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Police recover signs and arrest two

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Lucy L. McCall, 27, of Carlisle, and Cotey A. McCall, 22, of Crooked Creek Road, were arrested Sunday afternoon and charged with one felony count each of receiving stolen property. The arrests came on the heels of an anonymous call

to police and led police to the recovery of over one dozen missing county signs. "There were 14 missing county signs recovered along with one state sign and several Bourbon County signs," said Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton. "I'm very pleased

with the actions of officers Sneedgar and Jackson, and this shows what citizenship is when members of the community get involved and contact their local law enforcement officers when they see suspicious activity. I hope our citizens will continue to pass along information to us."



Photo by Charles Mattox

Who cares about the high the price of gas?
Especially when you have a reliable form of alternate transportation like this Carlisle resident.

Hospital and Nursing Home may separate

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Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court are working with attorneys and hospital officials to bring about the separation of the Nicholas County Hospital and the Johnson Mothers Nursing Home. The separation, as proposed by hospital officials would be beneficial to all entities, according to discussion held at the fiscal court meeting Sept. 8. The separation of the two health care facilities, which are located on the same county-owned property along Concrete Road, could mean an increase in county revenue to the tune of \$150,000, according to discussion at the fiscal court meeting, hence the desire to separate the two entities. The separation would capitalize on current unspent revenue through certain avenues of Medicare and Medicaid, which the hospital and nursing home do not currently qualify for as a single existing entity. Veteran regional attorney Raymond Bogucki spoke to the court about the benefits of the separation of the hospital and nursing home on the behalf of Nicholas County Attorney Dawn Letcher. Letcher asked Bogucki for his opinion to remove her from a position of possible conflict as the county's attorney. Bogucki said Letcher's invitation was welcomed, as the two are old friends and the protocol of such actions was proper and of the best interests of all concerned. According to discussion between Bogucki and court members, the county owns the property where the hospital and nursing home stand, but leases the property to the Johnson Mothers Health Care Company. According to Bogucki's discussion, members of the JHHC Company would like to seek a legal division of the hospital and nursing home as sub-lease entities. "The bottom line is that the opinions of the hospital board are valid," Bogucki told court members. "I think this is doable and you should do this as long as you do it the right way." Court members said they wanted to see the hospital and nursing home succeed, but also wanted to protect the interests of the taxpayers of Nicholas County. "We're not interested in running the hospital, but we do have bond concerns," said Magistrate Daryl Stacy. "Ultimately the property belongs to the tax payers of our county," Magistrate Steve Hamilton said. "That is where my concern is."

Hamilton, Stacy and all other magistrates, joined County Judge-Executive Larry Tinsler in thanking Bogucki for his report and asking him to contact the legal representative of the hospital and nursing home, so plans could go forward with the legal separation of the two entities. The Mercury will cover any future actions involving the proposed separation of the hospital and nursing home.

County embraces KFTC rally at Artcroft

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A crowd of over 100 attended a Kentuckyans For The Commonwealth (KFTC) rally at Artcroft, in rural Nicholas County Sunday afternoon, in support of preserving the state's natural resources and rural heritage. State Representative Sannie Overly was in attendance and she joined others in listening intently to members of the KFTC as they expressed their desire to see more Nicholas County residents become involved in helping to preserve the beauty of the landscape of Kentucky. Much of that landscape has been destroyed and much more is threatened. The focus on the rally was to bring attention to the destructive practices of mountaintop removal as practiced by several large coal companies in southern Kentucky. KFTC Chairman Doug Dorrfield joined KFTC Information Officer Jerry Hardt and other in speaking of the devastation of the coal removing practice that is obliterating thousands of acres of forest and landscape. "Mountaintop removal is comparable to a car wreck," author Mary Ann Taylor-Hall said. "Taking off the top of a mountain is wrong," she added as she read a recent essay of hers called "The Ghosts of the Mountain." The essay was an emotional insight into the evils of destroying the forests and the mountains for coal. Dorrfield and Hardt explained that as citizens who get their water in part through the Licking River, as Nicholas County customers of the Western Fleming Water District do, the pollutants of sedimented water created by mountaintop removal at the headwaters of Licking River should be a point of concern. "Everyone's presence here gives us hope, though," Hardt said. "Mountaintop removal is manmade and fueled by human greed. The landscape where mountaintop removal occurs resembles bombed out European cities at the end of World War Two." Author Ed McClanahan spoke to the crowd as did

Artcroft founder Robert Barker, local tourism advocate Ed Taylor and farmer David Wagoner, who has been spearheading a local farmers' entity called Community Supported Agriculture. Wagoner explained the benefits of growing vegetables locally and helping a community continue to be self-sustaining and protective of the beautiful environment.

Nationally acclaimed, best-selling novelist Silas House was in attendance as part of the musical group Public Outcry. House and members of the group performed several songs to the enjoyment of the crowd. House, who was raised and lives in Laurel County and writes novels about the



Photo by Charles Mattox
Eliana Shapere of Lexington attended the Artcroft KFTC rally with her parents Sunday. While at the rally Eliana befriended Baby, a small raccoon being raised by one of the artists in residence at Artcroft.

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