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**Dec
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**Enjoying
a white
Christmas**

by Sandy Hamilton

No snow on the ground and yet the Hawks of 2250 Crooked Creek Road have a full, snow-covered Christmas tree on display outside their home. Gary Hawk, trained in the art of "flocking" a tree has the equipment and know-how to don a tree whether or not we have a white Christmas.

Gary was trained by his grandfather Robert E. Mock of Dayton Ohio, who spent 54 years in the business of flocking Christmas trees and selling them at their lot. The business along with the proper equipment has been passed down to Gary for future business. Gary wishes to dedicate this business to the memory of his grandfather.

The biodegradable product used to "white" the tree, has a U.S. Patent held by Howard Hughes. This product was first used in the movie "White Christmas". Gary says he flocked trees as tall as 18 ft, and prepared them to place inside and outside the home. Live trees may also be flocked, and will simply wash away with a good steady rain. You may choose to have your



The Hawks' Flocked Christmas Tree

tree your favorite shade of pink or blue or even yellow, as color is not a problem. The flocking is flame-resistant and actually keeps your tree fresh longer, because it seals in the moisture. Gary says Spruce and Scotch Pine trees are the best to work with, although he can flock an artificial tree as well. You may supply a tree you've chosen or Gary will have some available. "Trees from Michigan seem to do best", says Gary, "because they come from a colder climate". Gary says he can do Rainbow colored trees and at one time remembers mums being a very popular color. At any rate, in Nicholas County it doesn't have to snow for us to have a white Christmas.

Thieves break into church

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
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Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett and Deputy Bennie Buckler are offering a reward for information, which leads to an arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for breaking into a church over the weekend.

According to Buckler, someone took a piece of lumber and broke into a

window in the rear of the Assembly of God Church on Concrete Road between 8-10 p.m., Saturday evening.

"They took approximately \$200 from the offering plate," Buckler said with trace of disgust in his voice. "They also broke into several of the cabinets and destroyed several locks."

Buckler said he had recovered evidence from the scene of the crime and eyewitnesses had

reported seeing a man in blue jeans and a blue hooded sweat shirt fleeing from the church and across the road to the nearby trailer court.

"It's pretty low," Buckler said of stealing from a church. "They must not have any fear of God."

Anyone with any information regarding the crime is urged to contact the Nicholas County Sheriff's Office at 289-3740 or by contacting Buckler at 473-0143.

**Two arrested for theft
of firefighter's vehicle**

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
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Two men have been charged with stealing a volunteer firefighter's vehicle while he was battling a blaze early Saturday morning.

Douglas Jolly, 45, of Carlisle, and Douglas Hunt, 31, of Miller's Station Road have been charged with theft by unlawful taking of an automobile.

The two allegedly took the 1998 Chevrolet s-10 Blazer belonging to Scott Allison. The theft occurred early Saturday morning.

The two were arrested, and according to investigators at least one of the

men confessed and implicated the other.

Allison's vehicle was recovered in Harrison County in the Licking River.

"It was a total loss," said Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett and Deputy Bennie Buckler.

Buckler noted that the vehicle had been deliberately driven into the river.

"They tied the steering wheel and dropped it into gear. In that way they caused the vehicle to plunge over a bank and into the river," Buckler said.

According to Buckler, Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes played a key role in locating the vehicle and

helping to identify those responsible for taking it.

"At first we thought it was a joke someone was playing on Scott," Hughes said. "We returned from the fire on Ismael's Chapel Road and his blazer was gone."

Buckler and Hughes noted that before the Allison vehicle was driven into the river, items were removed from it.

"They took out some golf clubs and CDs and a Christmas present he had wrapped up for his daughter," Buckler said.

"We recovered those items. It looks like they were going to sell them." Jolly and Hunt remain lodged in the Montgomery County Jail.

School board revises calendar

make-up days
already scheduled

Members of the Nicholas County Board of Education have voted to revise the school district calendar for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.

Immediate changes already include a full day of classes the last day of school whenever that would fall, as well as school being in session on Feb. 16, President's Day.

With two snow days already occurring this fall, these will be made up with school to be in full-day session, May 26 and May 27. This will cover the days of school already missed as of Dec. 19.

Should full-day school dismissal occur the new make-up schedule will follow this as needed:

May 28 and 29, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (this would cover missed days 4 through 10 should they occur).

Should there be more than seven more dismissals; missed days will be made up using days from spring break, April 6 through 10.

The 16th snow day would be made up on Memorial Day, May 26.

However as additional days must be made up notification will be made to the public through all available sources.

In other business the board approved the Supt. Greg Reid's report containing the following personnel actions:

Hiring Donald Fryman as a bus driver. Hiring Amanda Switzer, Stephanie Smith and David Flowers for the 21st Century Grant. Employing Sandra Faris, Natasha Glass, Traci Todd, Sabrina Johnson, Tanya Menard and Marsha Wright as substitute teachers.

In other business the board members approved the KETS Technology report for the 2007-2008 school year as submitted by the district technology coordinator.

Members voted in the majority to cancel the regular meeting of the board schedule Jan. 19 and reschedule Jan. 20, for the Martin Luther King holiday.



Photo submitted

A 1998 Blazer belonging to Scott Allison was recovered in the Licking River after allegedly being stolen while Allison was battling a house fire on Ismael's Chapel Road.

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