

Ruth Porter proudly displays her favorite quilt, a pattern entitled "Princess Feathers." She created the pattern from the corner of a 100-year-old quilt.



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Jim Davidson

On Tuesday, Mayor Ronnie Clark said he is not sure the city can afford to give its employees a raise for the third year in a row. We have not been able to give raises for the past two years because of health insurance and the loss of Jockey in December 1999," Clark said. "It's been a burden on occupational tax revenue especially, budgetary allowances. The approved measure only gives a broader scale for raises.

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Carlisle Mercury

"Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867"

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Thursday, March 15, 2001

Across Nicholas County

KSP news from Post 6

DRY RIDGE — On March 6, Detective Tim Layne arrested Ronald Biddle, 25, of Carlisle, for falsely reporting an incident. On March 5, Trooper Norman Preston responded to a single-vehicle crash on Lower Jackson Road. William J. Hetherlock, 21, of Carlisle, was the driver of unit 1, a 1997 Nissan.

Two Carlisle residents complete MSU studies

Two students from Carlisle completed degree requirements during Morehead State University's 2000 fall semester. They were Larry K. Bretz, bachelor of arts and Justin Tyler Massey, bachelor of business administration.

School board to meet

The regular meeting of the Nicholas County Board of Education will be held Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the central office.

Bloodmobile scheduled

The Central Kentucky Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot at Nicholas County Hospital to accept blood donations on Monday, March 19, from 1-5 p.m.

NCHS site-based meeting set March 21

Nicholas County High School Site-Based Council will hold its regular meeting Wednesday, March 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the council office at the school.

City to hold hearing on public funds

The City of Carlisle will hold a public hearing Tuesday, March 22, at 9 a.m., on proposed use of Municipal Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance program funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

Authors to visit Carlisle

Co-authors David and Lalie Dick will be at the Nicholas County Library on Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to noon to meet persons and autograph their new book, "Rivers of Kentucky."

The book features points of interest along the Licking River, including Clay Farm, Clay Wildlife Management Area, a fishhunter, "Radio Stewart" and the late Betty Blake, a 1948 graduate of Nicholas County High School who grew up on Tureman Avenue in Carlisle and later became president of the Ohio River's "Delta Queen," and her father, the late Sen. Stanley "Step and a Half" Blake.

WEDCO health to meet

The WEDCO District Board of health will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the central office in Harrison Square Shopping Center in Cynthiana. The meeting is open to the public.

—Compiled by Kim Hamilton

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Weather

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City's finances tight...

Mayor discusses pay raises, development and annexation

By KIM HAMILTON News Editor
On Monday night, Carlisle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to allow the mayor to increase the grade of certain city positions in the budget. However, there has been no pay raise for these positions approved yet. The measure authorizes the mayor to change the minimum and maximum rates on the pay scale to allow for raises in the upcoming fiscal budget. On Tuesday, Mayor Ronnie Clark said he is not sure the city can afford to give its employees a raise for the third year in a row. We have not been able to give raises for the past two years because of health insurance and the loss of Jockey in December 1999," Clark said. "It's been a burden on occupational tax revenue especially, budgetary allowances. The approved measure only gives a broader scale for raises.



Kim Hamilton photo
The school system is still opposing being annexed into the city limits a year after city council voted to include it. Above is the school system's central office to the left. Annexation of the area has been an ongoing dilemma for the city for at least six years now. Mayor Ronnie Clark said the school system is getting the benefits of fire and police protection as well as discounts on sewer and water already, but the city is not recouping its occupational tax from employees there.

"We're actually behind anyway due to their economic situations and to other cities," Clark said. "Rural communities lag

See CITY on 2

Fires abound on Sunday afternoon

By KIM HAMILTON News Editor
Firefighters in Carlisle were able to take a deep breath at the beginning of this week as Sunday left a smoky residue on their minds. That's because there were three fires right in a row Sunday, according to Mike Phillips, assistant volunteer fire chief. It all started at about 2:30 on Sunday afternoon, when the alarm sounded to respond to a mobile home fire at Headquarters Trailer Park. "The fire started in the back bedroom and worked its way into the back bathroom," Phillips said. "We were able to contain it but there was extensive smoke damage to the structure. The smoke was very intense on arrival. We had to take out two windows for ventilation and to get to the fire," Phillips said. The fire occurred at the home of Junior and Tammy Russell. Phillips said firefighters believe it began because of a candle in the bedroom that had been unattended. No foul play is suspected. About the time firefighters finished with the mobile home, they received a second call that a barn at Englestone Farm was on fire. "We immediately left and went to that fire," Phillips said. "We had five vehicles there and even called the Millersburg Fire Department to assist."

See FIRES on 6

Free dogwoods available from Arbor Foundation

Ten free white flowering dogwood trees will be given to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during March. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting until May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The six to 12 inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution by March 31 to: Ten Free Dogwood Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE, 68410.

Students of the Week

Adam Hunter Nicholas High School Student of the Week



Kim Hamilton photo

Adam Hunter is student of the week at Nicholas County High School. Hunter, a sophomore, is the son of Randy and Paula Hunter of Carlisle. His school activities and interests include football, where he serves as a running back and defensive end for the Blue Jackets, track and weightlifting. Biology is his favorite subject. After school, Hunter helps his parents on the family farm, working on growing tobacco and corn. He enjoys playing with his dog at home as well.

He said he would like to go to college after graduating high school. Hunter was nominated on his academic performance and work ethic by teacher T. Hammond.

Aaron Stitt Nicholas Elementary Student of the Week



Kim Hamilton photo

Aaron Stitt is Nicholas County Elementary School's Student of the Week. Stitt, 10, who attends fourth grade, is the son of Lennie and Donna Stitt of Carlisle. His school activities and interests include football and his favorite subject is math. He attends Carlisle Assembly of God, and always has his homework. Aaron works very hard in and out of class. He is a super student to have in class.

and always has his homework. Aaron works very hard in and out of class. He is a super student to have in class.

Police: Oxycontin task force 'on target'

By KIM HAMILTON News Editor
Last week in Virginia, a meeting was held by law enforcement representatives from several states concerning Oxycontin abuse in their jurisdictions. The meeting confirmed that Governor Paul Patton's task force on Oxycontin abuse is on a target. According to Lt. Kevin Payne, public affairs officer with the Kentucky State Police, the task force, headed by state police commissioner Les Barks, has called for the expansion of the Kentucky All Substance Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) system and that legislated enforcement and education be increased. In addition to confirming that Kentucky's response to the increasing risk of Oxycontin abuse is merited, the meeting also confirmed that this problem is so widespread that no one person or agency alone can solve it. In response, Virginia representatives indicated they would follow Kentucky's lead and form a task force of their own. West Virginia representatives requested information concerning use of the KASPER system. Representatives from Virginia, West Virginia

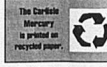
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• Brenda Mitchell