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The Signal will be closed Thursday, Friday and Monday for New Years

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 114 - Number 13 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, December 28, 2000

Mt. Vernon firefighters were called to the home of Dennis Brown on Floyd Street in Mt. Vernon at 4:30 Wednesday morning. No one was home at the time and the fire was going out the roof when firefighters arrived. Above, Robbie Carpenter, Jason Hansel and Steve Griffin put water on the fire. The house was a total loss.

Governor delivers money to Rockcastle

By: Richard Anderkin

Kentucky Governor Paul Patton came to Rockcastle County last Friday with money in hand for several projects.

Patton praised State Representative Danny Ford for his hard work on the projects and told the crowd that had it not been for Ford the money would not have been approved.

The Governor brought money for the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley, the Livingston school project, the Technology Center at the Rockcastle County courthouse and money for five of the county's fire departments.

The Hall of Fame will receive $1.5 million, on top of $2 million they have already received from the state.

The federal government has also kicked in another $2 million for road work in Renfro Valley.

The Rockcastle Fiscal Court was expected to approve the bids on the project during a special called meeting Thursday morning.

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis said construction should begin in January, weather permitting.

The Governor also brought $100,000 for the former Livingston school property.

The Rockcastle Fiscal Court owns the property, after Daniel Boone Development Corporation gave it to them, but because of lack of funding no work has been done on the property and it is becoming more and more dilapidated.

When Daniel Boone purchased the property with a state grant a few years ago, plans were for a community center, but money for the project could never be secured.

Carloftis has said that he would like to use the property as a work release prison facility, which would generate enough money from the state to remodel and maintain the property.

However, many Livingston area residents have voiced strong opposition to that idea.

The Judge is now working on

Cont. to A-2

Lady Rocket Hoopla begins today

The annual Lady Rocket Holiday Hoopla tournament will kick off Thursday morning at the Rockcastle County High School.

Twelve teams will play in a round robin format that will be broken down into three pools.

Six games a day will be played with the first game beging each day at 10 a.m. and the last game being scheduled for 8 p.m.

The Lady Rockets will play in a pool with Franklin County, Bell County and Crittenden County.

The Lady Rockets will play the last game of the day each of the three days.

They play Crittenden County on Thursday night, Franklin County on Friday night and Bell County on Saturday night.

Berea, Mayfield, Harlan and Monticello will play in pool b and Corbin, Anderson County TN and Montgomery County will play in pool c.

The Lady Rockets are 6-4 on the season after picking up three wins in the Berea tournament last week.

Admission to the Lady Rocket tournament is $4.00 per day or $10.00 for a three day pass.

Livingston man charged after burglary

Christmas Day at approximately 2:40 p.m. the Kentucky State Police at London received the report of a possible residential burglary in progress in the city limits of Livingston.

Kentucky State Police Trooper Lafe Owens responded to the report and was given a description of a vehicle observed leaving the residence.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. Trooper Owens stopped a vehicle matching the description in the limits of Livingston. During the investigation Trooper Owens discovered firearms taken in the burglary inside the vehicle.

Stevie L. Lamb, 24, of Livingston was lodged in the Rockcastle County Jail charged with Burglary First and Theft of Firearm. A 17-year-old male was also charged with Burglary First and Theft of Firearm and lodged in the Boyle County Juvenile Detention Center in Danville.

Kentucky State Police are continuing the investigation.

Cooperation brings economic development success to region

By Jerry Rickett

As we focus on the holidays and the upcoming new year, it is important to look at some of the economic success stories of the region and how those successes were achieved.

Success has been possible thanks to the cooperation of local officials, educators, chambers, other economic development groups and financial institutions. That cooperation is helping us overcome tremendous challenges that culminated in the last decade, which include lost revenue from the coal, tobacco and textile industries.

The 21st century offers boundless

Cont. to A-2

Homes destroyed by fires

Several homes have been destroyed by fire over the holidays in Rockcastle County.

Last Tuesday night, the home of William Sandlin on Town Branch in Mt. Vernon was completely destroyed by fire.

On Wednesday morning, the bedford stone home of Dennis Brown on Floyd Street in Mt. Vernon was completely destroyed by fire, which broke out around 4:30 a.m.

Over the weekend, the mobile home of Becky Clines on Holt Drive at Renfro Valley was also destroyed by fire.

County out of salt; more on the way

The early winter weather has already played havoc on Rockcastle County's salt supply.

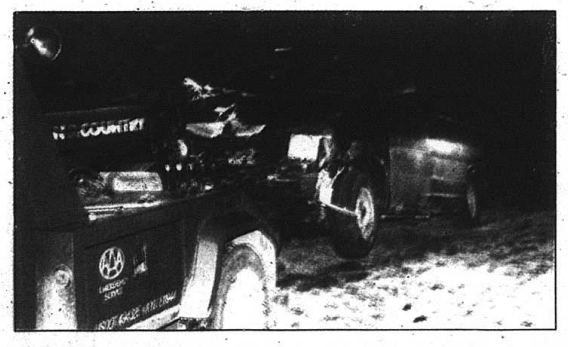
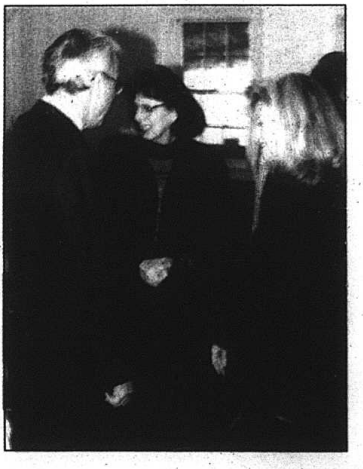
Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis said this week that the county had been out of salt for about two weeks, but that two tractor-trailer loads were scheduled to be delivered this week.

"We have never been able to stock pile salt like the state road department does because we don't have the funds," he said.

The state on the other hand has plenty of salt; although Donald Hurst said the early winter weather had also cut into their supply and that the state had already logged a lot of overtime trying to keep the roads clear.

More snow was forecast for this weekend.

Kentucky Governor Paul Patton, was in Rockcastle County on Friday to bring money for several projects including the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame, which got another $1.5 million in funding from the state. The meeting was held in the community room of the new Citizens Bank building in Mt. Vernon. Patton is shown above talking with Loretta Powell and Claudinna Cash, administrators with the Rockcastle County school system.



A Michigan couple received minor injuries in a single vehicle crash on I-75, Friday night. The accident occurred around 2 a.m., after the driver apparently fell asleep. There have been some minor accidents reported in the county over the holidays but luckily for local families none major.