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Magistrates take oath

Monday morning County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot swore in magistrates who will serve on the Nicholas County Fiscal Court. From left are Smoot, Earl Lee Planck, Floyd Bussell, Orville Atkinson, Melvin Fryman and Elmo Myers. — Mercury photo

They're 'In The Know'

WLEX-TV's "In The Know" is a quiz show that taps students' knowledge on a variety of subjects ranging from science and mathematics to literature, history and current events. Teams from across the state are pitted against each other every week until the school that has defeated all its rivals is named the "In The Know" champion in June. From left, Matthew Guthrie, Anna Linville, Rob Lane, coach; Sonya Johnson and Conniha Clinkenbeard, alternate, represent Nicholas County High School in the competition. The Nicholas County versus Franklin County match will be aired Saturday, January 11 at 11 a.m. on WLEX-TV. — Photo submitted

Only upper arena seats available for Sweet Sixteen

Judge sworn in

County Judge-Executive Reese Smoot was sworn in Monday morning by County Clerk Rose Scott, starting another four years at the helm of Nicholas County government. — Mercury photo

Only upper arena seats are available for the 1986 Sweet Sixteen, scheduled March 19-22 at Rupp Arena.

Tickets for lower arena seats sold out my mail orders before they could be put on over the counter sale, according to Tom Mills, Kentucky High School Athletic Association commissioner.

A few seats were available for over the counter sale when a news release concerning availability was mailed in November, Mills said, however by the time the news release was published a sufficient number of mail orders had been received to completely exhaust the supply.

"We've been publishing ordering information in the program for the past three years," Mills said, "and apparently more people noticed it this time." Seats in the lower arena have been sold out before Christmas for the past three years, Mills said, and usually there are some available for over the counter sale. "This year it took us by surprise, they just sold out on mail orders only — and almost before basketball season opened."

Good upper arena mid-court seats are selling steadily, he said.

The KHSAA office is offering single seats in the upper arena as well as season seats. Previously single session seats had not been put on public sale until March 1. However, due to increased demand they are now on sale at $4.50 each. A book of tickets for all eight sessions is available for $36. Location of the seats is determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets may be purchased from the Kentucky High School Athletic Association office, 560 East Cooper Drive, or by mail from the KHSAA, P.O. Box 22280, Lexington, Ky. 40522.

USDA commodities distributed Jan. 16

Community Action, in cooperation with the Cabinet for Human Resources, will distribute USDA commodities Thursday, January 16 from 1-0 p.m.

If you wish someone else to pick up your commodities, you must send the following: (1) your commodity card, (2) a note with your social security number, number in household, income for December, name of person picking up your commodities and your signature. Bring your own paper bag or box.

Applications now being accepted

The Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund is accepting applications from residents of Kentucky, who have been accepted at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine or the University of Louisville Medical School.

Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship should contact the RKMSF Office at the Kentucky Medical Association headquarters, 3220 Ephraim McDowell Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40205, or call 502-459-9790 by April 1, 1986.

County officials sworn in

Monday morning, County Judge-Executive Reese Smoot conducted swearing in ceremonies of county officials. From left, Smoot, Chuck Smith, deputy sheriff; Jack Conley, county attorney; Taylor Mathers, county coroner; Rudy Randolph, constable; Charles Ring, sheriff; Virgil Ritchie, deputy sheriff; George Garrett, jailer; Wiley Walker, constable and Dick Garrett, deputy jailer. — Mercury photo

Year-end surge boosts food prices

Retail food prices in Kentucky, down for much of the past year, rebounded during December with a 2.6 percent increase, according to Kentucky Farm Bureau's market-basket survey.

But even with the end-of-year surge, consumers were still paying less on average for their basic food items than they did last December. That savings amounted to 1.5 percent.

The December marketbasket average was $58.51 for the 40-item food grouping, compared to $57 in November and $59.44 in December 1984.

The December jump was fueled primarily by an unprecedented 15 percent rise in beef prices. That increase had been forecasted to follow cattle price hikes over the past two months amounting to $10 a hundred or better in some markets.

Partly offsetting beef were drops in the price of pork, poultry and grain-based foods. Pork cuts and the grain foods were down about 2.5 percent each and poultry/eggs fell by more than two percent.

Looking back to last December, consumers are now paying less for their pork, dairy products and grain foods. But beef at year's end was 1.6 percent above its year ago cost average, fruits and vegetables had increased a modest one percent and poultry/eggs were 4.2 percent more expensive.

During the same period, food producers fared poorly. Although cattle prices had increased, most other farm products at year's end were bringing less than they had a year ago. Hogs were more than $4 per hundred cheaper, wheat was down by 25 cents a bushel, corn was off by a half-dollar and soybeans by more than a dollar a bushel.

Morehead had the lowest local marketbasket average during December while Louisville registered the scale's high end. Overall, volunteers working through Kentucky Farm Bureau Women canvassed retail food market prices in 17 Kentucky communities.

The local averages are Morehead, $53.38; Tompkinsville, 55.09; Hopkinsville, 56.01; London, 56.54; Glasgow, 57.01; Salyersville, 57.22; Grayson, 57.70.

Campbellsville, 58.51; Henderson 58.93; Scottsville, 58.96; Dry Ridge, 59.22; Somerset, 60.27; Elizabethtown, 60.89; Greenup, 61.38; Jackson, 63.12; Danville, 63.60 and Louisville, 64.74.

Food items with biggest price changes during 1985 were:

Gainers — rib eye steaks, up 42 cents a pound to $4.82; extra-large eggs, up 18 cents a dozen to 92 cents; apples, up 13 cents a pound to 67 cents; lettuce, up 22 cents to 86 cents a head; tomatoes, up 25 cents to 98 cents a pound.

Decliners — pork chops, down 11 cents a pound to $2.09; sausage, down 30 cents to $2.21 for two pounds; two percent milk, down seven cents to $1.77 a gallon; American cheese, down 31 cents to $2.10 a pound; cheddar cheese, down 26 cents a pound to $2.43; Idaho potatoes, down 47 cents to $1.81 for 10 pounds; corn meal, down 19 cents to $1.22 for five pounds; corn oil, down 19 cents to $1.39.

DECEMBER MARKETBASKET SURVEY

Item	1984 Dec. Avg.	1985 Nov. Avg.	1985 Dec. Avg.
Ground beef, lb.	1.58	1.78	1.73
Rib eye steak, lb.	4.44	4.59	4.82
T-bone steak, lb.	4.10	3.61	4.02
Sirloin tip roast, lb.	3.72	3.38	3.75
Pot roast, lb.	1.90	1.86	1.79
Center cut loin chops, lb.	2.20	2.12	2.09
Sliced bacon, lb.	1.89	1.92	1.97
Pull sausage, 1 lbs.	3.51	3.32	3.21
Smoked shank ham, lb.	1.18	1.22	1.10
Spare ribs, lb.	1.62	1.58	1.51
Whole fryers, lb.	75	.76	.73
Cut-up fryers, lb.	.83	.91	.89
Fryer breasts, lb.	1.52	1.56	1.52
Grade A lg. eggs, doz.	.82	.90	.92
Grade A lg. eggs, doz.	.79	.84	.81
Whole milk, gallon	2.02	1.81	1.96
Two percent milk, gal.	1.84	1.76	1.77
Cottage cheese, 12 oz.	.96	.96	.89
Am. cheese slices, lb.	2.41	2.16	2.10
Cheddar cheese, lb.	2.56	2.47	2.43
Butter, lb.	2.15	2.26	2.25
Oleo margarine, lb.	.56	.53	.53
Vanilla ice cream, ½ gal.	1.70	1.66	1.67
Frozen corn, 10 oz.	.62	.67	.59
Idaho potatoes, 10 lbs.	2.28	2.06	1.81
Tomatoes, each	.33	.35	.37
Delicious apples, lb.	.53	.63	.67
Lettuce, head	.64	.86	.86
Bell peppers, each	.33	.34	.42
Tomatoes, lb.	.73	.90	.98
Bread, lb.	.73	.75	.78
Whole wheat bread, lb.	.91	.86	.90
Corn bread, 5 lbs.	1.41	1.22	1.32
All purpose flour, 5 lbs.	.92	.98	.98
Corn oil, 24 oz.	1.58	1.51	1.39
Vegetable oil, 24 oz.	1.37	1.46	1.41
Canned tomatoes, 16 oz.	.34	.36	.33
Dill pickle slices, 16 oz.	1.02	1.06	1.06
Soy sauce, 5 oz.	.52	.58	.59
Potato chips, 8 oz. bags	1.14	1.09	1.11
Total marketbasket	58.44	57.00	58.51

AT&T introduces information display

AT&T's Louisville office has announced plans to manufacture and market a high-contrast, distortion-free, information display screen that is so thin and lightweight it can be easily slipped into a briefcase.

The new device is an alternating current (AC) plasma display - a thin, flat sandwich of glass and two gases — argon and neon. A typical plasma display is a little more than an inch thick and weighs less than four pounds. In contrast, display screens used in today's computers and other read-out devices are usually 10 times as bulky and more than twice as heavy.

Inside the new display, a unique electrode structure charges the gas until it glows. These electrified gases called plasma can be controlled to form standard characters and graphics.

AT&T's plasma screen represents an improvement over displays now available in that it can be comfortably viewed in a wide variety of lighting conditions and from angles up to 70 degrees off center. Applications could include hand-held electronic terminals used for factory inventory management or medical/classroom settings; videotex-style information access centers located in public areas such as airports; and personal computers.

The new device can also be tailored for special applications by either customers or AT&T design engineers.

According to Jerry Coyne, director, AT&T plasma display, "Flat panel displays can be used in a variety of settings where the size and weight of standard display screens make using a computer difficult, such as at a hospital patient's bedside or in a factory clean room where space is at a premium. With devices of this sort, AT&T intends to meet head on those information processing needs that continue to move well beyond the confines of the standard office environment."

Prototype plasma panel displays are now in production at AT&T Technology Systems' manufacturing location in Reading, PA.

Trailer burns

County Fire Chief Mark Hughes submitted the following fire report.

Tuesday, Dec. 31, a trailer belonging to James Bradley, nine miles out on Ky. 32, was a complete loss to fire. Origin of blaze is unknown.

Thursday, Jan. 2, approximately two acres of grass on the property of David Swartz on Lower Jacktown Road, burned. Fire resulted from burning old lumber.

On Monday, Jan. 6, a vacant house belonging to Presley Kendall about six miles out on the Locust Grove Road, was a complete loss, as well as about three acres of grass. Origin unknown.

The Jim Moore residence on Route 32, Myers, received damage to a bedroom wall and rafters in the ceiling Monday, Jan. 6. Origin of fire unknown.

No damage resulted from creosote build-up in the chimney of a house owned by James Anderson on Short Stoney Creek Road. Call was received Monday, Jan. 6 from Phillip Crewe, tenant.

Jurors checks

Checks for jurors serving September through December 1985 are prepared and may be picked up in the Circuit Clerk's office, according to Sally Watkins, Nicholas circuit clerk.

Wildlife Club to award trophies for deer kills

The Nicholas County Wildlife Club will present trophies to club members who were successful in filling their deer tag during the 1985 gun-bow season, at a meeting Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Nicholas County Library.

Trophies will be presented for the largest rack with a gun; largest rack with a bow, and the largest doe by field dressed body weight with a bow.

To be eligible for the awards, verification of rack from a taxidermist and verification of the field dressed weight for the doe must be presented. Only deer taken in Kentucky are eligible.