



The Carlisle Mercury

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August Jury trial set in double-fatal crash case

By Michael A. Clary
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A jury trial for Cheyeene Clifford has been set for Aug. 24-28, 2026, beginning at 8:30am, at the Nicholas County Judicial Center. His final pre-trial conference is set for Monday, Aug. 3, 2026, at 9:02am.

Mr. Clifford, 27, of Carlisle, Ky. has been lodged in the Bourbon County Detention Center on a \$500,00.00 cash bond, and charged with two counts of murder; two counts of assault - 1st degree; one count of failure of owner to maintain required insurance - 1st offense; one count of no registration plates; one count of tampering with a witness; one count of operating a motor vehicle under



Photo courtesy of Bourbon County Detention Center
Cheyeene Clifford

the influence of alcohol - 1st; one count of failure to wear seat belts; one count of failure to produce insurance card; and one count of reckless driving, following a horrific, early-morning, accident on Myers Station Road, on June 4, 2023.

Gage Gaunce, 20 and Nathaniel Clay Welch,

Clifford
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School Board recognizes 2026 NCHS graduates Garrett Zimmerman and Wyatt Simons

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SET FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

By Michael A. Clary
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The Nicholas County School Board, along with Superintendent Dr. John Derek Faulconer and County Attorney Dawn Letcher, held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:00pm, at the Central Board Office.

Board Chair Cheryl Rawlings called the meeting to order with a prayer; roll call, with all board members present, sans one; and acknowledged the swearing in of new Board Member, Heather Anderson.

The board recognized 2026 NCHS graduate Garrett Zimmerman, who was recently elected to serve as the 2026-2027 Kentucky FFA State

President, representing more than 27,000 FFA members across the Commonwealth. Over the next year, he will travel throughout Kentucky leading conferences, facilitating leadership workshops, advocating for agricultural education, and serving students from every corner of the state. This fall, Garrett will attend the University of Kentucky to study Agricultural Education and Advocacy.

The board also recognized Wyatt Simons, a 2026 graduate of NCHS and an accomplished leader in the Nicholas County Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter. He served last year as chap-

School Board
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Superintendent Faulconer, Garrett Zimmerman, and Board Member Jarad Bromagen

Carlisle-Nicholas County Tourism discuss Blackberry Festival success at July meeting

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Members of Carlisle-Nicholas County Tourism met on Tuesday, July 18, 2026, at 6:30pm, at the Nicholas County Jail, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order with approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Jerry Johnson discussed his attendance at the Bluegrass Region

meeting county tourism assessment and said that the group was short of funds and had asked for the respective counties to each put in \$500.00 to continue state promotion. Tourism approved to put in the requested \$500.00 for Nicholas County.

Gary Bentley spoke to the group about the recent bike race in Nicholas County, and that it was very well attended, with approximately 125 racers. He said that the economic impact study had not been completed, but that he would let tourism know when the results came in. He said that the racers loved Carlisle, and that some came from as far away as Texas, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and North Carolina.

The group discussed the recent Blackberry Festival and said that even though the heat was horrible, the festival did make money financially. It was reiterated that the festival has always been

expensive and costly, but that this year's festival was very well attended, in spite of a few hitches here and there. Tourism also thanked everyone that participated as well.

The group discussed purchasing materials for the building of a 16x16 ft. stage for future use. A person said they would build the stage in the winter, if tourism could cover the cost of the building materials. Tourism agreed to come up with some estimates regarding the costs.

Tourism agreed to not have their monthly luncheon during the month of July, as it runs so close to the Blackberry Festival. So, the only months to not include a luncheon would be January, February, and July.

Before adjournment,



it was announced that Nicholas County Veteran Jim Galbreath would be traveling to Washington, D.C., through Honor Flight Kentucky, on Aug. 29, 2026, whose "mission is to fly World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans to Washington DC for a one-day, all-expenses-paid visit to the National memorials that are dedicated to honoring their service."

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

October trial set in Amish Buggy hit-and-run case

By Michael A. Clary
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A jury trial for Edgar A. Carson, 44, of Loudon Avenue, Lexington, Ky., has been set for Oct. 27-30, 2026, beginning at 9:00am, at the Nicholas County Judicial Center.

Mr. Carson was arrested on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, by Department of Corrections - Probation & Parole Officer G. Lawson, through the execution of an indictment warrant issued through Nicholas County Circuit Court, regarding charges for a hit& run involving an Amish buggy

which occurred on October 19, 2025.

According to the Uniform Citation and Grand Jury Indictment, Mr. Carson has been charged with one count of Leaving the Scene of an Accident/Failure to Render Aid/Assist with Death or Serious Physical Injury; one count of Tampering with Physical Evidence; one count of Failure of Owner to Maintain Required Insurance/Security, 1st Offense; and one count of Persistent Felony Offender. Detective Matthew

Carson
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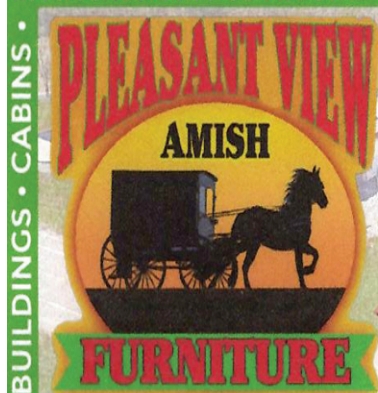
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