

LIFESTYLE

Community Calendar

Red Hatters To Meet

The Day Time Red Hatters will meet Wednesday, July 9th, at 6:00 p.m. at Carnico. Meet at Becky Gum's if you need a ride.

NCHS Band Boosters Meeting

The Nicholas County High School Band Boosters will meet Monday, July 7, 2008, in the NCHS Band Room. All parents of band members are encouraged to attend. For more information, please call Carlton Jones at (859) 473-3838.

Health Department to be closed

Nicholas County Health Department will be closed on Friday, July 4th for Independence holiday.

Carlisle United Methodist Church will host a welcoming session

Carlisle United Methodist Church will host a welcoming session for Rev. Jason Carpenter and his family, Sunday July 6th at 7:00 p.m. The Community is invited.

Readiest to be held

The Nicholas County Elementary/Middle School will be having their Readiest 2008 on Wednesday August 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. All students and parents are welcome aboard.

AA meetings held

AA meetings are held every Tuesday at 8 p.m., except the third Tuesday of the month is at 7 p.m. in the Sparks Room of the Nicholas County Health Department.

Veterans Benefits Field Representative at Courthouse

A Veterans Benefits Field Representative with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs will be at the Nicholas County Courthouse on the third Tuesday of each month. The hours are 9:11 a.m. Veterans and their families will be given counsel.

ing in filing for Federal and State Veterans benefits. This service is provided at no charge or fee by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Veterans Affairs. Feel free to call and leave a message if we are out 1-866-376-0306 your call will be returned as soon as possible. Come see us and bring all documents pertaining to filing a claim.

Auxiliary meets second Tuesday

The Johnson Mathers Health Care Auxiliary meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the hospital dining room. Anyone interested in joining the auxiliary is welcome.

Orient Lodge #600 to hold meeting

The Orient Lodge #600 meets the second Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. All Master Masons are welcomed.

N.C. Adult Learning Center News

The Adult Learning Center offers a flexible schedule and personalized instruction to help students successfully complete their GED. The center offers students the opportunity August 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Wedco District Health Department will be beginning new "Stop Smoking Classes"

Wedco District Health Department will be beginning new "Stop Smoking Classes" on Thursday, July 3rd at the Nicholas County Health Center at 5 p.m. For more information call Peggy Siethers RN at 1859-588-8127 or toll free 1-888-664-4242.

Woodmen of the World to host activities

Woodmen of the World

(WOW) will be hosting the following activities: June 14th-Summer Backyard Carnival and Flag Day Presentation, 10-2pm, at the Eastern Kentucky WOW Youth Camp, 8811 Tates Creek Rd, Lexington, KY. (There is no charge for this activity) July 4th-WOW will be formally carrying on field and presenting a 50' flag at the Lexington Legends Game. If you are the game and helping with the presentation, please contact 859/497-7398 to obtain information about ticket prices and seating. Woodmen members, their guests, and local community members are invited to attend.

Thunder Ridge Bluegrass Band to be featured at program

Thunder Ridge Bluegrass band will be featured as the Fifth Sunday night hymn program, June 29th at 6 p.m. at the Millerburg Methodist Church. Thunder Ridge Bluegrass band has been together for about 2 years and have performed in several churches around this area. Band members consists of four member from surrounding towns, Herbert Phalkin, Georgetown, Larry Tucker, Carlisle, Nesmer Cook, Millerburg and Terry Power form Cynthia.

Class of 1988 reunion being planned

ATTENTION Graduates of Nicholas County High School, class of 1988. It is time for us to have our 20-year class reunion. We are planning to have our reunion late summer/early fall. Those of you that wish to

help in the planning of the reunion, please call Shana McCarty Wiggins, 859-473-0655 or Donna McCord Howard, 859-289-8189 or 859-473-0401. We want to schedule a meeting in July.

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everyone to this inspirational program. Independence Day Celebration to be held Independence Day Celebration at Flemingburg, Fleming Co. Recreation park on Mayville Road, 5K run on Friday, July 4, 2008. Registration at 7:00 a.m. Race starts at 8:30 a.m. Free T-Shirt to the first 50 registrants. Saturday July 5, 2008, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Country and Western Music, 5:00 p.m. Pork Tenderloin Dinner with the fixins, with drinks. Hot Dog Dinner for the Kids, 5:00 - 9:00 Antique and Classic Car show by Krupp Kontrol, trophies awarded, 6:00 p.m. corn hole tournament, trophies awarded, 6:00 p.m. Bingo-prizes donated by area business. Dunk - Large Fireworks

display by Starlight Fireworks of Hillboro, Kentucky.

If you have a community announcement, please bring it to The Carlisle Mercury at 117 South Locust. You can mail it to POB 272, Carlisle, KY 40311. You can email it to editor@thecarlislemercury.com You can fax it to 859-289-4000.

Turn Your Trash Into Treasure Advertise Your Garage Sale in The Carlisle Mercury Just drop off year of year at 117 Locust St. Carlisle 20 words for \$10, 30 each additional word

Inventory Reduction SALE Great time to buy the stone you need. See us today. \$4.95 per ton Tax & Haul Hanson HEMLOCK/CHERRY GROUP Flemingburg Quarry 606-845-2411

God's Creation GENESIS 1:1 Vacation Bible School Where: God's House of Prayer Corner of Barterville Rd. and Calcutta Rd. When: Thursday & Friday, July 10/11. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Learn about Jesus, Crafts, and Refreshments! Time of Fellowship: Sat. July 12 at 5 p.m. Hot Dog Roast & Hay Ride For information or ride call: 484-3561; 289-7353; 289-3002; or 289-7553 EVERYONE WELCOME! ALL AGES!

Now Accepting Patients Fred V. Lausé, D.P.M. 112 W. High Street Mt. Sterling, Ky. Podiatrist - Specializing in the medical and surgical treatment of foot and ankle disorders Call 498-5151 for an appointment Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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OPINION

Senate in Review

Sessions of the General Assembly outside the normal yearly dates are termed "extraordinary" for a good reason: the issues discussed are of such importance they cannot wait until the next year.

By containing our costs and slowing the growth of that unfunded liability. By operating in a bipartisan fashion, we were able to work quickly in this special session, passing House Bill 1 in the required minimum five legislative days.

Although the legislation has many facets, the major changes are simple and few, because they address the chief reasons our pension system has run into trouble. Retiree benefits can be broken down into two forms, pension payments and health insurance programs.

Retiree benefits can be broken down into two forms, pension payments and health insurance programs. With health care costs skyrocketing for all employers, it will mean significant savings to taxpayers in the generations to

including state and local governments, we must find ways to shore up our health insurance fund. To that end, all employees hired after Sept. 1, 2008 will contribute 1 percent of their salary toward their retirement insurance costs, on top of their pension contribution. Teachers hired after July 1, 2008 will contribute an additional 1 percent of their salary toward their retirement insurance, above the 0.75 percent they pay currently.

New employees will also receive a different "benefit factor," which is used in the formula to determine pension benefits. Non-hazardous employees will use a five-tiered system, while hazardous-duty workers, including police and firefighters, will use a four-tiered plan. New teachers will have a separate five-tier

structure. Under each, once a worker reaches a certain threshold — 10 years of service, 20 years, etc. — he or she receives a larger pension for each year they have paid into the system. This plan rewards career employees while also providing incentives for continued service to the Commonwealth.

HB 1 also extends the amount of time an employee must put in to retire with full benefits. Under the new plan, any non-hazardous worker age 67 or older could retire with full benefits if his or her age and years of service add up to 87. However, those non-hazardous employees 65 or older could retire with full benefits only if their years of employment, with reduced benefits, add up to 87. It is important to remember that none of these changes will affect current

employees. Their retirement benefits and contributions will remain the same as they have always been. However, there will be some changes for them going forward. The most notable is the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The current COLA is capped at 1.6 percent, but the General Assembly traditionally matches inflation increases, even if the money for that increase is not included in the COLA. In the future, any budget increase above 1.5 percent must be prefunded by the legislature, so the pension system can remain fiscally sound.

Future retirees will also see changes to the rules governing "double-dipping," where retirees re-enter the public workforce while collecting their pension. Under the new law, retirees will be required to wait three months instead of one before coming back to work. These workers will not pay into the retirement system a second time, limiting them to a single pension.

For too many years, the General Assembly has failed to fully fund the retirement system, even though we required local governments to do so. Under this new law, we have created a plan to

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DAVIS

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ploring, permitting and developing the land for drilling. It is time for Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to develop real solutions to our nation's energy crisis, instead of wasting time debating laws that already exist.

No fewer than five national surveys conducted in the last month have shown that the American people overwhelmingly support increased responsible exploration of domestic energy sources.

We must implement a comprehensive national energy strategy that focuses on using American resources in the short term, increasing conservation and efficiency, developing alternatives and seriously investing in research to make the next generation of technology safe and affordable.

Fourth of July Patriotic Bicycle Decorating Contest. Monetary prizes in each category. Participants to be a part of the parade. Winners announced during parade. ages 5-8 girls/boys ages 9-12 girls/boys ATTENTION ADULTS! MOTORCYCLE DECORATING CONTEST. NICHOLAS COUNTY ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT JUDGING 5:30 P.M. Sponsored by Nicholas Co. Tourism

Pioneer Trace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, a 93 bed skilled facility & rehab. facility is offering: Rehabilitation Services Speech Therapy Physical Therapy Occupational Therapy 24 hour skilled nursing Supervision & assistance of all activities of daily living Supervised diet by a licensed dietician Daily housekeeping & laundry services Hospice Services Social Services Recreational, Religious & Social Activities Finding the right care facility takes time. It is important to search for a suitable home well in advance of seeking admission to the facility. Planning ahead also makes the transition of moving into a care facility much easier. For more information please contact Cyle Hazelrigg at 606-845-2131

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