

■ Opinion

RON MIDDLETON

"What in the world...?"

"I'd like to meet the brainiac that greenlighted this fiasco."



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# The Carlisle Mercury

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"Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867"

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Thursday, June 20, 2002

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2002

## Across

### Nicholas County

#### Mt. Sterling child dies; no foul play suspected

From Staff Reports

Kentucky State Police in Morehead are investigating the death of a Mt. Sterling infant, which occurred Sunday, June 15. Police said the mother of Pamela Willoughby, 33 days old, took the infant to the Mary Chiles Hospital emergency room in a private vehicle from the Camargo Levee Road area.

The infant was pronounced dead by Montgomery County Assistant Coroner Joe Manning. The results of an autopsy are pending; however, at this time, no foul play is suspected by police. The incident is still under investigation by Det. David Owen.

#### 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.kheas.com](http://www.kheas.com), as well. It offers information on financial aid.

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

**Newsroom**  
1-800-247-6142

## Local students to participate in Governor's Scholars

From STAFF REPORTS

Governor Paul B. Patton announced 1,029 outstanding high school juniors will attend this year's Governor's Scholars Program for five weeks in June and July.

Megan Ashley Darrell and Ashley Nicole Judd are the representatives from Nicholas County High School attending.

Governor Patton said, "The Governor's Scholars Program is an

outstanding educational opportunity for these young people. By participating in the program they will have a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and discover different points of view while interacting with other students and learning new disciplines. My congratulations to these young Kentuckians who have been chosen to share in this exciting program."

Students from public and private schools who competed to participate in the program represent every

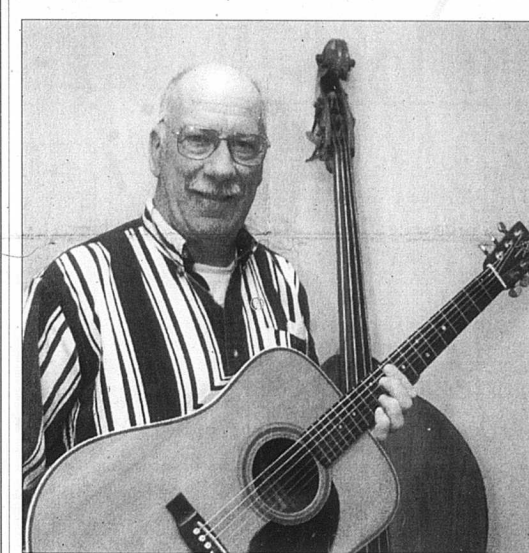
county in the Commonwealth. A statewide selection committee chose the participants for the nationally recognized program from nominations submitted from each Kentucky school district. Selection criteria included academic records and test scores, teacher recommendations, extracurricular activities and essays. The program is free to those who attend.

Scholars are in residence for the program which this year is being held at Eastern Kentucky University

in Richmond from June 15 to July 15. Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights from June 16 to July 20, and at Centre College in Danville from June 21 to July 27.

Scholars will balance a academic schedule in the sciences, mathematics, humanities and the arts with a variety of co-curricular activities and a rich residential life. They will participate in community improvement projects, seminars and other activities that are often initiated by the students themselves.

## Appalachian Treasure



MSU/Tim Holbrook photo

Sandy Knipp will receive the 2002 Appalachian Treasure Award

### Week-long celebration begins Sunday

By SHIRLEY A. SMITH  
MSU Staff Writer

A lifelong devotion to preserving the traditional music of Eastern Kentucky has earned Sandy Knipp the 2002 Appalachian Treasure Award.

The longtime musician and former educator will receive the honor during Morehead State University's annual Appalachian Celebration, slated for June 23-29.

To earn the Appalachian Treasure Award, recipients must be recognized for quality work and prominence in art, crafts, music or literature representative of Appalachia and must be willing to

share their talent with others. Knipp, a Morehead native, has gained notoriety as a fan, promoter and performer of Bluegrass music.

He became interested in the genre at about 12 years of age when friends asked him to pick up a guitar and join them.

"Bluegrass music is contagious and I caught it," he said. "Around that time, I saw a concert at the Rockdale Lumberco, Knipp recalled. "It was the Osborne Brothers from the Grand Ole Opry and I started learning some of their songs."

After graduating from Rowan County High School in 1967, Knipp spent the summer in Mansfield, Ohio, working in a steel mill. "That's when homesickness set in," he says. "That's when I bought my

first Ralph and Carter Stanley album and that made the homesickness worse."

He returned to Kentucky to begin work on his education degree at MSU, where a faculty adviser at his freshman orientation gave him some advice.

"I wanted to get into radio but I was told I probably wouldn't be very good at it because of my Eastern Kentucky accent," he said.

Ironically, Knipp later found success as the longtime host of the popular WKY Radio program "Bluegrass Diversions" which airs each Saturday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

After completing his bachelor's degree in education in 1971, he

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## Hopkins named to campaign

Kentucky's senior U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell has announced his statewide grassroots organization, naming David Hopkins of Carlisle as the Nicholas County Chairman. Hopkins joins individuals from each of Kentucky's 120 counties to form the backbone of Senator McConnell's grassroots effort.

"I have assembled community leaders in each county to help me take my message of Leadership that Drives to the thousands of Kentuckians who will vote in November's election," McConnell said. "I am honored that David Hopkins will be joining my team for this election, and I look forward to bringing my message to the people of Nicholas County."

The McConnell '02 grassroots organization includes educators, farmers, small business owners, and seniors, just to name a few. McConnell says the diversity in his group shows the strong level of support he enjoys from people from all walks of

See HOPKINS on 2

## Public response to line growing

From STAFF REPORTS

After one month in operation, more than 4,200 Kentuckians have signed up for a state program that will help make their communities safer.

The Kentucky Sex Offender Alert Line, sponsored by the Kentucky State Police in cooperation with the department of corrections and the governor's office for child abuse and domestic violence services, provides up-to-date, real time information regarding the release of registered sex offenders into local communities.

According to Col. Linda Mayberry, deputy commissioner of the KSP, the automated system has sent messages to more than 3,600 citizens since Gov. Paul

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Weather

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