



Brown leads Rock to victory

Mount Vernon Signal

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Three people indicted

Five people, three of them from Rockcastle County, suspected of breaking into the wrong house to find someone they were looking for were indicted by the Lincoln County Grand Jury Friday.

The grand jury charged all five with first-degree burglary while armed with deadly weapons, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. One of the accused, Tommy D. Wilson of Berea, was charged additionally with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Police suspect that the alleged burglary occurred when the five went to McKinney on January 27 looking for a man named J.R. They stopped at a store and asked for directions to J.R.'s house. The store clerk gave them directions to where someone named J.R. lived, but it wasn't the one they were looking for.

When they got to the house, they drove to the rear, walked onto the back porch and began pounding on the door. Only a teenage girl was at the residence and she became frightened and hid in a closet.

The group kicked in the back door, according to police reports and entered the home on Geneva-McKinney Road. They didn't find the young girl and left when another car drove up.

The person who came upon the scene called 911 and a report went out to available law enforcement officers to look out for the car with Ohio license seen leaving the house. Stanford police stopped the car on Brock Drive near the city limits of Stanford about 20 minutes after the call went out.

The five were arrested by Deputy Sheriff Bill Schneider. Charged in the alleged burglary were:

Timothy E. Denny, 36, of Rt. 5, Mt. Vernon; Tommy D. Wilson, 53, of Berea; Danny Rains, 51, of Norwood, Ohio; Timothy D. Abrams, 48, of Rt. 3, Mt. Vernon and Diana J. Abrams, 41, also of Rt. 3, Mt. Vernon, who was driving the car.

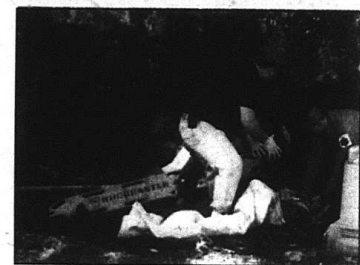
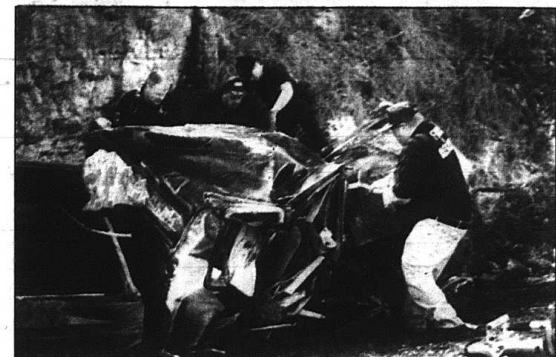
Police searched the vehicle and found cocaine, a crack pipe, a .22 caliber rifle and a 9 mm pistol.

House passes consolidation of counties bill

Monday, the Kentucky House of Representatives passed the highly controversial consolidation of counties bill by a whopping 83-11 majority.

State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon, who had voiced opposition to the bill over the past several months, changed his mind and voted for it.

Ford said he voted in favor of the bill because it is a purely voluntary bill. "No county can be forced to merge with another one, if they do



Two brothers, one from Virginia and the other from Tennessee were seriously injured in a single vehicle wreck on I-75 Tuesday afternoon. Members of the Mt. Vernon fire department used the jaws of life to free Robert Hopkins, 46, from the wreckage. David Hopkins, 48, was asleep in the back of the Ford truck, which had a camper top and was thrown from the vehicle during the crash. Both men received multiple injuries in the 2:30 p.m. crash and treated at Rockcastle Hospital before being transferred to the University of Kentucky Hospital. The wreck occurred on the off-ramp at Exit 59, after Robert Hopkins apparently fell asleep as he drove south on the interstate.

Cox honored by weather service

On Monday, February 28, 2000, Robert L. "Buddy" Cox was presented the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Length of Services Award for 25 years of dedicated service with the National Weather Service.

Buddy has taken temperature and precipitation measurements for just over 25 years from the Cox Funeral Home in Mt. Vernon where his weather equipment is located. In November 1974, Buddy began taking weather observations and phoning in rainfall and snowfall amounts as well as daily maximum, minimum and current temperatures to the

Weather Bureau Office in Louisville. He has seen a lot of changes over the years not only in equipment and reporting procedures, but also in supervising stations as he now sends out his reports to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Jackson, Kentucky.

Buddy is continuing a tradition

Daughtery appointed to council

By a vote of three to two last week, the Mt. Vernon City Council appointed Lonetta Daughtery to the council.

She will fill the unexpired term of Daryl "Moody" Smith who resigned from the council in January after he moved outside the city limits.

Mrs. Daughtery, 33, a clerk for the U.S. Post Office in Mt. Vernon, will serve until January.

Local caterer Barbara Bennett received the other two votes of the council, which casted secret ballot.

\$15,000 more spent on fuel

The high prices of crude oil have hit many school systems across the state very hard in the pocket book.

Some school systems have said they would have to put off renovation

that began with a cough back in 1956, Henry H. Cox, who worked for the

Three cars, house tangle in accident

Three vehicles and four people were involved in yet another accident at Mt. Vernon's most dangerous intersection.

Mt. Vernon police said that Crystal DeBorde, 17, of Brodhead apparently pulled into the path of James Rowe, also of Brodhead at the intersection of Williams Street and Richmond Street around 10 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Rowe hit DeBorde's vehicle, then he hit a vehicle driven by Verla Scott 78, of Mt. Vernon before hitting a house on the right side of the street owned by Juanita Sloan.

DeBorde and a passenger, Ashley Lake, 17, were treated and released at Rockcastle Hospital. Mrs. Scott was also treated at Rockcastle and released. Rowe was not injured.

Six year road plan includes money for 150

By: Richard Anderkin
The Kentucky General Assembly has been issued a copy of the state's six year road plan, which includes several projects for Rockcastle County.

But, State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon said that the road plan could change somewhat because Governor Paul Patton's tax package was in jeopardy of defeat.

"I don't think it has any chance of passing at all, so that could mean some projects in the road plan may be cut out," Ford said.

Money for the reconstruction of Hwy. 150 from Crab Orchard to Mt. Vernon is included in the plan.

\$1 million for design work on Hwy. 150 in the year 2002, from Brodhead to Mt. Vernon is included. Another \$8.3 million is included for right-of-way acquisition in 2004, but no money was included for construction.

A total of \$19.5 million for Hwy. 150 from Crab Orchard to Brodhead is also included in the six year plan with design work beginning on that project in 2001.

Right-of-way acquisition will begin on that portion of 150 in 2003 at a cost of \$7.2 million and construction is slated to begin in 2006.

Interstate 75 is also included in the road plan with a four mile project from the 71.5 mile marker to the 75.5 mile marker. The \$25 million project

Interviews for DES director conducted by fiscal court

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court and Regional Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator Richard Francis interviewed four candidates for Rockcastle DES Coordinator on Tuesday night.

The four interviewed were Keith Graves, an officer with the Kentucky National Guard, Don Gabbard, a board member with the Brindle Ridge Fire Department, Tim Cameron, Rockcastle's 9th Director and LuEd Nielson, former director of the local REAP program and Red Cross.

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis said he would submit a name to the fiscal court at the next meeting for their consideration.

The job was left vacant by the resignation of Gary Asher a few months ago. With benefits it pays \$5,400 a year.

will widen I-75 to four lanes and work will begin in 2002.

\$3.5 million is also included for the rehabilitation of pavement along I-75 from mile marker 55 to milemarker 65. That project will take place this year.

Also included in the plan is the replacement of the bridge that crosses Roundstone Creek at Hummel at a cost of \$1 million. That project is scheduled for 2006.

A bridge on Hwy. 1786 at Clear Creek is also slated for replacement in 2004 at a cost of \$615,000.

And a bridge at Lamona on Hwy. 490 is scheduled to be replaced in 2004 at a cost of \$780,000.

Ford said that the projects on I-75 and Hwy. 150 would likely survive because there is federal money tied to those projects as well. As for the bridge replacements Ford said the Governor may hold projects such as those over legislator's heads, in an attempt to get his tax package passed which includes an eight cent a gallon gas tax.

Local man arrested in Brodhead

A Rockcastle man is scheduled to appear in Rockcastle District Court on Monday to face charges of threatening a police officer and assault, resisting arrest, driving under the influence and fleeing or evading.

According to a police report, Brodhead police officer Willie Skeens arrested Ricky Dale Madden of Pecos Kingdom Road, Brodhead, after a chase in Brodhead that ended on Chestnut Grove Road last Wednesday around midnight.

According to the report, Madden tried to hide on a back porch, but that when Skeens spotted him, the two became involved in a scuffle and Madden struck Skeens with a flashlight.

Skeens also said in a complaint filed against Madden that Madden told him that he had shot at a peace officer once and missed but that when he got off jail he wouldn't miss officer Skeens.

Madden was released on a \$10,000 property bond on Monday.

In 1993 Madden pled guilty to first degree wanton endangerment in connection with a September 7, 1989 incident when he was accused of shooting into the home of former KSP officer Jimmy Silvers.



Shoptite Supermarket in Brodhead, (formerly Foodland) began its Grand Opening week with a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday morning. Shown above from left are: Winston Griffin with Laurel Grocery, Brodhead Mayor Walter Cash, and store owners Charles and Debbie Hargree. The Grand Opening runs through March 7.



They're Champions...

The Rockcastle County High School girls track team, coached by Mark Brummett, captured second place in the 40th Annual Mason-Dixon Class 2A Indoor Track and Field State Championships held at Broadbent Arena in Louisville last weekend. Along the way, two members of the team picked up two individual state titles -- junior Cheyenne Carmack in the 400 meter dash and sophomore Clarissa Hubbard in the shot put. Carmack was also state-runner up in the 55 meter dash. Junior Tara Abney placed 4th in the 55 meter hurdles and junior Mindy Bullock placed 6th in high jump and 7th in long jump. The team of Abney, seventh graders Casey Taylor and Heather Hammond and eighth grader Sheena Swinney finished 6th in the 800 meter relay and Abney, Carmack, Chislum and Swinney finished as state runner up in the 1600 meter relay. Shown in the photo with their first ever state trophy are, front row, from left: Mindy Bullock, Cheyenne Carmack, Theresa Chislum and Tara Abney. Back row: Clarissa Hubbard, Heather Hammond, Casey Taylor and Sheena Swinney.