton will be signing a proclamation this week declaring February 19-26 as FFA Week in Kentucky. The FFA members at Nicholas County High School has planned many activities for this week. On Monday the students wore Carhart Clothing and Boots, and Tuesday was two day. The big event was held Wednesday as members drove their tractors to school and but on a tractor show for the other students. FFA Day is held today and students will show off the FFA clothing attire on Friday. All

this has added even more excitement after the students attended the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville last Friday. Around 30 students attended the show and tractor pull. On Tuesday the FFA members will be meeting with Sara Williamson, Vice President of Kentucky FFA. National FFA Week always includes George Washington's birthday in observance of his leadership in promoting scientific farming practices. Washington is considered the patron saint of the FFA and has come to symbolize the FFA Treasurer. "Early leaders who molded America came from the farms and plantations. Former statesmen of the past like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson have served as models for leadership development. FFA members today are inspired by these same heroes of our Nation and her agriculture. The FFA theme is 2000 is FFA - THE SIGNATURE OF SUCCESS. The Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center, located in Hardinsburg, provided an opportunity for leadership development for approximately 1100 FFA members during the summer of 1999. FFA Alumni chapters have been organized in many counties across the state. The FFA Alumni chapters are giving outstanding support to FFA members and their activities. For the first time ever, in the fall of 1999, the National FFA Convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky. The convention attracted approximately 47,000 FFA members, advisors, sponsors, and guests to the state. It is the largest youth convention in the nation. The convention will produce over \$20 million of economic activity for the state each year. The FFA was organized in 1928 with the purpose of promoting leadership, cooperation, and citizenship among high school agricultural education students. America's greatest return on investment will come in the form of its youth. Agricultural Education and the FFA are helping prepare young people for careers in the agricultural industry. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Agricultural Education Mission: The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.



Officers of the Nicholas County Chapter of FFA from left are: Heather Howard, Secretary; Matthew Becker, Sentinel; Jennifer Earlywine, Vice-President; Seth Salder, Treasurer; and Mindy Simons, President.

Seniors Say "Good-Bye"

On Friday, February 11, during the Homecoming game against Sayre the Senior Basketball players and cheerleaders were recognized for their contribution to Nicholas County High School Sports. "I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank" to the seniors involved in extracurricular activities at NCHS. The contributions they have made in both classroom and the gym are something that we all are proud of. It has been my privilege to be associated with these fine young men and women. They are role models for other students as well as their teammates. I will always remember this group of seniors and appreciate all they have accomplished. I want to wish them the Best of Luck in all the endeavors the future hold for them." said Paul Mullins during the evening event.

Michelle English is the 17 year old granddaughter of Sonja Coker and the late Charles Henry Coker. Michelle is a member of the Ecology Club and plans to attend college to become a nurse. Members of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team honored were Jennifer Earlywine and Mindy Simons. Jennifer is the 18 year old daughter of Libby Earlywine and the late Allen Earlywine. Jennifer has been a member of the Girls Varsity Basketball team for six years. Girls Varsity Softball, FFA Vice-President, Yearbook Staff, Pep Club, and is employed with Eaglestone Farm. Jennifer was named a member of the 2000 All "A" Classic All Tournament team. After high school Jennifer plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University and major in law enforcement. Mindy is the 17 year old daughter of Jim and Lynn Simons. Mindy has been a member of the Girls Varsity Basketball team for five years, Girls Varsity Softball, FFA Vice-President, Pep Club, Ecology Club, FFA, Member of the Catholic Church, FCA, Holy, and attended the Governor's Scholar. Mindy was named in the 2000 All "A" Classic All Academic Team. After High School Mindy plans to attend Morehead State University and major in Agricultural Psychology. Members of the Boys Varsity Cheerleading Team that were recognized were Crasti Snapp, Lori Hillander, Rebecca Hamilton and Crystal Pryor. Crasti is the 18 year old daughter of Charlette and the late Robert Hopkins, and the late David Snapp. Crasti has been a member of the Boys Varsity Cheerleading Squad for four years. Pep Club, Yearbook

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The bridge on Cranton Creek Rd. was destroyed during the flood last Friday. The damages are estimated at around \$125,000.