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Brazen trial to be held in Nicholas County

By Charles Mattox
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A change of venue motion by a special prosecutor to have the assault trial of former Nicholas County High School Principal Joe Orazen, 35, moved out of Nicholas County was denied in Nicholas District Court last week.

Nicholas District Judge, Honorable Jay Delaney, denied a change of venue motion submitted on August 11 of this year by special prosecutor Charles Kuster.

The trial will thusly proceed in Carlisle, on December 17 and 18, in accordance with an order

issued by Judge Delaney on Sept. 2. Orazen was suspended from his job as NCHS Principal on Feb. 18 and was arrested later that day. Both actions came in the wake of a Feb. 10 incident at the high school. Carlisle Police Officer, Sgt. Darrell Layne, arrested Orazen at 6:10 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Carlisle Police Station. Layne charged Orazen with assault, 4th degree, which is a class A misdemeanor.

Orazen's suspension and arrest comes in the wake of an incident between Orazen and a juvenile male, identified since the incident as a television and print media outlet

as Dusty Green. Orazen and Green's confrontation occurred Feb. 10 immediately after school.

Sources close to the incident said that it was a result of cell phone usage that was disrupting classes. Cell phones were being used in excessive numbers that day due to the incident at the Deposit Branch Bank, located across the road from the school campus.

School Resource Officer, Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Bennie Buckler, was completing his interrogation with suspected bank robbers, Thomas Holder and Pamela Shepherd, and briefing federal agents at the time of the incident.



Former NCHS Principal Joe Orazen

the ground and slammed him to the ground twice, and placed his knee on (juvenile's) head and the juvenile's shoulder, causing physical injury to the juvenile, towed bruising and abrasions to the orbital socket and to his side," according to the warrants.

Kuster, Orazen and Orazen's attorney David Franklin, met last month in Harrison District Court with District Judge, Honorable Jay Delaney, to establish a trial date.

Through various court motions, Franklin has been attempting to receive Green's disciplinary records from Lafayette High School and Nicholas High School since March 15, when he requested the items during a Motion for Discovery and See TRIAL Page 14

Young pleads guilty to arson charge

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Garrett Young, 19, pled guilty to reduced arson charges in Nicholas Circuit Court last week.

As part of a guilty plea diversion recommendation by the Commonwealth Attorney's office, Young will not go to prison unless he further violates the law.

If, after a period of five years, Young has no additional charges, the amended arson charge and an additional charge of criminal mischief, first degree, will be dismissed and there will be no record of them attached to his name.

If he breaks the law in the next five years, he will go to prison for three years and will from that point forward be considered a felony offender.

Young appeared before Circuit Judge, Honorable Robert McGinnis, on Friday, with his attorney Raymond Bogucki.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Michael Laws was also present for Young's plea and had discussed a plea offer earlier with Bogucki.

Young pled guilty to arson, third degree, amended down from arson, first degree. Young also entered a guilty plea to the

charge of criminal mischief, first degree. Judge McGinnis sentenced Young to three years each on those counts with the sentence to run concurrent with one another, but also to be diverted at the end of five years if Young has no other violations of his diversion order.

Young, Jordan Stewart and a male and female juvenile went to NCHS teacher Dreama Griffith's home on Walnut Grove Road on March 19 of this year with a tubular-shaped "cake" firework.

The fireworks were placed in the yard of Griffith's home and ignited, but went out. When this happened, Young then allegedly retrieved the firework, placed it onto Griffith's porch, reignited it and joined the other three in their ve-

hicles. The firework ignited and though no immediate damage was noted on the firework projectiles lodged in the attic of the home and the house was completely destroyed by fire later that same night and early the next morning.

Young will pay \$5,967 in restitution to Ms. Griffith and complete 500 hours of community service as part of the plea agreement, according to discussion in court last week.

Bogucki and Laws met previous to Young's appearance before the bench and Bogucki indicated the plea agreement had been discussed between Laws and Dreama Griffith with both finding the diversion order acceptable.

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Arts Guild prepares for Fourth Annual Show

By Charles Mattox
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Members of the Courthouse Square Arts Guild are preparing for their Fourth Annual Member Art Show.

The event will feature area artists and will display their works on Sept. 26 at the Corner Studio at 240 East Main Street, Carlisle, as part of the Saturday in Carlisle festivities.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, and three honorable mentions will also receive recognition.

According to Guild President Larry Mitchell, a new prize will also be awarded in a "best new artist" category.

With over 70 members, the Courthouse Square Arts Guild continues to gain notoriety in the region and across the state.

The group recently had a very respectable showing of works on display at the Central Bank Gallery in Lexington.

"It was a great honor for us to be invited to that," Mitchell said Monday.

Mitchell is known wide and far for his woodcarvings, particularly his canes, but he said

with the encouragement of other guild members he has taken up painting also.

"Yep," he said with a easy smile, "they've even got me painting some now."

Several regionally renowned artists and those recognized on a national scale, including Larry Frost and Juanita Hunt, will have works on display during the members show, and it's not late to become a member yourself. The charge is only \$10, which also provides entry fees for the show for two works of art.

Frost's entrancing work entails, through his use of wood and bone to create a wonderful variety of scenes.

Norma Buckler's art works takes a viewer back to a simple and rustic time that fills the heart.

"Younger members, such as Chae, Hammond, and Flemingburg captured second place in his category in state competition earlier this summer and Mitchell boasts



Nationally-recognized artist Larry Frost, whose work "Sarah" is shown here, will be featuring more of his work during show slated for Sept. 26.

of the abundance of talent area artists, particularly Guild members are displaying for the members show.

"We have great talent," he said, "I hope everyone comes out and enjoys it."

The Corner Studio is open on afternoons, on Friday and Saturday with no charge and several artists have works for

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