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Mercury is Honored

Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot, Carlisle Mayor Frankie Hughes, and Carlisle Chamber of Commerce President Spud Marshall join in congratulating Carlisle Mercury Associate Manager Pam Shepherd and associate Editor Josh Shepherd as members of the Carlisle Mercury, honored Wednesday night by the Bluegrass Area Development District as Nicholas County's Corporate Citizen of the Year. Georgetown Mayor Tom Prather presents the award to Pam Shepherd.

Fiscal Court to face budget deficit; Authority gets private sector help

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Faced already with the possibility of a $6500 deficit at the end of the current fiscal year, the Nicholas County Fiscal Court informed the Industrial Authority that it couldn't match the offer made by the Carlisle City Council.

But the Industrial Authority has made a possible arrangement to remain open.

According to Industrial Authority coordinator Kathy Howard, upon word that the fiscal court could not provide the money necessary to meet Industrial Authority tax expenditures for the next three months, there has been an offer in Nicholas County's private sector to match the city council's commitment made at a special meeting last week.

"We're going to do everything we can to remain open permanently. There have been too many gains made to have the office close," Howard said.

To do so, however, is not likely to include a budget supplied equally between the county fiscal court and city council.

Tom Dobson, a financial advisor with the Kentucky Department of Local Government, met with Judge-Executive Reese Smoot Monday afternoon to review the fiscal court budget in an effort to see if adjustments could be made for the county to swing the Industrial Authority request.

"The court is dealing with an extremely tight budget now. In a best case scenario, the court could very well see a $6,560 deficit by the end of this fiscal year," Dobson said.

In a budget review which also included an analysis of past court budgets, he made a projected estimate of the expenditures the court is likely to face within the current fiscal year, he said.

First, Dobson took into account those costs the state government has mandated.

"There was nowhere else the court could consider cutting costs but in the general fund. All other costs are fixed and are budgeted to be met," Dobson said.

In the General Fund, however, first priority is to meet the county's state mandated obligations. It was in the areas of jail contracts and solid waste landfill fees that costs to the court exceeded the money the county had budgeted.

In the first quarter of the fiscal year, Dobson said the court has had to spend $24,000 to house prisoners in jail. In addition, the court had to pay $12,548 in jail claims left over from the previous fiscal year.

Projected over the remaining three quarters of the fiscal year, Dobson said the cost in jail fees for the year would be $108, 548.

"The fiscal court budgeted $90,000 for jail fees for the year. In that area alone, the county has a deficit of $18, 548," Dobson said.

The other line item which has exceeded the county budget, he said, is the cost to transport solid waste to out of county landfills.

The fiscal court budgeted $6,500 for solid waste disposal fees. In the first quarter, Dobson said, the county has already spent $4,604. Projected across the entire fiscal year, the county is looking at a possible $11,916 shortfall, Dobson said.

"Jail fees are really hard on counties because there really is no way to guess what kind of costs you'll have. If a prisoner gets really ill, the cost can break a county," Dobson said.

In state mandated areas, the county is looking at a $30,464 shortfall it must meet, he said.

Juggling some cuts in spending in other areas and using some $13,000 in carryover money from the last fiscal year, Dobson said the county can manage to cover approximately $23,903, but that still leaves a deficit of about $6500, he said.

"There have been appropriations to the extension office and the senior citizens, but Judge Smoot said the county wants to leave those appropriations alone. These organizations base their budgets on the money the county allots them. It would throw things off to effect reductions in those areas," Dobson said.

It was primarily Dobson's report on the county budget condition that prompted the court to announce it had no room for appropriations to the Industrial Authority in the next three months. Nor could it promise money in the next year with a small deficit threatening.

"The county can deal with a

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Mercury named Nicholas Corporate Citizen of the Year

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

LEXINGTON — The Carlisle Mercury was recognized as Nicholas County's "Corporate Citizen of the Year" by officials representing the Bluegrass Area Development District Wednesday night.

Elected and civic officials from the 17 counties that make up the BGADD district gathered at the Marriott's Griffin Gate Hotel in Lexington Wednesday to pay tribute to each county's leading industry. One industry from each county within the Bluegrass region was recognized for its contributions to their community and to the district in general.

Award recipients represented a diverse group of individual businesses and industries. Of the 17, two newspapers were selected as Corporate Citizens for Nicholas and Clark Counties, The Carlisle Mercury and the Winchester Sun.

One industry was selected by two separate counties for their positive contribution to their respective communities, the E. D. Bullard Company.

The industries, according to Mary Kozak, of the BGADD, were chosen by their respective Chamber of Commerce and community officials based on a criteria established by the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development in determining the "Corporate Citizen of the Year".

In past years, candidates have been selected and nominated from each of their respective counties and one industry chosen from the district as the grand overall Corporate Citizen.

According to Jas Sekhon, chief administrator for the BGADD, it was felt that there should be a special presentation to recognize and express appreciation to the existing industries throughout the Bluegrass region.

Therefore, the individual industries chosen this year are the first recipients of individual county Corporate Citizen awards, Sekhon said.

Considerations for nomination as a Corporate Citizen include the following: Being a "good citizen" of the community (active in supporting charitable and civic events, and in encouraging its management personnel to be active within the community); demonstrating support for programs or issues with statewide / regional significance such as social ad cultural enrichments; demonstrating concern for environmental issues and demonstrating concern for labor / management relations.

Georgetown Mayor Tom Prather, Chairman of the BGADD Development Advisory Committee, was awards presenter for the evening.

With just over 125 years of

Continued on Page 2

Jury returns guilty verdict on Hufana

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — A jury returned a verdict of guilty against David Hufana on felony charges of tampering with evidence and recommended a one year sentence.

However, jurors also suggested that in sentencing, Circuit Judge Robert McGinnis invoke leniency in the judgement.

Hufana, 31, was arrested last June in connection with the arrest of Carlisle resident William Mynear for allegedly shooting a .32 caliber revolver eight times into a Moorefield resident's trailer.

Mynear earlier entered a guilty plea to the charge of criminal mischief as well as possession of marijuana and received a two and a half year prison sentence.

According to reports from State Police, Hufana apparently dropped the .32 caliber revolver Mynear used in the shooting in a fence hedgerow behind the Nicholas Square Apartment complex.

At the trial Friday Hufana testified that he took the weapon to protect Mynear from himself and hid it in an attempt to dissociate himself of the incident, with which, he said, he had nothing to do.

According to Hufana's testimony, his decision to conceal the .32 revolver was merely a case of poor judgement in a situation in which events were forced upon him and caused him to act in haste.

But, in other testimony, following the Thursday night in which Hufana allegedly concealed the revolver, it was revealed that Hufana left Carlisle and spent the weekend in Lexington. He returned and had all day Monday to report the missing weapon.

The weapon was recovered by Carlisle Police Officer Lamar Mann acting on an anonymous tip. On Tuesday, four days after the incident, Hufana was arrested by state police.

Jury members argued the case for approximately three hours before returning with the guilty verdict last Thursday evening with a recomendation Hufana receive a one year sentence.

The jury added that it felt other circumstances in the case justified leniency and included in their sentence a suggestion Hufana be considered for parole in four months with the possibility of a Monday through Friday work release during the four month incarceration period.

Hufana will be officially sentenced on November 18.

McFarland faces two years

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Former police officer Daryl McFarland changed not guilty pleas to guilty during pre-trial hearings last Wednesday to charges of complicity to burglary and receiving stolen property.

McFarland, who still awaits trial on a further count of receiving stolen property in the February theft of equipment from the TTI Railroad company of which he maintains a not guilty plea, changed his previous plea to guilty in connection with the burglary of Crockett's Foodtown last August.

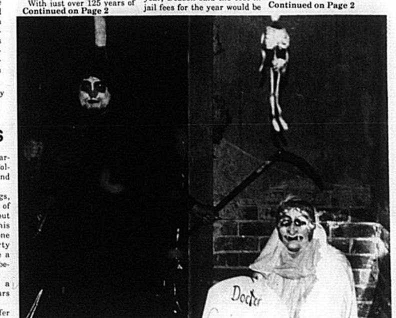
Police arrested McFarland, who was then employed as a Carlisle police officer, David Conyers, and Brenda Joyce Brown for alleged participation in the crime. Following his arrest, McFarland resigned from his position.

In preliminary hearings, McFarland entered pleas of not guilty to the charges, but last Wednesday changed his plea on the burglary and one receiving stolen property count to guilty days before a jury trial was scheduled to begin.

Both charges carry a penalty of one to five years imprisonment and $10,000.

In the plea, the state's offer to McFarland, recommended to Nicholas Circuit Judge Robert McGinnis, was to serve one year on each count to be served consecutively.

McFarland's sentence is scheduled to be rendered December 11.



The Carlisle Mercury/Pam Shepherd photo

Carlisle's Beautiful People

Steve Fryman and Mildred Gifford have never looked better as they are right here in the height of fashion for this year's Haunted House in the dungeon of the county jailhouse. Yes, Fryman and Gifford are just two of the fashion plates to be seen at the second annual Tourism Inc. Haunted House Thursday and Saturday Night.