GENERAL NEWS

Local farmer expresses praise

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

A Nicholas County farmer and local community leader who nearly lost his life in a bizarre farm accident a month ago says he owes his life to the emergency responders, friends and family members who rushed to his rescue and those who said prayers on his behalf while hospitalized.

John Cleaver, of Walnut Grove, was attempting to stop a trailer wagon from rolling into a Hay Bind Sunday afternoon, Nov. 25 at approximately 12:30 p.m. when the accident occurred.

"I went to the barn to get a tarp to cover a pile of wood and I decided to push the wagon into the barn," Cleaver said. "I've done it a thousand times before, but this time the wagon got away from me. It didn't look like it was going that fast and I didn't want it to ram into the Hay Bind, so I tried to stop it and once I committed myself to stopping it there wasn't anyplace to go and it ended up ramming me into the hay bind. A steel piece of the Hay Bind entered the back of my upper right leg and ended up sticking almost all the way through. I couldn't believe it. I was stuck there and bleeding pretty bad."

Luckily, Gleaver had his cell phone and between his phone and the phone of his wife Phyllis, whom he called immediately, emergency responders were contacted and arrived within moments.

Cleaver said he never used to carry a cell phone and only began doing so in the past few years at the request of his mother who wanted him to do so specifically for safety reasons.

He was able to communicate his situation, and it was dire.

The portion of the hay bind that punctured Cleaver's leg was triangular shape with the tip entering his leg for a depth of several inches. Worst still, the triangular shaped piece of steel flared outward similar to an arrow, and as the steel went deeper it widened drastically at the point of entry.

"I never lost consciousness," Cleaver said. "Everyone arrived quickly and began working together to save my life. It was unbelievable. They removed the piece from the hay bind after they stopped the bleeding. They said there was a pretty big chance that if they pulled it out I would bleed to death so it was left in until after I arrived at the hospital where it was removed during surgery.

"I suppose a lot of times we take our emergency responders for granted but they saved my life and they all worked so smoothly together while they were doing it, that well, it really just amazed me. I knew they were good, but I know now first hand what an outstanding group of individuals we have that make the citizens of our county as safe as possible and how quick they are to come to your aid during an accident or tragedy."

Several at the scene, including John and Phyllis, immediately recognized the seriousness of the injury.

"I deeply appreciate everyone that was praying for me," Cleaver said. "I particularly remember Mike Smith praying with me at the scene. I know there were others who prayed with me and for me at the scene but I was losing a lot of blood and almost went out a few times. I believe in the power of prayer and I believe my prayers were answered that day."

Emergency responders, including members of the Nicholas County Fire Department, EMS and Sheriff's Department worked smoothly together in treating Cleaver and coordinating a helicopter landing nearby. It landed just as they had finished removing the steel from the hay bind and were carrying Cleaver to the designated helicopter landing zone.

"I'll never forget that helicopter coming and landing as they were carrying me up the hill," Cleaver said. "It was a surreal moment."

Healthcare professionals themselves told John and Phyllis that the injury was traumatic and the risk for permanent damage and infection was great.

"The doctors told me and my wife about everything," Cleaver said. "They told us that they had done all they could and it was left up to the man upstairs."

The Mercury contacted Mrs. Cleaver while her husband was still receiving treatment at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Mrs. Cleaver was quick to praise the teamwork and efforts of the emergency responders, the helicopter crew and the UK hospital staff for the fine treatment her husband received.

"I'm so grateful for everyone that helped John," she said "There was a lot of damage done to John's leg, but neither the bone nor the main artery were damaged. It's probably good that I couldn't push the wagon off of him (Phyllis was one of the first to arrive on the scene), they said he would have probably have bled to death if the injury had been an inch or two either way. Everyone arrived so quickly and went straight to work helping John."

When asked if she, her husband or any family members had any special requests of their friends and neighbors she was quick to reply that day.

"Pray... I'd just ask that folks pray for John's recovery. It's going to take a while and we just pray that infection doesn't set in. So far it hasn't."

Cleaver said his gratitude extends beyond the scope of the devoted emergency responders, friends and neighbors that came to his aid that day.

"I believe Jesus is in the hearts of a lot of people in this community," Cleaver said when discussing his appreciation for the many expressions of concern and kindness he received as he remained in the hospital. "Those prayers meant so much to me, and continue to mean so much to me, that I just can't express how lucky I feel and how grateful I am to everyone in this community," he said.

Cleaver says he believes those prays had, and continue to have, a large impact on his healing process.

He admits he is getting in no big hurry these days as he walks slowly on his own two feet around his home on Walnut Grove Road, and he continues to see marked improvement with his wound closing, his overall range of motion in his leg increasing, and the fact that the feeling and strength in his leg continues to improve is a sources of inspiration.

But he says he believes the prayers he received while hospitalized had a most profound positive impact on him and enhanced the results of the fine medical treatment he received.

Although Cleaver remains somewhat concerned about the possibility of infection, and is anxious to see his leg continue to heal, his sense of humor and positive mental outlook on life remain strong.

"After the doctors removed that big piece of steel from my leg they told me they were going to throw it away but I told them I wanted to keep it," Cleaver said with a smile. "They asked me why I wanted to keep it and I told them so I could put it back on the Hay Bind. It was my fault I was injured not the Hay Bind's fault and I'm going to need that piece."

When asked if he or his family require any assistance with any aspect of his injury or needs for his farm now that he is home, he paused only briefly before answering.

"No," he said and then with a broad smile said "But I do want all of the emergency responders and other folks who came to my aid that day, and all of the wonderful people that had a good thought for me or said a prayer on my behalf or on behalf of my family during my stay at the hospital to know that I am extremely grateful for their help and their prayers and I won't ever forget it. And I wish everyone a very merry Christmas!"

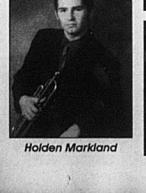
Markland named to All-State band

Holden Markland has earned a spot in the 2008 KMEA All State Band. This is the highest achievement any high school musician can obtain on an individual level.

KMEA All State Band is compiled of high school musicians from around the state. Any student auditioning for a spot in the All-State band must face two rounds of auditions; district and state level. If they make it past the district level (round one), the student goes on to the final cut (round two) in Elizabethtown where they audition against everyone else in the state who made round two.

There were over 125 trumpet players who auditioned and only 32 were accepted.

Markland is a senior trumpet player at Nicholas County High School. He is the 17-year-old son of Thrashley Jr. and Rhonda Markland of Carlisle.



Holden Markland

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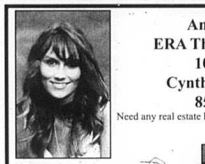

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NOTICE

There will be no CITY trash collection on Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day, and Tuesday, January 1, New Years Day. Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesdays.

City of Carlisle, KY

NOTICE

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court Meeting for January has been changed to January 15, 2008 due to the special election. It will be at 4:00 PM.

Larry Tincher
County Judge Executive

NOTICE

The Nicholas County Courthouse will have the following schedule for the Christmas and New Years holidays. It will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2007 and Monday and Tuesday, December 31, 2007 and January 1, 2008.

Larry Tincher
County Judge Executive

NOTICE

The Nicholas County Convenience/Recycling Center will have the following schedule for the holidays: it will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2007 for the Christmas Holiday. It will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 31, 2007 and January 1, 2008 for the New Year's Holiday.

Larry Tincher
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GENERAL NEWS

Lady Bluejackets face busy week

By Wade Holland
wade@thecarlislemercury.com

To say the Nicholas County Lady Jackets have a busy week ahead is an understatement.

Scheduled to play four games in four days as part of the Bath County Lady Cat Classic, success for Nicholas County will depend on conditioning and bench depth, which is bad news for opponents with both being strengths for the Lady Jackets.

"Most of the teams that we play, we have a deeper bench," said Cornett. "I expect them to be tough games at the end. But we've got the legs to do it.

"I believe we are in better shape than every team we've played so far," added Cornett. "You can't always tell it, like in the Harrison County game. But I think we are in pretty good shape."

Nicholas County has one of the deeper rotations in the district and maybe even region, which was evident in a big win over previously unbeaten St. Patrick this past weekend when nine Lady Jackets scored points, including three in double digits. A total of 10 players contributed points for Nicholas County in a game earlier this season against district-rival Harrison County.

Nicholas County, which is currently on a two-game win streak, will see its first action of the Bath County tournament on Tuesday in a rematch with Menifee County. Nicholas County lost by only two points in an earlier meeting with Menifee, which has become a trend for the two with the last three games being decided by two points.

The second game for Nicholas County will be Wednesday against undefeated Morgan County (4-0), followed by a Thursday game versus a good Powell County (3-1) team. Nicholas County will close out the tournament on Friday against a yet-to-be-announced opponent.

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Wade's Words

Wade's Words By Wade Holland

Any conversation about 10th Region girls' high school basketball has to start with Montgomery County.

The three-time defending 10th Region champions, Montgomery County made a name for itself statewide by advancing to the final eight each year. And it's been business as usual for the Lady Indians so far this season with five wins in their first six games, including impressive wins over Notre Dame Academy, Woodford County and George Rogers Clark.

As a sign of where it stands within the 10th Region, Montgomery County smashed another of the region's top teams, Paris, 51-29 just last week. The only loss for the Lady Indians came in Lexington against Paul Dunbar, one of the state's elite teams with a 7-0 record.

Mason County, which has been playing second fiddle to Montgomery County the past few seasons, appears to have the best shot of unseating the Lady Indians from their throne. Mason County currently stands as the only undefeated team in the 10th Region at 5-0.

After Montgomery and Mason is a solid group that includes Scott, Bishop Brossart, Clark, Harrison and Paris, among others.

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Staying on the subject of girls' basketball, the Nicholas County Lady Jackets are starting to put it all together and are looking more and more like candidates to make a third-straight trip to the regional tournament.

The Lady Jackets, which have now won back-to-back games after starting the season with three consecutive

See WADE Page 19

NICHOLAS COUNTY 61, ST. PATRICK 37

Coach Jennifer Cornett knew all about Nicholas County's latest opponent, the St. Patrick Lady Saints.

Undefeated at 3-0 with an offense that averages better than 60 points per game and a defense that allows barely 35 per night, St. Patrick was listed among the 10th Region's leaders in both categories and one of only two teams yet to suffer a loss. But the first-year Nicholas County coach didn't reveal this information to her team before the game and it paid off with an impressive 24-point win, knocking St. Patrick from the unbeaten ranks and giving Nicholas County back-to-back wins for the first time this season."

"We played as a team much better than we have in the past," she said. "We got into our offense and executed pretty well instead of just playing to get shots. But it started on the defensive end of the floor, which is something we hadn't done yet this season."

Coming out a little sluggish to start the game, Nicholas County took advantage of two Shelby Sosby 3-pointers and five points from Brittanie Sosby, which also included a 3-pointer, to take the early lead on St. Patrick.

Leading 11-5 after one quarter, Nicholas County's offense was clicking in the second quarter when the Lady Jackets scored 19 points to extend their lead to nine, 30-21, at the half. Brittannie Sosby once again had the hot hand with eight points in the quarter, including two more 3-pointers, while Jessica Gilkerson added five points, including a key 3-pointer.

Gilkerson came up big for Nicholas County again in the third quarter when she scored five points, including another momentum-changing 3-pointer, to help the Lady Jackets stretch their advantage to double digits, 41-29, heading into the final period.

Brandi Messick and Hannah Dixon led the charge for Nicholas County in the fourth quarter with six points each. Dixon scored her points on a pair of back-to-back 3-pointers, while Messick hit a basket and four free throws. Brittanie Sosby added five points as the Lady Jackets in the frame.

Cornett, who said her team's perfomance against St. Patrick has to rank as the best of the year thus far for the Lady Jackets, had nothing but praise for her team after the game.

"The girls really played their butts off," she said. "And it started with Shelby Sosby. She really set the tone for us. Brittanie shot the ball real well, too, and Jessica had a nice game coming off the bench for us."

Brittanie Sosby led Nicholas County with a season-high 20 points to go with four rebounds and three steals. Shelby Sosby also scored a season-high 10 points to go with five rebounds and two steals.

Gilkerson had 10 points for the winners, while Messick, who battled foul trouble in the game, had six points, nine rebounds and a blocked shot. Petrea Mitchell had three points and seven rebounds, while Hollee Bretz contributed three points, seven rebounds, three assists and two steals in a well-rounded performance.

NICHOLAS COUNTY (6J) – Brittanie Sosby 20, Jessica Gilkerson 10, Shelby Sosby 10, Hannah Dixon 6, Brandi Messick 6, Hollee Bretz 3, Petrea Mitchell 3, C. C. Humphries 2, Megan Hunter 1.

ST. PATRICK (37) – Parker 12, Pfeffer 8, Chrisma 6, Mosler 4, Ciera 4, Klee 2.

MATTOX

Continued from Page 2

verberated in and around the cabin, and he motioned for Criss and the renegade to come forward.

"Shemeneeto demands to know what they are doing," the renegade said to Criss.

Criss leaned forward and peered between two logs to see Reverend William Wood leading a group of adults and children singing an old English Christmas Carol.

"Tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, oh tidings of comfort and joy," the group sang the chorus of the song in unison.

The hindquarter of a deer was slowly roasting in a large Dutch oven in the fireplace and the smell was heavenly and thick even outside among the warriors.

"Day are singing da carols, yah, day sing vit Parsons Vood (Rev. William Wood). Day sings da Christmas songs and have da feasting at Christmas time." Criss told the renegade.

"I know," the renegade said flatly with a strange look of sadness in his eyes. "I know. But Shemeneeto wanted to hear it from you."

The renegade and Snake then held a conversation among themselves for a full minute as the singing continued inside.

Criss heard the renegade using English with Shawnee language, and as he spoke to Snake, he heard specific English words, like religion, Jesus Christ, manger, wise men, gifts, Savoir, and Christmas.

Although he was German, Jacob Criss understood English and he understood what was about to happen. He also understood that when the warriors lit the fire to burn the cabin he would scream a warning to those inside regardless of the harm that would befall him.

"I surely will," he whispered to himself. "I swear to Gott, dat I vill."

The singing continued as the renegade and Snake ended their quiet conversation.

Snake made no motion, simply stood transfixed staring between the logs of the cabin with no expression as the singing continued.

Slivers of candlelight danced between the logs and illuminated the fierce and anxious expressions on the gruesomely painted warriors, yet Snake remained motionless.

He stood there unmoving for a full minute, and then another, and still another.

Laughter was heard from inside and then the group in the cabin began singing the same song again.

"God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing ye dismay, remember Christ our Savoir was born on Christmas day. To save us all from Satan's power when we have gone astray, oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, oh tidings of comfort and joy."

Finally, Snake slowly stepped back and made a slow motion with his hand. The warriors left their positions and followed him as he walked away from the cabin and onward to the Ohio River as the snow began to fall a bit harder and the darkness increased.

Soon the snow-driven wind drowned out the singing from the cabin as the Shawnee warriors and Jacob Criss, who was still being led like a horse by them, made their way to one of the hills above the Ohio River.

When they reached the summit Snake ordered a halt and then he and the renegade approached Criss.

Snake smiled and whispered something to the renegade, who in turn smiled as he pulled his scalping knife from his war belt and approached Criss.

"Shemeneeto says you snore too loud to live with us," the renegade said as he held the knife up, and with a quick flick of the knife, expertly cut the rope from around Criss's neck. He then cut the rope binding Criss's hands from behind his back.

"Shemeneeto says you are free to go back to boiling your syrup."

He then gently shoved Jacob Criss away from the group, turned his back to him and walked away as the others were doing.

Jacob staggered backwards and nearly fell in the snow as the group of warriors walked away from him down the snow-covered hill toward the beautiful river. He never before truly noticed how beautiful this place could be.

He noticed it now and he imagined he would notice it always, from this night forward.

He stood and watched as the Shawnee warriors went on their way and noted that only once did Shemeneeto glance back over his shoulder to look directly at him. Jacob thought he saw Shemeneeto nod his head ever so slightly in his direction before turning back toward the river and continuing onward, never looking back again.

After they disappeared, Jacob turned and walked back in the direction of the cabin and his maple syrup camp.

At first he cried as he walked, but gradually, as his pent up tension faded, he began to smile as he wiped the tears and snot from his face. Soon he began to quietly sing his new favorite Christmas song to himself, with his thick German accent, as the snow fell before him.

"Gott rest ye merry yentlemen let nutting ye dismay."

*The above story was researched and excerpted from Volumes 10BB and 19S of the Draper Manuscripts, with intense scrutiny to the interview of Christopher Wood, the son of Rev. William Wood. Other historical works from which this narrative was drawn include the works of Mayaville historians Lewis and Richard Collins, Rev. John McClung, G. Glenn Clift and others.

It is a true story.

Some historical accounts use the name Crisswell, but my research indicates that was a different early German family to migrate to Mason County and encounter Shemeneeto.

"God rest ye merry gentlemen" is one of the few Christmas songs sung along the Kentucky frontier, perhaps as early as 1775.

The song remains popular.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas, dear reader.

I hope this Christmas season brings you many tidings of comfort and joy.

ACCIDENTS

Continued from Page 1

across Nicholas County.

According to Garrett and Buckler, Jesse Wilson received injuries when he lost control of his 2001 Camaro that overturned on Myers Road.

Wilson was transported to the Nicholas County Hospital by a privately owned vehicle where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries, according to Garrett.

Vehicular accidents across the state proved fatal to 11 individuals as of Dec. 17, according to Kentucky State Police officials.

Preliminary statistics indicate that the 11 people died in ten separate crashes on Kentucky's roadways from Monday, Dec. 10 through Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007, according to a Dec. 17 KSP Press Release

All of the fatalities were traveling in motor vehicles and seven of the victims were not wearing seat belts (the seat belt status of one of the victims is not known). Three of the fatalities were the result of crashes involving alcohol, according to the KSP release.

The release stated that one double-fatality crash occurred in Barren County. Single-fatality crashes occurred in Floyd, Hardin, Henderson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Mason, Nelson, Perry and Russell counties.

Through Dec. 16, preliminary statistics indicate that 822 people have lost their lives on Kentucky roadways during 2007.

This is 55 fewer than reported for this time period in 2006. Of the 662 motor vehicle fatalities, 375 victims were not wearing seat belts. Of the 92 motorcycle fatalities, 53 were not wearing helmets. Of the 24 ATV fatalities, 20 were not wearing helmets. Forty-two pedestrians and two bicyclists have been killed.

A total of 196 fatalities have resulted from crashes involving the suspected use of alcohol.

Citizens can contribute to highway safety by reporting erratic drivers to the Kentucky State Police toll-free at 1-800-222-5555. Callers will remain anonymous and should give a description of the vehicle, location, direction of travel and license number if possible.

BOUND

Continued from Page 1

done in the vehicle with information on the prescription bottle that indicated the prescription had been filled earlier in the day. Kiskaden may have grown suspicious after he noted on the citation that although Berry's prescription was for 90 pills and had been filled only hours earlier, there were only 49 pills in the bottle, according to the citation.

According to the citation, two individual cellophane packets of 10 hydracodone pills each were also recovered during the stop.

Kiskaden also found zanax, according to the citation.

Berry appeared in district court with her attorney, public defender Jennifer Wittmeyer. The two spoke briefly together before Berry waived her right to a preliminary hearing.

Her charges will be heard by a future Nicholas County Grand Jury.

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