

GENERAL NEWS

Area schools facing illness, students miss

By Charles Mattox
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Flu and flu-like illnesses are taking their toll on elementary children in Nicholas County, but the outbreak has not extended across the county line into Robertson County.

Not yet anyway. Pam Randolph, Nicholas County Director of Pupil Personnel, confirmed last Tuesday that the Nicholas County Elementary School had 46 absences and 14 tardy students that same day.

She and other school officials acknowledged the presence among younger students of an outbreak of Fifth Disease, which is also called erythema infectiosum and is caused by human parvovirus B19 (PV-B19), according to medical sources. It is relatively common and mildly contagious, being spread by respiratory droplets.

Randolph said the school had also received an indication that two students had been diagnosed with the flu. The illness of Fifth Disease is characterized by flu-like symptoms followed by a rash, according to school officials who also said the disease was so named decades ago because it was "the Fifth disease" experienced by children.

"I don't think we are looking at an epidemic or anything like that," said Shawn Parrish, the Nicholas County Elementary Principal. "It's my understanding that the flu is among one of the common childhood diseases."

Robertson County Superintendent Chuck Brown said, "We must have thought I had a Taser gun on my belt because he immediately came out of his door with his hands up and surrendered. As he came out the door he kept saying, 'I appreciate, just don't use the Taser.'"

Sgt. Slinker also said that Taser's were an effective deterrent when situations became dangerous. Other officers quickly agreed with the use of lethal force is not an option. He said having the Taser guns would decrease officer injuries.

"Sometimes pepper spray just doesn't work," he said when explaining that officers without Tasers would then have to use physical force or lethal force if the incident escalated. "With Tasers you have another option, and it is effective. It is a great tool for law enforcement officers."

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"Officer Kiskaden explained that recently he had responded to a potentially dangerous domestic call when a suspect had threatened violence. "I got out of my cruiser and put my officer's belt on and he saw me," Kiskaden said.

of several illnesses being experienced at the school but Scarlet Fever was not among them. Parrish said special attention was being given to cleaning the school daily with disinfectant to kill any germs that might spread. Fifth disease, and school officials said this week the outbreaks were declining rapidly.

TASER

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pletely understand how a subject will react when they are struck and it helps an officer in court cases when he may be asked to testify about the effects of being struck. It also helps build an officer's confidence when he knows he has this tool at his disposal. "There are some individuals that have a high tolerance for pain because they may be under the influence of some type of substance but when they are struck with a TASER they all react the same and look

up, when allowing an officer to easily place handcuffs on a suspect. The shock emitted from the Taser projectiles is not transferable to anyone else. It only shocks the individual that is struck."

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ed them to the grand jury for consideration. According to Letcher it is the duty of the members of the grand jury to hear the evidence by the Commonwealth Attorney and then find a bill of indictment in cases where the required number of grand jurors determine the existence of adequate probable cause to prosecute the complaint. In the event that the grand jury determines that probable cause does not exist, it returns a "no true bill" and no further action is taken.

The members of the grand jury have spoken," Letcher said. "A no true bill was returned in regard to Mr. Kearns and he will not be prosecuted for the allegations." A final report issued to the circuit court and signed by the grand jury foreperson states that the case of wanted endangerment, first degree, against Marion Kearns was one of two cases in which there were insufficient votes to indict.

The other case in which a

no true bill was returned involved Malyn Mitchell who was accused of rape, second degree. "We have made careful investigation into all violations of the penal laws of this Commonwealth as listed on the grand jury's final report or any other grand jury document released

to the Carlisle Mercury. A grand jury indictment is not an indication of guilt, but is merely a procedural step in the judicial process. All persons accused of any crimes should be presumed innocent until they plead guilty or are found guilty by a jury of their peers.

INDICTMENTS

Continued from Page 1
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Notice

The Nicholas County Courthouse will be closed on Friday, March 21, 2008 in observance of the Good Friday Holiday. It will re-open on Monday, March 24, 2008.

Larry Tinch
County Judge/Executive

Notice

The Nicholas County Convenience Center/Recycling Center will be closed on Friday, March 21, 2008 in observance of the Good Friday Holiday. It will re-open on Saturday, March 22, 2008.

Larry Tinch
County Judge/Executive

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