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HAPPY
New
Year
2025

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Nicholas County School Board recognizes Jane Whalen and eSports Rocket League team

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Members of the Nicholas County School Board, including Superintendent Doug Bechanan, met on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at 6:00pm, at the Nicholas County Board of Education, for their last regularly scheduled meeting of 2025.

Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings called the meeting to order with a moment of silence, prayer, and roll call with all board members present.

The board recognized Jane Whalen, who is retiring at the end of this month after nearly three decades of faithful service as the Nicholas County Middle / High School Secretary.

Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings said the following, "Jane has truly been the heartbeat of our school. From managing phone, attendance, records, schedules, and paperwork to supporting administrators, teachers, students, parents, and visitors, she



Superintendent Doug Bechanan and Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings present Ms. Jane Whalen with a gift. Ms. Jane will retire from Nicholas County Schools at the end of December.

has kept the school running smoothly every single day. Her professionalism, calm presence, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our entire school community. Jane's reliability, knowledge, and genuine care for oth-

ers will be deeply missed, and this building will not be the same without her. We are incredibly grateful for her years of service and wish her nothing but the best in a well-deserved retirement."

Board Vice Chair



eSports Rocket League team was recognized during this month's school board meeting for their accomplishment of placing 7th in the State. Congratulations to Grayson McCall, TJ Taulbee, Cameron Ham, Justin Upchurch, and sponsor Jeremy McCord.

Brenda Mattox then recognized the Nicholas County eSports Rocket League Team, with members Grayson McCall, TJ Taulbee, Cameron Ham, and Justin Upchurch, with sponsor Jeremy McCord, who was ranked

7th in the state!!! The Top 16 teams in the state competed in the playoffs, with the Nicholas County Rocket League team defeating Dupont Manuel High School during the first round and losing to Prestonsburg High School

during the second round. This is the first time since eSports started in Nicholas County that the team had advanced that far.

School Board
cont. on pg. 2

Nicholas County 2025 Year-In-Review

January

Members of the Nicholas County School Board, along with Superintendent Doug Bechanan, met on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 6:00pm, at the Nicholas County Board of Education, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order with a moment of silence, roll call, with all board members present, and the recognitions of Nicholas County teacher, Mrs. Kayla Underwood, and outgoing school board member, Jon Sparks.



January: Members of the Sons of the American Legion, David Rankin Post 257, Millersburg, Ky., along with Nicholas County Judge-Exec. Steve Hamilton and Magistrate Matt Hughes, and other attendees witnessed the ceremonial raising of a brand-new American flag at the nursing home in Carlisle, Ky., on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 1:00pm. The old and tattered flag, that previously flew at the nursing home, was taken down to be properly disposed of by the Sons of the American Legion members and replaced with the brand-new flag.

Members of the Nicholas County Fire Protection District, along with Chief Doug French, met on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at 6:00pm, at the Nicholas County Fire Department, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Chief French reports that the department has received an approximately \$58,000.00 training facility grant, and that the training prop that the department had purchased would take around 8 months to build and would cost approximately \$3,000.00 to ship. The chief says that a staircase and ladder for the prop would have to be purchased at a later date.

Lady Jackets finish out 2024 and move into 2025 at 9-5, so far. Maggie Simmons gets her 500th rebound and named MVP during Jackets 3-game win streak at Pam Browning Classic.

The Nicholas County Public Library has received \$2,210.00, via a Special Projects Grant, funded through the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). This was a state

grant designed for special programs, activities, or events hosted by public libraries. These grant funds helped to fund the library's fall book tasting that took place at the library in September 2024.

On Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, Nicholas County Schools officially announced the retirements of NCMHS Principal Kevin Miller, along with his wife, NCES Guidance Counselor Kacey Miller, on the Nicholas County Schools - Carlisle, Ky. Facebook page. The Facebook post reads... "After many years of dedicated service, NCMHS Principal Kevin Miller and NCES Guidance Counselor Kacey Miller have announced their retirement, effective Jan. 31, 2025. Throughout their careers, they have been valued members of Nicholas County Schools, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, commitment, and positive impact. The Millers extend their heartfelt gratitude to the colleagues, students, and community members who have supported them throughout the years. They look for-

ward to beginning this new chapter and enjoying their retirement together."

Danny R. Dixon, 35, of Crooked Creek Road, Carlisle, Ky., was arrested on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, by Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Shane Adams, and charged with one count of Strangulation, 1st Degree (Non-Domestic Violence - Attempt); one count of Criminal Mischief, 2nd Degree; and one count of Assault, 4th Degree (Child Abuse).

On Sunday and Monday, Jan. 6th and 7th, 2025, a winter storm hit Kentucky, bringing 7+ inches of snow, plus a bout of freezing rain.

The Nicholas County BlueJackets Varsity Basketball team, under Head Coach Spencer Morris have finished out 2024, and have entered into 2025 with a record of 6-4, after their away-game win against Harrison County on Jan. 4, 2025.

Nicholas County was blanketed with a couple rounds of snow and ice last week, which basically shut down the entire

county. The first round

of winter weather, which consisted of between 6 to 8 inches of snow and ½ inch of ice, hit the county beginning on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 5, 2025, through the overnight hours into Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, and tapering off later that afternoon. The second round, which consisted of around 4 inches of snow, and thankfully no ice this time around, started late Friday evening, Jan. 10, 2025, into the morning of Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025. Nicholas County Judge-Executive Steve Hamilton signed Executive Orders for the "Declaration of a Local State of Emergency in Nicholas County" on Jan. 4th and 10th, "directly related to an extended period of severe forecasted inclement weather, to

Year in Review
cont. on pg. 3



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