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# The Carlisle Mercury

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## Two bound over to grand jury

By Charles Mattox  
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District Judge Jay Delaney ordered charges of trafficking in a controlled substance, against Gary Lee Barnett, 46, and Vickie R. Shepherd, 41, both of East Union, bound

over to the Nicholas County Grand Jury following their preliminary hearing in Nicholas County District Court August 1.

immediately following the testimony of Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler.

During the execution of a search warrant at 4215 East Union Road, at that residence, a large quantity of pain medication, nearly \$50,000 in cash and several Commonwealth of Kentucky and US Treasury checks, issued to individuals

other than Barnett and Shepherd, were confiscated.

When Shepherd attempted to verbally challenge Buckler's testimony before being stifled by Wittmeyer.



Wittmeyer continuously probed Buckler during cross-examination, hoping to illicit information that might lead to the dismissal of the charge conferred with his attorney Brian Cannup of Paris for nearly one hour in private chambers, and although he spoke feverishly with Cannup on several occasions during Buckler's testimony, he otherwise appeared calm before and during the hearing.

Shepherd appeared anxious throughout the proceedings. Soper's attorney, Public Defender Jennifer Wittmeyer, had to calm her client on two occasions. Both times were

Gary Lee Barnett, left, confers with his attorney, Brian Cannup, second from left, while Public Defender Jennifer Wittmeyer, center, and Vickie R. Shepherd, right, focus on testimony from Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler during a preliminary hearing last week.

## Nicholas on path to ARC

Nicholas County may soon officially be part of Appalachia, and thus the county may qualify for millions of dollars worth of federal funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

County in hopes that our county will be admitted. My philosophy with the ARC has been "If we keep knocking on the door, they'll eventually let us in."

than 2 million Appalachians to leave their homes and seek work in other regions.

In 1960, the Region's governors formed the Conference of Appalachian Governors to develop a regional approach to resolving these problems.

"It would definitely be a benefit for us," Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tinch said. "By being named as part of the ARC our county would have many more avenues of revenue open to us. It would not automatically put money in the bank for us but it could very possibly open up some funding for us."

Manufacturing is still an economic mainstay but is no longer concentrated in a few major industries. The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

In 1963 Kennedy formed a federal-state committee that came to be known as the President's Appalachian Regional Commission (PARC), and directed it to draw up a comprehensive program for the economic development of the Appalachian Region.

Thus began what is today known as the ARC.

"Appalachia, as defined in the legislation from which the Appalachian Regional Commission derives its authority, is a 200,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. It includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia."

On July 16 the U.S. House of Representatives approved a five-year reauthorization for ARC with the passage of bill H.R. 799. The reauthorization continues all of ARC's existing programs and also calls for the designation of economically "at-risk" counties in the Appalachian Region and permits ARC to fund up to 70 percent of the cost of projects in at-risk counties. In addition, the measure adds 13 counties to the Region: four in Ohio, four in Tennessee, three in Kentucky, (including Nicholas and Robertson) and two in Virginia.

The per capita income was 23 percent lower than the U.S. average. High unemployment and harsh living conditions had, in the 1950s, forced more

About 23 million people live in the 410 counties of the Appalachian Region; 22 percent of the Region's population is rural, compared with 20 percent of the national population. The Region's economic fortunes were based in the past mostly on extraction of natural resources and manufacturing. The modern economy of the Region is gradually diversifying, with a heavier emphasis on services and

The Senate is not expected to take up its version of the appropriations legislation, until September, and Tinch said he hopes Nicholas County will then officially be a member. "I sure hope Nicholas County gets in," Tinch said Monday. "I've been to five National ARC conventions lobbying for Nicholas

The group is as follows. "To work in a cooperative effort to achieve the goals and recommendations as set forth in the Kentucky Association for Economic Development Community Assessment Team Report for Nicholas County, Ky. Dated June 1, 2007."



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**Nicholas County Fair Royalty**  
Blaine Menke, top, 16-year-old daughter of Tai and Brian Menke of Maysville, was crowned the 2007 Miss Nicholas County Fair on Aug. 4. Allie Grant, bottom left, 13-year-old daughter of Pat and Robin Grant of Harrodsburg was crowned Miss Teen Nicholas County Fair. Lindsey Allison Haynes, daughter of Deb Haynes of Jamestown Ky., and Ross and Melody Haynes of Russell Springs, was named Miss Pre-teen Nicholas County Fair.

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