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NCHS Schools: Safety first

**By Hank Bond
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In light of the death of 33 college students on the Virginia Tech campus following Monday's shootings, safety of students in Nicholas County Schools jumps to the forefront.

"It is always on my mind every day," said Nicholas County Superintendent Greg Field.

"While we are doing everything possible to protect our students and staff, it doesn't

take much to see things can happen anywhere and at any time."

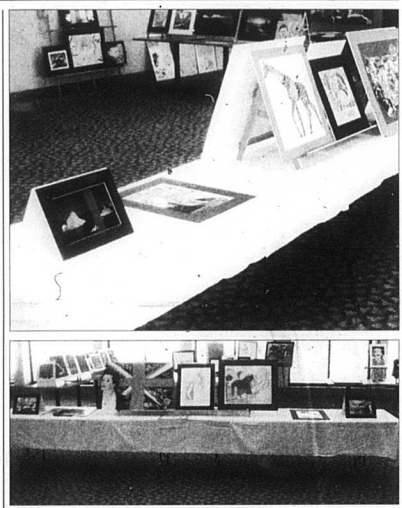
Since 1993 Kentucky has had two fatal school shooting incidents. NCHS students told assessment inspectors just a few weeks ago that they feel NCHS is a safe school.

No riding

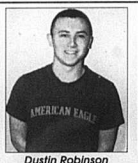
Wildlife management areas across the state, including Clay Wildlife Area, will close to horseback and mule riding during spring turkey seasons in April and May.

A new Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources regulation prohibits horseback riding on wildlife management areas (WMA) anytime that a firearms season for turkey, deer or elk is open. One exception does allow elk hunters to use horses.

The department has received an increasing number of complaints from hunters about casual horseback riding on WMAs during firearms season.



Photos by Hank Bond



Art expressions
The Courthouse Square Art Guild in cooperation with Blue Licks State Park and several area high schools and middle schools celebrated the beauty of creation with the Guild's second annual art show held at the lodge. A large turnout of appreciative visitors made the event a large success. Plans are underway for next year.

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the city, alarms have been placed on the back doors of both buildings, if doors are left open for any reason the alarm will sound. In addition, there are bars on the inside of the doors, which prevent chaining of doors.

This was a cause of problem in the recent campus shootings and deaths at Virginia Tech. This, according to school officials, is a real safety plus.

A site visit and subsequent report on safety issues in Nicholas County Schools left officials with some mixed reviews and things to proceed to work on.

"The state inspectors were pretty positive about several things," Bechaman said. "They were positive about the entry system at the elementary school (which is now also in place at the high school)."

"They were also positive about the sign-in procedure and security system we have."

The actual report, provided by the inspectors to school officials, had several

items of praise for the elementary and middle school. The report states: "All team members were greeted by staff members upon entering the school and required to sign in."

Each team member was given a visitor pass. "Staff members were extremely helpful and continually offered their assistance during the visit. The visit was well-organized and the team was made to feel welcome."

Bechaman said, "Their purpose (the inspectors) was to see ways we as a school district can improve."

The district was actually on the latter end of the state inspectors' visits. "As a matter of safety here are some other points from the inspectors report. The front entrance is one of the best visiting team has seen."

All staff wore an identification card and an NCEMS card serves four purposes.

It allowed first responders to see SAFETY Page 12

Three indicted in April session

Members of the April Nicholas County Grand Jury handed down three true bill indictments in its session, April 16.

Documents from the grand jury session are in the office of Nicholas County Circuit Clerk Sandy Watkins.

The true bill was returned against Adam Fooks, 18, included two counts.

The first count states that on or about August 10, 2006 in Nicholas County, Fooks committed the offense of burglary in the first degree when, with the intent to commit a crime, he knowingly entered and remained unlawfully in the North Central 40H Camp, and while in the building or in the immediate flight therein, he was

armed with deadly weapons, i.e. firearms.

The second count read that on or about the same day as in count one, Fooks committed the offense of theft by unlawful taking when he unlawfully took cash and property valued in excess of \$300 belonging to either the North Central 4H Camp or Cecil Howard or both with the intent to deprive the owner thereof.

Appearing as a witness for the Commonwealth was Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler.

Presenting before the grand jury representing the Commonwealth of Kentucky was Commonwealth's

Three chosen Governor's Scholars in '07

All three Nicholas County students who forwarded applications to the selection committee for Governor's Scholars Program this year have been accepted and will attend.

Amber Harrison, Dustin Robinson and Tyler Rose, all high school juniors at Nicholas County High School have been selected to take part in the elite group.

There are three campuses, which host the governor's scholars. Morehead State University, Centre College in Danville and Bellarmine University in Louisville.

A final determination will be made in late May to designate where each student will attend.

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