

**AUG
26
1999**

**Back To School
& Sports Preview**
Bus Schedule
Homeroom List
Page 6 & 7



The Carlisle Mercury

PROUD TO BE SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

Vol. 133, NO. 34 Thursday, August 26, 1999 - CARLISLE, KY

- Briefs -

Deaths, Page 3

- Martha Fichtmaster
- Elizabeth Judge
- Blanche Platt
- Ruby Ritchie
- Stanley Robinson
- Russell Scott, Jr.

KSP Officer Finley to speak

Curtis Finley, Public Affairs Officer for the Kentucky State Police will be speaking at the Healthy Seniors. A community service project of Johnson Mathers Health Care, Inc. on Thursday, August 26, at 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

East Union Alumni Dinner

The East Union Alumni Association will be having a Pot Luck Dinner at the Nicholas County Elementary School Cafeteria on August 28, at 3:00 p.m.

N.C.E.S. Open House for Parents

Nicholas County Elementary School will be having an Open House for Parents on Monday, August 30, at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Meet with your children's teachers and learn more about what is expected from your child. Childcare will be provided. There will also be free food, door prizes and information tables.

Every parent of a Nicholas County Elementary student is encouraged to attend.

Nicholas County Conservation District Board Supervisors

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

Ed Miller to hold office hours in Carlisle

Sen. Ed Miller will be available to meet with constituents at 1 p.m., September 3, in the Fiscal Court Room of the Nicholas County Courthouse in Carlisle. Miller will answer questions or address concerns on state government issues.



"Let it Rain, Let it Rain, Let it Rain!" Karina Jordan, photo

Carlisle received some much needed rain Tuesday evening. The rain will be a relief to area farmers, although it is a couple of months to late to help tobacco and corn crops in the area.

Kentucky unemployment rate falls to 4 percent in July

Kentucky's unemployment rate followed a normal summer trend when it dropped from 4.6 percent in June to 4 percent in July, according to the Department for Employment Services, a Cabinet for workforce Development agency. Notable job losses included a 200-job drop in both the fabricated metal products industry and the petroleum, rubber and plastic products industry.

The transportation, communications and public utilities sector showed a 100-job gain from June to July. The finance, insurance and real estate category also stayed steady with 72,000 jobs from June to July. The government sector had the largest decline in jobs in July with 11,900 fewer positions than in June.

While local government had a gain of 1,100 jobs in July it could not offset the temporary loss of 12,400 state and local education positions. State government recorded 600 fewer jobs in July. "Most schools were closed in May and June for the summer, but some elementary, secondary and higher education jobs extended into early July before shutting down for the summer break. Those jobs were often hourly positions such as bus drivers, cafeteria workers and custodians," Cracraft said. "Also, more school districts are moving to a year-around school calendar where the summer break period doesn't start until July."

Three of the nine major job sectors had employment increases from June to July, while four dropped and two stayed the same, Cracraft said. The construction sector recorded the largest job gain of any category in July with 2,200 new positions. General building contractors, which include contractors doing residential building, added 1,000 new jobs in July. Heavy construction contractors added another 700 jobs, while special contractors such as electricians and brick masons increased by 500 jobs. The manufacturing sector reported a net gain of 1,900 in July, the largest increase in this sector was a 1,200 jump in jobs in the electronic equipment industry. A gain of 300 jobs was recorded in the transportation equipment industry. The transportation equipment

industry has added 1,000 jobs in the past two months, Cracraft said. Other significant changes in the manufacturing sector included increases of 200 jobs each in stone, clay and glass products; food and kindred products; and textiles and apparel. Notable job losses included a 200-job drop in both the fabricated metal products industry and the petroleum, rubber and plastic products industry.

The transportation, communications and public utilities sector showed a 100-job gain from June to July. The finance, insurance and real estate category also stayed steady with 72,000 jobs from June to July. The government sector had the largest decline in jobs in July with 11,900 fewer positions than in June. While local government had a gain of 1,100 jobs in July it could not offset the temporary loss of 12,400 state and local education positions. State government recorded 600 fewer jobs in July. "Most schools were closed in May and June for the summer, but some elementary, secondary and higher education jobs extended into early July before shutting down for the summer break. Those jobs were often hourly positions such as bus drivers, cafeteria workers and custodians," Cracraft said. "Also, more school districts are moving to a year-around school calendar where the summer break period doesn't start until July."

Covered Bridge Festival draws near

The Second Annual Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival will soon be here. Folks will be gathering in the small community of Goddard Kentucky on August 28th for the Covered Bridge Festival, which drew over 5,000 folks in 1998. The festival was organized by the Fleming County Tourism Committee to promote the beauty of the three covered bridges in Fleming County. The organizers also wanted to furnish an opportunity for area crafters and artists to have an opportunity to showcase their wares. Over 50 quality craftspersons have been selected to participate in the festival. In addition a number of heritage demonstrations will be taking place, including a steam powered grist mill, blacksmith, soap making, broom making, weaving, spinning and basket making. Artists will be on hand with their work as well as photographers. What a great opportunity to select specially made gifts for family and friends.

The Riggs munit covered Bridge and Grange City Covered Bridge will also be ready for persons to visit them on a "self-guided" tour. Guides will be available at those bridges from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to assist visitors. A new concrete bridge has been constructed north of the covered bridge, which will ease traffic congestion in getting in and out of the festival. Visitors to the festival are asked to take the "new concrete bridge" off of Kentucky 32 to reach the festival this year. The Goddard Covered Bridge will be closed to vehicle traffic the day of the festival so that visitors can leisurely walk across the bridge and study its construction. Mark your calendar, and plan on attending the festival and visiting these folks at their booths at the Second Annual Covered Bridge Festival on August 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Music, food and entertainment will be provided throughout the day. For additional information, call 606-845-1223.

TOURY!
Copies available on newstands around Nicholas County

KU and LG&E customers will see bill adjustments this October

LG&E Energy Corp. (NYSE: LG&E) announced today the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a settlement agreement that will provide the bill adjustments to all customers for costs previously recovered under the Environmental Cost Recovery (ECR) mechanism. Last December, the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of the state ECR statute (KRS 278.183), which allows Louisville Gas and Electric Company (LG&E) and Kentucky Utilities Company (KU) to recover environmental costs incurred after Jan. 1, 1993, which is date that the statute took effect. However, the high court ruled that environmental projects built and completed before 1993 would not be eligible for cost recovery under the ECR mechanism, so it remanded the case back to the PSC. Since the Supreme Court decision, the utilities had been working with interested parties to determine the proper bill adjustments necessary to comply with the ruling.

The settlement agreement is a billing adjustment of about \$19.9 million for all KU customers and approximately \$5.1 million for all LG&E electric customers. The bill adjustments for past recovery will be implemented during a 12-month period beginning this October. Average residential customers of KU will receive a decrease of about \$1.04 per month during this period, while average residential LG&E customers will see a reduction of about 60 cents per month. During the following 12-month period, KU and LG&E customers will then experience a decrease of approximately 25 cents and 10 cents per month respectively for the ongoing effect of the court decision. "We believe the settlement is fair and equitable for our customers, who already enjoy some of the lowest rates in the country. We are pleased that all of the parties involved were able to reach a favorable resolution after the Supreme Court's decision," said Vic Staffieri, LG&E Energy President and CEO. "LG&E and KU customers will start realizing the adjustments in their October billing."

The settlement agreement is being implemented by the Kentucky Attorney General, the Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers and other customer groups. LG&E Energy Corp., headquartered in Louisville, Ky., is a Fortune 500 diversified energy services company with businesses in power generation and project development, retail gas and electric utility services; and asset-based energy marketing. The company owns and operates Louisville Gas and Electric Company, a regulated utility.

The settlement agreement is a billing adjustment of about \$19.9 million for all KU customers and approximately \$5.1 million for all LG&E electric customers. The bill adjustments for past recovery will be implemented during a 12-month period beginning this October. Average residential customers of KU will receive a decrease of about \$1.04 per month during this period, while average residential LG&E customers will see a reduction of about 60 cents per month. During the following 12-month period, KU and LG&E customers will then experience a decrease of approximately 25 cents and 10 cents per month respectively for the ongoing effect of the court decision. "We believe the settlement is fair and equitable for our customers, who already enjoy some of the lowest rates in the country. We are pleased that all of the parties involved were able to reach a favorable resolution after the Supreme Court's decision," said Vic Staffieri, LG&E Energy President and CEO. "LG&E and KU customers will start realizing the adjustments in their October billing."

Health services will be at State Fair

It's time for the Kentucky State Fair and the Cabinet for Health Services will once again be there to let Kentuckians learn about health issues. The cabinet has found that the State Fair is a great way to connect with Kentuckians and deliver messages about mental and physical health. Last year, more than 30,000 people visited the CHS exhibit.

A cabinet committee, headed by far coordinator Eva Smith-Carroll, has been meeting since April and has some great activities lined up for kids and grown-ups. The fair is a great way for the cabinet to let families learn about better ways to take care of themselves," Smith-Carroll said. "The cabinet employees enjoy getting a chance to spread helpful information to people."

Paper bills are no longer necessary when customers choose to receive and pay their bills online. When they sign up to receive their bills online, their paper bills will automatically be "turned off." For the first 10,000 customers who choose to pay online BellSouth will plant a tree in the national forests of the southeast.

Children will be able to get their faces painted and hear about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables; play a Fight Back Game that teaches them about washing their hands; watch a bike safety video; "Professor Helmet on Helmet"; and pay a visit to a life-size fiberglass cow and learn about health. Their parents will be able to apply for the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program. KCHIP provides free health insurance to uninsured children in families with incomes under 150 percent of the federal poverty level -- \$25,050 a year for a family of four. Also in the CHS area, caregivers can take a daily living stress test, get a body composition analysis, and order birth and death certification. The Kentucky State Fair will be held Aug. 19-26 at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville.

BellSouth customers now can receive and pay phone bills online

Reviewing and paying phone bills is now as easy as point and click. BellSouth announced that residence telephone customers can now receive and pay their telephone bills online. "BellSouth online bill payment unlocks a door of opportunity for customers who want a fast and easy way to receive and pay their bills online," said Dave Welter, BellSouth Regional Director. "It provides families with an additional organizational tool that saves time each month when paying bills. They no longer need to write checks and search the house for stamps."

Children will be able to get their faces painted and hear about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables; play a Fight Back Game that teaches them about washing their hands; watch a bike safety video; "Professor Helmet on Helmet"; and pay a visit to a life-size fiberglass cow and learn about health. Their parents will be able to apply for the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program. KCHIP provides free health insurance to uninsured children in families with incomes under 150 percent of the federal poverty level -- \$25,050 a year for a family of four. Also in the CHS area, caregivers can take a daily living stress test, get a body composition analysis, and order birth and death certification. The Kentucky State Fair will be held Aug. 19-26 at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville.

continued on Page 2



"I'm Singing in the Rain!" Karina Jordan, photo

Nicholas County residents enjoy watching the rain fall in downtown Carlisle this week. The weekend looks sunny according to local forecast.