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## Want to drive? Stay in school!

By Hank Bond  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

**CARLISLE** — There's message to those school-age children wanting to get . . . and keep . . . a driver's license: **STAY IN SCHOOL!**

With the passage of House Bill 43 by the Kentucky General Assembly, individuals under the age of 18 must present some additional data when standing in line for a driver's permit . . . and then the license.

Within 30 days of application for a driver's permit, a statement must be signed by school personnel. Nicholas County Circuit Clerk Sally Watkins, whose office handles the applications for permits and licenses, said she has not established the framework with Nicholas County Schools as yet, but there are certain rules which must be followed. These rules are set forth by the legislation.

In essence, the legislation states any individual under the age of 18 must have a letter signed by school personnel stating that individual has been attending school regularly.

Those under 18 who have graduated must present diplomas when applying for a permit and license. The legislation states a student will be deemed to have dropped out when nine or more absences are accumulated in a semester.

Absences due to suspension are counted as unexcused. Without the letter, students will be denied a permit and license.

According to one plan adopted, the letter form the school must also show students to be in good academic standing.

The new statute defines a student as academically deficient when "he has not received passing grades in at least four courses in the preceding semester."

The exact procedure for obtaining the letters from Nicholas County Schools has not been established, but will be in place by July 13, Watkins explained.

Those students being schooled at home are considered to be enrolled in school, the statute states, however, they must present similar proof.

Another provision contained in the law sets for revocation of students' licenses if they drop out of school. Once a student misses nine days of school, the superintendent is to notify the Transportation Cabinet, and the student's permit or license will be revoked.

There is an alternative, however, students may appeal a revocation of licenses and permits in district court.

The law allows the court to reinstate a driver's license if the revocation causes some sort of an economic hardship on the student's family, if the student is the only driver in the household, or if the student is no longer a drop-out or academically deficient.

## July brings new taxes for Kentucky

By Hank Bond  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

**CARLISLE** — Now that July has arrived, hot, humid, and carrying a load of new taxes, there are some things you may like to know.

There have been a number of changes made in the laws and the way taxes will be administered. These changes primarily surround legislation coming from the 1990 Kentucky General Assembly.

Boat owners traveling to Nicholas County Clerk Rose Scott's office, who pay property tax on their boats after July 1 will be assessed penalty and interest charges.

That due date was set by the last General Assembly.

There was a strong lobby to have the legislation's enactment delayed until September, since many boat owners don't register boats until the end of the season, but it failed and the law enacting the penalty and interest charges will be in effect.

With the passage of an additional 1 percent on the Kentucky State Sales Tax (now 6 percent) means the tax will be applicable to the usage tax people pay when they transfer vehicles. This change also became effective July 1.

Under House Bill 429, there are new requirements for the preparation of deeds.

With the enactment of House Bill 429 a mandate to reform the Kentucky property tax system has been established.

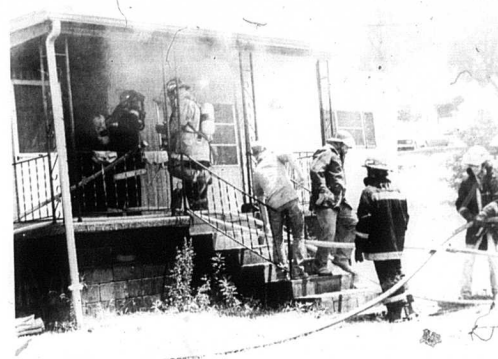
One provision of this significant piece of legislation requires that certain additional information be included in all deeds for the transfer of real property.

Falsification of the stated consideration, or sale price, of the property is now a Class D felony, subject to one to five years imprisonment and fines up to \$10,000.

It is therefore incumbent upon all persons involved in any sale, trade or transfer of real property to be aware of these new requirements and to adhere to them.

In most cases individuals buying and selling property are represented by lawyers, who make certain the contracts contain the necessary information.

"When the full price of sale is not available, such as in the case of a gift or an inheritance, those conducting the transaction must state what they think the fair cash value of the property."



The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd Photo

Fire destroyed a trailer Monday at noon occupied by Joretta Oliver on Pickrell Street in Carlisle. Both the Carlisle Fire Department and the Nicholas County Fire Department responded. The departments stayed at the scene for over an hour. According to a City Fire Department report the blaze apparently started in the kitchen area and traveled throughout the trailer causing extensive interior damage.

## Certified team visits Carlisle

By Josh Shepherd  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

**CARLISLE** — A certified cities evaluation team from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce met with city organizations and officials in Carlisle's second attempt at acceptance.

Officials from Carlisle City Council, Industrial Authority, Tourism, and the Carlisle / Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce gathered at the Mainstreet office.

Rob Hester, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, addressed evaluators with a short introduction and slide show exhibiting various aspects of Carlisle.

Along with Hester's introduction, City Supervisor Gayle Vanlandingham and Industrial Authority Chief Executive Sigurd Marshall gave evaluators updates on improvements of city facilities and new industrial establishments.

After presentations were made Kentucky Chamber of Commerce representative Jeff Eger took the podium to introduce the certified cities program.

The program is designed to help small communities develop and become successful, he said. But the difficulty for some cities becoming winners is to stay winners by keeping programs growing

and prospering over an extended period of time. The Kentucky Chamber is one of few organizations privately run and funded solely through business membership dues, Eger said.

Evaluators for certified cities are primarily volunteers from all over the state, Eger said.

He complimented the strides Carlisle has taken to improve its position from the last time the Kentucky Chamber considered it for a certified city.

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The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd Photo

A team of specialists from the Kentucky Certified Cities program through the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce visited Carlisle last week to evaluate the city for status in the program.



The Carlisle Mercury/SPC Owen Wright Photo Submitted

**Kentucky guardsmen train in Georgia**  
 PFC John Frazer, and PFC Joey Brandon, both from Morehead, along with SPC Greg Smart, Carlisle, use a grasping hook to pull a section of ribbon bridge away from the bank during a bridge erection exercise at annual training. All three are members of the Morehead-based E Co., 206th Engineers, Kentucky Army National Guard.

## Now it's 6%

By Hank Bond  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

**OFFERS KENTUCKY** — In case you may have missed it, Sunday, July 1, an additional 1 percent was added to all Kentucky Sales and Use Taxes.

The penny, tacked onto the 5% sales and usage tax, is expected to swell the state treasury by \$204 million a year.

The boost from 5% to 6% has been almost forgotten in the mounds of publicity that has accompanied the \$1.3 billion tax increase enacted during the 1990 General Assembly.

Most of the early attention was paid to changes in state income tax that prompted increased withholding from individual paychecks beginning in May of this year.

But, there was a big reminder with the first purchase made July 1 or after that extra 1% will make a difference in checkout totals.

The Kentucky Department of Revenue has prepared the sales tax table for the increase from five cents on the dollar to six cents.

Beyond the higher dollar total, the most noticeable change will be that the first penny of tax will be tacked onto sales of nine cents or more.

Although West Virginia has a 6 percent sales tax, the other six states adjoining the Kentucky borders have a tax rate lower than Kentucky.

Vending machine operators will suffer from the increase because there is no way to add the price of their goods by pennies, however, it is thought most operators will absorb the increase — while other may increase the price in increments of five cents.