

Alumni Association dinner set for August 6, at NCES cafeteria
The Nicholas County High School Alumni Association will hold a dinner on August 6 at 6 p.m. at the Nicholas County Elementary cafeteria. Storyteller and humorist Richard Albin will present a show. For more info, call Carolyn Terrell at 289-2539.

Nicholas County Fish & Game Club to meet
The Nicholas County Fish & Game Club will hold their monthly meeting on June 24 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the club's headquarters on Hickory Ridge. The meal will be potluck. All members are urged to attend.

Heat wave persists
With temperatures in the heat index range of 105-110 degrees, those who must work outside should observe a few simple rules to avoid heat exhaustion or other effects.
• Work slowly, and take frequent rest breaks.
• Drink plenty of fluids, but do so slowly to avoid cramps or nausea.
• Try to stay in a cooler place during the hottest part of the day.

Area Weather Forecast
Thursday & Friday: Heat wave continues, with temps near 95, humidity near 90 percent.
Saturday & Sunday: Hot and humid, scattered brief thunder-showers, high near 90-95.

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ASCS notes tobacco concerns

By Leigh Stone
Of The Carlsle Mercury Staff
CARLSLE - Quotas, proposed nicotine bans and support price cuts, advertising restrictions, and imports are sitting heavy on Nicholas County's number one crop, tobacco.
"You're looking at approximately 2,600 acres to get the quota of 4.6 million pounds. In 1974, it was more like 25,000 acres, said Jim Furnish, executive director of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Office in Carlsle. In Nicholas County, 887 farms have tobacco quotas, Furnish said.
The tobacco market has been hurt so much that area farmers have either already taken a second job to supplement their tobacco income, or will be an addition to the job market within the next couple of years.
Sammie Vice, a farmer of

cattle and tobacco, and member of the Nicholas County Board of Education said if tobacco restrictions continue, he'll be looking for supplemental income. "You see, government isn't aren't just curbing the market," they're cutting it completely.
At least from the way Nicholas County tobacco farmers have made a living for the last couple of centuries.
Furnish explained, "They're really not wanting to think that way about getting an extra job. But how are they going to make up the difference? They really don't want to take another job, but you have to take care of your basic needs."
Furnish identifies with the segment seeking supplemental work. He made his living growing tobacco before being hit so hard with restrictions he had to look for other work and became employed by the ASCS.

And although there've been dips and rises since the 1980s, the tilt toward decline is more prevalent, Furnish pointed out. The figures are a point of concern to local farmers. "They're just concerned about that kind of change over the future. Are we really going to have this big cut in quotas, the 15 to 20 percent? Or will it have a cut in support prices? These are the two biggest things. A cut in either place means less money to take home for farmers and their families," Furnish stated.
Here's a look at Nicholas County base tobacco quotas since the late 1980's:
1984 - 4,670,172
1985 - 4,182,897
1992 - 2,768,814
1993 - 4,535,244
1990 - 5,189,095
1989 - 4,068,908
1988 - 4,154,268
The production permitted by the government has been a seesaw for years, indicate figures from the National Market Service, Washington, D.C. The statistics are available at the local ASCS office.
In 1983, national production in millions of pounds was 755.1. In 1973, national production in millions of pounds was 849.3. It rose to a high in the early 1980s. In 1981, production was 725.6. In 1982, it was 776.7. Again, to plummet in 1983 at 526.7, raise to 673.7 in 1984 and decrease again in 1985 at 541.9 and even further the next year in 1986 to 419.8.
"Now we're in a decline of our quota," Furnish said. Since the 1990s, production looked like this:
1990 - 592.2
1991 - 657.9
1992 - 593.8
1994 - 633.0
Quotas are determined by a formula supervised by the Secretary of Agriculture, Furnish said.
In 1967-69, burley was 1.00. It lowered in the early '70s to .90 in 1970, .95 in 1971-72, and raised again in 1973 to 1.052, with the seesaw affect in place.

Local farmers talk tobacco

By Leigh Stone
Of The Carlsle Mercury Staff
CARLSLE - Tobacco as a supplemental income, rather than the main income, would be quite a wish for some Nicholas County farmers.
With the acceptance of tobacco imports and enforced quotas, the way area tobacco farmers make a living may have to change in the next few years.
"I don't know how we'd make a living," commented tobacco farmer Rosie Myers of Cassidy Creek who helps husband Elmo with the farm. "It's got to be a full time job. We work 19 to 10 at night."
Jim Caswell, a tobacco and beef cattle farmer, took a few minutes from the extreme heat Monday afternoon to discuss his views on the future of Nicholas County tobacco.

"I've raised tobacco since I was out of college and before that helped my father. He owned a farm 10 years ago, I'd say. It'd be a tobacco farmer, not a cattle farmer who does tobacco on the side."
Caswell earned the 1994 award of excellence in beef producer category from the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association. "We always had cattle, but nothing like it is now."
The proposed farmers market sounds good to Caswell, but he agrees it should be for supplemental income purposes only. "The market project will take the place of tobacco."
The Caswell farm has witnessed a reduction in tobacco growth. Three years ago, 90 acres were produced. This year, only 60 acres. That's enough to keep

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Firefighters hold training

CARLSLE - The members of the Nicholas County Fire Department completed a large part of their annual training requirements last Friday and Saturday.
According to Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes, the state recommends that each firefighter complete 20 hours of training each year. The fire school held at the Nicholas County Courthouse fulfilled a large part of that recommendation.
Nicholas firefighters sharpened their firefighting skills by practicing with ladders, running hose lays, and other practical drills.
Joe Gallagher, firefighting instructor from Kentucky Vocational Technical in Winchester addressed the firefighters on a variety of subjects, and showed videos on different fire-control techniques.
Firefighters attending the school included Chief Mark Hughes, Calvin Denton, Matt Hughes, Ronnie Jolly, Doug French, Mike Phillips, Sam Reynolds, Scott Allison, Rodney Hedges, and Mike Warner.
Chief Hughes said the remainder of the state's recommended training will be completed at training sessions this week.



Tobacco on the Caswell Family Farms Inc. stretches as far as the eyes can see. Not even extreme heat keeps the workers away from making a living the way Kentuckians have done for so long.



The Carlsle Mercury Leigh Stone Photo
Darren Gates, Doug Daily, James Daily and Jeff Stamper worked the tobacco fields on the Caswell Family Farms Inc. Tuesday morning. Richard Daily rode a 1976 International tractor in another field as other helpers are in the background. Jim Caswell and his family, from Carolyn, brother John, and sisters Susan, David and Carol Willis, co-own the farm.



The Carlsle Mercury Leigh Stone Photo
Auctioneer Earl Harren "hammered it up" for the crowd at the Nicholas County Hospital Auxiliary Show. Dinner by putting aside his cowboy hat for a lovely straw hat for sale. Proceeds go to equipment to help the hospital. Earl was helped out by Doug Garrett, right.

Carlsle man found dead

CARLSLE - Mike Wells, 33, of 210 E. North St., Carlsle, died Thursday, June 16.
According to Nicholas County Coroner Roy Guzman, the official cause of death was attributed to a gunshot wound.
According to Kentucky State Police Public Affairs Officer Jan Wuchner, the death involved a 22-caliber rifle. Wells suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, Wuchner said.
The death is under the investigation of Trooper Larry Carey. Wells' body was found in a pickup truck near a creek of Suggs Road near Ellisville, said Wuchner.
Trooper Wuchner said a death investigation was being conducted by the KSP. Death investigation are performed with all deaths, he said.
Services for Wells was held 8 a.m. Monday, June 20, at the Mothers Gazebo Chapel with Mrs. Charles Humphrey officiating and burial at Carlsle Cemetery with military graveside rites conducted by Ft. Co. 201st Engineering Battalion Ky. Army National Guard.



The Carlsle Mercury Leigh Stone Photo
Earther Myers and Lillian Letton, in the background, members of the Headquarters Homemakers, decorated the windows of Carlsle Drug, Main Street, Tuesday morning with articles from 100 years ago, such as portraits and a wedding gown and quilt by the Wells cousins and another by the Salweil community. Several Carlsle businesses participated in honor of the Nicholas County Courthouse Rededication which begins this Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m.

IN BRIEF

School board to meet June 27
The Nicholas County Board of Education will hold a called meeting 8 p.m. Monday, June 27 at the Central School Office to close out the current school year and consider possible litigation against the Board of Education.

Amanda Graham in chorus tour
Amanda Graham is a member of the Lexington Children's Chorus and was on tour last week in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. Amanda is the daughter of Phyllis and Harold Graham of Georgetown and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Ashburn of Carlsle.

Water District requests customers conserve
The Nicholas County Water District, has requested that all customers conserve usage as much as possible. The district is requesting all customers refrain from watering lawns and gardens, washing cars etc. Water consumption in the past few days has exceeded more than the pumps are able to handle. Much excess minimum pressure. Hopefully, the condition will be alleviated with a good rain.

Courthouse re-dedication Saturday
By Joan W. Conley
Special To The Mercury
CARLSLE - Displays in Main Street windows, decorated by the Nicholas County Homemakers, will add to the festivities surrounding the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Nicholas County Courthouse to be held Saturday, June 25.
The celebration, sponsored by Tourism Inc. and the Nicholas County Historical Society, gets underway at 10 a.m. in front of the courthouse. All activities and tours are free except food, including a pig roast by Tourism and dessert served by the Community Women's Club.
Church bells will ring at noon as the formal program ends. At 1 p.m., a guided walking tour will start at the front steps of the courthouse.
Open House will be held at the Christian, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian churches, the

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