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The Carlisle Mercury

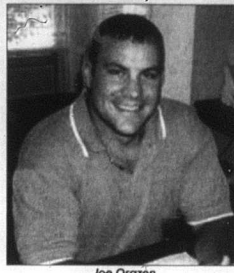
Vol. 143 No. 50 The Nicholas County News Since 1810 KING BUILDING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY LEAKINGTON KY 40506-0001

Orazen assault trial starts this week

By Charles Mattox News Reporter

A February incident at Nicholas County High School, which garnered state and national attention, will be the focus of a two-day trial in Nicholas District Court this week.

Orazen's arrest warrant states that on or about Feb. 10, Orazen, "intentionally or wantonly caused physical injury to another person, defendant lifted a 16-year-old juvenile off the ground and slammed him to the ground twice, and placed his knee on (juvenile's) head and degree, case of the Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. Joseph Orazen will be heard by a jury and District Judge, Honorable Jay Delaney, on Dec. 17 and 18.



Joe Orazen

Orazen, 36, was suspended from his job as NCHS principal on Feb. 18, 2008 and was arrested later that day by Carlisle Police Officer Sgt. Darrell Layne on the charge of assault, fourth degree. Both actions came in the wake of a Feb. 10 incident at the high school.

The juvenile male was later identified through state and other regional media outlets as Dusty Green.

Special Prosecutor Charles Kuster, who is also the school system's attorney. Letcher's name does not appear on Orazen's arrest warrant.

across the road from the school campus. Former School Resource Officer, Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler, now a Carlisle Police Officer, was completing his interrogation with suspected bank robbers Thomas Holder and Pamela Shephard, and briefing federal agents, at the time of the Orazen/Green incident.

During the Orazen/Green incident, Orazen allegedly called for assistance several minutes before the incident became physical. Sources in the school, and nationally publicized videotape from either a school camera or someone inside the school, verifies he received no assistance. Kuster, and Orazen's attorney David Franklin, have filed various court

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Campbell named Wendy's High School Heisman school winner

Nicholas County High School senior Kyle Campbell has been named a Wendy's High School Heisman Award school winner.

Campbell excels in both academics and athletics at Nicholas County High School. He has excelled in various sports during his prep career. Campbell has been a leading scorer for the NCHS boys' basketball program and ranks as a leading performer for the Jackets baseball team.

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BASHAW REALTY 520 E Main St. Carlisle, KY 40313. 859-239-9711. Includes contact info for Barbara Bashaw, Cecil Farmer, WM Butts Bashaw, and Pam Asbury.

Neal Building receives memorabilia

Susan Neal Beymer, formerly of Carlisle, daughter of Powell and Lucille Neal, donated her father's WW2 Air Force jacket and other memorabilia to the Neal Welcome Center in honor of her father, Joseph Neal, and their father, RV (Pop) Neal for over 70 years.



Magistrates split on funding of emergency equipment

Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court split their vote last week on the decision to fund the purchase of a trailer to store emergency-related equipment.

Nicholas County Emergency Management Director Calvin Denton was present for the Dec. 8 court meeting, and informed court members about several pieces of equipment he was able to acquire through the Bluegrass Emergency Response Team (BERT).

"There are 11 counties in BERT, including Nicholas County," Denton said.

Denton was able to acquire several thousands of dollars worth of equipment, including a generator, five chainsaws and two pole saws, along with other items to be used in Nicholas and several other BERT counties in the event of an emergency occurring.

A small storage trailer, which was determined to cost \$1,200 through discussion among Denton and court members, was

required to store the equipment in. Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Fincher voiced support for funding the trailer purchase.

"I think it's a good move," he said as discussion began. Magistrate Daryl Stacy disagreed.

"We tell people that we have a tight budget and we need to watch every dollar we've got," Stacy said. "To

me this is an addition to the budget and I'm leery of doing anything in the middle of the budgeted year."

"Magistrate Jeff Randolph voiced support for the funding. "I'm for helping to get the trailer," Randolph said. Randolph made a motion, quickly seconded by Magistrate Avery Thornburg. The vote was five for and one against."

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