



Battle for position

Senior Bluejacket Mike Webb battles for position as a ball glances off the backboard in last week's 94-81 double-overtime victory over Pendleton County. — Mercury photo.

Hopkins announces trip to Orient

Rep. Larry J. Hopkins, R-Ky., this week announced he will visit the Orient for two weeks to discuss future imports of tobacco and coal, and to explore the possibility of a military purchase from the U.S. by the Republic of China. Hopkins was invited to the Orient by the China National Association of Industry and Commerce (Taiwan), which will be paying for Hopkins' trip. "My trip to Taiwan, Korea and Japan will not be funded in any way by taxpayers," Hopkins said. "I've been asked, as an ambassador from the Commonwealth of Kentucky and as a U.S. congressman who serves on both House armed services and agriculture committees, to explore the possibility of future coal and tobacco exports, and to discuss a potential purchase by Taiwan of 150 fighter planes from the U.S."

General Assembly highlighted on KET

The daily activity of the upcoming session of the Kentucky General Assembly will be highlighted in a KET presentation beginning Jan. 4. The program will air on Commonwealth viewers at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursdays, and at 9 p.m. on Fridays. With the newly-elected leadership in place, the daily 1982 Kentucky General Assembly program will cover discussion of issues such as social services, red-districting, county jails, block grants and the new biennial budget.

TWO STATE PARKS TAKE ANNUAL BREAK

All but two of Kentucky's state parks offering overnight lodging will be closed Jan. 1-16, Parks Commissioner Lou Karbo said last week. The break, which occurs each year, allows workers a chance to prepare the parks for the upcoming season, Karbo said. Some 13 state resort parks are involved. The two exceptions are General Butler near Carrollton and Jenny Wiley near Prestonsburg. General Butler will remain open because it is the site of Kentucky's new ski resort. At Jenny Wiley, demand for rooms is strong year round, so the park will stay open, Karbo said.

A test shipment of 8,200 metric tons of Kentucky's white corn has been shipped to POLAR Industries of Venezuela. This white corn shipment sent by Hopkinsville Milling, will enable the Venezuelans to test the high quality of Kentucky's corn, and hopefully, solidify an existing trade agreement for Kentucky white corn with Venezuela.



Jumper for two

Nicholas County forward Steve Anderson hits a jumper in last week's contest with Pendleton County. The sophomore scored 22 points in the double-overtime jacket victory. — Mercury photo.

Meats lead drop in food prices

Retail food prices in Kentucky supermarkets dropped in December for the fourth month in a row, according to the Kentucky Farm Bureau marketbasket survey. Surveys in 23 Kentucky communities reported that a selected group of 40 food items cost shoppers 87.47 of this month, down 14 cents, or two-tenths of one percent from the 87.61 cost in November. Meat prices keyed the decline, with 13 cuts of beef, pork and chicken down four percent, or 77 cents, from the month before. Meat prices comprised 45 percent of the total marketbasket cost, and those declines outweighed the significant price gains in fresh fruits and vegetables, American cheese, flour, white bread and potato chips. The survey results this month contrast sharply with those of a year ago. The current average is 1.8 percent, or 11.49, below that of December 1980. The marketbasket average last December showed a hefty gain of 21.76 over the November 1980 tally, while it is 1.83 above the current average.

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Nine-year-old Brent Gaunce seemed to be interested in off-court activities during a recent Nicholas County basketball game at Bath County. — Mercury photo.

Nicholas Conservation District News

By Wilmer Halecomb, S.C.S. The Nicholas County Conservation District along with the Soil Conservation Service will hold a public meeting on Jan. 6, 1982 on the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (R.C.A.). The Conservation District supervisors and the Soil Conservation Service will answer any question that might come up and hear any comment that anyone might care to make. This is an opportunity for the public to have an input in the future of soil and water conservation. The meeting will be held in the office of the Soil Conservation Service in the old armory building on East Main Street in Carlisle at 7 p.m.

Hog inventories in state down in December

A report from the Kentucky Crop and Livestock Reporting Service shows that hog inventories in the state are down 18 percent for the month of December. The hog count is off more nine percent across the nation. The figures show the lowest pork inventory in the state since 1975. There were 1.6 million head of swine in Kentucky at the beginning of this month. Kentucky pork producers are making plans for additional culls and expect to cull 12 percent lower swine during the next six months. U.S. farrowing intentions for the December 1981-May 1982 period are down 11 percent. The September-November Kentucky pig crop totaled 435,000 head, down seven percent from the same period a year ago. Sows farrowed declined 12 percent, but pigs saved per litter increased from 8.9 a year ago to 12.5. The June-November pig crop far exceeded the remaining funds the household would then be issued the remainder of the benefit amount.

Farm numbers down but are leveling off

Kentucky farm numbers totaled 100,100 in 1981. This number has leveled off the last several years, but is down substantially from the 1960s and 1970s and is less than half the number during the 1950s. In fact, in 1935 Kentucky had 279,000 farms. Average size farm in 1925 was 74 acres compared with 143 acres in 1981. The Kentucky Crop and Livestock Reporting Service says that part-time farmers are increasing and this is the reason why farm numbers are up 1,000 from 1980. Tobacco quotas and allotments also tend to keep a large number of small farms in operation.

Two state park resorts will introduce skiing

Two state resort parks will introduce cross-country skiing to interested visitors during special weekend programs in January. Jenny Wiley will conduct a ski weekend Jan. 23-24, while Rough River will host a similar activity Jan. 28-31. Both programs begin on Friday with films on basics of cross-country skiing. Outdoor instruction and skiing follows on Saturday and Sunday. Interested skis will find a home for anything... EVEN YOU!

Dept. of Transportation to check Nicholas bridges

The state Department of Transportation will repair the decks of eight bridges over North Fork of the Licking River in U.S. 80, Mayville-Park Road, six miles south of Mayville in Mason County. Two bridges in Carter County will be repaired. They are the bridge over Eyman Creek on KY 1, south of Potosi, and the bridge over Tygart Creek on KY 7 near Lindsey Chapel. The department will also repair two bridges in Bath County on KY 111. They are the bridge over White Oak Creek, six miles north of U.S. 60, and Prichy Ash Creek at Orwigsville. Bids for the projects will be taken Jan. 15.

Pilot project to furnish elderly space heaters

Dr. Grady Stumbo, secretary of the Department for Human Resources, has announced that a new pilot project which offers an alternative to cash assistance under the Home Energy Assistance Program will be administered by Kentucky Association for Older Persons. The alternative energy project will allow the purchase of space heaters to see if this will be a more effective way to ensure the family has heat for a longer period of time.

State to receive half of energy assistance funds

Dr. Grady Stumbo, secretary of the Department for Human Resources, anticipates Kentucky will receive 50 percent of the funds authorized for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. The reduction in funds is due to Congress not having appropriated the full benefit amount this year. Applications will be taken on a first-come basis and will begin Jan. 4, 1982, for the elderly and disabled.

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