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**Dec
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2008**



Photo by Stephen Scalf

A group of interested citizens formed a steering committee to help set the groundwork for the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce. Pictured around the table, L-R, are: Greg Willis, Woody Dugan, Harold Soper, Linda Soper, Robert Barker, Ed Taylor, Carlton Jones, and Duane Kenney. Not shown: Jolynn Garrett, Joseph Conley, and Stephen Scalf.

New chance for Chamber

By Stephen Scalf
Staff Writer
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Over two months ago, at 7:30 on Oct. 16, a number of concerned citizens met for breakfast at Ed Taylor's Café on Main Street to explore the possibility of re-establishing the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce. Present at the meeting were Robert Barker, Duane Kenney, Greg Willis, Woody Dugan, Joseph Conley, Linda and Harold Soper, Carlton Jones, Ed Taylor, Jolynn Garrett, and taking notes for The Carlisle Mercury, myself.

The first question was perhaps the most obvious: Do we really need a Chamber of Commerce? Duane Kenney, who serves on the Industrial Board, provided some key insights into the need for a Chamber. While there are many positive organizations within Carlisle - Nicholas County, whether churches, civic organizations such as the Rotary or the Kiwanis Club, the Historical Soci-

ety, Carlisle-Nicholas Co. Tourism, or the Industrial Board, there is no single organization in place to serve the needs of, and to provide leadership and direction for the business community.

The next question was: What should the role of the Chamber of Commerce be? The unanimous opinion was that it needs to be more than a sticker than you attach to the door of your business. The Chamber needed to have clear purpose and direction, and have a meaningful impact on the quality of life in Carlisle and throughout all of Nicholas County. That meeting, two more committees were formed - one to draft a mission statement and goals for the Chamber, and another to develop a list of possible members and to survey other neighboring Chambers and make a recommendation for annual reinstatement schedule.

Jack Conley assisted with the legal actions, such as drafting and filing the letter of re-instatement with the

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Top ten stories of 2008



Jamie Stamper

By Charles Mattox
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10. A Nicholas County jury found former Carlisle Police Officer Jamie Stamper not guilty of DUI following an all-day trial on June 26. "I said I was innocent from day one, and the jury found me innocent today," an elated Stamper told The Mercury moments after the verdict was announced. "I didn't back down. If you're innocent don't ever back down."

Former Carlisle Police Officer Tim Layne arrested Stamper on the morning of June 28 of last year in the Shell parking lot in Carlisle. Layne arrested Stamper after being contacted by Kentucky State Police Detective Clinton Graves.

Stamper, who was off duty at the time of the arrest, resigned from the police force later that day. He had been a law officer for 16 years with six months of service to Carlisle.

9. Fuel prices climbed to nearly \$5 a gallon at many gas stations in Nicholas County. The increasing price of fuel caused concern

with all government agencies before the price started falling back to \$3.00 per gallon as the year draws to an end.

Many motorists sought alternative modes of transportation when gas prices soared.



8. Mother Nature was a formidable foe for county farmers when a draught embraced the county in the spring and summer of 2008. Strong winds and heavy rains also caused damage to property owners and businesses earlier in the year with two strong windstorms striking the county in February. No lives were lost and no serious injuries were reported but straight-line winds destroyed much property in and around Carlisle. Governor Steve Beshear de-

clared the county a disaster county in March.

7. Carl Russell Hair, an 83-year-old registered sex offender from was arrested following an August incident on School Street in Carlisle, during which Hair allegedly attempted to get two young girls into his vehicle after they disembarked from their school bus. Hair was later located and arrested, and eventually pled guilty to criminal attempt to commit unlawful transaction with a minor. As part of his plea he will stay out of Nicholas County for two years or face Two years imprisonment.

6. Nicholas County officially joined the Appalachian Regional Commission on Oct. 20 when Congressman Geoff Davis met with State Representative Sammie Overly, Carlisle City Council members, Nicholas Fiscal Court members and other community leaders at the Nicholas County courthouse to officially welcome Nicholas County into the ARC.

"The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal and state partnership," Davis said. As a member of the ARC, Nicholas County government entities and non-profit organizations will have access to grant applications to apply for funding they would otherwise not have access to.

5. NCHS Band members and members of the Blue Jacket Lady's Softball Team performed well enough to compete in state competition in 2008.

"The Lady Blue Jack-

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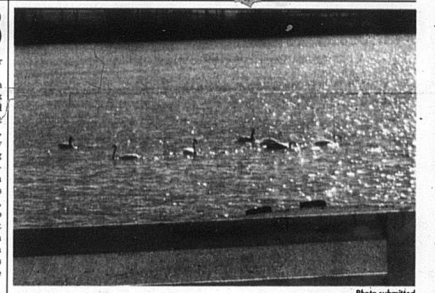


Photo submitted

"Seven swans a-swimming..."

As if helping to celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, seven swans were recently seen swimming at Lake Carnico, enjoying the Christmas atmosphere in Nicholas County.

Faye Letcher receives honors

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
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A Carlisle lady who has devoted her life to ministering to the elderly has been named among the volunteers of the year for the Robertson County Health Care facility.

Faye Letcher, 74, of Carlisle, and her friends Helen McKee and Jim and Phyllis Gaunon, also of Nicholas County along with Russell Fryman, of Harrison County, received the award during the nursing homes' annual gala held Dec. 9.

The award was presented to "Faye Letcher and Friends." Letcher has been helping lead religious services at the facility for the past 15 years and has provided similar services to many other area health care facilities including providing Bible study

classes at the Johnson Mathers Health Care Facility in Nicholas County.

Letcher is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Earl Letcher of Nicholas County and said she embraces the chance to have a positive impact on people's lives.

"It's a golden opportunity to help people and provide them encouragement," she said. "When you know you are helping someone it can be a blessing for you as well as them. I feel as if I'm blessed every time I see someone smile or get a hug. It's a great joy in my life."

Letcher's impact at the Robertson facility is nearly beyond measure, according to administrator Corney Burkhardt and Activities Director Duana Hall. Letcher said the honor was best and also commented on the positive attributes and atmo-

sphere at the Robertson County Health Care Facility.

"It's a very nice facility with a wonderful staff. It was quite an honor to receive the recognition as a volunteer. We have a very small group but we try to make a big difference."

Letcher said she tries to help everyone and will be the first to say she has had a blessed life. Growing up with nine siblings on a farm along Cassidy Creek provided an environment that developed her character into the caring individual she is today.

"We had a big family and it was a joy to live on the farm. It seems that I knew I wanted to help people from an early age. I have great memories of being on the farm at Cassidy Creek," she said. "We had animals, horses

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