

The Carlisle Mercury

Associated Press

121st Year, No. 38

Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

Thursday, September 15, 1988

50 cents per copy

SEP
15
1988

Devil worship rumors called unfounded

Rumors of devil worship have spread like wildfire across a large section of eastern Kentucky, including Nicholas County, stumping police officials who have fielded thousands of telephone calls from terrified residents. According to Nicholas County law enforcement officials there has been no evidence of this in the county. One police officer said to the best of his knowledge much of this may have something to do with events in other counties. "This is the first time in my knowledge that a rumor of this nature has gotten to this proportion," said Elijah Holton, a deputy with the Laurel

County Sheriff's Department. "This one seems like it's carrying on much more than anything I've ever seen before." A survey of sheriff offices, police departments and Kentucky State Police posts showed satanic rumors have spread into at least 25 eastern Kentucky counties since late July. In most cases, the rumors said that Satan worshippers are looking for blind, blue-eyed children to kill in a sacrifice to the devil. "Some versions implicate vacuum cleaner salesmen while in other areas the stories say the satanic followers must round up several children to sacrifice before Halloween. All of the law enforcement officials surveyed last week said they believed the stories were false. Most agencies reported investigating the rumors and finding no supporting evidence. Holton and other officers said they believed the stories started in Breathitt County, where two juveniles and four adults were charged last month in connection with a grave desecration. Jackson Mayor Frank Noble said police arrested five of the suspects after obtaining evidence linking them to the robbery of the grave of a man buried in 1832. He said police taken from the grave at a cemetery on a hill overlooking the city. Noble said he was unsure cases would be pursued against the juveniles. Noble, who also is the city's police chief, said some of the evidence included the discovery of a pentacle on the floor of a mobile home the defendants are alleged to have used for satanic ceremonies. The words "Satan Rules" were inscribed outside a circle around the modified star symbol, he said. On each point of the star, of-

ficers discovered a drop of what was believed to be blood, Noble said. Videotapes and books on the occult were confiscated along with some heavy metal rock tapes during the raid on the home Aug. 15, he said. Rumors began flying after the grave robbery was discovered July 18, Noble said. Among the bizarre explanations residents offered for the crime was the tale of satanists looking for blind, blue-eyed children, he said. "It got wild here," Noble said. "You could have brought a bunch of guns in here and made a fortune." Noble said he understood that a department store had sold out of guns. Many residents wrongly believed that police were withholding information about the crime and possible satanic connections, he said. "At first we couldn't even calm people down," Noble said. "Until we got the trailer, we couldn't come right out and say they were devil worshipping." Teenagers have fed the rumors with pranks, authorities said. "You could have brought a bunch of guns in here and made a fortune," Noble said he understood

Carlisle Council has full agenda

By Julie Pfeiffer
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
Several matters were addressed at the City Council's regular meeting Monday night. Donald Brown and Robert Crump were present to propose the change of contract for garbage pick up service. Everything in the contract Brown gave to the council was the same, from expiration dates to insurance. Council approved the change. Mike Pryor was at the meeting to follow up on the resolution concerning the six inch water line. An eight inch line will be installed at a maximum cost to the city of \$9,000. Gayle Vanlandingham told the council the eight inch line would be better for future growth and the price, which will not exceed \$9,000, is very reasonable. John and Blanche Tapp presented their work they have been doing with the National Guard. The National Guard will clean up a section of the Bushy Fork Creek from the Dorseville Bridge to the East Union bridge. The couple has filled all the requirements, such as permission from land owners, but requested that the city act as a sponsor. The council approved it. The council did approve the raise, regardless of whether the state agrees to the raise or not. This means one city will pay either \$67.50 or \$37.50 depending on the state's contribution. Mary Tapp, city clerk, claimed that the city is never reimbursed for the money. Continued on Page 12



Reverend Gordon Stewart, former governor Albert "Happy" Chandler and Robert Newman spoke at the funeral of Dr. Eslie Asbury, Thursday, at Forest Retreat Farm in Forest Retreat.

Esle Asbury laid to rest

The funeral of Dr. Esle Asbury was held Thursday at Forest Retreat. The Reverend Gordon Stewart of Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati officiated. Former Governor Albert "Happy" Chandler spoke, as did Robert Newman, husband of the former Mary Asbury, a granddaughter to the doctor. Governor Chandler spoke quietly over the urn of traffic and the buzz of locusts. "God rest his noble soul," he said of his friend of 60 years. Earlier, in a quiet sitting room in the house on the farm, Chandler remembered his friend. "If someone was having a party," he said, "and Dr. As was, too, well, Ed was with As. I told him I'd always stand by him." "I've known As for 60 years," he said. Newman told the story of taking the doctor to Burns for his graduation. The doctor was very impatient through a very windy speech, Newman said, and then got up to be the last of four speakers of the day. He started them off with a belly laugh, Newman said, and kept them there. After the ceremony it was time for his bourbon. Of course, on the campus there was no liquor to be found. After a very long trip through the county, the doctor finally got his drink from "a wet house-hold," as Newman called it, that had been expecting Dr. Asbury.

Iron dog is stolen

A cast iron Labrador retriever that has been in Carlisle Cemetery since 1957 has been stolen. Ronnie Clark, superintendent of the cemetery, requests that the person or persons responsible for removing an iron dog from the cemetery, please return it. He said, no questions would be asked and if anyone called to give information, he would not have to know their names. His phone number is 299-7397. According to legend, a Labrador hunting dog mourned for the man buried there until he died and the family, supposedly, had an iron dog put there. Clark has talked to the people who use the cemetery to walk and he believes it was taken between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. "It's a shame people gotta steal something like that," Clark said. "Especially from a cemetery."

Fiscal Court sets tax rate for this fiscal year

By Julie Pfeiffer
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
The Fiscal Court opened bids for roofing the Community Action Center and set this year's tax rate, which went into effect last week. The council approved the change to much from last year. Judge Executive Reese Smoot said. Only one bid was received for the roofing job from Centroll Roofing in West Liberty. Carl Centroll attended the meeting to explain the three layer process. The Community Action Center, located in the old hospital on Scraggrass Road, needs 5700 square feet of its roof fixed. The Centroll bid was \$6982.50 and includes completely removing the section of roof in question, installing an insulation board, applying hot asphalt over that, then putting in fiberglass board and topping it with hot asphalt. Gravel is then spread on the roof, which Centroll explained generally expands the life of the roof. The process is guaranteed for 10 years. Judge Reese Smoot called one of Centroll's references, found him "highly recommended" and his bid was accepted. The work will begin next week. The court heard the first reading of the ordinance concerning the property tax rate for Nicholas County. The second reading will be held September 24 at 10:00 a.m. The court approved rocking an old county road that is also an old creek bed. There was much protesting, but this is apparently the only access Dolan Nichols has to his property. In other business, the court paid approved paying the bills approved by the transfer of money, discussed putting lights in front of the Community Action Center, a broken fence on Cynthiana Road, the burial of Clarence Earlywine, presence, but bus drivers need and the blacktopping of Durham Road.

School board hears request for pay raises

The Nicholas County Board of Education heard a request, but took no action, on pay increases for certain personnel within the system. Donald Elder, superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, said the board would review and consider the requests. A delegation of employees from Nicholas County Elementary School was on hand for Monday night's meeting of the Board of Education. In other action the board approved non-resident contracts for this school year. Elder said the system has a net loss of 28 students, which can result in the system losing as much as \$44,000 in state funds. Elder said he and board attorney Hopkins will review the procedure and bring information to a later board meeting. The board approved Rob Lane's attendance at a special education seminar in Lexington. And, agreed to allow the adult education program to use the Community Action Center four nights a week, at a cost of \$500 annually. The board also took action to allow Mrs. Sue Kirby and 10-15 students to attend a Teen Leadership Conference, Saturday, September 17. The board approved hiring of Don Power as special education teacher at Nicholas County High School, effective August 29. The board considered the general budget for 1988-89. Continued on Page 12

Jack Conley, County Attorney, noted that he had received a letter from the Public Defender Program as a Nicholas County has not paid its share for two years. He explained this was not negligent on the part of the court, it simply was not billed. The court will meet again October 9, to discuss this year's contract with the public defender program. The court did approve a request by Johnson Mathers Health Care to update a 1969 motion. The county will store patient records for five years the health care facility if it needs the room or fails to operate.