



Rockets win showdown
with Whitley

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

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Former Mayor of Brodhead dies Tuesday

A very active Brodhead civic leader and former Mayor died Tuesday at the Rockcastle Hospital.

Mr. Billy Bryan Russell, 75, husband of Wilene Russell, passed away after an illness of several months.

He was born July 13, 1925 in Brodhead, the son of the late Charlie and Halla Barnes Russell.

On February 1, 1947 he was united in marriage to Wilene Yaden and from that union came two children, Kathy and Bryan.

He served on the City Council of Brodhead for 12 years, served as Mayor of Brodhead for 20 years, was a member of the Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years and was a member of the Brodhead Masonic Lodge.

He served his country in the Armed Forces during WWII. He also served on the Piney Grove Cemetery Board as secretary/treasurer for over

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Billy Russell

\$2 million will help improve 25

U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers, says the final version of the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriations Bill includes \$2 million sought

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Brodhead council to hold meeting

The City of Brodhead is accepting applications for the position of police officer.

Resumes can be dropped off at Brodhead City Hall or mailed to P.O. Box 556, Brodhead, Ky. 40409.

City Clerk Becky Russell said that officer Willie Skeens had taken a job with another police department in Garrard County.

Brodhead will also hold a special council meeting on October 16, at 7:00 p.m., at which time they will likely hire a person for the water and sewer department.



Mrs. Grace D. Mullins, of Mt. Vernon, celebrated her 100th birthday Saturday, October 7. Mrs. Mullins is shown with State Rep. Danny Ford, who presented her with letters from President Bill Clinton, Kentucky Governor Paul Patton, U.S. Congressman Harold Rogers and Rep. Ford. Mrs. Mullins was also given the honor of being declared an official Kentucky Colonel. Mrs. Mullins has one surviving daughter, Mrs. Pauline Eaton, of Mt. Vernon. Congratulations Mrs. Mullins.



A mobile home, located on Hwy. 150 and owned by Alice Polly, was destroyed by fire Friday afternoon. Members of the Mt. Vernon and Brodhead Fire Departments responded to the call. On Sunday, the home of Tony and Brenda Renner at Maple Grove was heavily damaged by fire. Mt. Vernon, Livingston and Brodhead Fire Departments responded. Mt. Vernon fireman Tim Cameron estimated the damage to the Renner home at nearly \$40,000.

Mt. Vernon designated as bronze level in state program

Mt. Vernon was one of 32 communities in the state receiving Renaissance Kentucky designation at the Kentucky League of Cities Convention in Louisville on September 29.

The goal of Renaissance Kentucky is to recognize and honor communities that have maintained or re-

stored their central downtown areas as safe, efficient and functional urban cores. Additionally, the program provides support and technical assistance with the development of strategies for those communities that want to improve their downtowns.

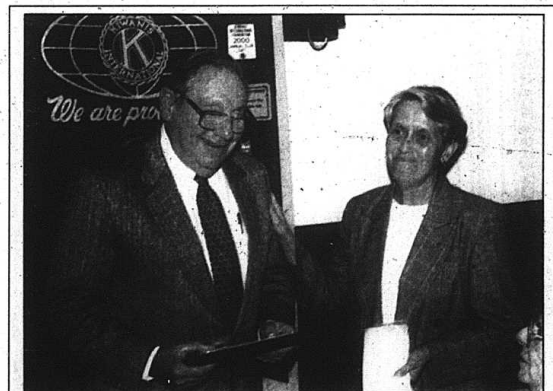
Renaissance Kentucky was launched by Governor Paul Patton in

1997, and 41 communities applied for and received this designation in 1998. During the last two years, these communities have received a total of \$32 million for infrastructure planning, streetscape and facade improvements and utility relocation.

Communities are divided into des-

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Warren Rosenthal receives Everett C. Brown Award



Warren Rosenthal, left, who gave the Renfro Valley Entertainment complex to the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame board last summer, was honored with the Everett C. Brown Community Service Award. Mrs. Martha Cox, right, presented the award.

Written and presented by Mrs. Martha Cox at the Rockcastle Kiwanis Meeting October 5

The dream and vision that began over ninety years ago with John Lair and the neighborhood boys playing string instruments in a barn loft along big and little Renfro Creek, has become such a successful reality—beyond anything their young minds could have imagined. This peaceful and serene valley has a mood and musical history uniquely its own that has cast its magical spell on millions who have stopped here for a short while and found the spell to last a lifetime.

One such person who found himself caught up in this sixty-one year old history of Renfro Valley Barn Dance is Warren Rosenthal and this is the man we would like to honor and to thank today.

It has been said, "to whom much is given, much is expected." By the long, long list of accomplishments and awards given to Mr. Rosenthal, we would have to say he could not have given more of himself to his community or to ours.

In addition to his many successful business-oriented activities, Mr. Rosenthal has found time to devote

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Venters grants appeal bond for Jones

Controversy erupts between Circuit Judge, prosecutors

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle Circuit Judge Dan Venters and prosecutors from Commonwealth Attorney Eddy Montgomery's office are at odds this week, over whether or not a local man convicted of a crime in May, should be released from jail on an appeal bond.

Of course the Judge has the final say, but that hasn't kept Montgomery's office from strongly objecting to his ruling.

On September 25, Benji Jones, 31, of Sand Hill, was sentenced to a total of eight years in prison, after he was found guilty in May of two counts of unlawful imprisonment, one count of assault and two counts of menacing.

The Rockcastle Circuit jury comprised of seven men and five women had originally recommended a sentence of ten years after finding Jones guilty on May 18.

The trial was the result of an August 15th, 1999 incident in which Jones was accused of kidnapping his ex-wife and daughter and taking them into the woods at Cat Gap.

According to court documents, his daughter was not forced to go with her parents, but she said she was afraid for her mother's safety because her father had a rifle in his possession.

Jones was indicted on September 10, 1999 on seven counts, in connection with the kidnapping.

On September 29, Jones' attorney Damon Preston filed a notice of appeal in the case and asked that his client be released on a \$20,000 bond, while he awaits the outcome of the appeal.

On October 2nd, Judge Venters ruled that Jones could be released on an appeal bond of \$20,000 provided he ingest no alcohol or controlled substances, have no contact with his ex-wife, abide by Family Court orders regarding contact with his daughter and enroll in an alcohol counseling program. Jones must also live with his mother.

But, on October 4, Commonwealth Attorney Eddy Montgomery and assistants David Dalton and Chris

Brown filed a motion asking Venters to reconsider his order.

The three pointed out that Jones had been found guilty by an unbiased Rockcastle jury and that the Judge had already lowered his sentence to eight years, after the jury recommended ten.

The Commonwealth Attorney's office also pointed out that Venters ruled without a response from their office or a hearing on the matter.

According to their motion, the appeal bond should have been denied because Jones has a long history of domestic violence and substance abuse.

The Commonwealth Attorney's office also pointed out that Jones' appeal bond was lower than the original bond set when Jones was indicted, but still presumed innocent.

"It is difficult enough to prosecute and win criminal cases under the best of circumstances. It is difficult enough to get twelve people to agree on an appropriate verdict and sentence in a criminal case. The Commonwealth submits that reducing a jury's ten-year verdict for Second-Degree Assault and First-Degree Unlawful Imprisonment and then setting the Defendant free sends the wrong message to the people of Rockcastle County. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney believes that violent criminals should be held accountable for their actions, and

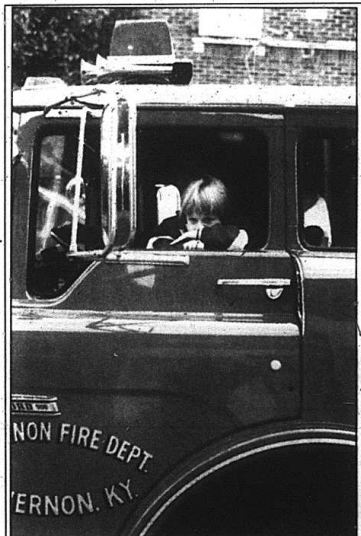
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Homecoming Reunion of Livingston School

Livingston School will hold its annual Homecoming Reunion at the Charcoal House at Days Inn, I-75 and Highway 192, London on Saturday, October 28.

Social Hour will begin upstairs at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served downstairs at 7 p.m. The cost is \$14.25, including tax and tip. Payment will be collected in the dining room this year. No advance reservation is required.

All Livingston School alumni are urged to attend.



Mt. Vernon firefighter Brian Hansel and daughter, Brianna, drove one of Mt. Vernon's fire trucks in Saturday's Bittersweet parade in Mt. Vernon. See numerous other photos inside. (More photos from the Bittersweet Festival will appear next week)