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Five compete for title of Miss Blackberry Festival Amanda Flora to relinquish crown July 1

By KARI JORDAN
Managing Editor

Five beautiful young women from Nicholas County will gather in Carlisle Thursday, July 1 for the coveted title of Miss Blackberry Festival. The crowning will take place immediately following the parade which is set for 7 p.m. Following, in alphabetical order, are the candidates:



Jennifer Livingood
Jennifer Livingood is the 18-year-old daughter of Rick and Linda Livingood.

During her four years at Nicholas County High School, she has been a member of the Lady Jackets Basketball team, six years softball team, FFA, KYA, FFA 1998-1999 President, Peer Tutor, Pop Club, and Ecology Club member. She will be attending Lexington Community College and seek a career in Land Appraisal.



Shasta McNabb
Shasta Shanay McNabb is the 18-year-old daughter of Alvin McNabb and Paula Bennett.

She has been a member of the girls' basketball and softball teams for the past six years, an officer in the FHA for two years, Pop Club for two years, and a member of the high school Chorus for two years. Shasta plans to attend college to major in Athletic training/physical therapy.



Kathy Jo Schanding

Kathy Jo Schanding is the 18-year-old daughter of Bradley and Bonita Schanding.

Kathy was a member of the National Honor Society, 3.75 Club, Pop Club, PSI, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the N.C.H.S. band.

She enjoys playing basketball, softball, and spending time with friends and family. Kathy will be attending Maysville Community College this fall, but is undecided on a career path.

Melissa Salvage is the 18-year-old daughter of Donnie and Martha Salvage.

Melissa is a four-year member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Teen Leadership Council, Pop Club and Ecology Club.

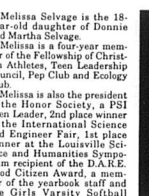
Melissa is also the president of the Honor Society, a PSI Teen Leader, 2nd place winner at the International Science and Engineer Fair, 1st place winner at the Louisville Science and Humanities Symposium recipient of the D.A.R.E. Good Citizen Award, a member of the yearbook staff and the Girls Varsity Softball Team.

Melissa will be attending the University of Louisville and majoring in the medical field.

Cara Elizabeth Wilson is the 17-year-old daughter of Elizabeth Wilson of Paint Lick, KY.

Cara enjoys playing tennis, cooking, and spending time with her family and friends.

She will be attending Lexington Community College and the University of Kentucky where she will major in psychology and minor in nutrition.



Cara Wilson

For more information on the Carlisle Blackberry Festival see page 12 of this week's Carlisle Mercury.



Amanda Flora

For more information on the Carlisle Blackberry Festival see page 12 of this week's Carlisle Mercury.



Recognition for years of service

Pictured are Kathleen Seagraves, James Simon, and James "Rob" Lane. They were recognized at Monday evening's School Board Meeting for their dedication and service. Seagraves retired after 31 years of teaching, Simon retired after 30 years of teaching, and Lane retired after 27 years of teaching.

Checks issued by the state gets a facelift

By KARI JORDAN
Managing Editor

Anyone who receives a check from the Commonwealth of Kentucky for any reason, can expect a new look beginning July 1. The State Treasurer's Office has announced that their antiquated system for printing checks is being replaced with new state-of-the-art equipment giving all checks distributed by the state a new look.

The changes are more than cosmetic, according to Treasurer John Kennedy Hamilton. "The new process allows us to be more efficient in handling taxpayer's dollars." As an example, the current system requires that the treasurer keep track of 18 different kinds of checks. By switching to a laser printing process with more flexibility in printing options that number is being reduced to three.

The Treasurer's office prints over 600,000 checks each month for employees, vendors, family services and child support, to name but a few. "People don't realize what it takes to process that many checks," Hamilton said. "We are moving away from what has been a very labor intensive and time consuming process. By simplifying the state's checks in the process, we not only increase the productivity of our staff, but also reduce the opportunity for error."

Starting July 1, the blank check paper goes into a printer and when checks exit, they are ready for mailing. The check will appear either in the middle or on the bottom of a folded 8 1/2" by 11" sheet of paper. More detailed information can be included on checks because the new laser printers can print on both sides of the paper. This technology gives the state the option of including a return address to a vendor from more than one state agency into a single check, saving printing, postage and handling costs.



Shasta McNabb

The changes in Treasury began as an outgrowth of Governor Paul Patton's Empower Kentucky initiative, which began about three years ago and continues to improve and modernize administrative services throughout state government. An entirely new financial management system (MARS), will begin full implementation on July 1. The new check printing process is one of the final steps of streamlining the state's administrative services.

Fiscal Court purchases license from McDonald

By KARI JORDAN
Managing Editor

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court held a special meeting on Thursday, June 17, to meet with Rodney and Joyce McDonald with the intent to purchase their ambulance license.

The court approved the \$10,000 purchase which also included all equipment that was owned by the McDonalds. Stephanie Ring and Shelly Mitchell won the bid over the McDonalds earlier this month. \$15,000 was subtracted from their bid of \$85,000 to help cover the cost.

The McDonalds will provide service for Nicholas County until June 25, when Ring and Mitchell will take over at 12:01 a.m. Judge Executive told the Carlisle Mercury that at least the county owns the license which Nicholas County residents will be provided with ambulance service.

National HIV testing day is June 27

By KARI JORDAN
Managing Editor

A statewide prevention effort is underway throughout the month of June to encourage people to get tested for HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

National HIV Testing Day sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS, is June 27, 1999. The theme of this year's effort is "Take the Test, Take Control."

The Kentucky Department for Public Health's Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning is encouraging people to go to their health care provider or local health department for HIV testing.

Free HIV testing is available at 177 counseling and testing sites throughout Kentucky, including all local health departments. Anonymous testing is an option for those sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are at higher risk of HIV infection, the department is promoting STD testing during all of June as well.

All persons should know their HIV status, not only to help control the disease, but to enable them to be healthy as long as possible, according to Tom Collins, the state's national testing project team captain.

Treatments available to HIV-infected persons give them greater chances for fighting the disease. These treatments make the greatest difference if treatment is begun early in the disease, before HIV progresses to AIDS.

It is especially important for pregnant women to take the test to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to her child can be reduced by two thirds with appropriate treatment. As of March 31 of this year, there have been 283 cases of AIDS diagnosed in Kentucky. 333 people are living with AIDS in the state.

The majority of AIDS cases are diagnosed in people in their thirties. This indicates that infection probably occurred during their twenties or adolescence. The highest risk behavior among males are men having sex with men (68 percent), injecting drug use (11 percent), and the use of needles.

The percentage of injecting drug use and heterosexual infection has increased for males. Among female cases, heterosexual contact is the greatest risk (50 percent), followed by injecting drug use (29 percent). The percentage of female HIV and AIDS cases in Kentucky has increased in recent years. In 1992, 10.6 percent of Kentucky AIDS cases were women; in 1998 that number was 17.7 percent. The most dramatic increases have been among African American women. Among female AIDS cases diagnosed in 1997, 56 percent were African American.

One of the most important steps in HIV prevention is for people to know and practice healthy behaviors, Collins said. The Department for Public Health urges persons to go to their local health department or other health care provider for testing. Anyone seeking more information about this campaign should call Collins, with the state's HIV/AIDS program, at 502-564-6539.

Top quarter design concepts will advance to the U.S. Mint

By KARI JORDAN
Managing Editor

The votes are in, and Kentuckians like My Old Kentucky Home, a horse and jockey, Abraham Lincoln's birth place, and Daniel Boone for the back of the quarter.

First Lady Judy Patton announced which seven design concepts for the Kentucky quarter will be submitted to the U.S. Mint on Monday, June 21.

Twelve entries were placed on display in the Capitol Front Lobby and on the Internet for the public to vote on Tuesday through Thursday, June 15-17. The Capitol ballot box received 509 votes, and 57,994 votes were cast through the Web site. The top seven designs can be seen on the Internet at <http://www.state.ky.us/gen/coin/quarter.htm>.

The number of people who voted to help choose the quarter says something about the wonderful place this state is," said Mrs. Patton. "All the entries are wonderful representations of Kentucky, and the seven that are going to the Mint are truly exceptional. I'm just glad we were able to get so many people involved in this process."

The Kentucky Quarter Project Committee, headed by Mrs. Patton, received nearly 1800 design concepts from people across the state. The committee then narrowed the submissions to a smaller pool, from which Governor and Mrs. Patton chose 12 finalists for the public to vote on.

The committee will take the top designs to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, Penn., on Monday. The Mint will then turn the project over to its engravers, who will work with Kentucky's ideas to create drawings that could work on the back of a coin. Kentucky is

providing seven design concepts so that the U.S. Mint engravers will be able to create images that best represent Kentucky's ideas.

The initial drawings of the engravers should be completed by the end of September, and will then be reviewed by the U.S. Fine Arts Commission, the Secretary of the Treasury Department will give his approval on the remaining coin designs.

The committee should receive a minimum of three design representations by the end of November. The design must be chosen by Jan. 28, 2000, according to the Mint.

In no particular order, the finalists are:

"Tommy Turner, Judge Executive of Laramie County, Entry: American's First Frontier, Birthplace of Lincoln."

"Benjamin Blair, University of Kentucky student from Campbellville. Entry: My Old Kentucky Home with plunk forces in front, horses grazing."

"John Ward, engineering designer from Mt. Sterling. Entry: Thoroughbred running with jockey aboard. Entry: My Old Kentucky Home."

"Charlotte Cash, art teacher at Cumberland County High School. Entry: Daniel Boone with long rifle, dog unattended."

"Ronald J. Inabitt, graphic designer from Union, Entry: Horse behind plunk fence in field, horse in background."

"Brian Orms, graphic artist from Louisville. Entry: My Old Kentucky Home."

Each state will submit a design for the back of the coin

Continued on Page 12