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Homecoming Nicholas downs happiness !! Berea, 43 - 0

THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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A smiling queen - Nicholas County High School senior Deonna Frymon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Thomas Frymon, was crowned homecoming queen of the Nicholas County Berea football game, last Friday night. She was escorted by David Breit, son of Chester Breit. Deonna is captain of the Nicholas County High School varsity cheerleaders, secretary of the senior class, and a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of Louisville following graduation.

Negative reactions justified, says Elder

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Nicholas County Superintendent Donald Elder said negative reactions among school superintendents state-wide on the School Management Assistance rankings is justified.

Among the members of a state appointed committee to review the criteria on which county schools were ranked are two school superintendents who have raised the loudest voices of protest over the ranking determinations. Fayette and Jefferson counties.

Nicholas County ranked at 110 which does not come near the point where the state would consider taking over management of school funds, according to a report in the Lexington Herald Leader.

"The criterion that goes into making the determination of how well the administration handles money does not take into account expenses we put into our school system for aides in our special education program and kindergarten program, expenditures which we feel are necessary to improve the quality of these programs."

One of the criteria which Elder said he finds ridiculous in rating Nicholas County is the amount of the budget being invested in banking and bus transportation. According to the criterion associated with bus transportation, a complex formula is devised which is based in part on the number of miles a bus is driven and the population density of the area where children are picked up.

On the transportation criterion, Elder said it is an unfair estimate because of places buses need to go to pick up children.

"There are families with school children that live in areas in the county which are sparsely populated. One of our buses drives seven miles of the main road in order to pick up one child. It would be nice to have bus stops where we could pick up 20-25 children at a time, but the county isn't populated that way. Are we to deny bus transportation to children because they live too far away and it wouldn't be cost efficient to pick

them up? Sort of defeats the purpose of buses," Elder said.

The income to the school, some assessors say would be better invested in Cincinnati where the money can draw almost 10 percent interest, but Elder said it is easier and more supportive of county taxpayers to keep school money invested in local banks.

However, though Elder is critical of the way the Management Assistance program makes its determination, he said the idea is good because it makes school boards more accountable for their expenditures and practices.

"The state used to throw all schools in a vat together to make their assessments of the quality and financial solvency of schools state-wide. But, as with the supreme court ruling and the testing ranks, individual schools are now forced to be accountable for what they do, and though it puts the heat on us quite often, it is an effective incentive for us to improve because the taxpayers can see how their money is being spent and how well their children are being educated and where there needs to be improvement," he said.

One method Elder felt will help improve Nicholas County's rankings further than 110 is the use of one non-resident school contracts. Nicholas County, Elder said, lost thousands of dollars in state funding because a disproportionate amount of students were attending schools outside of Nicholas County, while very few were applying to come in.

"There was one year we lost nearly \$64,000 because more students were leaving our system than were coming in. Though I respect that people want to send their kids where they want, cuts such as these were forced to deal with was harming the quality of the school further," Elder said.

"There are no disproportionate salaries anywhere in the system, Elder said, indicating the ranking.

"The most I want to do until I retire is to work to improve this system. There is a lot of room for it and I hope we can do it," Elder said.

State program may help some pay bills

By Hank Bond
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

As many as 40 have applied for a new program available from the State of Kentucky.

Under a new program, Kentucky's Medicaid Program may pay a portion of A and B premiums, co-insurance and deductibles.

Boogie Hall, who has been with the Kentucky Department of Human Resources' Carlisle office, four years, takes applications and administers the program for the Nicholas County office.

"Kentucky has set the eligibility rate at 85 percent of the poverty level to make the determination.

"At present the allowable factors are \$424 for individuals and \$609 for a couple.

"There are some who would be automatically eligible," Hall explained.

"If an individual is getting SSI and has part A of Medicare, then that individual would be eligible for the program," she added.

The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 requires the state Medicaid agency to pay the Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, Medicare co-insurance, and Medicare deductibles for certain low income Medicare beneficiaries.

Individuals who qualify for these benefits are called Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs).

An individual may receive QMB benefits in addition to regular medical assistance benefits in another category if the individual meets the eligibility requirements for regular Medi-

cal assistance to pay for QMB benefits.

Any Kentucky resident who receives Medicare Part A may apply at the local Department of Social Insurance office on Locust Street in Carlisle.

Persons who are unable to apply may have someone apply on their behalf.

• Should you have someone

apply for you, this same information must be made available to the case worker handling the application.

Note: QMB coverage is extended to co-insurance and deductibles for Medicare services or items even if the service or item is not covered by Kentucky's Medicaid Program.

Medical assistance includes payment of Medicare Part B premiums, an average of \$31.90 per month, Medicare deductibles, such as \$564 a year for hospital stays, and 20 percent of Medicare co-insurance.

Hall said, while some information has been made available to those who are eligible to participate, there are still several residents normally served by the Nicholas County office who may not know of the availability of the program.

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56th event set Sept. 27-30

By Hank Bond
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

It will mark the 56th anniversary, September 27 through September 30, of the Central Kentucky Fox Hunters Association.

The event scheduled at Clay Wildlife Reserve will be a three day hunt, two day derby state and three day all age stake.

The event is run together and scored separately affiliated with the National Fox Hunters Association.

Fox Hunting dates back to ancient Greece, then through the Roman Empire and down the path of history.

The earliest organized hunt in America, the Gloucester Fox Hunt Club, was founded October 29, 1766 by 27 Philadelphia gentlemen. It flourished for 52 years before it was dissolved in 1818.

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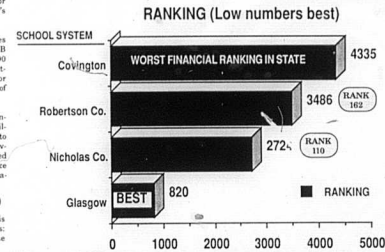
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Marshall withdraws from race

Council field is narrowed to nine - top six winners

Horace "Spud" Marshall has withdrawn from the race for Carlisle City Council.

Marshall, who has informed Nicholas County Clerk Ross Scott of his intentions to withdraw, has asked his name not appear on the ballot in the November General Election, if it is possible.

"I certainly have an interest in holding city office," Marshall said last week in the Mercury office.

Marshall said he has given the support he has been given by the Carlisle City Council race to the city.

Marshall's withdrawal gives the available seats, following the general election.

The top six voters will elect the council members.

"However, I have also been involved with the Carlisle - Nicholas County Industrial Authority for several years and should be elected I would have to resign from the authority."

"We (the authority) have worked hard to improve our position in attracting an industry to Nicholas County and I would find it extremely difficult to have to leave that at this time."

Marshall said he appreciated the support he has been given by the Carlisle City Council race.

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PTA open house, Monday

The Nicholas County Elementary PTA - Open House for 1989-90.

The theme for this year is "The Rule for Today - Join PTA."

There will be a meeting for parents to meet with the children's teachers.

Membership fee will be \$1.00 and prizes will be given to the girl or boy selling the most memberships.

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