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Blue Licks undergoing renovation

By Heather Mathes
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Diving and splashing into blue, cool waters with the warm June sun at your back, camping out and listening to crows' nesting out a rhythm after a fun filled day or walking the same trail as pioneers and the first natives of Kentucky, the Indians...

These are the stuff dreams are made of, but dreams of a different sort.

Dreams of summer fun such as these are beginning to form in the minds of Nicholas County residents with Blue Licks State Park leaving the responsibility of providing enjoyment for all.

Blue Licks State Park is in the stages of completing an entire face-lift to the benefit of

those wishing to enjoy the park's many services.

First, the pool will be opening Saturday, May 28, during Memorial Day weekend with changes and to end.

According to Sam Devine, park superintendent, the pool will be one of the best aquatic facilities in the state of Kentucky.

The pool is undergoing one of two phases of reconstruction.

Devine explained, "The pool itself has been sand-blasted, all plumbing and piping removed and replaced with new equipment and a new concrete deck has been installed."

We are now in the process of putting in a new cedar fence in place of the old chain

link, garden walls, new ladders and life guard chairs and all will definitely be ready by May 28, our opening date," said Devine.

Later in the fall, phase two will be activated.

"Phase two will begin in the fall and will include attaching the entire building adjacent to the pool, rebuilding the whole roof and extending the roof over the eating area with partial enclosures," he said.

Pool hours will continue to be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. after opening day May 28.

Another change to be enjoyed this year is the expansion of the museum.

Devine said, "We have expanded displays such as the Blue Licks Water Display, wood-working tools on display and offer even more items to view."

"We have also removed the audio-visual room and replaced it with a pioneer room which includes a huge stone fireplace, small bed with trundle, looms, and other original pioneer utensils and tools," said Devine.

Blue Licks has also renovated much of the downstairs rooms and temporary displays.

"We have items such as paintings and a piano on loan from General Butler's (A Revolutionary War hero) residence in Carrollton and also have a room downstairs that will hold rotating displays from other museums when visiting picks up this summer," said Devine.

Another area of enjoyment, the miniature golf course, has also undergone some major renovation.

The course now has new signs, new equipment and plant shading besides a full parking area.

The golf course is now open on weekends and will be opening full time in mid-May," he said.

Blue Licks area gift shop has received major changes as well but has also been awarded for these changes.

"All of the state parks representatives attended a craft show sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Arts and we then decided to actually showcase Kentucky crafts."

We had previously been considered a souvenir shop but can now boast a Kentucky Craft Shop that spotlights the talent contained in our state.

At another juried show based on quality and sponsored by the same department held in Louisville in March, Mrs. Martha Wilkinson honored us with the award for the "Best Overall Craft Presentation" with a pewter plate and a plaque," said Devine.

He added, "This is certainly an honor since we are about the smallest shop in the state parks but have worked hard to deserve the honor."

The shop now features sterling jewelry and other jewelry made by Kentucky craftsmen, an item called "Sport Works" (a sweatshirt actually sported with cloth paint to produce a design), besides the usual souvenir items.

The entrance to the park is in the process of renovation also.

The entrance will now be 24 feet wide to handle large RV's and two lane traffic but will have the same stone entrance and signs.

All this will also enable campers to turn directly into the camping area from the entry-way," said Devine.

He added, "We have added plus for campers with children because we have new playground equipment that will be installed and campers swim free."

Also, the rates have changed so that children 12 and under do not have to pay where last year it was six and under.

Rates are the same according to \$10 for two people and \$1 for each added person over 12.

This summer, there are several activities planned at the park.

Besides the special exhibits at the museum we have concerts and shows planned.

"The Renaissance" will fall on the actual anniversary of the battle, August 19-21," said Devine.

"A consultant will be retained to locate cottages on the river which will be constructed by next summer.

Finally, cottages will also be constructed by next year.

Overall, the park has had a new face-lift and is available for public enjoyment.

There has been a new brochure with a map of the park and map of the outlying areas for better instructions to the park's facilities, general synopsis of the history behind Blue Licks, the names of all who died at the battle of Blue Licks and is available at the park if visitors have further questions.

Representatives Arnold and Worthington have been real park supporters and worked really hard to get us the funds we needed to turn the park around," Devine added.

Greecy.

Extended Forecast for Kentucky

National Weather Service Louisville KY

Thursday through Saturday

Partly cloudy and warm. Low mostly in the 50s and high in the 80s.



Nicholas County senior Sonya Johnson won national acclaim for her science project in Knoxville. The inset, at left, is a portion of her display.

Johnson wins national award

By Heather Mathes
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

During high school, students take biology as a requirement and enjoy working and learning in the lab.

However, one student at Nicholas County High School has taken science to new heights and has been recognized internationally for her work in the field of medical technology.

Sonya Denise Johnson, a senior and student in Biology III, traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee to compete in the International Science Fair held May 8-14.

The trip was funded by the Regional Science Fair at Morehead State University.

Johnson was honored by being one of ten to achieve the American Medical Association Award and received \$250 along with an engraved plaque.

According to Kathy Green, sponsor, teacher and consultant for the project, the award was applicable to those projects that were related to the field of health and medicine.

The number of students competing for this award

ranged from approximately Nicholas County High School 120-140.

Only ten were chosen.

Johnson also placed fourth in the section of Biochemistry for which she received \$100.

The projects were set up in the Knoxville Convention Center and judged by, according to Green, scientists from around the country.

The number of scientists (estimated at 820) almost doubled the number of competitors (721) and conducted extensive interviews.

Johnson's project had 20 judges alone.

It was recommended by the judges that Johnson publish her work.

Green said, "We are looking into the legalities of such work and must explore things further before anything will be done on that."

This summer the University of Kentucky has offered Johnson a job in the diagnostic department to further her research.

Johnson is already committed to a \$2,500 a year scholarship.

Green said, "I was really neat to hear" and from Knoxville Tennessee on May Carlisle Kentucky at 12, 1988.

Johnson's award read: In commendation of an exemplary and original exhibit in health and medical sciences and health field displayed at the 20th International Science and Engineering Fair in Knoxville Tennessee on May 8-14, 1988.

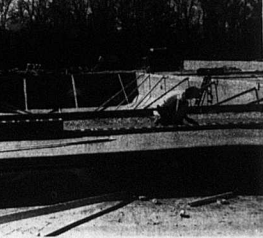
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Above, a new sign marks the entrance of Blue Licks State Park, while below workmen move ahead with renovation work and new construction at the park. - Heather Mathes Photo



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