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County addresses dog dilemma

By Charles Mattox
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The question isn't "who let the dogs out?" But rather who's going to get the dogs back in and who's going to take care of them once they are back in?

During a June 9 meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, which was held in the Nicholas County Courthouse, members began solidifying a joint effort between the county and a non-profit animal advocacy group in order to better address the ongoing and growing problem of stray and unwanted animals.

Members of the Nicholas County Animal Welfare Society (NCAWS) may soon be in charge of caring for

the stray and unwanted dogs of Nicholas County.

Nicholas County Animal Control Officer Jimmy Price has told county officials of his wish to resign effective at the end of this month and the fiscal court members and NCAWS volunteers are working together to ensure the animals are sheltered and cared for.

John and Kathy Chase, NCAWS members, continue to work closely and submitted a proposal to court members during the meeting.

According to the proposal, NCAWS will provide an interim shelter, which meets all of the requirements of Nicholas County laws. The value of the donated building may soon be approximately \$20,000, according

to the NCAWS proposal. The county would provide the land for the building and pay the utilities.

According to dialogue during the meeting, the county will still oversee the duties of the animal control officer.

The county budgets approximately \$5,592 annually for the ACO, as well as \$1,500 for veterinary expenses. Future plans include a full service shelter, spay-neuter programs, educational outreach, fundraising events, and youth programs.

Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher praised the past efforts of ACO Jimmy that has done a



Magistrates Daryl Stacy and Mike Webb examine court documents during the fiscal court meeting last week.

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Photo Submitted

National Junior Honor Society

Fin Brutsman, Ben Duncan, Toby Howard, Reesa Martin, Arris Stacy, Zach Howard, Austin Allison, J.D. Waggoner, Adrienne Letcher, Nolan Woosley, Shelby Wade, Ethan Smith, Gannon Parsons, Kendra Letcher, Jacob Fryman, Laura Parrish, Andrew Jones, Jordan Bromagen, Elizabeth Johnson, Laurel Hughes, Zach Franco, Bianna Johnson, Allison King, Wade Jones. Members of the National Honor Society that enjoyed a trip to Chicago.

Fiscal court splits on Fire Board appointment

By Charles Mattox
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A reappointment to the Nicholas County Fire Board split the vote of the members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court during their June 9 meeting.

Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher recommended the re-appointments of Jimmy Price and Doug McCord to the board.

The appointments are for a three-year period.

"These are the only two appointments I'm recommending at this time," Tincher said.

Unanimously voted to approve the courthouse yard being used by the Rotary Club for Sept. 26.

Approved the reports, budget transfers and monthly bills.

Approved the second reading of the budget.

Went into closed (secret) session to discuss personnel, with Judge Tincher reporting no action was taken while in closed session.

Adjournd.

Judge Tincher expressed deep praise to county employees, county officials and all citizens, who helped make the 2009 tire amnesty program a great success.

The County disposed of 25,000 tires during the second annual tire amnesty program.

"It was a great effort on everyone's part," Tincher said. "We hope to be able to do this every year. This program not only helps keep litter down but old tires are a favorite breeding environment for mosquitoes."

Blackberry Festival preparations continue

By Charles Mattox
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Although a conflicting schedule will prevent Governor Steve Beshear from being this year's Blackberry Festival Grand Marshall, organizers hope Lt. Governor Dan Mongiardo will return to Carlisle once again in that capacity.

Lt. Gov. Mongiardo was the Grand Marshall during the 2007 Blackberry Festival Parade. "The festival will be held from June 29-July 1-4," Watkins said many events, booths and activities are being finalized, including bicycle decorating contests and various dog contests. Both events were warmly received during last

year's festival.

Watkins confirmed that decorated bicyclists were encouraged to participate in the parade along with leashed dogs.

We're encouraging our youngsters to decorate their bikes," Watkins said. "And their dogs too if they want," he added with a wide grin.

Watkins invites everyone from Nicholas County to attend the event and offers a warm invitation to members of surrounding communities to come and enjoy a wonderful Nicholas County tradition.

Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher also issued a warm welcome for all to attend the festival.

"I hope we have good weather and I hope a lot of people come out and enjoy the festival with their children," Tincher said. "We're continuing to make progress at the West End Park, and though we're not running the way we hope to in future years, we're crawling pretty fast."

Festival enthusiasts can enjoy the best of both worlds with downtown activities on July 2 complimenting the weeklong activities at the spacious West End Park.

To participate in the parade, host a booth, or learn more about the schedule of events, contact Watkins at 859-749-8711.

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