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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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133rd Year, No. 5 | Carlisle, KY 40311-0272 | Thursday, February 4, 1999 | 50¢ Per Copy

Beth Smith photo

Judith Nehls and David Nehls talked with state Rep. Carolyn Belcher at the meeting on insurance last Thursday in Nicholas County.

Insurance department available resource for Nicholas Countians

Members of the state Department of Insurance were in Nicholas County last Thursday at the Nicholas County Library.

The main speaker was Malinda Presson. The main objective of the insurance commissioner is that the Kentucky Department of Insurance is available as a resource for the consumer.

Presson is an enforcement officer for Consumer Protection and Education Division of the Department of Insurance.

Also on hand for the evening were state Senator Ed Miller and state Representative Carolyn Belcher.

Presson talked about issues of health care, insurance and focused on the state of health insurance for seniors.

The Kentucky State Insurance Commission is soon going to have an ombudsman to help answer questions for everyone who has questions about health insurance.

The first issue discussed was long-term care insurance for nursing homes and home health care providers.

Also discussed was Medicare supplements insurance.

The biggest problem with Medicare supplemnts is prescription coverage, Presson said.

Kentucky is unique concerning insurance because it is a rural state, she added.

Many questions were raised by the residents of Nicholas County concerning the cost of health care.

More seniors continue working because they can't afford the health insurance.

The program included free blood pressure checks. It was sponsored by Johnson-Mathers Hospital Healthy Seniors.

The Kentucky Department of Insurance's Consumer Protection and Education division was created to assist residents of the Commonwealth with issues related to the insurance industry.

One main function is the handling of consumer complaints. If you are unable to resolve an insurance problem to your satisfaction by contacting the agent, company, etc., you should contact the Consumer Protection and Education division.

The staff will ask that you submit your complaint in writing.

For details or to discuss your case prior to filing a complaint, call 1-800-595-6053.

Local leaders working to build Mathers memorial

Some interested people are working on a Memorial to be erected on the Nicholas County Courthouse Lawn for the late Dr. Charles W. Mathers, founder of the Mathers Educational Fund, which was willed at his death in 1937.

This fund was established for the education of the Nicholas County children, which is a permanent Trust.

Thousands of children have benefited from the Fund.

A lot of the recipients have become professional people as well as getting an education just by a little help and guidance in their lives, due to Dr. Mathers foresight when he established the Fund.

Prior to his death he was educating orphan girls at the Midway Orphan School, which is now known as Midway College.

This proves that Dr. Mathers has always been interested in children and their education.

Dr. Mathers was also instrumental in the founding of the Nicholas County Hospital.

Dr. Mathers needs to be recognized for his wonderful contribution to Nicholas County, which is long overdue.

The Memorial is a public project, which will be paid solely by your donations.

All conitributions will be greatly appreciated.

The cost is approximately $2000.00.

Checks may be mailed to: Dr. Charles W. Mathers Memorial c/o Deposit Bank Carlisle, Ky. 40311.

Submit old photos for "Memory" edition

The Carlisle Mercury asks residents to submit their old photographs for an upcoming edition of the newspaper that will include "Mercury Memories."

Identification of the subjects should accompany the pictures submitted if possible. Also, the name of the person submitting the photos should be included.

When enough photos are accumulated, the newspaper will run the "Memories" section.

Submit the photos to the the news office at 113 Locust Street, below the Deposit Bank.

Hospital auxiliary to hold meeting

The J.M.H.C. Hospital Auxiliary will meet Tuesday morning February 9th at 10:00 A.M. at the Library.

Beth Smith photo

From left are Cassinda Bechanan, director of volunteer services at Johnson-Mathers Hospital; Malinda Presson, state Division of Insurance; Josh Shepherd, director of public relations, Johnson-Mathers Hospital; Janie Smith, manager of business office, Johnson-Mathers Hospital.

Va will enroll veterans in health care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that in 1999, it will enroll all veterans who apply for VA health care.

The new enrollment program, part of the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act, offers an expanded array of health care services, such as preventive care and outpatient services, in addition to eliminating many prior restrictions and confusion.

Enrollment will allow veterans to have access to the full range of services they need, not just those medical needs resulting from military service.

Veterans can enroll in the new program at American Legion Post 22, Winchester Road, Mount Sterling, Wednesday, February 10th, 10 AM to 2 PM.

Veterans enrolling need to present Discharge records or Form DD 214.

Beth Smith photo

Nathan Miller, state Senator Ed Miller, and Pam Shepherd, from left, attended Thursday's meeting on insurance.

Education partnerships needed to counter low teacher quality

The low quality of teacher training is just as big a danger to education, as is the declining quantity.

"The situation is urgent, even critical," said Dr. Donald N. Langenberg, who spoke at Morehead State University Friday as part of a special series on education. "We've got to get down to doing something about it."

Langenberg, chancellor of the 13-school University System of Maryland, addressed faculty, staff and students as part of MSU's "Teaching the Teachers for the 21st Century" forum.

Friday's program, held at Reed Hall, was the first of seven to be held this semester.

Langenberg gave a litany of facts, to demonstrate how the inadequacy of teacher training has resulted in poor education of students.

Among the statistics:

- Twelve percent of teachers have had no training beyond their bachelor degrees;
- Forty one percent of two-year colleges have some remedial education program for students; 22 percent of four-year colleges have them;
- One third of U.S. teachers did not major or minor in subjects they now teach.
- The number of American jobs that do not require a college education has decreased to 10 percent.

These problems are complicated by the low amount of teachers, in the face of a larger educational demand, Langenberg said.

"By the year 2006, public schools have to hire 2.2 million teachers," he said. "Our production is one-half that. We are going to be short about a million teachers."

"One year with a poor teacher can cause serious problems with a student," Langenberg said. "Three years can cause irreparable damage."

"(The) knowledge (level) of our freshmen is typically at the 6th to 8th grade level," Langenberg said. "When they graduate, it's still at the 6th to 8th grade level."

Langenberg added that the least-qualified teachers are sent to schools with the most needs — comparing it to a hospital assigning brain surgeons to treat light injuries, while sending the least experienced doctors to work in the Intensive Care Unit.

"There seems to be a certain inertia" in academia when it comes to educational reform, Langenberg said. He added that the pressure for change is coming from groups outside of education such as legislatures, state governors and business groups.

Langenberg proposes an educational partnership called "K-16 Square," which has been implemented in Maryland.

In such a partnership, elementary, secondary and postsecondary would work together to improve the teacher quality.

The K-16 partnership, which Langenberg said would be tailored to each state's needs, would have four basic "commitments:"

- Ensure that all high school graduates meet high standards;
- Accept only teachers who can bring all student performance to high standards;
- Accept into colleges only students who meet high standards;
- Ensure that all teacher candidates produced by higher education are prepared to bring student performance to high standards.

"I very much hope that Kentucky will join this eventually," Langenberg said. "It's an important but risky enterprise."

Carlisle student inducted into honor society

Georgetown, Ky. -- Karen Ruth Livingood, a Georgetown College junior from Carlisle, has been inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

Georgetown was granted an ODK chapter in 1995.

Founded in 1914, ODK was the first college honor society of a national scope to recognize individuals who have exemplary records in a number of areas of college life.

Activities and traits include leadership, scholarship, extracurricular activities, community service, religious activities, fellowship and character.

Construction landfill fails to gain enough votes in Rowan

Both sides of the issue for a proposed construction landfill in Rowan County came ready to defend their position Thursday.

It eventually took a tie-breaking vote to determine that KY 519 would not be the site of a state-regulated construction debris landfill.

The one-acre site across from the Quick Stop on KY 519 would have been filled with an estimated 42,000 tons of waste each year.

About 35 people, including KY 519 residents and other citizens, fired questions and comments at Jay Roberts, who would have been the landfill's general manager.

The public hearing was held prior to a special meeting of the Rowan County Fiscal Court on Thursday night at the courthouse.

Residents of KY 519 voiced their concerns: the landfill would be an eyesore, property values would drop, and the area is already too populated for the congestion of trucks traveling to and from the site.

And they had questions: what about runoff and leakage, would the site be inspected, what if hazardous waste happened to be dropped there, would contractors really pass along their savings to the customer.

"My question is, just what benefit is this to Clearfield, Kentucky?" asked Ernie Johnson, a resident of KY 519.

"The landfill's a benefit to the entire county," Roberts said. "If you take shingles off your home you can dispose of them a lot closer.

"There would be no impact on the community," said Roberts, who was a solid waste inspector for the state Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Waste Management for more than seven years.

Roberts looked at more than 30 sites for the landfill and spent more than four months on research.

The landfill would have been inspected by the owners (Roberts and Bill Fannin of Morehead), as well as county and state waste inspectors.

Beth Smith photo

Visiting the Nicholas County Library last week for the insurance meeting was Betty Faye, Mary Byrd and Laura Clark, from left.

Admissions counselor to visit NCHS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.-- Scott Mason, an admissions counselor at Western Kentucky University, will visit Nicholas County High School in Carlisle to discuss with perspective students the opportunities offered at Western.

Mason will visit the school from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on March 16.

-WKU- for more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (502) 745-2551.