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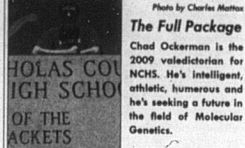
Feltner named new NCHS principal

A veterans' educator has been named the new principal of Nicholas County High School. Marty Feltner, 47, of Mt. Sterling, will begin the duties of the position effective July 1. Feltner is a graduate of M.C. Napier High School, in Hazard. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education from Eastern Kentucky University in 1985. He earned his Master's Degree in Education from Morehead State in 1992. He also holds a marketing endorsement from the University of Kentucky. This year he earned his Rank I in administration, also from Morehead State. His first 20 years as a teacher, coach and system administrator were in the Montgomery County School District. He has taught business and marketing as well as serving as the dropout prevention coordinator for the Montgomery County district. He was the coordinator as well for the Montgomery County

Vocational programs. While at Montgomery County he coached several sports. He worked to help found the school's bank and was the yearbook sponsor. For the past three years, Feltner has taught in the Fleming County School District. Feltner has three children, Alexis, 16, a junior at Beechwood High School, who has been accepted in the Governor's Scholar Program; Pierce, 14, who attends school in the Ryle System, and Riley 9, who lives in Cambridge. "I am excited to be working in the Nicholas County School System as the new principal," Feltner said. "It has been a lifelong goal to be in administration. While I have gotten started later than some - I am really ready to go. "I bring a lot of things to the table," Feltner continued. "I believe my personality and experience will help me do the best possible job. I know that I am a people person and look forward to working together with the faculty and staff to take strides forward. "I want people to be able to do their job, and while I am there to offer guidance, I do not operate with a dictator style. People do not need to be beaten down. "I want people to excel and when we achieve, and we will, I want the credit to go to those who have helped us achieve," he said. "I'd like to thank the system and the school based council for bringing me into the system, and I am especially anticipating moving forward." Nicholas County Superintendent of Schools Greg Reid said he is happy to have Feltner in the new role. "I believe Mr. Feltner brings experience to the position in the education field. I believe he will be a good leader and will be an



Marty Feltner



Ockerman 2009 valedictorian

Chad Ockerman, the valedictorian for the Nicholas County High School graduating class of 2009, faces graduation with a sense of bitter sweetness. A tried and true Blue Jacket from his very first day of school to today, Ockerman has excelled in academics and athletics as a Nicholas County student. In a brief interview last week the senior with a grade point average of 4.8 (an A+) said that he realizes what he is leaving behind, as he prepares for

Photo by Charles Mattox
The Full Package
Chad Ockerman is the 2009 valedictorian for NCHS. He's intelligent, athletic, humorous and he's seeking a future in the field of Molecular Genetics.

a future at Ohio State University. He smiles when someone mentions Buckeye and smiles even wider when discussion turns to Ohio State, where he will begin classes that will lay a foundation to his desired future into a field related to molecular genetics. "I've always enjoyed math and biology and I'm thinking about something in the medical field, maybe something to do with cancer research. I've known I wanted to go to Ohio State for a while. I'm really looking forward to their classes and" he said while discussing his passion for molecular genetics. See OCKERMAN Page 3

Family praises community for Candlelight vigil, prayers

Four family members with long standing connections with Nicholas County lost their lives in a tragic, two-vehicle accident April 24 on Lake Road. A memorial service and candlelight vigil was held Sunday to honor the memory of Jerry Hicks, Charles Hicks, Mary Wilcutt and Baby Charlie Hicks. Jerry's daughter Elizabeth Jackson expressed gracious thanks to the community and shared the following. "My Dad was my hero and I am so broken without him. It is extremely difficult to be mourning him and my three cousins at the same time; it is almost more than one heart can bear. Visiting Lake Road was hard but much needed. (Sheriff) Dick Garrett and other law enforcers escorted 16-plate cars to the scene. Here we lit candles, set off balloons with messages to our lost ones, prayed together, cried together, and sang lullabies and family songs together. It was the place that our loved ones spent their last minutes (hopefully they didn't suffer long) and knowing that how it happened there on the road is just devastating. "It meant so much to us to return to the courthouse and see the community members gathered. I am grateful to know that they had been praying for us and that they had the night the accident happened. I hadn't arrived to Carlisle yet and felt helpless to really any blessing for these neighbors. The coroner, EMT workers, church of the faithful, family of the others involved in the accident, the



Photo by Charles Mattox

Field Trip
Bernie Buckler Jr., Cayla Cook and Paige Earlywine, kindergarten students at Nicholas County, moved at the piggy banks they received during a trip to Whitaker Bank in downtown Carlisle last week.

Graduation Special Pages 9-20



Photo Submitted

The late Jerome "Jerry" Hicks lost his life with three family members April 24 on Lake Road. Surviving family members held a candlelight vigil in memory of their lost loved ones. Sunday and expressed praise for the prayers and expressions of sympathy from the Nicholas County community. "My Dad really loved the town and said that he felt closest to God there. It was his home away from home," Jerry's daughter Elizabeth said of her late father and the love he held for Carlisle and Nicholas County.

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