

COMMUNITY/OBITUARIES

Cycling and flag leads Tourism discussion

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Members of the Carlisle-Nicholas County Tourism met on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Nicholas County Jail.

Gladys Shrout called the meeting to order, and approval of the minutes from the last meeting held in January.

Eugene Hall gave an update on the 40-foot pole that was purchased for the flag. It is being stored at 68 West and when weather allows, they will work on getting it up once the flag is purchased. Discussion was later made to purchase an 8x12 flag for the flagpole, upon checking on pricing.

Gary Bentley gave a report on the Road to Nationals cycling event that will be held in Carlisle on June 13, 2026. He had had it approved by the Nicholas County Fiscal Court and the City of Carlisle to host it. The route will be Myers Station, Cassidy Creek, Can Run, and back on 36, for a total of 80 miles. The event is expected to have around 180 to 200 racers and possibly 350 to 400 family members and friend along with the racers.

Blackberry Festival signs are ready, and Gladys passed them around for everyone to see. She also spoke about the floats for the parade, which is scheduled for July 2, 2026, and would like to see former Blackberry Festival Queens participate in the parade.

as well. She also mentioned a possible Birthday Cake float for the 250th birthday of the United States, also.

Todd Weise gave an update on the Blackberry Festival and said everything was organized with entertainment and fireworks show, as of now. He is checking on the Vintage Aircraft Association show for the parade and will give further information when received.

Andrew Fugitt and Nancy Baker have agreed to organize the floats for the parade at the school, the community is encouraged to celebrate with floats in the parade.

The group approved official Blackberry Festival shirts at \$20 each, from EM Designs.

Jerry Johnson gave a report on the Military Museum and asked that tourism pay half for the security system, which was approved to provide up to \$500.00 for Tourism share.

Julie Wendt gave an update on the state tourism meeting she attended and spoke about social media and advertising. She also mentioned that the circus wanted to come back to Carlisle and the group approved their return on Aug. 22-23, 2026.

The group also discussed a possible 300-page Nicholas County book, that is currently in the works

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

Local Student Nolan Fields with Nicholas County ties to Train with Broadway Professionals

Freshman performer Nolan Fields is taking his passion for theatre to the next level through the Leeds Artist Collective, an education-focused program based at the Leeds Center for the Arts.

The Leeds Artist Collective provides weekly professional training in acting, music, dance, audition preparation, and technical theatre while giving students performance opportunities throughout the season. As part of the program, Nolan will travel to New York City this month to participate in Broadway workshops and perform at the iconic 54 Below, a world-famous venue known for showcasing Broadway performers and rising talent.

Despite being early in his high school career, Nolan already has an impressive résumé in school and community theatre. His credits include Marlin in Finding Nemo Jr., Olaf in Frozen Jr., Damien Hubbard in Mean Girls Jr., Walter Hobbs in Elf Jr., Willie Peck in The Sweet Life: A Live Radio Play, and Zacky Price/Featured Ensemble in Big Fish: School Edition. He has also appeared in Moana Jr. and Six: Teen Edition and assisted backstage for Beauty and the Beast Jr.



Nolan trains with the Leeds Artist Collective, participates in Choir at Montgomery County High School, and previously attended GRAC Summer Stock. He also performed "Not While I'm Around" at the 17th Annual Mt. Sterling Cabaret.

Nolan is the son of Casey and Shivon Fields. Casey is a 5th grade social studies teacher at Nicholas County Elementary. Shivon is a 1997 graduate of Nicholas County. His grandparents are Billy and Debbie Workman of Carlisle.

Local audiences can see Nolan and other Leeds Artist Collective performers April 24 and April 25 at the Leeds Center for the Arts in Winchester. Showtimes will be announced later.

More information about the program can be found at: www.leedscenter.org/leeds-artist-collective

Nicholas County Circuit Court Sentencings for the Week of 3-1-26

From the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office - 18th Judicial Circuit

PROBATION... Jo Lynn Burkhardt (aka Jo Lynn Fryman, aka Jo Lynn Kiser)... sentenced to a total of 3 years imprisonment on the charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) in the 1st Degree - 3rd or Subsequent Offense... to be served consecutively to any felony sentence

previously imposed upon the defendant. Probation was granted.

PROBATION... Damon Wayne Taylor... sentenced to a total of 3 years imprisonment on the charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) in the 1st Degree - 3rd or Subsequent Offense... to be served consecutively to any felony sentence previously imposed upon the defendant. Probation was granted.

Fiscal Court cont. from pg. 2

industrial park; reports that bids for the construction of the new Nicholas County EMS building will be opened at a special-called meeting on March 23, 2026; talked about the new rescue boat at the Nicholas County Fire Department and what a great benefit it would

be for the county; and spoke about a roof leak at the courthouse that had been repaired and paid with funds through the Courthouse Preservation Fund.

The meeting then went into closed session, and resumed some time later, with no action taken while in closed session.

After returning from closed session, the court approved hiring Charles Kiskaden as a part-time

employee at the Nicholas County Road Department.

Before adjournment, the magistrates spoke about numerous potholes throughout the county that need fixed, and Magistrate Ross Haney mentioned that the Nicholas County Band would be playing at the upcoming magistrates conference.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

ROZETTA PEARL GILLISPIE WARFORD



Rozetta Pearl Gillispie Warford, 87, of Nicholas County, wife of the late Porter Clement Warford, passed away Friday, March 13, 2026 at Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana.

Born October 8, 1938 in Cob Hill (Estill County) to the late Willie Virl & Edna Bryant Gillispie, she was a retired employee of Eastern State Hospital where she worked for 30 years. Rozetta liked the color green and working word puzzles. Of the Christian faith, she en-

joyed reading her bible. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family and was dearly loved by many.

Surviving are a daughter, Donnetta (Mark) Snapp; a granddaughter, Crystal Snapp (John Manley); a great-grandson, Spencer James Manley; and her beloved cat, Lightening.

Also preceding her in death were her son, William Clement Warford and 3 infant siblings.

Services were held at 12:00 Noon Wednesday, March 18th at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Brenda Routt with burial following in Evergreen Memory Gardens.

Family and friends served as casketbearers.

Visitation was after 5:00 P.M. Tuesday.

Condolences may be left at www.mathersgaunce.com.

Traffic Safety Checkpoint Announcement

The Kentucky State Police, Dry Ridge Post, and the Nicholas County Sheriff and City of Carlisle Police Department will be conducting periodic traffic safety checkpoints throughout the post area. These checkpoints will be conducted in an effort to enforce the traffic laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Special attention will be paid to occupant protection (seatbelt adherence), sobriety, insurance, and registration violations. A complete list of traffic safety checkpoint locations can be found at:

<http://kentuckystatepolice.org/post-6checkpoints/>

Traffic Safety Checkpoints are a valuable tool used to promote the safety and well-being of the public as well as providing police with visibility and interaction with the community. Checkpoints

are utilized throughout the Commonwealth to help promote highway safety. Local police and county agencies may also assist the Kentucky State Police in conducting these Traffic Safety Checkpoints. All checkpoints will be set up in accordance with state law and in compliance with Kentucky State Police policy and procedure.

TRAFFIC SAFETY CHECKPOINT LOCATIONS

Below is a list of traffic safety checkpoint locations. These roadway locations include, but are not limited to:

NICHOLAS COUNTY

- Myers Road @ Lake Road
- Concrete Road @ Jockey Park
- Moorefield Road
- Marathon Intersection

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Sat. 8:30am-2:00pm
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Walk-Ins are Welcomed

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The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for confirmation. Unconfirmed letters and unsigned letters will not be published. Phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to deny publication of letters and to edit letters for content.
The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Friday.
Send letters to:
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