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Mount Vernon Signal

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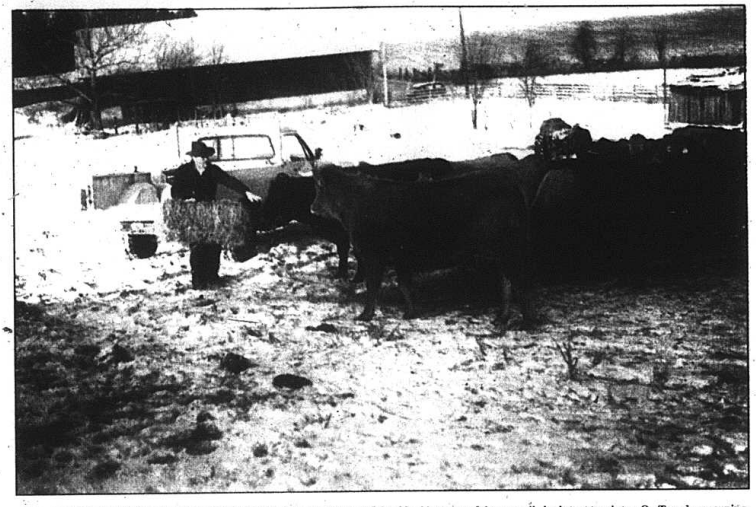


Farmers in Rockcastle County are already digging into their winter supply of feed because of the unusally bad start to winter. On Tuesday morning Doug Brock was feeding his cattle on his Maretburg farm in 12 degree temperatures. School was dismissed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday because of slick roads and on Saturday two inches of rain fell. The low in December has been 9 degrees and high 59.

Hearing scheduled for Friday

Lovell may plead guilty to murder

By: Richard Anderkin

A Rockcastle County man is expected to plead guilty on Friday to the shooting death of another local man in 1997.

David Lovell, 33, of Burr will appear in Rockcastle Circuit Court in connection with the murder of Charles "Toddy" Baker, who was found buried 14 feet below the earth's surface at Tark Hill in 1999.

Police say that Lovell : d his wife Barbara, 28, shot and killed Baker and then buried his body with a bulldozer. The Lovells have since divorced.

An informant eventually lead police to Baker's badly decomposed body in 1999.

Commonwealth Attorney Eddy Montgomery confirmed that Lovell would appear in court on Friday and that he may or not enter a plea.

However he said that is the main reason he has been brought back to the Rockcastle Detention Center and that if Lovell does plead, it will be a plea of guilty to some kind of murder charge.

Montgomery said that he could not say as to the amount of prison time Lovell would get, but that any sentence would likely run concurrently with a federal sentence he received earlier this year for drug charges.

Lovell and several members of his family were indicted and eventually pled guilty to drug trafficking involving the sell of cocaine.

In April, Lovell's former wife Barbara, pled guilty to first degre assault in connection with the Baker murder.

She told police that she did shoot Baker, but that he was not dead and her husband shot him again.

Barbara Lovell received a sentence of 10 years, which is running concurrently with her sentence in federal court for drug trafficking.

After Barbara Lovell pled guilty in April, she turned state's evidence against her former husband.

Gov. Patton here Friday

Governor Paul Patton announced last Thursday that Rockcastle County is receiving $75,000 in community development funds, administered by the Kentucky Department for Local Government, to purchase new equipment for the fire departments, and to renovate the Southend firehouse.

Governor Patton said, "The people of Rockcastle County are surely looking forward to beginning this important project, and getting this money to them is a crucial step toward that goal. We're so pleased we could be involved in something that means so much to this community."

Patton will bring the money to the county during a reception at Citizens Bank in Mt. Vernon on Friday at 5 p.m.

County trying to reach agreement for shelter

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court and board members with the Rockcastle County Adoption Agency will meet in January to try and reach an agreement on a county dog pound.

Ms. Vickie Myer met with the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court last week to discuss the agreement, again.

Last August, the court and Terry Lunce, also with RAAP, discussed the matter at length and agreed to have a contract between the court and RAAP drawn up.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette drew up a contract between the county and RAAP, but the two parties could not reach agreement on it.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis offered labor, materials and equipment for the construction of a dog pound in the Roundstone area of the county, but RAAP apparently wanted more and the two parties have been at a standstill ever since.

However Myers told the court that if the two parties could not reach agreement soon, RAAP could lose out on as much as $65,000 in funding from the state.

The court was sued this summer by the Trixie Foundation, because of the way they handle the animal population in the county.

They were among 60 counties in the state sued by the Foundation an agency, that oversees the care of animals.

Carloftis told Myers he would schedule a meeting with the court and members of the RAAP board of directors for the first week in January to try and hammer out the details of the contract.

Carloftis said that if the two can reach an agreement, the county will offer work release inmates to work at the animal shelter.

Heating assistance available

Kentucky families are bracing for the onset of winter, and for many of them the cost of keeping their homes warm is a pressing concern.

The Cabinet for Families and Children stands ready to help, as do other agencies working under a mandate from Gov. Paul Patton. Concerned over a shortfall in federal heating assistance last winter and alerted by a renewed rise in heating fuel prices, Patton called on state officials last summer to develop a coordinated strategy for addressing home heating needs.

Within that strategy, the Cabinet's principal role is to provide - in partnership with the Kentucky Association for Community Action — limited financial assistance to low-income families who need help meeting their home heating and energy conservation needs.

Funding for home heating aid comes from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). In all 120 Kentucky counties, local Community Action Agencies administer this federal program on the Cabinet's behalf.

Natural gas prices are predicted to crest at rates at least 40 percent higher this winter than last. That prediction prompted Gov. Patton to ask President Clinton in September for an early release of $4.7 million out of the $23.4 million in LIHEAP funds the state expects this winter.

The advance funding came through, and it enabled the Cabinet to increase benefit payments by 24 percent over last year's rates for low-income households that heat with natural gas, propane, fuel oil or kerosene. By December 8, payments intended to help meet anticipated winter heating costs had gone out to more than 71,000 Kentucky households.

Beginning January 8, LIHEAP shifts to a crisis assistance phase,

(Cont. to A10)

Blood Drive

A few minutes of your time may mean a lifetime to someone in need. Share your good health and donate blood. Central Kentucky Blood Center and Rockcastle Hospital have scheduled a blood drive on Friday, December 29, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the CKBC bloodmobile located in the parking lot. The community is encouraged to attend.

In about an hour, you could do-

(Cont. to A10)

Parade

The annual Livingston Christmas parade will be held on Saturday at 6 p.m.

Line-up will begin at White Star Auto Parts at 5:30.

Boil water advisory

A boil water advisory is still in effect for some of the customers of the Rockcastle Water Association.

The advisory is for customers who receive their water from the Jackson County Water Reservoir, which is extremely low at this time, according to the association's general manager Randal E. Corry.

Those homes affected are on all side roads of 1912, 2614, 1955, which include the following:

Louis Northern, Robinson, Rice Hill, J. B. Sexton, Brushey Ridge, Hickory Flat, Road 1797, Carpenter, Drew Valley Lane, Murphy Martin, Charlie Smith, Earnest Smith, Gilbert Shepherd, Ponder, Simon Hill, Singleton, 1004 West, Trace Branch, 490, Waddle, Lamero, Parker Holler,

(Cont. to A10)

Flu Shots

The Rockcastle County Health Department is currently giving flu vaccines to Rockcastle residents.

Because of a recent shipment of medicine, anyone in the county is eligible.

Shots are given Monday through Friday at the health department from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Shots are $6.00, for those without Medicare Part b or medicaid.

The health department is located on Richmond Street in Mt. Vernon. For more information call 256-2242.

Merry Christmas from our Family to yours!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Anderkin family. Above, front row, from left: Sara, Alaina, Jason and Caroline Coguer, Brandon and Sean Piatt. Second row, from left: Kayla Bryant, Travis, Jim, Perlina, Allison Anderkin, Doug and Jane Piatt. Back row, from left: Jamie and Rick Bryant, Paige and Spencer Benge, Aaron, Megan, Cindy and Rick Anderkin. The *Signal* office will be closed December 20 through December 25 for Christmas.

Many stars to play at Renfro Valley

The Renfro Valley Entertainment Center may be under different ownership, but that hasn't changed the number of big name country music stars who will visit the valley in 2001.

Renfro Valley released a partial list of the concert series schedule for 2001 and it brings some of the country's hottest acts to the county.

It all starts on March 10 with the Reno Brothers and ends with Loretta Lynn on November 9 and 10.

In between the schedule looks like this: March 17, IIIrd Tyme Out, March 24, Dr. Ralph Stanley, March 31, Osborne Brothers.

April 7, Sawyer Brown, April 14, The McKamey's, April 26,27 and 28, Carl Hurley.

May 4, The Inspirations, May 12, Michael Combs.

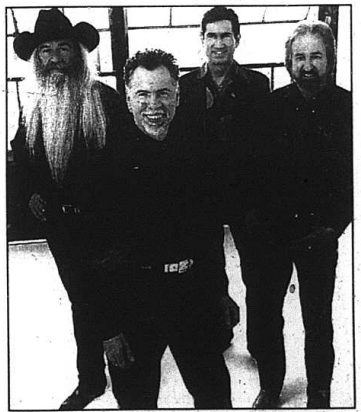
June 9, Don Williams, June 23, Ray Price, June 30. Oak Ridge Boys. July 5,6 and 7, Old Joe Clark Bluegrass Festival, July 20, The Kingsmen, July 21, Gene Watson.

August 4, All Night Gospel Sing, August 17, T. Bubba, August 18, August 23, 24 & 25, Statler Brothers.

September 1, John Conlee, September 8, Sammy Kershaw, September 22, Legends Feast Featuring Ralph Emery, Little Jimmy Dickens, Jack Greene and Jeannie Seeley, September 28 and 29, George Jones.

October 5, Connie Smith, October 5, 6 and 7, Appalachian Harvest Festival, October, 6, Mike Snider, October 13, Ricky Van Shelton, October 18, Jeff and Sherri Easter, October 19, The Isaacs, October 20, Chuckwagon Gang, October 20, The Bishops, October 26, 27 and 28, Fiddlers' Festival, November 1,2 and 3, Carl Hurley.

Renfro executives will be releasing a more complete list in January. For tickets and information call (800) 765-SING.



The Oak Ridge Boys will appear in concert in Renfro Valley on June 30.