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## Bats force closing of office

By Linda Flemming  
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Monday morning, the Carlisle office of the Department of Human Resources was closed.

The closing, while in part a staff meeting according to a department spokesperson, came as a result of some winged visitors.

"We were worried out of our wits. That is even putting it mildly," said Janet Smith of the department of Human Resources.

Employees of the Carlisle Human Resources office were taking their usual 15 minute break in the breakroom, Friday afternoon.

Scott said she saw a shadow pass along the doorway and within five seconds her suspicions were correct.

"We closed the door to our break room, but the ceiling was open, and the bat was flying everywhere," said Cheryl Reed.

Jenny Price, another employee, said she ran out to see if four boys and got Mona Vice to call the city office to reach the sheriff.

Price said she called the landlord of the building, Emerson Baker. Both the sheriff and Baker rushed over to the building and the bat was caught.

Reed said, "It wouldn't be so bad if this was the first time that a bat has gotten in, but it's not."

Reed estimated April was the first time a bat was seen in the office.

The bat was hanging on the inside of the door on the exit sign.

Allen Earlywine, Carlisle Police Chief, knocked it out of the office with a board.

"As a matter of fact it is buried under the concrete ramp out front," said Reed.

"We were having the ramp built at that time. Even in the stock room and about to open the door and a bat was hanging on the door knob, think was around June," said Reed.

"There has been two other occasions since then, one this past Monday and again today. I can't stand much more of this," said Jenny Price.

"We have called Mr. Baker on each occasion and he said he would check into having something done. According to Price, Mr. Baker told them that he thought the bats were not an endangered species, but that he would check with Herbert Blath the conservation officer for Nicholas County.

"Mr. Baker did have someone come and check for holes in the ceiling and even repaired the one that was found."

Price said, "The only thing Mr. Baker said today was 'bats flying. Well sorry doesn't get it any more. We are scared and concerned for not only our safety, but the people that come here,'" said Reed.

"If this had been the first day of the month, the office would have been packed with people we would not have been able to get everyone out of here," said Price.

Reed made a call to Carla Orms, field service supervisor for Nicholas County and Orms was going south the Finance Department in Frankfort, according to Reed.

"Would you pay rent on a building that was having a problem like that?" asked Reed.

"We even called the Nicholas County Health Department, Monday and talked with Larry Draneil. We asked him to let the one that was caught Monday for rabies or any other kind of infection. He told us the health department couldn't do it (test the animal) because it costs too much money, unless someone is liable," said Reed.

"Well, Orms has told us on Monday when we got to work, there is any sign of a bat to close the office and come to Bourbon County and work. We just want to get something done and we feel it safe. Baker's place to do it, not ours," said Reed.

Indeed, Monday a call to the Bourbon County office from The

Mercury was failed by a sign on the door of the Carlisle office.

OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, if you have an emergency call 981 (Food Stamp) 987-2455 also for Medicaid, and for Social Services 234-2464.

At the bottom of the sign it read: A CLERK WILL BE NEXT

DOOR AT FOUR SEASONS OR THE COURTHOUSE AFTER 1:00 IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE.

Monday afternoon, the office door was again open, however, it was not certain how long the office would be left open.

Brend Hughes, a spokesperson for the Kentucky Department of Human Resources in Frankfort,

said Monday morning, "The social service office, which includes food stamps and Medicaid is trying to set up offices in the Nicholas County Courthouse.

"Social service office is presently working out of Harrison County, but trying to find another place in Carlisle. We're trying to reach the landlord, today," Hughes said.



Susan Irvin, above, holds a plastic bag containing the most recent capture of a bat at the Carlisle Human Resources office. The bat was captured last Friday. Below, a sign is posted marking the closing of the office, until further notice. - Linda Flemming Photos.



Mrs. Donald Sears is digging a well for her family's use last week. While the going is tough, no water was spotted during the photographer's visit. - Heather Mathers Photos.

## Six fighting for council

Anyone wishing to enter the race for Carlisle City Council, must file by August 27, 4 p.m.

Those appearing on the ballot for the November General Election as Democrats will be: Charles Foy, William Power, Carliss Lester, and Betty Barton. Lester and Barton are incumbents.

Clarence Cord and Tommy Vaughn also incumbents, are running as independents.

## Correction

In an article on Paul Gault last week Rose Scott was misquoted. She said 10 percent instead of 10 cents.

## AAA - police urge safety

The Blue Grass Automobile Club (AAA) and the Carlisle Police Department remind drivers to be extra cautious as schools open.

The opening of school is a most hazardous time for children as they are excited at seeing old friends and in some cases, experiencing traffic for the first time.

AAA recommends six practical steps to make you a better driver when school is in session:

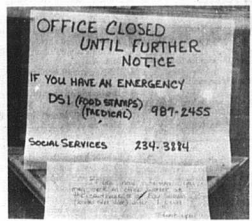
- Be alert to visual cues
- Slow down
- Give yourself room to react
- Use your horn judiciously
- Be extra cautious around buses

- Be patient, particularly on the way home

AAA has developed numerous other safety programs to educate the public about proper safety habits, many of which are designed for use with school children and teens.

These include alcohol education (K-12), bicycle safety, drivers education and school safety patrol supplies.

For information about any of AAA's safety programs, call 800-432-0906.



Blue Grass Automobile Club (Triple AAA) Membership Manager Barry Schwartz is shown August 19 to discuss school safety with Chief of Police Allen Earlywine. - Linda Flemming Photos.

## Nursing home rated high for fourth straight year

By Linda Flemming  
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home was inspected August 20, by the Licensing and Regulatory Division of the State of Kentucky.

For the fourth straight year, the home received the best possible rating.

Robert Hester, administrator for the nursing home said, "I was very proud of my staff."

"The state 'inspects all nursing homes each year using a rating system,'" Hester explained.

"For the last four years our nursing home has maintained an excellent rating in all three areas which are used for rating," said Hester.

"These areas are skilled, intermediate, and personal. We take a lot of pride in this, as we should."

"Our staff is very dedicated to their work and they take pride in the care they give to their patients."

Inspection areas are: medical records, activities, social services, dietary, and administration.

The state inspectors talk to the patients, and their families, and also visitors concluded Hester.

Hester said, without question, the primary reason for the continued success of the health care facility is the personnel.



Representing the Skilled Unit at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home are from left to right: Mary Ann Adams L.P.N. and Jadenne Gillespie R.N. - Linda Flemming Photos.

Representing the Intermediate and Personal Care Unit at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home are left to right: Karen Hubbard Nurse Aid and Nettie Barnes L.P.N. - Linda Flemming Photos.