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Stamper found not guilty

Former lawman defends innocence

By Charles Mattox
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Almost one year to the day after former Carlisle Police Officer Jamie Stamper was arrested on DUI charges, a jury found him not guilty. "I said I was innocent from day one, and the jury found me innocent today," Stamper told The Mercury moments after the verdict was announced. "I didn't back down. If you're innocent don't ever back down."

has been a long time in getting here." 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

"I said I was innocent from day one, and the jury found me innocent today."

**Former Carlisle Officer
Jamie Stamper**

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 15 years with six months of service to Carlisle. Layne has since also left the force. Those called by Special Prosecutor Chris Kelley, of Mason County, to testify during the trial on behalf of the Commonwealth were Graves, Layne, KSP Sgt.

Jeremy Murrell, Carlisle Police Sgt. Darrell Layne, Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton and Kentucky State Police lab analyst, Douglas Wimbush. Guarneri called only one witness to testify, and it wasn't Stamper.

According to testimony given during the trial, and what the existing video surveillance from the Shell store showed of that night, Graves, Murrell and Kentucky State Police Trooper John Hawkins, all assigned to the Dry Ridge Post, had stopped at the Shell gas station after a long 16-hour day. During that day they had executed a search warrant in connection with an unsolved Nicholas County murder and conducted several lengthy interviews also related to the unsolved murder, according to the testimony of Graves and Murrell. The two



Photo by Charles Mattox
Former Carlisle Police Officer Jamie Stamper, left, and his attorney David Guarneri, prepare themselves to hear the verdict during last week's trial.



Photo by Charles Mattox
Austin Dockery, atop the truck, comforts his father, who is trapped inside the cab, as rescue workers join together to free him, following a single vehicle accident near the Bath/Nicholas line on June 19.

Single-vehicle accident injures one

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A single-vehicle accident on June 19 on Lower Sharpesburg Road near the boundary of Nicholas and Bath County sent a Nicholas County man to the hospital. Thomas Dockery, 40, who recently moved near East Union from Louisville, and his two sons, Austin, 18 and Andrew, 19, were traveling toward Bath County from Nicholas in a 1996 Ford pickup truck, along Lower Sharpesburg Road, when the accident occurred, according to police. The Dockery truck, with Andrew Dockery in the back, swerved to avoid striking a concrete truck

that was pulling from a private residence. The truck traveled a short distance through a fence and small trees before coming to rest off the road in a hay field on the driver's side. Jeff Smith, who was delivering concrete to a nearby residence, and Bill Bertram, a project manager for Walker Construction, who was also at the nearby residence, called 911. Kentucky State Police Trooper John Hawkins responded quickly to the scene where he joined members of the Bethel Fire Department and Capt. Scott Brotherton and Major Jeff Adkins of the Bath County Rescue Squad. Paramedics from Bath and Nicholas County also converged on the scene and were also joined by members of the Nicholas County Fire Department. Dockery's sons, both of whom were uninjured, joined emergency personnel in helping to extract their father from the wreckage. Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, who also arrived quickly at the scene and Trooper Hawkins interviewed both of Dockery's sons as rescue workers cut through the cab of the truck and carefully extracted the elder Dockery from the wreckage. Dockery was transferred to the Nicholas County Hospital by Nicholas Ambulance personnel and was treated for injuries to his arm and possible internal injuries.

59th Blackberry Festival this week

By Charles Mattox
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Officials say they hope two locations will make for one great Blackberry Festival this week. Traditionally held in downtown Carlisle with carnival rides nestled tightly around the historic courthouse, this year the Blackberry Festival, which is celebrating it's 59th year, will have two locations: one in downtown Carlisle and the other in the spacious setting of West End Park, just off of Concrete Road, west of Carlisle. The traditional parade and crowning of the Blackberry Festival Queen will remain downtown, which will also be the location of the Fourth Annual Living Heritage Quilt Show sponsored by The Courthouse Square Arts Guild. The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 2-5. Nicholas County Tourism Director Gladys Shrout reminds all youngsters who wish to enter the bike-decorating contest to meet behind

the Whitaker Bank before the parade at 5:30 p.m. Bikers will join the parade as it progresses through town. Many activities will be held downtown with all types of games being held throughout the day on Saturday and Bingo starting at 1 p.m. A large fireworks display will be held Friday night at dusk. The carnival rides of Family Attractions and Amusement will be located at West End Park. "We're going to have a lot of great rides," said Dominic Macaroni, owner and operator of Family Attractions Amusement. "It looks like we'll have 12 to 14 rides and there will be something for everyone." Macaroni said his rides have been thoroughly inspected and are completely safe.

"My four-year-old granddaughter, Lela, rides the rides every night," he said. "Kentucky has a very thorough inspection process and our rides just completed three days of inspection while at the Bell County Fair." Macaroni said this was his first year to come to Nicholas County, but he has been in the carnival business his entire life and said he is looking forward to this being a great



Photo by Charles Mattox
An abundance of carnival rides patiently awaits the crowd at West End Park for the Blackberry Festival this week.

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