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# The Carlisle Mercury

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**May  
21  
2008**

## Board member termination raises controversy

**By Charles Mattox  
News Editor  
charles@carlislem Mercury.com**

An Industrial Development Authority Board member has been terminated.

This came about when the member questioned the legal and ethical decision to pass an ordinance, which automatically places both the Carlisle Mayor and Nicholas County Judge-Executive as members of the Industrial Authority Board.

This puts the elected officials in charge of hundreds of thousands of dollars and approximately 30 acres of prime real estate.

"This letter is to inform you that I will be replacing you with another member on the Industrial Authority Board. Your term expired on Jan. 1, 2008 and I am not reappointing you to this board," a letter dated May 13 to the

Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Development Authority Treasurer Bascom Sorrell from Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark reads.

Sorrell questioned the decision of Clark regarding his recommendation to Carlinville City Council members that they pass an ordinance placing him and Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tischer to the Industrial Authority Board. He also questions the accuracy of his resignation as stated in the Clark letter.

At Clark's recommendation, members of the city council unanimously voted in favor of passing the ordinance on May 12 after previous discussion on the subject.

The ordinance, illegal in Kentucky until only a few years ago, and still appearing by Sorrell and others to be in direct violation of the Industrial Authority bylaws, will

give Clark and Tischer direct access to nearly \$500,000 in the Industrial Authority treasury and approximately 30 acres of prime real estate along Concrete Road.

According to the minutes of the Industrial Board's April 14 meeting, Sorrell has safeguarded monetary assets of the Authority totaling \$440,219.

"No Authority member shall hold any official office with the appointing Authority," the Authority bylaws dated Jan. 12, 2004, state.

Both Clark and Tischer have said the ordinance is legal, ethical and the responsible thing for both to do.

Both previously were required to appoint three members each to the Industrial Authority for a total of six members on the board.

"It's ultimately our responsibility to the community," Clark said after last week's city council meeting. "Citizens

have expressed that they want the two individuals with the most political pull in the county on the board and I personally believe we should be more involved."

Judge Tischer agreed. "I think it's good for both the mayor and judge to serve," Tischer said. "The members of the fiscal court are comfortable with it."

When asked if there were any concerns, no fiscal court member expressed any, during the May 12 morning meeting of that body, when the motion was unanimously favored.

City Attorney Henry

"Skip" Watson asked if there were any conflicts with the decision later that same day during the May 12 evening city council meeting to which Clark replied "No, I talked to the chairman of the Industrial Authority board today and he said he didn't care."

Industrial Authority Chairman Tommie Ockerman had only three hours earlier listened to Sorrell's statement.

Other members appeared stunned when Sorrell explained that Clark had engaged in a recent phone conversation with him, which he described as being in "a very loud angry,

unmanly and unprofessional way."

Sorrell continued with the statement saying, "He then said I could walk right now I said thank you but I'm not quitting. I'm staying on the board." He then said he'd walk out.

Sorrell read the statement in its entirety, which was incorporated into the Industrial Authority Board minutes.

"This mayor was talking to me like I've never been talked to before, except maybe by a drill sergeant in basic training," Sorrell's statement reads at one point and at an

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## Cancer Coalition hosts Celebration of Life

**By Charles Mattox  
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The Nicholas County Cancer Coalition hosted its annual Celebration of Life for cancer survivors May 17 at the United Methodist Church of Carlisle.

Over one dozen local cancer survivors joined several dozen others, including family members and friends, while enjoying a delicious brunch, sharing personal testimonies of faith and encouragement, and listening to a motivational message of Harrison County native and Lexington's WLEX anchor Amber Philpot.

"Cancer is ugly and unfair," Philpot began as she spoke of her exposure to cancer while a student at Morehead State University, where she watched a close friend named Robbie succumb to cancer in a rapid series of events.

Philpot was dating Robbie's younger brother and as Philpot was herself an only child, she became drawn to the disease of the two brothers upon their first meeting, while she was a college freshman.

"We were young and free," she said describing her carefree attitude about life. "I didn't know about life, even my diagnosis of melanoma, which would later spread and take his young vibrant life in a very short time.

"I never saw him distressed or depressed," she said when describing Robbie's courage and personal attitude about life, even as the cancer stole his health and eventually his life from him.

Soon after Robbie lost his battle with cancer, Robbie's mother, Cindy was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Philpot spoke passionately of the tragedy with which the family dealt with the two instances and how Cindy is now cancer free.

"You can outlive when you look fear in the face," she said while quoting Eleanor Roosevelt. "I celebrate each and every person that has fought that disease

and I'm a cheerleader for you."

As the church bells ring slowly in the distance Philpot's words seemed to strike a rhythmic cadence with them, especially while describing how Robbie had painted the slogan "God is my comfort" above his hospital bed.

"I think about that a lot and how God is my comfort. We should let him do the driving each day and put our personal vessels in his hands," she said.

Philpot also said she strongly supported education and prevention in connection with cancer.

Others spoke of the disease and its overwhelming local impact. "It's the most-deadly disease in the world," Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tischer said during his address to those present.

Coalition members Georgia Givin and Peggy Sothern, who both also spoke briefly, praised Judge Tischer for his past and continued support and interest in supporting the Coalition's causes.

A special grape juice toast was held to help celebrate the survivors, some of whom spoke briefly about their faith and their trial and tribulations while battling the disease.

Michelle McDonald sponsored the delicious brunch, which was

served by Allison Hotzmeier and Becky Ritchie.

And, as pink is the color of breast cancer awareness, the room was decorated in that color and accentuated with several pink premiums donated by Small's Greenhouse.

Relay for Life fundraising chairperson and a member of the Nicholas County Cancer Coalition, Mary Katherine Knapp, reminded all present of the June 20-21 Relay for Life event that will be held at the Nicholas County High School.

"Cancer is a monster," Knapp said and added that the research provided by Relay for Life funds had helped the survival rate of cancer patients.

"I'm so thankful for the research. And technology is improving every day," she said.

Martha Holbrook was the mastermind behind the concept of "Hands of Hope," a specially designed cloth upon which survivors placed their painted handprints and signature.

A beautiful quilt embroidered by James Cox and sewn by Jewell Bassell and Jean Beitz was also on display.

Both will be displayed during this year's Relay for Life event.

Photo by Charles Mattox



Above, cancer survivor Joyce Livingood signs the Hands of Hope cloth during Saturday's Celebration of Life, held at the United Methodist Church of Carlisle.

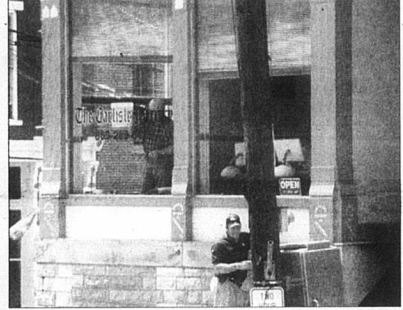


Photo by Charles Mattox

## The Carlisle Mercury's new location

The Carlisle Mercury has moved to a new location at 218 North Locust Street, and multi-talented Nicholas County Buddy Buckler prepared the window signs for the Mercury Tuesday.

## Tobacco forum details potentially deadly consequences of smoking

**By Charles Mattox  
News Editor  
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A forum held at the Nicholas County Elementary School May 6 outlined the deadly consequences of tobacco use.

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and the equally deadly consequences of being exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke.

According to speaker Veronica Ronne Nurnley, who is the Manager of Tobacco Environmental Strategies Prevention Enhancement Site and the region's tobacco use prevention specialist, second-hand cigarette smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States and the direct effects of smoking are even deadlier.

"One in three youths who smoke will die from it," she said while quoting statistics and material provided by the Center for Disease Control, which states that 7,700 people die each year in Kentucky alone from tobacco use. "And there is a zero safe level of exposure to second-hand cigarette smoke."

Nurnley said people of all walks of life, including mili-

## Clinton, Lunsford and Overly, finish strong in Nicholas

**By Charles Mattox  
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Democratic nominee for President, Hillary Clinton was a strong favorite for Nicholas County voters garnering 1520 votes to Barack Obama's 270 votes. As the Carlisle Mercury goes to press it is being reported that Clinton carried the state strongly.

Before vote counting began for national delegates, Obama had 1,917 delegates, approximately 100 shy of the needed 2,026. Clinton had 1,721.

"But if every person in Kentucky stopped using tobacco it

tary veterans that held a belief that they had literally fought for a right to smoke, had confronted her across the state.

"There is no right to smoke," she said emphatically. "There is no constitutional right to smoke, period. Any perceived right to smoke is superseded by the right of nonsmokers to breathe."

Nurnley compared a right to smoke to a person's right to scream "Fire!" in a crowded theater, or to yell "Bomb!" at the airport. "You can't take away that you don't have and you don't have a right to smoke. No one has fought and died for anyone's right to be addicted to nicotine."

Nurnley said she understood the rich history Nicholas County had with tobacco.

"But if every person in Kentucky stopped using tobacco it

51 convention delegates at stake.

Republican nominee for President, John McCain garnered 62 votes in Nicholas County with Ron Paul garnering 16 votes as his closest opponent.

Bruce Lunsford was a strong favorite for Democratic nominee for US Senator, garnering 1077 votes in Nicholas County, with his closest opponent, Greg Fischer, garnering 499 votes, the next highest vote getter was James Rice with 89 votes.

Republican Senator Mitch McConnell garnered 68 votes in the county with his opponent Daniel Eisek garnering 16 votes in Nicholas County.

US Republican Congressman Geoff Davis garnered 59 votes to Warren Stone's 13 votes and G.E. Puckett's 8 votes in Nicholas County.

Democratic State Representative Sannie Overly

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## CORRECTION:

Magistrate Avery Thornburg and Water District Chair Mary Jo McJord were incorrectly identified in a photograph in last week's paper. The news editor Charles Mattox apologizes deeply for this mistake.

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