SPORTS

Bluejackets have productive week

By Steve LeMaster
Special to The Mercury

It's football time in Nicholas County and most everywhere else around the state. The Nicholas County High School football team returned to the gridiron last week, opening up practice for the 2007 season. During the first week of practice, NCHS football players returned ready to go right back to work.

This season, Nicholas County faces another challenge in a tough Class A district. Coach Robert Hopkins was content with his team's effort in the opening week.

"The first week of practice went well," Hopkins said. "We had 41 kids come out."

Having just over 40 players out is just where Hopkins had hoped his Nicholas County High School football program would be, when practice started in mid-July. The Blue Jacket football program had quite possibly one of the best winter workout periods in school history.

Earlier in the off season, the Hopkins-coached NCHS football team was without some key players. Now, most everyone is back on the gridiron for the Class A team from Carlisle.

Despite a few days that included rain and less than ideal weather last week, Hopkins and his coaching staff were able to get some work out of the 2007 edition of the Blue Jacket team, after a great winter and spring in the weightroom.

"The rain came in and rained us out Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday," Hopkins confided. "The kids were excited about getting back on the field. Everyone has a good attitude and is working hard."

This week, Nicholas County is going to work with some added gridiron gear.

"We'll go in shoulder pads and helmets this week," Hopkins added. "But we can't go full contact, yet."

Five seniors are out for the NCHS football team. According to Hopkins, both the Blue Jacket junior and senior classes are strong in numbers and talent, making for a strong underclassman group.

The Nicholas County Blue Jackets will have the great opportunity to open the 2007 season at Papa Johns Stadium, which is turf, on Aug. 25 in the Ray Adams Classic versus Jeffersontown.

The Blue Jackets will face Jeffersontown at noon in season-opening high school football event.

To get prepared for the season-opener, Nicholas County will play one of its preseason games at Tates Creek, home to a turf surface.

"We're looking very forward to the season-opener," said Hopkins. "We'd like everyone to make the trip and support us in the bowl game at Papa Johns Stadium."

After the season-opener, Nicholas County will continue on the road for games on back-to-back Friday nights against West Carter and Fairview. The Blue Jackets will open up district competition Sept. 7 in the game against Fairview.

All of Nicholas County's games after the season-opener are set for 7:30 p.m. kickoffs.

Nicholas County's home opener is scheduled for Sept. 14 versus Paris.

Photo by Dawn Letcher

Minor League Red Team

Members of the Red Minor League team are, left to right front, Cameron Reid, Stephen Paynter, Dallas Hunt, Heath Adams, Hannah Pope and Grace Kiskaden. Second row, Aaron Conyers, Chase Hamilton, Drew Davis, Tristen Watkins, and Sam Hamilton. Back, Todd Reid, Otis Davis, Shon Conyers, and Phillip Kiskaden. Absent, Austin Willoughby, Andrew Day and coach Stephen Willoughby.

Photo by Dawn Letcher

Minor League Blue Team

Members of the Blue Minor League team are, left to right front, Hayden Glass, Brice Markland, Colton Liver, Alex Linville, Trent Letcher and Spencer Morris. Second rown, Dalton Daily, Preston Northcutt, Dalton Fryman, Shane Crump, Trina Hughes, and Dakota Ring. Absent was Wes Neace. Back row, head coach Pat Letcher, assistant coaches Chris Fryman, Timmy Crump, Terry, Hughes, Steve Linville. Absent was Don Markland jr.

NCHS linebackers ranked among district's best

Two Nicholas County High School linebackers are ranked among the top players in Class A, District 5. Under the new KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association) realignment, Nicholas County resides in Class A, District 5 along with Lexington Christian, Raceland, Pair and Fairview.

Nicholas County, which finished the 2006 season 2-8, has three players listed as "Others To Watch" in Class A, District 5 in the 2007 edition of The Cats' Pause Kentucky Football Yearbook. Lexington Christian Academy sophomore running back Dominique Hayden is ranked as Class A, District 5's top player in the preseason football publication.

Nicholas County players listed are linebackers Jonathan Maddox and Michael Reed.

Hayden is fresh off of a remarkable freshman season in which he rushed for 940 yards, averaging seven yards per carry for the Paul Raines-coached Lexington Christian team. In The Cats Pause, preseason Class A, District 5 rankings, Lexington Christian was picked to finish first.

Nicholas County Coach Robert Hopkins will look to his linebacker duo to make big defensive stops.

Maddox and Reed are both four-year starters for Nicholas County and bring with them a considerable amount of high school football experience. The linebacker duo will again lead the Blue Jacket defense.

Lex. Christian picked

LEXINGTON – Lexington Christian Academy (9-3) grabbed the top spot in The Cats' Pause Kentucky Football Yearbook's Class A, District 5 rankings. Lexington Christian was picked first, ahead of Raceland (11-2), Paris (7-4), Fairview (4-6) and Nicholas County (2-8).

Nicholas County entertains Lex. Christian, Oct. 5.

Raceland ended last season 11-2 with a polished quarterback taking to the air and completing passes to proven receivers. Now, Raceland must replace quarterback Scott Grizzle, who led a proficient passing attack. Under head coach Randy Vanderhoof, Raceland has flourished during many seasons with a pass-happy offensive attack.

Matthew Thompson is the new coach at Paris. The Greyhounds posted a 7-4 record last season and look poised to be a seven-win team or better during the upcoming season.

Paris will rank as one of the fastest teams in Class A. Seniors Travis Angel (6-1, 230) and Tavione Fields (5-10, 165) will lead the Greyhounds. Angel is a hard-hitting linebacker while Fields is a speedy running back.

Paris is ranked third behind district frontrunner Lexington Christian and second-place Raceland.

Fairview (4-6) will look to get back above .500 and reach the playoffs following a two-year absence when the 2007 season kicks off in late-August. The Eagles, under the guidance of veteran head coach Rex Cooksey who returns to head the Eagles replacing Chad Tackett now an assistant at Ashland Blazer.

Cooksey took over the job July 10 with only six days remaining before pre-season drills get underway. He named Marshall All-American lineman Nathan McPeek as associate head coach.

For Nicholas County, quarterback Jordan Mynear returns for his third season under center in a career that has featured 1,700 passing yards. Mynear (6-3, 175), touted as one of the district's top players, fared well during summer passing scrimmages.

Linebackers Jonathan Maddox and Michael Reed are four-year starters on the defensive side for the Robert Hopkins-coached Nicholas County football team.

Hopkins returns for his sixth season at the helm of Nicholas County. Hopkins will also begin a tour of duty as the Blue Jackets athletic director.

You're Invited
Nicholas County Senior Citizens Center
124 E. Main Street August 1, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
We invite you to attend a seminar to learn ways on how to avoid income taxes and to protect assets that have been hard earned.
If you want to know how to keep Uncle Sam from what you've set aside for yourself and your children, or if you want to spare your heirs the burden of taxes and the hassle of probate, we invite you to come to this seminar to learn about valuable assets.
Refreshments will be served. **Open to Everyone!!!**
Please RSVP by July 30th

Public Is Invited
Community Assessment
Organizational Meeting of
CORE
Leadership Group
August 2nd at 6 PM
at Carlisle United Methodist Church

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Congratulations

Preston Northcutt, son of Terri and Jerry Ross of Carlisle and Steven and Angel Northcutt of Cynthiana is a proud 1st place winner of the Homerun Derby held in Powell County.

There were 25 that participated. Preston is a player on the Blue Nicholas County All-Star Team. Keep up the hard work Preston. We are very proud of you.

Love, Mom, Terry, Dad and Angel

Public Hearing

In accordance with the provisions of HB 44 enacted by the 1979 Kentucky General Assembly a public hearing has been set by the Nicholas County Public Library Board of Trustees for August 8, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Nicholas County Public Library. The purpose of the hearing is to inform the public that the Nicholas County Public Library District is proposing the 4.3 cent tax rate with the anticipated revenue of $87,341. This tax rate reflects a 4% increase in anticipated revenue. The tax rate for the preceding year was 4.0 cents with anticipated revenue of $78,009.

The compensating rate is 4.2 cents with anticipated revenue of $85,310. The expected revenue from personal property is $15,713. Increase for the 2007 budget year is needed due to the rising costs of books, library materials, technology, equipment and building maintenance.

The Kentucky General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and the information contained herein.

Published in The Carlisle Mercury, July 25, 2007.

Nicholas County Library District
223 N. Broadway
Summary Financial Statement
July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007
Library Fund

Revenues	
Taxes (all categories)	$88,653.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	13,973.00
Charges for Services	500.00
Other Revenues	1,000.00
Interest Earned	$2,500.00
Total Revenues	**$106,726.00**
Receipts and cash	
Carryover from Prior Fiscal Year	$101,000.00
Total Receipts and Cash	**$101,000.00**
Receipts, Cash & Revenues Total	**$207,726.00**
Expenditures	
Personell	$62,311.00
Operations	32,100.00
Administration	3,000.00
Total Expenditures	**$97,411.00**

Supporting documentation for this statement is located at:
223 N. Broadway, Carlisle, KY 40311

Published in The Carlisle Mercury Wednesday, July 25, 2007.

GENERAL NEWS

Thoughts from ... the Pastor's Study

By Julian C. Hammonds
Retired United Methodist Minister

In John's Gospel, Chapter 9, verses 9 and 10, Jesus declare: (9) " I am the sheep by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. (10) The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come, as the "Good Shepherd," that they, you and I, might have life, and have it more abundantly."

Abundant life in Christ, for this retired minister, has been an adventure in abundant living! In fact, this week I wish to share a little musing and remembering about life in Christ with you folks.

My very first church was in Woodford County, the town of Mortensville, out side of Versailles.

The first worship service was a Wednesday prayer meeting. I arrived at the church thinking I was on time just to discover I was almost an hour late. The problem was fast time and slow time all over the state. The folks had waited very lovingly and patiently.

Man was I a flabbergasted, wet behind the ears, young pastor. God's grace led me through the service and I proceed to meet the people and give them my name. I announced: " I am Julian C. Hammonds!" they looked at me with question marks all over their faces and said, "Son you are at the wrong church, we have been waiting for J.C. Hambone". They also said, "The Bishop must have robbed the cradle when appointed you to a church". I was in my early twenties, but looked like a kid fifteen years old.

Mortonsville really was an interesting start for me. In the fall, of the same year, we held a revival and invited an evangelist by the name of Reynolds. The song evangelist and I became interested in the same young lady. Rev. Reynolds went around saying: "as sure as the vines grow up the wall one of you boys will be married before fall)"

Sure enough the song leader got a date and I not wanting to be out done asked another lady for a date so we could all go on a double date. She said yet but you will have to ask my father. I did and he said he didn't let his daughter date, especially a Methodist Minister. The reason, a former Methodist Pastor dated one of his daughters and married her. Must have been afraid to lose another daughter!

By the way the song leader, a dears friend of mine, married the girl and still, to this day lives in Mortonsville. Turns out the Evangelist was a prophet, ha!ha!

It sure is wonderful how Christ promises us an abundant life. There is a great deal of joy and humor in such a life. "Praise God!"

As time moved on I was given a new church and married my wonderful wife, Mary Evelyn (Cooper) Hammonds in 1958.

Another funny event took place in our new appointment. As a young groom I had a habit of pursing my lips and turning to my wife and looking straight at her and making a kissing sound. Well so happens I was walking down the isle toward the pulpit and I turned quickly and made the gesture to the spot where my wife always sat, just to discover it was on of the no funny stuff members. Boy was I embarrassed. Guess what? She laughed and from that time on she was much more jovial and a very dear friend to both of us! In conclusion I don't want you to get the impression that I spent forty years in humor and goof-ups.

God has blessed Evelyn and me with many wonderful miracles and fruits for our labor.

In a pastorate of long tenure one event stands out as a special gift and healing from God.

A beautiful little blond headed child suddenly went into a deep coma and was diagnosed with a possible brain tumor and was rushed to Lexington for immediate surgery. Naturally I rushed to be with her and the whole family. She remained in a coma all night and the doctor's hadn't finalized the real cause. Standing in the pediatric I.C.U. unit, with the family gathered around, I prayed dear Jesus you love little children and in Matthew 19:14-15 (14) "you said: suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is kingdom of heaven. (15) And he laid his hands on them, and departed".

Sharing those words of prayer, with great faith and love, I said dear Jesus let this precious child awaken from this deep coma! Just as those words came out of my mouth and soul a voce said: "Mommy I'm hungry!" All present, rejoiced, in victory, as our prayers were answered. There was no brain tumor.

Today that child is a married young adult working in the field of medicine as a registered pediatric nurse.

I thank God for saving my soul and giving me a precious call to the ministry. I also thank him for my wonderful family and a life time of precious memories, with God's people, as Evelyn and I have served Him all over central and eastern Kentucky!

God Bless

GUARD

Continued from Page 1

natives with family here, will return home by chartered buses August 1 and will enjoy time with family and friends before re-boarding the buses Aug. 5. They will then return to Camp Shelby, Miss., before leaving for Iraq for a one-year tour of duty. The return home is being made possible thanks to the overwhelming success of recent fundraising events sponsored by the FRG.

A "Support Our Troops Bike Ride" on Saturday July 14, and a Sun. July 15, fish fry netted the FRG nearly $10,000 to use for support activities. Some of those funds will pay for the chartered buses used to transport the troops.

Alicia Hughes, wife of First Sgt. Rob Hughes, Christina Herrington, sister of Specialist Joseph Herrington, and Emmett Smith, close friend of Sgt. Hughes and several other soldiers, helped organize the fundraising events. All expressed deep appreciation to the community.

"I was just amazed at the turnout," Hughes said of the Bike Ride. "Emmett Smith is a close friend of the family and he was a tremendous help with the Bike Ride event."

Smith said he was also surprised at the large number of those who participated in the ride.

"We had approximately 100 bikes," he said. "Everything went very smoothly. We are very appreciative of the Nicholas County Sheriff, Bath County Sheriff and Owingsville Police department, for providing us with escorts and helping to keep the group together."

Smith, whose cousin Jesse Cody recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, also spoke about why he participated.

"Sgt. Rob Hughes is like a brother to me," he said. "I'm real close to him and his family and know many of the soldiers. I did this to help them."

Smith and Hughes said the riders enjoyed a beautiful day traveling from the National Guard Armory, through Carlisle, Sharpsburg, Salt Lick, Owingsville and to Cave Run Lake, where the riders enjoyed the majestic landscape of the Zilpo Beach and campground.

"Riders came from all over," Smith said. "We had good support from Nicholas and Fleming County, and we had riders from a s far away as Lexington, Maysville and Frankfort."

Herrington and Hughes praised the efforts of family members of Sgt. Josh Gray who made the Sunday fish fry a great success.

"The family worked very hard and donated nearly everything. There was great support for the fish fry," they both said.

The homecoming will help ease the pain of separation caused by military duty.

"It already seems like he's been gone forever," Herrington said of her brother Joseph, who with his wife Trina will be expecting a baby sometime around Aug. 8. "It's their first child and I'm so glad he'll be in near the time that the baby is due."

Hughes echoed the sentiments as she and her husband Rob have a newborn, two-month-old Jay, who joined his older brother Eli just before their father's deployment to Misa.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my husband and our children are looking forward to seeing their dad," Alicia Hughes said.

The FRG is planning other fundraisers and they will be financing a special communications program that will allow each of the soldiers' regular Internet access so they can communicate with family members during their deployment to Iraq.

"We're working on it right now," Alicia Hughes said. "We all think it will help the families a great deal during the deployment."

Her husband agreed and said the open line of communication in a war zone would help diminish the stress of separation. He said he and his fellow soldiers continue good support from Nicholas and Fleming County, and we had riders from a s far away as Lexington, Maysville and Frankfort."

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Her husband agreed and said the open line of communication in a war zone would help diminish the stress of separation. He said he and his fellow soldiers continue to prepare for war. Their mission, according to a press release issued May 16 from the office of the Adjutant General for Kentucky, Major Donald Storm, will be to provide convoy security and force protection.

"We'll all be happy to visit home, and we're looking forward to completing our mission and returning home after our mission is completed," First Sgt. Hughes said.

"The heat in Mississippi has been a great challenge, but we know it will help us adjust to the climate in Iraq.

"We've lost a few people because of past medical reasons, but we haven't had any injuries because of training. I want everyone in the community to know how deeply we appreciate all of the community support. We are all very, very thankful."

Tee Shirts and special yellow ribbons are still available through the Family Readiness Group and anyone wishing to help support the Guardsmen is urged to contact Alicia Hughes at 289-4496 to place orders, or to volunteer to help for future fundraising events.

DROUGHT

Continued from Page 1

damage," he said. "But I believe if we get a little more rain the tobacco that is standing up pretty good right now will be all right."

According to the University of Kentucky Agriculture Center, the Bluegrass section of the state, which includes Nicholas County, is in a moderate drought, as far as the long-term hydrological moisture status is concerned.

To bring the county out of the drought officials said in June we must receive more than 7.68 inches of rain in the near future. With the scattered rain showers in July we are now within 3.5 inches of coming out of the drought.

According to Division of Water, the month of June began with a substantial deficit in place ranging from 6 to 10 inches with more severe deficits located in the southern regions of the Western, Central, Bluegrass and Eastern climatic divisions. The accumulated rainfall for the months February through May rank among the top five driest in 113 years of instrumental recording for all four climatic divisions.

The Bluegrass division included Nicholas, Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Montgomery, Harrison and other counties located south and west of Nicholas.

Every Monday morning, during the growing season in Kentucky, the Agriculture weather center, in the U.K. College of Agriculture, summarizes the past week's rainfall totals and temperature averages for weather stations across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That information is transmitted to the National Weather Service and ultimately to the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) in the nation's capital for entry into several models.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials warn motorists that the lack of water in some streams and farm ponds has led to more deer activity on Kentucky roadways.

"As the lack of rain leaves typical woodland water sources high and dry, animals tend to seek out larger streams near highways," a news release issued by Allen Blair, information officer for District 9 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said last week. "That means the chances of animals crossing paths with vehicles can increase, which impacts highway safety."

Blair issued some helpful tips for motorists to consider regarding the increase in deer activity along Kentucky roadways.

Deer on roads often freeze under the glare of headlights or won't respond to horns. If you can safely pull onto the shoulder of the road and cut your lights, they will usually leave.

Slow down. The faster you are driving, the harder it is to avoid a collision, whether it's with an animal or another vehicle.

Keep your eyes on the road, and don't expect deer on the side of the road to stay there until you get by. Be ready to react.

Be alert and watch for animals, especially deer at dawn and twilight when they travel more. (Impact with even a small doe can total a car or cause an injury crash. Motorcycle riders face even greater dangers).

TRIANGLE

Continued from Page 15

through his accomplishments in Woodmen. Besides seeing Disney world the cruise to the Bahamas was five days.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady enjoyed the Walking Horse show at Tollesboro on Saturday night. Terry Doyle took four horses and he and some of his customers showed and placed. Carroll Doyle again won first place on an excellent two year old. The Vices and others from Carlisle showed at Frankfort. Mona Vice won first place.

Mrs. Marjorie Fryman, Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doyle spent a wonderful day recently with a cousin, Robert Adams and wife, Laverne at Winchester.

Rev. Howard Livingood spoke at the nursing home on Sunday. Faye Letcher, Ronnie and Wanda Small and Helen and Julian McKee all sang specials.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Mattox, and Mrs. Mike Mattox, Phyllis Brady, Mildred Gifford, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hammonds enjoyed Ruggles Methodist Camp Meeting on Sunday night with Rev. Dan Frederick evangelist. There were 329 in attendance. The camp is held for ten days and this is the 134th year of the camp meeting, near Tollesboro.

Mrs. Rose Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady enjoyed the Farm Bureau Fish Fry on Thursday night. Many nice door prizes were given. It was held at Vice's Community Center.

Many attended the dinner held at the Armory last Sunday to support our troops. Samantha Sowell spent Monday with Ramona George.

Photo by Charles Mattox

Returning home

Returning from a camping trip from the Sheriff's Ranch are Julio Contreras, Travis Morris, Lucio Rios, Tyler Brockmeyer and Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett.

Help available to beat the heat

Are you trying to beat the heat but simply can't afford to buy an air conditioner?

Do you or your loved ones also have health problems?

If so, you may qualify for help from the Community Action Council that serves Nicholas County.

Members of Community Action Council are working with individuals and businesses across the state to help provide cooling systems for those who need it most.

The program benefits qualifying applicants in Harrison, Bourbon, Nicholas and Fayette counties.

Each year the Council's Summer Cooling Program assists low-income residents whose health is threatened by high heat and humidity as verified by their doctors.

"I was living trouble breathing, and both me and my granddaughter have severe asthma, and my two grandkids have bad allergies," Nicholas County resident Sally McFarland said in a Community Action Council press release.

"I was tickled with how quickly I was able to get an air conditioner. Then I didn't have to suffer with every breath I took in the house, and the kids' allergies eased up."

Nicholas County residents who wish to apply for the program are urged to contact Community Action Council at 289-7172 or stop by their local office at 849 Scrubgrass Road Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We've had six people come into the center in Nicholas County and apply for the program already this summer," said Charlie Lanter, the manager for program development with Community Action Council.

"We distributed 73 air conditioners in our area last year and we hope to match or exceed that this year."

The Summer Cooling Program is supported solely by community donations and has limited resources. If you or someone you know would like to assist with this worthy program, please call the Community Action Council at the above number or stop in during business hours or contact the regional office at 859-244-2221.