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# THE CARLISLE MARY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

126th Year, No. 2 Carlisle, KY 40311-0272 Thursday, January 14, 1993 per copy

JAN 14 1993

LEXINGTON KY 405  
NEWS  
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## Wreck claims student's life

**By Rebecca Mullins**  
*Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE - A Nicholas County High School student has died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on Concord Road Monday afternoon.

Christopher Shane VanDeren, 18, of 1100 Lower Concord Road, was pronounced dead at approximately 2:30 a.m. Thursday at the U.K. Medical Center, according to a report from the Dry Ridge Post of the Kentucky State Police.

The accident report filed by trooper Tim Layne stated that the accident occurred when VanDeren's 1984 Ford collided head-on with a 1975 Ford driven by Walter R. Willoughby, 31, of Moorefield.

According to the report, VanDeren was traveling north toward Willoughby's southbound truck when VanDeren's truck hydroplaned on the wet road.

"At this time, it is believed that VanDeren's vehicle hydroplaned and he lost control, traveling to the left and striking Willoughby head-on," Dry Ridge Public Affairs Officer James Dolwick said Tuesday.

VanDeren suffered severe closed head and chest injuries in the accident. He was taken by the Nicholas County Ambulance Service to the U.K. Medical Center, and later died in neurosurgery in the intensive care unit.

Willoughby suffered head and leg injuries in the accident. He was also transported to the U.K. Medical Center by the Nicholas County Ambulance Service. He was listed in serious condition at press time.

No seat belts were in use by either of the men, Dolwick reported.

VanDeren's death has shocked the high school, where ministers, alumni and guidance counselors spent all day Tuesday talking to distraught students and faculty, according to Principal Greg Reid.

"It's always a tragic situation for young people. They're probably taking this harder than I've ever seen," Reid said. "They were really close to him."

"At that age, they think they're immortal. They realize they're not," he said.



Christopher Shane VanDeren, 18, of 1100 Lower Concord Road died at U.K. Medical Center Tuesday after receiving severe head and chest injuries in a two-vehicle accident Monday. The accident occurred when VanDeren's 1984 Ford truck collided head-on on Concord Road with a truck driven by Walter R. Willoughby, 31, of Moorefield.

## Fiscal Court passes ordinance to control county's solid waste

**By James Hart**  
*Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE - Nicholas County Fiscal Court passed several ordinances Tuesday, including a measure to control solid waste disposal in the area.

"What this does is provide guidelines for any future facilities," said Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot.

The ordinance outlines requirements for any solid waste disposal facility in Nicholas County. Some of the guidelines set down in the measure include studies to be done before, during and after the construction of any facility, including predicted impact upon ground water, air, and requirements of emergency services in the county.

Also outlined are fees required by builders of the facility. An initial payment of \$10,000 is required. After the review process is completed, the builder will be charged for costs incurred by the county.

## School Board discusses budget

**By Rebecca Mullins**  
*Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE - Three school board members were sworn in at Monday night's board meeting, just in time to help work out a draft budget for the district.

Atterneys Billy Hopkins and Dawn Letcher administered a constitutional oath taken by John Cleaver, Jr., Louise Zachary and David Smoot, who were re-elected to the board in November.

Two of the members, Zachary and Cleaver, were reappointed to their respective posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the board for two-year terms.

One of the first motions made by the new board was to hold a special meeting on January 25 at the elementary school to discuss the 1993-94 district budget.

According to Superintendent Robert Gilbert, the state requires that the board have a budget drafted before January 31, 1993.

"We'll have to do needs assessment in the schools and have it prepared by January 15," Gilbert said.

The elementary school council prioritized its needs at its last meeting. The high school council will have to have its needs assessed before the deadline.

The board's federal projects coordinator, Bill Guthrie, presented a breakdown of where many of its grant monies for special education have gone in 1992 and 1993 for special and extended school services at the high school and elementary school.

Guthrie presented pie charts indicating a large amount of grant money was reserved for instructional special education assistants this year.

Chapter 2 grants for the district's gifted students totaled \$10,912 this year, Guthrie said. The majority of the funds this year were used for artist-in-residence programs at both schools which instructed students in poetry.

It also is being used for field trips for gifted and talented students. The gifted and talented students at the high school have been taking trips to colleges and universities to acquaint them with higher learning and financial aid possibilities.

Chapter 2 funds have also been used for library books and instructional supplies, according to Guthrie's chart.

Chapter 1 funds, for which grants totaled \$237,126 for 1992-93, have been used to complete two computer labs, Guthrie reported. Capital Outlay funds were used to network the labs, which are used by classes on a rotation basis.

A total of \$59,285 was budgeted for extended school services in 1992-93. The main thrust of the extended services budget is summer school.

## Early-dismissal policy set by board

Guthrie said parents of those students eligible for summer school will receive notification in May.

The eligible students will be identified by their teachers, who are instructed to observe students who risk failure, he said.

The Nicholas County school board agreed Monday night to review an early dismissal policy for all students.

The policy was urged by Commissioner Thomas Boyson following the abolition of a 10-year-old boy from a Clay County High School. He was later found dead by authorities.

As a preventive measure, the board of education has passed the following policy, known as Section 28:

At the beginning of each school year, an Emergency Procedures Form shall be sent to each parent/guardian. Among the social security number of each adult permit-

## Tax refunds may bypass county

**By Rebecca Mullins**  
*Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE - If it is upheld by the state, a court ruling by Franklin Circuit Judge William Graham may give Franklin County refunds on 1990 and 1991 property tax increases probably won't affect Nicholas County, according to

Property Valuation Administrator Rose Brady.

Brady said Friday she believes the refunds brought on by the Graham considered unconstitutional property reassessment would only apply to large counties, like Franklin County.

Beginning in 1990, one-fourth of Franklin County's property, including residential, commercial and agricultural property, was reassessed each year. At the end of four years, the final quarter of the county would be reassessed.

Brady said she thought the state Supreme Court will try to judge whether or not it is constitutional for property reassessed in the first quarter to receive three tax increases in the four-year reassessment cycle, while the final fourth only receives one tax increase per period.

Brady said Graham's decision shouldn't pose a problem in Nicholas County where property is reassessed each year for four years based on classes of property, including residential, commercial, and agriculture. The fourth year is reserved reassessment of properties excluded from earlier reassessment.

"There have been decisions (in court) in the past that say if you reassess by class, that is as fair as you can get," she said.

Because of Nicholas County's small population of 7200 and small business community, it is able to reassess by class instead of by quadrant, as Franklin County does.

"Graham is only talking about quadrants, not class," Brady said.

In 1990, the Nicholas County Property Valuation Administrative Office assessed \$94.8 million worth of real estate. In 1991, Brady said \$99.7 million of real estate property was assessed.

The amount assessed in 1992 was \$103 million.

## School writing portfolio scores will need some improvement

**By Rebecca Mullins**  
*Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE - The results of how well Nicholas County students write were released by the state December 10.

The results were part of the new statewide Kentucky Instructional Results Information System (KIRIS) test that replaced the standardized, multiple-choice CTBS tests used in Kentucky schools the past several years. The writing results were part of writing portfolios kept by fourth, eighth and 12th-grade students statewide from September 1991 to April 1992.

The writing portfolios consisted of several class-assigned writing projects, according to Nicholas County Elementary School counselor Brenda Anderson.

Anderson said the students had to do many types of writing, including short stories, poems, persuasive writing, paragraphs and plays.

According to Nicholas County Instructional Supervisor Phyllis Ramsey, students in the Nicholas County district fared almost as well as the students across the state on the portfolio.

In Nicholas County, 96 fourth graders, 93 eighth graders and 74 seniors had their writing tested through their portfolios, Ramsey reported.

Students whose scores reflected novice skills, or initial understanding of writing procedures, totaled 94 among fourth graders, 68 among eighth graders and 45 among 12th graders in the district.

Students who had reached what the state calls the "apprentice" stage in their writing and have achieved more understanding than a novice totaled only two students in the fourth grade, 20 in the eighth grade and 23 among the seniors.

Only five eighth graders and 12 seniors reached a "proficient" level of understanding of their writing and their subjects, according to test results. Four seniors were the only students to reach the level known as "distinguished," which, according to the Kentucky Department of Education, demonstrates that a student can complete all important parts of a task. No fourth or eighth graders reached the distinguished level in the district, and the fourth graders failed to reach the proficient and distinguished levels.

Ramsey said although the scores reveal students in those grades selected by the state have a minimum grasp of writing knowledge, they did as well as other districts in the state.

According to the Kentucky Department of Education,



Carlisle Mercury Photo by Rebecca Mullins  
Layton Gross, an employee of Drifwood Utility Contractors of Paris, spent last Thursday morning replacing 20 utility poles along Upper Jackstown Road. The poles, some of which have been standing from 20 years, have to be replaced after so many years to prevent power outages and accidents caused by poles that are tall down.

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2

## Continued on Page 2