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2009: a year in review

**Dec
30
2009**

**By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
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The year 2009 was a momentous one in Nicholas County, and the following is a brief synopsis of the leading stories covered in the Carlisle Mercury.

JANUARY

The investigation into the Dec. 29, 2008 shooting of Brenda Pollitt begins in earnest. Pollitt was shot to death by her alleged killer, Gary off duty Boone County Deputy Sheriff Scott Hill near the community of Hill's past. A Nicholas County Grand Jury later examines the case but no indictments are issued in this tragic shooting.

John Jones begins serving his term as Carlisle's newest city council member.

Paul Douglas Jolly,

45 and Douglas Hunt, 31 are indicted on charges related to the previous month's theft of a firefighter's vehicle. The vehicle was recovered in the Lacking River.

Former Nicholas County Judge-Executive Chuck Stone passes away Jan. 13 at the UK Medical Center.

Nicholas County native, Pauline Mastin, 43, is beaten to death in Lexington on Jan. 17. Her alleged killer, Gary T. Stone is charged with

Nicholas County High School alumnus and outstanding athlete, Sam Reid, has his football jersey retired. Reid holds several Bluejacket records and played extremely well at ECU where he was named to the Ohio Valley Conference Team.

Jessica Gilkerson and D.R. Purvis are honored with the title of Homecoming royalty.

The community mourns the loss of former County Coroner Roy

Guinane, who departs Jan. 24.

A winter storm blankets the county with snow, ice and more snow as January gives way to February. No lives are lost but several individuals suffer broken bones when they slip on the ice. Several dozen members of the local National Guard Unit, 138th Field Artillery, are activated and join Nicholas County firefighters and other emergency personnel in helping to clear roadways and assist those in need.

Thomas Holder, 28 and Pam Shepherd, 21 are charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a controlled substance after Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff gilkerson suspicious activity and possibly thwarted the intended bank robbery of Deposit Bank Westside Branch Feb. 10.

County firefighters battle a 50-acre brush

fire along Ritchie Road Feb. 17 and contain the blaze with no homes being lost.

After being suspended for a Feb. 10 incident between himself and a student, NCHS Principal Joe Orazan is arrested and charged with assault, fourth degree.

Veteran educator David McDowell joins Interim High School Principal Anne Poe as Poe's assistant principal.

MARCH

NCHS junior Kyle Campbell is named to the 10 Region first team, as a basketball standout.

Nicholas County firefighters continue with their blistering pace of battling four fires in one week.

NCHS student Ben Layne suffers serious injury during a single-vehicle accident on Howard's Mill Road March 10. Layne suffers injuries to his spine, ribs and leg.

Nicholas County native Danny "Trick" Dixon

perishes in a mobile home fire March 14 at the Bluegrass Trailer Park.

A March 18 incident described by officials and those involved as a "horrible prank gone wrong" results in the total destruction by fire of the home of Dreams Griffith. Garrett Young, 19 is charged with felony arson, third degree and criminal mischief, first degree. Jordan Stewart, 18 and a male juvenile are charged with criminal trespassing, third degree. A juvenile female who was along but allegedly never left the vehicle was not charged in the incident. Young set off

firework with projectiles on Griffith's porch, which later caused the roof to catch fire and destroy the home with Griffith escaping unharmed.

Opening ceremonies are held for The Corner Studio at 240 East Main Street, a gallery and workshop of members of the Courthouse Square Arts Guild.

Joey Trimble and Phylis Peterson are charged with arson and wanton endangerment in connection with a March 25 fire at Hall's Apartments in downtown Carlisle. Trimble, who maintained his innocence



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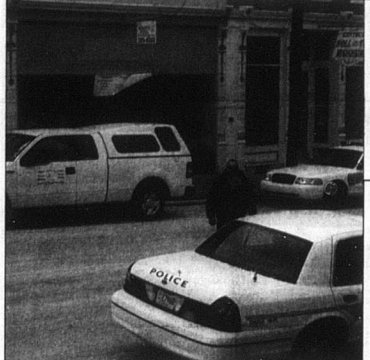


Photo by Charles Mattox
Carlisle Police Officer Ron Allison exits EZ Rider Restaurant on Monday morning after a burglary was reported there. Police say burglars gained entry into the business through the rear and removed money.

Business burglarized

**By Charles Mattox
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E Z Riders Restaurant was burglarized late Sunday night or early Monday morning with money being taken from the Main Street business and damage done to the building.

Carlisle Police Officer Benjie Buckler continues to lead the investigation into the burglary as The Mercury goes to press early Monday afternoon. Carlisle Chief of Police Bill Denton and CPD Officer Ron Allison, are assisting Buckler in the investigation. Police say the burglar(s) gained entrance through the rear of the building and removed an undetermined amount of money. Anyone with any information regarding the burglary is urged to contact the Carlisle Police Department.

Soda machine bandits strike

**By Charles Mattox
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Soda machine bandits hit Nicholas County last week damaging soda machines at four locations and removing coin boxes from each of the machines.

Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett and Deputy Sheriff Ron Herrington continue to investigate the crimes in a joint investigation with the Carlisle Police Department. According to Sheriff Garrett and Chief of Police Bill Denton, the bandits used drills to penetrate the machines at Ludlow's Steak House, where the bandits hit three machines. A&K Liquors, the Tobacco Shack and A Little Off The Top.



Photo by Joshua E. Harper
Nicholas County EMT hosted a successful "Toys for Tots" drive this year. Pictured left to right are Scot Allison and Jordan Letcher.

Clarification

In an article printed in last week's edition of The Carlisle Mercury it was reported that Nicholas County Schools Supt. Greg Reid testified that he sent Doug Bechanan and Hank Bond to attempt to intercept a student leaving the campus during an incident with then principal Joe Orazan. It was in fact board office administrators Kevin Miller and Doug Bechanan who were sent to intercept the student, according to Bond. Bond remained in the board office to direct police up the hill should they stop there, and had no role or interaction during the incident.

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