

Court back in session

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

Court is back in session. After a little over a year, renovations for Nash County's Courthouse are complete. Other than new paint, carpet and lighting, the changes will mostly be felt in the air. "You'll notice a difference in the air," said Assistant County Manager Wayne Moore. "The HVAC was completely redone which puts more fresh air in the building so it should solve some of our moisture problems." As of Monday, all offices had See COURT page 3-A

Local man busted for drug deals

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

A Spring Hope man was arrested Friday for outstanding drug violations after he allegedly sold over 20 grams of crack cocaine to an undercover officer. According to the Nash County Sheriff's Office, Willie Junior Wheelless, of 1184 Sanctified Church Road, has apparently been distributing crack cocaine since July of this year. As part of a joint investigation by the Nash County Sheriff's Office and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Wheelless sold the crack cocaine to an undercover officer on several occasions. Wheelless, 43, was charged with two counts each of possession with See DRUGS page 2-A



Wheelless



Photo by Kathy Harrelson - The Franklin Times

SOME COMFORT. Castalia Volunteer Fire Department fireman Michael Vance comforts Cookie Parrish on Sunday morning, when she and husband Vance Parrish returned to their home in Castalia that burned Friday. Firefighters continued to put out pockets of burning debris inside the home, which was destroyed. No one was home at the time of the fire.

Fire destroys Castalia historical landmark

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

It has not been a good year for historical homes in Nash County. A fire on Friday night destroyed a historical home at 9441 Main Street in Castalia. It is the second historical home to be destroyed by fire this year. In September, a historical

home on Pleasant Grove Church Road was destroyed by fire. No one was home when the fire broke out and the home was a total loss. Last June, Peachtree Baptist Church in Spring Hope burned down in an unexpected fire. According to Castalia Assistant Fire Chief Mitch Jones, the call came in around 8 p.m. Friday night.

Castalia, along with several other departments responded and spent several hours with the fire. Red Oak, Nashville, Momeyer, Spring Hope and Bailey assisted. Bailey provided a ladder truck. "We couldn't have done it without our mutual aid departments." The fire was under control in two See FIRE page 7-A

Nash to hear man's rezoning request

Earlier request is denied by planning board to rezone for operation of Leon's Barn

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

Nash County Commissioners accepted a public hearing request from a Nashville man, despite the Planning Board's denial of an earlier rezoning request. The public hearing will be held at the board's January 8 meeting. The request asks for approximately 12 acres on Batchelor Road to be rezoned from R-40 to Office Institutional - Conditional Use. Mr. Leon Shearin made the request. Shearin operates Leon's Barn, which is located on the property.

The Planning Board originally heard the request on November 20 and voted 5-2 to deny the request. County Planner Rosemary Dorsey said that because the request failed to have a favorable recommendation, Shearin requested a public

hearing. Dorsey said the request constituted spot zoning. "It's really illegal to do spot zoning unless you can make a reasonable case to support it," Dorsey said. "And in looking at this case, with the relative size of the tract, the incompatibility with the land use plan and significant differences in uses, the staff nor the planning board could find any reasonable case to support the rezoning." Braxton Bell, who spoke on behalf of Shearin, asked the board to give Shearin a chance to present additional information at a public hearing. "We would ask that this board allow Mr. Shearin a hearing de nova, or in other words, an original hearing where he can be allowed to present in full, his case to this body," Bell said. See ZONING page 2-A

The NASH is featured on UNC-TV program

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

The NASH was featured on UNC-TV's North Carolina Now Tuesday, November 21 for its creation of the Senior-Friendly Business Certification Program. The program is part of the Division of Aging and Adult Services Livable and Senior-Friendly Community initiative. The NASH was one of three chosen out of the entire State of North Carolina to pilot the program. "They asked three pilots to do projects that could be shared with the rest of the state," said Stacie Nelson, Director of the Aging Department. "It's actually a five county region project. It's starting in Nash County." Since the program's inception, Nash County Senior's Center, Home Health Care Supplies and Braswell

Library have all been named "Senior Friendly." The process isn't an easy one. According to Nelson, businesses may request certification. Once requested, three volunteers will show up unannounced during a two-week period to go through a series of questions. "If they don't meet those standards, we send them a letter and let them know where we need to see some changes," Nelson said. "We try to do everything we can to help the business become more senior friendly." Employees of the business looking to received certification must also send some of its employees to training. For Jim Womble, who owns Home Health Care Supplies in Rocky Mount and Spring Hope, the program is an asset to Nash County. "I think you should be friendly. See NASH page 7-A

Mayor appoints new Pro-Tem

Council members say action is illegal

By Amanda Clark
Graphic Staff Writer

Nashville Mayor Warren Evans appointed Councilman Donald Street Mayor Pro-Tem during the board's regular meeting Tuesday night even after two council members alleged the action was illegal. Evans announced his appointment at the end of the board's meeting, saying he would like to appoint Street to serve during what could be his last term as mayor. This is Evans' 16th year serving as mayor. "Mr. Wright's done a good job this year," Evans said. "My appointment this year is Dr. Street to fill in my final year as Mayor Pro Tem." Councilman Wright questioned whether the action was keeping to what the board has done in the past. He added that the charter stated that the council shall choose one of its members as vice-chair in case of the absence of the mayor. "My only concern is we've got an ordinance here and the question is why not follow it," Wright said. "Are you aware that we're violating our own ordinance." Evans said he had been appointing the Mayor Pro-Tem for the last 15 years. "No I'm not (aware)," Evans said. "Do I have violated it for 15 years." See NASHVILLE page 2-A

INSIDE TODAY

DEATHS.....	2A
OPINION.....	4A
LIFE.....	5A
CHRISTMAS PHOTO PAGE.....	8A
ENTERTAINMENT.....	10A
SPORTS.....	1B
CHURCH-COMMUNITY.....	4-5 B
COMMUNITY CALENDAR.....	6B
CLASSIFIEDS.....	8B

Local Weather

Wed 12/6	61/40	
Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.		
Thu 12/7	57/29	
More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.		
Fri 12/8	41/25	
Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.		
Sat 12/9	48/29	
Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 20s.		
Sun 12/10	53/32	
A few clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.		

©2006 American Profile Hometown Content Service



Graphic photos by Amanda Clark

Nashville held its annual Christmas Celebration Saturday which included the traditional Children's Bicycle Parade and the arrival of Santa Claus. Red Oak and Nash Central Middle School Bands performed on the courthouse steps while visitors prepared to march to the town Christmas tree for the lighting ceremony. Pictured in the top photo, Allison Smith, 4, sits with Santa giving him a detailed list of Christmas wishes. Pictured in the bottom photo, Caroline Proctor, who turns four today, wins first place for the most spirited entry in the children's bicycle parade. She is the daughter of Tammy and Don Proctor of Nashville. See page 8-A for more information and photos plus coverage of the annual Bailey Christmas Parade.