



Photo by Charles Mattox

Robert Williams, 65, of Lexington was arrested Tuesday afternoon March 10 and charged with theft by unlawful taking, less than \$300. Williams is an employee of Maggard Engineering firm that is currently assessing the water line project. Williams allegedly took items including doughnuts, soup and beans in violation of Shell Mart without paying for them, according to Carlisle Police Officer Mark Snedegar.

"All actions are on surveillance video," Snedegar wrote on Williams' arrest citation. Mr. Williams is not associated with the Nicholas County Water Board, other than being associated with the ongoing project. Sources close to the project say the crime has led to Williams' immediate termination as an employee of the Maggard Engineering firm.

Officials flood water board project managers with complaints

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
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County officials flooded project managers with complaints during the last water board meeting. Mike Maggard of the engineering firm SME Engineering of Lexington was on hand to discuss the current water project along with Nicholas Water Board members. Tony Palarie, owner of BP Pipeline of Quincy Kentucky during the Feb. 24 water board meeting. BP Pipeline was awarded the project and Palarie says the project should be complete within two months if the weather does not turn foul.

Billy Tackett, BP foreman, was also on hand to clarify any misunderstandings between fiscal court members and those directly involved in the project. Magistrate Jeff Randolph, Daryl Stacy, Mike Webb and Steve Hamilton had raised serious concerns about the ongoing project during last month's fiscal court meeting. They, along with Magistrate Avery Thornburg and Nicholas County Judge-Executive Larry Tischer were present during the Feb. 24 meeting, held at the board office, just off of US 68.

Residents have launched a barrage of complaints to their magistrates about the project, with complaints varying from destroyed driveways, dangerous piles of dirt in the road and crumbling blacktop on county roads. "People's things messed up and they turn to their elected officials. We need to resolve the problems," Tischer said as the meeting began. Palarie assured Tischer and all others present that the project was ahead of schedule and when the project was completed a thorough inspection would be given and all complaints would be heard and corrections made.

"As soon as complaints come in Billy (Tackett) is taking a look at them," Tackett said. Tackett also assured those present the complaints would be heard and action would be taken when the project was complete.

"Let us get the project completed first," Tackett said. A source of anguish among all present was the replacing of water lines within county right-of-ways, which several magistrates said was creating a problem with destroying the road.

"Who gave permission to dig so close to the road?" Randolph asked. "I assure you I didn't."

Maggard said he had sent a letter to Tischer dated Feb. 4 of last year requesting the use of county right-of-ways. Maggard confirmed after questioning that he never received a reply authorizing the use of the right-of-ways, though the plan for the project was approved by several state agencies such as the Division of Water.

Maggard also told fiscal court members that out of 101 households receiving improved or new service, only 13 easements were acquired, thus the need to use the county right-of-ways.

Maggard said the problem was especially compounded due to a lack of easements being granted by property owners around Lake Carnico.

"Well it took about eight years to get some of those roads blacktopped on a only took about 30 days to mess them up," Randolph said with growing disgust. Magistrate Mike Webb raised questions about past easements that had been signed for water projects up to 20 years ago.

"Why didn't you stay within those easements?" Webb asked. "Well, I guess I'm going to believe what this man tells me until he proves me wrong."

Randolph reiterated the fray with complaints about dirt being piled onto the roadway in certain sections of the project. Palarie answered stating where the right-of-way was steep they had to put some dirt on the road because "they couldn't hang

from the trees." Several discussions broke out at once when Randolph again asked if Judge Tischer had signed any documents authorizing digging along the county right-of-way. Palarie did confirm, on pointed questioning from Hamilton and Randolph that before the project started and limited easements were acquired he had taken an extra day to drive the project with county road supervisor to explain what would be happening.

All agreed that that action by Palarie was indeed a good faith gesture and he was commended for his extra actions to reduce a communication break down.

Palarie and Tackett again assured all that they would rectify all the problems.

Palarie told The Mercury that he found the Nicholas County people and landscape to be most enjoyable and as he only lived a few miles away in Lewis County he wanted all to be pleased with the finished product.

Tackett echoed Palarie's statement



Project foreman Billy Tackett, left, project manager Tony Palarie, water board members Sam Reynolds and others study photographs shown by Magistrate Jeff Randolph, right, during last week's water board meeting.

Webb asked. "Some present implied those easements had not been used because project engineers and others did not want to interfere with old water lines that held asbestos."

Maggard denied that saying that sometimes the water lines were avoided to make sure there was no interference of service.

Magistrate Steve Hamilton raised serious questions about past projects and how all future projects were supposed to have had written approval from fiscal court members before the project started.

Palarie again assured Hamilton and others the problems would be fixed.

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Kentucky Public Retirees March Meeting

All Kentucky Public Retirees, which include all state, county and city retirees in this area, are invited to attend the Covered Bridge Chapter's meeting at Twin Pines Bowling Alley in Flemingsburg on Thursday, March 12 at noon. The Covered Bridge Chapter is a part of Kentucky Public Retirees, Inc. (KPR). This Chapter also includes Bath, Menifee and Rowan Counties. Kentucky Public Retirees is a non-profit organization of retired Kentucky government employees who wish to have input into their retirement future. Come join and keep informed of your retirement benefits and be part of an informative and worthwhile organization.

JETT TOURS 2009 Schedule

Date	Destination	Price Per Person
April 4-5	Nashville (Grand Ole Opry)	175.00
May 17-21	New York, New York (full)	625.00
May 31-June 6	Daytona Beach	550.00
June 8-12	Myrtle Beach	500.00
June 17-19	Elvis!! Graceland	375.00
June 22-26	Virginia Beach	500.00
June 29-30	Longaberger Basket Trip	150.00
July 8-20	Northwest Extravaganza (Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore Much Much More)	1500.00
July 24-28	Mackinac Island	650.00
August 10-14	New York, New York	625.00
Sept. 8-11	Washington D.C.	400.00
Sept. 21-25	Savannah/Charleston	550.00
Oct. 1-9	Fall Foliage (12 New England States!!)	975.00
Nov. 7-8	Nashville (Grand Ole Opry)	175.00
Dec. 4-6	Christmas at the Gaylord Opryland Resort	499.00

Important info!! For more info on these Fantastic Trips just call me at 606-295-3031 (Jett Tours) or write Lillian Jett Trent / 3063 Highland Road/Jackson, Ky. 41339. Price listed is per person based on double occupancy. Those wishing a room by themselves will need to pay extra. A small deposit holds your seat on

Nicholas finishes season just outside of 10th Region Top 10

Nicholas County boys' basketball head coach Michael Cofer was proud of his team for the way it played in what served as the final game of the 2008-09 season. The Jackets pushed Denning in the opening round of the 10th Region Tournament. Cold fourth quarter shooting limited the Jackets in the district tournament game. Denning eventually defeated Nicholas County 64-56, eliminating the Jackets from the post-season. Nicholas County finished the season 9-16, ranked just outside of the 10th Region Top 10 in the 11th position. Cofer is content with his team's collective efforts in the 2008-09 season.

"Our guys played hard throughout the season," Cofer said. "I was proud of the way the entire team played. Almost every game we played, we were in it before halftime. They played

hard in all four quarters."

Nicholas County dropped eight games by 12 points or less. Eight points or less decided four of Nicholas County's games that eventually ended in losses in the latest season.

The Jackets faced more one than hardship injury-laden during the 2008-09 season. Even before the season got underway, two starters - Jorhan, Myneer and Dalton Hampton - were injured. Myneer suffered an injury during football season while Hampton was sidelined with a torn ACL.

Junior Kyle Campbell led Nicholas County in scoring for a second straight season. Campbell, one of the 10th Region's top players, averaged 20-plus points per game for a second straight campaign. Campbell, however, wasn't spared a bite from the In-

jury Bug. He was also sidelined. Campbell played at least at 100 percent in at least three games during the latest season.

Nicholas County captured a Bluegrass Conference regular-season championship during the 2008-09 season, finishing 6-1 against the likes of Sayre, Paris, Burgin, Berea, Richmond Model and Kentucky School for the Deaf.

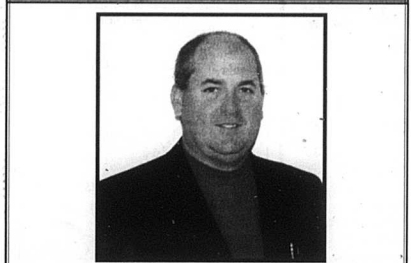
Several members of the NCHS boys' basketball team have switched gears to baseball or track and field. Nicholas County basketball players that aren't involved with other sports are scheduled to return to the gym during the month of June and start a competitive summer program that will consist of several scrimmages against numerous foes.

Material grandparents are Barbara Warmouth of Carlisle and Tim and Tina Warmouth of Bath County. Maternal great grandparents are Bill and Glenna McNabb of Carlisle and the late O.D. and Dorothy Warmouth.

Paternal grandparents are Ed and Elizabeth Walker of Carlisle and Nancy Jones

Cheering at the Next Level
Nicholas County High School graduate Brittany Davidson recently wrapped up her junior season during the Mid-South Conference Tournament. Davidson is majoring in Education. She is the daughter of Malissa Webb.
Photo courtesy of Sturgisville College

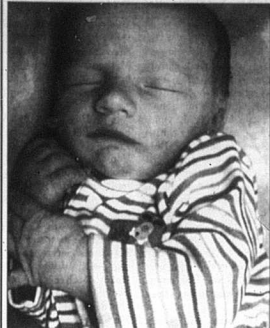
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COMMUNITY



Devin James Allen Walker

Kevin and Natasha Walker would like to announce the birth of their second child Devin James Allen Walker who was born December 7, 2008 in Harrison Memorial in Cynthiana. He weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Barbara Warmouth of Carlisle and Tim and Tina Warmouth of Bath County. Maternal great grandparents are Bill and Glenna McNabb of Carlisle and the late O.D. and Dorothy Warmouth. Paternal grandparents are Ed and Elizabeth Walker of Carlisle and Nancy Jones

Morgan Plank joins American Angus Assoc.

Morgan Plank, Carlisle, Kentucky, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association, reports Bryce Schumann, chief executive officer of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef registry association in the world, with nearly 33,000 active adult and junior members.

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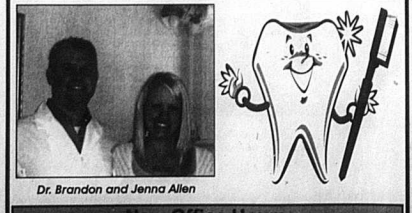
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