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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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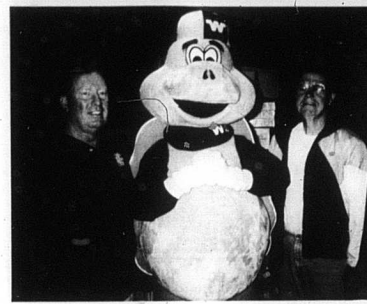
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Henry County DES Director Bruce Owens (left) and Nicholas County DES Director Gene Kelley pose with "Wally Wise Guy" at the Management Workshop conducted recently by the Kentucky Disaster and Emergency Services in Lexington. Wally is the national mascot for "in-place sheltering," a protective action used in times of hazardous chemical releases.

-In Brief- Conservation Board to meet in July

The Nicholas County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will meet Wednesday, July 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the old Armory in Carlisle.

Ewing-Fleming fair set for July 6-11

The Ewing-Fleming County fair Monday through Saturday, July 6-11 will feature pageants and baby show, a carnival, horse show, kids games, contests and Elvis and Paty Cline impersonators. Fair gates will open on Monday. Enter exhibits in the Floral Hall on Monday from noon to 5 p.m. Judges will flow. The lamb show is at 7 p.m. with a demolition derby at 7:30 p.m. The little miss and midget show is at 8 p.m. The miss county fair at 8:30 p.m. and the second annual Mrs. County Fair, also on Monday.

Tuesday is the senior citizens morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. to noon and a pet show at 6 p.m. Miss Bloomington, an antique tractor pull and farm truck show is at 7:30 and 8 p.m. The fair princess and miss teen contest is also on Tuesday.

The 4-H, FFA steer show, open steer show and beef show with the 4-H, FFA and swine show is at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Baby show is at 7 p.m. and swine sale at 8 p.m. A 4-wheeler club rodeo is at 8 p.m. followed by a talent show at 9 p.m.

Thursday starts at 10 a.m. with a dairy show, cutie pie and toddler bathing beauty contest at 7 p.m. and the traditional mud run at 8 p.m. Also on Thursday is the high school contest at 8:30 p.m. with the Mr. County Fair immediately following.

A saddlebred Arabian western horse show and volleyball is scheduled for Friday. Elvis and Paty Cline impersonators will perform at 6 p.m.

On Saturday is kids games, bike, trike and wagon, and stuffed animal contest. A doll contest for all ages is set with registration from 8 to 8 p.m. A walking horse show begins at 7 p.m. The Rough Boy Band featuring Robbie Graves will perform at 9 p.m.

Board appoints Miller and Bechman as Nicholas County School Principals

By Amy Rankin Managing Editor

The Nicholas County Board of Education met in regular session Monday evening, June 15.

After voting on motions that concerned various issues of general business, the board voted unanimously to accept a motion to recognize the nomination, as required, of a number of personnel actions.

These actions included: Guidance Counselor of Nicholas County High School, Martha Sue Taylor to retire as Food Service/Vocational Programs Director at the end of the current school year. Kevin Miller to be appointed as Principal for the Nicholas County Elementary School, effective July 1, 1998, and finally, Doug Bechman to be appointed as Principal for the high school, effective also July 1, 1998.

Due to her retirement and in accordance with KRS 161.021, the board voted 5-0 for the payment to Martha Sue Taylor of one-half of her accumulated sick leave days.

The next item on the agenda for the evening was a motion to purchase real estate for the C.E.D. Testing Center at Nicholas County Elementary School in the amount of \$1,165.

The board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a request made by the schools to repair and maintain the sewing machines for the Home Economics Department at the high school.

The board also voted 4-1 to approve the Tentative Budget for the 1999 Fiscal Year. A quote of \$10,530 was accepted by the board from Kentucky School Boards Insurance Trust (KSBIT) to provide Educator's Legal Liability Insurance from July 1, 1998 until June 30, 1999.

The next item in the minutes was the acceptance of a quote from American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Miami, Florida.

Nicholas County DES Director attends recent emergency workshop

A coalition of Kentucky business, industry and government agencies has organized residents on the concept of "in-place sheltering."

Wally Wise Guy, a nationally recognized chemical safety mascot, is making the rounds these days, encouraging children to teach their families about in-home chemical emergency readiness.

"Wally's main message is simple," says Kentucky TRANSCAR coordinator Frank Boone of Liquid Transport Co.

"He tells kids that when the community warning siren blows, inside they must go to the radio (for emergency instructions) and stay off the telephone to avoid tying up phone lines needed for life threatening emergency response."

TRANSCAR, which stands for Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response, is a voluntary group comprised of chemical shippers and carriers and government response agencies dedicated to improving citizen awareness of transportation chemical risks.

Fleming County folk artists receive MSU Treasure award

Turned away on a quiet street in the farm town of Flemingsburg, in a house filled with a lifetime of memories, Ronald and Jessie Cooper paint and carve the days away.

"I began painting when I was very young," Jessie said. "You know, in those days crayons were saved for school. Well, I wanted to draw and paint when I was in school. So, I would go down to the creek and pick out a flat rock, then I would pick out colored rocks and draw pictures on that flat rock. I would play that way all day."

"I didn't own a set of paints until Ronald and I were married," she said, getting up at her husband of 50 years. "He bought me my first set. Lord knows we needed the money for other things, but Ronald wanted me to have the paints."

Always ready to recognize Jessie as the true artist in the family, Ronald interprets a quote: "Jessie needed a set of paints."

The scenic, religious paintings of Mrs. Cooper have been favorite of collectors since she sold the first ones at a yard sale.

Even with all the fuss of being well-known artists, the Coopers live very quietly. Most people who live near them aren't aware that the traffic to the Cooper's home is anything more than the family tramping in and out. Collectors from across the country have found the path to the Cooper's door and the "Step on in and yell, we are painters" sign that hangs there.

The couple are usually quiet in the workshop. Jessie uses the sink, left over from the days when the house was two apartments, to clean up from their work. Paint splatters cover the floor and work tables, but there is no mess, only a neatly organized clutter.

The art work displayed around the room is the result of that said across the country. It began more than a decade ago when Jessie convinced Ronald, who was recovering from an

Person should not emerge from the in-place shelter until local officials have used the radio or the siren system to signal an "all clear."

Wally is the perfect mascot," says Boone, "because when a turtle senses danger, he goes inside his home and buttons up tightly, just like the workers want to do in times of chemical emergencies."

Boone cautions that sometimes it may still be necessary to evacuate people during chemical spills.

Each Kentucky county has a federally required "Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)," charged with managing chemical emergency planning and citizen notification programs.

According to Lucille Orlando of the Kentucky Emergency Response Commission, LEPCs have initiated or are considering the Wally program in Carroll, Fayette, Madison, Marshall and Warren Counties among others so far.

For more information on the TRANSCAR program or chemical emergency preparedness efforts in general, Boone recommends the Local Emergency Planning Committee or emergency management office.

Ronald likes to use his art to get the message of Jesus to the viewer. "I believe the scenes showing the horrors of hell offer a chance for redemption to the viewer," he said. He declares that work has nothing to do with religion, but rather, "It's just a picture."

For approximately 10 years, the Coopers have lived in the car with art work and headed for Wilmington where Johnson was waiting to take the couple to dinner.

Arriving at the House of Blue Beauxart in North Myrtle Beach, Ronald was amazed at what he saw. "We were met at the door by one of my kind house and inside, around the top of the room and behind the bar were my works."

When Johnson inquired about Ronald's feelings upon seeing his work displayed on this atmosphere where the music was loud and everyone was drinking, he replied, "It seems to me it is right where it should be. These people need to hear the word of the Lord."

"Sometimes people give us things to paint or even to use things on the porch," Jessie said. "Whenever I find something, I know when I pick it up what I will paint it."

Ronald's work has the same religious theme, with more fire and brightness and feature the red and white. Jessie painted a blue and green landscape on the top white wall.

Ronald offered the remainder of the furnace in shades of red and black. "The artist likes with flames tormenting sinners and a devil."

Don't Forget!! The Blackberry Festival begins Monday, June 29th!!