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SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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Smoot advances to state Governor's Cup Competition

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 27, Nicholas County High School hosted the annual Governor's Cup Competition for Region 10 Schools in the region including Augusta, Bath County, Boone County, Breathitt County, Fleming County, George Rogers Clark, Lewis County, Mason County, Nicholas County, Paris, Powell County, Rowan County, St. Patrick's and Montgomery County High Schools.

The Governor's Cup Competition is an academic event held throughout the state. Students perform in areas such as Mathematics, Science, Composition, Social Studies, Language Arts, Character Knowledge, and Problem Solving and Quick

Weston Smoot a Nicholas County junior placed 4th in the Social Studies Event and will advance to the state competition to be held on Sunday and Monday, March 14, 15, in Louisville at the Executive Inn.

Smoot is a member of the high school football, basketball, track, KY Youth Assembly, KY United Nations Assembly and vice president of Future Farmers of America.

Final results from the event were: Mathematics Written Assessment, 1st place - David Hunter, 2nd place - George Rogers Clark, 3rd place - Peter Weigl of Rowan, 4th place - Justin Treadwell of St. Patrick and 4th place - Weston Smoot of Montgomery.

Science Written Assessment, 1st place - John Sparradling of Montgomery, 2nd place - Brian Tate of Bracken, 3rd place - Jeremy Williams of Fleming and 4th place - Daniel Burgess of Rowan.

Composition, 1st place - Alex Alexander of Bourbon, 2nd place - Anya Coleman of Fleming, 3rd place - Emily Mitchelson of Rowan and 4th place - Katherine Collins of Paris.

Future Problem Solving Team, 1st place - Lewis County, 2nd place - Bourbon County, 3rd place - St. Patrick and 4th place - Fleming County.

Montgomery County, 3rd place - Fleming County and 4th place - Bourbon County.

Social Studies Written Assessment, 1st place - Samantha Vibbert of Fleming, 2nd place - Matthew Anderson of George Rogers Clark and 3rd place - John Hunter of Boone.

Language Arts Written Assessment, 1st place - Chad Lewis of Lewis, 2nd place - Jere

my Hickman of Mason, 3rd place - Philip Hirsch of Mason and 4th place - Meredith Collins of Fleming.

Knowledge Written Assessment, 1st place - David Galt of George Rogers Clark, 2nd place - John Shary of Fleming and 3rd place - Samantha Vibbert of Fleming and Peter Weigl of Rowan.

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A high school class visited Johnson Mathers Nursing Home recently to allow residents to visit with local pets.

Jobless rates slightly higher than December

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

Thousands of Kentucky employers will pay lower unemployment taxes starting this week.

New tax rate notices have been mailed to employers, whose taxes are being cut 19 percent or \$11.44 per employee. This year marks the first time in 40 years that a lower unemployment insurance tax rate schedule has been enacted. All the same time, benefits for those kinds of people receiving unemployment insurance has increased.

The tax cuts are possible because of a Patton administration initiative enacted by the 1998 session of the General Assembly.

"Clearly do we have an opportunity to increase interest in the public and at the same time, Gov. Paul E. Patton said. This is an excellent example of how government works for Kentuckians."

Today's wellbeing of the trust fund is a dramatic turnaround from its status in 1982, when Kentucky had to borrow \$215 million from the federal government to pay benefits to people without jobs.

With a 1982 agreement of business and labor on legislation

sponsored by Rep. J.R. Gray, D-Bowling, the funding mechanism for the trust fund was changed to make it fiscally sound. Unemployment tax rates increased and benefit payments were frozen.

"As a consequence of the fiscal prudence of the legislature and business and labor leaders, we are now able to offer both tax relief for employers and benefit increases for unemployed workers," Patton said, "without jeopardizing the trust fund's adequacy."

Nicholas County unemployment rate had a slight rise in January by 44 percent from its 3.9 percent in December. In a 1998, when it was at 5.2 percent.

Unemployment rates rose in 12 Kentucky counties between December 1998 and January 1999, fell in six and stayed the same in two, according to the Department for Employment Services, a Cabinet for Workforce Development agency.

From January 1998 to January 1999, jobless rates dropped in 90 counties, went up in 27, and stayed the same in Bath, Boyle and Lincoln counties. In January 1999, 13 counties had jobless rates of or above 10 percent. Eleven counties recorded double-digit rates in December 1998 and 17 in January 1999.

Woodford County's 1.3 percent jobless rate was the lowest in the commonwealth. Other low rates were recorded in Harlan County, 1.8 percent; Franklin County, 1.9 percent; Fayette County, 1.9 percent; Franklin County, 2.0 percent; Scott County, 2.4 percent; Shelby County, 2.6 percent; Washington County, 2.6 percent; and Boone County, 2.6 percent.

Taylor County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate - 19.3 percent. It was followed by Russell County, 18.3 percent; Green County, 16.5 percent; Elliott County, 16.6 percent; Martin County, 16.3 percent; Maguffin County, 14.6 percent; Lawrence County, 12.9 percent; and Adair County, 12.2 percent.

Girl Scout cookie time

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

The Girl Scout Cookies are here! Thousands of boxes of delivered to the Girl Scouts in Nicholas County. Jane Whalen, Nicholas County, said she has volunteered to help with the project for the Girl Scouts. She started distributing the hundreds of thousands of cookies that the troop has sold this year. In the next couple of weeks, the Girl Scout troop will be delivering the cookies that have been ordered.

Girl Scout Cookies Booths will also be set up at local retailers during the month of March. All sell cookies to those that have not had a chance to order cookies or have eaten all that they originally ordered.

The Wilderness Road Council, which serves the Carlisle county, serves of 25,000 girls in Central and Eastern Kentucky. Girl Scout Cookies sale proceeds make up the majority of the Girl Scouts budget. All members ship at an all-time high, the Girl Scouts are also at an all-time high. Over 50% of girls in the Wilderness Road Council participate with some amount of financial assistance.

had purchased the equipment through various fundraising projects. More money is still needed to complete the surfacing of the playground and some additional playground equipment is needed. The PTA will be holding a fund-raising event in the milling Easter to raise the funds.

Book orders for the playground at the school this week in which parents and children can purchase new new books and have the option to purchase them.

Nicholas Elementary busy in spite of snow

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

The snow that fell over the grounds of Nicholas County Elementary School Thursday could not put a damper on this week's activities. Although school was cancelled on Tuesday, working crews had already begun construction of the new playground area on Monday.

The Nicholas County PTA

WRITE MORE LEARN MORE



Weston Smoot a junior at Nicholas County High School advances to State Governor's Cup Competition in Louisville.

Carlisle couple arrested on charges for drugs

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

Shannon D. Richardson was arrested last week on 29 Charges by trooper Shain Stephens.

Fugate was arrested in the early hours of Thursday, March 4 at Nicholas Square Apartments. Carlisle police had gone to the apartment to arrest Stephens. She was called to help assist the police. At the officers' request they issued some narcotics and a further search revealed an even larger supply of marijuana and paraphernalia. He was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking of a controlled substance and prescription medication not in proper container.

Richardson, who was not home at the time of the incident was arrested around noon on Saturday, March 6 near Meyers

obtained a warrant for her arrest in connection with the incident on Thursday. She was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, trafficking a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and prescription medication not in proper container.

Bloodmobile to be at hospital Monday

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

Blood is needed every where every day. Johnson Mathers Healthcare asks you to ensure blood is available for Nicholas County residents by donating on Monday, March 15 from 10 to 6:30 pm, at the JMHC bloodmobile located at the Johnson Mathers Healthcare Center in Carlisle. The drive is sponsored by Central Kentucky Blood Center.

Every three seconds in the United States someone receives a blood transfusion. Blood and blood components are used to treat accident and burn victims, cancer patients and other

patients undergoing surgeries and medical treatments. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 100 pounds and be in good general health. The complete process takes less than an hour, with the actual donation of one pint of blood lasting 10 minutes.

Blood can be donated every day, though the support of volunteer donors and drive sponsors like Johnson Mathers Healthcare, Central Kentucky Blood Center provides blood to 60 hospitals in 54 Kentucky counties.

All donors, on March 15 receive a free thank you gift. For details call Joak Shepherd at 289-7181.

Wrestling Federation coming to Carlisle

By KARI JORDAN
Staff Writer

The Southern Wrestling Federation will be one of the highlights of the year. Come on out and see it 12 pm at the Carlisle National Guard Armory.

Wrestling is back in town and they will be hearing down the house with some of today's best athletes. The work it was and the stage is set folks. This will be one of the highlights of the year. Come on out and see it 12 pm at the Carlisle National Guard Armory.



Morgan Padgett played basketball outside her home in downtown Carlisle. She is the daughter of Brian Brierly.