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These Nicholas County High School students were initiated into the Honor Society Wednesday, Feb. 18 in a program before the student body. They are front row from left, Daryl McFarland, Galen Tulliver, Kirk Mattox, David McGuffey, Darrin Green, Back row, Dean Weddle, Bradley Murrell, Jimmy Wood and Randy Warner. Behind the back row is Mark Taylor. — Mercury photo.



These Nicholas County High School Junior and Senior students were initiated into the Honor Society during induction ceremonies Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the school. Pictured front row from left are Sherry Pryor, Rachel Herrington, Martha Bussell, Peggy Stewart, Angie Wilson, Back row, Lisa Glass, Debbie Fryman, Barbara Edwards, Shari Ramey. Behind back row is Stephanie Sampson. — Mercury photo.

NCHS honor inductees

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Increasing costs lead to Bell revenue request

South Central Bell has requested additional revenues to cover the steadily increasing costs of providing phone service in Kentucky.

"In spite of everything we've done, we simply have not been able to battle inflation to a standstill," said Stanley S. Dickson, Bell vice president.

"I'm not any happier about higher gas prices, higher postage rates, higher taxes and, it seems, higher everything than any Kentuckian. But the plain fact is that, because of such increases, it costs us more to provide phone service than ever before," Dickson said.

In its request, the company said it is faced with significant cost increases due to persistent inflation and to fundamental changes in the U.S. telecommunications industry. Without additional revenues, Bell's ability to continue providing good service in Kentucky will be seriously impaired.

Bell proposed an across-the-board monthly increase of \$0.79 for single-party residential service; \$1.08 for single-party business service. For the first time, monthly telephone charges would be separated into charges for access to the communication network, inside wiring and terminal equipment charges.

Bell asked that some rate increases be allowed to go into effect March 31. Revenues from an across-the-board increase of \$1.87 for single-line residential service and \$2.14 for business service would cover increased depreciation expenses.

These increased expenses, which are retroactive to the first of the year, are the result of federal regulatory rulings that direct Bell to depreciate assets at a pace that reflects the realistic useful life of equipment used to provide phone service. The "veterin" increases, if approved, would be subject to refund. The company also sought approval to expand local measured service to several cities. Measured service is an optional, discounted service that saves money for those who call infrequently or who decide to call less to save.

Lodge to meet

Daugherty Lodge No. 65, P.A.M. will hold a called meeting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Lodge Hall to discuss repair or replacement of the Lodge roof. This is a very important meeting and all members are urged to attend.

Twice in a row

Food prices down for second month

Retail food prices in Kentucky dropped during February for the second month in a row, according to the latest Kentucky Farm Bureau market basket survey.

A selected group of 49 staple food items cost an average \$48.05 in Kentucky supermarkets this month, down 7.4 percent from the January figure of \$51.67. The February figure was better than a full percentage point below December's record high average of \$48.70.

The survey, conducted monthly by volunteer price checkers, is a project of Kentucky Farm Bureau Women. The February survey was the 20th consecutive monthly canvass of retail food prices in the state, and was conducted in 24 Kentucky communities.

There were almost as many gainers as decliners among the 49-item market basket, but price drops in 13 of 13 items had the greatest effect on the average. At least three beef items averaged their lowest since last June, and ground beef at \$1.27 a pound, showed the third lowest price tag in the 20-month history of the survey.

On the other side of the ledger, bread moved higher in the price column, as did tomatoes. Many potatoes, poultry clips and cooking oil. Fresh tomatoes showed a substantial 18-cents-a-pound gain in price since January, averaging 96 cents statewide. They sold for as high as \$1.20 in some markets.

Potato prices were also at a record, costing an average \$2.70 for a 15-pound bag. Last February, the same bag cost \$1.56, reflecting a 70 percent hike in the

12-month period.

Greensburg was low and Stanford high among the 24 local marketplace averages in February, leaving a range of just over \$8 between the two.

The local figures are: Greensburg, \$4.10; Salersville, \$4.20; Tompkinsville, \$4.51; Glasgow, \$5.49; Hopkinsville, \$5.56; Edgewood, \$6.42; Cynthia, \$6.44; Owensboro, \$6.45; Elizabethton, \$6.49; Middlesboro, \$7.20; Morehead, \$7.46; London, \$8.32; Seebree, \$8.30.

Lane Oak, \$8.77; Corning, \$8.82; Crestwood, \$9.18; Henderson, \$9.25; Murray, \$9.03; Georgetown, \$9.06; Lexington, \$9.23; Louisville, \$1.21; Greenup, \$1.23; Brandenburg, \$1.50; and Stanford, \$1.12.

Farm prices showed a mixed bag in the February report of the Kentucky Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Beef cattle, feeder calves, soybeans and wheat showed small gains, while box, corn and milk dropped. Farm prices for eggs showed a substantial decline, the report noted, down 87 cents from 79 cents the month before.

Nationally, farm prices fell 8 of 12 percent during the 12-day period, while farm costs jumped 2.4 percent. Part of the increase in costs represented annual updating of prices for farm services, cash rents, interest and taxes, but the report noted, down 87 cents from 79 cents the month before.

Market Basket survey may be found on page eight.)

20 students inducted into Honor Society

Twenty Nicholas County High School students were initiated into the National Honor Society Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 18.

To qualify for the Honor Society, a student must have a 3.2 overall standing, be at least a junior, and receive the approval of the faculty. Once a student enters the organization he must maintain a 3.2 average, or he will be asked to leave.

Students initiated before the student body include Stephanie Sampson, David McGuffey, Shari Ramey, Peggy Stewart, Randy Warner, Sherry Pryor, Galen Tulliver, Kirk Mattox, Dean Weddle, Angie Wilson, Darrin Green, Lisa Glass, Daryl McFarland, Bradley Murrell, Rachel Herrington, Jimmy Wood, Martha Bussell, Debbie Fryman, Mark Taylor and Barbara Edwards.

The Honor Society was first chartered in Nicholas County High School in 1962. Currently there are 41 members in the Society.

New Police Commissioner

U. Col. Marion Campbell, Nicholas County native, who worked his way up through the ranks during 17 years with the Kentucky State Police, was appointed as the new state police commissioner Friday by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. Campbell, 39, was one of three individuals recommended to the governor by a seven-member commission that screened 143 applicants from throughout the country. He succeeds U. Col. A.D. Fortner, who has been serving as acting commissioner since the former commissioner, Ken Brundenburgh, resigned in October.

March 1 deadline to request farmland assessment in state

State revenue officials are encouraging farmers to meet a March 1 deadline for requesting that their farmland be assessed for taxes at its agricultural value rather than its cash value.

The deadline applies to farmland owners who have never made official application to their local property valuation administrators (PVA) for the special use valuation, the officials note. Many farmers have enjoyed the special valuation advantages over the past several years, but have never actually filed the official application. That requirement will now be strictly enforced, they say.

Special farmland assessment provisions were brought about by passage

of a 1969 amendment to the Kentucky Constitution exempting farmland from the requirement that all property be assessed at its fair cash or market value for property tax purposes.

Currently, revenue officials estimate that Kentucky farmland is assessed at an average 60 percent of its cash value as a result of the amendment and implementing legislation. The savings to farmers amounts to millions of dollars each year.

Under the special procedure, local PVA's value farmland according to its income producing capability, using such factors as acre, soil type and texture. The formula sorts factors such

Dr. Harvey Sloane to head state Easter Seal Campaign

Dr. Harvey Sloane, former mayor of Louisville, has been named to serve as chairman of the 1981 statewide Easter Seal Campaign. He was chairman of the 1980 drive.

The 1981 campaign will begin March 1 and conclude on April 19, Easter Sunday. As chairman, Sloane will lead the many activities of thousands of volunteers who will participate in the fund raising appeal.

Contributions to the annual campaign

Commonwealth Attorney Keith seeks re-election to post

Jack Keith, Commonwealth Attorney for the 18th Judicial District, has announced his candidacy for re-election for Commonwealth Attorney. The 18th Judicial District includes Harrison, Nicholas, Pendleton and Robertson counties.

He is a member of the law firm Keith & Keith, and is the son of John M. Keith and Beatrice Kitchin Keith.

He is a graduate of Cynthiana High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Master of Arts degree from Western Kentucky University and Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky. He has done additional study at the Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Ill. in 1973 and in 1980.



An active member in his church, he has served as Chairman of the Administrative Board and Lay Leader of the First United Methodist Church.

A life-long Democrat, he is a member of the Harrison County Bar Association, Kentucky Bar Association, National District Attorneys Association, Council of School Board Attorneys, Kentucky Society of Hospital Attorneys, and Kentucky Association of Trial Attorneys.

He is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Harrison Memorial Hospital and in his second term as a member of the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University. He is past president of the Cynthiana Lions Club and past president of the United Fund of Cynthiana and Harrison County.

Keith is married to the former Donna Krueger of Harrison County.

