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Keeping You In Touch - Our Community Commitment

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Making Halloween a safety filled night

By Randolph E. Schmidt Associated Press Writer

In the dark of night the ghouls and witches will soon be setting forth on their rounds, seeking to ransom gifts from American families. To keep the fun in Halloween, speakers, adults need to give safety some advance thought and planning.

Among the top considerations in visibility, say safety experts. Children out on their trick-or-treat rounds need to be easily seen, and it is vital to see where they are going.

"Make or buy costumes light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists," urges the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission. "With the sun setting earlier at this time of year, the children will most likely be out in the dark, and if they dress in dark costumes they can be nearly impossible to see."

Complicating matters is the charge from daylight to standard time just a couple days before Halloween, meaning that sunset will occur an hour earlier than people are accustomed to.

Black and other dark colors are popular with many children when it comes to Halloween costumes, but these can be decorated with reflective tape to make them easily seen at night. Bags or socks can also be trimmed with this tape, which can be purchased at most hardware and sporting goods stores.

Trick or Treat in Carlisle Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.

Nicholas County Hospital Will X-Ray Candy 7:30 - 8:30 October 31 Free of Charge

that the product will resist crushing and that the candy will not melt. Flimsy materials and containers with big, lumpy skirts and sleeves should be avoided because of the danger of contact with candles or other sources of fire.

Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling and sturdy, well-fitting shoes are the best idea. Mom's high heels may look cute, but can be hazardous to inexperienced wearers.

Every year reports circulate of people hiding dangerous items in the candy they give out, so children should be advised not to eat any of their goodies until they get home. The candy and fruit should be inspected by an adult before the child eats it. In some communities hospitals offer a free X-ray service for Halloween candy at the Nicholas County Hospital on Oct. 31. Of course, smaller children should be accompanied by an older child or an adult when trick-or-treating.

Remind all youngsters not to run out from between cars and to go only to homes where the porch light has been lit as a sign they are welcome. Homeowners also need to consider that trick or treaters will be arriving and remove anything that could trip them or cause a hazard.

Fall is a common cause of accidents on Halloween, warns the National Coalition to Prevent Childhood Injury.

Child's jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from porches and door steps where children can upset them or knock against them. Be wary of getting flames too close to curtains or other items.

Give pets some thought on Halloween, too, adds the Humane Society of the United States.

To begin with, keep them inside. There are people who will injure animals at this time of year, with black cats and dogs particularly vulnerable to cruelty.

Even dogs in their own yards aren't necessarily safe, so keep pets inside or go out with them on Halloween.

Gum, cookies and candy can make pets ill, so don't let them share with the kids.



A trailer owned by Bill Clark and rented by Jamie and Nancy Treadway was completely destroyed Thursday morning after the Treadways left for work. The Nicholas County Fire Department arrived at 7 a.m. but fire had spread too quickly to save the mobile home. According to Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes said no cause for the fire has been determined.

Babbage calls audit "routine"

Nicholas State Auditor Bob Babbage told The Carlisle Mercury the current audit of Nicholas County government is proceeding smoothly, and answered questions about the audit process.

The auditor explained there are 120 audits going on in the state of Kentucky at this time.

In an effort to catch-up on audits from many years, Babbage said he and his staff are committed to having completed reports before the 1990 General Assembly.

The verification of taxes paid to Nicholas County's occupation office, is an "usual and routine" part of the county's annual audit, State Auditor Bob Babbage said in a phone interview, Tuesday.

Babbage noted that in order to properly perform an audit of the administration of a local occupation tax, it was routine to ask occupation taxpayers to provide records to verify the county's receipts.

This process tells us whether taxpayers pay their taxes and government receives and deposits all the funds due," he said.

"In order to save time auditors will often try to obtain the necessary information by phone," Babbage noted.

"In addition, some 35 Nicholas County occupation taxpayers will be contacted by mail and will be asked to provide information about their payments of occupational net profit and gross payroll tax for the 12 month period which ended June 30, 1989," Babbage explained.

Babbage explained that he had engaged the services of private audit firms to work in Nicholas and 29 other counties this year.

Babbage explained that several questions regarding the audit of the county occupation tax had been reported to his office via his toll-free phone line.

The occupation tax in Nicholas County is a new program and some misunderstandings are sure to arise with the routine audit of any new program, Babbage explained.

"The information being requested by auditors is routinely used to verify county government's administration of the occupation and payroll tax," Babbage explained.

Babbage stressed that individual taxpayers being asked to assist with the routine audit are not being audited or investigated.

Their records are necessary to verify county government records.

Babbage clarified that his office's responsibility was to audit and report what was found during audits.

The law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to report the findings in county government audits to the County Judge - Executive, the Fiscal Court and to the public.

The law also requires that the summary transmittal letter to the county officials be published in the local paper with the largest bona fide paid circulation, published in the county.

Investigations are conducted by other proper state agencies he explained.

If any office finds situations of wrongdoing we do make a thorough check and cooperate by sharing our records with the proper agencies," Babbage added.

He stated that the usual agencies which he cooperates included the Department of Local Government and Attorney General's Office or other agencies which have investigator powers.

Parenting - Family Life open house Nov. 9

The Parenting - Family Life Skills Committee will host a public meeting Thursday, November 9, at 7 p.m. at the Nicholas County Elementary School to present the materials to be used in the Parenting - Family Life Skills curriculum to parents and interested citizens.

Those attending the meeting will have the opportunity to review filmstrips, films, videos and printed material that will be used in the teaching of Parenting - Family Life Skills curriculum. Instructional material used for the Human Sexuality Phase of the curriculum will be available at the Nicholas County Elementary and Nicholas County High Schools beginning November 9, through December 20, for review by parents, students and other interested citizens.

These materials will be organized and located in the library of each building for the convenience of those who wish to review them.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Jane Becker, 289-2264.

The Parenting - Family Life Skills Curriculum Committee is comprised of 19 parents, citizens and community leaders and educators. They have worked under the guidance of Dr. Timothy Scott since February 1989, in developing a curriculum and reviewing material to be used in the teaching of this program.

The curriculum emphasizes developing positive self-esteem and self-concept, determining values, setting goals, decision-making, communication skills and conflict resolution, peer pressure, substance abuse prevention, personal safety and prevention of violence, human growth and development, human sexuality, responsible sexual behavior emphasizing premarital abstinence, sexually transmitted diseases, including life skills.

The curriculum has been presented to and accepted by the local school board and the Kentucky Department of Education.

Road closed three days

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet plans to remove box culverts located on Kentucky 1285 in Nicholas County, according to John Keith, chief district engineer, with the Flemingburg office.

Work will be done by state forces. It will be necessary to close KY 1285 at this location on October 24 for approximately three days.

A detour will be provided via KY 26 and KY 57 to job site.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet regrets the inconvenience to the traveling public; however, the replacement of these box culverts will provide many years of service to the traveling public in this area.