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**June
27
2007**

Fiscal Court ponders tax

By Charles Mattox
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A new tax may come into play for Nicholas County residents. Nicholas County Fiscal Court members all agree that the county needs a new revenue source of some kind or future budgets will fall short. Fiscal Court members unanimously passed the second reading of the county's budget on June 22. The court was in session June 12 and aside from

lengthy discussion on possible future nuisance ordinances and countywide planning policies, members discussed several other items of interest. During that meeting court members agreed that a new source of revenue is needed desperately but they have taken no action thus far to generate any new revenue. Discussion between Magistrate Daryl Stacy and county treasurer Wanda Dotson on June 12 indicated that the county's June jail bill could not be paid until July when a new fiscal year begins and the funds are available. "We've had a terrible, terrible year," Dotson said of the financial strain on the county's budget. "This really concerns me," Stacy said. "It concerns me too, but what can we do about it," Dotson said. "We need a remedy," said Stacy when looking at the county treasurer's report and discussing the pending second reading of the budget. "The jail bill is completely

out of hand and it will be worse next year if we don't do something." Magistrate Steve Hamilton also expressed concern that if some type of action isn't taken to reduce the jail bill, or to increase the county's revenue, next year's budget could be \$100,000 in deficit. "This is a tight budget," said judge-executive Larry Fincher. "This is the tightest budget I've ever had to deal with."

Fincher said he is still researching all aspects of establishing an ambulance taxing district, which if implemented will free up other revenue in the county's general fund, currently being used to partially finance the service. While discussing the possibility of implementing a future tax, Fincher was direct and to the point. "I don't like it. Nobody likes it but we have to do something," he said. Stacy suggested researching an insurance premium tax similar to one recently proposed by the Fleming County Fiscal Court. Although Fleming County

Fiscal Court members have not had the second reading of the proposed tax they have had the first reading and plan to move forward with the second reading in the near future, according to Fleming County officials. During the meeting on June 22, court members unanimously supported an \$1,800 transfer from the general fund to the Senior Citizens Center on the recommendation of Judge Fincher, and discussed the

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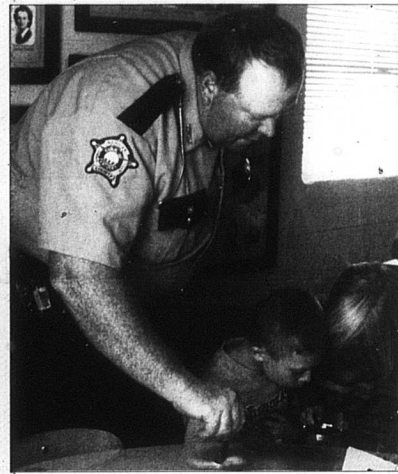


Photo by Charles Mattox

The future of Nicholas County CSI

Nicholas County Sheriff Benny Buckler gets some youthful assistance from Isaac Fryman and Hunter Warner during last week's summer reading program at the Nicholas County Public Library. Buckler captivated the attention of the children while demonstrating crime scene procedures and the art of lifting fingerprints. Buckler was a guest speaker for Lori Kenney who helped make reading fun for area children during the summer reading program. Kenney will be teaching first grade at Nicholas County Elementary School this fall.

Tobacco use banned during school hours

By Hank Bond
Editor
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Citing security concerns as well health issues, the Nicholas County Board of Education voted 5-0 June 18, to approve a policy, which will prohibit the use of any tobacco products from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday in any building or on property owned or operated by the board. Greg Reid, superintendent of schools, explained the policy change is necessary in part as a security measure to keep the doors locked from the outside during school hours and not be propped open to allow entry and exit by individuals who smoke. In addition, "It will improve time on task for everyone in the district," he added. Board members voted 5-0 to amend the policy, which takes effect immediately. The board faced a light agenda at the June meeting, which will mark the end of the board's fiscal year. Several personnel announcements filled the agenda. These are actions shared with the board by Supt. Reid. Bennie Buckler has resigned as middle school assistant girls basketball coach. Joining the district for 2007-2008 are: Brianna Whitten, special education teacher at NCHS; Theresa Bartlett as science

teacher at NCHS. Robert Hopkins and Todd Nease were employed as ESS Summer School teachers at NCHS. Sandy Sweeney, Stephanie Duncan, Sara Kiskaden and Kylie Walton were employed as ESS Summer School teachers at NCEMS. Sara Kiskaden, Ashley Vee, Lori Kenney and Amy Switzer were employed as Summer School teachers for the Migrant Program.

Regina McCall and Lisa Saton were employed as co-managers at the NCEMS cafeteria and Nancy Curry as food service assistant at NCHS. The board approved the payment of \$12,789.06 to Sue Denton for unused sick leave as permitted by law. The board approved the contract with Central Psychological Services to provide Summer School teachers for the Migrant Program.

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Photo submitted

Fletcher to be Grand Marshal

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher will serve as Grand Marshal for this year's Blackberry Festival Parade, scheduled for Thurs., July 5, beginning at 7 p.m. The parade will form at Nicholas County Elementary School's parking lot.

Rural septic systems raise stink

The unsightly appearances of some rural septic discharge systems in the county are raising a stink with members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court who met for three hours last week to discuss options on what they can do to stop the perceived county nuisance. At the request of Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Fincher, David A. Ewen, the chief public administration services representative with the Bluegrass Area Development

District spoke to court members about options they had to be taken to address the problems associated with county planning and economic development. He also discussed a variety of ordinances the county could enact to prevent those and other problems from occurring. Court members agreed that economic development is needed in the county, and all agreed that new businesses were more likely to call Nicholas County their home if their homes looked nicer. "There are a host of ordinances you can enact," Ewen said. "A lot of credit allowances go from zero to 100. They address garbage, open water and cistern containers, and a wide variety of other topics that deal with public welfare and economic development." Ewen handed out several examples of such ordinances to court members, including nuisance and discarded items ordinances.

Court members were in agreement that they were all unhappy with lagoons created by certain septic discharge systems. These types of septic discharge systems are installed on property that doesn't "perk" or absorb discharge as proficiently as other areas of the county. Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark sat in for a short period of time during the meeting and was asked, in general, what the city was doing

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**4TH OF JULY
HOLIDAY DEADLINES**

Classifieds - 10 a.m.
Monday, July 2
All other advertising - 5 p.m.
Friday, June 29

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