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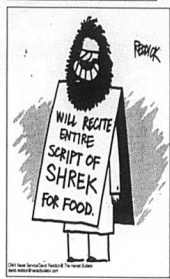
OPINION

RON MIDDLETON
'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone'
"125 million Harry Potter fans can't be wrong!"
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Happy Thanksgiving
The Carlisle Mercury

Vol. 156, No. 47 "Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867" 50¢ Thursday, November 22, 2001

David Reddick



Across Nicholas County

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 to 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.kheas.com, as well. It offers information on financial aid.

For more information, call 1-800-928-8926.

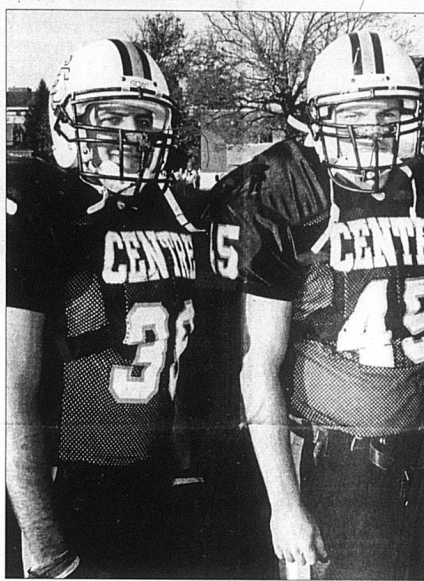
Assistance for adults returning to school online

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.

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.

The next level



Nicholas County graduates and former Blue Jacket football players Dustin Hill (39) and Ryan Hunter (45) now suit up at Centre College. The pair were members of head coach Greg Letcher's clubs that won back-to-back district crowns in 1999 and 2000. And as senior teammates they helped the program win the school's first-ever State playoff game last season when Nicholas County beat up on Dayton in the first round. Above, Hill and Hunter watch the Colonel offense in Centre's win last weekend over Rose-Hulman in Danville.

Food drive a success

By RON MIDDLETON Staff Writer

Thanks to the efforts of Nicholas County students, several local families will be extra thankful this Thanksgiving.

"I was just pleased with how the students participated," Amy Switzer, director of the Family Resource Youth Services Center, "I hope to make this an annual event."

Switzer estimated that 1,174 items were collected as part of the drive last Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 14 and 15, and that the food was being delivered as fast as they could take it in.

As part of the drive, a competition is being held
See DRIVE on 2

Local student appears in play

David Flora, of Carlisle, is appearing on stage in Centre College's fall drama production, Anton Chekhov's Three Sisters.

Flora plays the role of Kulygin. Flora is the son of Larry and Marylyn Flora of Carlisle and is a graduate of Nicholas County High School.

The play takes place in a small town deep in Russia on the eve of the 20th Century, where three sisters and their brother Andrei long only for
See PLAY on 2

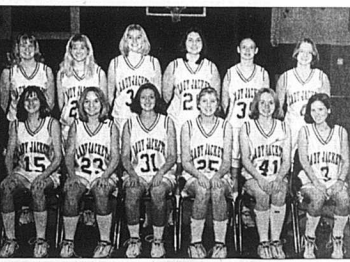
Riggs participates in MSU art exhibit

Joe Riggs, a Carlisle junior, is participating in a juried art exhibit of Morehead State University students now on display at the Gallery for the Arts, 412 Main St. in Mt. Sterling.

The show, sponsored by MSU and the Montgomery County Council for the Arts, will run through Saturday, Dec. 1. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Riggs' entry is "Great Grandparents," created with ebony and graphite. The exhibit also includes art in bronze, stained glass, photography, acrylic, charcoal, watercolor, clay, oil, lithography and digital imagery. Jurors for the show were MSU art faculty members Julie Gawens and Pawel Kozielecki; assistant professors, Stephen LaBoueff, instructor, and Joe Sartor, professor emeritus.

Nicholas County Girls Basketball spotlight



2001-'02 Nicholas County Lady Jackets photo courtesy Memories and More

Young, but experienced team takes the floor for 2001-'02

Smoot's troops open Monday at Montgomery

By DENVER BROWN Sports Editor

A quick glance at the Nicholas County girls' varsity basketball roster and a noticeable omission is a senior class. That leaves more than a dozen juniors, sophomores, freshmen and middle schoolers. But don't let their age classifications fool you.

What head coach Nikki Smoot's basketball Lady Jackets may lack in actual age, they more than make up in experience.

"We've got a lot of young kids with quite a bit of playing experience and time on the floor. Smoot told The Carlisle Mercury, "That will definitely be a strength for us this season - even with such a young team, I'm expecting more consistency because of their experience."

Last season the Lady Jackets went 4 and a bunch, but according to the coach, the players clocked valuable playing time. With at least a season under each of their belts, Smoot is hoping for a mix of inside and transition points while predicting her club will be more aggressive in taking the ball to the basket this time out.

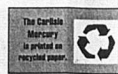
Nicholas County opens Monday, Nov. 28 at Montgomery County and this summer's work
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Weather

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