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OPINION

Ron Middelton
"A 'drilling' experience"



"Little did I realize that the dentist appointment would be the easiest part of my day."

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Back-to-school experience

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The Carlisle Mercury

"Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867"

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Thursday, March 14, 2002

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Across

Nicholas County

Clarifications

On Page 7 of last week's *Carlisle Mercury*, the students in the picture should have been listed as students in Ms. Barry's first grade class.

Larry Burton of Pike Bluff Road in Ewing has asked the newspaper to state that he is not the same Larry Burton listed in recent courthouse news.

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.

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.

New Breed



"I'm a consultant now. I show celebrities how to avoid photographers and paparazzi."

New coach, new year, new expectations

Baseball Jackets take to field, open March 25

By DENVER BROWN
Sports Editor

This year's baseball Bat Jackets have some mighty big cleats to fill.

In 2000, Nicholas County's baseball program seemed to have come out of nowhere to surprise the Bluegrass with a final-four finish in the State Tournament. Last year, another 25-plus win season (they won 28) and a district championship.

This season, that well-earned reputation won't do any favors for first-year head coach Travis Sims' club. Sims, long-time assistant to former coach Bill Anderson and a standout Nicholas County player in his day, has been on the ball field for two weeks getting this year's bunch baseball ready.

"We're young and we don't have a lot of experience," the rookie coach told *The Carlisle Mercury* after a chilly practice Tuesday afternoon. "But we're working on a lot of things



Denver Brown photo
First-year head coach Travis Sims hits infield practice to his Bat Jackets Tuesday afternoon.

"We've never really done in the past. We'll be able to teach 'em and we've already had five or six days outside - and before that we were in the gym, working on things

to prepare them." Nicholas County lost seven seniors, including the top four pitchers, from last year's roster. Only three starters are back in the lineup from last season's 28-7 showing.

This year's seniors: Darrin Herrington, Seth Saunders, Eric Earlywine, Leslie Earlywine, Richard Reid, Josh Hunt and Eric Jolly.

On this early-spring afternoon, the players exhibit what will win them ball games. Though out of breath and with red cheeks, when Sims said one player missed first base on a running drill so the whole team would need to run "two poles," they let out a collective groan, but all turned and headed out on their punt. But the coach was kidding and he called them back, laughing. Their readiness to take off showed their secret weapon - the amount of heart this team will play with this season.

"We've got to do all of the little things right," Herrington said. "Concentrate on the fundamentals, that's what'll win us games. We don't have many starters, so the younger guys will have to fill some pretty big shoes."

Herrington is one of four pitchers Sims will be sending to the mound.

Fellow senior and utility player the plays any position) Saunders threw a few pitches last season. Junior left-hander Aaron Cobb and sophomore Jamie McFarland will also see throwing duty. Junior Kyle Harmon will share time behind the plate with Saunders.

But without the overwhelming pitching power and up-and-down the lineup hitting strength of years past, Sims has to keep a sense of humor while being

optimistic - and honest. "With these four combined, I've got 20 to 25 innings of varsity pitching experience if I'm lucky," Sims said.

The Bat Jackets open the 2002 season at Sayre on Monday, March 25. Weather permitting, they take the field for five games that week. Nicholas County's home opener is scheduled for Saturday, March 30 with a Bracken County

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Denver Brown photo
Nicholas County baseball sophomore David Goldy gets in a little hand-eye coordination exercise at practice Tuesday afternoon. Nicholas County was 28-7 last season and won the district.



Denver Brown photo
Bat jacket senior Richard Reid takes off from the plate in a base-running drill Tuesday. First-year head coach Travis Sims told *The Carlisle Mercury* that the fundamentals, including running the bases, will be key to the team's success this season.

Telemarketing bill passed by state

By PATRICK AVERY and MARK WANDERHOF
KPA News Bureau

No longer will you have to put down your fork at dinner to deal with a telemarketer.

Gov. Paul Patton signed House Bill 47 March 6 in the Capitol Rotunda before members of the House, Senate and American Association for Retired Persons.

"I believe I have the absolute right to decide who uses my phone and who calls me," Patton said.

The bill strengthens Kentucky's zero-call list, which contains the households that do not want to receive solicitation calls, by getting rid of most business exemptions. Copies of the zero-call list will be provided free to businesses. Offenders will be fined \$5,000 for violations and repeat offenders will have felony

charges brought up against them. The new law goes into effect July 1, 2002.

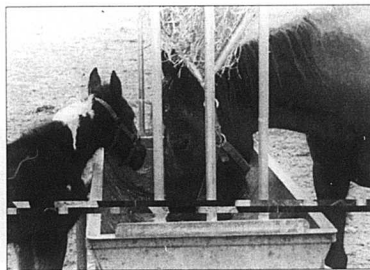
Telemarketing remained a hot topic in Frankfort for the past four years, but gained strength this year when the AARP and others began lobbying for a telemarketing bill, said Rep. Buddy Buckingham, D-Murray. "Everybody voted for it because of the pressure back home," Buckingham said.

Rep. Joe Burrows, D-Versailles, sarcastically suggested business owners should like the new bill because it will save them trouble.

"You are not going to make a sale," Burrows quipped.

To be added to the no-call list, call 1-800-671-7701 or sign up on the Internet at <http://www.law.state.ky.us/no-call/>

See PASSED on 2



Denver Brown photo
"Lunch with mom" A Tennessee Walker mare and her newborn foal share an oats and hay lunch in a Nicholas County field earlier this week. Temperatures are expected in the mid-70s by this weekend.

Weather

See the forecast on page 2!

The Carlisle Mercury is printed on recycled paper.

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