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MERRY CHRISTMAS! Santa Letters begin on p. B 39cents

The Carlisle
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Jury finds Ozrazen not guilty

By Charles Mattox
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A jury of four men and two women found former Nicholas County High School Principal Joe Ozrazen not guilty of the charge of assault, fourth degree, following a two-day trial in Nicholas District Court, last week.

The jury took only 15 minutes of deliberation to reach a not guilty verdict.

Ozrazen, 36, was suspended from his job as NCHS principal on Feb. 18, 2009 and was arrested later that day by Carlisle Police Officer Sgt. Darrell Layne, who charged Ozrazen with assault, fourth degree. Ozrazen's suspension and arrest came in the wake of a Feb. 10 incident at the high school between Ozrazen and 15-year-old Dusty Green, a student at NCHS.



Former NCHS Principal Joe Ozrazen is embraced and congratulated by family and friends following the not guilty verdict rendered during his assault trial Friday afternoon in Nicholas District Court.

Judge, Honorable Jay Detony, monitored the court proceedings with intensity, instructing jury members, attorneys and witnesses, on all facts of the law and the case at hand.

my ended off the second day.

Opening Arguments

The trial began with opening arguments from special prosecutor Charles Kuster. Kuster was appointed the case because of a conflict of interest with Dawn Letcher, the county attorney of Nicholas County who also provides legal counsel for the Nicholas County Schools.

Kuster played the nationally recognized video of the incident as captured by one of the school cameras mounted above the front entrance of NCHS.

Kuster told jurors that Dusty Green "got slammed" to the ground because of a "good casing."

He stopped the video at the point of confrontation and physical restraint executed by Ozrazen.

he pointed to the video. "He took him down a second time."

Kuster told jurors that Ozrazen had suffered a painful broken collarbone injury just prior to the incident and implied that Ozrazen intentionally and wantonly caused pain to Green without reasonable cause.

"And it is no coincidence that the young man (Green) was drug to the left and punished," Kuster said noting the incident.

Kuster ended his opening argument by saying "It will become clear. There is no evidence to justify slamming a kid in a vulgar manner."

David Franklin, one of Ozrazen's attorneys, spoke forcefully during his opening arguments and repeated some of the vulgar language that Green allegedly used during the day of the incident.

was a result of an earlier incident at the day involving cell phones.

Franklin said trouble began when Ozrazen entered Barbara Allison's class and confiscated cell phones that were turned on.

Cell phone usage during school and class is prohibited and clearly outlined in school policy.

When Green's cell phone was found to be on and confiscated Franklin said Green reacted by using extremely vulgar language.

"Mother f***er my cell phone isn't on!" Franklin said loudly repeating what Green allegedly said that day.

When Allison gave the phone to Ozrazen Green continued, according to Franklin.

"No mother f***er! I want my f***ing phone!" Franklin's eyes met each of the stunned jurors.

See OZRAZEN Page 7

Local man gives gift of life

By Charles Mattox
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Would you risk your life and go through a painful medical procedure to help a total stranger?

Tom Brady, 39, of Nicholas County, did just that recently.

Brady and his fiancée Pam King traveled to Washington D.C. at the Georgetown University Medical Center for the medical procedure on Dec. 8.

Brady said that in 1995, while donating blood, he signed up with the National Bone Marrow Registry.

He received a letter in late October from the Registry informing him that he was a possible match of a person that could use his help.

Brady agreed to help and began the process to have the bone marrow extraction.

"I had to give several blood samples and had an extensive physical," Brady said. "I also had to answer a lot of questions."

Brady said he never considered not helping the stranger.

"I knew it was something that needed to be done and it felt like the right thing to do. It felt to me like I was supposed to do it."

The painful procedure resulted in Brady having 17 holes drilled into one side of his hip and marrow extracted, and 18 holes drilled into the other side of his hip.

"They were able to extract one ounce of marrow with each hole they drilled," he said.

Brady has not met the recipient of the life-saving bone marrow, but knows that she is a 47-year-old woman, who recently endured chemotherapy and has been in a sterile environment for the past six months.

The procedure, painful and life threatening in itself, caused Brady to become borderline anemic.

But Brady said he was glad to help and the pain of the surgery paled in comparison to pain he has experienced in his past.

Brady's son Mason was diagnosed with encephalitis in 2001 and nearly perished. Brady said many people in the community helped his son with financial assistance and through prayers and he will always be grateful for that.

"The physical pain of the medical procedure to give bone marrow was nothing compared to the mental pain I went through when my son Mason was diagnosed with encephalitis. When the doctors told me there was a chance that my son wouldn't live... well... there's just no pain that could ever match that. The pain of the surgery was nothing. A lot of people helped my son and this was a chance to help someone else. This woman is someone's child and I know what it means to

Nicholas man charged with sex crime

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on the morning of the alleged incident.

Kerr then allegedly grabbed her with his hand, according to the citation against Kerr.

The victim then woke up her boyfriend who attacked Kerr with a rolling pin and Kerr fled the scene after repeatedly Nicholas District Court apologizing, according to the arrest citation.

Kerr appeared last week in Nicholas District and had attorney Jennifer Wittmeyer, Trooper C. Arnett of the Public Defender's charged Kerr with the Office, appointed to his offense on Dec. 11.

Kerr's citation alleges Wittmeyer entered that Kerr's victim "woke a plea of not guilty on up" with Kerr on top of Kerr's behalf.

Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.

See BRADY Page 4



Bone marrow donor, Tom Brady, in the Carlisle Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 5.

almost lose a child. I was glad to help."

Brady could not ignore the risk.

The risk was there, and I could hear the concern in my mother's voice when we spoke about it.

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