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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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New system aids victims

Notifies of prisoner release

As most young adults would Mary Byron was looking forward to her 21st birthday. But she barely had time to celebrate on her birthday, her ex-boyfriend, Duane Harris, shot and killed her.

One month earlier Harris had been incarcerated for raping and kidnapping Byron. She was released from the Jefferson County Correctional System, Harris shot Byron seven times as she left work.

"If Mary Byron had known her attacker had been released from jail, she might have been able to take precautions to protect her self," said Nicholas County Attorney Joseph H. Conley.

That's why Kentucky has created the VINE system, the nation's only statewide automatic notification system.

VINE can be used two ways: victims call VINE for information, and the system can call victims to notify them that an inmate will be released.

Victim access to information. This computerized system

allows victims, law enforcement agencies and the general public access to various types of inmate information.

(1) Status: If not in custody, the date the inmate was released will be given.

(2) Location: Current jail or prison address and telephone number will be given for inmates currently.

(3) Parole eligibility: The next hearing date will be given, where applicable.

(4) Sentence expiration: The tentative release date will be given, where applicable.

The information can be accessed by entering the inmate's number or by entering the name of the inmate by using the telephone keypad.

Automatic notification of victims.

The VINE automated system also will notify a registered victim or interested party by phone. The call regarding the release of an inmate from jail will be made every 30 minutes for a 24-hour period or until notified by the registered person.

The registered person will have to enter a four digit personal identification number to receive receipt of the notification.

The use of the personal identification number makes sure that the correct person receives the information," Conley said.

For instance, if a child were to answer the phone, the message may be delivered, but not received by the victim. This system is designed to make sure that doesn't happen. This system also is anonymous. The inmate has no way of knowing the victim's interest regarding his or her release.

If the inmate is released from a state prison, the victim will be notified 72 hours before the release of the inmate. In cases of

Student injured in Friday crash

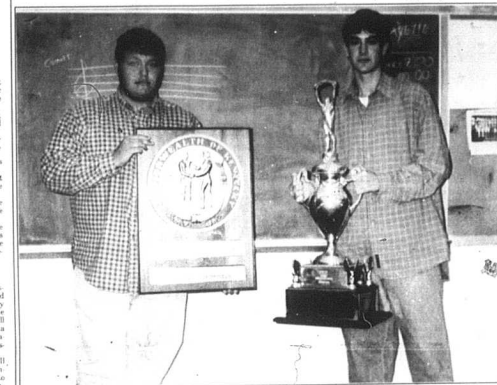
A Nicholas County High School student was seriously injured Friday night in a single vehicle accident, according to the Kentucky State Police at Dry Ridge.

Karbel Esten, 16, was driving on Upper Link Road approximately 2.4 miles from Morefield, when she reportedly lost control of her vehicle, which left the roadway and struck a tree, according to reports.

According to the KSP, we roads may have contributed to the accident.

Trooper Brett Kirkland is investigating the crash.

NCHS Band takes first place



NCHS seniors Jimmy Bentz, left, and Loren Clark show off the hardware won by the Nicholas County High School Band in competition at the University of Kentucky on Saturday. The band placed first in the statewide Class A competition. For a community salute to the band's achievement, see Page 5.

Band takes statewide honors at competition

AAAAA carried away statewide honors in the 1997 EMEA Kentucky Marching Band Championships Saturday. Each of the bands won the top prize, the Governor's Cup, for their class in the final competition.

The four winners were among 45 bands that traveled to Lexington over the weekend for the championships. Sixteen bands competed in the finals after surviving the semi-final rounds held Saturday afternoon at four Lexington high schools.

"This contest has become one of our city's favorite events," Mayor Pam Miller said. "It's inspiring to watch these enthusiastic young people compete. All 45 bands worked hard to get here and they're all going home winners. This is the second year Lexington has hosted the competition."

Dr. Phyllis Vincent, President of EMEA, said, "The semi-finals and finals were extraordinary musical events. Today's competition was the culmination of a tremendous amount of time and work for thousands of Kentucky high school students, their music teachers, supporting parents and communities."

Bands placing second in each class in the finals competition were Murray High School, in Class A; Grant County High School, in Class AA; Daviess County High School, in Class AAA; and North Hardin High School, in Class AAAA.

The Kentucky Music Educators Association bases class sizes on the number of members in the bands.

Third place bands were: The Anderson County High School, in Class A; Mercer County High School, in Class AA; Harrison County High School, in Class AAA.

See BAND, Page 3

Housing program progressing

Thomas G. Fern, State Director for Rural Development, recently announced that all requests from lenders throughout Kentucky for Guaranteed Rural Housing loans will be processed in the first area offices beginning Oct. 1.

This is a step forward in improving service to the public and improving the Agency's efficiency in the delivery of the Rural Housing Guaranteed Program," Fern said.

The Rural Housing Guaranteed Program makes loans available through private lenders for the purchase of new and existing homes for eligible applicants with incomes not exceeding 115 percent of the median income.

There is no required down payment and the loan can be for 100 percent of the cost, including fees, not to exceed the appraised value of the property.

See HOUSING, Page 3

Two join NCES staff

Nicholas County schools welcomed two additions to the teaching staff recently, with the hiring of new sixth and seventh grade teachers.



Becca Johnson



Ian Moss

Becca Johnson is a new seventh grade teacher at Nicholas County Elementary School.

Johnson has a bachelor of arts degree in English Education from Eastern Kentucky University and resides in Richmond.

She is a first year teacher. "I like my job because they go, go get they never stop and they keep me going."



Seventh Grade undefeated
Nicholas County Elementary School seventh grade football players are having an undefeated season. Front, Adam Hunter, Chris Ring, Kyle Harmon, Chas Coker. On wall, Michael Eads and McKeane Willoughby. Second row, Aaron Cobb, Justin Rawlings, Jeremy Garrett, Justin Tubbs. Far right, R. D. Sexton. In back, Keith Hunter, Josh Gray, and Charles Kiska.