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**Let your voice be heard!**  
A letter writing campaign to keep McDonald's Ashland from being closed by Ashland Oil is underway. See page 2 to see letters already sent. Letters may be mailed to: Eric Coburn, Ashland Branded Marketing, P.O. Box 391, AT-3, Ashland, Ky. 41101.

**Tourism Dinner**  
The Annual Dinner sponsored by Tourism Inc. will be held beginning 6 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at The Old Jail. The entered turkey dinner will be served buffet style. Reservations are needed by April 26. Officers and board members will be elected. The speaker is Daniel Kidd on Heritage Tourism in Kentucky. Contact Gladys Shroat at 289-5174.

**Easter Cantata**  
The Annual Community Choir Easter Cantata will be presented Saturday and Sunday, April 8-9 at First Baptist Church of Carlisle.

**Easter forecast**  
Thursday - Spring weather, a high of 68 and low of 48. Mostly cloudy, Friday - Partly sunny with a high of 64 and low of 42.  
Saturday - Rain with a high of 61 and low of 42.

# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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McDonald's Ashland, 234 W. Main St., Carlisle, has provided fuel and full service for many years. Now they may close. From left are employee Bonnie Grimes, her sister and station co-owner Joyce McDonald, employee Kenny Grimes, and station co-owner Joyce McDonald.

## McDonald's Ashland given deadline to close by July 1996, executives say

By Leigh Stone  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff  
CARLISLE - McDonald's Ashland, 234 W. Main St., may be closed before the franchise lease is up July 1996.  
A letter writing campaign to keep the station open has begun. Station owners Joyce and Bonnie McDonald signed a five-year lease with Ashland three years ago in August. At 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, Bonnie met with Ashland Oil executives Jim McFarnie and Mark McAllister of Lexington for an hour long meeting.  
They called me to meet them at Hardees in Paris. They wouldn't come here," Bonnie told the Mercury Monday morning. His wife, Joyce, her sister and station manager Bonnie Grimes and mechanic Kenny Grimes were also in the station office.  
They said I had until July 96 to pay up, but don't know if I'll be here, Ronnie said. Neither executive would give a clear-cut answer to why the station must be closed. Bonnie and Joyce speculated that their gasoline quotas aren't meeting Ashland's expectations.  
However, according to Joyce, the station has sold about the same amount of fuel since they took over from Clay Hunt, who had the station 35 years.  
Ronnie thought there was also a possibility that Ashland didn't want to pay for new fuel tanks. Fiberglass tanks must be installed by Dec. 31, 1995 to meet EPA standards. It would be Ashland's responsibility to pay for the tanks, Ronnie said.  
"I just don't understand. We've been doing so good. We're busy. One hundred fifty people signed our petition in the past two weeks. They are our customers," said Bonnie Grimes.  
So far, he hasn't been able to determine the cost of providing three tanks at the station. One Ashland executive estimated \$12,000. Another estimated cost of \$75,000.  
New metal tanks were installed in 1988.  
The Mercury felt messages in the answering machines of Jim Coburn and Coburn's secretary at the main Ashland Oil office in Ashland, Ky. No reply was received by press time.  
Ronnie said Coburn was a main decision maker in the franchise operation.  
"They said they were sorry, Ronnie said of his meeting with McFarnie and McAllister.

## Year old NCHS roof still leaks, says board

By Leigh Stone  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff  
CARLISLE - The almost one-year old roof of Nicholas County High School still leaks.  
Fred Boggs, the owner of Boggs Roofing Inc., Huntington, W. Va., was slated to clear his calendar Tuesday, March 22 to pay a visit to the school.  
"He hasn't been there yet, at least not on knowledge," said Superintendent Randy Everly at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. "He didn't check in with anyone at the Central Office, like we asked him to. That's been a problem. He doesn't tell us when he's here. And, when he says he's coming, it's usually three days later."  
As noted at the regular Monday night Nicholas County Board of Education meeting, Board Chairman John Cleaver said the board had received a letter from Fred Boggs requesting the five percent final payment.  
"Mr. Boggs wants his five percent," Cleaver informed the board and half a dozen others in attendance at the Central School Office.  
That portion of the payment had been retained since the completion of the new roof at Nicholas County High School almost a year ago.  
Superintendent Everly told Cleaver he'd talked with the architect about the leakage problem.  
Meanwhile, NCHS Principal Greg Reid said the roof still had a leak near the flashing portion of the roof near the cafeteria. Drains have already been installed and some made lower to prevent water from pooling on the flat roof.  
Nicholas County Elementary Principal Gerald Hammons said there were still two to three leaks on the new roof of his school. The Louisville contractor has attempted repair each week.  
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## In Brief

**Class of 1975 plans reunion**  
The Class of 1975 is making plans for its 20 year reunion. A meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28 at Trak's Restaurant for those wishing to help plan the event. If unable to attend but willing to help, call 289-7502 or 289-7349.  
Nicholas Homemakers invite everyone to annual spring trip  
The Nicholas County Homemakers extend an invitation to everyone to participate in the club's annual spring trip. The year's destination is Dolly Parton's mansion at Pigeon Forge, Tenn. May 15-17. Stay at Howard Johnson motels, shop at outlet malls, see two shows, Dollywood, Gatlinburg, and the Apple Barn Restaurant. Contact 289-8381 or 289-0306 for more information. Reservations must be made before April 7.  
**Bluegrass Hospice open house today**  
CYNTHIANA - The public is invited to attend the open house of Hospice of the Bluegrass, Cynthia Harrison, Director. The open house is from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23 at 508 East Pike St., Cynthia, Ky. In 1994, 230 patients were admitted to Hospice in Bourbon, Harrison, Nicholas and Scott counties, up from 146 the previous year. As the number of patients increase, so has the need for more office space. Hence the move to 508 East Pike St. "Since family-centered care is so important to the service we provide, we prefer to operate our office from a home setting. It seems more personal and warm to the staff and visitors," said Cynthia Harrison, Office Director Sharon Marsh.



Brad Russell, left, and Brad Burden, right, NCHS Bluejackets, were invited to an Australian basketball tour.

## Bluejackets invited to Australia

By Leigh Stone  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff  
CARLISLE - Two Nicholas County High School Bluejackets have been invited to participate in the U. S. Stars & Stripes Basketball Tournament in Australia at the end of June.  
Junior Brad Russell, forward, and Brad Burden, a guard and forward, were selected by a committee through the Cape Scope High Potential Blue Chip Basketball Association.  
"I think it's an honor he was asked," Burden said.  
Russell is the son of Floyd and Betty Russell of Carlisle. Burden is the son of Jack and Julie Shafer of Paris.  
Neither Bluejacket has plans to attend due to the expense of the venture \$700 required up front with a total fee of approximately \$2,700, according to the letter they received.  
But the chance to play with college level basketball players in Australia - and that four days in Hawaii for rest and relaxation as promised in the letter certainly sounded good, the boys admitted.  
"If it weren't for the money, I'd sure like to go," said Russell.  
Burden said he would like to go to the Bluejacket Coach Chris O'Hearn said, "I think it would have been a great experience if they could go on the trip. It would give them a chance to work on their ability and a chance of having a successful senior year."  
Russell, Honorable Mention in the 100 Regional All-season commented, "We had a rough season but toward the end things started to come up a bit. We had to learn to play together. Nobody expected us to do well against Paris. But I have to say, I like playing for Coach O'Hearn."  
Burden graded his coach, too. "Coach O'Hearn's taught us to be a part of the team and encouraged us during practice." "Shafer's, Burden's mother, said, "He got invited to the Blue Chip High Potential Camp, the number one recruiting camp in the country, again this year. He went last year, too. There are kids from all 50 states and 10 foreign countries involved."  
Shafer commended her son for being invited to Australia. "I think it's an honor he was asked. He was asked to go to the Belgium basketball tour. I'm real proud of the way he takes sports seriously."  
Floyd Russell, Brad Russell's father, used to coach his son in basketball and has watched him improve each year. He thinks it's great his son was invited to attend the Australia tour as well. But, after a family discussion, the Russell's decided that Russell's education would come first.  
"He wants to get an education and he's working on it. He's been fortunate to be a part of the right school and we're proud of him. I'd like to see him improve as much as his year senior did from his sophomore to junior year."

Brandon Jones, center, won the DAR essay contest about colonial living. He received the award in Paris and was accompanied by his teacher, Kim Martin, left, and grandparents Betty and Charlie Guzman. See page 6 for the story.