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# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

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## Carlisle Police recover burglary items in lake

**By Josh Shepherd**  
*Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE — Divers, working in cooperation with the Carlisle Police Department, have recovered a videotape and empty money sacks from Lake Carnice believed to be part of the stolen property from Crockett's Foodtown last month.

Acting on information received by David Conyers, arrested and charged in the past two weeks on burglary and theft charges in connection with the grocery store break-in and the theft of property from a TTI railroad office, police arranged to have divers search an area of Lake Carnice for a missing videotape and money bags.

Sam Finch, Carlisle Police Chief, said the videotape may have photographed Conyers

inside the grocery store on the night of the break-in.

After the arrest of three persons in connection with the break-in, one being a former member of the Carlisle Police Department, police were told where the approximate location of the two money collection bags had been dumped in the lake, Finch said.

The police searched the lake on two consecutive Saturdays, finally recovering the items last Sunday with the aid of Game Warden Herbert Lynn Booth.

One of the bags was empty, Finch said. The other apparently contained the missing tape, Finch said, which had apparently been unwound from its spool and destroyed by its time beneath the lake water.

## Site based management to become part of NCES

**By Josh Shepherd**  
*Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County Elementary School faculty, Tuesday afternoon, have voted, 48-3, to begin installation of a Site Based Management Council.

Faculty elections are scheduled for October 1, Gerald Hammons, Nicholas County Elementary School Principal, said. Tuesday afternoon following the meeting.

The meeting was held in response to a petition signed by 40 of the school's faculty members calling for a vote. It was the second such vote at the elementary school, Hammons said.

Early last year, teachers defeated installation of a council by a narrow margin due in part, Hammons speculated, to questions of how the council would operate and what powers it would have over building administration.

"Even then there was a lot of enthusiasm over the idea of a site based council. But not to such a great degree as now. I think the success of the High School's council has encouraged a great deal of support for it here," Hammons said.

For the 1991-92 school year, the state required that at least one building in every public school system adopt a site based management council.

For Nicholas County, it was the high school. After a year under the new system, Hammons said many were warmed to the idea.

The structure of the council is exactly the same, he said. It shall be composed of three faculty members, two parents and the school principal.

Elections for faculty positions must occur within 20-30 school days after the faculty approve the council's establishment. For the elementary school, faculty election day is tentatively scheduled for October 1.

"Just after the vote for site-based passed, teachers expressed their feeling that the faculty positions have a representative in primary education and another in the general school, so that all areas of the school were covered. Although the regulations concerning site based councils don't specifically outline certain teachers, I think the faculty would take that in consideration," Hammons said.

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The Carlisle Mercury Staff volunteers spent the weekend to shape up the mansion and grounds of Forest Retreat to prepare the area for presentation to state tourism and parks officials. The goal is, hopefully, get the former home of Governor Metcalfe and Eslee Ashby considered for designation as a state park. Optimism for the effort has been high and several people came out to pitch in and help throughout most of Saturday and Sunday. The grounds were mowed and trimmed, and rough spots on the mansion repaired. Whether or not their efforts are successful, their spirit and willingness to help should be commended.

## Did Governor Metcalfe work this hard?

Volunteers worked through the weekend to shape up the mansion and grounds of Forest Retreat to prepare the area for presentation to state tourism and parks officials. The goal is, hopefully, get the former home of Governor Metcalfe and Eslee Ashby considered for designation as a state park. Optimism for the effort has been high and several people came out to pitch in and help throughout most of Saturday and Sunday. The grounds were mowed and trimmed, and rough spots on the mansion repaired. Whether or not their efforts are successful, their spirit and willingness to help should be commended.

## Nicholas County High School now offers three foreign languages

**By Josh Shepherd**  
*Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE — Hubla Bepanelo? With the last-minute addition of Spanish to the Nicholas County High School curriculum, your teenager just might.

Nicholas County now has three languages to offer students: French, Latin, and, most recently, Spanish.

According to Nicholas County High School Principal Greg Reid, the high school has been seeking to expand its language department for several years.

The need for an expanded curriculum, Reid said, would give students a choice and meet the high school to meet higher standards for college admission. Until about two or three years ago, Reid said, the High School's foreign language department consisted of French only.

"We wanted to be able to offer students a choice," Reid said. Based on that want, the KET satellite education system allowed Nicholas County to offer a course in Latin.

Although as a national language, Latin no longer exists, it is the foundation of most west European languages, including modern day English.

From an educational standpoint, the Latin was indispensable, Reid said, but members of the High School Site Based Council felt another modern spoken language needed to be taught.

To fill the gap, Site Based Council found itself looking to the Math department, to a teacher for whom Spanish is almost second nature, and who never thought, during the years in which she earned advanced degrees in Mathematics and Education, that she would teach a subject she learned as an infant.

Laura Thomas is entering her second year as math teacher at Nicholas County High School. It was for her skills in mathematics that she was hired. However, she has agreed to spend one period a day away from equations, reflections, and irrational numbers to share an impor-

tant part of her heritage, and hopefully get students with natural Kentucky draws to adopt a passable accent when pronouncing the word "era".

In order to legally teach Spanish in Kentucky, Reid and Assistant Principal Ron Baker waded the state red tape to get Thomas emergency certification.

According to Baker, the state allows a special kind of certification for public school teachers in a variety of hard to find subjects. Spanish teachers are among the most difficult to find, Reid said.

But emergency certification is only temporary, Reid said. The conditions upon which it is granted demand that teachers be within a few college hours, between 9 to 12 hours, of earning legitimate certification from a University and that the degree requirements will be completed within the year, Reid said.

Thomas should have no trouble completing the task considering her mother is a native of Mexico and taught her Spanish at a very young age.

Thomas is originally from San Antonio, Texas. Her native language, she said, is English.

She learned Spanish from her mother who often spoke to Thomas in the language native to her.

English and Spanish, thus, were instilled in her in the same way English, and its regional colloquialisms, were learned by her students. But unlike students who begin learning a new language by translating the words they hear into English, both English and Spanish are second nature, an integral part of her upbringing.

Both were, therefore, undervalued. She did not think of either as being so much an academic pursuit but as a means of communication, a means of thought.

"I don't differentiate between the two languages when I listen. I understand them both equally as well. During my childhood, my family would speak to each other, speaking to each other in both languages. I was only partially conscious of doing it because it was very natural to me," Thomas said.

In academics, Thomas pursued degrees in mathematics, acquiring a Bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University and a Masters degree in statistics at Southern Methodist University.

She came to Kentucky a few years ago to attend the University of Kentucky where she finished her Masters in education and became certified to teach mathematics.

"It's odd, sometimes, to think I would be teaching something other than Mathematics. After all, I had been working towards math degrees all my life. But teaching, towards math degrees, I've found, keeps me energetic, invigorated. Whether math or Spanish, teaching is always a joy," Thomas said.



Those aren't logarithms high school math teacher Laura Thomas is trying to get across to her students. It's Spanish. Nicholas County High School's latest and most beloved, addition to curriculum, Thomas, whose background is in advanced mathematics, is a native of San Antonio and, through her mother, a native of Mexico. With temporary emergency certification granted from the state, Thomas is seeking to get full certification for next year in Spanish.