

Stanley pleads guilty to sex crimes



Howard Cecil Stanley, 43, left, appeared in Nicholas Circuit Court last week with Public Defender Jennifer Wittmeyer, right, and entered guilty and Alford pleas to amended sex charges.

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
charles@thecharlestonmercury.com

Howard Cecil Stanley, 43, appeared in Nicholas Circuit Court last week and entered guilty and Alford pleas to amended sex charges.

As it stands, Stanley will receive an 18-year prison sentence on the charges of rape, first degree. He will also receive a sentence of 18 years for an Alford plea, but court documents appeared to conflict as to the charge either being sodomy or incest.

Regardless, both sentences will run concurrent for a total of 18 years imprisonment.

At least three counts of incest, one additional charge of rape and a charge of persistent felony offender were dismissed

in accordance with the plea agreement.

Stanley met for several minutes with his attorney, Public Defender Jennifer Wittmeyer, prior to entering the plea. Wittmeyer and Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Michael Lave also met several times for private consultation before Stanley entered a guilty plea to amended charges.

A Nicholas County Grand Jury returned indictments against Stanley on May 4 of this year, and alleged that he committed rape, incest, and sodomy.

Stanley was arrested and formally charged with those alleged crimes the next day.

The indictments against Stanley charged him with two counts of rape, first degree; four counts of incest, and one charge of sodomy.

The indictments allege the criminal acts occurred as early as 1986 and three of the victims were under the age of 14 at the time of the alleged sex crimes.

The grand jury also returned an indictment of persistent felony offender, second degree, against Stanley. The indictments against Stanley were issued following testimony of Kentucky State Police Detective Anthony Gatson.

Stanley remains lodged in jail.

In accordance with the plea agreement reached last week in Nicholas Circuit Court, Stanley's sentences will run concurrent (at the same time) as sentences imposed for crimes committed in Harrison and Bourbon County.

Honorable Robert McGinnis, explained in detail Stanley's rights upon his entering the guilty and Alford pleas.

Stanley indicated to Judge McGinnis that he understood everything and was fully satisfied with the advice of his attorney, who stood beside him as he entered the pleas.

Court documents indicate Stanley committed at least one of the alleged crimes against a victim under the age of 14 while the victim was "physically helpless."

Stanley entered an Alford plea, which is not to be considered the same as a guilty plea, however by entering the Alford plea, Stanley acknowledges that evidence might exist, which would result in a guilty plea if the charge went to trial.

Two arrested for burglary

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
charles@thecharlestonmercury.com

Two Nicholas men were arrested Aug. 7 and charged with burglary in connection with two Robertson County break-ins.

The burglaries occurred in Robertson County on Piqua Lane on March 20," Sheriff Insko said. "A home belonging to Billy Susac and another home belonging to Carolyn Martinez had items removed."

According to Sheriff Insko, the items taken from the homes included a 42-inch TV, a DVD play-

er, TV stand and stereo.

"We recovered all the stolen items," Sheriff Insko said.

West and Stanley remain lodged in the Mason County Detention Center charged with two counts of burglary, second degree.



Larry Stanley



Billy West

Date set for Orazen Trial

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
charles@thecharlestonmercury.com

A two-day trial has been set for the former high school principal accused of assaulting a student.

Former Nicholas County High School Principal Joe Orazen will go to trial on Oct. 29 and 30 for the charge of assault, fourth degree.

Orazen, 35, was sus-



Joe Orazen

pended from his job as principal on Feb. 18, 2008 and was arrested later that day.

Both actions came in the wake of a Feb. 10 incident at the high school.

Carlsale Police Officer Sgt. Darrell Layne arrested Orazen at 6:10 p.m.; Feb. 18 at the Carlsale Police Station after a warrant was issued by special prosecutor Charles Kuster.

Layne charged Orazen, in accordance with the warrant, with assault, 4th degree, which is a class A misdemeanor.

Orazen's suspension and arrest came in the wake of an incident, between Orazen and a juvenile male, identified as Dusty Green, which occurred Feb. 10 immediately after school.

School sources say the incident was a result of cell phone usage that was disrupting classes. Cell phones were being used in excessive numbers that day due to the incident at the Deposit Branch Bank, located across the road from the school campus.

Orazen called for assistance several minutes before the incident became physical with the juvenile.

Sources say he received no assistance.

Special Prosecutor Charles Kuster, who is the Harrison County's County Attorney was appointed to the case due to a conflict of interest with attorney Dawn Letcher, who is the school system's attorney.

Letcher's name does not appear on Orazen's arrest warrant.

Kuster, Orazen and Orazen's attorney David Franklin, met Friday in Harrison District Court with District Judge, Honorable Jay Delaney, to establish a trial date.

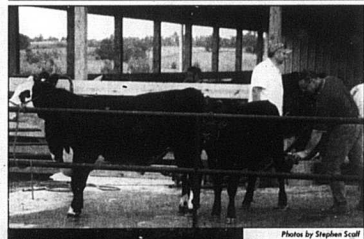
Through various court motions, Franklin has been attempting to receive Green's disciplinary records from Ladyette High School and Nicholas High School since March.



Photos submitted

On a musical note...

Nancy Fightmaster presents Nicholas County Superintendent Greg Reid a check for \$2,000 to the Nicholas County High School band in honor of her late father, Clary Fightmaster. Mr. Fightmaster was a band instructor at Carlsale High School, as well as being a long-time businessman in Carlsale and Nicholas County.



Photos by Stephen Seiff

County Fair

Nicholas County's fair this year was a great success, due in part to the addition of an excellent livestock show facility.

Above: The wash and grooming facilities allow contestants to present their animals at their best.

Left: With great weather, events such as the demolition derby on Friday and the tractor pull on Saturday drew in large crowds.

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