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Accident claims Nicholas motorcyclist

By Charles Mattox
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A Carlisle man was killed Saturday afternoon in Meigs County after a truck struck his motorcycle.

Stephen D. Morris, 43, of East Union Road, Carlisle, was traveling east on KY 1274 near the Long Bow Marina on Cave Run Lake,

which is close to the Meigs/Rowan County line, on his 1986 Honda motorcycle at approximately 2:42 p.m., when he attempted to pass a truck in a passing zone, which was also traveling east on the same road.

The truck, driven by James Agee, of Frenchburg, was attempting to turn left into a gravel park-

ing lot, without giving a left turn signal, according to a press release issued by Captain Dwayne Depp of the Kentucky State Police Morehead Post.

Agee's vehicle struck Morris's motorcycle during the turn, according to the press release.

Morris was transported by ambulance to St. Claire Regional Medical Center's

emergency room where he was later pronounced dead by Rowan County Coroner John Northcutt.

"The cause of death was due to head trauma," Northcutt said.

Northcutt and others confirmed that at the time of the accident Morris was part of a group of several motorcyclists who were participating in a benefit

ride to raise funds to assist a young child with a needed heart transplant.

Morris was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

"It's just a very sad situation," Northcutt said.

Northcutt also said that personnel with the Meigs County Ambulance service, who transported Morris to the hospital,

worked diligently to try to save Morris's life at the scene of the accident and en route to the medical center.

Agee was not injured in the accident.

No charges have been filed in relation to the accident, which remains under investigation by Kentucky State Police Trooper Will Ferrell.

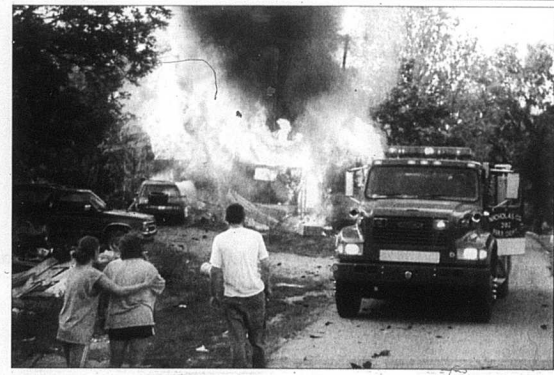


Photo by Sandy Hamilton

Completely destroyed
A mid-morning fire late last week, destroyed an unoccupied trailer on Ishmael Chapel Road. The trailer was owned by Ruby McKee, according to Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes. There were no injuries reported.

Possible abductor sought

By Charles Mattox
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Carlisle Police Officer Mike Kiskaden is asking that parents of school children watch them closely as the board and disembark from school buses following a disturbing incident that occurred Friday afternoon in Carlisle.

Kiskaden reports to The Mercury that two young female students were approached by an older man Friday after they unloaded from a school bus, and in two separate incidents each child was asked to get in the man's car.

"The incident occurred on School Street," Kiskaden said. "The man is described

as being older and driving a white, four-door Ford car, possibly an LTD model." Kiskaden described the man's appearance as "having gray hair and wearing glasses."

"I'm very concerned about this," Kiskaden said. According to Kiskaden, the man in the white Ford approached a young girl and asked her if she needed a ride. The girl replied "no, I just live right here," and then ran inside her home. The white Ford then approached a second young girl and asked the same question and received the same response, according to Kiskaden.

School Resource Officer, Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler, is assisting Officer Kiskaden with the ongoing investigation.

Buckler has released the following information for Elementary and Middle School teachers and staff to help prevent a tragedy.

"Make sure parent pick ups are by approved person.

Check bus notes for authorization if you question them.

Make all visitors without a visitors pass go to the office and get one, even if you have to escort them to Pat Hamm.

Keep your eyes open while outside the build-

ing and monitor the playgrounds closely and the areas around the playground.

Report unusual behavior immediately to me. I don't care if it turns out to be nothing. I would rather you tell me to check something out than someone get hurt.

Take the radios out to the playground!!! The time it takes for a teacher to run in here is more time that a perpetrator will have to hurt a child. Do not rely on cell phones; sometimes the phone lines are busy here.

Please if you see a car or man matching the description giving above call me at once.

I know that each and every staff member in the Nicholas County School District is top notch and will do their best to protect our students but it only takes a few seconds for tragedy to strike. We must work together to protect our students."

The incidents on School Street come on the heels of a similar incident at Paris Middle School, which is causing a mounting concern among school and law enforcement personnel.

Paris police officers say an elderly gentleman approached a Middle School student Aug. 20 and offered the student money to leave with him.

McVey enters plea

By Charles Mattox
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A Nicholas County woman who allegedly stole Girl Scout money entered an Alford plea following a suppression hearing in Nicholas Circuit Court earlier this month.

Linda McVey, 28, of Carlisle, and her attorney, Public Defender Jennifer Wittmyer, signed an order granting pretrial diversion of a class D felony in Nicholas Circuit Court Aug. 11.

McVey was arrested March 23 by Carlisle Police Officer Mike Kiskaden and charged with two felonies: first degree forgery and theft by unlawful taking, over \$500. According to court documents, McVey allegedly removed money from Girl Scout funds and replaced the money with counterfeit money, which she allegedly printed from her own printer.

The diversion order, which was also signed by Commonwealth's Attorney Doug Wright, amended the forgery charge to second degree

and will result in five years of supervised diversion.

McVey will pay \$25 per month for the supervised diversion.

McVey was also ordered to pay \$540 of restitution to the Girl Scouts. According to the order, she will also pay court costs and perform 60 hours of community service.

If McVey completes the supervised diversion without violating any of the conditions, she will have the charges dismissed, according to the court order.

If McVey fails to successfully complete the supervised diversion and voids the agreement, the court may impose a sentence equal to or less than the penalty recommended by the prosecutor of three years imprisonment, according to the order.

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler assisted Kiskaden in his investigation.

An Alford plea is not considered a guilty plea, but rather a plea, which acknowledges that there may be evidence present that might result in a guilty verdict.



Photo by Charles Mattox

Mike Warner, a member of the Nicholas County Volunteer Fire Department, battles a vehicle fire on Cassidy Creek Road Monday afternoon. Warner and Fire Chief Mark Hughes were quick to arrive on the scene after Rebecca Glass noticed smoke coming from the dash of her 2003 Dodge Neon. Glass pulled the car off the road and it was soon engulfed in flames. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze and ensure it did not spread though the car was totally destroyed. Eight firefighters responded to help contain the blaze. Chief Hughes implores all residents to exercise extreme caution when burning outdoors, due to the extremely dry conditions that persist in the county.

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