



Rockets win District A-9

Mount Vernon Signal

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Warren Rosenthal gives Renfro Valley entertainment complex to Hall of Fame



The historic Renfro Valley Entertainment Complex was given as a gift to the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame board, by current owner Warren W. Rosenthal. The board is expected to take over on July 1.

County receives \$117,000 because of gas at Depot

By: Richard Anderkin

In the past three years the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has received over \$117,000 in funds from the federal and state government because of a deadly gas that is stored in nearby Madison County.

The court has used that money to remodel a room at the courthouse that would be used as an emergency operations center, and they have used some of the money to upgrade communications in the county for fire, police and other emergency personnel.

The funds came through the state's disaster and emergency services division and was made available to Rockcastle County because of the chemical weapons which are stored at the Bluegrass Army Depot in Richmond.

There are only 42 counties in the entire nation, which were eligible for the funds, because the counties are located near chemical stockpiles.

The money was made possible through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, (CSEPP) and was appropriated in case of a leak of the deadly gas at the depot.

Over one million pounds of two basic types of chemical agents in rockets and projectiles are stored at the depot.

Please Note!

The Signal had nothing to with the mix-up on the salubrious picture in the Rocket. We do not publish the Rocket, merely insert it.



The annual WHAS Crusade for Children roadblock was held last Friday at the intersection of Hwy. 150 and 461. Local volunteers raised over \$3,000 at the roadblock and through contributions. The annual fund raiser has provided funds for several pieces of equipment including the handicapped van in the background. Volunteer Cheryl Mullins was among those who helped out.

Two Quail teenagers injured in car wreck

A Quail teenager was flown to the University of Kentucky Medical Center and another sent to Marymount Medical Center for injuries sustained in an accident on

First Fish Fry Festival

The first annual Headwaters of the Dix River Fish Fry Festival is scheduled for Saturday in Broadhead.

Join in the fun of a city wide yard sale, parade, live music and delicious fried fish.

There will also be prizes and games for the kids.

A special dunking booth will also be set up for Rockcastle County Middle School student Holly Kidwell who suffers from Leukemia.

The Saint Joe Care Flight helicopter will also be on hand. For more information contact Broadhead City Hall at (606) 758-8635 or the Broadhead Fire Department at (606) 758-8113. Also see their advertisement on page A-4 of this week's Signal.

lewisite) that were designed to form blisters to human tissues.

The Bluegrass Army Depot at Richmond is one of nine locations in

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"Dive Bomber Hill" along U.S. 25 North Monday afternoon in Laurel County.

According to information from Brian Reams, chief of Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County, emergency personnel responded to the scene at 5:27 p.m. and found 15-year-old Aaron McKibben, also of Quail, suffering from minor injuries and the vehicle's 16-year-old driver, Matthew Bussell pinned inside the car.

Members of the London-Laurel Rescue Squad worked diligently for 40 minutes to remove Bussell, who suffered multiple injuries, from the vehicle before being flown from the scene to the Lexington facility.

According to police, Bussell received a broken left leg and fractured pelvis.

McKibben, who was outside the

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Largest county budget ever

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court approved a tentative working budget for 2000-2001 during a special called meeting on Friday.

The court was presented with the largest county budget ever at \$6.8 million.

The county will administer 12 different funds in the coming fiscal year which begins on July 1. Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlottis said the budget is extremely large because of projects such as the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame project, which accounts for \$3.5 million. The money is a pass through from the state for the project, but the county must include it in its budget.

Other budget total for the next fiscal year are: general fund, \$953,000, road fund \$875,000, jail fund \$658,000, local economic assistance fund \$78,600, economic development fund \$330,000, U.S. Office of Criminal Justice \$151,000, forestry fund \$1,725,911 fund \$224,000, chemical stockpile, emergency preparedness program \$12,000 and DES fund \$664,000.

The court also discussed the resignation of Disaster and Emergency Services Director Keith Graves. Graves who was hired a couple of months ago, resigned effective May 31. Carlottis said the fiscal court would discuss the matter at the regular court meeting on June 13.

By: Richard Anderkin

Certainly Rockcastle County's best known piece of real estate and probably the county's best asset has been given away as a gift.

Warren W. Rosenthal, owner of the Renfro Valley Entertainment Complex, which has been home to the world renowned Renfro Valley Barn Dance for 61 years, has given the complex away.

Late last Wednesday Rosenthal announced he was giving the historic complex to the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame Board.

The 76-year-old entrepreneur has been involved with Renfro Valley since 1989, when he sold his Lexington based corporation Jerrico Inc.

In 1992 Rosenthal became sole owner of the property and has spent millions and millions of dollars on improvements to the complex.

"History will always recognize the originator of this 'Valley Where Time Stands Still' and country music lovers should always pay homage to John Lair who started it all with but a dream . . . I hope the almost eleven years that I have dedicated to Renfro Valley will for future recognition and memory in some way rival Mr. Lair's contribution," Rosenthal said in a statement released last week.

After having entertained numerous offers for the property over the years Rosenthal made the decision to give the complex to the Hall of Fame Board, which he said he feels will foster and protect the future and the organization and maintain its heritage.

tage.

"I have considered offers from would-be buyers for this little entertainment jewel, only to be haunted by that which occurred in 1989 upon the sale of Jerrico, Inc., which owned Jerry's Restaurants, Long John Silver's and Fazoli's, and to which I gave my tender loving care for almost 50 years," Rosenthal said.

"The acquiring vultures from New York whom I call asphalt hillbillies did a financial take over of our company, mutilating those restaurant concepts, all for greed and dollars," he said.

"They abused the wonderful employees whose loyalty, sweat and toil had made those restaurants great and I swore that would never happen at Renfro Valley," he said.

Rosenthal is giving it all away debt free to the Hall of Fame Board, including the property, improvements, inventory and all other assets. He is also leaving the board with a bank balance and all bills will be completely paid. The board takes over as owner of the complex on July 1.

"This is a tremendous gift that Warren has bestowed upon the community and none of us who love and respect him are surprised by his generosity," said Jane Thorne, Chief Operating Officer.

"We will certainly miss his leadership, but it will be business as usual as Rockcastle Valley continues to offer the highest quality of family entertainment and southern hospitality," she said.

Thorne is currently a member of the Hall of Fame board, but she will be stepping down as of July 1, so she can continue her role as Chief Operating Officer of the complex.

"This is a truly amazing gift, from a man who obviously has the best interest of the community at heart and who wants to keep Renfro Valley in tact as one of our state's most respected entertainment facilities," said Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlottis.

David Jury, President and CEO of the Bank of Mt. Vernon, who also chairs the Hall of Fame Board, said that the Board will make an official announcement on July 1, but that the board had agreed to accept the gift in principal.

"This is a great gift to the community."

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Warren Rosenthal



New American flags waved in the wind and flew once again over Main Street Mt. Vernon during this last Memorial Day weekend thanks to the generosity of Elmo Anderkin and John C. Cox and the Rockcastle County Chapter #48 of the Disabled American Veterans. Forty American flags were purchased when the chapter no longer had the membership to sustain it and was merged this year with the London Chapter #66. These two remaining members decided to use the chapter's money to purchase the flags that will be flown on each appropriate holiday in memory of all those who fought and died to keep this country great. A special thank you goes to the Rockcastle County High School JROTC for removing the flags on Monday. Thanks to Jim, Buddy and John Cox for showing their community spirit by putting up the flags on this holiday for all to enjoy and for all to remember. Some of the members of the JROTC removing the flags were Jason Martin, Jon Nae, Tami Taylor and SGT. Major Keith Taylor.