

**SOPER'S  
FAMILY DRUG**  
132 South Broadway Corner  
of Broadway & Market St.  
Phone: (859) 289-8501  
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
"The Only Pharmacy Your Family Needs"

# The Carlisle Mercury

Vol. 143 No. 6

The Nicholas County News Since 1867

ALTOP'S DIGIT 405  
Preservation Reforming Cent  
110 KING BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
LEXINGTON KY 40506-0001

February 11, 2009

## Suspected bank robbery thwarted

**By Charles Mattox  
News Reporter**  
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

A potential modern day Bath County Bonnie and Clyde who were suspected of attempted bank robbery were arrested in the parking lot of the Deposit Bank Westside Branch Tuesday morning.

The trained eye of Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler noticed a 1994 Ford Taurus backed into the parking lot at the bank and immediately became suspicious.

"I was getting ready to cash my tax check and saw the vehicle parked in a strange manner. Not too many people back up to a

bank," Buckler said moments after making the arrest. "I looked closer and saw that there was no license plate on the vehicle. I knew something wasn't right so I called for backup and drew my weapon and told the man to exit the vehicle. The lady with him jumped over the seat into the back. We later found a shotgun in the back."

Drugs and paraphernalia were also allegedly found inside the vehicle, according to investigators.

Buckler's quick call for assistance was met with an extreme rapid response from Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton, Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, Jailer Jeff Sidles and

Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes.

After Buckler, Garrett and Sidles, had both suspects out of their vehicle, Denton discovered a 12-gauge shotgun and a handgun in the car. Shotgun ammunition was also later found in the vehicle.

The couple was then immediately arrested.

Thomas Holder, 28, and Pamela Shepherd, 24, both of Owingsville, were charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a controlled substance.

Both were being intensely interrogated by federal agents Tuesday at noon and as The Mercury was going to press, officers said other

charges could be pending. Neither Holder, nor Shepherd made it inside the bank before being stopped by Buckler.

"I think I picked a pretty good time to cash my tax check," Buckler said with an easy smile to fellow officers as the couple was placed in separate vehicles to be transported to the Carlisle Police Station where federal agents later arrived and joined in the interrogation process.

Both Holder and Shepherd were read their Miranda rights when arrested. Neither made a statement at the scene.

The Mercury will follow the events as they unfold.

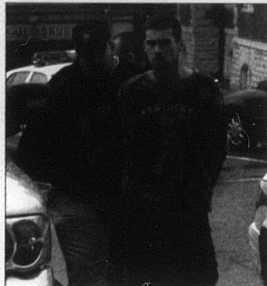


Photo by Charles Mattox

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler and Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton escort suspected bank robber Thomas Holder into the Carlisle Police Station for interrogation.



Photo by Charles Mattox

Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett escorts Pamela Shepherd into the Carlisle Police Station for interrogation Tuesday morning.



Photo by Charles Mattox

TENSE MOMENTS: A suspected bank robbery was thwarted Tuesday morning. L-R, Bank President Tom Ockerman escorts a customer to safety from the bank as Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton finds a shotgun in the suspect vehicle as Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler questions the female suspect and Jeff "Bubba" Sidles secures the male suspect.

## Accident injures ambulance personnel

**By Charles Mattox  
News Reporter**  
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

Nicholas County is known for the dedication of their ambulance personnel, but slippery roads last week caused a vehicle to slide into one of the ambulances and the medics soon became patients.

"It was like going from one extreme to the other," veteran EMS technician Jeremy Hughes said following an accident Feb. 3, which occurred near the Robertson/Harrison County border and which damaged the ambulance and sent Hughes and EMS Director Nelson Sewell to the hospital via ambulance themselves.

Hughes was driving a Robertson County patient to Harrison Memorial Hospital as Sewell was treating her in the rear of the ambulance.

Without road conditions technician Hughes was only able to drive about 35 miles per hour but was making steady progress toward the hospital.

At approximately 11:55 when the ambulance was approximately 12 miles east of Cynthiana, a 2001 Toyota driven by Yong Sattion, 51, spun out of control due to the slippery road conditions and struck the ambulance, according to a report filed by Harrison County Deputy Sheriff Richard Hutchison.

"Jeremy did a good job of keeping us on the road," Sewell said of Hughes' driving that night. "If we had left the road I feel like we would have probably overturned a couple of times."

Sewell was released from medical care and returned to the EMS service within hours.

Hughes has not yet been released from physicians care, but said he expects to return to the job this week.

"I'm sore and got some whiplash, but I thank the Lord that it wasn't worse than what it was," Hughes said.

Sewell and Hughes treated Yong for non-life-threatening injuries by at the scene before being treated themselves.



Nicholas EMS Director Nelson Sewell inspects damage to one of the ambulances that occurred Feb. 3, as Sewell and Jeremy Hughes were transporting a patient to Harrison Memorial Hospital from Robertson County. Sewell was released the night of the accident by physicians and Hughes said he hopes to be released to return to duty this week.

## Hopkins pleads guilty

**By Charles Mattox  
News Reporter**  
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

A Carlisle woman indicted last year by a federal grand jury on a charge of tampering with consumer products entered a guilty plea recently during her arraignment in federal court in Lexington.

Julia Hopkins, 41, of Carlisle, entered a plea

of guilty during her appearance Jan. 26 before Federal Judge Honorable Joseph Hood.

Hood sentenced Hopkins, a former nurse at St. Joseph Hospital, to four years probation.

Hopkins was indicted on Sept. 4, 2008, and faced a possible sentence of 20 years imprisonment, according to the indictment.

The indictment issued

## Schools placed on lockdown

Nicholas County Schools were placed on lockdown, Tuesday, Feb. 10, following an alleged bank robbery attempt at Deposit Bank of Carlisle, directly across the street from the school campus.

The alleged robbery occurred mid-morning when law enforcement officials determined there was a possibility the bank would be robbed.

While two people were taken into custody, law

enforcement officials were unsure if there was one or more other individuals possibly involved, thus Supt. Greg Reid directed school buildings be placed on lockdown status.

Following school procedures the school buildings were locked down with internal and exterior doors locked, until law enforcement agencies provided additional information.

against Hopkins alleged that she tampered with a consumer product that affected interstate commerce, specifically the drug morphine, and with the labeling and container of that product, according to a press release issued by the Office of United States Attorney James Zerhuson.

The indictment alleged that Hopkins en-

gaged in tampering by replacing morphine contained in three separate syringes with saline solution and placing the saline filled syringes into the hospital's drug dispensing mechanism.

Officers with the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations and the Mt. Sterling Police also assisted in the investigation.

**DOYLE**  
Mobile Homes, Inc.  
"Make your house a home!" Since 1962  
Rt. 11 North & Mayville Road, Flemingsburg, KY  
Weekdays 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Sunday  
606-845-8601 • 606-845-0301 • 606-845-0526  
www.doylemobilehomes.com

**Cheaps**  
714 W. WATER ST., FLEMINGSBURG, KY 41041  
Your Local, Nearest Dealer  
Phone (606) 845-2261  
Fax (606) 845-2441  
Toll Free 1-888-845-2261  
2008 Colorado  
Available in Colorado  
Suburbs • Tahoe • Dealer  
Visit us at  
www.cheapschevrolet.com

**Homes For Sale in Nicholas County**  
234 Columbia Dr. 422 N. Elm St.  
1845 Mint Ridge Rd. 210 Dursey Ave.  
283 L. Jackson Rd. 283 Cliftonway Dr.  
306 Mary Ln. - Law Estates 225 Cliftonway Dr.  
**Vince Wells**  
Real Estate & Auction  
(859) 289-5594  
Considering a More Spacious Home?  
"Thinking About Downsizing?"  
Contact Vince or Casey Today  
and Let Us Do The Work!  
See us Website  
for additional details and listings  
www.vincewellsrealty.com