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Ghoulish vandals strike again

By Charles Mattox
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Monuments have once again been toppled in the Carlisle Cemetery. This time the perpetrators of the crime only struck three graves.

Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton was notified Thursday morning March 6 of the incident and continues to lead the investigation into the ghoulish activity.

The incident comes on the heels of a Christmas night act of vandalism when over 50 monuments were toppled

in similar fashion. Two individuals were arrested in the Christmas night affair. One was a male juvenile and the other was Jesse James Robinson, 19, of Carlisle. Robinson was originally charged with over 50 felony counts of violating graves in connection with the Christmas night incident.

Coincidentally, the most recent incident happened the night of March 5, the same day that a front-page article, regarding the Nicholas County Grand Jury failing to indict Robinson on any felony counts, was published.

The fact that no felony indictments were issued during the first incident, coupled with the second incident occurring on the heels of the front page story regarding the fact, has not sit well with some cemetery officials.

"I'm surprised and disappointed," said Bobby Snapp, the Cemetery caretaker and member of the Carlisle Cemetery Board as he shook his head in disgust.

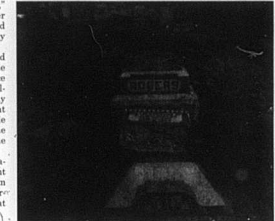
"Others shared Snapp's discontent.

"If all that ever happens to someone that does something like that is a little slap on the wrist, then will

probably see more of this," said one of several other gentlemen that gathered with Snapp in the cemetery Thursday morning.

According to Snapp and others affiliated with the cemetery, Carlisle Police Officers had been patrolling the cemetery regularly since the Christmas night incident and had even made several patrols through the cemetery the night of the latest incident.

Anyone with any information regarding the recent acts of cemetery vandalism is urged to contact the Carlisle Police Department, at 289-3710.



Memorial planned for soldiers

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The image will be in statue form, elevated on a pedestal and made of bronze. The image is that of two pairs of military boots, side by side, during two inverted M16 rifles, standing straight and tall, with each being capped with a helmet.

A plaque with the names and photographs of SSG Delmar White and Pfc. Sammie Phillips will be located in direct association with the bronze statue.

The image is similar to that witnessed inside Iraq during memorial services for White and Phillips, who fell in separate incidents barely a week apart in September 2007, and one such

of many that have been used during memorial services for fallen soldiers inside Iraq since the war began.

The statue is only one of several features of the memorial that Hughes and others hope will honor the sacrifices of the soldiers of Battery B.

A separate plaque will list all of the names of the soldiers in the unit that were deployed to Iraq.

Hughes said similar memorials had been constructed at other National Guard Armories and were appreciated by the soldiers as well as being well received by the community.

"Seeing the support of

the Carlisle and Nicholas County community really makes me proud to be part of a military family and especially proud of this community," she said.

Hughes said the community had raised approximately \$31,000 for Family Readiness Group projects, and the necessary \$10,000 has been set aside for the memorial project.

"We plan to have the project completed by the time the unit returns home," Hughes said. "We are asking any individuals who would like to volunteer to help us with some landscaping design and work that will be a part of the memorial."

Hughes said the generoso-

ity thus far extended to the Family Readiness Group during all of their projects had been astounding.

"The community has done so much for the soldiers and so much for their families too," Hughes said. "We recently learned that our soldiers have received more mail in the month of December than any other unit inside Iraq."

Hughes said local churches, homemakers groups, veterans support groups and everyday Nicholas County residents and Kentuckians had supported all of the many

Family Readiness Group fund raising projects and acted on their own in addition to help support the soldiers.

"They deeply appreciate everything," she said.

Fund raising activities have ranged from a send-off ceremony, to motorcycle rides and fish fries, to gathering Christmas Care Packages, to making communication between the soldiers and their families easier with phone cards and other telecommunication.

See MEMORIAL Page 5

They will never be forgotten.

The soldiers of the local National Guard Unit, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, who continue to serve their country inside Iraq, as part of the Global War on Terrorism, will be the subject of a special memorial project, that will remind future generations of Kentuckians of the sacrifice made by members of the unit, and especially the ultimate sacrifice of two of the unit's soldiers who perished six months ago while on duty inside Iraq.

Alicia Hughes, President of the unit's Family Readiness Group, and who is wife of Battery B Platoon Sgt. Rob Hughes, announced the project to the Carlisle Mercury upon the group's decision to move forward with it.

The memorial project will include a bronze statue honoring the memory of Sgt. Delmar White and Pfc. Sammie Phillips, two of the unit's soldiers that lost their life during the first few weeks of deployment inside Iraq in Sept. 2007.

"Thanks to the generosity of the community we will be constructing a special memorial at the Armory," Hughes said. "The Family Readiness Group has collected enough funding to pay for the memorial, which will be located near the canon at the Armory."

According to Hughes, the memorial will feature an easily distinguishable image used by various military units in combat zones for decades, and one steeped



The soldiers of Battery B prepare for one of their many convoy security missions inside Iraq.

Baber announces state candidacy

Paris resident Roy T. Baber announces his official candidacy for the 72nd Legislative District seat formerly held by Both County Judge Executive Carolyn Bekker. The Democratic Primary for the full term will be held on May 20, 2008, with three Democratic contenders. No Republican has filed, as a candidate thus the successor for the full term will be decided in the May Democratic Primary.

Baber is a former two-term Democratic County Judge/Executive, Mayor and City Councilman in Bourbon County. For most of the past fifteen years he has been involved in the health care business as a CEO, Administrator and Executive Director being directly involved in the management of budgets, many employees and the direction of state and federal programs.

Baber has a Bachelors degree and a Masters of Public Administration degree.

Baber feels with this vast local government experience and private sector business experience as well as his training and educational experience he will be able to best serve the 72nd District and specifically Nicholas County. Baber has met a number of people in the district and understands there are differences in the needs and concerns throughout the District. "HealthCare access, jobs, infrastructure and programs to improve the quality of life, cost control with

fewer taxes yet maintaining provision of needed services are some of the concerns that residents have discussed with me," Baber said.

Baber continues, "If elected I will pledge to be responsive to your calls and needs; be conservative with your tax dollars yet seek every benefit possible to better the lives of the residents of the District and State."

"Finally, I sincerely ask for your consideration and I would be honored to have your support and your Vote. I can be reached at 859-749-1066 with any questions, concerns or if you wish to help in any way. I look forward to continuing to meet the many good people in Nicholas County and throughout the district", said Baber.

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City plans Railroad Park project

By Charles Mattox
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Carlisle will soon have a Railroad Park, equipped with steam engines, a staff car and even a caboose, at no cost to the city.

The news came during a recently held special meeting of the Carlisle City Council.

"This is a great opportunity for us," Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark told council members during discussion

of the subject.

The Kentucky Central Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is the entity that wishes to provide three locomotives, a 1920 Baldwin Steam Locomotive and two diesel "Switchers", as well as a passenger car and a caboose, to the city.

"All of the equipment would be cosmetically restored to as close to original as possible," states the proposal summary as presented by the Society to city officials.

"Some wouldn't be required to do any restoration?" Councilman Tommy Crawford asked during the meeting.

"That's correct," Mayor Clark replied as discussion on the proposal continued.

Mayor Clark said he believed the best location for the proposal would be Vandanhaling Park. "And if for some reason the Society fails to maintain the equipment, it all goes to the city at no cost."

See PARK Page 6

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