

**SOPER'S
FAMILY DRUG**
102 South Broadway Corner
of Broadway & Market St.
Phone: (859) 289-8501
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
"The Only Pharmacy Your Family Needs"

The Carlisle Mercury

Vol. 141 No. 33 The Nicholas County News Since 1867 Wednesday, August 15, 2007

COMP
University of KY Reprographic
500 S Limestone
Lexington KY 40506-0456

Nicholas man to face rape, other charges

Kentucky State Police have charged a Nicholas County man with rape, sodomy and kidnapping. State Police from the Dry Ridge Post are investigating a kidnapping and sexual assault that occurred in Pendleton County on Sun., Aug. 12, at approximately 11:20 p.m. The investigation came following a complaint when the victim said she was traveling north bound on US 27 when a following vehicle's driver flashed his lights signaling for the victim to pull over. Thinking there was a problem with her vehicle she pulled over. When she exited her vehicle, under the ruse her license plate was defective, she was forcibly grabbed and placed into the perpetrator's vehicle and driven

to a remote location, according to police. She was subsequently sexually assaulted. Leads on this investigation led to the arrest of Adam C. Yazell, 28, of Carlisle. Yazell is charged with rape, first degree, sodomy first degree, and kidnapping. Yazell is lodged at Bourbon County Detention Center. The investigation is being conducted by Detective Kevin D. Flick.

**Aug
15
2007**



Photo by Charles Mattox

It's back to school

Students, staff, and faculty all joined together for the first day of school, Aug. 9. The school year is off to a quiet start, as sports seasons and academics fire into full swing.

Morris sentenced on drug charges

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
charles@theCarlislemercury.com

Anthony Morris, 22, of Nicholas County man was sentenced to nine years in prison last week after pleading guilty to selling drugs. Morris was sentenced after pleading guilty to a total of four counts of trafficking in a controlled substance (cocaine), first offense, and one count of trafficking in a controlled substance within 1000 yards of a school. Morris was the subject of two separate criminal investigations and his sentence of nine years imprisonment will run concurrent with his two criminal cases. One case involved three counts of trafficking in a controlled

substance, and the other case involved charges of trafficking in a controlled substance and trafficking in a controlled substance within 1000 yards of a school, were filed against Morris by Carlisle police officers. Those offenses occurred on Oct. 31, 2006, according to the final judgment against Morris. Court

See CHARGES Page 3



Photos by Charles Mattox

Demolition Derby Kings

Jonathan Whitt, below left, the driver of car 327, and his first cousin, Zack Burton, right, both of Wispkey Morgan County, took top honors during the 2007 main series demolition derby Aug. 10. Burton finished strong in a field of approximately 30 entries and was awarded the Extreme Hitter award. Whitt was never stopped, and narrowly held out against Nicholas County's own strong competitor, Terry Fryman, to take top honors to the roar of a crowd of approximately 750. In an earlier elimination heat, Burton struck a car driven by Derek Thornsburg of Nicholas County. The impact knocked Thornsburg's car, above, on its side and the vehicle burst into flames. Thornsburg was not injured and a crew of Nicholas County Volunteer firefighters extinguished the flames within seconds.



Tax rate to increase

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
charles@theCarlislemercury.com

Carlisle City Council members unanimously approved the first reading of three ordinances establishing the tax rates for real estate, motor vehicles, and personal property evening. The tax rate for personal property was the only rate to see an increase, with the new rate being increased by six cents per \$100. The motor vehicle tax rate will remain at \$47 per one hundred dollars, which according to Mayor Ronnie Clark is the same rate as was established last year. The real estate tax rate is also unchanged at 1.78, with the only increase being the personal property rate at 45 per \$100. While Carlisle City Clerk Mary Stewart double-checked the mathematical calculations, City Attorney Henry Watson double-

checked the Kentucky Revised Statutes pertaining to establishing tax rates. Later, all council members were in agreement that all of the necessary steps had been taken to hold the first reading of the three ordinances, and each ordinance received unanimous support from council members during a role call vote. The ordinances will be enacted into law following their second reading and publication. Mayor Clark earlier welcomed guest Betty Morford, who owns rental property within the city limits, and who came before council asking for an adjustment on the garbage collection rate for one of her properties. Morford was seeking an adjustment to the garbage

See TAX Page 7

November sodomy trial features CSI technology

A November jury trial has been set for a Nicholas County man accused of forcing a pre-teenage juvenile to have sex with him. The trial will feature testimony regarding extremely rare, CSI-type, forensic evidence. A two-day trial scheduled for Nov. 26 and 27 has been set for Joshua R. Abnee, 28, formerly of 102 School Street, Carlisle. Abnee is charged with two counts of sodomy, first degree, and one count of unlawful imprisonment, first degree. According to court documents, a Nicholas County Grand Jury indicted Abnee on both charges May 1, 2006.

According to an affidavit for search warrant executed by Kentucky State Police Detective Clinton Graves, who continues to lead the investigation into the charges against Abnee, Abnee lured the young victim into his residence with promises that the girl's friend was there and they could watch movies together. The friend was not present, and according to the affidavit for search warrant, Abnee gave the girl two pills for a headache and then forced her into his bedroom, held her against her will and forced her to engage in oral sex. After the girl left the residence, she told her mother about the incident and her mother contacted a representative of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. She also called the police and Graves began his investigation.

In the course of the investigation the victim's undergarment was sent to the Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory for the possible detection of Abnee's DNA. The lab forwarded a portion of the undergarment to Orchid Cellmark, a private laboratory in Dallas, for more conclusive results. Forensic analysts at Orchid Cellmark, using a rare and recently implemented test called Y-STR analysis, detected male DNA, and concluded the defendant (Abnee) could not be excluded as a possible contributor of the male DNA discovered on the portion of the undergarment. Orchid's findings were ruled admissible for the trial in a March 19, hearing in Nicholas Circuit Court.

In an April 5 motion to offer evidence pursuant to KRS 412, Abnee's attorney, Raymond Bogucki alleged that the victim was sexually experienced at the time of the allegation against Abnee, and the victim had allegedly had sex with a 13-year-old boy and her knowledge of sex and the male anatomy had been used against Abnee. On a Commonwealth's Supplemental Response to Discovery Motion filed July 3 the motion states that the lab examination eliminated the male juvenile as a possible contributor of the DNA detected on the undergarment. When asked if the evidence against Abnee was strong, Det. Graves responded with one word: "Absolutely!" he said, but declined further comment. Abnee's attorney, Raymond Bogucki, was contacted for a possible comment but did not respond.

Guardsman goes AWOL

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
charles@theCarlislemercury.com

A National Guardsman attached to Carlisle's Battery B, 2nd Battalion 138 Field Artillery, is missing from Camp Shelby, Miss., along with his two military-issue weapons. Private First Class Ryan K. Longnecker, 19, who was attached to the local National Guard unit just prior to the unit's deployment, has been labeled as AWOL (absent without leave) by military officials at Camp Shelby, military officials have said. Longnecker and approximately 170 other soldiers make up the local unit, which has been training in Miss. since June. The unit arrived in Iraq last week for a one-year tour of duty in Iraq where their mission, as described earlier by military officials, will be convoy security and force protection. Military officials are being cautiously tight lipped regarding the investigation of Pfc. Longnecker's absence. "Pvt. Longnecker was listed as AWOL when he was not present for formation at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening (Aug. 6). I'm sorry I can't release any additional information other than what is included in the press release," said Lt. Col. Donald Saunders, a public affairs officer at Camp Shelby. The press release issued from Camp Shelby reads as follows: "A soldier training at Camp Shelby, Miss., is absent without leave and his military-issued weapons are missing. Pfc. Ryan K. Longnecker of Battery B, 2-138th Field Artillery Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard, was discovered absent Monday evening. After a search and inventory of

See AWOL Page 3

Jerry's
FAMILY RESTAURANT
Lexington Road
Paris, KY
859-987-3465

\$5⁰⁰ OFF
any purchase
over \$20⁰⁰

Expires 8-31-07

Cheaps
714 W. WATER ST. FLEMINGSBURG, KY 41041

Your Local Discount Dealer

Phone (606) 845-2261
Fax (606) 845-2441
Toll Free 1-888-845-2261

Visit us at
www.cheapsvrolet.com

Thinking of Selling Your Home or Farm?
See a property you would like to buy?
Put an experienced local agent to work for you! Call Today!

Vince Wells
Real Estate & Auction
(859) 289-5594

Vince Wells, Broker & Auctioneer
Sales Associate
Cathy Anderson, 2006