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Carlisle woman murdered in Lexington

By Charles Mattox
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A Carlisle woman was beaten to death in Lexington early Saturday morning and her alleged killer was charged with the heinous crime Monday.

Pauline Mastin, 43, of Second Street, Carlisle was found beaten to death at 567 Mair Station Road, Lexington police arrived at the scene after receiving a 911 call from the residence at approximately 4:23 a.m. Saturday morning Jan. 17, according to Lt. James Curless of the Lexington Police Department.

"We do not believe this was an attack directed at Mrs. Mastin," Curless said. "We believe she was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Mrs. Mastin was truly an innocent victim."

Mastin was spending the night with her brother-in-law Bart Mastin and his wife, Jamie, who police say had suffered a stroke several years ago. Bart Mastin lives on a private farm owned by retired veterinarian Delano Fretter Jr., and it was at the Mastin home where the murder occurred.

Police sources say they believe Mastin's alleged killer

may have been a former employee of the horse farm where Mastin was murdered. Curless did not confirm this but did confirm that Curless was very familiar with the area.

According to police, Pauline Mastin was staying with Bart and Jamie-Mastin while her husband Johnny was at a nearby Lexington hospital for medical reasons.

"Mrs. Pauline Mastin died as a result of blunt force trauma," L. Curless said. "Mr. Bart Mastin also sustained serious physical injury due to the assault."

Police arrested Gary T.

Stone, 31, of Nicholasville, Saturday on an unrelated warrant and on Monday charged Stone with murder, burglary, first degree, and assault, first degree, in connection with Pauline Mastin's murder and the assault on Bart Mastin.

Curless said dozens of Lexington officers have been actively engaged in the investigation.

"We've had over 20 officers involved in the investigation," Curless said. "Items had been removed from the residence. Our officers have been working diligently on this terrible crime and we had a person we

were focusing on early in the investigation. I believe our investigation moved quickly and in a positive direction."

Lt. Curless was asked about the robbery and if several large items were removed from the home.

"No," he said and then paused for several seconds. "We believe that only a few small items were taken."

(A local security guard from

a neighboring farm provided police with a critical piece of information.

"A security guard from a neighboring farm located a vehicle in the neighborhood and recorded the license plate. That provided us with fruitful information. It was very fortunate that a security guard was in place and patrolling."

Curless said Stone had been interviewed, but did not comment on the specifics of the interview.

Police say they believe Mastin was asleep on the couch when Stone allegedly entered the home.

Community mourns the passing of former judge

By Charles Mattox
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The extended Nicholas County community mourns the passing of former Nicholas County Judge-Executive and deputy sheriff, Charles W. "Chuck" Smith.

Smith, 69 passed away Jan. 13 at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center.

Smith was a well-known and respected leader of the community.

"Chuck Smith was a very honest and hard-working man," said Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tincher. "Chuck was a great community leader. This is not only a great loss to his family, but this is a great loss for Nicholas County. Chuck served on various county boards and everyone appreciated his dedication. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time."

Carlisle Mayor Ronnie Clark echoed Judge Tincher's sentiments.

"Chuck was just an all-around great guy," Clark said. "He really cared about the community and all the people of the community. He treated everyone the same. It didn't matter if you were rich, poor or in between, Chuck was the same with everyone. My heart goes out to the family. They've lost a great member of the family and the community has lost a great community leader."

County Clerk Doug Fry-

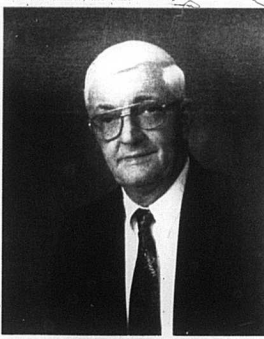
man worked side by side with Judge Smith during his term as County Judge-Executive from 1994-1998. But their relationship was forged, not just from professionalism, but also from a love of the outdoors and fishing.

"Chuck absolutely loved fishing and boating," Fryman said. "We loved the water and we spent a lot of time together on the water. We fished in nearly every lake in the state. In the spring we would fish for crappie and in the summer we would fish for catfish in Lake Garnace, the Ohio

River and several other places. Chuck was one of the best friends a person could have. He'd go out of his way to help you. He was just a super all around guy."

Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett worked with Smith when Smith was a deputy sheriff and Garrett was a jailer.

"Chuck was a very good person," Garrett said. He understood the law and he understood the people of Nicholas County. Chuck did a lot for the county and for everyone in Nicholas County."



Charles W. "Chuck" Smith

Carlisle woman arrested in scam

By Charles Mattox
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A Carlisle woman has been arrested in connection with a scam in which she allegedly used the tragic deaths of four area children for "her own personal gain."

Carlisle Police Officer Ron Allison arrested Melissa Whitt, 30, of Main Street, Carlisle, Jan. 16

and charged Whitt with theft by deception.

Defendant (Whitt) placed money cans in local business establishments and collected money by creating a false impression that the money would be expended toward payment for funeral expenses of four (4) juveniles who were killed in a tragic fire in Montgomery County,"

states an arrest warrant prepared and signed by County Attorney Dawn Letcher and which was signed by Officer Allison. "Defendant admittedly expended a portion of the money for her own personal gain."

According to Allison's complaint, as listed on the arrest warrant, the offense took place on Jan. 14.

Whitt's bail has been set at \$2,500.



Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court joined members of the Nicholas County Adult Learning program in declaring Jan 19-23 as "Adult Learner Week."

Members quibble at Fiscal Court meeting

By Charles Mattox
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County magistrates quibbled over tax district bonuses for library employees and voiced disgust regarding a water line project during the Jan. 13 meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court.

"How can a taxing district give bonuses," Magistrate Darrel Stacy asked after reading the Nicholas County Library report, which indicated cash bonuses had been awarded to library staff. Stacy had lobbied long and hard in the past to provide county road employees with a bonus, but no bonuses were ever provided. "It seems unfair to me. I mean we can't even give our employees a ham or a turkey and here they are giving away \$500 bonuses. To me, that's a pretty good bundle."

Judge-Executive Larry Tincher said he had received the report only moments before the court met and could not comment directly on it.

Magistrates also questioned the quality of work surrounding a recent water line project on Hester Ridge Road, Arthur Pike, North Lake Shore, Stony Creek, Hickory Ridge Road and other roads in Nicholas County, according to discussion among magistrates at the court meeting.

Magistrate Jeff Randolph expressed disgust over the project, which he and others say caused

damage to county roads and private property.

"I've been on the court for 12 years and this is the worst thing that ever happened to this county. We're going to hold someone responsible for this."

Magistrate Stacy joined Randolph in expressing disgust over the project.

"Someone told them to go down the ditch line," Stacy said in reference to a section of county road, which was damaged because the contractors doing the work had placed the water line too close to the road. "Someone told them to go down that ditch."

"Yeah," Randolph said. "And someone is going to fix the road."

Temper continued to flare. "The buck has to stop somewhere," Stacy pointed out when discussion touched on finding the responsible party.

Magistrate Steve Hamilton offered his opinion. "Ultimately the water board members that we appoint are responsible for this," he said. "That's the bottom line."

Judge-Executive Larry Tincher commented. "No one brought this project to the court for approval," he said.

The Mercury will follow details of the project and actions taken if any, in future editions.

In other business the court:

• Signed a proclamation designating Jan. 19-23 as "Adult Learner Week."

Discussed working with the Nicholas County Animal Welfare society on improving conditions at the Nicholas Animal Shelter. Members of the Society want to install electricity and water to the shelter to better serve the animals. Court members also discussed building a facility and leasing the facility to the Shelter in the future but took no specific action, other than instructing County Attorney Dawn Letcher to draft a release form for individuals who wish to adopt a pet from the shelter.

Discussed the county's salt supply for inclement weather. "We have 74 tons of salt and 187 tons of calcium," Judge Tincher said. "We can get more salt. Magistrate Steve Hamilton said he was in favor of using the salt as much as possible to treat dangerous sections of Nicholas County roads. "That's one service I don't want to see us cut for our constituents," he said.

Heard from Hamilton, who also serves on the Hospital Board about the hospital's desire to see the separation of the hospital and nursing home complex.

Approved the sheriff's budget after hearing from Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett. Garrett informed court members that there was no increase in salaries in his office.

Praised Ed Taylor for a delicious meal he provided county employees for the Christmas Season.

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