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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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Clean sweep

City workers Chris Snapp and Derwin Howard, made a clean sweep through the streets of Carlisle after the recent snow storm left dirt and debris behind.

Grand jury indicts one person

The Nicholas County Grand Jury indicted one person during its Jan. 6 session.

Thomas H. Watkins,19, was indicted for cultivation of five or more marijuana plants when he allegedly was found growing the plants around Dec. 1.

Count two alleges that Watkins had less than eight ounces of marijuana in his possession around Jan. 1.

Count three alleges that he possessed drug paraphernalia around Jan. 1.

Bail was set at $3,500 and arraignment was set on Jan. 20.

The case was investigated by Kentucky State Police Trooper Bret Kirkland and Carlisle police officer G. Turner.

The grand jury empaneled for the period beginning September to December made its final report on Dec. 3.

The report states that the grand jury made careful investigation into all violations of the penal laws of the state in the Nicholas County jurisdiction of which there was any knowledge or had received information.

Indictments were returned in all cases in which the evidence in its opinion justified trial by petit jury.

The grand jury was in session two days and returned nine indictments during the fall session.

One case was remanded to district court.

Licking River status, trends now available

A new interdisciplinary report contains information on the condition of the waterways in the Licking River region. It also tells what you can do to help and where to look for more information.

The state's new watershed management initiative stresses public involvement and participation. "The Licking River Region in Kentucky: Status and Trends" is the first activity under phase one of the watershed management framework.

It was produced by technical and lay volunteers who live in the river's region, which includes Nicholas County.

The report is meant to provide the public with background information on the watershed. It includes a description of the watershed, water quality summaries and maps; descriptions of land uses in the region, along with information on pollutants and activities that have caused problems for streams in the watershed.

This report also covers some smaller watersheds along the state's northern border on the Ohio River.

The Licking River watershed is one of two in which watershed management activities were begun in 1998.

The Salt River watershed is the other. A watershed is the land across and under which water flows on its way to a stream, river, lake or other body of water.

The Licking River Watershed covers all parts of Bath, Boone, Bourbon, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Clark, Elliott, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Lewis, Magoffin, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Robertson and Rowan counties.

Watershed management seeks to protect and enhance public health and safety, conserve and enhance watershed ecosystems, support watershed resource use that meets water quality standards and conservation goals, prevent pollution and provide adequate water supply while supporting ecological integrity.

For more information about the Kentucky Watershed Management Initiative or a copy of the report, contact Pamela Wood, coordinator, or Lee Cullen at the Kentucky Division of Water, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, or telephone 502-564-3410.

Clocking in

Lydia Webb and Jordan Mynhier, second grade students in Connie Wills' class, learn how to use the clock to tell time.

Sex offender notice effective Jan. 15

Justice Cabinet secretary Dan Cherry announced Jan. 15 as the effective date of Kentucky's version of Megan's Law, a community notification process he called "an additional tool in keeping our families and children safe from sex offenders."

Megan's Law was a strong portion of Gov. Paul Patton's criminal justice reform package passed by the 1998 General Assembly that involves notifying the public of the release of a convicted sex offender.

The Justice Cabinet has worked for several months with other state agencies to implement the law and to inform sheriffs and judges.

"Of all types of violent crime, none is more disturbing than the molestation or murder of innocent children," Cherry said. "No parent or family should suffer this ultimate nightmare. The Justice Cabinet and the Patton administration will use everything in its power to prevent such acts."

The national mandate for all states to implement Megan's Law occurred as a result of the murder of Megan Kanka in 1995. Megan was a child violently killed in New Jersey by her neighbor, who law enforcement officials later acknowledged was a twice-convicted violent sexual offender.

Megan's Law applies to sex offenses against adult victims, too.

Kentucky's version of Megan's Law, which meets the mandate of the federal government establishes three levels of notification based upon the risk that the released offender poses to the community: high risk, moderate risk or low risk.

In all cases, the county sheriff is required to notify law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction to which the offender is released and the law enforcement agencies within the jurisdiction at the time of the commission of the crimes.

In low risk cases, the sheriff's office will notify victims who have requested notification.

In moderate risk cases, the sheriff is to notify victims who have requested notification and advocacy groups that have filed a request for notification. The persons notified in the high-risk cases are the same as the moderate, plus the general public will be informed through statewide media outlets in all high-risk cases.

Information released about high-risk sex offenders will include name hair and eye color, aliases used, residence, vehicle registration data, brief description of the crime committed and may include a photograph.

The Department of Corrections will notify the sentencing court 120 days prior to a sex offender's release date.

Cost of first-class stamp rises to 33 cents

The U.S. Postal Service will be increasing the cost of first class stamps one cent to 33 cents, effective Jan. 10. It will be part of the first overall increase in postal rates in four years.

The post office has issued a non-denominational "H" stamp for 33-cent postage, until the new stamps are printed. One-cent stamps can also be used with 32-cent stamps.

The new postal rates are:

First Class: first ounce, 33 cents; each additional ounce, 22 cents;

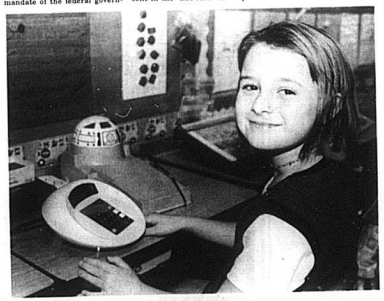
Priority Mail: up to 2 pounds, $3.20; the 2-pound rate is also charged for all matter sent in the "flat rate" envelope provided by the postal service;

Express Mail: up to 8 ounces, $11.75; up to 2 pounds, $15.75; the 2-pound rate is also charged for all matter sent in the "flat raie" envelope provided by the postal service.

Special Services Changes: certified mail fee, $1.40; return receipt fee, $1.25; return receipt for merchandise, $1.40;

Fee Adjustments: insured mail, first $50, 85 cents; over $50 to $100, $1.80; over $100 (up to $5,000), $1.80 plus 95 cents each additional $100.

For more details, call the following post offices: Morehead, 784-5556; Elliottville, 784-9843; Clearfield, 784-8544; Farmers 784-5030.



Calculating student

Amber Auxier, second grader, uses a school calculator during class time at Nicholas County Elementary School.

All "A" classic tournament to be held Jan. 27

The Kentucky All-A Classic statewide basketball tournament will be held Jan. 27-Jan. 31 at McBrayer Arena at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

Nicholas County Boys and Girls basketball teams are contenders for annual event.

Tickets for specific sessions can be purchased for $8 a session at the ticket windows on site.

Questions regarding tickets or other information should be directed to Jim Rice at 606-622-2122.

The 1999 tournament will feature 16 boys and 16 girls teams representing each region of the state.

Nicholas County is region 10.

Eight first round girls games will be held Wednesday, Jan. 27 and eight first round boys games will be held Friday, Jan. 28.

Four girls quarter final games and four boys quarter final games will be held Friday, Jan. 29. Two girls semi-final games are set for Saturday morning, Jan. 30, followed by two boys semi-final games on Saturday afternoon.

Championship games for girls and boys will be held on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 31.

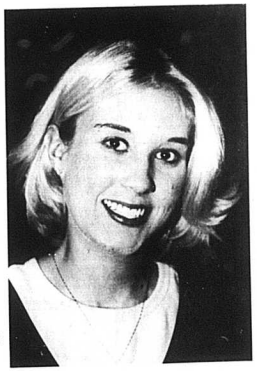
Submit your photos for Memory Lane

The Carlisle Mercury wishes to publish Memory Lane, a section devoted to past photographs and stories from all readers.

Please drop your pictures and/or information by the newspaper office at Locust Street, under the Deposit Bank downtown Carlisle.

Courthouse closed on Jan. 18

The Nicholas County courthouse will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Day.



Student of the Week

Allison Grant, 17 year-old Nicholas County High School student, is Student of the Week at the school. She is the daughter of Mike and Diana Phillips of Carlisle.

She maintains a 4.0 GPA and is very active in school. She is a member of the marching band, the FCA, yearbook staff, class officer, Co-Ed-Y, KYA, KUNA, National Honor Society, girls' softball team, boys' varsity basketball statistician, girls' softball program, pep club, ecology club, tech team youth salute program, pep club, ecology club, tech team youth salute program, and recognized as a Who's Who among High School Students.

Her favorite subject is English and she enjoys writing poetry. She plans to attend Morehead State University and become an English teacher after graduating.

She is a bible school teacher at the Methodist Church, a 4-H Camp junior counselor, was in the Christmas Cantata, is a Postponing Sexual Involvement team leader, a community volunteer with family services co-op and a member of the Nicholas County Historical Society.