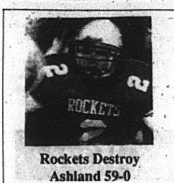


Mount Vernon Signal

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Rockets Destroy Ashland 59-0

Livingston teenager hurt in ATV crash

A Livingston teenager was seriously injured Saturday in a four-wheeler accident in Livingston.

According to police, Daniel Nolan, 14, was treated for multiple injuries at the Rockcastle Hospital and flown to the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

His mother, Sandy, said that Daniel had a skull fracture and broken leg but that he did not receive any permanent damage in the accident.

According to her he hit a burned tire with his ATV, which caused it to flip over an embankment near the railroad bridge, rolling over her son several times.

He has since been released from the hospital.

Western Water accepts bids for new water lines

Officials with the Rockcastle Western Water Association opened bids on Tuesday for a water project that will provide city water to more than one hundred customers throughout the county.

Akins Excavating of Corbin was the successful bidder on the water line extensions with a bid of \$418,930.

Caldwell Tanks of Louisville was the successful bidder on the new water tank, which will replace the Brad Reynolds tank on Hwy. 39 in Lincoln County. Their bid was \$235,800.

Seven companies bid on the water lines and three on the tanks. The new water lines will be laid on Lambert Road, Chestnut Ridge, Lime Plant Hollow, Mt. Zion Church Road, Caldwell Springs Road, Wald-Jones Road, Hwy. 1786 at Big Clear Creek and the McKinney Rd.

Western Water is the county's largest supplier of water service with more than 3,300 customers.

Their offices will soon be located in the former Citizens Bank building on Hwy. 150 in Mt. Vernon.

Lile gets most write-in votes

If looks like former Mayor Ed Lile may be the fourth member of the Livingston City Council.

During last Tuesday's vote count, Lile got five write-in votes in the Livingston City Council race.

Election officials failed to report the write-ins while counting votes.

If Lile accepts, he will join Charlie Newcomb, Curt McHargue and Todd Mink.

\$2 million for US 25 at Renfro

U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers of Somerset says \$2 million he requested to improve a section of US 25 which leads to the site of the Country Music Hall of Fame in Rockcastle County has been signed into law this week.

President Bill Clinton signed the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriations Bill that included the funding for the project to expand a section of the highway into three lanes.

The funding measure includes a total of \$478 million for Kentucky's highways and \$22.9 million for targeted highway and airport projects within Rogers' 5th Congressional District.

This \$2 million federal investment will help us develop this important project in Rockcastle County," Rogers said.

"We are building our tourism economy right now with this effort to improve access to the Country Music Hall of Fame site in Renfro Valley. By investing in our region's system of transportation, we're also investing in our campaign to promote economic development throughout the region. We're working to promote tourism, establish new businesses and create new jobs and our transportation network is a key to that effort," he said.



Veterans Day in Rockcastle County was observed by Veterans of the various services when they gathered to place a wreath and add another flag to the war memorial on the lawn of the Rockcastle County Courthouse. Veterans attending and participating in the ceremonies are pictured above, front row from left: Tony DePrato, William Crouch, Alfred McNew, John Bullens, Bill Lively, Wayne Lear and Gary R. Cromer. Second row from left: Richard Sewell, Kendall Poole, Mark Turner, Floyd Baker, Tom Miller, Carl D. Sears, Kermit Messer, and George Lakes. Back row from left: Bob Randolph, Gordon R. Albright, John C. Cox, R.R. Wolfe, Jr., and Ramond Asker. Not shown were Burt Thacker and Bill Phelps. (Photo by Jim Cox)



Members of two local Cub Scout Packs gathered on the courthouse lawn on Sunday to honor our nation's Veterans. Shown above, front row, from left: Justin Bretz, Michael Mowory, Will McClure, Charles Dickerson, Grant Thompson, Elliott Jackson, Tom Singleton Jr., Dakota McFerron, Jonathan Singleton, Mitchell McClure, Michael Mendoza and Jonathan Alexander. Back row, from left: James Bretz, Vietnam Veteran and Den Leader, Sherrill Dickerson, Asst. Webelo Leader, Anette Thompson, Webelo Leader, Debbie Singleton, Asst. Cub Master, Tim Singleton Cub Master and Julie McClure, Den Leader.

Problems on Oscar Isaacs Road lead to problems for other area residents

The problems on one county road are apparently delaying the acceptance of another road into the county's program.

Lester and Rozetta Steele live on Pleasant View Drive which runs off Oscar Isaacs Road in the northern section of Rockcastle County.

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has sued all of the landowners along the road in an effort to gain more right-of-way, which will make travel much easier along the road.

The road is currently fifteen feet wide and the county wants 30.

At least one resident has threatened physical violence over the county's actions and another landowner constructed a concrete barrier in the road to protect his own property.

The case is now in Circuit Court, where Circuit Judge Dan Venters has issued an injunction prohibiting the actions of landowners, until the suit is settled.

But for the Steeles the problem is that they and four other families live on Pleasant View Drive, which is a brand new blacktopped road.

But the road has a steep incline and Steele says it will be dangerous to travel this winter, unless the road is worked by the county.

However Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlolis said the county could not and would not take any action on Pleasant View Drive, until the problems with Oscar Isaacs are solved.

"He has promised to come out and look at the road - but he hasn't," Steele said.

Carlolis said there was no reason to even look at the road at this time. He said that if the road meets the county's requirements, which it does, the county would consider taking it over for maintenance at a later date. Garla Johnson of Berea is in the

process of developing 100 acres, off Oscar Isaacs Road and said that he had spent nearly \$30,000 to build the new road to county specifications.

"It's really a shame that the county will not take the road over - their actions are pretty much halting our progress on the development and hurting the expansion in this area of the county," Johnson said.

Because Oscar Isaacs Road is less than a half mile long and because Pleasant View Drive is not a county road, school buses do not travel the road.

That too is a problem for the Steeles who had six school age children.

"The bus meets us at Sweetwater Road, but if Pleasant View is not a county road, I think they would be obligated to travel both Oscar Isaacs and Pleasant View," Steele said.

But that's not the case, according to Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond.

"Our policy is very clear - we do not travel roads less than a half mile long and we don't travel roads that have not been accepted by the county," Hammond said.

Hammond said that in some cases buses do travel roads less than a half mile long, but those roads were traveled before the school system's new policy.

Hammond also said that in some cases bus drivers may take it upon themselves to go down a road that is less than a half mile - but they are not

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(Cont. to A8)

The Bank of Mt. Vernon sold again

For the second time in three years the Bank of Mt. Vernon has been sold.

Last Thursday, employees, board members and officers at the bank learned that their parent company, Premier Financial Bancorp, Inc., had sold the bank to Community Trust Bank, Inc.

The sale will be final on January 26.

BMV Chief Executive Officer David Jury, said that he was not aware of the sale until the Monday, before the announcement on Thursday.

Jury said that Premier gave no reason for the sale.

However, Premier's stock value has dropped in recent months and it has been widely known that the Bank of Mt. Vernon was probably their most marketable asset.

The purchase price of the Bank, which has offices in Mt. Vernon, Somerset, Berea and Richmond, will be approximately \$13 million.

The Bank of Mt. Vernon currently has \$115 million in deposits and loans of \$102 million.

It is almost certain that the bank's offices in Richmond and Berea will close and some employees will lose their jobs, mainly in the operations area of the bank.

Employees have been told that as many as seventeen of the bank's 64 employees will be looking for work.

Jury, who will remain with Community Trust, said that employees who will be let go because of the sale will be offered severance packages.

Employees were expected to know this week, who would go and who would stay.

The name, The Bank of Mt. Vernon, which has been in existence for 100 years will also be changed to Community Trust Bank.

Jury said that all decisions concerning the bank in Mt. Vernon and Somerset would be made on a local basis and that local people would still be dealing with the same people they have always dealt with.

Community Trust will be able to offer our customers more services, such as trust accounts, brokerage services and Internet services, things we can do right now," he said.

Jury also said that Community Trust was a very community-oriented bank that would support the same projects that the Bank of Mt. Vernon currently supports.

Jury said there will be a local advisory board of directors, which he

(Cont. to A8)

I-75 Speedway to open at Cove Branch in Spring

By: Richard Anderkin

America's number one spectator sport is returning to Rockcastle County.

Ronnie Bates of Waynesburg in Lincoln County told the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court on Tuesday that he and a partner had purchased the Rockcastle Speedway at Cove Branch.

Bates, who is a 34 year racing veteran told court members that he and his partner had already begun extensive renovations to the speedway including a new asphalt racing surface, new scoring towers, new concession facilities, expansion of and upgrading parking lots, new lighting, new public address system, new access roads, new bleachers and several other improvements.

Bates told the court that the new track, which will be called I-75 Speedway, will be open in the Spring of next year and that about 35 racing dates are scheduled.

Bates told court members that he hopes average attendance at the Speedway would be about 2,000 fans.

"Racing has become the #1 spectator sport in America with 90 million paid admissions to racing events annually. Most attention focuses on NASCAR yet they are responsible for 20% of the 90 million admissions. The remaining 80% is from weekly

events at local tracks such as the I-75 Speedway," Bates told the court.

"Racing is one of the world's biggest and best market places for large and small businesses to advertise their product or service to the fullest. It is a proven fact that racers, their families and friends use sponsors products because sponsors are helping promote their favorite sport and form of entertainment. Typical racers, their families and race fans come from a healthy cross section of families in every income class who choose to utilize their recreational funds in a sport that they can relate to," he said.

Bates said he hoped to involve local groups such as the RCHS marching band, the RCHS J.R.O.T.C. and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the Speedway.

Included in the special events at the Speedway will be truck and tractor pulls.

The regular night of racing at the new track will be Saturday.

Bates said the average ticket price will be \$8 for adults in the seating area and \$20 in the pit area. Children will be \$3 to \$5 and free for those under 10.

Bates asked the fiscal court for help in widening and reurfacing Cove Branch Road, because of the

(Cont. to A8)

Local woman found dead

A Rockcastle County woman was found dead Tuesday morning in her Conway home.

Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell, said that Wendy Kirby, 39, was found unconscious around 5:30 a.m. by one of her children.

Dowell, who pronounced Mrs. Kirby dead at the scene, said that she had been dead for some time before EMTs arrived.

An autopsy was performed in Frankfort on Tuesday to determine the cause of death.

Mrs. Kirby is survived by one son, Donald Thompson and a daughter, Jennifer Thompson.

Funeral services are 2:00 p.m. Thursday at the Cox Funeral Home Chapel.



The Rockcastle County Middle School Girls' basketball team won their second straight conference championship last Thursday night at South Laurel. The team has won 57 straight games against no losses. Members of the team are pictured above, front row, from left: Tara Rowe, Heather Hammond, Johanna Ab...y, Gina McClure, Allie Mink and Ashley Bell. Second row, from left: Sarah Parsons, Leigh Ann Caldwell and Amanda Wright. Back row, from left: Katie Parsons, Ashley Kimbrell, Hollyann Colson and Ashley Mize.