



Producers take KS tour A-6

Mount Vernon Signal

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Hall of Fame, other money included in state budget

Rockcastle County fared somewhat better than other counties, after state leaders finally reached an agreement on a budget for Kentucky for the next two years.

Included in the \$14 billion state budget is \$1.5 million for exhibits at the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame project, which is currently underway at Renfro Valley.

The \$1.5 million brings the total state outlay for the Hall of Fame to \$3,168,000 from the state's last two budgets.

The 1998 Kentucky General Assembly appropriated \$2,168,000 for the actual construction of the Hall of Fame.

State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon said he was very pleased with the money for the Hall of Fame. "It was kind of in the air for a while because we did not pass the Governor's tax increase, but we worked very hard to see that money was left in the budget, because of the tax increase."

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Powell pleads guilty to Dairy Mart robberies

A Mt. Vernon man pled guilty in Rockcastle Circuit Court on Monday to two counts of robbery, second degree.

According to acting Commonwealth Attorney Eddy F. Montgomery, Frankie Lynn Powell, 20, of Rockcastle Villa Apartments, admitted that he threatened to use physical force while committing thefts at the Dairy Mart store in Mt. Vernon in December of last year.

Montgomery recommended a sentence of five years for Powell. Formal sentencing will take place on May 12.

An assault charge against Powell over an incident at the Rockcastle County Detention Center last week is still pending.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette said that case will be presented to the Rockcastle Grand Jury at a later date.

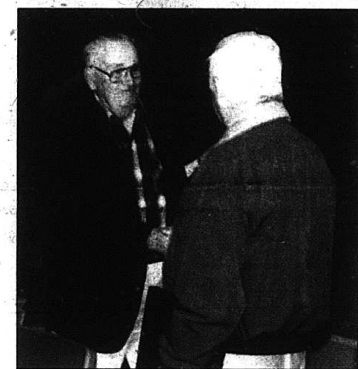
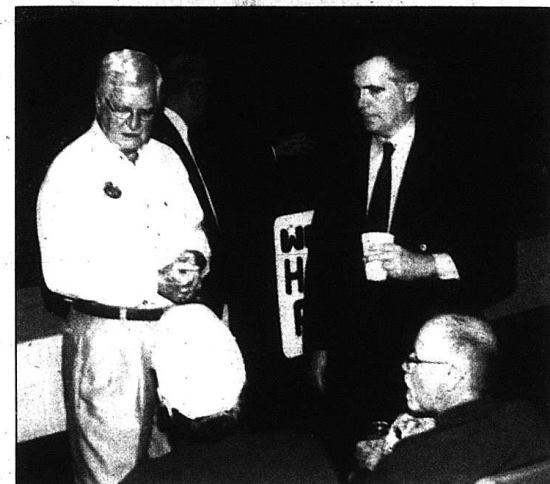
Grand Jury indicts twelve Friday

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down 12 indictments Friday for crimes ranging from trafficking in marijuana to receiving stolen property.

Gary Day, 34, of Day Street, Brodhead was indicted on three counts.

He is accused of possessing drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and possession of narcotics on about February 3 in Rockcastle County.

Brodhead police officer Willie Skeens is the investigating officer.



U.S. Congressman Harold Rogers was at the Rockcastle County High School Tuesday to discuss the county's plan for economic development. He praised local leaders and volunteers for coming together to work toward obtaining more jobs for the county. He discussed tourism, his PRIDE program and new age technical jobs.

Above, at left is Congressman Rogers with Rockcastle County Judge Executive Buzz Carlotti, Rockcastle PRIDE coordinator Don Coyle and local Solid Waste Coordinator Scottie Berryman. At left, Rogers speaks with longtime friend and supporter Alonzo McCollum. Over 100 people attended the meeting.

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County files counterclaim in road suit

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has filed an answer to a lawsuit brought against them concerning the closing of a Rockcastle County road.

The fiscal court also instructed Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette to file a counterclaim in the suit.

The suit involves the Toddy Payne Road, also known as the Flat Rock-Hill Road, which runs through to Halcomb East Road at Maple Grove.

The suit was brought against the county last month by Mike and Lori Gates, who own 800 acres along the road.

The Gates asked the fiscal court a few months ago to close the road because it is virtually impassable because they are building a retreat for the blind and physically handicapped.

Several local residents also voiced their opposition to the closing of the road at two different meetings of the fiscal court.

Fifth district magistrate Donald Bullock has been very vocal about closing the road as well. Bullock maintains that the road is a county road and has been for more than 50 years.

In a sworn affidavit, Bullock says the road has been worked during his 15 years in office and that the road is passable by horseback even now.

However, the Gates contend that the road is not passable because the road actually has never been maintained by the county.

Gates' attorney, Jerry Cox of Mt. Vernon, said the closing of the road would not landlock anyone and that if the road were left open, it would cause a safety problem for people attending Gates' retreat.

Gates said that a major concern of his was that people use the road to get to their marijuana patches and they also dump illegal garbage all along the road.

And the minutes of the fiscal court show that on several different occasions in past years, the fiscal court declined to accept the road into the county road program and they also declined to work on the road past the Allen Cemetery.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotti admitted that the county has no deeds to the road, but said that his administration had all-

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Ten Commandments bill to be signed by Governor

A spokesperson for Kentucky Senator Albert Robinson, of London, who also represents Rockcastle County, said Wednesday that Governor Paul Patton would sign a bill that will allow the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools, courthouses and other public buildings.

Robinson's bill will allow the posting of the Commandments as a historical document and not a religious one, which will enable the law to stand up in court, according to Robinson.

The bill easily passed the House and Senate earlier in this year's session.

Currently the Commandments are posted in the Rockcastle County Courthouse, but they are not posted in any of the Rockcastle County schools.

The American Civil Liberties Union has petitioned the Governor to veto the bill, but the spokesman said

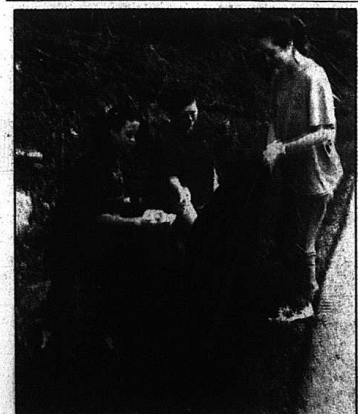
Wednesday that the Governor has said he would sign it.

A local religious group has also asked the Rockcastle Fiscal Court if they could construct a monument on the courthouse lawn displaying the Commandments, but the court has not taken any final action on that request.

Work release prisoner walks away from detail

An inmate from the Rockcastle County Detention Center walked away from a work detail at the state highway garage last week and is still at large.

Rockcastle County Jailor James Miller said that a warrant for escape has been issued for John B. Mayfield, 37, of Somerset, who is listed as a class D non-violent offender.



44 volunteers including RCHS students Leslie Robinson, Jennifer Alsip and Jessica Lowery, picked up nearly 100 bags of garbage during Saturday's PRIDE clean-up day in the county. (See other photos on Page B-1)

an accident and damaging the car of Lew Vanwinkle in excess of \$1,000 on March 12.

Brodhead Police Chief Joe Bussell is the investigating officer. Ricky Dale Madden, 43, of Postsum Kingdom Road, Brodhead was indicted on six counts in connection with an altercation with police on February 22.

He was indicted on charges of fleeing or evading police, two counts of wanton endangerment in the first degree, assault in the third degree, D.U.I., first offense and persistent felony offender.

Brodhead police officer Willie Skeens is the investigating officer.

Mark Edward Howard, 34, of East Bernstadt was indicted on six counts in connection with a January 29 incident involving local police.

Howard was indicted on charges of two counts of wanton endangerment in the first, fleeing or evading police, criminal mischief, first degree for damaging a police cruiser, operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol and operating a motor vehicle on a suspended license.

The case involved a police chase from I-75 near Burt to Berea.

Lt. Eddie Delaney of the Mt. Vernon police department is investigating the case.

James "Bubba" Hayes, 19, of Shirley Street, Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of receiving stolen property that belonged to Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Darrell Doan is investigating the March 20 incident.

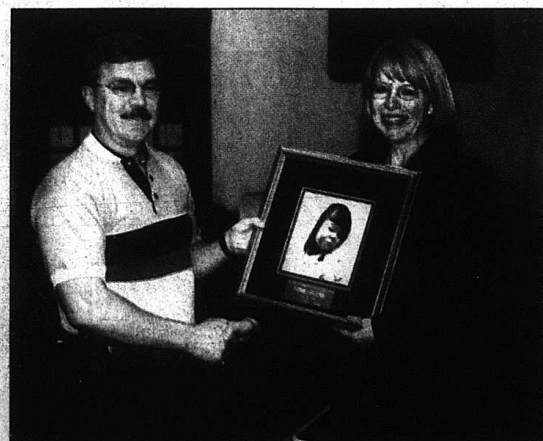
40 not four

In a story in last week's Signal concerning census workers, a statement read that workers could work as many as four hours per week, when that should have actually stated 40 hours per week.

Elizabeth Carol Renner, 40, of Mt. Villa Apartments, Mt. Vernon, was indicted on one count of promoting contraband first degree.

She is accused of trying to pass a

Abney receives Children's Service Award



A very deserving Anne Stewart Abney received the Betty Lewis Children's Service Award for 2000 for her outstanding service to the children of Rockcastle County. Tuesday night during a ceremony at the Bank of Mt. Vernon, Mrs. Abney was nominated for the award by Nancy Mullins of Mt. Vernon. Mrs. Abney taught special education in Rockcastle County for 23 years and she also followed up with many of students outside of school. She is also a Sunday School teacher at Wildie Christian Church and currently she teaches Pre-School at Roundstone. Her and husband Paul have four sons, Stewart, Tanner, Martin and Cole. She was presented her award by last year's recipient Charles Napier.