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Town forum on Education tonight

The second Town Forum on Education will be held at Nicholas County Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Thursday (tonight). The public is invited to hear a panel of local educators respond to concerns raised at the first meeting in November.

The School-Community Relations Committee that planned the meeting hopes that as many people as possible will be able to attend.

State Senator Ed Ford and Representative Adrian Arnold will also attend and comment briefly on educational efforts at the state level. If enough interest is expressed by those attending, plans will then be made to openly discuss specific issues at a third town meeting.

Plan to attend and become involved with the education of the children of Nicholas County.

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Spelling bee winner

Leslie Cundiff, third from left, a seventh grade student at Nicholas County Elementary School, was the local winner of the Kentucky Education Association Spelling Bee held January 9. Pictured above, l-r, Autumn Byers, Sandra Durham, Leslie and Wilma Donathan. — More photos

Health Auxiliary donation

Mrs. Carol Sparks, second from right, president of the Nicholas County Health Care Auxiliary, is pictured presenting a check for $945 to Robert Hester, administrator of Johnson Mathers Health Care, Inc. The money is being used to purchase two specialized wheelchairs for the nursing home. Also pictured, from left, are Mrs. W.R. Kingsolver, director of volunteer service for the hospital, and Mrs. Walter Kendall, treasurer for the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary has donated $1400 in 1984 to finance the renovation and covering of two chairs in the nursing home, an employee appreciation reception, and new shelving for the gift shop, besides the two wheelchairs. — More photos

Governor's Scholars program deadline extended due to weather

The deadline for mailing applications to the Governor's Scholars Program has been extended from Feb. 1 to Feb. 6 to accommodate schools closed by bad weather. Applications should be postmarked no later than the 6th.

The program will be held at Murray State University from June 22 to July 25 and at Western Kentucky University from June 23 to July 26. It will open a week earlier than last year.

Governor Martha Layne Collins said that 800 high school juniors from the ranks of Kentucky's brightest students will be selected by March 15 to attend the highly acclaimed five-week academic enrichment program. All Kentucky public school districts, as well as private schools, are offered an opportunity to nominate students. There is no charge to the students, who come from varied regional and economic backgrounds.

"This program offers our bright students an opportunity to expand their knowledge and interests and helps interest them in Kentucky as a whole," Gov. Collins said. "One of the true assets of the program is that it helps our students realize how many other bright young people like themselves there are in the Commonwealth. Many are learning about other regions of the state for the first time through their friendships with talented young Kentuckians from different parts of the state. Through this process the scholars gain insight and respect for Kentucky as a whole, a great beginning for building their future in their native state."

The Governor's Scholars Program, now in its third year, has drawn national attention for its innovative approach to education and has been enthusiastically received by students and educators. It provides five intensive weeks of study along with cultural and recreational activities.

Courses, ranging from mathematics to fine arts, emphasize a conceptual, rather than skilled-based approach to learning. Students also select seminars from such topics as "Science and Shakespeare," "Utopias," "Mathematical Recreations," and "Creative Communications." An array of well-known speakers, performers, and outstanding films will be offered at both campuses along with an extensive choice of extracurricular activities, including intermural sports, theatrical and musical productions, and such special interests as rocket-building, photography and publishing a newspaper.

Last summer 28 percent of the scholars were from Western Kentucky, 26 percent from Eastern Kentucky, 23 percent from Central Kentucky, 12 percent from Northern Kentucky and 11 percent from Louisville.

Gov. Collins said the selection process for teachers is now underway with decisions on faculty expected to be finalized by late February.

The schools select two classes of student nominees: primary nominees, who are accepted if they meet the criteria specified by the program, and at-large candidates who will compete in a statewide pool for additional places in the program with other students. Bonus nominations are offered to public school districts and to private school districts where 18 percent of those taking the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) in the 10th grade last year scored in the top two stanines, above the 89th percentile.

The number of nominees Kentucky school districts may submit is based on size. A statewide selection committee chooses scholars from the pool of candidates. Students nominated must be current residents of Kentucky who plan to return to their present school districts next fall; must have scored in the 10 percentiles in the CTBS in the 10th grade; and must be nominated by two teachers in the academic disciplines who give them excellent or very good ratings on Teachers Nomination Forms for such qualities as intellectual curiosity, originality, breadth of interest, creative ability, independence of thought, and attitudes towards others.

The students are also judged on the quality of an original essay. This year more discretion is being allowed school districts in choosing at-large candidates, to offer particularly gifted students who may not quite meet all of the criteria but who have great intellectual and creative potential, an opportunity to compete.

Food prices up 2 percent in January survey proclaims

Food prices, like heating bills, were higher in Kentucky during January, according to Kentucky Farm Bureau's marketbasket food price survey.

Paced by higher produce costs and more expensive bread prices, the 40-item marketbasket rose by nearly two percent during the month, to a level of $60.62. The December index stood at $59.44, while last January's market-basket average was $60.28.

Four of the six food groupings in the survey showed price increases during January, including pork, up 3.5 percent; dairy products, up 1.5 percent, fruits and vegetables, 6.4 percent higher; and grain-based foods, gaining 4.8 percent.

Poultry prices and eggs dropped some five percent since December and beef prices, on average, were unchanged.

Perhaps least expected were the sizeable price hikes in the grain-based foods. A one-pound loaf of white bread jumped 10 cents, to an average 83 cents, while a similar loaf of whole-wheat bread was eight cents higher, at 99 cents. Flour in a five-pound bag gained 12 cents to $1.04 and corn oil used for cooking was 12 cents higher, at $1.79 for a 24-ounce bottle.

The increases came despite continuing low farm-level grain prices, which currently stand well under last year's price averages and near the low marks of two years ago.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman said there was nothing in current commodity price reports that could explain the higher bread and flour prices. The spokesman said the increases could be due to local inventory fluctuations at the wholesale level following heavy holiday season demand by the baking industry.

Among produce items, potatoes, apples and lettuce showed significant price gains, as did butter and ice cream in the dairy sector. Pork sausage and rib eye steaks were higher at the meat counter, as gainers outnumbered losers in the survey by a 2-to-1 margin.

Bargains in this month's report included eggs, which dropped 14 cents a dozen for the large size and 10 cents for the extra large. Corn meal was 13 cents lower for a five-pound bag, and American cheese fell 21 cents a pound.

Tompkinsville had the lowest local marketbasket average in January and Louisville checked in at the high end of the range. Volunteers working through Kentucky Farm Bureau Women canvassed retail food prices in 22 Kentucky communities.

The local food price averages are Tompkinsville, 50.49; Scottsville, 56.27; Salyersville, 57.03; Campbellsville, 57.71; Hopkinsville, 58.20; Greensburg, 58.78; Lexington, 58.98; Elizabethtown, 59.30; Shelbyville, 59.90.

Richmond, 59.96; Greenup, 60.38; Grayson, 60.46; Glasgow, 60.66; Georgetown, 60.68; Henderson, 61.54; Jackson, 62.25; Dry Ridge, 62.73; Owensboro, 63.00; Somerset, 63.21; London, 63.36; Falmouth, 64.11; Louisville, 69.28.

Food prices should face little upward pressure in the near future from the cost of farm commodities according to the Department of Agriculture's most recent report. Hog and milk prices showed signs of moderate improvement, but beef prices continued flat and grains stayed at their low levels.

Analysts say the nation's low four percent inflation rate for 1984 was traceable, in part, to the sluggish performance of farm commodity prices during the year.

Threats to tobacco price-support system are an outrage, Boswell says

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner David E. Boswell said he is outraged but certainly not surprised at the announcement of the intent of the Reagan administration to do away with the federal tobacco price support program and the production quota program.

Boswell reacted to the news of the federal cutback plan while in Western Kentucky initiating a series of Congressional District hearings into federal farm legislation for the next four years.

The announcement of the plan was made in Washington Jan. 24 by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary

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Spotlight on Voc-Ed

Gov. Martha Layne Collins and Supt. of Public Instruction Alice McDonald display a poster proclaiming Vocational Education Week after the governor signed an official proclamation designating Feb. 10-16 as Vocational Education Week in Kentucky. Many state vocational schools are planning special observances during the week. — More photos

Adding solar heat; things you should know

If you are thinking about adding solar to your home there are some things you should know. There are many different kinds of solar applications. Be an educated solar consumer and find out what the solar options are.

The next solar community workshop presentation will cover solar concepts, solar domestic hot water systems, and hot air collectors. Some excellent do-it-yourself literature will be distributed. The workshop is free.

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.
Date: February 14.
Place: Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County Library, 241 West Locust Street, Mt. Sterling.

Post Office prepared for upcoming rate hike

It's still some two weeks away, but the Carlisle Post Office is already gearing up for the postal rate hike which will become effective at 12:01 a.m. February 17.

According to Carlisle Postmaster Gene Snapp, not only will letters and postcards cost more to mail, but nearly every service for which a fee is charged is undergoing some price change as well.

"Everything isn't going up," he noted, pointing out that postal money orders will remain the same 75 cents for those under $25 but will only be $1 for amounts over $25. This is a price reduction.

But the change which will affect everyone is the first class rate which increases from 20 cents for one ounce to 22 cents for the first ounce. The 17 cent per ounce rate for mail exceeding one ounce, which now is in effect, will not change.

Snapp said rates will change for second and third class mail but that most of the mailing public would not be affected by those changes.

Snapp reported that "the information I have is that the non-denominational D stamps won't go on sale until February 2. The D stamp will be used until the government prints the 22 cent stamps.

The office also has a good supply of one and two cent stamps on hand to upgrade postcards and envelopes to the new rate, according to Snapp.

He added that when the new stamped envelopes become available, they will cost slightly more too. Now it costs 24 cents for a stamped 20 cent envelope. The new envelopes will cost 27 cents for a stamped 22 cent envelope, a one penny increase for the envelope itself.

He said information is not available as to when the new stamps or stamped envelopes will be ready for distribution.

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