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Local pharmacies reject managed care Medicaid plan

By Leigh Stone Managing Editor For the time being, Carlisle Drug and Hopkins Drug can fill prescriptions for persons with light blue and white Medicaid cards. But they cannot fill the small, plastic gold card or the larger cards with a yellow stripe across the top. The new Medicaid program has cut reimbursements at the pharmacies so it's no longer

practical to participate. Imagine being sick. And the only drugstore that can fill your doctor's prescription requires a 30-minute drive. This could be a reality, say two of Carlisle's pharmacists, Rusty Lawrence of Carlisle Drug, and David Zachary of Hopkins Drug, both of Main Street, say declining profit margins and insurance policy rules for prescription drug

reimbursements are making it difficult to stay in business. For instance, Medicaid has drastically cut reimbursements so we're not sure how we're going to make a living," Zachary commented. Medicaid has not cut the reimbursement for the cost of the drug but also the fee to the pharmacist, Lawrence clarified. "You can't pay your pharmacist, signing, heating lights, employees, insurance, labels and bottles," Zachary said.

So the future could well mean a Carlisle resident would have to drive to Paris, Cynthiana, or even Lexington to get prescriptions filled. Lawrence said as recent as last Friday a Flemingsburg woman came to Carlisle Drug to get a prescription filled. But the insurance provider rules, Lawrence couldn't fill it. He managed to find a Cynthiana drugstore that could. But the woman was back home, he said sadly. "I believe, current trends of mail order drug prescriptions



David Zachary, pharmacist and owner of Hopkins Drug, downtown Carlisle, wants the ability to continue to serve.



Rusty Lawrence, pharmacist at Carlisle Drug, hands Linda Hobbs her prescription Friday evening. Sometimes small town drugstores remain open past regular hours to provide medicines.

"Legislators have to realize small town pharmacies provide personal care and easy access to a pharmacist at a reasonable cost to keep customers at home - not on the road."

Furthermore, it stifles the need both men have to provide customers personal care. "We're here to provide personal care," declares Lawrence. "That's what we do here. Our kids go to school here. Our customers, if they have a problem, they can even call us home. They want to feel that way when they have to go to Walmart. They'll just be a number. We try to give personal care. People want to know they have a relationship with their pharmacist and we have good relationships with doctors here and that doesn't happen overnight. We've strived to do this. This is what we fight for."

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Looking Back... Compiled by Erica Brierley

JULY-NOV 1997 This Year's Blackberry Festival Queen was Megan Metcalfe and first runner-up was Tamara Tipton. Deaths Hergen A. Gause, 81, died August 11, 1997. Memorial Paul Maston, 70, died August 9, 1997. Vera Belle Bowles, 72, died August 10, 1997. Raymond Thompson, 41, died August 11, 1997. James Todd Street Watkins was still born August 11, 1997. August 21 Gerald Hammons is stepping down after 19 years of service as Nicholas County Elementary Principal. Parents and well-wishers gathered in the evening sun Friday to see Nicholas County play its first scrimmage at home against Carroll County. Donna and Mike Barkart have recently acquired and opened the Forest Retreat Inn and Dining Facility on July 24, 1997. Births Nicholas Countians, Mr. and Mrs. Edna Allen Durrell, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Haller, and Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hammonds were among the attendees of the 54th annual State Convention of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts. Births Charles Clinton Chandler, Yarell was born to Tami and the late Charles Yarell on July 22, 1997. Deaths Katherin Katherin Tudor Wisold, died July 22, 1997. W. W. "Woody" Lovelle, 81, died July 26, 1997. Fred Roy Hicks, 77, died July 29, 1997. August 14 City Council looks serious this time about drawing up a juvenile curfew ordinance. Although not entirely in agreement, the public safety council did discuss the legalities and responsibilities of having the ordinance. A \$400,000 federal grant will help put a sewer system at Carlisle's East End. Construction could begin in Spring 1998. Deaths Mary Hill McDord, 71, died July 18, 1997. August 7 Commercial diver Howard Miller, cleared about a half-ton of sediment from Carlisle's Millrace at the water plant. The new process will keep customers from having nasty water service interruption. August 21 Betty Fay has filed for Magistrate District 4. Incumbent Avery Thornburg signed up for District 3. Betty Fay has filed for Magistrate District 4. Incumbent Danny Hughes signed up for District 12. James R. Ben filed for District 4 Dec. 10. Floyd Russell filed Dec. 15. Betty Gates Poe and Shirley Gardner both have filed for Magistrate in District 1. Incumbent Melvin Fryman signed up to be re-elected for District 1 Dec. 2. Jeff Davis signed up to run for District 1 Dec. 12. Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark filed for the County Judge Executive Position Tuesday, Dec. 30. Judge Clark Smith had filed for re-election Dec. 23 as did County Clerk Doug Fryman. PVA Rose Brady filed for reelection in November as did Magistrate David Stacy, representing District 2. Candidates for office have filed on Saturday, Jan. 27. To Mary Ann Jolly and Gerald Todd Browning, a son named James Todd Allen born July 23, 1997. Continued on Page 2

More join county office race

The holidays may have given folks to think about a career in politics. "We had four people file yesterday" and an employee in the Nicholas County Court Clerk's Office on Tuesday. New contenders include incumbent Magistrate Janina SMITH to continue to represent District 5. Earl Lee Hlack, to run for Magistrate District 3. Incumbent Avery Thornburg signed up for District 3. Betty Fay has filed for Magistrate District 4. Incumbent Danny Hughes signed up for District 12. James R. Ben filed for District 4 Dec. 10. Floyd Russell filed Dec. 15. Betty Gates Poe and Shirley Gardner both have filed for Magistrate in District 1. Incumbent Melvin Fryman signed up to be re-elected for District 1 Dec. 2. Jeff Davis signed up to run for District 1 Dec. 12. Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark filed for the County Judge Executive Position Tuesday, Dec. 30. Judge Clark Smith had filed for re-election Dec. 23 as did County Clerk Doug Fryman. PVA Rose Brady filed for reelection in November as did Magistrate David Stacy, representing District 2. Candidates for office have filed on Saturday, Jan. 27. To Mary Ann Jolly and Gerald Todd Browning, a son named James Todd Allen born July 23, 1997. Continued on Page 2

-In Brief-

Auxiliary meets January 13

The Johnson Mathers Health Care Auxiliary will meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 at the conference center at Nicholas County Hospital.

Bobby Cutsinger in "Remember When"

Bobby Cutsinger of Piquetteville, Texas, was featured in a last week's "Remember When" photograph published on page 2. Carla Cutsinger of Carlisle, identified her dad from the paper. The photo was taken of Cutsinger as a teenager, Sept. 15, 1926. He is also the father of Danville Cutsinger of Cynthiana and Jeff Cutsinger of Danville.

Coach updates game schedule

Nicholas County Lady Jackets Coach Barbara Kenney has released the following updated information on the girls' basketball games. The Montgomery County game scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 6 was cancelled. The updated schedule: Thursday, Jan. 8 at 6 and Varsity play Lewis County at 6 and 7:30 Pendleton County. Saturday, Jan. 10, cancellation JV at 10 a.m. and championship JV at 11:15 a.m. Varsity cancellation at 12:30 p.m. and Varsity Championship at 2:30 p.m.