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Mount Vernon Signal

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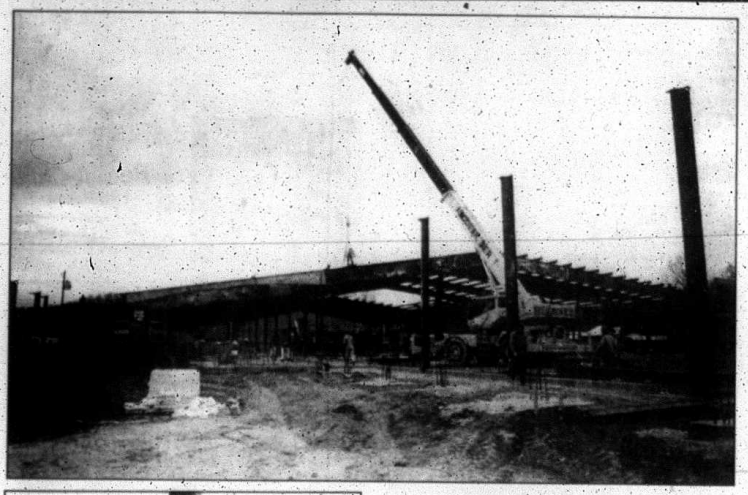
Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 114 - Number 17 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, February 8, 2001



Building at Brodhead

Work is progressing on the new school building at Brodhead.

This week, workers were busy setting steel beams on the 60,000 square foot structure.

Rockcastle resident and job site superintendent Blaine McHargue said that construction on the new building was about a week behind schedule because of bad weather.

The new building will cost taxpayers approximately $6 million and is slated to be completed by the beginning of school in August.

The new building is located in the former ball field and recreation area.

Tobacco farmers receive increase in 2001 quotas

By: Richard Anderkin

For the first time in years, there is good news for Kentucky burley tobacco farmers.

Last week officials announced a 34 percent increase in tobacco quotas for 2001.

The announcement came two weeks before burley growers will decide if the current way the tobacco program is conducted will remain in place.

If growers vote down the referendum, the current federal program, which supports prices and determines quotas will be done away with.

As it stands now, the program determines quotas and makes sure farmers are paid a certain price.

Farmers are also allowed to contract with tobacco companies, for their crop, but they still must abide by the amount of quota they are allowed to grow.

"The announcement last week of a 34 percent increase in the 2001 burley-tobacco basic quota provides needed momentum for improvements in tobacco marketing and gives growers renewed hope, that the federal price support program can be preserved and strengthened," said Kentucky Farm Bureau President Sam

Cont. to A-11

Is charged with local murder

Stewart trial in Madison delayed

The trial of an Orlando man who was shot in August by Kentucky State Police, after he tried to steal a vehicle in Madison County ended a few hours after it started on Monday morning.

Davy E. Stewart, 33, is also charged with the shooting death of Patty Clark, 25, of Conway.

Miss Clark's body was found in a remote section of Rockcastle County on August 24, 2000.

Monday's trial was the result of an altercation with police, two days before Miss Clark's body was found.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Chris Brown said the trial ended after one of the twelve jurors said they could not continue - because they did not think they could pass judgement on such a case.

A new trial date has been set for later this month in Madison County.

A pre-trail conference in the Rockcastle County murder case is set for this Friday.

Stewart has been held in Madison County since August.

Brown said he did not know when the Rockcastle County case would go to trial, because some of the lab work still had not been completed.

In the Rockcastle case, Stewart is also charged with shooting Sally Hoskins, 24, of Crooked Creek, the same night he is accused of shooting Clark to death.

Miss Hoskins eventually led police to Miss Clark's body.

McConnell here Feb. 19

One of the most powerful men in the United State's Senate will be in Rockcastle County on February 19th.

Supporters of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell announced that he will attend a breakfast meeting at the Kastle Inn Restaurant at Burr at 9 a.m.

McConnell is seeking re-election for a fourth term this year.

Homecoming set for Friday

Basketball homecoming at the Rockcastle County High School is scheduled for Friday February 9th.

The crowning of this year's queen will take place between the girls' and boys' game.

Homecoming queen candidates for 2001 are: Angie Boreing, Tami Taylor, Lindsey Parsons, Kaleisa Robinson, Tammy Dees, Rachel Childress, Allison Anderkin, Jennifer Kidwell, Courtney Alexander, Brittany Asher, Tara Burton and Elizabeth Matekovich.

City approves money for state renovation project

The Mt. Vernon City Council unanimously passed a resolution, in favor of participation in a state program that could help renovate Main Street in Mt. Vernon.

The resolution was passed at the request of Bige Towery, Jr., Executive Director of the Rockcastle County Development Board, who is helping to head the project.

The project is part of the state's Kentucky Renaissance Project, which make funds available for the renovation of buildings in Kentucky towns.

Mt. Vernon has been accepted into the first phase of the project, which means very little money, but it

Cont. to A-11

Local man stabbed, arrested

A Mt. Vernon man will appear in Rockcastle District Court on February 12, to face charges of robbery, burglary, and two counts of wanton endangerment.

Johnny B. Saylor, 19, was charged after he apparently confessed to a January 29th incident at an apartment behind Headquarters for Hair Design in Mt. Vernon.

During that incident, which took

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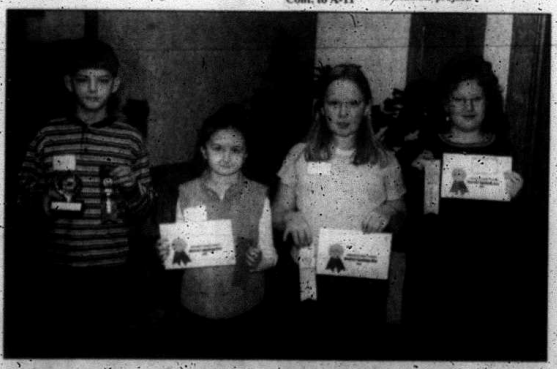

The annual Rockcastle County Spelling Bee for students at the three elementary schools and the Rockcastle Middle School was held Wednesday at the central office. This year's winner was Jeffery Isaacs, a fourth grader at Roundstone. Rachel Woodall, a Mt. Vernon fourth grader was second, Amy Poynter, a Brodhead fifth grader was third and Ashley Ridner, a RCMS sixth grader was fourth. The four are shown above, from left, in order of finish. Isaacs correctly spelled falter to win the contest.

Fire Chief John C. Cox dies

A well-known Rockcastle County businessman died Tuesday while working in his Mt. Vernon store.

Mr. John C. Cox, 81, apparently died from a heart attack around 1 p.m., after being taken to the Rockcastle Hospital emergency room.

Mr. Cox had been in the hardware business since he joined his dad in 1937.

After serving his country in World War II, Mr. Cox returned to Mt. Vernon and to the store full-time.

Mr. Cox was also still serving as Chief of the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, a position he had held for 36 years. He had been an active member of the fire department for over 60 years.

Mr. Cox was the oldest active fire chief in the state of Kentucky and the third oldest in the nation.

Wednesday, Mt. Vernon firefighters were busy cleaning up the fire trucks, in preparation for Friday's funeral.

One of the trucks will be used to carry Mr. Cox's coffin, and other firefighters will serve as pallbearers.

Mr. Cox was extremely well thought of by his fellow fire fighters and community members who realized the years of service he gave to

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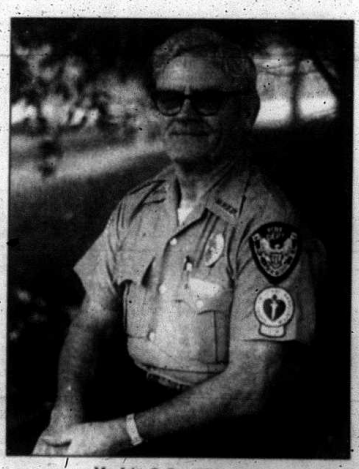

Mr. John C. Cox (1919 - 2001)