GENERAL NEWS

Incident targets journalist, sheriff investigates

MCI Staff Report

Fleming County Sheriff Scotty Royse has opened a criminal case related to an incident, which targeted a local journalist and which could have had deadly consequences.

On the morning of May 18 MCI Newspaper Group reporter Charles Mattox detected a smell of gasoline after stopping in Flemingsburg, on his way to the MCI Carlisle office.

An inspection of the undercarriage of the Mattox vehicle revealed a gasoline leak.

Mattox, who was close to Valley View Service Station, cautiously proceeded there.

Alan Sanders, owner of Valley View Service quickly assessed the origin of the leak, which was from a gas line running from the gas pump.

The gas only leaked when the ignition switch was activated to the 'on' position.

When the gas line was replaced and the old line was inspected a stunning discovery was made and Fleming County Sheriff Scotty Royse was quickly notified.

The difficult-to-reach location of the protected line, coupled with the multitude of lacerations upon it, has led Sheriff Royse, Mattox and others, to conclude the cuts were intentional and deliberately made.

"It appears as if the gas line was deliberately cut with a knife," Sheriff Royse said upon inspection of the section of line, which bore several scuff and slice marks. "It looks distinctly like the cuts were made with the blade from a pocket knife."

When discovered, gas was spewing in a small stream in the direction of the exhaust system.

Royse commented on the sinister motive someone might have to do such a thing.

"The motive seems pretty obvious," Sheriff Royse said. "You don't cut someone's gas line unless you mean them harm. This may be an act of revenge."

Mattox commented on the incident.

"My personal life is stable so I can only conclude this was done in retaliation for an article I have written in one of the five newspapers I submit articles to through MCI Newspapers. My journalistic niche has always been history, covering heinous crimes and controversial stories. I don't think anyone would do this because of any historical article I've written.

"I have recently uncovered additional information regarding five unsolved murders involving Fleming and Nicholas County. A source within the Kentucky State Police, who has been directly involved in the Donald Walker-Marlene Mauk murder investigation, recently told me that investigators can not rule out the possibility of those murders being connected to the unsolved Blue Licks Triangle murders of Donnie Dixon, David Sadler and Roger Scotty Fulton. I also cover many controversial stories in the surrounding counties of Bath, Robertson and Menifee. I write many stories, which are related to crime. Some people will go to extreme lengths to suppress controversial news and I believe that to be the case with this incident. Had I not stopped in Flemingsburg when I did, the gas would have continued to spew unnoticed in the direction of the exhaust system, which was increasing in temperature. I believe if I would have traveled straight to Carlisle, as I typically do each day, the gas would have ignited and there would have been an explosion. I doubt that I would have been able to control my vehicle following any such explosion. Even more disturbing, to me, is when you consider that any such explosion would have probably involved other motorists, pedestrians or even residents, businesses or even the schools, as I am a frequent visitor there. I remain extremely grateful to Alan and Nancy Sanders and their observant and talented staff at Valley View Service Station."

Sheriff Royse continues to investigate the incident and has taken the damaged gas line and other physical evidence into custody to send to the Kentucky State Police crime lab to possible obtain additional evidence.

A $500 reward for information related to the incident has been offered by MCI Publisher Chris McGehee and will be paid through the Fleming County Sheriff's Office upon arrest and conviction of the person or person(s) responsible.

Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to contact the Fleming County Sheriff's Office at 606-845-4701.

Robertson County Heath Care

The Robertson County Health Care Facility residents and staff recently celebrated National Nursing Home Week. This year the facility enjoyed events traditionally found at the Kentucky Derby.

On Wednesday, May 13th, residents and staff traveled to the Kentucky Horse Park. We enjoyed visiting the beautiful park, watching the horses, and taking in the sites. Many residents spent time reminiscing, as they traveled through history in the park's museum. Our day also included lunch at Cracker Barrel.

We began our week celebrating our mother's with a "Mother's Day Sunrise Service and Breakfast Buffet." On Monday, we held the Great Balloon Lift Off with the children from the Robertson County Head Start. We also made Derby Hats, participated in our Hat Parade, and then held a staff Bed Making Contest. The residents enjoyed choosing the fastest and the overall performance winners.

On Tuesday, we held a Kentucky Cuisine taste testing party. Janie Wheary visited in the afternoon to share some Kentucky and Robertson County History.

On Wednesday our residents also enjoyed a visit from Sue Hughes and her horse "Sage", and then an afternoon movie and popcorn.

Thursday we enjoyed a day of "Run for the Roses." We all participated in a Wii Bowling Tournament, Hole In One, Furloing Frisbee Toss, Horse Racing, and Cornhole.

Our week ended with a grand finale at the "Ramble For The Roses." Several staff, residents and members of our community joined in as we ate traditional derby foods and danced the evening away!

Local Senior Awarded United Producers Inc. 2009 Scholarship

Columbus, OH – Brandon Price, of Carlisle, Ky., recently received the 2009 United Producers Inc. (UPI) Scholarship for District 16 for the amount of $1,000.

Price, a senior at Nicholas County High School, is the son of Jimmy and Dana Price. After graduation, Price plans to attend Lincoln College of Technology and study diesel tech.

"The future of agriculture depends highly on those who are currently considering and pursuing a career in this critical industry," said UPI President and CEO Dennis Bolling. "We want to do all we can to encourage students who have an interest in agribusiness, farming, veterinary medicine or other agriculture-based industries to pursue their careers and this is our way of helping them do so."

One $1,000 scholarship from each of UPI's 16 districts was available to an eligible student.

Those selected were required to be a Preferred Member of UPI or a child of a Preferred Member, a graduating high school senior, and enrolled in a college or technical school studying an agriculture-related field.

United Producers Inc. serves more than 45,000 livestock producers in the Midwest United States. UPI offers livestock marketing services to farmer-rancher members, along with risk management and financial services. United Producers is a farmer-owned cooperative headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. For more information visit www.unproducers.com.

Primary Health Associates PSC
"Building With Blue Roof Near Hospital"
Dr. Kenneth M. Brodsky
Board Certified In Family Medicine
Medical Cards Accepted
• Most Insurance Accepted Including Medicar and Medicaid
• Adolescents/Adults
• Workmen's Comp
• Physical Exam/Pap Smears
• Minor Surgery
• Spinal Manipulation for Acute and Chronic Back Pain
New Patients Welcome
5 Linville Dr. Paris 987-8432

Tony's Tree Service
20 Years Experience
Trimming • Topping • Landscaping & Stump Removal
Fully Insured
"Let us go out on a limb for you"
Call for FREE Estimate 606-375-2030 606-759-9617
Residential & Commercial Land Clearing TONY EVANS, OWNER

Inside Shopper

EAGLE CREEK TACK Wrangler Brand
WESTERN WEAR 606-845-8274
Your One Stop Western Wear Shop
New & Used Saddles
Ladies Selection of Purses $10.00
Black Felt Hats 1/2 off Price
All Winter Coats 1/2 off
Wranger Jeans starting at $20.00
Rocky Boots $10.00 off
71 Asbury Road
Flemingsburg KY 41041
Ponderosa Trailers - Tack & Western Wear
Alma Anderson Mobile:
Larry Furnish 606-782-6204

MAY'S LICK AUCTION, LLC
MARK MILLER
AUCTIONEER
MAYSLICKAUCTION@WINDSTREAM.NET
WWW.AUCTIONZIP.COM
5064 MAIN STREET 606-763-9690
MAY'S LICK, KY 41055 MOBILE 606-923-8020

McKee Logging
Buying Standing Timber
Harold McKee 859-991-8169

DINING OUT

Brent's Seafood Palace deSha's The Steakhouse Bar 606-564-9275
Top of the Hill at U.S. Hwy. 68 1/2 mile from AA Highway MAYSVILLE
Nightly Steak Specials
Make Reservations Now for your holiday parties.
deSha's Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts

Ladobee's STEAK HOUSE
Open Wednesday thru Saturday at 11 a.m.
Corner of US 68 & Lake Rd. Carlisle, KY • 859-289-4800
NIGHTLY STEAK SPECIALS

"A Celebration of the Everyday"
Stonetence Bistro
10 Main Street, Paris, Kentucky 40361
987-1990 • No cover
Live Music every weekend 7 p.m.
Delicious Daily Specials • Offsite Catering
Seafood, Pasta & More.

SPORTS

Football All Stars selected

By Charles Mattox
News Reporter
charles@thecarlislemercury.com

Six Nicholas County Blue Jacket football players have been selected by area coaches to participate in the annual East-West All Star Game.

The game will be played June 12 in Bath County.

Cade Gilliland, Jacob Frederick, Steven Tolson, Justin Little, Jordan Mynear and Jim Conyers have been selected to represent the Blue Jackets and will be playing for the West.

Head Football Coach Robert Hopkins and his coaching staff have also been selected to lead the West team.

Cade Gilliland is the son of Jeff and Denise Gilliland, has played football for four years.

Jacob Frederick is the son of Marvin Frederick and Karen Jones, has played football for three years.

Steven Tolson is the son of Heath and Tina Tolson has played football for four years.

Justin Little is the son of Sandra and Jerry Little, has played football for four years.

Jordan Mynear is the son of Shawna and Johnny Mynear, has played football for four years.

Jim Conyers is the son of Shon and Rebecca Conyers, has played football for four years.

Coach Hopkins commented on the caliber each player was and described the group of six as among the strongest and most-dedicated group of young men he has coached.

He encourages all Blue Jacket fans to come to the game and cheer their athletes to victory. Kickoff is currently scheduled to begin June 12 at 7:30 at Bath County.

Photo by Charles Mattox

BLUE JACKET ALL STARS

Front row L-R, Cade Gilliland, Coach Robert Hopkins, Jordan Mynear. Back row, L-R, Steven Tolson, Jacob Frederick, Justin Little and Jim Conyers have been selected by area coaches to represent Nicholas County in the East-West Annual Football All Star Game, scheduled to be played at Bath County on June 12. Coach Hopkins was selected by area coaches to lead this year's West Team and encourages all Blue Jacket fans to come cheer on Nicholas County and the West Team during the all-star game.

Hunter finishes second in state in discus

LOUISVILLE – The Nicholas County High School track and field program was well-represented over the weekend in the Class 1A State Track Meet at the University of Louisville.

Megan Hunter turned in the best individual performance for Nicholas County as she finished second in the Discus. Her best throw was 106'5". The winning throw in the Discus was 106'10".

Stephen Tolson finished fourth in the Shot Put for the Jackets with a throw of 43'5.75".

Caleb Pope finished ninth in the Long Jump with a jump of 19'6".

The Nicholas County High School track and field program concluded the season on a solid note with the state meet performances.

"We are really proud of these individuals and their performances," said Nicholas County Coach Greg Letcher.

Lady Jackets fall to Bracken in region tourney

MOUNT STERLING – The Nicholas County Lady Jackets had their postseason run end Monday in the 10th Region Tournament at Bracken County. Bracken County secured an early lead and defeated the Lady Jackets 6-2, outsing the Nicholas County team from the postseason.

Freshman Sara Strickler pitched Bracken County past the Lady Jackets.

Shelby Brown absorbed the loss for Nicholas County.

Bracken County pushed across six runs on 13 hits, overcoming four errors en route to the win.

Nicholas County plated its two runs on five hits. The Lady Jackets committed two errors.

"We let a lot of opportunities slip away from us during the game," said Nicholas County Coach Barry Bretz. "We left the bases loaded in four out of the seven innings against Bracken. We stranded a total of 15 runners on base during the game. We allowed Bracken's first three runs to score on errors on routine plays we've got to make to be successful in a tournament stage. We don't want to take credit away from Bracken,they played a good game and got out of a lot of jams, but we feel like we could have won with a bounce here or there."

Nicholas County will look to regroup and return in strong fashion for the 2010 season.

"We will regroup and try to get over our loss," said Bretz. "We had a successful year, winning our first-ever Bluegrass Conference title, finishing runner-up in the All A, and making our seventh straight appearance in the Regional Tournament. We finished 14-8 and were lucky to play that many games with 12 rain-outs. We again will be considered a contender next year in the 10th. We were very young and inexperienced this year, but we will grow from this experience. Next year, I hope we hit a little more consistently, if we do things will continue to be fun for us on the field."

Offensively in the region tournament game, senior Brittany Sosby led Nicholas County at the plate with a 2-for-4 performance.

Shelby Sosby, Christian Dunn and Reesa Martin each had one hit for the Lady Jackets.

Jessica Gilkerson added an RBI for the Lady Jackets.

Bracken County moved runs to score on errors on to 25-12 and into the regional semifinals after posting the win over the Lady Jackets. Nicholas County finished its season 14-8.

Bracken County 6, Nicholas County 2

Nicholas Co. 000 011 0
2 5 2

Bracken Co. 210 300 x
6 13 4

Records: Nicholas County 14-8, Bracken County 25-12.

Mynear pitches Nicholas past Pendleton

CYNTHIANA – The Nicholas County High School baseball team earned the right to face perennial favorite Harrison County in the 38th District Tournament title game, edging the Wildcats 1-0 on Tuesday (May 19).

With the loss, Pendleton County ended its season 11-21.

Nicholas County starting pitcher Jordan Mynear, a player who battled his way back to the baseball diamond following a severe injury he suffered during the Jackets' football season, pitched magnificently en route to the win.

"He really pitched with a lot guts out there," said Nicholas County Coach Travis Sims. "I'm so proud of Jordan. He has really gone through a tough stretch with his injury from football and for him to be able to come back in such a short time and do the job he did was fantastic."

Mynear helped his cause at the plate, knocking in the game-winning run for the Jackets.

"It was his night," Sims commented.

Kyle Campbell and Cody Fryman also delivered hits for the Jackets.

"I'm very proud of our team as we have overcome many obstacles this year," Sims added.

In the other 38th District Tournament opening round game, Harrison County blanked Deming 20-0. The loss eliminated Deming (2-16) from the postseason.

Lady Jackets finish runner-up in district

Host Nicholas County finished runner-up to Harrison County in the 38th District Tournament. The Fillies held on in the district tournament title game last Tuesday (May 19), defeating Nicholas County 4-1.

"We did not hit enough hard shots in the game to score a lot of runs against a very good defensive team," said Nicholas County Coach Barry Bretz.

Nicholas County fell despite the superb pitching of Shelby Brown.

One of the 10th Region's top pitchers, Brown kept the hard-hitting Harrison County bats intact, allowing four runs on four hits. Harrison County, however, came alive with two key two-out hits that proved to be the difference in the game.

Hannah Coldiron and Shelby Sosby each had a triple for Nicholas County.

Sosby started the scoring for Nicholas County in the second inning, leading off with a triple. Coldiron got an RBI two-out hit to put the Lady Jackets out in front 1-0.

Harrison County answered with three runs. The Harrison County offensive effort included a clutch two-out triple to push the Fillies out in front 3-1.

"Both teams played well and it was a very good district final with two good teams going at each other again," Bretz confided. "Harrison County has beaten us 7-4, 6-4 and 4-1 this season and they are ranked in a lot of polls. We have been a play away from beating them each time."

Harrison County made the most of its offensive opportunities in the district championship matchup.

"If we hit we will be fine and will compete with anyone, but the mark of an inexperienced team is the lack of consistency," said Bretz. "We need to be consistent with our bats and as we grow older we will. The funny thing about this season is how competitive we have been with the best teams around and we have had only one hitting game I was proud of. We play with a lot of heart and our game plans/scouting reports,have been on the money this year. I am very proud of our young Ladies efforts this year."

Nicholas County and Harrison County both advanced to the 10th Region Tournament at Montgomery County.

Jackets to face Mason in region tourney

The Nicholas County High School baseball team will face 39th District champion Mason County Wednesday night in the opening round of the 10th Region Tournament at Covington County. The Jackets made it into the 10th Region Tournament after defeating Pendleton County runner-up to perennial favorite Harrison County in the 38th District tourney.

Jackets Coach Travis Sims likes his teams chances in the 10th Region Tournament.

"I feel like we have a legitimate shot of getting to the finals if we play well," Sims said. "We drew Mason County and they did beat us early in the season by a run but I feel we have grown from the season and should match up well with them. You have to play with high intensity and stay focused at all times this time of year in tournament play because one mess up could end your season."

Should the Jackets win in the opening round, they'd face similar competition in the regional tournament semifinals.

"If we would win we would play Thursday night in the semifinals against Bourbon County or Covington Scott, depending who wins," Sims confided. "We have looked good in practice all weekend and I believe we are ready to play. We hope we have good fan support even though it is a long trip up to Covington."

Nicholas County exited the 38th District Tournament 15-10.

Jackets fall to Harrison in district championship game

CYNTHIANA – After posting a hard-fought 1-0 win over Pendleton County one day earlier in the opening round of the 38th District Baseball Tournament,

Nicholas County fell to host and favorite Harrison County in the championship game on Wednesday. The Jackets couldn't bounce back from a rough start in the championship contest. Harrison County plated six runs in the first inning and limited the Jackets to one run the entire game, defeating Nicholas County 12-1 in five innings.

The Thorobreds drubbed Deming 20-0 in the opening round of the district tournament.

"We gave up six runs in the first inning on some costly mistakes,"

Nicholas County Coach Travis Sims said. "We could never get anything going after that."

Junior Kyle campbell had the only hit of the game for Nicholas County.

Campbell, one of the 10th Region's top baseball players, smacked a double off of the center field fence."

"Give all the credit to Harrison County," Sims commented. "They are experienced and well-coached. When you play those guys you have to be on top of your game every pitch."

Campbell (5-5) was the losing pitcher for the Jackets.

Nicholas County committed four errors in the district tournament title game.

The Thorobreds scored their dozen runs on 10 hits. Defensively, Harrison County only committed one error.

Harrison County (21-9) and Nicholas County (15-10) both advanced to the 10th Region Tournament at Scott.

Nicholas County drew 39th District champion Mason County in the opening round of the 10th Region Tournament.

Follow the Jackets and Lady Jackets on 90.7 FM The Wind
NCHS Boys' Baseball VS Deming April 28- airtime 4:50
NCHS Boys' Baseball VS Pendelton County April 30- airtime 4:50
NCHS Girls' Softball VS Mason County May 6- airtime 5:20
NCHS VS Lexington Christian H May 12- airtime 4:50
Brought to you in part by The Carlisle Mercury, Nicholas County's News Source sinc 1867