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Postal Patron

The Carlisle Mercury

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Literacy program to give training

The Nicholas County Adult Literacy Program will offer a training course for prospective reading tutors Monday, February 9 and Tuesday, February 16, at 4:30 p.m. at Nicholas Elementary School.

People who wish to volunteer for this valuable tutoring service which will help adult non-readers learn to read may enroll by calling Jane Becker at the Nicholas County Board of Education (285-294) or Helen Hamilton (285-204).

Christine Horgan, coordinator of the Harrison County Adult Literacy Program, will be the instructor. Horgan is a certified Literacy Instructor and she was trained at the Lexington Community College.

Eight volunteer tutors received certificates at the Harrison County training session January 9 and 10 and students are already receiving instruction.

The program is off to a good start but it still needs citizen involvement. Citizens can be involved in the program not only as tutors but as record keepers, telephoners, drivers, if a student lacks transportation and other activities.

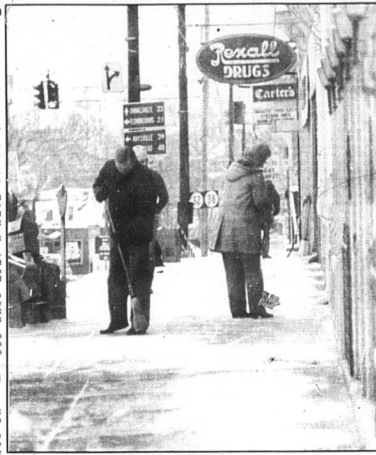
Citizens can tell a friend, a relative, or a neighbor who might use the services about this program that will provide a measureable, time-student reading instruction.

Remember, the non-reader needs someone to tell him or her about this help—that is, until he or she learns to read.

Candidate filing deadline nears

Nicholas County Clerk Rose Scott has released the following information regarding candidate filing deadlines: All those wishing to run for Carlisle City Council or other city offices have until 4 p.m., February 26, 1987, to file for candidacy. This deadline applies to partisan and non-partisan primary candidates.

The filing date for those running as Independents is August 27. In order to run as an Independent, party affiliation must be changed to indicate the same.



David Zachary, owner of Hopkins Drug on Main Street in Carlisle, along with employee Virginia Flora do a little winter clean-up following last Friday's light snow in the county. Most merchants were out early with brooms and a generous amount of salt to clear the local walkways. Although snowfall in Nicholas County was less than two inches, total, across the State of Kentucky, especially in the east and south, snowfall of up to a foot was reported, with numerous closings reported. —Mark Reed Photo.

Homestead Exemptions increased for 1987

By Hank Reed
Of The Mercury Staff

Homestead Exemptions for those

eligible will increase 5.45 percent for 1987 and 1988 tax periods. The change will cost Nicholas County a little more than \$25,000 in

property eligible for tax in 1987. Kentucky Revenue Secretary Gary Gillis has announced qualified persons, who are over 65 years of age or are totally disabled can claim a Homestead Exemption up to \$17,100.

The amount of the Homestead Exemption is adjusted every two years to account for changes in the purchasing power of the dollar. Gillis said the exemption has increased from \$6,200 in 1972 to the current \$17,100 as a result of changes in the consumer price index. The exemption was \$15,000 in 1985 and 1986.

Not raising hogs!

To Editor of The Carlisle Mercury

My friend over in Fleming County received a \$1,000 check from the government for not raising corn, so I'm going into the "not raising hogs business" this year.

What I want to know is, in your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to raise hogs on, and what is the best kind of hogs not to raise? I would prefer not to raise Hazo-backs. But if that is not a good breed not to raise, I would just as gladly not raise Forkshires or Durocs or Red Waddles.

My friend is very happy about the future of his business. He has been raising corn for 40 years, and the best he ever made was \$1,000 in 1980, until this year when he got a check for \$1,000 for not raising corn.

If I can get \$1,000 for not raising 50 pigs, and then get \$2,000 for not raising 100, I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 pigs, which means I will have \$80,000. Then I can buy me a boat.

Now another thing. These hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand that I may be able to qualify for not raising corn. So I wonder, if I could collect anything from the government for not raising corn to feed the hogs I am not going to raise? I want to get started as soon as possible, as this seems to be a good year not to raise hogs or corn. Sincerely,
Tom Hensley
Ewing, Ky.
P. S.

I wonder if I could raise a few hogs on the side for home use, while I'm in the not raising hog business, and a small patch of corn to feed the hogs without penalty?

Dropping out

A trip to nowhere

By Hank Reed
Of The Mercury Staff

This is the first in a series. Dropping out of high school has a dramatic impact on the life of a person. It is not simply a question of being able to skip school everyday. It has evolved past that simple explanation.

About 120 years ago there was a graduate of the United States, who for lack of opportunity, only had a sixth grade education.

This man had established himself as a great politician, as well as a lawyer. Today, however, it isn't possible to be a lawyer with a sixth grade education.

There is no restriction on the office of president, however it is highly unlikely a person without a high school diploma, and even more education, will ever attain that position, as did Abraham Lincoln.

The school systems of Kentucky have learned together to work on the problems of high school dropouts, along with the many other facets of education.

It is quite obvious this is not, as it will continue to be, an easy task. It takes a great deal of time and effort for school systems to reach the goal of no dropouts.

It takes effort from parents, teachers, administrators, and of course, students. Nicholas County Schools have made tremendous strides in cutting the dropout rate.

This has not been a singular effort. Betty Lynn Conrad, a veteran educator, has been the director of pupil personnel for Nicholas County Schools for over 15 years.

According to the experience of this job, to her years in the classroom and as a school administrator, makes her

keenly aware of the need for students to stay in school. Here is a brief look at the reduction of dropouts in Nicholas County over the past three years.

Year	Dropout percentage
1984	4.1 percent
1985	3.2 percent
1986	2.9 percent

The state mandated dropout percentage normal is 4.26 percent.

If a school system falls below the state mandated number for the dropout percentage, changes must be made. Each school system must file a performance report with the state each year, and from the figure on those reports school systems are evaluated.

Should a school system have a number higher than the state allows, then existing programs within the system are reviewed, additions made, and a new plan of action put into motion.

Conrad said it is important to identify problem areas as quickly as possible. "Although the figures for Nicholas County are greatly improved, one variable can make the actual long-term percentage even better than what is reported to the state. "In some cases many who hope a student will dropout and return to school the following year. "The change is not reflected in the actual percentage from the previous year, but it is important to get those students back in school," Conrad said.

—NEXT: How involvement by teachers, administrators and parents can help.



Mark Hughes, right, chief of the Nicholas County Volunteer Fire Department, receives a \$200 check from Tom Tucker, South Central Bell District Manager. According to Hughes, the donation will be applied to the cost of the recently purchased new fire truck. Tucker said, the donation is a regular part of Bell's participation in local communities. —Mark Reed Photo.



Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Steve Beshear, President of the Kentucky Senate (left), takes the annual \$25,000 Ford (14-cylinder) during the annual Ford award ceremony in Frankfort, Kentucky. Beshear said the award was named in honor of the late Senator John C. Breckinridge, a member of the State and a member of the Agriculture and Education Committee. —Mark Reed Photo.