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**July
30
2008**

Kimes brothers not guilty



Brandon Kimes, far right, testified that he and his brother Clayton were paid to break into the home of James Robert Willoughby.

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

Carlisle brothers Brandon and Clayton Kimes were found not guilty of burglary charges following a daylong trial in Nicholas Circuit Court Thurs., July 24.

A jury of six women and six men listened intently to the testimony of 11 witnesses during the trial. Six of the witnesses testified on behalf of the Commonwealth and five on behalf of the defense. The jury also listened intently to the closing statements before deliberating one hour and then returning to the courtroom with their elected foreperson who presented a written copy of the not guilty verdict against Clayton Kimes, on the charge of burglary, second degree, and a verdict of not guilty against Brandon Kimes, on the charge of complicity to commit burglary, second degree.

"Justice was served," Brandon Kimes, 18, said with a broad grin as family

members embraced him following the trial.

"I'm just glad it's finally over," Clayton, 21, said following the same emotional embraces from his loved ones.

The brothers, who both testified, never denied working together as a team on Jan. 15 to remove a Play Station II control set and a collector set of Buck knives from the residence of James Robert Willoughby on Upper Sharpsburg Road.

But, they said they had been given permission to enter the home in the manner they did and had even been paid to do so by Willoughby himself the morning of their arrest.

"He Jim Robert Willoughby paid them to do it because he wanted a new front door," Public Defender Jennifer Whittemore, lead counsel among the attorneys representing the brothers, told jurors in her opening statements. "Brandon and Clayton did not go into that home without permission. They did not take that Play

Station without permission. They did what Jim Robert asked them to do. They did what Jim Robert said them to do."

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Benny Buckler and Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton arrested the Kimes brothers on Jan. 15 following the incident at the Willoughby home, which also involved a shooting.

"We got shot at 17 times," Clayton Kimes said with a grim expression after the trial.

Marion Kearns, a neighbor of Willoughby's, allegedly fired the shots that day and also testified during the trial.

Kearns, a retired truck driver, who lives on property adjacent to Willoughby and across the road from Jeff and Tracy Brown, testified that he woke up that morning at 6:30 a.m., ate breakfast and was watching TV when he noticed a white Chevy S-10 drive by this home and slow down in front of Willoughby's home.

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Beshear attends Fleming Hospital Grand Opening

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

Governor Steve Beshear was in Flemingsburg Sunday to help the community celebrate the grand opening of the new Fleming County Hospital. While there, Beshear announced a half-million dollar recommendation he would soon make to help the hospital purchase new radiology equipment for the \$28 million facility.

"Hospitals like this are of critical importance," Beshear told a crowd of nearly 400 that gathered near the main entrance of the hospital for the grand opening celebration. "I'm here to help you celebrate and to share something else."

Beshear then unveiled his recommendation for \$500,000 of funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission to purchase radiology equipment for the facility, including MRIs and other radiological equipment.

"This will improve and help expedite the services for Fleming Countians," he said.

Beshear was the keynote speaker during a ceremony that featured several.

Pat Price, a native of Cowan and the Assistant County

Attorney of Fleming County, introduced the Governor.

Beshear praised the beautiful songs performed during the opening ceremonies by members of the Golden Chord Singers and said, "The Lord is smiling on Fleming County," in acknowledgment of the beautiful music.

He additionally praised the devotion of Price, his friend and colleague of 40 years, as he began speaking.

He told how Price had went knocking door to door as part of one of his earliest campaigns and how during that time Price had been bitten by a dog.

"Pat lived," the governor said with a smile. "But the dog died," he added to the laughter of those assembled.

The ceremony was light-hearted and pleasant and though held under the roof of the main entrance area with a spacious tent added to cover a portion of the crowd, the day was sunny and added to the cheerful atmosphere.

Funding for the 71,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility, was made possible through \$21 million worth of low interest loans from USDA Rural Development. The hospital board was able to fund an additional \$6.6 million, including a \$1 million amount from the estate of the late Ruby Adams.

Members of the American Legion donated a flagpole and flag and raised the flag at the beginning of the two-hour ceremony.

David Kirk, Chief Executive Officer of Fleming County Hospital praised the efforts of the Board members and members of the staff who worked tirelessly to achieve the goal of seeing the spacious building opened.

Past hospital CEOs: Mark Armstrong and Carol Dozier were also on hand to help celebrate.

Armstrong was at the helm when the building was in the initial planning phases and Dozier led the hospital during the transition of planning to construction.

Beshear called Fleming County a "county on the move."

Armstrong categorized all the positive aspects of the building and the county by simply saying, "the people are what make Fleming County so great for us."

All praised the efforts of Board of Trustees Chair Ruth Rankin. Rankin's vision and leadership has been an anchor for health care at the hospital throughout the planning and construction process.

The hospital originally opened on Sept. 18, 1962 with 22 beds.



Governor Steve Beshear was in Flemingsburg Sunday to help celebrate the grand opening of the new Fleming County Hospital. Beshear received a very warm welcome from a crowd of 400 and received a standing ovation of the conclusion of his address to the crowd.

Photo by Charles Mattox

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Blue Licks Battle Reenactment Celebration to be held August 16 & 17

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

The 226th anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks will bring a reverent celebration at the center of the Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park.

"Last year's event was pretty good, but I feel like this year's event will be even better," said Paul Tierney, the park's Program Services

Supervisor.

Tierney, who is master of ceremonies for his upcoming ninth battle reenactment, said the centralized location of the festival should add to its success this year.

"Everything is centrally located between the museum and the battlefield," he said.

Festivities begin at the park Saturday morning at 8 a.m. and there will be plenty of activities and demonstrations for the entire family to enjoy.

Battlefield reenactments will be held Sat. and Sunday at 3 p.m. the weekend will be full of programs.

The weekend celebration will mark the 226th anniversary of the August 19 battle fought on the same grounds is now occupied by the park.

An archaeological endeavor led by Dr. Adrian Mandry this spring inside the park led to the recovery of several battlefield artifacts. Those

artifacts will be on display inside the Pioneer Museum and Mandry will hold a special program Saturday at noon describing the archaeological recovery and the artifacts found inside the park, including nearly one dozen lead balls fired from rifles during the battle.

"This program will help us understand more details about the battle fought here in 1782," Tierney said. "I'm amazed at some of the items we found this year."

Local and distant reenactment groups representing Native Americans, Kentucky Militia soldiers and British Canadian Rangers will do battle over a portion of the ground where the actual battle occurred.

The battle that occurred on Aug. 19, 1782 was a disastrous defeat for the Kentucky Militia.

Nearly 70 Kentuckians

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