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Nov 5 2008

Fires increase as conditions remain dry

By Charles Mattox
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Dry conditions have led to an increase in fires, which destroyed one house and nearly consumed another one last week.

A fire destroyed an unoccupied house on Oxbow Road on Oct. 30. The house belonged to Ruth Peters, according to Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett. The fire started as a result of a trash fire that was set nearby.

Nicholas County firefighters were joined at the scene by Bourbon County firefighters, who worked closely to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading to other houses nearby.

A trash fire Saturday on Concord Road also spread to a field and was contained by firefighters and a third fire over the weekend nearly reached the home of Dorothy Woosley on Locust Grove Road over the weekend.

"No one was home at the Woosley residence," Chief Mark Hughes, of the Nicholas County Fire Department, said. "A neighbor happened to be driving by and noticed that the grass around Mrs. Woosley's house was on fire. We believe that the fire may have started by someone throwing a burning cigarette out of a vehicle. The fire was almost at the house when we arrived."

Hughes and others continue to investigate arson-related fires that were set three weeks ago on Old

Mexico Road. Those fires destroyed two buildings and threatened to spread out of control through the woods.

Hughes and other firefighters urge everyone to exercise caution when burning trash and ask that extra caution please be exercised while in the woods.

"I can't praise our firefighters enough," Hughes said. "They've certainly been staying busy lately."



Photo by Charles Mattox
 A fire consumed an unoccupied home on Oxbow Road last week.



Photo by Charles Mattox
 Nicholas County firefighters remained busy last week and through the weekend battling three fires.

Congressman Davis welcomes Nicholas into ARC

By Charles Mattox
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Congressman Geoff Davis joined community leaders last week at the courthouse to celebrate Nicholas County's inclusion into the Appalachian Regional Commission.

"This has been a long time in getting here," Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tischer said as he introduced Davis at the courthouse Oct. 23.

State Representative Sammie Overly was present, as were members of the Carlisle City Council, Nicholas County Fiscal Court, Blue Grass Area Development District, Nicholas County Schools, Industrial Authority Board, and other community organizations.

Davis's Field Rep. J.R. Reid, and his Deputy Chief of Staff John Stanton joined Kevin Atkinson, Field Rep.

for Senator Mitch McConnell and John Salvary, the field Rep. for Senator Jim Bunning.

"A lot of people made this happen," Davis said while praising the efforts of Bunning, McConnell and local leaders. "The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal and state partnership."

Inclusion into the ARC could mean nearly unlimited funding for infrastructure projects within Carlisle and Nicholas County.

Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark supports the inclusion and spoke with Davis for several minutes alone after the ceremony. Judge Tischer has also supported joining the ARC for years and he and Davis spoke privately for several minutes before the ceremony began.

Davis read a letter of greeting from the co-chair of the

See Davis Page 8

Farm accident injures one

By Charles Mattox
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A Nicholas County man remains in serious condition following a farm accident on Scrubgrass Road, Sunday.

Jesse Tischer, 68, remains listed in serious condition at the University of Kentucky Medical Center following a farm accident at the Short Farm Sunday morning at approximately 10:45 a.m. It remains unclear exactly how the accident happened, but emergency responders believe Mr. Tischer climbed off his Ford tractor, which was pulling a wagon, and

opened a gate, or was in the process of doing that, when the tractor jumped into gear and ran over him, dragging him approximately 100 feet.

Emergency responders found the tractor still running and located some distance from Tischer. They also found the wagon, which had been disconnected from the tractor. Tischer remained conscious during and immediately after the accident, and was able to contact his wife, Elizabeth with his cell phone. She immediately contacted emergency responders who rushed to the scene.

"It appears to have been a freak accident," said Mark Hughes, fire chief of the Nicholas County Fire Department. "Luckily Mr. Tischer had his cell phone or the tragedy could have been worse."

Hughes and Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett coordinated a helicopter landing, which helped rush Tischer to the UK Medical Center, where he spent several hours in the emergency room.

Nicholas County EMS personnel also arrived very quickly and helped treat Tischer on the scene as well as helping to prepare him for air evacuation.

One vote decides city council seat

By Charles Mattox
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Nicholas County voters turned out in record numbers on a beautiful election day Tuesday in an election that saw an extremely close Carlisle city council race that led to a one-vote decision.

The top vote getter for Carlisle city council was Tommy Crawford with 661 votes, followed by Billy Mac Gowan with 595 votes, Eugene Hall with 520 votes and newly-elected John Jones with 520. Sandy Ritchie was next with 497 votes and Betty Jo Booth with 485 votes.

Incumbent Doug Garrett trailed Booth by only one vote with 484 votes and it is not known as the Mercury goes to press if Garrett will contest the vote and ask for a recount.

Betty Crockett Fay garnered 293 votes and Freddie Marshall garnered 251.

Donald Bromagen carried Nicholas very strongly with 1,193 votes for Circuit Judge Family Court. The next top vote getter was Peter Newberry with 557, followed closely by Raymond S. Bogucki with 511 and Barbara Paul with 377.

Bogucki carried Robertson County very strongly with 646 votes, followed by Paul with 150, Newberry with 82 and Bromagen with 40.

As the Mercury went to press, with 40 percent of the votes counted in Harrison, Newberry had 1,597 votes, followed by Paul with 1,398, Bogucki with 733 and Bromagen with 205, in a race that was simply too close to call with no votes being reported in Pendleton County, the final county for the 18th Judicial Circuit Judge for Family Court.

Republican Presidential nominee, John McCain, carried Nicholas County with 1,634 to Barack Obama with 1,272.

US Senator nominee Bruce Lunsford carried Nicholas with 1,737 votes with Mitch McConnell garnering 1,184 votes.

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Photo by Charles Mattox
 Billy Mac Gowan and Freddie Marshall examine vote tallies Tuesday night at the courthouse. Gowan won a seat on the council, but Marshall was unsuccessful.

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Photo by Charles Mattox
 Fugitive wanted by police

Carlisle police officers continue to search for Jesse Wilson, shown here from an earlier court appearance in Nicholas District Court. Wilson is wanted in connection with possible drug trafficking charges and allegedly ran from police during a traffic stop in which drugs and cash were recovered. If you have information regarding Wilson's whereabouts contact the Carlisle Police Department at 289-3710.

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NOTICE
 Nicholas County Schools, beginning
NOVEMBER 6
 will begin dismissing
 each Thursday at 2:35 p.m.
 This early dismissal time will remain in place the remainder of the school year, and be only on Thursday. Buses will run early each Thursday as children will be dismissed at that time.
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