



Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 42 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50¢ a copy - Thursday, July 20, 2000

Drug testing for athletes begins on August 1

Drug testing for Rockcastle County High School athletes will be held on August 1 and 2 at the Rockcastle County High School, according to Rockcastle County Director of Student Services Loretta Powell.

Rockcastle County High School athletic director and football coach Tom Larkey said that football players and golfers would be tested on August 1, and that cheerleaders and members of the cross-country team will be tested on August 2.

The testing will take place from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Larkey said that all students participating in a high school sport, regardless of age, will be tested.

Any athlete that refuses to be tested, or simply does not show up for the test will be declared ineligible.

At Thursday night's meeting of the Rockcastle School Board, the board accepted the bid of Forward Edge, a Lexington company, who will do the drug test. The cost will be \$20 per test.

The board also discussed the construction of the new Broadhead School building.

Bids for the project will be opened on August 3 at 2 p.m. at the Central office.

The new building is scheduled to be occupied by the beginning of school in 2001.

Local man pleads guilty

A Mt. Vernon man pled guilty Wednesday in Rockcastle District Court to possession of a scheduled three narcotic, criminal trespassing and theft by unlawful taking.

Jeff Winstead, 29, of Furr Rigby Road, who was arrested May 27 in Mt. Vernon, along with Donnie Lunsford, 25, of Mt. Vernon by Mt. Vernon police will serve no time in jail, for his guilty plea.

According to court records, Winstead will be placed on two years probation, will serve 60 hours of community service, which will include speaking at local schools concerning the adverse effects of drugs. He will also be required to spend 30 days in a drug treatment program and submit to a urine test every 30 days.

According to the order, Winstead will also be required to continue to cooperate with police in an ongoing criminal investigation.

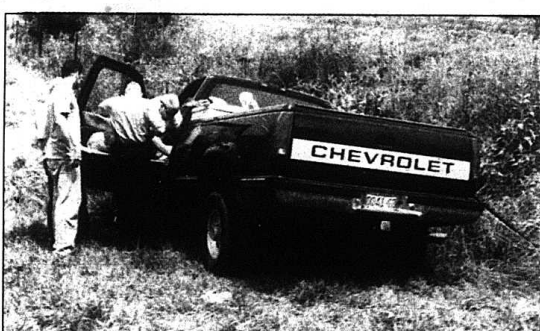
Lunsford, who has been held in the Rockcastle Detention Center since his arrest in May, awaits proceedings in district court.

According to court records, Lunsford is being held in jail because he violated conditions of his parole from state prison. He pled guilty last year connection with a stabbing incident in 1998.

He is currently charged with burglary, theft by unlawful taking, operating motor vehicle under influence of drugs, possession of a controlled substance first degree and possession of a controlled substance third degree.



Five people were taken to the hospital in two separate auto accidents in Rockcastle County this week. According to police, the most seriously injured was Robert Waldorf, 54, of East Bernstadt, who is shown being removed from his vehicle after he struck a trailer, which had come loose from a utility truck on I-75 Wednesday morning. Four people were treated and released Tuesday, around 12:30 p.m., at the Rockcastle Hospital for minor injuries they received in a two vehicle collision on Hwy. 150. One of those injured was Edna Wilburn, 28, of Brodhead, who is shown at left, being removed from the truck involved in the wreck. Also treated at Rockcastle Hospital and released were Frankie Wilburn, 33, Tami Taylor, 17 and Chris Taylor, 21.



Magistrates and Judge named in Dog suit

By: Richard Anderkin
A lawsuit filed against the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court last week, apparently made members stand up and take notice, concerning their obligation to take care of stray dogs in the county.

The Trixie Foundation, a group which looks after the well being of stray dogs in the state of Kentucky and several individuals, including Mrs. Mary VanWinkle of Copper Creek, filed suit in Franklin Circuit Court listing a total of 397 defendants.

Among those named in the suit were Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis and all five magistrates: John Holbrook, Jack Bradley, Bill McKinney, Fred Mullins, Jr., and Donald Bullock.

Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture Billy Ray Smith was also named in the suit.

The lawsuit alleges that the county judge/executives and magistrates in 70 counties, along with Smith, are in non-compliance or "sham" compliance with Kentucky's animal control and welfare statutes.

According to a release from the Trixie Foundation, the suit was filed after the Foundation researched the stray dog problem in Kentucky for the past four years.

According to the suit, fiscal courts have been required by law since 1954 to have a dog warden and since 1955 they have been required to establish and maintain a dog pound.

Currently the county employees a dog warden in Harlan "Buck" Farthing, but they have no dog pound.

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis said Wednesday that although the county currently had no dog pound, it was the court's position that they were named in the suit in error.

"It is up to the Commissioner of Agriculture to correct any actions of a fiscal court, which is incorrectly enforcing the laws concerning stray dogs," Carlotis said.

"We have never heard anything from the Commissioner, so therefore we must have been acting correctly," he said.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeffery T. Burdette, who is in the process of answering the suit, agreed with Carlotis about the actions of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Burdette has urged the fiscal court on several occasions to contract with another county to house stray dogs or begin building a facility of their own, so they would be in complete compliance with state law.

But on Tuesday, Burdette said, "It is ridiculous to assert lack of compliance with the law when a county has interpreted their duty and with it complied legally as evidenced by the Commissioner's lack of enforcement against the county."

"If the commissioner is of a mind to enforce dog laws, that's fine, but we contest the authority of the Trixie Foundation and the other plaintiffs in telling the county how to interpret the law pertaining to stray dogs," Burdette said.

Although Calofus and Burdette claim the county was sued in error, on Tuesday the court passed several motions concerning the handling of stray dogs in the county.

The court will establish a new phone line for the dog warden.

A county employee will man the phone line eight hours a day five days a week - the rest of the time the caller will get an answering machine.

The county will establish a \$500 line of credit for the purchase of dog food so the dog warden does not have to pay for it out of his pocket.

The court also voted to offer the Rockcastle Adoption Agency for Pets both labor and materials toward the construction of a new animal shelter in the Roundstone area of the county, but not near Roundstone School.

The court also agreed to let RAAP use county equipment during the construction of the shelter and they also discussed the possibility of using inmates from the Rockcastle Detention Center to help at the shelter after it is completed.

RAAP representative Terry Lunce said she was happy with the county's offer, but that until the shelter is completed, RAAP has absolutely no way to look after the well being of any animal.

The only service RAAP is presently able to provide for unclaimed animals is to advertise looking for homes, or refer those finding strays to other county shelters," Mrs. Lunce said.

"Because most of the 250-plus calls we have received so far this year cannot pay an admission fee to any out of county shelter, or transport found animals, or keep them in their own homes, the majority of Rockcastle County's unclaimed pet population continues to starve, get killed on our scenic roadways, or gang up on livestock populations, trying to survive," Lunce said.

Rockcastle Adoption Agency for Pets members and supporters would

Four indictments returned

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down four indictments Friday for crimes ranging from cultivating marijuana to burglary.

Daniel Blackburn, 29, of Livingston, was indicted on one count of burglary. He is accused of entering the home of Sam and Carrie Stallsworth on July 3, with the intent to commit a crime.

Laurie Pittman, 22, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of forgery

of a prescription. She is accused of trying to pass a false prescription for the pain killer, Lorcet Plus, at Mt. Vernon Drug on June 4.

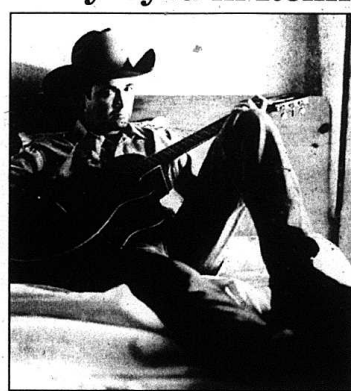
Ms. Pittman was also indicted on charges of being a persistent felony offender.

Sherry Ramsey, 35, of Mt. Vernon was also indicted on the charge of being a persistent felony offender. She was indicted on June 19, for the rape of a juvenile boy. She was convicted of another felony on

Cont. to A-8

Cont. to A-8

Tracy Byrd in Renfro Saturday



Tracy Byrd has a voice that can virtually own any type of song. No style of country music is beyond his grasp, from an up-tempo tune to a ballad or waltz his audiences are always impressed with the caliber of his music and it's always real, no gimmicks.

Tracy still lives in his home state of Texas, where he is a devoted husband and father to his wife, Michelle and young daughter, Evee. He still hangs out with his old high school buddies and goes hunting and fishing, every chance he gets.

An avid outdoorsman, Byrd has developed five Bass Fishing/Country Music Festivals benefiting Special Olympics.

He was only 20 years old when after a standing ovation he realized for the first time what an effect his voice could have on an audience. "As soon as they stood up and starting clapping, I knew what I wanted to do," Byrd says, and he's been doing it ever since.

To the delight of his fans, Renfro Valley Entertainment Center will



Members of the 13-year-old Rockcastle County Baby Ruth All-Stars are pictured above, front row from left: Justin Simpson, Colby Brown, Micah Reams, Ben Graves and Ricky Sandusky. Second row, from left: Justin Prewitt, Dustin Albright, Jackson "Ray" Justin Albright and Ronny Lee McClure. Back row, from left: Coaches Ronnie Brown, Darrin Smith and Keith Graves. Not shown: Matthew Burkhardt and Brandon Cole. The 13-year-olds are headed to the state tournament, which will be held at Russell High School beginning Saturday. (See related story on page A-8)

Tracy Byrd

Cont. to A-8