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Lexington KY 40506-0456

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Carnival rides banned

Court members say no more

By Charles Mattox
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Youngsters will no longer enjoy Blackberry Festival carnival rides in the courthouse yard as a result of a 5-1 decision made by members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court.

Some in the community believe the actions of the court in making the decision were not only controversial, but also illegal.

Members of the American Legion have been helping to organize the festival for over a quarter of a century.

The fiscal court's written agenda had seven items listed, but did not include any mention of the Blackberry Festival, however a line on the top of the agenda has the following:

"Agenda is subject to change."

County Attorney Dawn Letcher was notified of the concern of the legality of the decision, but court officials believe the statement at the top of the page of the agenda made the decision a legal one. Letcher later clarified that the vote was completely

legal. "Members of the court are permitted to bring up discussion and vote during a regular meeting," she said. The controversy began with the sawing off of a limb attached to an ancient oak tree in the courthouse lawn by a carnival employee. The action angered members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court to such a degree they voted to not allow Blackberry Festival carnival rides to be placed in the courthouse yard again. Ever!

When Nicholas County Judge Executive Larry Tinsler asked members of

the court if they had any comments about anything at the conclusion of the July 10 meeting, as he does at the end of each monthly meeting, magistrate Dary Stacy spoke up and wanted action taken to prevent further harm and disrespect to courthouse property from

occurring on the courthouse lawn as a result of any carnival. "All they had to do was more that ride five feet, but they didn't do that," Stacy said emphatically. "When you go to cutting tree limbs

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Photo by Charles Mattox
The location of the loss of the courthouse lawn's tree is very visible. Court members would stop to step location of carnival rides.

Ewing man dies in crash

A single-vehicle accident on Ky. 165 near Ewing claimed the life of a Fleming County man during the early evening hours of July 14.

Fleming County Deputy Coroner Jason Guiley pronounced Donnie Ray Mitchell, 35 of Ewing, dead at the scene of the accident at approximately 7 p.m.

Dodge pickup truck immediately after exiting Cowan Road and entering Ky. 165. "He lost control of the vehicle and traveled over an earth embankment on the east side of the road, striking a utility pole," states a spokesman from the Kentucky State Police post in Morehead.

Coroner Guiley said Mitchell died as a result of

head trauma. John Shoemaker, 17, also of Ewing, a passenger in Mitchell's vehicle, suffered non-life-threatening injuries as a result of the accident.

Members of Fleming County EMS transported Shoemaker to the Fleming County Hospital, where he was treated and later released.

Members of the Ewing Volunteer Fire Department and Fleming County Sheriff's Deputies Jarrod Wagner, Bud Lyons and Gary Kinder, also responded to the accident, which remains under investigation by KSP Trooper Michael Fogleman.

According to the KSP news release, Mitchell, nor Shoemaker, was wearing seat belts at the time of the accident.

ing the boys and immediately sent them to the Central KSP Forensic laboratory in Frankfort, where they were analyzed and identified as cocaine.

Anderson continually praised the efforts of the community in helping to rid itself of the despair often caused by drug abuse.

Commonwealth's Attorney Doug Wright, who helped prosecute Watkins, praised the work of officers with DESL.

"Without law enforcement officers like Detectives Kirkland and Anderson, who are willing to work long hours and risk personal safety, successful prosecutions such as this could never happen," Anderson spoke about his

passion for law enforcement and the dangers of undercover drug investigation work. "There is an element of danger with my line of work," he said. "But we do as much background checking as we possibly can before we initiate contact with

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Nicholas man found guilty on cocaine charges; detectives pledge to do more

By Charles Mattox
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A Nicholas County jury found a Carlisle man guilty of four counts of trafficking in a controlled substance (cocaine), first degree, July 10.

During a brief sentencing hearing that followed the trial, the jury recommended that Victor W. Watkins, 34, of Kimes Lane, Carlisle, serve nine years concurrently in the state penitentiary for each count.

The trial stemmed from an investigation launched in October 2006, by Kentucky State Police Detectives with an elite undercover task force called DESI

(Drug Enforcement Special Investigation). DESI detectives were responsible for the investigations that led to Watkins' arrest.

"We deeply appreciate the jury's consideration," Detective Anthony Anderson said. "Watkins wasn't running the drug operation, he was the middle man. In our investigation we followed the money. Our investigation continues thanks to the co-operation of witnesses and individuals from the community."

Anderson worked closely with fellow DESI detective, Bret Kirkland, throughout the investigation, and also received assistance from NCHS Principal Joe Orazen and NCEMS Principal Shawn Parrah on back-to-school preparations on

the district buildings. Additional security measures have been put in place in the buildings as well as extensive painting projects already completed for the upcoming school year.

Some paving and coating have been done on the district's driveways as Renne

the district buildings. Additional security measures have been put in place in the buildings as well as extensive painting projects already completed for the upcoming school year.

Carlisle man is charged with DUI, fourth offense

A Carlisle man was arrested July 13, and charged with his fourth DUI in the last five years. The charge is a class D felony, punishable by one to five years imprisonment.

Travis D. McFarland, 34, of 2225 Locust Grove Drive, Carlisle, was arrested at 10 p.m. in the Carlisle Dollar General Store parking lot by Carlisle Police Officer Brad Weaver and charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs, fourth offense, and driving on a DUI suspended license, first offense, aggravator.

According to Weaver's arrest citation for McFarland, as witnessed by Carlisle Police Sergeant Darrell Layne, McFarland registered a .145 on the breath intoxication machine.

Carlisle dispatch received a complaint that there was a blue Datsun coming into Carlisle from Locust Grove Road. Weaver began looking for the suspect vehicle while patrolling the city and found McFarland behind the wheel of a 1981 blue Datsun in the Dollar Store parking lot.

The keys were in the ignition.

McFarland is scheduled to be arraigned this week in Nicholas County District Court.



Photo by Charles Mattox

A sign for the future

A new L.C. Manufacturing sign graces the front lawn of the former Jockey sewing building along Concrete Road, and local citizens seeking employment have until Friday to submit an application for employment there.

Company officials will soon begin moving equipment to the building and say the move will be complete by the first of the year, with production continuing during the move and intensifying early next year.

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Making ready for school year

Backler has been painting the necessary markings for the parking lots.

Hired for the upcoming school year are:

Jason McKenzie as Chemistry/Physical Science Teacher at NCHS; Jennifer Cornett as Health and PE Teacher and Head Girls Basketball Coach at NCHS; Christopher Hendrick as Agriculture Teacher at NCHS; Virginia Lane as Head Volleyball Coach at NCHS; Mike Cofer as Boys Golf Coach at NCHS; Jens

Smoot, Lori Kenney, Mya Collins and Kendra Cline as Primary Teachers at NCMS; Megan McFalls as English Teacher at NCHS; Robert Hopkins as Athletic Director at NCHS; Eric Lane as Assistant Volleyball Coach at NCHS; Nate Sexton as Boys Assistant Basketball Coach at NCHS; Melissa Story as Math Teacher at NCHS; Robert Albright as Math Teacher at NCHS; Vickie Hampton as Assistant

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Members express concern

By Charles Mattox
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What do pit-bull dogs, sexually oriented businesses and loud music have in common? Some folks just don't like them, and millions of the Carlisle City Council are among those folks.

Members of the Carlisle City Council met Monday night and lengthy discussion by them indicated the city might soon be taking action

against residents who can't control their pit-bull dogs, motorists who play loud music and any sexually oriented businesses seeking to locate within the city.

"I'm fed up right to here," Carlisle Mayor Roinie Clark said with disgust about downtown music emitting from motor vehicles that cruise the streets of Carlisle. "Before the issue was with loud exhausts. Now it's the boom,

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