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**JUL
9
1992**

Celebrating 125 Years
of
1792
of
1992
Kentucky

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Kentucky State Representative for Nicholas County Jim LeMaster, center, crowns the new 1992 Blackberry Queen Thursday night. Anna Kouy, 1991 Blackberry Queen, presented 1992 Blackberry Queen Janelle Sbert with a bouquet of flowers. Sbert's mother Martha Lyons Sbert (1964) was a former Blackberry Queen.

Pot seized in safe deposit box

By Josh Shephard

CARLISLE — Kevocating a search warrant, state and local police, Thursday, uncovered marijuana stored in a safe deposit box in a Carlisle bank. Using a search dog from the state police canine unit for a routine search, police were given permission to conduct an informal search of the safe deposit box room at approximately 9 a.m. Thursday at the First National Bank of Carlisle, according to State Police Detective Jeff Jett. Three state troopers, Detective Jett, Detective John Conley, and state trooper Tim Layne, canine police dog Zary, and dog handler, Trooper George Cantor, entered the premises and began their search, Jett said.

The dog was taken to the lock box area and allowed to roam the area under supervision when Zary gave a signal to its handler of the possible presence of a controlled substance within a lock box.

However, Jett said, safe deposit boxes work on the same principal as a private home. In order to continue their investigation, police left

to obtain a legal search warrant for the safe deposit box in question.

At approximately 1 p.m. the same day, police obtained and executed the search warrant. Inside, according to Jett, police found and seized 10 plastic sandwich bags filled with marijuana and other items in the box. Aside from the marijuana, police declined to disclose what other items were

seized pending a determination of their legality, Jett said. As of press time, no charges have yet been filed against any individual in connection with the marijuana found in the safe deposit box.

According to Jett, charges are pending a full investigation of the material police seized Thursday. Police declined to comment further on the investigation.

Lewis extradited, tell location of handguns, car

By Josh Shephard

URBANA, ILLINOIS — CHAMPAIGN County State's Attorney Thomas Difania, last Wednesday, disclosed that Clifford Joseph Ramey was "trussed up" in a chair when discovered murdered last month.

According to Lt. Jim Page of the Urbana Police, it is unclear whether Ramey was tied up before or after he was killed.

Urbana Police have also recovered two handguns and Joe Ramey's car based on information given police by Vincent Daniel and Lavonda Jane Lewis after their arrival at the Champaign County Correctional Center on extradition from Kentucky.

The Lewis are facing charges of murder in connection with the beating death of Ramey. After they turned themselves into the custody of Leslie County Sheriff Ford Bowling last Monday, the Lewis waived extradition proceedings on Tuesday and were transported to the Champaign detention facility.

Police have yet to establish a clear motive for the murder. "The activity prior to the murder and what led to it are still under investigation," Page said. "We have to look at what they told us and compare it to all the physical evidence we've gathered," he added.

Based on evidence turned over to Illinois police, according to Lt. Jim Page of the Urbana Police in a press conference last Wednesday, police recovered two handguns from a retention pond at the University of Illinois Willard Airport in Savoy and impounded a car owned by Ramey, which was found a block-and-a-half north of a train station in Champaign.

It is believed the Lewis returned to Kentucky by bus or train," Page said.

An Illinois State Police dive team are still searching for a third handgun the Lewis claimed to have dumped in the same pond, Page said.

However, Page said police do not believe the handguns were used in connection to Ramey's murder.

Police have yet to establish a clear motive for the murder. "The activity prior to the murder and what led to it are still under investigation," Page said. "We have to look at what they told us and compare it to all the physical evidence we've gathered," he added.

High winds caused property damage Thursday

By Josh Shephard

CARLISLE — Winds of up to 35 miles an hour whipped through Nicholas County late Thursday night, effectively ending Blackberry Festival activities for the evening and causing thousands of dollars in property damage before it ended.

The summer squall-like weather ran across the north-eastern section of Kentucky, sending, damaging winds and heavy rain through the central and eastern part of the state, causing considerable pockets of property damage in an early summer season marked by heavy rains. Flash flooding and wind damage.

Until last Thursday night, the worst of the rough summer weather had skirted Nicholas County. However, in the last two weeks, according to residents and local insurance agents, two storms have caused considerable property damage in a number of homes across the county.

The storm that moved across Nicholas County Thursday began in a spirit at approximately 10:30 p.m. and lasted well into the early morning hours Friday. The heaviest part of the storm, according to witnesses, hit at shortly after midnight.

According to Bobby Fay, an employee of the state highway department, branch in Carlisle, workers were out cleaning debris from the main roads from midnight Thursday until after 4:00 a.m. Large tree branches, blocking roads, were cut apart and removed from Lake Road, Short Pike, Walnut Grove, and Myers station

Roads, Fay said. During runs throughout the night, Fay estimated the worst damage occurred in and around the Headquarters and Emergency Services coordinator Gene Kolby.

"Cynthiana and Harrison County got hit much worse than Nicholas County. We heard reports of fallen branches and electricity problems inside Cynthiana. But the Headquarters and Bartonsville area, and all that valley area going toward the Harrison County line had problems throughout the night," Fay said.

But despite the rough winds that succeeded in uprooting trees and tearing off large branches, there was surprisingly little rainfall recorded.

According to rain water levels measured for the evening of July 2 at the Carlisle Waste Water

Treatment Plant, little better than five hundredths of an inch was registered as having fallen, according to Disaster and Emergency Services coordinator Gene Kolby.

"It's impossible to be completely accurate for the whole county, to me it did seem like a lot more rain fell than what we measured at the plant. But most of what we got was wind more than actual rain," Kelly said.

In several sections of Bartonsville and Headquarters, tree branches littered the area. One Headquarters' home very nearly missed sustaining damage when the top of two large trees in its front yard blew over, narrowly missing the front porch.

Others, however, were not so lucky.

Sarah Harrington, of Whittense Road, said she was asleep when the worst of the storm hit. When she awoke the next morning, she found a large maple branch had fallen on top of her red Chrysler LeBaron.

On farmland owned by Conn Abnee just off highway 68, a tree was uprooted, destroying one Ford farm tractor and damaging another Case Tractor owned Myers Station resident, Elmo Myers.

Cleanup of the damage has taken days, Bobby Fay said. Fortunately, he said, trees that did block roadways did not claim the lives of drivers.

Local insurance companies reported damages scaled up into the thousands, but speculated the damage could have been worse.



Elmo Myers and Charles Ishmael encountered wind damage to their tractor on Thursday night. Myers and Ishmael left their tractors outside on the farm of Conn Abnee on HWY 36 west of Carlisle where they were cutting hay. The wind uprooted a tree and landed on Myers' Ford tractor. Myers said the damage was approximately \$25,000. Ishmael's tractor was under the same tree, but only the cab of the tractor was damaged.



The Carlisle Mercury/Pan Bowles Photo together in the Carlisle Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce 5-K run. Gayle Kelley reached out his hand to his brother Kurt as they both finished first in their respective divisions.