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Medical waste not considered problem in Nicholas County

By Julie Pfeiffer

People on the East Coast are having their summers limited by biomedical waste washing up on their beaches.

While Nicholas County may be sheltered from that horror, many consider biomedical waste an issue of concern.

The Kentucky regulations on biomedical waste are included in a booklet called "Communicable Disease Regulations of Kentucky."

Cathy Bruner, RN, is an Infection Control Nurse at the Johnson Matthey Healthcare Center. She explained the regulations require that the hospital have their own written policy saying that these things are segregated from other waste, and are disposed of.

"This summer's medical waste problem is far more serious than the bloody syringes and vile specimens that have washed up," said Rep. Ron Wyden, D., Ore., chairman of the House Small Business subcommittee on regulation and business opportunities. "These foul products are only the residue of a national waste management system that is broken and overloaded and starting to regurgitate what it cannot keep down."

He also attacked the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to set minimum standards for the handling, transportation and disposal of medical wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Bruner explained that the hospitals waste is disposed of by Browning Ferris Industries. This company takes the waste, after it has been autoclaved (sterilized) at the hospital and transports it to Memphis TN. Soon, though, they will be transporting it to a newly constructed incinerator in Louisville.

"All waste is autoclaved and put into a landfill, or, it is somehow rendered unusable, she said. BFI is licensed by the federal government.

The EPA rejected mandatory regulations, saying educational efforts remain the key.

"EPA's ongoing educational and technical assistance efforts should be sufficient to resolve these issues," Jeffrey D. Dent, deputy director of the Office of Solid Waste, said in prepared testimony. "EPA will consider regulations only if education and guidance fail to improve current management practices."

Dent added that studies indicate hospital waste is "generally less virulent than typical domestic waste."

Clarifying Dent's statement, Bruner said when a person is sick at home, they simply throw away things they have used while they've been ill. In a hospital, the things that are used for a patient are cleaned and then thrown away.

Education about waste has been addressed in Nicholas County. All of the Infection Control staff has been briefed by a Fayette County sanitation expert. He explained things such as how waste degrades in a landfill. She said his talk did help her understand a great deal about hospital waste.

Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman called for strict federal penalties and jail sentences for illegal dumpers and a manifest system to track the route of hospital trash.

Infectious waste is essentially a loaded gun and should be legally recognized as such," Holtzman said.

Congress is considering a variety of measures to toughen penalties and create a tracking system.

"There is no right or wrong answer," Bruner said, about what to do with hospital waste, except comply with standards that they do have.

Portions of this article were contributed by the Associated Press



New business moving in - Workmen labored several hours unloading trucks to fill the Dollar General Store, located in the old Lerman's Building in downtown Carlisle. The store is expected to open in the next several days. - Hank Bond Photo. See related story page 10

Newspaper great Bingham dies at 82 of brain tumor

By Mark Chelgren
Associated Press Writer
FRANKFORT (AP) - From improved facilities for the mortally ill to the gleaming Kennedy Center for the Arts, Harry Bingham Sr. left an indelible mark on his state.

Bingham, who published The (Louisville) Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times from 1937 until 1971, died at his Louisville home on Monday. He was 82.

He had undergone treatment in Boston and Louisville since learning he had a brain tumor last year.

All of us at The Courier-Jour-

nal family mourn the passing of Harry Bingham, Sr., who led this institution of journalistic greatness and who, with his wife Mary, contributed so much to the community," said George N. Gill, president and publisher of The Courier-Journal.

"The tradition he established serves as a continuing memorial to his high sense of journalistic responsibility," Gill said.

"Mr. Bingham's leadership in education, mental health, civil rights, politics and humanitarian causes has shown he is a beacon from Louisville for

conduct the day long training session covering topics from School Board policies to care and maintenance of the bus.

The most important topic of the day, Grimes said, is explaining House Bill 220. If a car passes a bus, while it is loading or unloading the owner of the car, not necessarily the driver, is responsible for the violation.

Grimes also wanted to remind drivers to watch out for buses early in the morning and

to exercise great caution in the next few weeks.

Topics such as pupil management, accident and emergency procedures, and extra-curricular trips were included in the agenda for the day.

Pupil management, he said, is more than keeping kids in their seats. Grimes said he would like to see the drivers establish a rapport with the children.

Keeping a clear head is the main message when dealing with accidents and emergencies. Their responsibilities in those situations are to keep the injured breathing, to prevent bleeding and to protect them from shock, he said. Assessing the situation, staying calm and thinking through the situation are also important to remember, he added.

Extra-curricular trips, Grimes said, have to be well-planned, and the bus drivers must be aware of the plant; where to park, whether toll roads are involved and contingency plans.

Stressing their motto "Safety first, schedule second," Elder and Grimes began the seminar with a talk from Bill White on railroad safety.

Operation Lifesaver is a free

Weather Summary

Agri - Forecast Synopsis: High pressure will dominate weather through Wednesday. Minimum humidity will be around 40 percent. Light and variable wind - 12 hours of sunshine. Moderate to heavy dew. Calm wind.

Wednesday...High 95 to 105. Minimum humidity will be around 40 percent. Light and variable wind 12 hours of sunshine.

Soil temperatures at a depth of four inches are averaging in the low to mid 80s and will rise a few degrees through Wednesday.

The livestock weather safety index will rise into the danger category during the next few afternoons and may reach into the emergency category for a few hours.

Extended forecast
Thursday through Saturday
Continued hot and muggy with a chance of thunderstorms each day. High in the 90s. Low 70 to 75. Humidity levels will be high at times.

Nicholas County school bus drivers spend day in update training to learn proper vehicle operations

By Julie Pfeiffer
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
Nicholas County bus drivers spent Monday morning and part of the afternoon in a training session.

The six hours spent in the seminar are part of nine hours required to update their bus driver certification, Nicholas County School superintendent Dan Elder explained.

He and Federal Program coordinator Bill Grimes will

to exercise great caution in the next few weeks.

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Operation Lifesaver is a free

Concentration and awareness were the most important aspects of the discussion.

For example, he said the most dangerous crossing you will ever come across is the one you are "crossing" day in and day out." He explained you take the crossing for granted, until there is a train on it.

At the end of his presentation, White explained that his discussions with bus drivers are "close to his heart" and people who drive school buses are very special people.

See Other Health News Inside Page 6



Nicholas County school bus drivers spent last Monday in update training classes. - Julie Pfeiffer Photo