

# GENERAL NEWS

## COURT

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Tincher pointed out to Letcher that the original lease did stipulate receiving one dollar per year from the entity leasing the property.

"That was never paid," he said as a point of clarity during the discussion. "Does that break the lease?" he asked.

Letcher indicated that was more of a formality than a binding aspect of the lease.

"Well what if someone gets hurt out there?" Magistrate Steve Hamilton asked. "Who would be responsible?"

Tincher spoke up as discussion bogged down and told court members that the county had liability insurance on all of the park property.

Magistrate Daryl Stacy said he supported the property being controlled by the court.

A representative of the American Legion, Dorsey Watkins, was present at the meeting and noted that the American Legion organization had invested money to make improvements to the horse ring.

"We've spent quite a bit of money out there," he said.

"I just think if it comes back to the county we can avoid these kinds of messes," Stacy said of the lease confusion.

"If the (American) Legion wants to host one, two or five events out there, I think that is fine. The same with the fair board, that's fine, but if we give up control again it can become an issue."

Magistrate Jeff Randolph agreed with Stacy and pointed out to Watkins that if the county took control of the property and provided the required maintenance then it should be beneficial to many organizations.

"You should increase your profits that way," he said.

Watkins raised his eyebrows as he nodded in agreement with Randolph and

said, "Yeah, that's true, but only if the park is kept up." Magistrate Hamilton expressed his opinion.

"I'm for everyone using it that wants to," he said. "If a group wants it, then I have no problem, as long as there are no conflicting dates."

Tincher told the magistrates that a representative of the fair board had supported the lease going to the American Legion rather than reverting back to the current fair board.

Watkins pointed out future maintenance requirements of the park, especially in the area where tractor pulls are held.

"There is a need for concrete barriers, a larger announcer's stand and more electric," he said.

Randolph spoke passionately about his support to improve the property.

"I'm for putting as much money out there as we can to make it nice," he said.

"So are we talking about taking back the whole park?" Hamilton asked.

"Oh, we also need bleachers out there," Watkins said and all members agreed that bleachers would be a needed addition to events held at the park.

Community activist Larry Mitchell said he believed if all of the parties involved with the lease sat down together there could be a mutual understanding.

"I believe everyone can be happy," he said.

Discussion then segued around the table with several conversations occurring simultaneously.

"We need to continue to research," Tincher finally said over the din of the various segmented discussions.

He then asked Letcher to continue with her research and report back to the fiscal court. She quickly agreed.

"Until then we'll just have to wait gentlemen," Tincher said to the magistrates before moving to the next topic of discussion and concern.



Photo by Charles Mattox

Pilgrims, Indians all just Talkin' Turkey

Kindergartne students in Joy Story's class at Nicholas County Middle School are shown in their Thanksgiving outfits while learning about Pilgrims and Native Americans.

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