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Police arrest man after wild chase

By Charles Mattox
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A Nicholas County man is behind bars following a wild police chase that spanned five miles, involved several collisions between police cruisers and the suspect's vehicle, resulted in shots being fired and concluded with 12 criminal charges being filed against the alleged perpetrator.

Carlisle Police Officers Mark Snedegar and Ron Allison arrested Ollie Eric Wheeler, 38, of Myers Road, Carlisle, July 31 following a wild police chase that led police through Carlisle and rural Nicholas County and nearly into Fleming County.

Carlisle Police Dispatch received a call from a family member stating that Mr. Wheeler was drinking and driving in a vehicle on Myers Road and was traveling in the direction of Carlisle, according to court documents.

Officer Snedegar was advised of the call and quickly spotted the

Wheeler vehicle, a maroon and wood grain-colored 1987 Caravan minivan.

"I activated my emergency lights. Mr. Wheeler refused to pull over," Officer Snedegar wrote on Wheeler's arrest citation after noting he witnessed the Wheeler vehicle cross the centerline as it approached Carlisle.

Wheeler drove through Carlisle without acknowledging Snedegar's cruiser with lights flashing. The Wheeler vehicle turned onto Scrubgrass Road and started speeding up, failing to comply.

Wheeler had his seven-year-old son and a dog in the vehicle with him, according to the citation. As Snedegar continued the pursuit he became increasingly concerned for the safety of the seven-year-old and Wheeler.

"I was very worried that Mr. Wheeler's vehicle would go off the road or strike a bridge," Snedegar said of his pursuit of Wheeler on Scrubgrass Road,

known as a very narrow Nicholas County road. Snedegar said the pursuit continued onto Myers Road with Wheeler traveling toward Fleming County and reaching speeds in excess of 70 mph.

"The (Wheeler) vehicle almost struck the Cassidy Creek Bridge," Snedegar said.

Carlisle Police Officer Ron Allison joined the chase. Snedegar sped around the Wheeler vehicle just before the two vehicles entered the Pleasant Valley straight stretch. Wheeler stopped but then drove his van into Snedegar's cruiser, nearly striking Snedegar in the process.

Fearing for the safety of the child and Wheeler, Snedegar drew his pistol and carefully shot one of the back tires of the van as it sped away.

Officer Allison picked up the chase with speeds reaching 100 mph, according to Wheeler's citation.

Wheeler's vehicle struck Allison's cruiser more than once and

wheel-drive vehicle continued to lurch forward, traveling across Old Mexico Road, bumping both cruisers each time they came close.

The officers' approach Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer, Laven Clark, with our verbal orders joined the pursuit, and we weren't sure if with his four-wheel-drive blazer, was able to

See Arrest Page 5



Carlisle Police Officer Mark Snedegar, left, and Ron Allison, right, lead Ollie Wheeler, 38, center, into the Carlisle Police Department after a harrowing police chase Friday July 31.

Marijuana patch discovered

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An anonymous tip led police to Columbine Drive where they located a clandestine marijuana patch containing ten immature plants.

Carlisle Police Sgt. Darrell Layne joined Kentucky Police and Wildlife Officers Herbert Booth and William Earlywine at the scene.

"This looked like anyone who discovered marijuana growing anywhere to contact them immediately. Police estimate the plants would have been worth \$1,800 each when fully matured. Police encourage

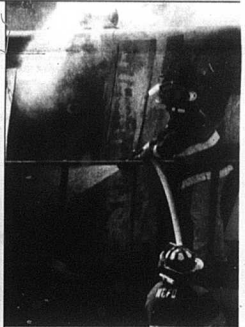


Photo by Charles Mattox



Reward offered

By Charles Mattox
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A reward is being offered for information, which leads to the arrest of the persons responsible for a Jackstown Road home being burglarized Friday.

According to Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, two men were seen at the residence of Chris Howard in a two-tone dark late 80s truck.

Sheriff Garrett said the brazen thieves were spotted as they struck in broad daylight while Howard was gone from home. The men gained entry to the house by kicking in a rear door after attempts to kick in a side door succeeded in busting a glass but little else, according to Garrett. Once inside the two men removed several firearms, a 26-inch flat TV screen, a DVD player and a satellite connection box.

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Train engine fire
Nicholas County Firefighter Mike Warner sprays a T1 Train engine fire with help from one of his fellow firefighters. A dozen firefighters, led by Fire Chief Mark Hughes, joined Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, Emergency Management Director Calvin Denton and Fleming and Nicholas EMS on the site of the fire, near Myers Station Monday afternoon. Firefighters contained the blaze to the engine compartment.

Nicholas County Schools will begin as scheduled.
The first day for students will be Aug. 10. There will be no delay in school starting!

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