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Nicholas County High School Class Of 1992

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125th Year

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The Carlisle Mercury's Joe Shepherd has photo of Joe Ramey in an office at the 19th Hole of Carnico several days prior to its opening. Carnico Restaurant's second life was short lived when Ramey disappeared suddenly Tuesday, May 12.

Ramey found slain in Illinois motel

Josh Shepherd and Pamela Bowles
of the Carlisle Mercury

URBANA, ILLINOIS — A body found beaten Friday, June 5, in an Urbana, Illinois motel has been identified as Joseph Ramey, 42, of Lexington, Kentucky.

Urbana and Illinois State Police are investigating the death which has been ruled a homicide by Champaign County Coroner Eldon Quick and Urbana Police Sergeant John Lockard.

Ramey, officially identified as Clifford Joseph Ramey according to a report from the News Gazette in Champaign, Illinois, was the former owner of the 19th Hole of Carnico in Carlisle. He was reported to have been wanted by Kentucky law enforcement authorities on several felony fraud warrants.

In addition, authorities in Fayette County said Ramey had one outstanding warrant for theft by deception in connection with a bad check, the report said.

In a statement given to Illinois reporters Friday, Urbana Police Sergeant John Lockard said Ramey's body was discovered in a room at the Courtyard Motel at 403 North Vine Street, Urbana. According to Urbana police, Ramey's body was found by a maid who was cleaning the room at the motel at about 11:30 a.m. Friday.

There were signs of a struggle in the motel room, Lockard said. However, Lockard refused to comment on the exact circumstances of the death.

Ramey was taken to Memorial Medical Center in Springfield for an autopsy, the news report said.

Champaign County Coroner Eldon Quick and an Urbana officer confirmed Ramey was victim of a homicide, the report said. According to Quick in a telephone conversation with The Mercury at his office, Ramey had been dead less than 24 hours when the body was discovered.

"Autopsy findings seem to suggest that the victim was killed probably the afternoon or the night before discovery Friday morning," Quick revealed.

The results of the autopsy revealed the cause of Ramey's death to be head trauma, but as yet, the investigation has not revealed a murder weapon, the report said.

Urbana police are reportedly seeking suspects in the case. As of Monday, no arrests have been made in connection with the homicide.

However, Lockard did say, according to the report, that Ramey had been staying at the motel for about a week and that two other people, an unidentified man and woman, had checked in with him. Both people and the car they arrived in were missing

when police began their investigation, Lockard said.

Ramey first appeared in Nicholas County at a February Business After Five meeting in the board room of the basement of the First National Bank of Carlisle.

His arrival was a surprise to the business owners and leaders at the meeting, the subject of which was a discussion of what could be done to re-open the 19th Hole of Carnico restaurant.

Just as discussion was about to begin, Ramey introduced himself and another man as his partner, Mt. Sterling resident Ed Bibby. They announced they were in the process of purchasing the restaurant to reopen it for business.

However, almost immediately following its opening, the restaurant was beset by rumors of a business in financial turmoil.

Numerous complaints were made by various employees about irregular receipt of paychecks, in some cases employees were not being paid at all.

These rumors were substantiated on Tuesday, May 12, when Ramey disappeared unexpectedly from Nicholas County and the 19th Hole of Carnico, causing its sudden closure and leaving several employees disgruntled and without paychecks and a series of unpaid bills to several private firms.

There are also charges that Ramey had taken illegal residence in at least one Carlisle home. In addition several pieces of furniture alleged to have been stolen property from the 19th Hole Restaurant were located.

Ramey's partner, Bibby, was exonerated of any wrongdoing and no charges had been filed against him. According to a March interview, Bibby had been lured into partnership with Ramey from his own job with the Central Kentucky Supply Company, a business he had been involved with for 17 years.

In the March interview, Ramey claimed to have had two sons, Justin and Charles, both of whom were working at the Dinner Bell Restaurant in Mt. Sterling, alleged to have been unpaired of Ramey's personal investments.

Following the autopsy, Ramey's body was claimed by a brother, Rocky Ramey, and taken to the Bailey Funeral Home in Elkhorn City, Kentucky. The funeral was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday. He is survived by his parents, James Barnes and Brookline Ellen McKinney Ramey of Mouthcan, one brother, Rick, and six sisters. According to the notice at Bailey's Funeral Home, Ramey was never married, nor were sons listed.

Fox addresses 1992 graduates

By Josh Shepherd
of the Carlisle Mercury

CARLISLE — KET Executive Director Virginia G. Fox addressed the Nicholas County graduating class of 1992 said there is no excuse anymore for students not to seek higher education. There is no excuse, she said, for anyone not to have a high school diploma.

Fox, a graduate of Fleming County High School, Morehead State University and holder of a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky, said she had no illusions of the kind of impact she would have as a graduation speaker.

But while the graduating students may not, in later years, remember who spoke to them at their high school graduation, she expressed her hope that they would hold to the memories of their education at Nicholas County.

Fox, a native of Mt. Carmel in Fleming County, is presently a member of the advisory panel for the National Endowment for the Arts and a member of the National Science Foundation's Informal Science Education panel.

She has been with KET, the Kentucky Network, since 1968.

She told students she understood their ambitions to leave Nicholas County. As a young Fleming High graduate, she said she too couldn't

wait to leave Fleming County, to get out into real life. After graduate school she said she couldn't wait to leave Lexington for New York City, all the time pinning hopes on her ambitions and education.

Her career flourished, but the best learning she said she ever received, her best feelings, all are rooted in Kentucky.

"In the time since you entered first grade until this moment, this class has lost 50 people. Not all of them dropped out. Many moved away, some of you moved here. But most, you can bet, moved to areas qualified on Page 3."

Hopkins resigns as school board attorney

By Pam Bowles
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Nicholas County School Board Attorney Billy Hopkins informed the board of his decision to resign after 29 years of service as the board's legal adviser.

Hopkins said his decision was based on the amount of extra work the Kentucky Education Reform Act has put on him. Combined with the workload of his regular practice at his office, keeping up with the reform act, interpreting its legal ambiguities and constant revisions, demanded far more time than he could reasonably afford to give.

"The demands on me are much greater now than they first started. I am unable to commit myself to these demands," Hopkins said.

Hopkins has been the school board's attorney and legal advisor since 1971. Following his written announcement, school board members expressed their gratitude for his services and their welcome of any future help he may be able to provide.

Superintendent Ceberth Gilbert said it will be up to the board to decide who and when to name a replacement for Hopkins.

Board members moved on to discuss replacing another recently vacated position, that of boy's varsity basketball coach.

Gilbert asked each board member to select a member from their respective district to serve on a special committee to choose possible candidates to replace the position left open by former Nicholas County Head Basketball Coach Ed Oakley.

Gilbert has selected Nicholas County High School Principal Greg Field to serve on the committee.

The committee will be through all the applications and choose the best six or seven applicants. Gilbert will then interview them.

Gilbert will choose his best three or four and send those

applicants to the Nicholas County High School Site Based Council for a final selection. Gilbert would then approve the final selection by the council.

Gilbert said the selection of a coach can come from a qualified individual to teach in the area of the JTPA program, Math, Physical Education or some internal shifting may occur depending on the candidate who is chosen.

The schedule for the summer school program was outlined. The summer school program will run six weeks for four hours a day for elementary students and a seven week program for four hours a day for high school students.

The extended time element on the high school students will qualify them for high school credit in English and Math.

Gilbert said there will be approximately 22 to 23 students enrolled for summer classes in the high school and approximately 50 elementary

Gilbert said Nicholas County received approximately \$87,000 in grants for the extended program, but the school system will not receive this money until July 1.

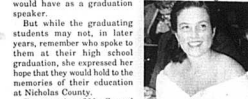
Gilbert said, "I have enough money in this year's fiscal budget to begin a summer program the last week of June before we receive the grant."

The board approved bringing back corporal punishment according to section eight of the code of conduct.

According to the state board of education, two certified personnel must be present and notification must be made to the parents before punishment can be administered.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the required notification from the superintendent regarding his employment of the following for extended summer school staff: elementary teachers Bonnie Darrell, Sandra

Pat Phillips — Salutatorian



Jill Hardin — Valedictorian



Pat Phillips — Salutatorian

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