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The Carlisle

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Community mourns death of Commonwealth Attorney

By Charles Mattox
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Doug Wright, 48, the Commonwealth's Attorney for the 18th Judicial District, which includes Harrison, Pendleton, Nicholas and Robertson County, was killed in a two-vehicle accident June 8, just north of Butler in Pendleton County.

"On Monday, June 8, 2009, at approx 1833 hours Troopers from the Kentucky State Police in Dry Ridge responded to a two-vehicle collision on US 27 just north of Butler in Pendleton County," states a Kentucky State Police Dry Ridge Post release regarding the accident. "Daniel Gabbard was traveling southbound on US 27 while operating a 1998 International semi truck. Doug Wright was traveling northbound on US 27 in a 1990 Buick Riviera. Mr. Gabbard crossed the centerline and struck Mr. Wright's vehicle in the northbound lane. The Pendleton County and Deputy Coroner, Gerald Mudd, pronounced Doug

Wright dead on scene. The Pendleton County Ambulance Service transported Mr. Gabbard from the scene to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. This incident remains under investigation by Trooper Chad Mills and Detective Scott Lengle.

The Kentucky State Police was assisted on scene by the Campbell County Emergency Management, the Northern KY Hazmat Team, Falmouth Police Department, Pendleton County Sheriff's Department, Butler Police Department, Butler Fire Department, Pendleton County Emergency Management and the Pendleton County Ambulance Service.

Wright was unopposed during the 2006 election when he became Commonwealth Attorney and had previously left a thriving private law practice to become the assistant Commonwealth Attorney under Jack Keith.

He was very well known and respected in the community, especially by those who knew him over

the years and worked closely with him. "Doug will be sorely missed," said Dawn Letcher, County Attorney of Nicholas County.

Letcher commented briefly about Wright Monday "at noon after returning from Wright's office to personally offer her condolences and assist the staff in any way.

"We are devastated to hear of this loss," she said with a heavy heart. "Doug was a devoted husband and father and he was a devoted Commonwealth Attorney. We, in our office, always enjoyed a very positive and productive working relationship with Doug and we're still just in shock. Doug was always such a Kentucky gentleman. He worked tirelessly for the commonwealth and he truly worked to pursue justice for everyone."

Others who worked closely with Wright and knew him as a close and devoted friend also spoke of his dedication to the community.

"He was a very passionate about the law," said Jesse Melcher, County

Attorney of Robertson County and life-long friend of Wright's. "Doug was more than a Commonwealth Attorney. He was very active in the community and he was a person who believed in doing the right thing."

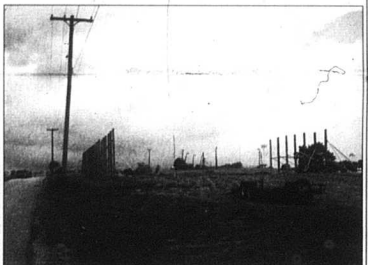
Melcher praised Wright's dedication to the communities he served.

"Doug was from Pennsylvania, but he fell in love with this area and this was his home. Doug didn't take from the community, he gave. He believed in the judicial system and he treated people fairly. He made a difference in the communities he served. He was in the prime of his life and he was a great guy with a great family. This is a terrible blow; a good family has lost a loved one and it is a terrible loss to the legal profession and to the communities Doug served. Doug took his position as Commonwealth Attorney very seriously but he always had a very pleasant personality. He had a very positive impact on my life and



Commonwealth Attorney Doug Wright, shown on the right, was passionate about the law and serving the communities of Harrison, Pendleton, Nicholas and Robertson County. He was always eager to assist a colleague. "Doug didn't take from the community, he gave," said Jesse Melcher, County Attorney of Robertson County. Melcher, who was a life-long friend of Wright, is shown on the left, talking to Wright at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Robertson County Justice Center in 2008. Wright was killed Monday afternoon during a tragic two-vehicle accident in Pendleton County.

many people's lives, gone." I wish I had one last chance to say something to him. I'm still in shock. Final arrangements I just can't give he's are pending.



Construction Project at West End Park

By Stephen Scalf
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If you have driven past West End Park lately, you may have looked up on the hill and wondered, "What are they building up there?" The answer to that question begins nearly three years ago when the Extension Office applied for a grant through the Department of Agriculture, Shows and Fairs division, to construct a show facility in Nicholas County.

The first submission was unsuccessful, but Mike Phillips of the Extension Office made the necessary adjustments to the grant submission, resubmitted, and received approval in 2007, with the funds arriving later that year.

The next task was to

have plans drawn up and to receive bids for the construction project, with the accepted bid coming in at \$102,000. The Extension Office then underwent the negotiation process with the State government to receive approval of the plans, which was necessary before construction could begin. This process lasted from Jan. 2009 through May 2009, requiring two revisions of the plans and an additional submission for the electrical plans. According to Mike Phillips, "There are not a lot of published guidelines for pole-type structures, so we had to make several adjustments to meet state requirements." The original plans, for example, were for a structure of 10,800 sq. ft. but the state's maximum for pole structures

is 10,500 sq. ft. The length of the structure had to be shortened, reducing the size to 10,336 sq. ft. The project required a great deal of cooperation from within the county to come this far. In addition to the 25% cost-share for the grant that the Extension Office had already procured, the County and the Fiscal Court provided the land for the building, as well as other services. The leveling of the site required approximately 200 loads of soil. Mark Fryman donated dirt from the excavation at his construction site and the County provided the labor and equipment to haul the dirt, which saved the project as much as \$32,000.

Cattle rustling case goes to grand jury



Angela Burbrink, left, and Chris "Pancake" Myers, center, listen to their attorney, Public Defender Jennifer Wittmeyer during a preliminary hearing in Nicholas District Court last week.

By Charles Mattox
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A Nicholas County Grand Jury will hear the case of three alleged modern day cattle rustlers.

Jeremy A. Terrell, 28, Chris "Pancake" Myers, 33 and Angela Burbrink, 27 appeared in District Court June 3 for a preliminary hearing regarding charges of theft by unlawful taking, more than \$300.

Terrell appeared with his attorney James Brannon. According to court documents, law enforcement officials, and community sources, Terrell, Myers and Burbrink were arrested May 1, after allegedly taking four head of cattle from a farm on Miller Station Road and selling them for \$1,200 to a buyer outside of Mayesville Stockyards.

Terrell waived his right to a preliminary hearing, which means the case will be heard by a future grand jury.

Myers and Burbrink appeared with Public Defender Jennifer Wittmeyer and their preliminary hearing was held.

County Attorney Dawn Letcher called Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bonnie Buckler as her only witness.

Deputy Buckler testified that he and Sheriff Dick Garrett conducted the investigation into the alleged cattle theft, spoke to the owner of the cattle, who is a relation of Terrell's, interviewed the man who bought the cattle and interviewed each of the three suspects.

Buckler said Terrell confessed to the crime.

"He admitted he took them (cattle)," Buckler said. "He said he was addicted to pills."

Buckler testified that Terrell also implicated Myers and Burbrink, but under cross-examination

testified that both Myers and Burbrink had the same consistent story and each had said they didn't know the cattle were stolen, although Buckler said it had been Myers who "set up the deal" to sell the cows to a "pin booker" outside of the stockyards.

District Judge Honorable Jay Delaney listened intently to the testimony of Buckler and heard the comments from Letcher and Wittmeyer.

On a motion of the commonwealth the theft charges against Myers and Burbrink was amended to receiving stolen property, more than \$300. Those charges will go before a future grand jury to determine if the charges will proceed to circuit court, or remain in the district court.

A charge of possession of a controlled substance, against Burbrink was dismissed.

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