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# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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### - Briefs -

#### Retirement reception for Kanatzar

The public is invited to a reception for Lee Kanatzar on July 30, from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nicholas County Health Center. Kanatzar has served as Center Coordinator and RN for the past 27 years at the Nicholas County Health Department.

#### Cheatnam Club to host fish fry

The Marie Cheatnam Club will have a fish fry on Sunday, August 1, at 5:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Depot.

#### N.C. Elementary Site Base Council to meet

The Nicholas County Elementary Site Base Council will have its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, August 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the school library.

#### N.C. Conservation District to meet

The Nicholas County Conservation District will meet on Wednesday, August 4, at 7:30 p.m., at the old Armory in Carlisle.

#### Carlisle High School Alumni Annual banquet

The Carlisle High School Alumni Association will have its annual banquet Saturday, August 7, at 5:30 p.m., at the Nicholas County Elementary School.

#### Carlisle City Council monthly meeting set

The Carlisle City Council will have its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 9, at 7 p.m. in the City Building.

#### Special called School Board meeting

A special called Nicholas County Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, August 10, at 6:00 p.m., in the district's central office.

#### N.C. Fiscal Court monthly meeting set

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court will have its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 10, at 6 p.m., at the Nicholas County Courthouse.

#### Nicholas County Fair

Thousands of students started looking for work in June and many were hired. However, in some areas of Kentucky available opening could not keep pace with all those looking for employment. Only one in the past 30 years has Kentucky's unemployment rate declined from May to June," said Carlos Cracraft, the department's chief labor market analyst. The trade sector gained 3,000 jobs in June. Wholesale trade added 900 positions while retail trade had 2,100 more jobs.

July 29, 30, & 31 August 1

## Lack of rain causes major loss for farmers in Nicholas County and surrounding areas

KARI JORDAN  
Managing Editor



The severe drought has destroyed most of Nicholas County corn crop for 1999. This has forced cattle farmers to take their cattle to market early, for lack of food.

Local farmers have been able to benefit from programs administered by the local Farm Service Agency (FSA). From July 1 of last year through June of this year, Nicholas County farmers have received almost \$30,046 in cash payments, with the majority coming in the past three months.

The most recent program payments have come from the Dairy Market Loss Assistance Program which resulted in 2,829 being distributed to county dairy producers.

"Due to the lack of rain which farmers need to help provide adequate water and produce hay and corn for feeding, farmers have been forced to sell cattle early," according Mike Phillips, Nicholas County Ag Agent.

The lack of rain has not been kind to tobacco growers in Nicholas County. Phillips predicts that approximately half of the tobacco crops will be lost this year, and hay is about 65 percent short.

"This has been no corn crop what so ever," said Phillips. A Hay Hotline has been established by Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith.

The Hay Hotline was set up in early July to help connect drought-stricken Kentucky livestock producers in need of forages with those who wish to sell or donate hay.

The toll-free hotline number is 1-888-531-8083.

All this concern has had Governor Paul Patton requesting federal aid for a number of counties suffering from prolonged drought conditions.

The governor sent letters to United States Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman asking that emergency loan assistance be made available to farmers.

This request was brought on by Smith who sent Patton a list of 70 counties, located throughout eastern and south central Kentucky, which he said are suffering from drought conditions. The counties more severely affected were contacted by the governor's office of Agriculture Policy and instructed to assess whether they needed to apply for federal disaster assistance. The judge-executives of those counties were asked to confer with their local Kentucky Consolidated Farm Service Agency offices on the condition of farms in their area.

Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Timcher notified Patton's office with the following letter on July 23.

Dear Governor - As County Judge-Executive of Nicholas

County, I am very concerned with the drought stricken areas in the State of Kentucky. Our county, as well as many more, will be in need of any disaster relief money that could possibly be made available. The farmers of our community have been hit very hard with tobacco cuts the past two years as you are well aware of. The drought we are currently experiencing, along with lack of rainfall this past winter has taken its toll on our hay, corn and tobacco crops for the 1999 crop year. We are also experiencing a disaster shortage with summer pastures for livestock. Many farmers are already having to feed some of their winter hay supply. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me. Thank you for your attention in this matter. Sincerely, Larry Timcher

The 70 counties for which Commissioner Smith is seeking disaster area status are: Adair, Allen, Harren, Bath, Bell, Boone, Bourbon, Boyd, Bracken, Breathitt, Butler, Campbell, Carroll, Carter, Clark, Clay, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliot, Estill, Fayette, Fleming, Floyd, Gallatin, Grant, Grayson, Green, Greer, Harlan, Harrison, Hart, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Kenton, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Logan, Madison, Magoffin, Mason, Martin, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owen, Owsley,

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Tobacco in Nicholas County is at about a 50 percent loss. Nicholas County has applied for federal aid through Governor Patton's office.

## Kentucky unemployment rate increases to 4.6 percent in June

Kentucky's unemployment rate rose from 4.3 percent in May to 4.6 percent in June, while total employment continued to climb by more than 28,000.

Kentucky's June 1999 jobless rate was below June 1998's 4.9 percent rate, according to the Department for Employment Services, a Cabinet for Workforce Development agency. The U.S. jobless rate in June increased to 4.5 percent from 4 percent in May.

"Thousands of students started looking for work in June and many were hired. However, in some areas of Kentucky available opening could not keep pace with all those looking for employment. Only one in the past 30 years has Kentucky's unemployment rate declined from May to June," said Carlos Cracraft, the department's chief labor market analyst.

The trade sector gained 3,000 jobs in June. Wholesale trade added 900 positions while retail trade had 2,100 more jobs.

The service sector led all other categories in June with an employment increase of 5,100. Amusement and recreation places grew by 1,200 jobs, and hotels and other lodging places added 500 jobs because of summer vacation, Cracraft said.

Within the services sector, membership organizations such as country clubs and YMCAs added 1,100 positions. Business services, including temporary help agencies grew by 2,000 jobs in June. Many hospitals and similar health facilities added 700 jobs as they hired newly graduated health professionals, Cracraft said. The sector would have had even higher employment but private schools, colleges and other non-public educational services show a job loss of 1,400 because such institutions closed for the summer, he said.

The Fifth-Sixth Annual Association of Conservation Districts met recently at the Galt House in Louisville.

The Nicholas County Conservation District was presented an area award from the Goodyear Conservation Awards Program. The award was given in recognition of the outstanding conservation district program in the fifth soil and water conservation area for program year 1998.

Those attending from Nicholas County were Lovell and Ruth Hollaz, Stanley and Mary Lou Alexander, Rodney and Lisa Brookshire, Jean Darrell, Julian and Evelyn Hammonds and Doug Beckman.

## Conservation District receives award

The figures indicate that Kentuckians were spending their money on food and other retail goods.

The national average price of self-serve regular unleaded gasoline jumped 3.2 cents to \$1.174 per gallon in July, the highest level since late in 1997, according to AAA.

The July AAA Fuel Gauge Report shows this month's price wipes out a brief one-month decline in June and is now the highest since it averaged 1.21 in December 1997.

The surge in gas prices can be blamed on two factors. The price of crude oil, from which gasoline is refined, is at a 19-month high and demand for gas in the U.S. is up.

AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky is a non-for-profit auto club serving 120,000 members in 61 counties in Central and Eastern Kentucky and parts of Virginia and West Virginia.

The jump in prices is even more dramatic in Lexington, where a survey of 30 gas stations found the average price to be \$1.15 per gallon, up nine cents from last month. That is the highest average price in Lexington since it was \$1.17 per gallon in September 1997. As recently as this past February, Lexington's average price was a relatively low 81 cents per gallon, 34 cents cheaper than it is today.

"The amazing run of low gas prices appears over for now," said Dan Dickson, Public Relations Manager for AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky. "But drivers should take heed, during that period of cheap gas, they probably saved \$100 or more at the pump."

## Highest gas prices since 1997

KARI JORDAN  
Managing Editor

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## Education for life... Celebrating Breast-feeding Week

To promote breast-feeding in your community the Nicholas County Public Library and the Nicholas County Health Center will provide an informal walk-in, question and answer program presented by the Wedco District Health Department's Certified Lactation Consultant.

You may drop by the Nicholas County Library on Tuesday, August 17, from 10:00 a.m.

through Noon for free literature and to speak with the Lactation Consultant. The theme for 1999 World Breast-feeding Week August 1-7 is Breast-feeding Education for Life.

For more information contact Ann Mulholland, R.N.I.B.C.L.C., Wedco District Health Department at 606-234-8750.