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The Carlisle Mercury

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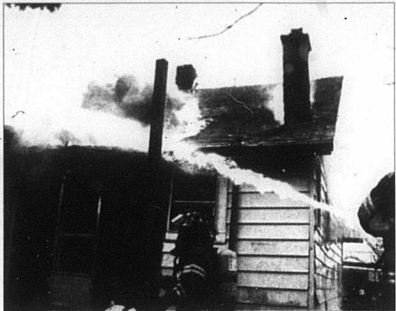


Photo by Charles Mattox

Carlisle City Firemen responded to a call on Locust Street last Friday as an unoccupied home was destroyed by fire. The house is owned by Betty Morford.

Fire destroys Carlisle home

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
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A Friday afternoon fire caused no injuries, but destroyed a Carlisle home on North Locust Street. Carlisle firefighters, and police officers responded to 103 Locust Street at approximately 3:30 p.m. Friday afternoon, after being dispatched to the scene when James Cannon, a resident of Locust Street, spotted smoke coming from the two-story house and dialed 911. Carlisle Police Officer

Michael Kuskaden moved a car parked dangerously close to the flames and another individual on the scene moved a small dog that was leashed to a concrete block near the rear of the home as firefighters arrived. At the time of the fire no one was home. The house was occupied by Melinda Hunt, granddaughter of the house's owner Betty Morford, according to Carlisle Fire Chief Jeff Jefferson. Jefferson led a crew of 11 city firefighters that diligently battled the blaze and contained the fire to

the structure while protecting adjacent dwellings. None of the nearby homes were damaged as a result of the fire due to the efforts of the city's firefighters and police officers that worked side by side while battling the blaze. "The home suffered a lot of damage," Jefferson said Monday. "The cause of the fire is still under investigation." Neighbors and others provided firefighters with bottled water to help them battle fatigue and dehydration as they battled the fire for over an hour.

Toy drive coming up short

Members of the Nicholas County Volunteer Fire Department are continuing to seek donations for their annual Toys For Tots drive. Unfortunately, the donations made thus far have fallen short of the needs of the community. "We deeply appreciate the generosity that citizens have shown all ready with this program this year as well as their generosity in past years, but unfortunately this year we are still falling short of reaching our goal," Nicholas County Fire Chief, and event coordinator, Mark Hughes said Tuesday morning. "We've placed orders for an additional 85 food boxes and we just haven't received enough new toys and monetary donations yet to make this a successful event for the less fortunate and elderly of the community this Christmas."

Hughes, who has participated in the local Toys For Tots event for nearly three decades, expressed deep praise for the past generous nature of the members of the extended Nicholas County community and is asking for that generosity to continue. "People in Nicholas County have always been so very generous and we are humbly asking that they continue that generosity this Christmas season. Unfortunately we are still falling

very short of our goal and we are seeking additional donations to make this a successful year." 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 303 East Main Street for this year's drive. Monetary donations are also in great need for purchasing toys and food for the food boxes. Checks 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 Hughes at 745-7207, or Stephanie Sosby, who is assisting with the annual drive at 707-6339. "We deeply appreciate every donation," Hughes said. "Even the smallest donations can have a very big impact on someone in need at Christmas."

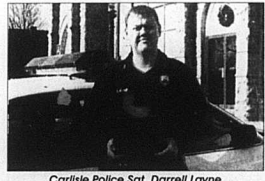


Photo by Hank Bond

Margie Sexton was injured in a single vehicle accident Sunday morning on East Union Road.

Sunday wreck injures one

A single-vehicle accident Sunday morning sent one woman to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. "According to Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Ben Buckler, Margie Sexton, 53, was traveling south on East Union Road at approximately 7:45 a.m. in a 2006 Ford Explorer when she fell asleep. "The vehicle left the roadway and flipped," Buckler said. "Mrs. Sexton was wearing a seat belt and though she suffered injuries her injuries would have probably been much more severe if she didn't have her seat belt on." Members of the Nicholas County Fire Department joined members of the ambulance service in extracting and treating Sexton at the scene before she was transported by ambulance to the Nicholas County Hospital.



Carlisle Police Sgt. Darrell Layne

Layne honored for second straight year

By Charles Mattox
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For the second year in a row, Governor Ernie Fletcher has honored a local law enforcement officer for his outstanding service to the community. Carlisle Police Sgt. Darrell Layne was presented with a Governor's award distinguishing his outstanding service to the community in removing impaired drivers from the roadways. The award is presented each year to officers who show initiative and aggressively take actions to remove impaired drivers from the roadways and help keep the citizens of the community safe. Layne has been honored with the award for the past two years. "Sgt. Layne has led the Carlisle squad with removing impaired drivers for the past two years and his actions have helped save lives," Carlisle Chief of Police William Benton said last week. Layne has removed over two-dozen dangerously impaired drivers from the Nicholas County roads in the past two years. "You see everything out there," Layne said while discussing his experiences

of working the second and third shift of city's patrol force. "My philosophy for everyone is simple. If you're going to go out for the evening, and you know you are going to be drinking alcohol, find a designated driver. If you drink and drive you will get caught and you will go to jail. It's just that simple." Layne said he and fellow law officers are noticing that drivers are becoming impaired due to substances and/or drugs more frequently than years before when alcohol was the main contributing factor. "I want to stress that people need to check their medication and prescriptions carefully and discuss their prescriptions in detail with their doctors," he said. "Some stronger medicines, like hydrocodone and percocets may be prescribed, but they may also be prescribed under the condition that the individual not operate a motor vehicle while taking the prescription. "There are many instances where even though a person has medication prescribed by a doctor they shouldn't be behind the wheel because the medicine causes impaired driving and their medicine is therefore not safe to take while driving." When it comes to impaired drivers, Layne has seen it all. "Male and female, young

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Indictments are returned by Robertson Grand Jury

By Charles Mattox
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A former Robertson County teacher was indicted on the charge of rape, third degree, Monday morning in the Robertson County Courthouse. Crystal Wells, 33, of Carlisle, was indicted on six counts of rape, third degree, by the Robertson County Grand Jury after hearing testimony from Kentucky State Police Detective Jeremy Murrell. According to a Kentucky

indictment against Wells, the alleged rapes occurred four times in August of this year, once in October and once on Nov. 4. Each of the six counts reads that Wells "engaged in sexual intercourse with another person less than 16 years of age." The indictments also state that the alleged rapes occurred in Robertson County. "According to a Kentucky

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