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Mount Vernon Signal

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Reynolds crowned Homecoming Queen

Miss Brandy Reynolds, center, was crowned Rockcastle County High School basketball homecoming queen during festivities at the school on Friday night. Miss Reynolds is a senior. At left, is runner-up Kalissa Robinson, a sophomore and at right is runner-up Tammy Peyton, also a sophomore.

Three Mt. Vernon people arrested in Lincoln County

Five people, including three from Mt. Vernon, were arrested Thursday in Lincoln County after a home break-in in McKinney. Investigators say the alleged burglars may have broken into the wrong house.

The five were stopped by Stanford Police on Brock Drive as they tried to make their escape following the Thursday morning break-in.

Police reports and conversations with those involved in the investigation say that the five people arrested, four men and a woman, had stopped by a store to get directions to the home of a man, but gave only the initials he goes by. J.R. The store clerk gave them directions to the home

of another person known as J.R. on the Geneva-McKinney Road.

The five went to the back door and started kicking it in. A teenage girl was at the home and became frightened and hid in a closet.

The five alleged burglars entered the home and, not finding the J.R. they were looking for, left. Someone saw their gray 1986 Buick with Ohio license plates leaving and, suspicious, called the sheriff.

A description of the car went out from the 911 Center and Stanford Police stopped the car on Brock Drive about 12:30 p.m.

All five people were charged with burglary, possession of cocaine and

possession of drug paraphernalia. The four men were charged additionally with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

Investigators say the attempt to find the J.R. they sought may have been drug related.

Those arrested were Timothy E. Denny, 36, of Mt. Vernon; Tommy D. Wilson, 53, of Berea; Danny Raines, 31, of Norwood; Ohio; Timothy D. Abrams, 48, of Mt. Vernon and Diana J. Abrams, 41, of Mt. Vernon.

All five pleaded not guilty in Lincoln District Court. Judge Janet Booth set preliminary hearings for the group for February 7.

East Bernstadt man charged

An East Bernstadt man is being held in the Rockcastle Detention Center on a \$50,000 bond after he led police on a chase Friday night.

According to Mt. Vernon assistant police chief Eddie Delaney, the chase began in Renfro Valley, after he and other police officers attempted to stop Mark Edward Howard, 34, Mt. Zion Road, for a drunk driving check.

Delaney said that Howard got onto Interstate 75 going south and

that police were able to stop his car in the median of the interstate, after Howard rammed his vehicle into a cruiser driven by Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Ronnie Roark.

The Asst. Chief said that while Howard's car was stopped Mt. Vernon officers Barry Adams and Daryl Zanet, attempted to remove Howard from his car and arrest him. Delaney said that Howard then

drove off, dragging Adams and Zanet with his car.

Howard then got back onto I-75 traveling north and exiting at Renfro Valley again, almost striking a car because he did not stop coming off the exit ramp.

Delaney said that Howard went toward Berea on U.S. 25 and at his request was stopped after Kentucky State Trooper Darrin Allen set a spike strip out just inside the city limits of Berea.

The spike strip flattened all four times on the Howard vehicle, but he continued to travel into Berea before stopping behind Mario's Pizza where he was arrested.

Delaney said that Howard was charged with two counts of attempted murder, three counts of wanton endangerment, two counts of criminal mischief, driving under the influence second, driving on suspended license, disregarding stop sign and no insurance.

WinterCare Energy Fund, avoiding the cold

With each blast of winter air, many Kentuckians struggle to stay warm.

Low-income families, including those who are working and some senior citizens living on fixed incomes are unable to afford the costs of winter.

Utility bills can consume as much as 15% of the monthly income of a low-income family, as compared to an average of 4% for middle and high-income families. Compounding the situation, low-income households can be faced with high heating bills due to substandard or poorly insulated housing.

Families and individuals find themselves with past-due bills or shutoff warnings resulting from the financial hardships of an unexpected family crisis or medical situation, unemployment or other difficulties.

Federal funding for energy assistance has sharply declined in recent years, and is limited in both the amount available and eligibility for only the very lowest income households in the community.

Many times, the only help available is the WinterCare Energy Fund.

WinterCare is a statewide fund, established in 1983, to assist low-income Kentuckians with utility costs. Twenty-three utility companies and twenty-two community action agencies participate in WinterCare. WinterCare is funded entirely by private donations. Donations to WinterCare remain local to help those in need residing in the donor's county or town.

When someone asks for WinterCare's help at a local community action agency, they are registered for eligibility and payment is made directly to the utility on behalf of the low-income resident. Additionally, the utility companies and community action agencies help recipients learn about efficient energy use, set up energy budgets, and adopt realistic payment plans.

WinterCare is the last resource available to many low-income people. Donations to WinterCare can be made by:

- 1) adding \$1, \$5 or more for the WinterCare Energy Fund to a participating utility's bill payment.
- 2) mailing a contribution directly to WinterCare at WinterCare Energy Fund, PO Box 116010, Lexington, KY 40506.

Every penny of a donation goes to help those in need. Please help others keep warm this winter. For more information about WinterCare, contact Daniel Boone Development Council at (606)256-4633 or (606)598-5127.

Many of our customers and subscribers have commented throughout the years about not being able to get in touch with us after hours and on weekends. That is no longer a problem. We can now be contacted on the Internet at www.wintercare.com.

Mt. Vernon, county apply for Governor's Initiative

By: Richard Anderkin

A couple of weeks ago a local group of about thirty community leaders and concerned citizens submitted an application to the state which, if approved, would greatly benefit the entire county.

The application went to Kentucky Governor Paul Patton's office as part of his Kentucky Appalachian Community Development Initiative, which is part of his plan for Kentucky in the 21st Century.

The mammoth application was submitted January 14 and local leaders should know whether they have been selected by the second week in April.

The application was submitted on behalf of the City of Mt. Vernon and the Rockcastle Fiscal Court.

The application calls for a four phase project that would cost an estimated \$24.5 million and take approximately ten years to complete. Phase one calls for the completion of the Kentucky County Music Hall of Fame project at Renfro Valley, which is currently underway.

Phase one also calls for the construction of a civic center in the Renfro Valley area. The major cost of that project would be land acquisition, design, utilities and construction.

Phase two would include the cleanup of the Rockcastle River Basin and the restoration and revitalization of main street in Mt. Vernon.

Local man indicted in federal court

A federal grand jury in London returned an indictment last week for a Mt. Vernon man.

Michael Wayne Bullock, 30, of Carter Drive, was indicted for violation of Title 18, United States Code.

According to United States Attorney, Joseph L. Famularo, Bullock is accused of furnishing false information in connection with an attempted firearms purchase in January of last year.

According to Famularo, Bullock was subject to a domestic violence order when he attempted to purchase a firearm.

Bullock will appear before Magistrate Judge J.B. Johnson on Friday in federal court in London.

Somerset men arrested after I-75 traffic stop

Two Somerset men were arrested Tuesday after they were stopped on I-75 three miles north of Mt. Vernon. Kentucky State Police Officer Joe Schenkenfelder arrested Donald R. Shadon, 47 and James Shadon, 46, after he discovered 37 cases of beer, twelve bottles of vodka and twelve bottles of whiskey in the 1984 Chevrolet van they were driving.

Both men were charged with illegal transportation of alcoholic beverages in a dry territory and lodged in the Rockcastle Detention Center.

Phase three covers the construction of a natural gas pipeline, expansion of the industrial park space and construction of a new Kentucky Technology Center adjacent to the Rockcastle High School.

Phase four would build needed sewage treatment facilities and develop recreation facilities in the Lake Linville and Rockcastle River area.

"This was a collaboratively developed application with input and work from numerous individuals, agencies and organizations," said

Bigge Towery, Jr., Executive Director of the Rockcastle County Development Authority, which was organized as an arm of the Rockcastle County Industrial Board.

"If we are not selected to participate in this project the application document itself will remain the nucleus for the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for Rockcastle County," Towery said.

Towery said that economic

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Ordinance reading, vote set for next Monday night

The Mt. Vernon City Council is scheduled to hold a second and final reading on Monday night of a city ordinance that will tax local employees a half cent of every dollar earned and business owners the same on the net profits of their businesses.

Many local citizens have protested the tax, that began at one and half percent, before the council voted to lower it to a half percent.

However last week, Rockcastle Circuit Judge Dan Venters, who was serving as a special circuit judge in Knox County, ruled that Barbourville was not entitled to collect an occupational tax from local citizens because they were located inside a county with a population of less than 30,000 people.

Venters referred to Kentucky Law, (KRS 68.197(4)) which refers to fiscal counties and not cities.

Barbourville had filed suit against Knox County in an attempt to make the county pay the city part of an occupational tax they passed last year. Barbourville contended that they were entitled to the money because many of the county's workers worked inside the city limits.

Of course Mt. Vernon is located inside a county with less than 30,000 people and may or may not be eligible to pass a payroll tax.

School out for summer, May 30

Old man winter has been tough on the Rockcastle County School system the past three weeks.

As of Wednesday, the local school had missed ten days due to snow and ice.

As of stands now, school would dismiss for the summer on Tuesday, May 30, according to Loretta Powell, chairman of the local school system calendar committee.

Remaining vacation days in the calendar are February 21, for Presidents Day, April 3-7 for Spring Break and May 29 for Memorial Day.

Ms. Powell said that if the school system were lucky enough not to miss anymore, other options may be considered such as going on May 29th, because the last day of school is slated to be only a half day.

She said the school system may also consider going the last day on Saturday, May 27.

But, a spokesman from the Department of Local Government in Frankfort said last week, that all Kentucky cities could pass a payroll tax, for whatever amount they desired.

City Attorney John Clontz said that he was researching the matter, but that it was his belief that Judge Venters ruling dealt with a county issue and not a city one.

"I think the city can certainly pass a tax, if they so desire," he said.

Image Entry to hire more employees

Bill D. Deaton, President and CEO of Image Entry, Inc., announced that the company was recently awarded new contracts that would require the hiring of an additional 650 people.

The new contracts include major Blue Cross plan nationwide, as well as two contracts to process over three million individual state income tax returns.

In addition, Image Entry expects to win a federal contract that will require approximately 125 people by January 31, 2000.

"We are extremely thankful and excited that these new clients have entrusted us to do their work," Mr. Deaton said. "The challenge for us is to get enough people to do the work, of course. All of our offices are hiring and we are also considering opening two additional offices this spring."

In commenting about why the companies chose Image Entry, Dea-

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Brodhead under boil water advisory

The City of Brodhead remains under a boil water advisory this week after a main line break on Hwy. 1505 on Saturday morning.

Brodhead City Clerk Becky Bussell said the line that broke was installed in 1936.

The clerk said that Brodhead water customers should-boil their water before using it to cook or drink.

She said that the city may be able to lift the advisory as soon as Thursday.

Detention Center beginning to prosper

Less than five months ago the Rockcastle County Detention Center remained closed and the county's jail bills continued to mount into the thousands and thousands of dollars.

On the average the county paid \$16,000 per month just to keep their prisoners at other jails.

But things are beginning to change dramatically at the local lock-up.

Last Saturday morning staff at the Detention Center counted 89 prisoners being held.

The good news is that 63 of them were what Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlolis likes to refer to as paying customers.

Actually they are state prisoners and the county is paid \$26.23 per day to keep them.

At 63 prisoners a day, the county would realize \$600,000 in revenue per year from the state alone.

Rockcastle County Jailers Miller presented a budget to the Rockcastle Fiscal Court, which estimated revenues and expenditures

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Everything at the new Rockcastle County Detention Center is electronically controlled, including the opening and closing of the cell doors. Jailers James Miller sits at the control panel, which virtually runs every aspect of the detention center.