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The Carlisle City

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Shooting injures Headquarters man

By Charles Mattox
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A Headquarters man remains hospitalized after receiving a accidental gunshot wound Monday afternoon.

Chris Mitchell, 37, of 980 Headquarters and Saltwell Road, was doing some electrical work in his brother's garage when he inadvertently pulled on an electrical wire, which caused a .22 caliber rifle to come dislodged from its resting place, fall, discharge and send a projectile into Mitchell's right shoulder, according to investigators.

According to Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett,

who was the first officer on the scene, Mitchell was able to call for help.

"Thank God he had his cell phone with him," Garrett said following the shooting.

MCI journalist Joshua Harper joined Garrett at the scene. Harper photographed several areas of the shooting scene at Garrett's request. Nicholas County EMS personnel also arrived quickly on the scene after receiving permission from Garrett, who cleared the scene, to ensure no active shooter was present. EMS personnel treated Mitchell and stopped the flow of blood from his wound.

Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Bunker also arrived on the scene quickly and was joined by two troopers with the Kentucky State Police Dry Ridge Post.

The shooting incident remains under investigation by the Nicholas County Sheriff's Department, and no foul play is suspected.

Mitchell was treated on the scene by Nicholas County EMS who transported him to the Nicholas County Hospital. Mitchell was then transported by air to the University of Kentucky Medical Center, where he remains hospitalized after undergoing surgery, according to investigators.



Nicholas County EMS personnel treated Chris Mitchell, 37, Monday afternoon at his Headquarters residence, after he accidentally received a gunshot wound to his right shoulder. Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, right, was the first officer on the scene and was joined by two Kentucky State Troopers, left.



Sunday's accident on Highway 68 near the Headquarters Rd. turned off left an overturned boat in the eastbound lane, closing the highway in both directions for 90 minutes.

Sunday accident closes Highway 68

By Stephen Scalf
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A single-vehicle accident July 19 on US 68, left members of a Lexington family injured and closed the US 68 for approximately 90 minutes, as boat was left sitting in the middle of the roadway, due to the accident.

The accident occurred round 8:45 p.m. on Sunday, when Larry Johnson, his wife and son, were heading home after a long day on the lake, passing through

Nicholas County on their way home to Lexington. The Johnson vehicle was traveling westbound on Highway 68 and the accident happened near the intersection of US 68 and Headquarters Road.

Mrs. Johnson was driving their SUV, which was towing a large motorboat.

According to Mr. Johnson, their son who was strapped into a booster seat in the back of the family's SUV, threw something, either a chair or towel, to the front of the car which landed on Mrs. Johnson's head, momentarily obstructing her view. In the short time it took her to uncover her face, Mrs. Johnson had drifted into the opposite lane.

When she saw the oncoming traffic, she made a sudden steering correction, trying to get the SUV back into the westbound lane. The accident lane change sent the boat trailer out of control, flipping both the SUV and the trailer, snapping the hitch and leaving the boat upside down in the middle of the eastbound lane. All windows of the SUV shattered as the vehicle rolled.

The child, seated with the child still strapped in, was ejected through a passenger window as the vehicle overturned.

Officer Ron Allison of the Carlisle Police Department was the first to report to the scene, followed shortly by two Nicholas County EMS ambulances. Officer Allison realized the boat was leaking gasoline onto the pavement and quickly called for the Nicholas County Fire Department to assist in containing and cleaning up the spill.

In spite of the violence of the accident and the child's ejection from the vehicle, initial indications were that all members of the family had escaped serious injury. Mrs. Johnson suffered a laceration across her right shin and complained of hip pain.

The small boy appeared more frightened than injured, however, emergency medical personnel evaluated and him for possible back injury as a precaution. Mr. Johnson received only minor scrapes. The family was transported to Nicholas County Hospital to receive treatment for their injuries and for additional evaluation.

The accident and ensuing clean-up forced the closure of Highway 68 for approximately 90 minutes.

City council members hear complaints about fireworks

By Charles Mattox
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Can celebrating a National Holiday lead to endangering the lives of neighbors?

The question was discussed in some detail during the Monday night meeting of the Carlisle City Council when a Carlisle couple said this year's Fourth of July fireworks celebration went too far at their home.

"It was like a war zone in our neighborhood," Malinda Sosby said.

She, and husband Mike Sosby came before the members of the council and brought a large cardboard box with them. The box was filled with unexploded fireworks and debris they say they picked up off their property the day after the Fourth of July.

"If it would have been dry, I believe our house would have caught on fire," she said.

Council members expressed concern.

"Were the fireworks illegal?" Councilman Tommy Crawford asked.

"We don't know," the couple said as they shrugged shoulders.

Discussion from Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton indicated that the state fire marshal inspects all fireworks retail sales vendors, and at least one local fireworks vendor made customers sign a waiver that they would not ignite the fireworks in Kentucky.

"It's not illegal to possess those fireworks, it's illegal to shoot them

in Kentucky," Denton said.

Denton also said that Carlisle police officers were called to the scene three times that evening.

Chief Denton said Carlisle Police Officer Mark Snedegar immediately shift the activities down upon hearing of fireworks striking the homes of neighbors.

The Sosbys described the neighbor in question who they believed was hosting a Fourth of July party as being "a good neighbor" when he was by himself and would not their eyes out.

added that in general, and in particular on the Fourth of July "he had a lot of friends."

Mayor Clark said he understood the problem as presented by Mr. and Mrs. Sosby, but was torn with the dilemma, due to the patriotic nature of celebrating the Fourth of July.

Denton also struggled with the problem.

"Yes, I do think it is dangerous," he said. "But dressing children in outfits and sending them across the streets is dangerous also, but I don't think we should cancel Halloween."

Denton said he believed there would be no problem if people were responsible with fireworks and considered their neighbors.

Mayor Clark emphasized that he was sorry it happened and that anyone that makes a mess should clean it up.

"But," he said, "I also understand it was the Fourth of July and I don't want to sound like I'm canceling it."

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