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The Carlisle Mercury

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Victorian Christmas is planned

As the community continues to debate the future of the Blackberry Festival, local organizations are working together with members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court to bring a new winter festival to downtown Carlisle.

The first Victorian Christmas Festival is scheduled to take place in downtown Carlisle on Dec. 1. "This will be an all day celebration," said Gladys Shroat, one of the organizers of the event. Some activities are still in the final stages of planning, but those approved thus far include special music will be featured from carolers, a barber shop quartet and the Nicholas County Band. Special story-time activities will take place at the library, a gingerbread house decorating contest will be held, chestnuts will be roasting in the courthouse yard, traditional window decorations can be seen around town and a live nativity scene will also be featured.

According to Shroat, the Christian Church and Methodist Church will have deserts and snacks with the Christian Church also planning a chili supper.

A parade will come through town at 6 p.m. and after the parade Santa Claus will be available on Calvin Denton's antique fire truck to take special Christmas requests and pose with children for photographs. Shroat said she is deeply impressed with the dedication of people and organizations that were committing to make the festival a success, and mentioned Julie Rogers, Larry Mitchell, Beth Willoughby, Ed Taylor, Martha Taylor, Alise Brays, Carlton Jones, Karen Anderson, Kim Legler, Sharon Wilson, and many others, including members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, Rotary Club, Historical Society and Tourism Committee in particular.

"Kay Shankland will have her house on Chestnut Street open, and will be displaying 37 Christmas Trees for everyone to enjoy," Shroat added. "We continue to work with Judge Larry Fincher and members of the fiscal court for courtyard decorations and are appreciative of them allowing us to use the courtyard and assisting us with this unique festival. Several downtown businesses will feature window displays and we encourage everyone to participate."

Clark pledged his support Monday night to ensure the Blackberry Festival would not die.

"I think we should still have activities downtown and still have the parade," Clark said. "We can have lots of all-day events and there have some rides out there (West End Park)."

Clark cautioned that his position was only as a contingency plan and in the event that all else failed. "We'll just have to wait and see," he cautioned.

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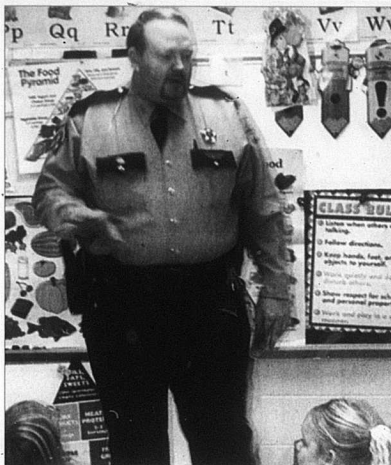


Photo by Hank Boyd

Keeping our youngsters safe on the bus

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff and school resource officer Binnie Buckler, speaks to kindergarten students concerning bus safety.



Photo by Charles Mattox

Road to be closed

Upper Jacktown Road, (KY 3316) will be closed at the Trans Kentucky Transportation, Inc. (TTI) railroad crossing at mile point 5.221 (approximately 400 ft. south of Main Street in Carlisle) beginning 7 a.m. on Thurs. Nov. 15 until 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16. Installation of a new at-grade railroad crossing is the reason for the closure. The surface of the existing crossing is poor and this upgrade will provide a much smoother riding surface. This project is a joint effort between TTI and KYTC.

Man is charged with rape, abuse of a young child

By Charles Mattox
News Editor
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A Carlisle man was arrested Nov. 9 for allegedly raping and sexually abusing a young girl less than 14 years old.

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Binnie Buckler arrested Albert William Feeback, 38, of Ritchie Road, Carlisle, after an arrest warrant was prepared against Feeback by Nicholas County Attorney Dawn Letcher.

Buckler praised Letcher's quick action in preparing the warrant after Nicholas County School personnel discovered the indication of abuse.

According to the arrest warrant, Feeback "committed three counts of the offenses of rape, second de-

gree; three counts of rape, third degree, and five counts of sexual abuse, second degree" with the victim being 13-years-old at the time of the initial incident, according to the warrant.

The warrant also states that Feeback "continued to have repeated sexual intercourse with the minor child after the child turned 14 years-old."

"After a lengthy interview Mr. Feeback confessed," Buckler said after making the arrest.

Nicholas County District Judge the Honorable Jay Delaney set Feeback's bond at \$40,000 cash.

Feeback remains lodged in the Montgomery County Jail and is scheduled to be arraigned in Nicholas County District Court this week.

Roberston juveniles are charged with destroying school buses with knife

Two juvenile Robertson County girls have been charged with criminal mischief, first degree, after confessing to recently committing acts of vandalism to the Robertson County School property.

At least two separate instances of vandalism occurred at the school in late October with the latest incident occurring Oct. 27, according to Robertson County Sheriff Randy Insko.

One of the incidents involved several seats being damaged on a handful of buses with the girls allegedly carving geometric symbols into the seats.

"It looks like 42 bus seats were damaged during that incident," Superintendent of Robertson County Schools Chuck Brown said. "Five driv-

er's seats were also damaged. The damage was done with box cutters."

Insko discussed the damage to the seats with the girls.

"It looks like symbols, like circles, squares and those type things were carved into the seats of the buses," he said.

According to Insko and Brown, at least one of the symbols may have been a pentagram, a symbol used in witchcraft, but neither Insko nor Brown said either of the girls gave a specific reason why they committed the acts, which came just before Halloween.

"Duke and Kentucky State Police Trooper Scott Lengle of the Dry Ridge Post worked together on the case."

Brown said disciplinary action has been taken.

Mayor pledges support for festival

Clark pledged his support Monday night to ensure the Blackberry Festival would not die.

"I think we should still have activities downtown and still have the parade," Clark said. "We can have lots of all-day events and there have some rides out there (West End Park)."

Clark cautioned that his position was only as a contingency plan and in the event that all else failed. "We'll just have to wait and see," he cautioned.

"What about our street dancing?" Councilman Tommy Crawford asked. "We can have music out there, or we can have music

only in the event that a local organization, such as the traditional host American Legion, or group of such organizations, did not step forward to host next year's event.

"I think we should still have activities downtown and still have the parade," Clark said. "We can have lots of all-day events and there have some rides out there (West End Park)."

Clark cautioned that his position was only as a contingency plan and in the event that all else failed. "We'll just have to wait and see," he cautioned.

"What about our street dancing?" Councilman Tommy Crawford asked. "We can have music out there, or we can have music

in town, or both," Clark said and related that his position was only meant to keep the festival from disappearing.

"I'll do whatever I can and stick my neck out. I usually go out of town around the Fourth of July but I'll volunteer and stay in town if I have to," he said.

Clark said in his opinion there was no assignment of blame for the ongoing controversy of the future of the Blackberry Festival. That controversy began when the members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, on a 5-1 vote, banned all future rides from the courthouse lawn during all future Blackberry Festivals after a carnival employee during this festival sawed a limb

from an ancient oak tree without asking permission or informing anyone.

"I'm not downgrading anyone and I'm not pointing any fingers," Clark said. "My hopes are simply to make the festival bigger and better."

Ritche expressed concern that if the festival were moved to West End Park and a tractor pull was held during the festival, it might have a negative impact on the fund-raising abilities of the city's Not Profit License Fees and Occupational Tax.

Clark said it would be prudent to wait and see what developed in the next few weeks, but had concerns

of his own about the infrastructure of the West End Park facilities.

Chief among those concerns were a lack of modern restroom facilities.

"That grips me," he said when discussing the fact that guests at West End Park event had to go to the restrooms "in blue overalls."

In other action the council members: Discussed an 18-page ordinance update on the city's Not Profit License Fees and Occupational Tax. Established Dec. 8 as the day for the city's Christmas Supper, set for 6 p.m. at the 4-H Camp.

Heard first reading of the city's new noise ordinance.

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