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Come To The Fair...  
Nicholas County Fair Week July 26 - Aug.30

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Community Calen

# The Carlisle Mercury

"Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867"

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Thursday, July 27, 2000

Vol. 134, No. 30



**Nice day for golf.** Joe Bigelow and Gail Chouinard enjoyed the day Tuesday at the American C... The course has made some major improvements to the local facility, which now features "The Grill" at Carnico.

## Apply now for Tobacco Payments

Hampton Henton, Jr., State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency in Kentucky, earlier this week announced that burley tobacco farmers can apply at FSA for compensation under the Tobacco Loss Assistance Program (TLAP) starting July 31, 2000. USDA will distribute \$340 million to compensate tobacco farmers who suffered a reduction of tobacco quota or acreage for the 1999-2000 crop years. Kentucky's share is \$140 million.

As directed by Congress, farmers of designated types of tobacco will receive a portion of the \$340 million to help defray lost income resulting from declining quotas and allotments. Individual farm payments for burley tobacco will be split three ways between farmers, quota owners, and those in control of the quotas (farm operators). Payments under the second year of TLAP will be based on the 2000 crop quota.

Sign up will begin on July 31 and ends on September 1, 2000 at the Bourbon-Nicholas County FSA office. Late-filed applications will not be accepted. Payments will reach farmers between October 1-20, 2000. Nicholas County farmers will also receive around \$250,000 under the Pasture Recovery Program (PRP). Nationally, \$40 million will be paid out.

## Gas prices take the plunge

Gasoline prices are falling across Kentucky after weeks of record high levels, according to AAA. Prices across the Great Lakes and Midwest have also decreased dramatically, after topping the \$2.00 mark in several cities such as Chicago and Milwaukee.

In Kentucky, the average price for a gallon of self-service unleaded gas is \$.50, down nine cents from a month ago but up 36 cents from this date in 1999. Kentucky currently has the nation's 10th cheapest gas prices. "This is welcome news for motorists who lately have paid the highest gas prices in history," said Dan Dickson, spokesman for AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky. "Ironically, we were paying the lowest prices in history, when adjusted for inflation, just 17 months ago. What a roller coaster ride!"

## Unemployment rate has slight increase

Unemployment rates rose in 73 Kentucky counties between April and May, including Nicholas County. Nicholas County had the seventh highest unemployment rate in the state at 11.4.

Lewis County ranks the highest at 16 percent, followed by Magoffin County, 14.1 percent; Harlan County, 13.1 percent; Monroe County, 12.6 percent; Elliott County, 11.7 and Letcher County, 11.5 percent. Jessamine County's 1.5 percent jobless rate was the lowest in the commonwealth. Fayette County reported 1.4 percent and Bourbon was in the top ten lowest rates at 2.3 percent.

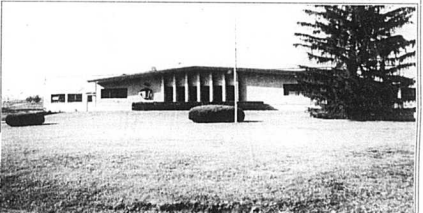
## Company to open new plant in Carlisle

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court by a motion of Jeff Randolph and seconded by Avery Thornburg agreed upon a Resolution authorizing and directing the County Judge/Executive, on behalf of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, to execute an agreement with the Bluegrass Area Development District for preparation, planning, submission and administration of a Community Development Block Grant.



The grant will be used to assist Panel Masters, Inc. to begin operations in Nicholas County at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 and to execute agreements with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Panel Masters, Inc., in the execution and administration of such grant.

The sub-recipient of such grant funds will be the Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Authority. Panel Masters, Inc., which see BADD on page 8



Looking for a new company... The old Jockey facility which closed last winter could be the home of a new company, with assistance from BADD and the Carlisle-Nicholas Industrial Authority.

## Washington Civil War Reenactment 2000 to take place Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> -

Picture a 1700's village, virtually untouched by time and you have the setting for the "Civil War Living History Weekend" in Washington, (now part of Maysville). This first annual event will take place on August 4th, 5th, and 6th.

This celebration is in honor of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston who was born and raised in Washington. His home place was opened to the public on tours as the first museum in Mason County in 1955. Customized guides conduct tours to Washington's seven museums, the "Log Cabin Learning Tour" for school field trips, Underground Rail Road Tours and Covered Bridge tours.



Tommy Ockerman  
Ockerman named to Industrial Authority

During a Special meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court on Tuesday, July 25, the court appointed Nicholas County resident Tommy Ockerman to the Carlisle-Nicholas Industrial Authority.

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Sunny

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