

**SOPER'S  
FAMILY DRUG**  
102 South Broadway Corner  
of Broadway & Market St.  
Phone: (859) 289-8501  
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
"The Only Pharmacy Your Family Needs"

# The Carlisle Mercury

Vol. 142 No. 29

The Nicholas County News Since 18

16, 2008

## Death of youth stuns community

**By Charles Mattox  
News Editor**  
charles@carlislemercury.com

Police continue to investigate the death of a 12-year-old Nicholas County youth who was found unresponsive in his family home on Myer's Road Sunday morning.

Jonathan Amburgey, 12-year-old son of Bonnie and Faye Amburgey, had spent the day playing in the family pool before going to bed that evening.

He never woke up.

"He had played in the family pool all day and hadn't

really complained about anything," Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett said. "That night when he went to bed he was complaining of being cold and fell asleep in his mother's bed while watching TV. There are absolutely no signs of foul play in this tragic death."

Garrett, like other emergency personnel, arrived quickly on the scene when the call came through in dispatch.

"We received a call from dispatch at approximately 10:20 a.m. of an unresponsive youth," Garrett said. "The

young man was pronounced dead at approximately 10:30 by Nicholas County Coroner Billy Clark."

An autopsy was held Monday at the Kentucky Medical Examiner's office in Frankfort.

"He appeared to be a healthy young man," Clark said Monday. "We know there was some history of asthma but the cause of death remains unknown at this time."

Garrett, Clark, Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler, EMS personnel and Nicholas County firefighters were at the scene when life call came

into dispatch. According to Garrett, Amburgey would have been a student in the sixth grade at Nicholas County Elementary School this year.

Sara Kikkaden, Jonathan's homeroom teacher last year described Jonathan as a caring and respectful student whose loss will be devastating to the school.

"He was a super young man and I'm devastated," she said. "Everyone loved Jonathan. He was a very joyful student. I had him two years ago when I was teaching fourth grade and again last year

when I was moved to fifth grade. Jonathan was very respectful of all the other students and had many friends. I never saw any negative behavior from him. He was an outstanding young man and my heart goes out to his loved ones. I know he will be deeply missed by his family and he will be deeply missed at the school and throughout the community."

Nicholas County Elementary Principal Shawn Parrish echoed Kikkaden's comments while struggling to understand the loss.

"It's a tragedy," he said.



Jonathan Amburgey

July  
16  
2008



Photo by Charles Mattox

Gayle and Martha Watson of Mays Lick were spared non-life threatening injuries in their 1991 International Tractor Trailer, which jackknifed along US 48 on Sunday afternoon. Airbags deployed and both Watsons had their seat belts on. Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett noted that the weather played a role in the accident.

## Private Christian school to open

**By Charles Mattox  
News Editor**  
charles@carlislemercury.com

A new, Christian-based school will be opening this August in Carlisle.

New Beginnings Christian Academy will be open for students in grades K-6 beginning August 13.

"It seems like God has laid out a plan for me to be involved in this for some time and I've been researching how to start a private Christian school for over the past two years," said Treacy Bassell. "We have a total of 12 students enrolled right now and may have a few more before classes start."

Bassell has been a teacher at Mason County Elementary School for the past four years and graduated at the top of her class at Midway College

with a bachelor's degree in arts and education.

The school will be housed inside the Carlisle Assembly of God, located along Concrete Road near the West End Park. Pastor Darrell Sexton has led the church for the past 22 years and he will also be involved in the school activities.

"We wanted to offer an alternative for public schools and one that is more geared toward a Christian based education," he said. "We are in no way in competition with the Nicholas County Public Schools. We will have all the required academics right now and we will also have Bible classes. For students that graduate from our school their di-

plomas will be the equivalent of any high school diploma."

Bassell and Sexton say the school will be closely affiliated with Abeka School in Florida, which will provide a curriculum for the school as it does for many private schools and for home-schooled students.

Students will attend classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will bring their own lunches.

The students will be in classes that normally are slated for bible school classes on Sunday at the church and students will also have access to the large church, which has a gymnasium, sanctuary, two kitchens, large fenced playground and many classrooms for instruction.

All areas of the church

have air conditioning and heating so students will have a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere to learn in.

The school will offer extended care for students until 6 p.m. in the evening for parents who work late, according to Bassell and Sexton.

Sexton and Bassell both say they are pleased with the rate of tuition the school will be charging. While most schools charge students upwards of \$200-\$300 per student, per semester, New Beginnings charges only \$175 for the first student with that charge decreasing if parents have a second child to attend.

The school has seven board members.

See PRIVATE Page 16

## Todd Neace joins Bath district administration

**By Catherine Farrar  
MCI Regional Reporter**  
catherine@bathtownjournal.com

Bath County has a new principal. He is Mr. Todd Neace. He will be filling a district position as the principal for the Alternative School, which features the Graduation Academy. The Alternative School will be housed on the first floor of Bath County High School.

Neace earned his bachelor's and Master's in Administration at Morehead State University. While earning his undergraduate degree, Neace also played football for MSU as an offensive guard.

Neace has taught both middle and high school social studies. He taught for three years at Jenkins Middle School located in Letcher County where he was also the head football coach. For the last five years, Neace has been teaching in Nicholas County at the high school where he also was an assistant football coach. This will be Neace's first experience in administration.

brighter future.

Neace went on to explain that this year the Graduation Academy would also be open to students in grades seven and eight. Enrollment for the academy will be capped at 30 students. For the coming year, enrollment will start at 20 students. Neace foresees that the enrollment in the Graduation Academy will change as student's need change. As students are successful they will be able to return to the regular classroom.

This program is specifically geared for students that have little to no parental support and that struggle to get to school. Neace hopes to create an environment that will encourage the students to come to school and participate in the activities. He truly believes that all students need to be serviced.

As principal, one of his first goals is to provide night classes a couple evenings a week to meet a specific need in the community for high school students. Neace would also like to see the high school students in the Graduation

See NEACE Page 16



Todd Neace

## County inmates may work on local projects

**By Charles Mattox  
News Editor**  
charles@carlislemercury.com

Nicholas County Jailor Jeff Sittles received approval from members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court to research a new program that may result in local, non-violent prisoners performing community service in Carlisle and across Nicholas County.

Sittles addressed the court with the proposal July 8 during that entity's regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

"Menifee County is in-

involved in the program right now," Sittles told court members. "Prisoners would be under my supervision and it would probably only be one or two days a week. A judge's approval would be needed, but the inmates could be used to pick up trash along the road or things like that."

Magistrates spoke favorably in support of the program and requested that Sittles find out more details.

"I think it's a great idea," said Magistrate Mike Webb.

See WORK Page 16

**Your Kubota Dealer**

**Sauer Implement**

1000 S. Dixie Hwy  
The Sauer Farm Implement Division  
Office (606) 849-4853

ROUTE 11 NORTH  
FLEMINGSBURG, KY 41041  
www.sauerimplement.com  
Call Chuck or Andrew

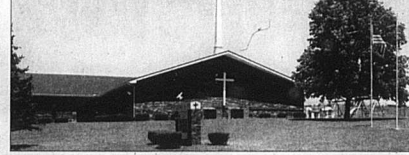


Photo by Charles Mattox

The Carlisle Assembly of God Church will be the home of New Beginnings Christian Academy, a Christian-based private school, which will offer classes to students in grades K-6. A total of 12 students have enrolled in the school thus far.

**DOYLE**  
Mobile Homes, Inc.

"Make your house a home!" Since 1962

Rt. 11 North & Mays Lick Road, Flemingsburg, KY  
Weekdays 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Street Sunday  
606-845-8601 • 606-845-0301 • 606-845-0526  
www.doylemobilehomes.com

**Cheaps**

714 W. WATER ST. FLEMINGSBURG, KY 41041

Your Local Remanufacture Dealer

Phone (606) 845-2261  
Fax (606) 845-2441  
Toll Free 1-888-845-2261

Visit us at  
www.cheapchevrolet.com

**New Listing**  
122 N. Broadway - Carlisle

**Vince Wilts**  
(859) 289-5594

Attractive and spacious 3 bedroom home.

See more photos and other listings on our internet website  
www.vincewiltsrealstate.com