

SEP  
24  
1992

1792  
1867  
1992  
125th Year

# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867  
125th Year, No. 40 Carlisle, KY 40311-0272 Thursday, September 24, 1992 50 cents per

## Police chase leads to capture of wanted man last Sunday

**By Josh Shepherd**  
**of The Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
CARLISLE — A former Carlisle resident in an attempt to escape arrest, led city police officers on foot chase, Sunday, from Walnut Street to the far end of Mockingbird Street, where, with aid from private citizens, he was apprehended and charged on four different counts from resisting arrest to automobile theft.

Christopher S. Griffith, 22, of 121 Terrace Drive, Weaverville, North Carolina, was a former resident of Catherine Street in Carlisle.

According to a report issued by Carlisle Police Officer David Hardin, II, police received a call late Sunday morning from the William Anderson residence on Myers Road concerning the theft of a child's bicycle.

Griffith, according to the report, had stopped in the driveway of the Anderson home and was reportedly observed removing the bicycle

from a storage building located in the back yard and stored in the rear of a brown and white 1985 Chevrolet Blazer.

The Blazer Griffith was seen driving, it was discovered, was reported stolen from a North Carolina residence in his hometown.

City Police were alerted about the bicycle theft and a search for the automobile began.

A little less than an hour had passed when Officer Hardin sighted the Blazer turning on North Street with the handlebars of the bike hanging out the back. The Blazer was observed parking in the front drive of a Walnut Street home.

According to Hardin, Griffith said neither the bike nor the car were stolen. Identification was requested and when Griffith went to the glove compartment on the passenger side to retrieve identification, the suspect apparently blocked the officer with the car door and ran.

The chase led officers past Nicholas Square Apartments and to the residential areas around Mockingbird and Catherine Streets where Griffith reportedly sought to hide and elude capture.

Police finally caught up with Griffith in the field between Catherine and Mockingbird Streets as resident Ron Roser aided police in the suspect's capture. Griffith was charged with two counts of theft in connection with the taking of the bicycle and Chevy Blazer, attempting to elude police, and driving without an operator's license.

Following Griffith's arrest, outstanding warrants for Griffith were found standing against him in North Carolina and had an eight page criminal history involving larceny, burglary, forgery, as well as a number of other violations.

According to police, Griffith will be extradited to North Carolina following the completion of procedures in Carlisle.

## According to census figures Nicholas has a low drop out rate

**By Josh Shepherd**  
**of The Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
CARLISLE — According to figures brought out in the 1990 census, Nicholas County's population has one of the lowest overall dropout rates in the state.

An estimated six percent of all Nicholas County residents, according to results of the census, are still without a high school diploma. But turning that figure around, roughly 94 percent of Nicholas Counties do hold a diploma or an equivalent for high school credit.

The news was a very positive one for Nicholas County School Superintendent Cobert Gilbert, who credited the efforts of the county adult education, local community action programs that sponsored adult GED testing, as well as stu-

dent retention programs in place in the Nicholas County school system for their efforts to see that the county populace valued education enough to receive a diploma.

"Since I arrived here it has always been my contention that Nicholas County holds education in high esteem. That for a rural county, the people here are more educated than usual. But living here, people deny it and say it isn't true. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to finally have something official as proof of what I've thought all along," Gilbert said.

According to figures published last week by the Lexington Herald Leader, Nicholas and Harrison County both share in generally low dropout numbers. Although Harrison edges Nicholas by a



Corey McCall, 6, takes a run through his family cornfield on a warm weekday afternoon after school at his home on Crooked Creek. The budding farmer enjoys displaying the rather large yield of corn, pumpkins and kushies in the backyard garden near the tobacco in the next field.



Marge Wilson was given a kind reception for her pending retirement as an extension agent in Nicholas County. Ms. Wilson, who began her career in 1955, gave 37 years to the service of Nicholas County, coordinating the activities of the Nicholas County Homemakers organization and more in retirement to the organization. Her work and the hundreds who came to bid her luck in the beginning of her retirement years left a sizeable hole left for another to fill.

## Exam shows average performance by Nicholas students

**By Josh Shepherd**  
**of The Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
CARLISLE — Test results from the first part of a new three part Kentucky Education Reform student learning assessment program show Nicholas County students performing near statewide averages of all public school systems.

However, interpreting what the results of these first set of scores mean is difficult, if not impossible, to interpret since all assessment scores have not been completed and recorded.

Too much, however, is probably being made over this first set of scores in what is essentially a detailed three-part assessment of student achievement for different from any type of examination students, parents, and school systems have used in the past to measure student and school achievement.

Phyllis Ramey, Instructional Supervisor for the Nicholas County School System, was involved in an reform assessment workshop for the week and, therefore, unavailable for comment on the scores before press time.

Before the Kentucky School Reform Act was passed in the state legislature, students grasp of academic material had only one measure, achievement tests, more particularly, the CTBS examination.

The CTBS packet was usually administered to students in the spring and consisted of several limited, multiple choice examinations, a computerized answer sheet, and re-

quired circles to be filled in only with a number 2 pencil.

But the CTBS, according to Nicholas County Superintendent Cobert Gilbert, was a measure of a student's ability in memorize and guess. It was not, he said, an accurate measure of a student's learning.

One of the most significant changes Kentucky school reform made to the state education system was to change the way in which the system measured its own, and its student's, performance.

Reform did away with the CTBS and instituted a more detailed and, possibly, a more accurate system of learning assessment. Instead of just a couple of days worth of fill in the lettered circle, students in grades four, eight, and 12 participate in a three part process of examinations.

All three sections of the exam were administered in all Kentucky school systems for the first time during the 1991-92 school year.

The first section is a multiple choice and short essay question exam all students in the fourth, eighth, and twelfth grades took. The results of this exam, representing only a third of the entire school assessment program, are being published and released.

Results of the other two parts of the total exam are forthcoming in the next few months, Gilbert said.

The second section of the assessment involves taking a representative sample of students from the three grade levels to perform specific tasks "simulating real life problems."

For example, 10 students from the fourth grade were selected at random and provided with the materials necessary to light a small light bulb within a given amount of time in order to see if students understood the principles of electric currents and apply them in a practical way. The tasks, of course, were more complex for eighth and twelfth grade students, Gilbert said.

The last section of the exam were math and writing portfolios, or collections of student's writing on various academic subjects to measure how well students can communicate what they have learned. The

### Nicholas County Schools Exam Performance Summary

(N) Novice, (A) Apprentice, (P) Proficient, (D) Distinguished  
Numbers in percentages

Fourth Grade	N	A	P	D
Reading	37	55	6	0
Math	58	33	5	2
Science	48	47	2	0
Social Studies	38	52	6	0
Eighth Grade				
Reading	9	81	5	0
Math	67	20	7	2
Science	61	34	1	0
Social Studies	32	56	7	1
Twelfth Grade				
Reading	49	43	5	0
Math	54	38	4	1
Science	38	58	1	0
Social Studies	49	43	5	0