

Mount Vernon Signal

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Tipin in Renfro Saturday

Grand Jury hands down six indictments

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down six indictments Friday for various alleged crimes.

Anthony C. Garrett, 35, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on four counts involving incidents with his wife, dating back to December of last year. Garrett is accused of pointing a loaded firearm at his wife Rebecca and their infant son on December 11. He is also accused of hitting his wife with his fist the same day.

Garrett was also indicted on one count of Stalking first degree. He is accused of violating a protective order issued by the court and going to his wife's residence and leaving threatening phone messages.

Joe Michael Spoonamore, 25, of Castle Village, Brodhead, was indicted on three counts, in connection with a March 21 incident with Brodhead Police Chief Joe Russell. Spoonamore was indicted for escape, assault and theft by unlawful taking. He is still at large.

Karl W. Pittman, 26, of Mt. Vernon, was indicted for escape/second degree. He is accused of leaving his home on Fair Street while under court ordered home incarceration. He was also indicted on one count of being a persistent felony offender.

Paul Franklin Levart, 23, of Cynthia was indicted for attempting to introduce illegal drugs into the Rockcastle County Detention Center on March 26. He was also indicted for being a persistent felony offender.

John B. Mayfield, 37, of Somerset was indicted for escape. He is accused of walking away from a work detail, while under supervision at the state highway garage, on April 10. He was also indicted on one count of being a persistent felony offender. He was captured a couple of weeks after he walked away.

Ronnie Ray Goff, 48, of Brodhead, was indicted on one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of property valued over \$300.

Rifle team members may receive scholarships

Last week the Rockcastle County Board of Education gave their verbal approval to an outlay of approximately \$13,000 for rifles and equipment that will allow the JROTC Rifle Team at the Rockcastle County High School to compete in the Precision Rifle category as well as the Sporter category.

But that is not the best thing to come from the board's decision. By competing in the Precision category, rifle team members will be eligible for college scholarships.

SGT. Major Keith Taylor, who coaches the rifle team, told the board that over 300 colleges and universities across the country offer scholarships to high school students who are accomplished shooters. Among those is the University of Kentucky, whose rifle team is currently ranked second in the nation.

The Rifle team at RCHS has been extremely successful in the past year in the Sporter division, almost totally dominating the sport in the state. They will compete in the Nationals in Georgia in June.

Parent elections held at Rockcastle County High

Forty parents turned out Tuesday night for the parent elections to the Rockcastle County High School Site Based Decision Making Council.

Cindy Anderson was re-elected to the council and Paul Abney was elected to replace Roy Adams, who did not seek re-election.

Anderson and Abney will join teachers, Adam Coleman, Connie Riddle and Dana Singleton on the council.

At Mt. Vernon last Wednesday the certified staff re-elected teachers Paula Cowan, Bobby Webb and Mike Robins to the council. The parent members are Dr. Tony Arvin and Roy Martin.

The final two SDBM elections in the county will be held Thursday night (tonight) at Brodhead Elementary and Roundstone Elementary. Both teachers and parents will be elected the same day.

Last week we reported that Barbara Clark had been elected to the council at the Rockcastle Middle School, when it should have said Brenda Clark.

Local men sentenced

Acting Commonwealth Attorney Eddy F. Montgomery announced Monday that three Rockcastle County men had pled guilty in Rockcastle Circuit Court last Friday.

According to Montgomery, Frankie Powell, 20, of Mt. Vernon, Hugh Michael Helton, 42, of Renfro Valley and James Dawson, 27, of Hammond Trailer Park, Mt. Vernon, were sentenced to prison by Circuit Judge William Cain.

The prosecutor said that Powell admitted that he committed two robberies on December 26 and December 28 at Dairy Mart in Mt. Vernon and that he threatened to use physical force while committing one of those thefts. He received a five year sentence.

Montgomery said that Helton admitted to stalking his ex-wife and threatening to kill her, after being served with a protective order. Helton received a one year sentence.

Dawson, who was probated in 1997 had his probation revoked after a search of his residence turned up controlled substances, drug paraphernalia and weapons. Montgomery said that Dawson admitted that he had been drinking beer and he also tested positive for marijuana and cocaine. Dawson's original sentence of three years was imposed.

\$50,000 doesn't go far

The \$50,000 the state gave the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court for blacktop on Burnt Ridge Road did not go very far.

The 4.5 mile long road, which runs along the county's border with Madison County was heavily damaged during the reconstruction of Big Hill and Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlolitis says it is probably in worse shape than any other county road.

Traffic from U.S. 421 was detoured onto Burnt Ridge during the multi-million dollar road work at Big Hill, but no funds were set aside to fix Burnt Ridge road after the work to Big Hill was completed.

The \$50,000 in blacktop went about 1.6 miles leaving three miles of the road still in extremely bad shape. The Judge said he would ask the state for more money and he would also ask the Madison County Fiscal Court for some help on the road.

Rockcastle has always maintained the road because no Madison County residents live on the road. The side of the road in Madison is owned by Berea College and no homes are on it. About 25 Rockcastle families live along the road.

Jon Carloftis on HG-TV

One of the nation's top Garden Designers, Jon Carloftis of Livingston, will appear on the Home and Garden Network, on Wednesday, May 24, at 10 p.m. and on Sunday, May 28 at 5 p.m. One of his designs will be featured as part of the Hidden Gardens of New York series.

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WHAS Crusade for Children, May 26

Twila Burdette, left, Director of Activities at Rockcastle Hospital and Linda Gregory, right, Director of Speech Services, present the keys to the hospital's handicapped van to Jody Adams, President of the hospital's Resident Council. The van was purchased with funds raised by the annual roadblock on Memorial Day weekend. This year will mark the ninth year local volunteers have participated. Over the past nine years \$120,000 has been raised locally with WHAS donating much more than that. Last year \$6,000 was raised locally and WHAS contributed \$40,000. Volunteers will be soliciting funds locally on Friday, May 19



Eddy Montgomery



David Tapp

Race for prosecutor highlights Primary Election on Tuesday

In Tuesday's May Primary election local voters won't have much to vote for because most candidates are either running unopposed or do not have to run until November.

The Republicans will have a Commonwealth Attorney's race, which will pit former prosecutor David Tapp and current acting Commonwealth Attorney Eddy F. Montgomery against each other for the six year term as well as the President's race.

No Democrats filed for Commonwealth Attorney.

The only contested races on the ballot for the Democrats will be for U.S. Congressman in the 5th District.

The Democrats and Republicans will vote for a Presidential candidate, but those winners have long been decided, with George Bush and Al Gore, facing off in November.

In the race for U.S. Congress, three democrats, Jimmy "Gabe" Turner, of Drift, Sydney Jane Bailey of Langley and Michael Vacca, Jr. of Shelbyville will face off to see who will run against Republican incumbent Congressman Harold "Hal"

Rogers of Somerset.

Running unopposed on the Republican side are State Rep. Danny Ford, State Senator Albert Robinson and Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk Teresa Vanzant.

Vanzant, who was appointed to fill her father's unexpired term in August of 1998, and Ford, will not be opposed in November.

Robinson will face opposition from Democrat Lawrence Kuhl of London.

In November, current Family Court Circuit Judge Debra Lambert will be opposed by current Palaski County assistant County Attorney Michael Duncan.

There will also be races for school board seats in district two, four and five.

The incumbents in those districts are: Terry Burton district two, Martin Vanzant, district four and Sherry Isaacs, district five.

There will also be council races in Mt. Vernon, Brodhead and Livingston.

Group pleads guilty

By Richard Lovell
Several Rockcastle County residents, many members of the same local family have pled guilty in United States federal court to illegal drug activity.

According to a media release from the Department of Justice, a large cocaine distribution organization based primarily in Mt. Vernon has been dismantled thanks to a massive five year investigation, which included law enforcement agencies from Eastern Kentucky to Miami, Florida.

In February seventeen people were arrested by state, local and federal police and in the past weeks, fourteen of those seventeen have pled guilty.

Many of those who pled guilty are from Rockcastle County and are members of the Floyd and Bernice Lovell family, of Bern.

According to the release, the organization was involved in the distribution of approximately 400 to 500 kilos of cocaine during the five year period.

The U.S. Attorney's office said the group was also involved in the laundering of more than \$2 million in United States currency. The \$2 million was the proceeds from the distribution of cocaine, which was sold mostly in Southeastern and Central Kentucky.

According to the release, the head of the organization, Richard Allen Lovell, 56, entered a guilty plea to operating a Continuing Criminal Enterprise and faces a 20 year to life sentence.

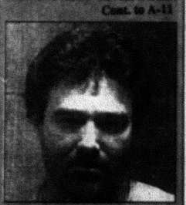
His wife, Kathleen Lovell, entered a guilty plea to money laundering conspiracy and faces up to a twenty year sentence.

During a bond hearing in February, an I.R.S. agent testified that the couple spent at least \$600,000 more than they could have earned through legal means, since their only found legitimate income was from gambling and welfare and social security payments.

At the conclusion of that same hearing, the federal judge denied bond for all those arrested on February 15 and they have been held ever since.

The following individuals entered guilty pleas to Criminal Conspiracy to distribute cocaine and various money laundering offenses.

Ronnie Bradley, who is already serving a sentence in federal prison on other drug related charges, Charles "Chuck" Lovell, Wendell



Cont. to A-11

RCHS will host both girls and boys district tourney

Both the girl's fast pitch softball district tournament and the boy's baseball district tournament will be held at the Rockcastle County High School beginning Monday May 22.

In the boy's tournament, RCHS will take on Oneida at 5 p.m. on Monday and Jackson County will play Clay County in the second game, 30 minutes following the conclusion

of the Oneida and Rockcastle game. The boy's championship game will take place on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Both the winner of the district and the runner-up advances to the regional tournament, which will also be played at RCHS beginning on Monday May 29.

The regional drawing will be held on Sunday May 28 at Rockcastle

County High. Eight teams will participate in the regional tournament with Corbin, Rockcastle County and Whitley County expected to be the favorites.

The Rockets have not played at home since May 2 because of a problem with the infield.

Cont. to A-11