

JAN
21
1993

THE CARLISLE

LEXINGTON KY 405
NEWSP. Carlisle KY 40311
SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867
126th Year, No. 3 Carlisle, KY 40311-0272 Thursday, January 21, 1993 50 cents per copy

To attend friend's funeral... Students walk out in protest

By Hebeon Mullins
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Permission was given by Nicholas County Superintendent Colbert Gilbert for all students and faculty to attend Shane VanDeren's funeral last Friday.

Those wanting to go to the funeral were permitted to leave school an hour and a half early to do so. Dismissal at that time would have left 15 minutes to arrive at the 2 p.m. funeral.

But that wasn't enough time for more than 200 Nicholas High students who staged a walkout from school during and after Thursday's 10-minute break.

When the 1 p.m. break began, a long line of students filed into the school lawn.

The students formed a friendship circle at the behest of some group leaders to honor VanDeren and protest the dismissal time.

Many of the students felt that 10 minutes was too little time to prepare for the funeral and drive, or walk, if need be, to Assembly of God church where the funeral was held.

Others at the protest wanted the whole day off from school. The consensus was that the day would be a memorial holiday for VanDeren.

Emotions were strong about the need for the memorial, and the students felt the board of education was being "disrespectful" to VanDeren, as senior Jay Anderson said, by not allowing at least half a day off from school in his honor.

"Fifteen minutes isn't enough time to get out of the parking lot," Anderson said. The rest is Nicholas County history.

When the friendship circle broke, the mass of students stormed onto the lawn of the board of education. A band of seniors, including Chuck Holder, leading the pack.

"It started because all week long, we've been waiting for the school to do something. They even offer to have an assembly for Shane," Holder said. "Now, it's turned into an expression of feelings."

While standing on the front porch of the board office,

Gilbert told students board policy is to allow a student or faculty member an entire day for a relative's funeral, but not that of a friend.

"You have situations like this many times. Not everybody in the system can go to a funeral," Gilbert said.

The crowd of students before him totaled approximately half of the high school population.

He told them it is disrespectful to ignore authorities such as Principal Greg Reid and teachers by walking out of school. Such an act can also call for suspension or expulsion.

Senior Class President Robbie Felts told Gilbert calmly if it is permissive to be excused an entire day in honor of a family member, VanDeren's case was no different.

"We're just like family at school," he said.

Gilbert said he realized how distressed the students are over their classmate's death. Therefore, he compromised on their demands.

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The Carlisle Mercury/Hebeon Mullins Photo

Above: Approximately 250 students walked out of Nicholas County High School last Thursday to protest scheduled dismissal times for Shane VanDeren's funeral services. Nicholas County School Superintendent Colbert Gilbert for school to be cancelled the day of the funeral to subdue student emotions.



The Carlisle Mercury/Hebeon Mullins Photo

Sophomore Suzanna McConnell holds on to student Sheila Bussell during the walkout at the high school last Thursday. McConnell was very distressed over the death of friend Shane VanDeren, as were most of the other students at the protest.

Industrial Authority working on prospects

By Hebeon Mullins
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - After hearing Nicholas County's latest unemployment figure of 5.1 percent Friday, County Judge Reese Smoot stressed the county's need for industrial development.

"We'd be happy with about any employer we could get," Smoot said. "We're so far away from an interstate, though, it's kind of a drawback for us."

The Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Authority has been working hard with Frankfort through the new Kentucky Economic Development Partnership to attract employers. According to the authority's executive director Spud Marshall, 1993 just might be the year for growth.

"I feel sure we will have a client at one of our locations. We also have other locations listed as farm land that can be purchased," Marshall said Friday.

The industrial prospects have to be kept secret however, he said, until bidding processes have been completed and contracts are signed.

The two locations that the authority has already purchased a 42-acre farm site on the city's west end that is zoned light industrial.

The site is industry-ready with eight-inch water lines, eight-inch sewer lines north of KY 36, a four-inch city natural gas line and C&S rail service. Its electricity is provided by Kentucky Utilities.

The other available site is a

114-acre tract one and a half miles southwest of town, which is currently owned by W.C. Abnee.

The property, which is accessible from U.S. 68 and KY 36 is also ready for industry and can be subdivided.

The property receives its electricity from Harrison County RECC and East Kentucky Power. It has a four-inch water line on its south boundary and sewage can be hooked up to a six-inch main one and a half miles away.

The cost per acre of the 42-acre tract is bargained through the Cabinet for Economic Development. The price per acre of the 114-acre tract is \$300.

Unlike Smoot, Marshall doesn't expect the absence of

an interstate to hurt the viability of the tracts on the industrial real-estate market.

"It depends on the client. We're not that far from an interstate. U.S. 68 is sufficient for trucks to travel on," Marshall said. He also estimated the importance of rail service for transport from both locations.

"A lot of towns don't have a rail," he said.

Carlisle Industrial Authority and Chamber of Commerce Office Coordinator Kathy Howard said she would like to see several companies employing 75 to 100 people each come into town to take away the heavy burden large businesses place on utilities and the risks they take with

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Fire destroys Carlisle home

By Jason Hart
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - The cause of a fire that destroyed a residence at 332 North Broadway has yet to be determined, according to Carlisle Fire Chief Tom Crawford.

"We responded to a report of the smell of smoke 6 o'clock Monday morning," Crawford said. "We could see heavy smoke coming from the residence of Harold Hamm."

Reports state Carlisle Police Officer Dale Caskey was removing Harold Hamm, the single resident of the house, from the burning structure, when fire department personnel arrived on the scene.

Hamm apparently failed to hear the smoke detector in the house.

"The smoke alarm was going off when we pulled up," Crawford said.

City fire department personnel called for assistance from the Nicholas County Fire Department.

Fire had already spread into the second floor, through the walls of the structure. Firemen went into the house with hoses, attacked the fire. After getting flames on the first floor under control, firemen centered their attention on flames on the second floor.

Flames burned through the roof of the house at approximately 7:20 a.m., and fire personnel turned their attention to that area.

The fire was under control shortly thereafter, and firemen sprayed several hot spots to prevent any flare-ups.

Reports state the fire originated in the dining room. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and wiring in the elderly structure may have been a factor.



The Carlisle Mercury/Jason Hart Photo
Damage to the Harold Hamm residence above, was extensive, according to fire department reports. The single resident of the house was rescued by Carlisle Police Officer Dale Caskey.

Adult abuse problem in Nicholas County

By Hebeon Mullins
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - Everyone has probably known elderly people in the community who live alone and find caring for themselves and their home difficult.

More difficult to discover however, according to state Family Protection Specialist Mary Bradley, is many elderly are abused by caretakers as they become feeble and needful of help.

In Nicholas County alone in 1991, two cases of exploitation of people age 60 and above were reported to the Department for Social Services.

Exploitation, Bradley said, may involve theft of an elderly's social security check, antiques or other personal property for personal profit.

Also, two cases of caretakers neglecting their elderly dependents by disregarding their physical and emotional needs were reported in Nicholas in 1991.

One case of adult abuse was also reported in 1991 in the

county, sturdley said the adult abuse statistic means that at least one person over age 60 was either physically or mentally injured or psychologically abused during part of that year.

In Nicholas County in 1992, two persons were reported to be neglected by caretakers by the Department for Social Services and one self-neglect case was reported.

Although Bradley said no statistics on exploitation of the elderly were reported in the county last year, she can almost guarantee such a case occurred.

"I would find that there was no exploitation hard to believe," she said.

Statewide, Bradley said, the number of people over age 60 who were neglected increased 19 percent for a total of 1700 persons.

The number of reported exploited elderly totaled 853 in

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