

DEC
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2001

■ OPINION

DENVER BROWN
'Holy War!'
"There's a holy war a brewin' ...!"
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The Carlisle Mercury

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Thursday, December 6, 2001

Across Nicholas County

NCES Winterfest set
The Nicholas County Elementary Winterfest and Carnival will be held Friday, Dec. 7, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.
Admission is 50 cents and the festivities will include a chili supper, raffle, door prizes, sweet shop, and a silent auction. Children under four years old get in free.
For more information, call 289-3785.

Christmas musical set
The GATE Drama Christmas musical has been set for Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 11 and 12. Tuesday's performance will be at 7 p.m. and Wednesday's will take place for the students during school hours.
For more information, call 289-3785.

Veterans rep to be in Carlisle
A Veterans Benefits Field Representative with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs will be at the Nicholas County Courthouse in Carlisle on the third Wednesday of each month, from 9 a.m. to noon.
Veterans and their families may receive counseling and assistance in applying for state or federal veterans benefits.

This is a free service, provided by the state department of veterans affairs. Bring appropriate documents at visit.
For details or to answer questions, call 1-866-376-0308. Leave a message if office staff are unable to answer.

Free higher ed guide for seniors
The 2001-2002 edition of "Getting In," a free guide to postsecondary education in Kentucky, is now being sent to guidance counselors for distribution to all high school seniors.
The booklet is published by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority and is available online at www.khea.com, as well. It offers information on financial aid.
For more information, call 1-800-928-8926.

Assistance for adults returning to school online
Adults interested in returning to school have an online guide to help them plan and pay for college or technical training. The 2001-2002 edition of Adults Returning to School can be accessed at www.khea.com, the website of Kentucky's Higher Education Assistance Authority.
It is the state agency that administers grants, scholarships, work-study, savings, federal family education loans and related information for Kentucky students.
For more information about programs and services, write to the Kentucky Higher Assistance Authority, 1050 U.S. Highway 127 S., Frankfort, KY, 40601-4323 or call 1-800-928-8926, extension 7381.

Elf Party



Hon Middleton photo
Maribeth Browning, 5, gets fitted for an elf hat by her Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Smith. The Kindergarten class has planned an Elf Party for Dec. 19 and all kindergarten parents are invited to attend. For more information, call 289-3785.

Storybook Christmas underway

By RON MIDDLETON
Staff Writer
Students got their first taste of the Christmas season as the annual Storybook Christmas giveaway kicked off Wednesday. "They look forward to it and we want to promote literacy," Amy Switzer, director of the Family Resource Youth Services Center, told *The Carlisle Mercury*. "At least family literacy, by getting the books into each home."
Four lucky fourth graders were given a sneak peek at the books Tuesday afternoon.
Bon Layne went straight for the Eye Witness books. He said he also like books about space.
"I think the Eye Witness books are cool," Layne said. "The tell you the history of the world."
See STORYBOOK on 3

Decorating safety tips

The holiday decorating season is here and lots of electric lights will be hung with care. With that in mind, there are a number of ways people can make their holidays safer and more enjoyable by first taking some safety precautions. Here are some tips on electrical safety from Kentucky Utilities Company.
Decorations and indoor lighting
• Check for damaged insulation, cracked sockets and bare wires.
• Never overload circuits or extension cords. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for the number and type of light strings that
See SAFETY on 2

Horses and holly for the holidays!

D & H Resort transforms into 'Christmas on the ranch!'
By DENVER BROWN
Sports Editor
D & H Resorts is a pretty snazzy spot the other 11 months of the year. But for two weekends in December, strung with miles of lights and tons of tinsel, the local horse-themed park will transform into Christmas on the Ranch and a visit is the perfect family experience to celebrate the holidays.
Just north of Rowan County in Plummers Mill, D.H. Resorts is a 1,500-acre ranch overrun with horses. It's a horse-lover's paradise offering trail rides, shows and cattle drives since 1990. And now, even the four-legged creatures are getting into the spirit.
"We always celebrate horses out here," owner/operator Dan Dobson told *The Carlisle Mercury*. "But now, with this Christmas celebration, we can combine the two. We were really excited about the idea, because this type of event wasn't available locally."
"It's going to be family fun for everybody and it's a great way for us to be able to keep people coming out here year 'round and enjoying the place."
Not only will the celebration be a great way to spend a few hours with the family (and a bunch of horses!), but it's a great way to help the community, too. A percentage of the proceeds is going to the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Admission to the ranch for the celebration weekends is free. The gift shop, new Horseshoe Cafe restaurant and other holiday baked goods and crafts will also be available.
The "Christmas on the Ranch" celebration saddles up Dec. 7-8 and 14-15. Both weekend hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
Aside from the always-available trail rides and Horseshoe Cafe, D.H. Resorts will be stringing 50,000 lights on anything standing still enough to create the extra special holiday-time creations. There will be a petting zoo for the smaller hands and bigger eyes. A stall



Denver Brown photo
'Christmas on the Ranch' begins the weekend of Dec. 7-8 and 14-15. Proceeds to go to the cancer society. Call 1-800-737-7433 for more information.

decorating contest will involve several local churches and organizations and the live nativity is sure to be a highlight of your visit to "Christmas on the Ranch." The resort's official mascot "Clyde," a santa-hat wearing donkey, should be a participant in the nativity - if he doesn't wander off to greet the guests at other parts of the park!
Several crafters including soap maker, leather crafter, wood
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How to reach us
Phone: 800-247-6142
Fax: 606-784-7337
Mail: 722 W. First Street, Morehead, KY 40351