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Winter storm hammers county

By Charles Mattox
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Nicholas County was hammered with a vicious winter storm that struck last week when seven inches of snow fell, which was followed by ice and later, even more snow. The storm led to the forced closing of schools all last week and Monday. It also led to the closure of several businesses, and crippled the efforts of the postal service while also leaving hundreds of county residents shivering in the dark without electricity. County officials declared a disaster, which was echoed across the state with Governor Steve Beshear declaring a state emergency. President Obama immediately approved the governor's request for an Emergency Presidential Disaster Declaration. "This will open an avenue for us to request funding," Nicholas County Judge-Executive Lar-

ry Tincher said. Tincher declared a state of emergency the day after the ice and snowstorm when approximately 2,600 residents without power outside of Carlisle. Nicholas County Emergency Management Director Calvin Denton coordinated efforts between Tincher and Area 13 Emergency Management Director Steve Oglesby. Approximately 600,000 residents across the state had no power much of last week with western Kentucky suffering the brunt of the power outages. Denton said approximately 800 homes were still without electricity over the weekend but that number was decreasing each hour with power being restored steadily. Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett and Deputy Bennie Buckler delivered heating fuel, food and medical supplies, to stranded residents, and Fire Chief Mark Hughes and his volunteer firefighters kept busy doing

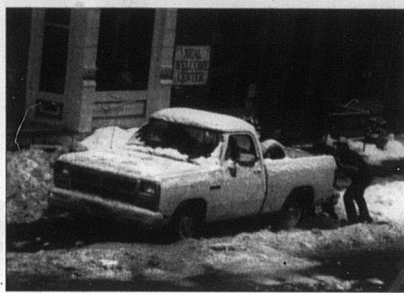


Photo by Charles Mattox

Family members, friends, neighbors, and even strangers, worked together to help each other 'dig out of the snow', which stranded many vehicles and residents across the county in the aftermath of the winter storm that struck last week.

likewise. "The roads are awful," Garrett said Thursday morning, Jan. 29 while praising the efforts of Hughes and the firefighters. "People are staying in and being careful. That has helped keep it from being worse than what it is." County officials reported a handful of instances where falls resulted in broken bones or fractures, but luckily there have been no severe injuries or reported loss of life thus far. Tincher praised the ef-

said. "There were a few places where they would cut limbs and clear the road of snow and more limbs would break right behind them. It was pretty terrible there for a while." Tincher reminds all Nicholas Countians to keep a written account of all the losses and damage to their property, which was a result of the winter storm. Private disaster-aid funding may not be available as a result of disaster requests, but if it is granted, the funding process will be easier for applicants if they have a good written account of their losses. Denton asks that all home owners who suffer storm-related losses contact their insurance agent first. Tincher said along with "private" funding he will also seek "government and business" loss funding for damages and losses incurred by businesses and government entities during the winter storm.

Overly hosts Town Hall meeting

By Charles Mattox
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State Representative Sannie Overly was in Carlisle Monday to host an informal Town Hall meeting at the Nicholas County Courthouse, and although only a handful of residents expressed their opinions, they spoke passionately. No other elected officials were present for the meeting. Topics of concern expressed dealt primarily

with the economy, but also discussed were issues related to education, recycling, government consolidation, crime and tourism, among other topics. Overly said President Obama's proposed economic stimulus package was being considered, but with changes anticipated before the stimulus package is approved by the Senate, there were currently no clear-cut measures that would definitely be implemented. Overly did express concern over

the Governor's proposed \$450 million cut to the state's budget. Many Kentuckians believe a "tax rebate" check will be part of the economic stimulus package but Overly stressed caution. "There is no guarantee right now that people will get a check," she said. Other areas of discussion indirectly related to the economy were insuring the retired teachers pension fund was protected. The relocation of the historic Hildreth School onto the Nicholas County Schools campus was also briefly discussed. Overly said she did not support the Governor's proposed 75-cent-a-pack cigarette tax. "I believe we can make government more efficient," Overly said. Some said they would support an alcohol tax before they would a cigarette tax and one individual offered an opinion that more funds should be allocated for education. "We're having trouble just getting people to graduate from high school in Nicholas County. I would just as soon have educators smoke," said Robert Barker. Alan Clay Stone also voiced support for more educational assistance and several said they would approve of a cigarette tax over a gambling proposal. "Somebody will probably get rich over gambling, but it sure won't be anyone around here," one said. Several present expressed concern over a growing disconnect between Kentucky State Police and Nicholas County residents. "The Troopers need to take some kind of sensitivity training," one constituent said.



Photo by Charles Mattox

Kentucky State Police Detective Curtis Combs examines the scene of a deadly shooting Dec. 30 at Headquarters. The shooting incident claimed the life of Brenda Dailey. The case may soon be presented to the grand jury.

Dailey shooting case to go to grand jury

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As early as this month, a Nicholas County Grand Jury may hear the case of the lawman that allegedly shot a Nicholas County woman to death on Dec. 29. Commonwealth Attorney Doug Wright told The Mercury on Monday that he had met with Kentucky State Police Detective Nathan Moore, the lead investigator in the case, and he had "every intention of presenting the case to a Nicholas County Grand Jury to determine if an indictment should be returned." KSP Dry Ridge supervisor Bart Taylor said he believed the investigation

had been through. KSP officers were called to 2630 Headquarters Road just before midnight on Dec. 29 after off-duty Boone County Deputy Sheriff Scott Hill shot Brenda Dailey, 55, to death. The altercation between Hill and Dailey began over a horse named Romeo. Investigators say Hill arrived at Dailey rented farm near Headquarters, to transport Romeo, which belonged to Brenda Dailey's nephew, Zach Pollitt. Investigators say interviews with Hill, Zach Pollitt and others, indicated that Brenda Dailey had requested her nephew, who had recently lived with her, to have the horse moved from the farm



Photo by Charles Mattox

State Representative Sannie Overly listens to concerns from Martha Taylor and Dorsey Watkins during an informal town hall meeting Monday at the courthouse. Overly says that government agencies need to tighten their belt just as residents have.

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