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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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"Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867"

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Thursday, April 20, 2000



WATCH US FLY. Children at the Head Start center are enjoying the nice weather that we have been having lately.

Budget Overlook, part 1 Funding for Ambulance Service

This is the first part of a series of four topics that we will be reviewing on the Nicholas County Fiscal Court General Budget. As July approaches and the Magistrates and County Judge/Executive are faced with tightening their belts to keep all existing programs, we will be reviewing some topics that have come before the county in previous meetings. The first issue is on the present ambulance service. This article is not about the quality of service that is provided, but about the amount of funding that is provided from the court, and tax payer dollars. Every year the bids for

ambulance service is up for grabs and the person or agency with the best bid is awarded the contract. Last year the contract caused some controversy and the controversy will no doubt likely continue if cost are to be the factor. Good quality health care is hard to get, but at what expense must the county and taxpayers face to receive this service. In our recent investigation we will give the citizens of Nicholas County a review of what the county has been faced with for the past several years and compare it to other surrounding counties. In the 2000 budget the

Out-of-district contract fails for further discussion

During Monday night called meeting on May 2, at Nicholas County School Board 6:30 p.m. In other motions of the night to board approved a trip regarding students residing in by Mr. Storie's and Mrs. Nicholas County but attending Sander's math classes at school in Bourbon and NCHS to attend Morehead Harrison Counties failed for lack of votes. The discussion will be reviewed in a special

Project Graduation funding needed

Nicholas County High School's parents with seniors have officially launched their fund for this year's Project Graduation. As noted by the project's sponsor, Mrs. Guthrie, "This event cannot take place without the continued generosity of our community." She added, "Even though our community is small and is all too frequently called upon for donations, it has always understood the magnitude of protecting our graduates on Graduation Night, which is statistically proven to be the most dangerous night of a teenager's life."

Only a few days left to apply

Less than a week remains for individuals and businesses in 10 Kentucky counties to apply for state and federal aid to replace losses from the February 18 flooding. Deadline to register for disaster assistance is Friday, April 20, 2000. Bath, Boyd, Carter, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis, Mason, Nicholas, Robertson and Rowan counties in Kentucky were declared disaster areas by President Clinton following storms and flooding in February. Individuals and business owners in those counties who sustained losses but still have not applied for assistance may call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toll-free registration number at 1-800-462-9029 through 6 p.m. on April 28. The TTY registration number for the hearing or speech impaired is 1-800-462-7685. This is our last effort to reach out to any disaster victims who still haven't registered," said Deputy State Coordinating Officer Cash Centers of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. Even after the deadline, applicants may reach FEMA for information by calling the Helpline at 1-800-526-0321. Helpline representatives are available from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to answer questions about the assistance process or the status of application.

Voter registration deadline is April 24

The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming primary election is Monday, April 24. County clerk's offices throughout Kentucky will accept voter registration cards until close of business that day and will accept all voter registration cards postmarked April 24. You can also register to vote at the same time you renew your driver's license. "I encourage everyone who is eligible to vote and hasn't yet registered to go ahead and

Begin the week of April 17, 2000, the parent committee will be contracting our local businesses, churches, civic organizations and individuals to assist with this year's Project Graduation that will take place on June 4-5, 2000. These donations, whether they be monetary of material, will be used to provide a place for the event in addition to prizes and food for the all night party. It is estimated that the cost of this event will be close to \$2,000. If you would like to contribute to NCHS Project Graduation 2000, you can either mail your donations directly to the high school or call 259-3784 for more information.

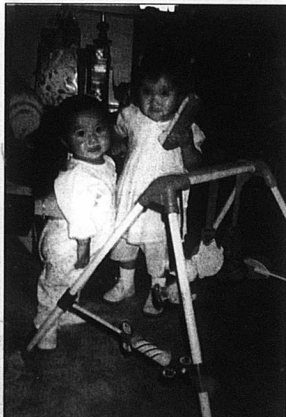
GRAD
For a complete list of voter registration sites in your area contact the Kentucky State Board of Elections at 502-573-7100.

Local families cross international waters to adopt

After almost one and a half years of preparing for the adoption of their daughters, Kathy Green and Donna Gail Mattox arrived in Lexington last Wednesday to a crowd of over 50 friends and relatives, after their three week trip to China. All adoptions are considered special, but what makes these two families even more special, was that they were able to open their hearts and homes to children from China who might have to spend years in a local orphanage. Kathy and Donna Gail began researching the International Adoption program after reading about other families in Kentucky who have chosen this type of adoption over domestic adoptions. Every year American families adopt thousands of unwanted Chinese girls like Abigail and Olivia through government agencies. Never do the Americans have the chance to meet the babies parents or learn how they made their painful decisions. The Chinese have a saying that "when a daughter marries, she is thrown out like water. A son, on the other hand, remains loyal all his life. This is why over 100,000 children are put up for adoption in China. With a population

of 1.2 billion and growing by 20 million people a year, the government is trying to control that number by allowing only one child per family. If a family chooses to have more than one child, they must pay a fine, and if they keep the child, they could loose their social status. Kathy and Donna Gail have found that the girls have adjusted greatly to their new surroundings and the love of their families. The age of Abigail is listed as 15 months, but doctors estimate that she is around

see **ADOPT** on page 3



By the smiles on their face, Abigail, left, and Olivia are enjoying each others company since arriving in the United States just one week ago.



Kathy Green, left, is holding her 15 month old daughter Abigail Gwen-Le Green and Donna Gail Mattox is holding her 15 month old daughter Olivia Lee-Alice Mattox.

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