

People

Adamson, Fitchie engaged



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The Carlisle Mercury

"Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867"

Vol. 156, No. 23

Thursday, June 14, 2001

50¢

Across

Nicholas County

Conservation district approves flush valves for Nicholas County

The Licking River Resource Conservation and Development Council approved a Nicholas County flush valve project at its recent meeting.

The district said three flush valves were needed to aid the fire department. Flush valves are similar to hydrants.

Having the valves available in the county eliminates the need for fire trucks to travel back to Carlisle to replenish the water supply needed during a fire.

Spokespersons said that time is of the essence in those situations. The total project cost will be \$840.

Blackberry festival to be held July 2-7

The annual Nicholas County Blackberry Festival will be held on the courthouse lawn in town beginning July 2 and lasting throughout July 7.

For information, contact members of the American Legion at 289-9121.

Chamber walk to be held July 4

The Carlisle Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its 5k walk/run this year on July 4. It was a big event for Carlisle for several years, and the chamber hopes to make it so again.

If anyone is interested in running or helping with the run, they may call the chamber office at 289-4489. The run will start at 8 a.m., with registration beginning at 7 a.m. The fee is \$10 if pre-registered or \$12 the day of the race. Registration forms can be found in several of the businesses in town call the chamber office.

NCHS site-based meeting to be held

Nicholas County High School's site-based council will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 18, at 5:30 p.m. The regular, June 20 meeting has been cancelled.

Veterans representative 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.

Veterans, families to receive assistance

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Weather

Partly sunny

HI 91 LOW 67

Obituaries

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How to reach us

Phone: 859-289-2464
Fax: 859-289-7900
Mail: PO Box 232, Carlisle, KY 40311
Location: Corner of Main and Locust,
(below the Deposit Bank)

Citizens invited to join



Kiwanis governor JoAnn Siry presents the brand-new charter to Nicholas County Kiwanis President Ben Buckler.

New Nicholas County Kiwanis members are shown, above, with the banner and flag. They are, from left, Ben Buckler, president, Jim Huggins, president-elect, Altee Huggins, secretary, Diana Wills, treasurer and JoAnn Siry, K i w a n i s governor.

Nicholas Co. Kiwanis Club chartered

By KIM HAMILTON
Staff Writer and
Diana Wills, member

With spring comes new rights of passage and a flurry of activities and so it is appropriate that the new Nicholas County Kiwanis Club has recently been chartered.

Interested citizens who are now members have been diligently working throughout spring to form the new club, and it is now officially in place.

The club held its charter presentation dinner on Thursday, June 7, at the Carlisle Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

Kentucky-Tennessee District Division 10 Governor JoAnn Siry presented the club charter to Ben Buckler, club president of the newly-formed club. Lt. Governor Fran Marion was also present for the dinner.

"We are looking forward to having a great club and doing

wonderful things for our community," Buckler said.

The Nicholas County club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Paris. Roy Johnson, a member of the Paris club, presented the newly-formed club with a Kiwanis banner, an American flag, and an official gong and gavel.

Dr. Stephen Besson, club member, was the guest speaker for the dinner.

With Buckler as president, other club officers were named. They include: Jim Hughes, president-elect; Altee Huggins, secretary and Diana Wills, treasurer.

The board of directors was also named. Directors include: Phyllis Alexander, Stephanie Ring, Sherry Uptegraft, James Galbraith and Steve McFarland. Johnson was named as the new club's adviser.

The new Kiwanis club already boasts 21 members at

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Medicare reimbursement administrator at fault for lack of EMS payments, Henry says

By KIM HAMILTON
News Editor

One politician is working to help keep ambulance services in the state from going broke.

Lt. Gov. Steve Henry visited Rowan County's Emergency Medical Service Friday, June 1, to discuss some of the problems he sees with cash flow issues.

He said one issue with ambulance services getting reimbursement payments from Medicare is the management of a private administrative firm named "Administar," located in Louisville.

"Administar has been a major

problem," he said. "Its inefficiency is costing ambulance services and is creating a huge cost to the health care system. They were, at one point, just denying some claims.

When you start cutting ambulance service payments, you start costing lives."

Kentucky has lost six ambulance services in the past year or so due to cash flow problems.

"When they save money, it won't allow us to take care of patients," said Henry, who is also a physician. "It makes me nervous as a physician and nervous as a patient. When Administar and Medicare deal with a patient, it's not about the quality

of care. It's about paperwork. They never see a patient's face or know a name. It's the dollar that counts."

Emergency services are finding it more and more difficult to stay in operation because Medicare and Medicaid have witnessed major cutbacks since 1999. This is a recurring theme throughout the health care industry nationwide.

Rowan EMS Director Don Adams said he and many other EMS directors have been upset at how Administar has handled reimbursements from Medicare. Directors from all over Indiana and Kentucky have been meeting to discuss litigation against the firm.

Henry said he wants to get the ball rolling to remedy some of the management problems he sees with Administar.

"There has been one theme," Henry said, "the fact that there is no communication and no one to get an answer from. The buck stops nowhere."

"They have denied customers for stupid reasons," said EMS office manager Sandy Coldiron. "They'll deny your claim if you don't put a certain word in a title of an illness."

"We were able to take care of some of the codes that are used, but

See HENRY on 2

Kentucky Bluegrass Games set for July

If you are an amateur athlete, don't miss Kentucky's Bluegrass State Games in July.

From archery to wrestling, this year's Games will offer an opportunity to compete in 29 different sports over two weekends—July 20-22 and July 27-29. Last year, more than 18,000 people from 111 counties participated.

"This is a spectacular event filled with activities that everyone can enjoy," said Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton at a news conference in Frankfort. "The State Games give us an avenue for positive development through sports and physical activities as well as the opportunity to develop out talents and skills."

Most of the activities are held in Lexington and surrounding Central Kentucky communities.

"Lexington loves the Bluegrass State Games," said Mayer Pam Miller, "and we welcome the thousands of young and old alike

who come from all over Kentucky to participate."

"The Bluegrass State Games are now a summer tradition in Kentucky, and so are proud that we have sponsored them since the beginning," said Martin A. Kish, chairman of the Board of Bluegrass State Games and Vice President Communications for the Valvoline Company.

Entry booklets for the 17th annual Games are already in the mail to past participants. Booklets will be available to the public at a number of locations throughout the state.

Deadlines for registering for most of the events are June 22 and June 29. Check for entry booklets for details.

To obtain a copy, call the Bluegrass State Games office at 1-800-722-2474.

Participants can also pick up

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Young farmer

Josh Howard, 6, son of Beverly and Jeff Howard, took his first trip behind the wheel of a tractor recently. The Howards have tobacco plants for sale. Call them at 288-2866 for more information.

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