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The Carlisle Mercury

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Photo by Kelly Yarell
One man was injured in this snowy accident, as local law enforcement officials were kept extremely busy during the two run of extreme weather.

LOOKING BACK 2007

Continued from last week

JULY
L.C. Manufacturing LLC of Paris signs a lease with the Carlisle-Nicholas County Industrial Development Authority Board on July 1 to occupy the former Jockey Building on Concrete Road.

Brad Weaver is sworn in as Carlisle's newest police officer.

Mallory Cobb, 18-year-old daughter of Bobby and Melody Cobb of Carlisle, is crowned the 2007 Blackberry Festival Queen. Staci Myers is named first runner-up.

Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court vote 5-1 in favor of banning all future carnival rides from being placed in the courthouse yard. The decision came in the wake of a tree limb being removed from one of the courthouse yard's ancient oak trees. The court's decision sparks controversy and raises concerns about the future of the Blackberry Festival.

A Nicholas County jury finds Victor W. Watkins, 34, of Carlisle guilty of four counts of trafficking in a controlled substance (cocaine), first degree at the conclusion of a July 10 trial. Watkins is sentenced to nine years imprisonment for each count with all counts to run concurrent (at the same time). Watkins' charges and trial were the result of a Kentucky State Police investigation spearheaded by KSP Detectives Anthony Anderson, Bret Kirkland, and Special DESI drug task force Detective, Lance Hutchinson. Commonwealth's Attorney Doug Wright, who successfully prosecuted the case, praised the efforts of KSP detectives for their dangerous and tireless efforts to rid the community of illegal substances.

A scarcity of rain leads to the community being gripped by drought.

Anthony McNabb, son of Alvin and Kathy McNabb of Carlisle, has been named and All-American Scholar. Large memorials are set to be held in his honor.

Tragedy strikes the county with two drownings occurring within a 10-hour period. 22-month-old Mason Curtisinger is pronounced dead in the evening of July 30. Family members try repeatedly to revive him after the youngster enters a swimming pool undetected. Only 19-hours later Chris Watkins, 16, drowns after swimming in the Licking River with friends near Milton.

Kentucky State Police Officers eradicate over 500 marijuana plants in rural Nicholas County.

The community mourns the loss of Naomi Ashury Ritchie Cook Dale, Eddie Lee Long, Browning, Mary Christine George, Ward Joel

Three indicted

By Charles Mattox
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The Nicholas County Grand Jury met Jan. 7 and returned felony indictments against three men.

The grand jury indicted Albert W. Feback on a felony sexual-related charge with someone under the age of 18, which occurred in May 2007, in Nicholas County, Ky.

The grand jury returned the indictment against Feback, 38, after hearing testimony from Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler.

Jason L. Walters, 27, was indicted for the offense of criminal mischief, first degree, and the offense of persistent felony offender, second degree.

The indictments against Walters state that the alleged offenses occurred on Oct. 28 when Walters damaged property belonging to James Simons, "causing pecuniary loss of \$1,000 or more" and that Walters has a previous felony conviction in the past five years, which he has not received a pardon for.

The grand jury returned the indictments against Walters after hearing testi-

mony from Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler.

The grand jury also returned an indictment of criminal mischief, first degree, against Larry Edgar Bowles, 27.

The indictment against Bowles states the alleged offense occurred on Oct. 28 when he damaged property belonging to James Simons, "causing pecuniary damages of \$1,000 or more." An indictment is not an indication of guilt. It is a judicial procedure required to move the criminal charges from the district court level to the circuit court level.

Winter storm pummels county

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A freezing winter storm pulverized Nicholas County last week closing school for two days and causing several single-vehicle accidents and numerous fender benders as motorists struggled to cope with slippery roads.

Plumetting temperatures, which dropped into the single digits, and strong northern winds complicated travel on roadways as two to three inches of snow fell across Nicholas and surrounding counties in the early morning hours of Jan. 2 and continuing on all day.

Although county and state road crews responded quickly to keep roadways open, motorists struggled to safely navigate through Nicholas County.

Emergency responders, including Nicholas County Firefighters, law enforcement officers and ambulance personnel, were kept busy in the late morning hours of Jan. 2 when the slippery conditions contributed to three single-vehicle accidents that occurred simultaneously across Nicholas County.

Marilyn Stewart, 49, was driving a 1997 Toyota Camry that left the roadway on Headquarters Road. Stewart was wearing a seat belt and was the sole occupant of the vehicle. Stewart received no life threatening injuries as a result of the accident, according to Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett.

Jessica Webb, 19, suffered no injuries when the 2007 Chevy Cobalt she was driving slipped off of KY 32, Myers Road, only minutes later, on the northern outskirts of Carlisle. Webb was traveling cautiously and was wearing a seatbelt and received no serious injuries.

A third accident required emergency personnel to assist with extracting a trapped motorist from their vehicle after it left the roadway and overturned.

Jimmy Hancy, 70, was safely extracted from his 1999 Ford Ranger, after it left the road surface three miles north of the Webb accident on KY 32, Meyers Road. Hancy received no life threatening injuries as a result of the accident, according to Sheriff Garrett.

Kentucky State Police Trooper Dwayne Isom responded quickly to the accident and assisted with clearing traffic at the scene

and ensuring no additional accidents occurred.

Wintery conditions may have also played a role in the single-vehicle accident that occurred on the morning of Jan. 4, when a 2003 Dodge Ram truck driven by Cody McCall, 21, of Crooked Creek, roid colliding with a van, left the roadway, overcorrected and left the roadway again in a curvy section of Old Paris Pike, northwest of Carlisle, according to Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler.

"Mr. McCall was wearing a seatbelt," Buckler said and noted that McCall refused treatment.

County and state road crews were kept busy battling icy roads all day and they received praise for their efforts.

"I'm very pleased with the efforts of our county employees in clearing the roads," said Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher.

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See OVERLY Page 8

Governor Beshear stumps for Overly

By Charles Mattox
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Governor Steve Beshear visited Owsinsville Saturday in support of Democratic candidate for state representative Sannie Overly.

Beshear also met with Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher and

Majority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives Rocky Adkins.

"I support Sannie," Palmer said. "This is an important election and we've got the momentum with the governor's recent win."

"We need to continue with the kind of leadership that you have had," Adkins told the crowd while praising the past efforts of Belcher and expressing support for Overly.

"We like Sannie Overly and we'll put her on key committees. This is about grass roots effort. We are in the 100-yard dash of the campaign, with the finish line being Tuesday. I drove here this morning because I believe in Sannie Overly."

Overly was visibly moved by all of the support.

"It's a real honor to have this kind of support, especially from the governor," Overly said. "I hope the voters will recognize my ability to work well with the governor's administration and

with other state law makers."

Gov. Beshear warmly embraced Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher during his visit and the two spoke frequently to one another during much of the morning-long visit.

"I feel very fortunate to be a Democratic judge in a Democratic county that's in a Democratic state," Tincher said while welcoming the governor and expressing support for Overly during his address to the crowd.

Tincher called Overly a "fine young lady" and asked all present to help him elect her. Tincher received smiles, light laughter and many nods of understanding when he advised Overly that being thrust into politics in this part of Kentucky, like Overly has been with almost no time for preparation due to the nature of the special election, was much like being thrust into the deep end of a swimming pool.

Judge-Executive as former Bath Judge-Executive Walter Shount was forced to resign after being implicated in a vote buying investigation by federal prosecutors.

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Photo by Charles Mattox
Gov. Steve Beshear, second from left, joins Bath County Judge-Executive Carolyn Belcher, left, Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher and representative candidate Sannie Overly on Saturday.