

# WELCOME

1989 In Review - Jan. thru June begins on Page 1

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**THE CARLISLE MERCURY**  
*Keeping You In Touch — Our Community Commitment*  
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## Visitor experiences first Christmas

**By Josh Shepley**  
**Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
 This has been a year of many firsts for Thailand exchange student Panattia "June" Tansui, who is living with the family of Dr. Leon Riggs. Among them are winter, temperatures below 50 degrees, snow and the observance of Christmas.

Her first experience with Christmas will more than likely be a white one, which suits her just fine, she said. She loves the snow though the cold has left much for her to desire.

In Thailand, where the majority of the populace practices Buddhism, her knowledge of Christmas was limited to watching children sit in Santa Claus' lap in the malls of Bangkok. She knew little of the deeper significance of Christmas as a Christian.

Yet, with her first experience of holidays in the United States, Christmas is the best holiday she has ever seen.

"This is the first time I have ever really known or seen the depth of Christmas or its traditions," she said.

"I plan to celebrate it every year when I go home." June was not ignorant of Christmas. Though not predominant in Thailand, there is a small number who attend Christmas church in her town and there exist some elements of the traditions celebrated during the season.

But before she came to the state, the only conception she had of the holiday was Santa Claus.

However, there are some parallels to the Christmas spirit involved in Buddhist celebrations.

On the day of the full moon in May, her people celebrate the the Visakha Bucha, in memory of the Buddha, the legendary prophet who led his people to God.

In Buddhist belief, Buddha was born and, on the same day years afterward, received from the temple doors as a young child and de- veloped the Buddhist doctrine and, later, died on the same day.

To celebrate the Visakha Bucha, 3,000 monks march through the streets of Bangkok and are gathered around the same place as people to God.

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## Cold causes slow starts, tough going; home owners suffer, outage reported

**The Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
 About 800 Fleming-Mason RECC customers in three counties experienced a power outage when a phase wire burned out at the Murphysville substation in Mason County.

Terry Lytle, installation superintendent at the RECC in Flemingsburg, said about 100 Nicholas county residences were affected by the outage, which occurred December 22, 12:30-3:05 a.m.

The electric blackout was caused by extremely cold temperatures, Lytle said.

"When it gets this cold, lines tighten up. It's not uncommon," he said.

Lytle said that Fleming-Mason RECC experienced a number of outages in its service area due to cold temperatures.

Mark Hughes, Nicholas County fire chief, said the cold and snow is also making work conditions difficult for the department.

"It's making it rough. It (snow) makes our response time slower," Hughes said.

The fire chief also said that cold temperatures affected equipment.

"Even though we drain our pump, water still freezes in the pump when in transport. It's that cold," Hughes said.

Hughes said that fire hazards increase during winter because of the use of wood and kerosene heaters.

"We've had six fires in two weeks due to wood stoves," he said.

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## It's an end of a decade - a look at 1989

**JANUARY**  
 Thursday, January 5, 1989  
 The State Transportation Cabinet road crews are in place to deal with any accumulation of snow as the roads will be cleared quickly.

Paying your child support payments more than Christmas is implemented at Nicholas County Attorney's Child Support Division.

Rick Baker a Somerset native joins the Carlisle Mercury staff as managing editor.

The Nicholas County High School Boys Basketball team lose a heartbreaker to Montgomery County by a score of 77-71 in the opening round of the Montgomery County Classic.

BORN: Sarah Christina Willoughby, December 23, 1988; Lay Lynn Allison, December 21, 1988; Lisa Marie Gay, December 27, 1988.

DIED: Mrs. Florence Marie Mitchell, 68, Saturday; Truman S. Dixon, 86, December 29, 1988; Carroll G. Robinson, 62, at his home.

Frank Estill Garrard, 56, December 28, 1988.

Thursday, January 12, 1989  
 Nicholas County Board of Education has effectively limited the number of students who are residents of Nicholas County that will be allowed to attend schools outside of Nicholas County.

Nicholas County Board of Education has a new board chairman and a new vice chairman, James Anderson, a 10 year veteran of the Nicholas County Board was elected.

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## Christmas sales called spirited in Carlisle

**By Jeff Spurling**  
**Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
 The prognosis appears to be good for Carlisle merchants this Christmas.

Traditionally the strongest selling period for retailers, Christmas is no different for Carlisle this year.

"It's gone real well," said Judy Judge, who works at Country Collectibles.

"Christmas is probably the best season for anyone, no matter what business they're in," Judge said.

And, it appears that the recent bitter cold weather and snow has not put a dent in the shopping spirit locally.

"Possibly the cold is helpful. People are leery about traveling. Even on some of the really bad days, it was busy," she said.

"Cold weather never keeps people away at Christmas time," said Carty Lester, owner of Lester's Family Store.

Carty, who has spent seven years at his current Main Street location, said his Christmas sales are "probably a little bit ahead of last year."

Mary Elizabeth Garrett, whose family has owned Garrett Furniture in Carlisle for about 38 years, said the business is selling a variety of items this Christmas.

"Furniture is something people buy for themselves for Christmas," she said.

Popular seasonal purchases at the furniture store fall under what Garrett terms accessory pieces, such as desks and chairs.

"Appliances and televisions make better gifts. We sell a lot of pictures and lamps for Christmas," Garrett said.

Though she said that the furniture store's sales may be slightly off last year's mark, business "days pretty steady. We are pleased."

"We have a lot of nice customers in and out of town."

Eddie Briery, owner of Eddie's Restaurant, said his eatery picks up quite a few of the Christmas shoppers in Carlisle.

"If they come into town shopping, they usually stop in (to eat)," Briery said.

Briery said the day after Thanksgiving (one of the biggest shopping days of the Christmas season) was excep-

Inset Photo Submitted - The Carlisle Mercury Josh Shepley Photo  
 Above right, June Tansui poses with her parents, brother and sister in Thailand, at the Bangkok Airport seated in front of the fireplace in the home of her American hosts, Dr. Leon and Ginger Riggs. She will return to her home country.

