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Buckling up becomes mandatory July 15
Kentucky residents will be required to wear seatbelts by a new law that goes into effect Friday, July 15. Failure to do so will be a second offense, meaning that you cannot be pulled over for the offense, but you may be cited if you are stopped for another reason.

Nicholas County can now DIAL 911
Carlisle and Nicholas County residents in the 289 exchange now have 911 services available to them to reach fire, ambulance, police, and other emergency services. The Carlisle City Police coordinate and dispatch all emergency services.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
- Caritas Open Gate Garden Club meets July 15, 2 p.m. at the Depot.
- Marie Chapter #259 will meet July 18 at 7:30.
- July 15 is the registration deadline for the Annual Bluegrass Area Homemakers Camp to be held at North Central 4-H Camp. July 22 is the deadline for 4-H Camp for children 9-13 for August 8-12. Call 289-2312 for more information.

Area Weather Forecast
Thursday & Friday: Less humid, high near 90, lows in the upper 60s.
Saturday & Sunday: Slight chance of rain, high in the upper 80s, low near seventy.

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SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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City employees see increase

By Leigh Stone
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARI L S L E - City employees were granted a step increase, an annual pay adjustment, in an amount ranging up to five percent, announced Mayor Ronnie Clark at Monday night's city council meeting.
This was done by ordinance. This is not a cost of living raise. This was an annual raise. They've only been given a cost of living raise before. You don't have to give those," stated Clark.
All 59 city employees received the increase, which was in effect July 1. The step increase is usually given on the anniversary date the employee came to work. "It should have been done years ago," stated City Attorney

Skip Watson.
The mayor has the authority to give the increase without vote of council. Clark said he discussed the increases with employee supervisors and declared the increase amount. Most employees received a five percent increase. No one received less than \$10 per week, he said. Only two employees were at the maximum of their scale. The mayor could decide to top the pay scale to give those employees an increase. The ordinance has a scale range where two employees have topped out so ordinance either needs to be changed or left as it is.
A vote of council would be required to change the ordinance to add step increases, Clark said.

Watson told members of council that the increase was appropriated in the city budget and cautioned using the term "raise."
"This is not a raise. It is an annual step increase, going on the first anniversary of their hiring," Watson stated.
Council members present included Doug Garrett, Charles Fay, Libby Earlywine, Sandy Ritchie, Sharon Faulstich, and Assistant Clerk Johnnie Jennings.
Ritchie, Earlywine and Faulstich asked for assurance that the mayor was within his authority in giving the step increases without conferring with council. They also wanted to

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Carlisle Mercury/Leigh Stone Photo
Laura Hamm is the 1994 Blackberry Festival Queen. Hamm is a 1994 graduate of Nicholas County High School and plans to attend the University of Kentucky this fall and study photojournalism. She is the daughter of James and Lois Hamm.



Carlisle Mercury/Leigh Stone Photo
Sandy Schu, left, of Georgetown, formerly of Carlisle, visited with long time friend Johnny Caswell, right, during the Blackberry Festival held July 4-9. Schu uses a saw to carve wood into artistic shapes and had several weeks on display at Scaup's on Main Street during the festival. Schu's story on page 15.

Five city firemen resign, recruits sought

By Leigh Stone
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARI L S L E - Five city firemen have handed in their resignations for new recruits.
Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes said a couple of the resigned city firefighters have talked to him about being on the county's team. But Hughes declined to say their names.
The resignations still leave

Larry Minton, a member of the department for 10 years, said he left due to personal problems but would gladly help out in a fire.
Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes said a couple of the resigned city firefighters have talked to him about being on the county's team. But Hughes declined to say their names.
The resignations still leave

Berry with a dozen men, half of them certified with state training and two of them emergency medical technicians.
The chief, appointed Jan. 1 this year by Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark, said city business and homeowners can't rest easy. There are enough trained firemen to meet regulations, the chief said.
In fact, the city's new 911 service should help the

department's rating. And, if the city water department gets grant money to replace various water mains to improve water pressure, the city fire insurance rate may decrease, said Berry.
"We still got 12 men including myself and we're operating as usual," Berry said.
Resignations have been received by:
- Jeff Reed, a night manager

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Carlisle Mercury/Leigh Stone Photo
Jason Hart, left, and Mike Stracer, right, are in large part responsible for organizing the meeting, opened by asking Beasler several questions.
"Mr. Beasler, when you were running for governor, you took an AK-47 rifle and shot a bullet-proof vest," Stracer said. "The rifle penetrated the vest, of course, and you said the rifle should be banned, didn't you?"
Beasler would not comment right away, and told Stracer he would answer him when he had, Nicholas County Attorney Jack Conley at Tuesday's regular Fiscal Court meeting.

Congressman Baesler combats gun issue

By Jason Hart
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARI L S L E - TEXAS, ARK., MISSISSIPPI, and Missouri are just a few of the weapons discussed by about 100 Sixth Congressional District residents and their congressman, Scotty Baesler, last week.
Baesler came to Carlisle to discuss his vote on the crime bill in which restrictions were placed on various types of weapons.
Carlisle resident Mike Stracer, who was in large part responsible for organizing the meeting, opened by asking Baesler several questions.
"Mr. Beasler, when you were running for governor, you took an AK-47 rifle and shot a bullet-proof vest," Stracer said. "The rifle penetrated the vest, of course, and you said the rifle should be banned, didn't you?"
Baesler would not comment right away, and told Stracer he would answer him when he had, Nicholas County Attorney Jack Conley at Tuesday's regular Fiscal Court meeting.

many assaults and murders are committed every year using hands and feet. "Are we now going to require a five-day waiting period for hands and feet, congressman?" Stracer asked.
Baesler answered Stracer's

queries.
"The bill that has passed, the one I voted for, is a crime bill," Baesler said. "I voted for it because I feel it's a good bill, and I'll tell you why."
Baesler said some of the provisions of the bill that influenced

his positive vote included:
- "The bill exempts all weapons now owned."
- Exempts some 650 weapons.
- "The bill 'sunsets' after 10 years; that is, the bill is effective

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Compensation sought from court

By Leigh Stone
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
CARI L S L E - Ambulance service contract candidate Ronnie Burden of Cynthiana has informed the Nicholas County Fiscal Court he wants compensation for the contract he lost to the current ambulance service operators, Ronnie and Dorie McDowall.
Burden was the lowest bidder but was not deemed by magistrate as the best bidder. The court had the right to reject any bid and did not necessarily have to take the lowest bid, Nicholas County Attorney Jack Conley at Tuesday's regular Fiscal Court meeting.

The Fiscal Court received a letter dated June 29 from Burden's attorney, C. Donald Walls of Cynthiana.
Attorney Walls letter stated in part, "It is abundantly clear that my client was used in an unfair fashion throughout this process. It is equally clear that the Fiscal Court never intended to give Ronnie a fair chance to receive this contract but instead used the word used was underlined" him for the purpose of twisting the arm of the competing bidder in the hope of getting him to lower his bid. This was evident from the act that he got the contract despite his failure to lower the bid the last time the

contract was bid. Again, this is unfair and surely does not constitute an award."
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IN BRIEF

Farm acreage reports due July 15
Nicholas County corn producers need to file an acreage report by July 15, according to the Nicholas County ASCS Office. By filing an acreage report, a producer establishes a crop base for an farm. Farms with a crop base can also protect their base by reporting, before July 15.

Carlisle Mercury/Laura Hamm Photo
Lady Jacket Kim Denkins, far right, a 1994 Nicholas County High School graduating senior, played a good game against the Indianapolis All Stars at Indianapolis, Indiana June 25. However, the Kentucky All Stars lost both games to Indiana, losing by three in the first game and eight in the second game. Denkins was one of 12 high school students from Kentucky to be selected as an All-Star player. Kim, soon to be a University of Kentucky freshman, is already working towards his basketball practice. It begins Oct. 15. Kim was accompanied to both all star games by her grandparents, Lowell and Donna Fryman.