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Nicholas County Board of Education start Superintendent search process

By **Michael A. Clary**
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Members of the Nicholas County Board of Education met on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00pm, at the Central Office, for a special-called meeting.

Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings called the meeting to order with a prayer

and roll call, with all board members present.

The board approved to add an Athletic Trainer position for the district, to the upcoming 2026-2027 Classified Salary Schedule, with a 225-day contract, 7-hour day, with salary schedule, and job description. Outgoing Superintendent Doug Bechanan said that the school would be

hiring its own Athletic Trainer, with prior experience needed, which would be much cheaper than paying UK upwards of \$84,500.00, which they had previously quoted.

Mr. Bechanan then excused himself from the meeting, as the board approved the Nicholas County Public Schools Superintendent search timeline, as presented;

approved the Nicholas County Public School Superintendent search vacancy advertisement, as presented, with an approximate date of May 26, 2026, when a new Superintendent for Nicholas County Schools would be named.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

Kazunas serving as Group Vice President & Executive Engineering Officer for TMNA



Susann Kazunas
Group Vice President,
Executive Engineering
Officer
Toyota Motor North
America

Susann Kazunas is honored to serve as group vice president and executive engineering officer responsible for all production engineering at Toyota Motor North America (TMNA). This includes vehicle, unit, battery engineering, as well as building construction. In this role, Kazunas oversees equipment preparation for new product launches at Toyota's North American manufacturing facilities including the development of Toyota's North American battery production facility.

Prior to this role, Kazunas was president of Toy-

ota Motor Manufacturing Texas (Toyota Texas), where she led all production and administrative functions at the plant. Located deep in the heart of Texas, the San Antonio manufacturing facility is the exclusive home to the iconic Toyota Tundra and the Toyota all-hybrid Sequoia, assembled on the same production line.

Kazunas joined Toyota in 1998 at Toyota Kentucky, working primarily in the stamping and weld shops. During her tenure with Toyota, she has held leadership positions in manufacturing and production engineering at Toyota Kentucky, TMNA, Toyota Motor Corporation Commercial Vehicle Company, and Toyota Texas.

Kazunas is an active member in the local community and serves on the University of Kentucky College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council. She also serves on the board of advisors for The Manufacturing Institute, the workforce development and education partner of the National Association of Manufacturers,

Kazunas
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LadyJackets fall to LadyCamels in 2nd round of 10th Region Tourney

By **Michael A. Clary**
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The 2025/2026 38th District Champion Nicholas County LadyJackets, under Head Coach Reesa Martin, advanced to the 2nd Round of the 2026 10th Region Girls Basketball Tournament, after defeating Bracken County, 61-39, in the 1st Round on Monday, March 2, 2026, at Nicholas County.

The Jackets traveled to Harrison County on Friday, March 6, 2026, to take on the Campbell County LadyCamels in the 2nd Round of the 10th Region Tourney and unfortunately lost 66-55.

Leading the Jackets in scoring were Maggie Simons with 22 points, which include 1 3-point-



Photo courtesy of Alisha Dunn/Hype Sports Media Facebook page

Brown with 9 points, which include 1 3-pointer and 2 rebounds; Lorelee Orazen with 8 points, which include 2 3-pointers and 1 rebound; Sidney Sexton with 8 points and 4 rebounds; Rachel Anderson with 6 points and 4 rebounds; and Vella Dunn with 2 points and 4 rebounds.

Congratulations to LadyJackets Sidney Sexton and Maggie Simons for being recognized with All-Tournament Team honors following the game.

The LadyJackets finish out the season with a 19-13 season record, 12-5 in the district, and 7-1 in the region.

Congratulations on an amazing season LadyJackets... and we'll see you again next season.

As always, Go Jackets!!!

Carlisle City Council discuss Spring Clean-Up and Locust Street at March meeting

By **Michael A. Clary**
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Members of the Carlisle City Council, along with Mayor Ronnie Clark, met on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:00pm, at City Hall, for their regularly

scheduled monthly meeting, which was broadcast live on the Carlisle Mercury Facebook page.

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order with a moment of silence, and roll call, with one council member absent.

Under New Business, the council approved the minutes of the February council meeting, approved the payroll transfers, and approved the March bills.

Mayor Clark informed the council that Spring Clean-Up for the City of Carlisle has been scheduled for the second week of April. He said that a dumpster is located at the city barn, and reiterated things that would not be appropriate for pickup, such as construction debris and vehicle tires. He said that proceeds from recyclable

materials sold would be put into the Community Development fund. The council also discussed other options to get the word out around Spring Clean-Up, including possible debris slips left at residences, and more advertising.

Under Old Business, the mayor spoke about the development of the old trailer park to housing is a go; said that approximately 110 gallons of paint had been ordered for striping and curbs; and said that he had received no word regarding the now vacated Family Dollar building, which has been leased through

the end of the year, and could possibly be sold in the future.

The council discussed turning the end of Locust Street and Broadway into a one-way street, because of ongoing traffic concerns. The mayor also discussed concerns

on Sycamore and Dorsey Avenue, as well. He also spoke about putting removable speed bumps at those locations, to deter speeding vehicles.

The mayor said that the groundbreaking for the new fire department would be happening

soon, and spoke about the foundation and concrete slabs being sufficient enough to hold the heavy fire trucks.

He also mentioned the

City Council
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