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The Carlisle Mercury

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**Dec
5
2007**



Santa Letters deadline near

Please mail your letters to The Carlisle Mercury, P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, Ky. 40311 or drop the letters by The Mercury office at 117 S. Locust St. in Carlisle. Our fax number is 859-289-4000. If money and daddies have to help out, you may email them to editor@thecarlislemercury.com. If you would like to include a picture with the letter to Santa the cost is \$5.00 and should be brought to The Mercury's office along with your letter.

Toys for Tots drive underway

Adults, young or small, with toys that they no longer have a need for, are encouraged to drop their toys at Hughes Auto Sales at 263 East Main Street for this year's drive. Checks to help fill food boxes may be made to the Nicholas County Fireman's Auxiliary fund for a tax-free exemption. Anyone with any questions about donations or drop-offs, or if someone in the community knows of a need of another person this Christmas season, please contact Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes at 749-7207, or Stephanie Sosby, who is assisting with the annual drive, at 707-6336.

Enter decorating contest today

Those who spend hours decorating their homes are encouraged to enter The Carlisle Mercury and Hopkins Drug home decorating contest. The rules and sign-up form are included in an advertisement on page 3 of this week's edition. If you're interested in entering, take a moment and do it soon as the deadline to enter is coming soon.

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Wreck injures one



Nancy Dailey of East Union Road was injured when the car she was driving went off the road as she attempted to avoid a squirrel.

Special election carries big price tag

**By Charles Mattox
News Editor
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A mandated special election to determine who will fill former State Representative Carolyn Belcher's vacated seat for the 72nd District will be held Jan. 8, 2008. The election will increase budget woes for members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court. The election will cost the county an estimated \$10,000. The state will only reimburse the county an estimated \$1,000. "The election is an unfunded mandate," Nicholas County Judge Executive

Larry Timber said while explaining that the county had to have the election but would suffer economically because of it. "We'll have to do a budget amendment to pay for this," he said. "Members of the fiscal court will have to go through the budget and transfer the required funds from one of our budgeted items. The budget amendment will have to be approved by members of the fiscal court." Belcher resigned her seat as the State Representative for the 72nd District after winning a special election to serve as the Judge Executive of Bath County, a position that be-

Photo by Charles Mattox

came vacant in the wake of a federal vote buying investigation that eventually led to federal indictments of then Bath Judge Executive Walter Shroat, County Attorney Donald Maze and several other Bath officials and community leaders. "Other Nicholas County officials expressed concern over the special election. This is our tightest budget ever. We haven't received any special instructions or guidance thus far," said County Treasurer Wanda Dotson. "We certainly didn't budget for the expense of a special election."

See ELECTION Page 15

New trial date set for Abnee

**By Charles Mattox
News Editor
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A new trial has been scheduled in the wake of a mistrial that was declared in Nicholas Circuit Court last week. The charges of sodomy and unlawful imprisonment in the case of the Commonwealth of Kentucky versus Joshua Abnee will be retried April 8-10. The Honorable Judge Robert McGinnis set the new date and added an extra day to the previously ordered two-day trial. Judge McGinnis had ordered a mistrial midway through Abnee's Nov. 26 trial, when he learned that scientific documents, which were relevant to the case, had not been made available to the Com-

monwealth or the defense. Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Laws, Abnee and his attorney Raymond Bogucki came before Judge McGinnis Monday morning to establish the new trial date. McGinnis also addressed the subject of reinstating Abnee's bond. Bogucki emphasized the importance of the bond conditions to members of Abnee's family that gathered at the courtroom following Abnee's appearance. According to Bogucki, Abnee will be released from the Montgomery County Detention Center early this week. Abnee's bond had been temporarily revoked upon his recent arrest for unrelated charges that bond will now be reinstated, according to Bogucki.

Victorian Christmas, parade are happy, fun filled events

**By Charles Mattox
News Editor
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Hundreds gathered in downtown Carlisle Saturday evening, Dec. 1, to celebrate Carlisle's first Victorian Christmas Festival. The crowd cheered as Hannah Dixon was crowned the 2007/2008 Snow Queen at the conclusion of the annual Christmas parade. Last year's Snow Queen, Jordan Letcher, crowned Dixon, the 18-year-old daughter of Billy and Donna Dixon as the new Snow Queen along Main Street and near the front steps of the Nicholas County Courthouse amid a crowd of several hundred. Dixon, an NCHS senior, has been very active in school and community activities. She participates in Girls Basketball, Tennis, FFA Drug Coalition, is a DARE roll-model, is a member of

the Athletic Club, Pep Club, Prom Committee, Student Council, Who's Who Among American High School students, Youth Salute representative and Yearbook Staff. Hannah is also an active member of the Carlisle Assembly of God Church. Another highlight of the evening's festivities was the crowning of the 2007/2008 Snowflake Princess. Hannah Coldiron, 14-year-old daughter of Phillip and Shelley Coldiron, and who is an eighth grade student at Nicholas County Middle School, was crowned Snowflake Princess. Coldiron is the Captain of the Middle School Cheerleading Team, is a member of the Junior Varsity and Middle School Softball team and also participates in track, KUNA, KVA, gymnastics and GATE. Coldiron is also a member of the Na-



Hannah Dixon, left, a senior at NCHS was selected as Snow Queen during this year's Christmas parade. Right, Hannah Coldiron was crowned Miss Snowflake.

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