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The Carlisle

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Mercury Questions Closed Session

By Melissa Mitchell
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It has been confirmed that a special meeting of the Nicholas County High School, School Based Council will be held on Mon., May 18.

The Carlisle Mercury has challenged the legality of that meeting being held in executive session, more commonly referred to as a closed session.

The meeting, it has been confirmed, is to interview candidates for the vacant high school principal's position. There will be more than one meeting held for the interview process.

The chairman, Acting Principal Anne Poe, is planning to hold the interviews in closed session.

An email was sent to high school certified staff members by Poe to invite them to take part in the closed session.

The email states that if any of the recipients would like to sit in on the interviews of the principal candidates, staff members would have to submit their names to Mrs. Poe by Fri., May 8. Exact dates for the interviews had not been set when the email was sent as Poe was waiting on one council member.

The plan is to hold interviews the week of May 18 on three consecutive evenings. The council will go into closed session with the staff members being invited, but others not allowed.

Certified staff members were asked to sign an agreement and commit to the following if they would like to attend the session:

1. Certified staff Members must attend all interviews in closed session.
2. Certified staff Members may give their input in writing only. There will not be a discussion of the candidate's performance with the certified staff members during the closed session.

3. Certified staff members must agree to follow the conduct required in a closed session. "Details discussed in closed session shall not be discussed outside the closed session."

Greg Reid, superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, was presented with The uCarlisle Mercury's letter of protest of the closed session of the site based council.

Reid said, "The Kentucky Association of School Councils trainer Tim Crook gave the approval of the email that it was legit."

According to the Open Meetings Act, the site-based council cannot hold a closed session and select a few members of the public to attend. The only way the council can hold a closed session is if the meeting is attended only by site based council members.

The Carlisle Mercury School Councils (KASC) contacted Ronda Harmon of the Kentucky Association of the School Councils, who said, "The school council does have the right to invite non-members into a closed session. The open meetings law doesn't prohibit that action, but the inclusion should be a decision formally approved by the council."

According to the KRS 61.810 (1), a discussion or hearing which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's, member's or student's rights to a public hearing if requested. This exception shall not be interpreted to permit discussion of general personnel matters in secret.

When contacted, Poe stated, "After checking with the Kentucky Association of

School Councils (KASC) on Mon., May 11, and was told that an appeals request concerning the meeting should be filed.

The Mercury filed an appeal on the planned closed session. The appeal states the fact that the closed session meeting would be a violation of KRS 61.810.

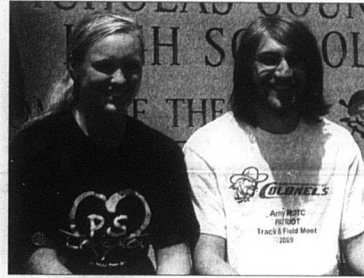
all certified staff members on Thursday stating that the certified staff members hearing in the closed session."

Poe said that she stated in the email that those attending would have to agree upon and sign a statement in order to attend the meetings.

The Carlisle Mercury contacted the attorney general's office



Mrs. Anne Poe
Interim principal



Megan Hunter James Coffey

Hunter, Coffey named as Governor's Scholars

By Charles Mattox
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Two Nicholas County High School Juniors were recently named as Kentucky Governor's Scholars and both are enjoying their last weeks of school and looking forward to continuing their education.

Megan Hunter, 17-year-old daughter of Randy and Paula Hunter, and James Coffey, 17-year-old son of Billy and Debbie Coffey, both say they are honored to be named as Governor's Scholars and both are already looking beyond their high school years and are excited about going to college after they graduate from NCHS next year.

"Right now I'm thinking about attending UK," Hunter said. "I'd like to run track there and I'd like to become a teacher." When asked what subject she thought she would enjoy teaching she quickly responded "English or History."

Coffey said he was undecided on his college of choice.

"I'm looking at UK and Western Kentucky University," he said. "I'm going to major in zoology. I like animals."

Hunter and Coffey both enjoy being on the NCHS track team.

"I like distance running," Coffey said.

Hunter agreed.

"I've been on the track team since I was in the fifth grade. I really enjoy the competition and I do well in the shot put and discus events," she said.

Hunter said her favorite academic class at NCHS was history.

"I've always found it easy to pick up on the concept and theory," he said.

Both discussed their thoughts on the high school and surrounding community.

"I think Nicholas County has a very good school, even though the community is not very large. I really like the environment of the school and I think it's easy to make friends. I like the community because it's small."

Hunter agreed.

"You can walk down the hallway at the school and know everyone and be friends with everyone. I like the community and especially how members of the

community support everyone's achievements with positive comments."

Hunter, a native of the Blue Licks region, said that was one of her favorite sections of the county.

Coffey said he enjoyed "the whole county."

Hunter and Coffey extended praise and appreciation to their family members and friends who have supported them in their studies and each praised the staff members of the Nicholas County School system for all their support and continuing contribution to their education.

Both were very pleased to be named Governor's Scholars.

"I'm very excited and even shocked," Hunter said. "I get nervous just thinking about it."

"I've been thinking a lot about it and I'm excited too," Coffey said.

Hunter and Coffey both exude confidence and friendliness. Both have sharp minds and extremely pleasant personalities.

There is one major difference between them though.

Hunter is a fan of Country Music. Coffey says he's strictly Rock & Roll.

Stanley, Hatton indicted

By Charles Mattox
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A Nicholas County Grand Jury returned indictments against two individuals on May 4 and charged one of the individuals with sex crimes, some of which they were allegedly committed over two decades ago.

The members of the grand jury allege that Howard Stanley, 43, committed rape, incest, and sodomy, and they also indicted Stanley for being a persistent felony offender, according to the indictments handed down against him.

The indictments against Stanley charge him with two counts of rape, first degree; four counts of incest and one charge of sod-

omy.

The indictments allege the criminal acts occurred as early as 1986 and three of the victims were under the age of 14 at the time of the alleged sex crimes.

The grand jury also returned an indictment of second degree, against Stanley. The indictments issued against Stanley were issued following testimony of Kentucky State Police Detective Anthony Gaton.

Stanley remains lodged in jail under \$80,000 bond.

Maye Jane Hatton, 47, Moore, was indicted on six counts of theft by unlawful taking, more than \$300. The indictments against Hatton allegedly occurred in Dec. 2008 and Jan. 2009, "when having been granted

power of attorney over the funds of her mother Ann Col Harper, she unlawfully took in excess of \$300 from Ms. Harper's checking account or accounts, contrary to the provisions of the executed power of attorney, all with the intent persistent felony offender, to deprive Ms. Harper of her property."

Hatton was also indicted on the charge of persistent felony offender, second degree.

The indictments against Hatton were issued following the testimony of Kentucky State Police Detective Nathan Moore.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt but is merely a procedural step in the judicial system. All persons are innocent until proven guilty or admitted guilt.

Alleged cattle rustlers charged

By Charles Mattox
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Two Nicholas County men and a Nicholas woman were recently arrested and charged with theft by unlawful taking, over \$300, when they allegedly took four head of cattle from a Miller's Station Road farm without the owners' permission.

The alleged cattle-rustling trio then sold the four head of cattle for \$1,200 to a buyer at the Maysville stockyard, according to arrest citations issued against the three.

Angie Burbrink, 27, and Jeremy Terrill, 29, and

Chris "Pancake" Myers, 33, all entered not guilty pleas to their theft charges during their appearances in Nicholas District Court last week. Burbrink was also charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree.

According to the arrest citations issued against the alleged rustlers, who was issued by Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler, each gave a statement to him during the interrogation process. And at least one indicates a "confession" was obtained.

Arrest citations and sources close to the incident, also indicate that

possibility exists that at least one of the charged may not have complete understanding who the owner of the cattle was and was simply part of the transportation of the cattle.

Myers remains free after posting a \$2,500 surety bond. He is scheduled to return to court June 3.

Burbrink remains free after posting unsecured bond on May 5.

Terrill also remains free after posting ten percent of \$2,500 cash bond.

Terrill and Burbrink have preliminary hearings scheduled in Nicholas District Court on May 13.

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