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Nicholas County Schools welcomes back students on 1st Day of School

By Michael A. Clary
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NCES Principal Nikki Orazen and NCMHS Principal Stacey Allison, along with the staff from both schools, and Supt. John Derek Faulconer, welcomed back students on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026, for the 1st Day of School for the 2026-2027 school year.

Almost all the little boys and girls at NCES

arrived on their first day of school with bright, smiling faces, and ready and willing to start the day and new school year.

The older students at NCMHS, on the other hand, weren't quite as enthused as the little ones, as the new school year began that early Thursday morning.

The NCHS Class of 2027 Seniors did have their pictures taken later that day commemorating their "last first day."

The line of traffic for

the first day of school was backed up all the way through town that morning, but by 8:15am, all the students had been dropped off, and the school day was ready to begin.

Welcome back Nicholas County students and have a great 2026-2027 school year!!!

More Back to School pictures on page 12 & 14

Clifford Murder Trial set to begin Monday

By Michael A. Clary
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A jury trial for Cheyenne Clifford will begin on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, starting at 9:00am, at the Nicholas County Judicial Center. The trial is set on the court docket to last all week.

Mr. Clifford's final pre-trial conference was held on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, which was taken under advisement, with all responses having to be filed by Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026.

Mr. Clifford, 27, of Carlisle, Ky. has been lodged in the Bourbon County Detention Center on a \$500,00.00 pending cash bond, following a horrific, early-morning, accident on Myers Station Road, on June 4, 2023. He has been charged with two counts of murder; two counts of assault - 1st degree; one count of failure of owner to maintain required insurance - 1st



Photo courtesy of Bourbon County Detention Center
Cheyenne Clifford

offense; one count of no registration plates; one count of tampering with a witness; one count of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol - 1st; one count of failure to wear seat belts; one count of failure to produce insurance card; and one count of reckless driving.

Gage Gaunce, 20 and Nathaniel Clay Welch, 17, both of Nicholas County, were pronounced dead at the scene of the accident by Nicholas County Deputy Coroner Scott Nelson at 1:26 am that morning. Emily Earlywine, 24, and Dillon Saucedo, were hospitalized at the University of Kentucky Medical Center with serious injuries.

Through the ongoing investigation it was determined that Mr. Clifford was in fact the driver of the vehicle at the time of the accident, and after obtaining search warrants for medical records, "it was determined that his (Clifford's) blood alcohol level was well over the

Clifford
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Strong storms and torrential rains batter Nicholas and Robertson Counties

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Strong bouts of weather, consisting of strong storms, torrential rains, massive amounts of lightning and thunder, and extremely strong winds battered Nicholas and Robertson Counties last week and on into the weekend.

On Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 11, 2026, a massive thunderstorm, with a recorded 81 MPH wind gust, descended upon both Nicholas, Robertson, and the surrounding counties, and caused a massive amount of downed tree limbs and power lines throughout the area. A tornado warning was even issued during the monster of a storm.



Even into the weekend, heavy bouts of rain continued to roll through, causing flooding in the Johnson / Crooked Creek area in Nicholas County, even damaging a bridge, which was quickly repaired.

A big thanks goes out to the Nicholas County Road Department, the Nicholas County and Carlisle Fire Departments, the Nicholas County Sheriff's Office, the Carlisle Police Department, Nicholas County EMS

Service, various power companies, and everyone else that pitched in and helped to clean up following the extreme bouts of weather.

*All photos submitted
*More storm pictures on page 3**

City Council approves 2nd readings of tax rates during special-called meeting

By Michael A. Clary
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Members of the Carlisle City Council, along with Mayor Ronnie Clark and City Attorney Henry "Skip" Watson, who appeared via online, met on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026, at 9:00am, at City Hall, for a special-called meeting, which lasted less than 10 minutes.

Mayor Clark called the

meeting to order with a moment of silence; and roll call with all council members present, sans

one. Under New Business, the council introduced the 1st reading of an or-

City Council
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