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Nicholas declared disaster

May 28 2008

By Charles Mattox
 News Editor
 charles@thecarlislemercury.com

Nicholas County has been declared a major disaster county, according to the issuance of a presidential declaration May 19.

"We're certainly very thankful for the declaration," said Nicholas County Judge Executive Larry Tincher.

Federal funding will be made available to Nicholas Countians who suffered weather-related storm damage to their property during April 3-4.

"Federal funding is available to Commonwealth and eligible local governments and certain private non-profit agencies and organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged

by the severe storm, tornadoes, flooding, mudslides and landslides, in the counties of Anderson, Crittenden, Fleming, Fulton, Hancock, Hopkins, Lewis, Livingston, McLean, Nicholas, Ohio, Spencer and Woodford," states a press release issued from The White House Office of the Press Secretary. "Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for the entire Commonwealth."

There have been new changes at the helm of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the coordinating officer for adversely affected areas as a result of the April 3-4 storm has been named.

According to the White House press release, R. David Pattison, Administrator for FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, named

Michael Moore as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

According to Nicholas County Emergency Management Director Calvin Denton, a detailed meeting is scheduled at the Emergency Management District 17 office in Lexington May 27 to outline details of response.

Denton said the high water and flooding caused damage across the county and inside the city limits.

"The waste-water treatment facility suffered damage," Denton said. "There was damage inside the plant to some of the equipment and the fence around the facility received damage as well. There was also damage done to at least one of the drain run-offs inside the city."

Tincher said the declaration would help expedite reconstruction of the Old Mexico Road, which suffered extreme damage due to the Lacking River undercutting the roadway during the April 3-4 flooding.

"We've been forced to close the road and it has adversely affected at least one resident and several farmers."

The US Small Business Administration announced last week that certain non-private organizations that do not provide critical services of a governmental nature might be eligible to apply for low interest rate disaster loans. These loans are available as a result of the disaster declaration.

"Private non-profit organizations are urged to contact their county emergency managers to obtain information about local briefings," said Frank Skages, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or for the hearing impaired call 1-800-877-8339.

The deadline to apply for loans is July 18, 2008.



Flooding that occurred in Carlisle and across Nicholas County on April 3-4 has led to the issuance of a presidential disaster declaration.

Carlisle observes Memorial Day weekend with parade

By Charles Mattox
 News Editor
 charles@thecarlislemercury.com

Military honors were rendered at the Carlisle and Henryville cemeteries following a parade in honor of area veterans that passed through Carlisle Sunday.

Veterans of all ages, and from various branches of service, joined members of the NCHS Band, emergency response vehicles and personnel, and others, in the parade that journeyed from the Nicholas County School campus to Main Street, around Courthouse Square, and back toward its starting point, before making a detour into the Carlisle Cemetery.

Members of local Carlisle-based National Guard Unit, which recently returned from Iraq, the 138th Field Artillery Regiment, B Battery,

formed a color guard and honor guard, which rendered military honors including a 21-gun salute at the Carlisle Cemetery.

Carlisle United Methodist Church Pastor, and Vietnam veteran, Ernie Carmickle spoke to a crowd of approximately 100 at the Carlisle cemetery.

Carmickle referred to his fellow veterans, past and present, as being "ordinary people" who were called by their country during "extraordinary times."

A wreath was placed next to the veteran's memorial at the entrance of the Carlisle Cemetery with a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps."

The ceremony was duplicated 45 minutes later at the Henryville Cemetery on the outskirts of Carlisle along Meyer's Road.

Carmickle again addressed

the crowd, this time from the grave of George Wesley, one of 16 black Union soldiers documented thus far as being buried in the Henryville Cemetery.

Wesley was born into slavery in 1829 around New Orleans, and eventually traveled northward through the Underground Railroad, joining the Union Army in Camp Nelson, Kentucky.

Carmickle called Wesley and other Union soldiers that rested eternally nearby "extraordinary men, who served their country during extraordinary times."

Wesley was buried in 1935 at the age of 106-107, making him the oldest person to ever live in Carlisle.

Wesley's descendants were many, according to Carmickle, with members of a locally known family named Johnson as being numbered among them.

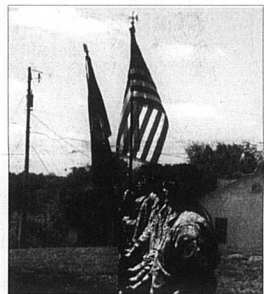
All present joined Carmickle in prayer at the conclusion of the ceremony atop the small ridge that overlooks Carlisle from its northern end.

Carmickle's prayer was directed toward the Iraqi War veterans of Battery B, that recently returned home after a deadly mission of convoy and force security, during which they suffered two fatalities: Staff Sergeant Delmar White and Private First Class Sammie Phillips, and nearly ten wounded.

Carmickle spoke the desire to see the returning Iraqi veterans re-assimilate into culture with less distress than he and thousands of Vietnam War veterans did.

He also spoke of the community's gratitude for returning Iraqi veterans.

"We stand here in freedom today because of people like them," Carmickle said.



Members of the Color Guard that rendered military honors during services Saturday were from Battery B, 138 Field Artillery Unit, the Carlisle National Guard Unit that recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq.

Gas prices continue to climb as concern mounts

By Charles Mattox
 News Editor
 charles@thecarlislemercury.com

The cost of fuel continues to climb, as does the negative effect it has upon the economy.

Fuel costs have increased steadily, raising approximately \$1 per gallon in the last year alone. The increase in fuel costs is adversely affecting many in the community.

Long-time customers of Warner's BP Service Station can no longer even purchase gas there.

"Our pumps simply do not register as high as \$4 per gallon and we were going to have to order new pump heads, but those are so expensive, we just can't expect to do it, so we're not selling gas anymore," said Nancy Warner last week.

No one has any solutions.

"It may take a two-day shutdown of all transportation to get the message to those responsible, because I believe people have simply had enough," Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher said. "Someone needs to step up and stop this. The economic stimulus payments (IRS rebate checks) should have been made for \$6,000 instead of \$300. We should do that before we send all of our money overseas and we could do that if we weren't sending all of our money overseas. I don't believe there is any fault with the merchants or the owners of the service and gas stations,

as far as the rising costs of fuel, but it's affecting everything. Merchants are struggling and people simply don't have the money to make any purchases. People have a right to complain. This affects everyone from small business owners to major businesses, to consumers. I wonder where it stops."

Tincher said he was conservative with the county's road department fund, even more so than usual.

"We're always dependent with road department to get the message to those responsible," he said. "We don't want to get into a situation where our fuel costs are cutting into blacktop funding. We will always try to control the cost of operations and we have been diligently working on the next budget, and at this point we have not been forced to increase any cost to the county taxpayers."

The rising fuel costs may soon have an adverse impact on the local school system.

Transportation Director for Nicholas County

Schools, Phillip Coldiron, said the increase cost of fuel is a growing concern.

"We'll have to curtail something," he said matter-of-factly last week. "We've combined routes about as much as we can. We will be discussing possible changes this summer but we haven't implemented any changes yet."

According to Coldiron, the newer buses, which run on diesel fuel, get approximately eight miles per gallon; the school has purchased approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel this year.

The price has increased throughout the year, with the price of diesel costing approximately \$3.25 per gallon when school started.

The most recent purchase of 7,000 gallons was purchased for approximately \$4.01 per gallon. The school buses travel a combined total of approximately 230,000 miles each school year, according to Coldiron with the school budgeting approximately 92 cents per mile.

Coldiron, like most area

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