

**SOPER'S  
FAMILY DRUG**  
182 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. - 1:30 p.m.  
"The Only Pharmacy Your Family Needs"

# The Carlisle

Vol. 143 No. 12 The Nicholas County News Since 1867 Wednesday, March 25, 2009

50 cents

## Student 'prank' destroys home of teacher

By Charles Mattox  
News Reporter  
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

A 'prank' instigated by four teenagers on the evening of March 18, resulted in a Nicholas County teacher's home burning to the ground, all four of the teens suspended from school, and one of the four teen pranksters facing serious jail time.

Garrett Young, 19, of Mt. Olivet, was arrested March 19, on felony charges of arson, third degree, and criminal mischief, first degree.

Each charge carries a punishment of one to five years imprisonment upon conviction.

The charges stem from a March 18, late-night "prank," during which Young, a recent senior transfer from Denning School, and fellow NCHS senior, Jordan Stewart, with the assistance of a male juvenile, placed fireworks on the

property of Drama Griffith, a NCHS teacher.

"Defendant (Young) without permission, entered the property of (Griffith), 1290 Walnut Grove Road, at the approximate hour of 11:00 p.m. While thereon, Defendant ignited a firework and placed the firework on the front porch of the Griffith home, which resulted in a fire which destroyed the Griffith home," states a portion of the arrest warrant filed against Young at the behest of Kentucky State Police Arson Investigator, Detective Curtis Combs.

Stewart and the male juvenile were charged with criminal trespassing, third degree. A female juvenile, who was with the group, but allegedly took no action in the prank, has not been charged thus far.

According to investigators, the female juvenile left a

message on her myspace site on the Internet that partially stated the following.

"Hahaha gone down the road in a few with the boys and fireworks."

Those involved say it wasn't enough for a criminal charge.

Nicholas County Attorney Dawn Letcher stated that the charges did not originate in his office, but with Detective Combs who made the criminal charges after interviewing three of those involved.

Letcher also stated that Detective Combs and Commonwealth Attorney Doug Wright might present information to a future Nicholas County Grand Jury to consider, which could generate additional charges.

"It is my understanding at this point, that the investigation remains open," Letcher said Monday.

Young allegedly refused to



Garrett Young picked up the firework, ran onto the Griffith property, approximately 50 feet from the house, ignited the barrel configuration firework, and ran back to their vehicles.

The firework was a type, which when lit, stuzzles then sends bottle-rocket-type projectiles into the sky, which eventually burst and create a visual effect, according to investigators.

The fireworks' fuse actually fizzled out on the first attempt, and then, according to those close to the investigation, Garrett Young picked up the firework, ran to the Griffith house, placed the firework near the house, and re-ignited the fuse.

He acted alone on this capacity, according to Detective Combs.

See PRANK Page 9



Photo Submitted

Independent insurance investigator David Green, far right, joins Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes, Monday at the charred remains of the Drama Griffith home. Green and Hughes examined the destruction and uncovered additional firework material at the scene. KSP Arson Investigator Curtis Combs, who continues to investigate the crime, took the original firework container into evidence last week.

## Cowan man indicted on drug charges

By Charles Mattox  
News Reporter  
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

A Cowan man faces a possible maximum sentence of 80 years imprisonment on drug indictments that came in the wake of an undercover drug investigation and a raid on his home.

Ralph G. Short, 45, of Buchanan Road, Cowan, was indicted March 20 by a Fleming County Grand Jury on eight, drug-related charges.

Short was charged with four counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree.

Two of those four charges were enhanced because Short allegedly was in possession of a firearm, according to the indictments. Those indictments allege

that Short sold "two oxycodone tablets to a cooperating witness for \$90" and "sold four oxycodone to a cooperating witness for \$160." These buys occurred on August 15, 2008, and March 17, 2009. Short was arrested on March 19, following a search of his home by officers with the Buffalo Trace Gateway Narcotics Task Force, Kentucky State Police and officers with the Fleming County Sheriff's Office.

"He sold dope, we bought dope, and when we executed the search warrant we found dope. I don't know what else to say," said one of the law enforcement officials assigned to the Buffalo Trace Gateway Narcotics Task Force who was directly involved in the investigation and search of Short's

home. The agent quickly added that, "drugs are directly and indirectly related to at least 95 percent of all the crimes being committed in Fleming County."

Investigators found pills and a Rossi 410 shotgun with a separate 22 caliber rifle barrel in Short's closet, according to the indictments and other court documents.

Short was also indicted on two counts of trafficking in marijuana, less than eight ounces; one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and one count of trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree.

Short was also charged with one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

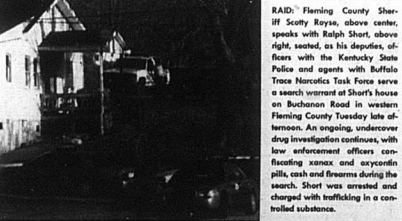
Short remains lodged in the Mason County Detention Center on \$10,000 cash bond.



Photo by Charles Mattox

Carlisle Police Officer Mike Kiskaden stands vigil near the back of Hall's Apartment on Main Street in Carlisle, March 18, when police were called to the scene after reports of a man being armed with a pistol and threatening neighbors. The man, later identified as Gary Brewer, hid left the scene only moments before police arrived. CPO Mark Smedegor was the first to arrive on the scene and was quickly joined by Kiskaden, Sgt. Darrell Layne, Carlisle Chief of Police William Denton, Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, Jailer Jeff Sidles and Fish and Wildlife Officer, William Earlywine. Residents were evacuated from the building and a section of Main Street was closed for approximately 30 minutes while police prepared to enter an apartment thought to hold the alleged gunman. Once all residents and citizens were safe, police forcibly entered the apartment to find it empty. The investigation remains open.

Photo by Charles Mattox



RAID: Fleming County Sheriff Scotty Roysa, above center, speaks with Ralph Short, above right, seated, on his deputies, officers with the Kentucky State Police and agents with Buffalo Trace Narcotics Task Force serve a search warrant at Short's house on Buchanan Road in western Fleming County Tuesday late afternoon. An ongoing, undercover drug investigation continues, with low enforcement officers conferring, canvassing homes and awaiting pills, cash and firearms during the search. Short was arrested and charged with trafficking in a controlled substance.

**DOYLE**  
Mobile Homes, Inc.  
"Make your house a home!" Since 1962  
Rt. 11 North & Maysville Road, Flemingsburg, KY  
Weekdays 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed Sunday  
606-845-8801 • 606-845-0301 • 606-845-0526  
www.doylemobilehomes.com

**Cheaps**  
714 W. WATER ST. FLEMINGSBURG, KY 41041  
Your Local Hamilton Dealer  
Phone (806) 845-2261  
Fax (806) 845-2441  
Toll Free 1-888-845-2261  
2007 Chevrolet  
Available in Colorado  
Aurora • Boulder • Fort Collins  
Durham • Greeley • Loveland  
Pueblo • Steamboat Springs  
Tell us at  
www.cheapschevrolet.com

**For Sale**  
Land, Homes and Land with Homes  
514 Rhonda Rd. Hazard Ky • 212 E. North St. Callway, Ky • Elderberry Dr. • Sherry Ave  
Stoney Creek Rd. • Upper Jacksons  
Mint Ridge Rd. • Mary Lane • and more.  
Vince Wells  
Real Estate & Auction  
859-289-5594  
Real Estate is What We Do!  
Buying or Selling Call Us Today!  
118 S. Broadway • Carlisle  
See our Website  
for additional details and listings  
www.vincewellsrealestate.com