



Middle School wins state
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Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 Volume 114 - Number 23 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50 a copy - Thursday, March 8, 2001



The mobile home of Andy and Ashley Dean, on the old Mt. Vernon-Broadhead road was completely destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. When firefighters arrived on the scene, including Steve Griffin, shown above, the home was completely involved. Andy Dean said the fire likely started around a fuel oil heater. The Deans lost everything. On Monday, Mt. Vernon firefighters extinguished a blaze at the mobile home of Brenda McKinney in Ramsey's Trailer Court. That fire was contained to a bedroom.

300 get look at proposed routes from Highway 150 to I-75

By: Richard Anderkin

It may be six to ten years down the road, but the state transportation cabinet has developed four proposed routes for a new stretch of road from Hwy. 150 to Interstate 75 at Conway.

About 300 people got a look at those four plans, during a meeting at

the Crab Orchard Elementary School on Tuesday night.

All four routes travel along Hwy. 1505 from Conway to Hurricane School Road, but differ greatly from there.

One route ends up on Hwy. 150 at Copper Creek, after it has basically

followed the current path of the Copper Creek Road.

Another route, goes basically through the countryside also ends up on Hwy. 150 between Gum Sulphur and Copper Creek.

A third route basically follows Hwy. 1505 from the interstate and ends up in downtown Broadhead. A fourth route would basically follow Chestnut Grove Road and skirt Piney Grove Cemetery, before turning back in with Hwy. 150.

The state said it was very unlikely that the proposed route, which follows 1505 and ends in Broadhead would be chosen and did not even put a price tag on that route.

The route that follows Copper Creek Road would cost taxpayers \$44.5 million, the route through the country, near Copper Creek would cost an estimated \$76 million and the other along Chestnut Grove Road would have a price tag of \$53.6 million.

State officials said that a survey at an August meeting showed that 33 percent of those surveyed were against the road being built and 61 percent were strong in favor of it, while some just wanted the interchange built, without a new road be-

ing built.

The Kentucky General Assembly requested the study after several Lincoln County residents including Judge-Executive Ronnie "Buck-wheat" Gilbert requested it.

Lincoln residents apparently want quicker access to the interstate and the new road would also make it easier to travel to the new Cedar

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Dog owners buying more licenses

Local dog owners are apparently trying to comply (more than they have in the past) with a state law that requires that their animal be licensed.

Marsha Chism, who owns Rockcastle Veterinarian Clinic, with her husband Dr. James Chism, said that last week, after a front page story and a notice by the county was printed in the Signal the clinic ran out of licenses.

"We were not used to selling many licenses in the past and we were not notified by any county official that the notice was going to be published," she said.

Mrs. Chism said that more licenses have been ordered and should be in the office this week.

The Rockcastle Vet Clinic, which is located on School Street in Mt. Vernon, sells the licenses as a public service.

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Garbage bill likely not to pass before session ends

By: Richard Anderkin

Time is running out for Kentucky Governor Paul Patton's solid waste bill, which would either require all Kentucky counties to clean up their illegal dumps or implement mandatory garbage pick up.

That Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon, who voted against the measure when it came before the state house, said Wednesday that it is very unlikely any such bill will be passed because the legislature adjourns on Friday.

The house passed the measure 70-28, but Ford said that because there is a different version of the bill likely to pass the Senate, it would then have to go back to the House for passage, "and there simply isn't time," Ford said.

Ford said that he voted against the measure because he thought the counties in the state should do a better job of enforcing the laws currently on the books.

"We have laws in place to do everything the Governor wants to do and if they were enforced properly it would be a lot less expensive, than passing more legislation" he said.

"I simply think it is too much too fast," Ford said.

Ford said that last year, each county in the state averaged issuing only 12 citations for illegal dumping of littering. "That wasn't twelve citations" that was twelve citations issued," he said.

"I think counties could do a better job of promoting and educating people about the proper way to dispose of their garbage," Ford said.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis said that he was in favor of statewide mandatory garbage collection.

"That is simply the only way it will work," he said.

"If counties are simply allowed to just clean up their illegal dumps and not force citizens to take part in mandatory pick up, it won't work," he said.

"We clean up dumps all the time and you go back a month later and there it is again, usually as bad as it was before," he said.

"Just last week we were called to Copper Creek, where we had cleaned up an illegal dump - after residents there complained about it being a problem again," he said.

Ford said that he thought that some county judge's across the state,

including Carlotis, wanted the state legislature to do their work for them.

The laws are in place for any county to implement mandatory garbage pick up, without any more legislation," Ford said.

Ford said that he was also against the Governor's bill because the Cabinet for Natural Resources would be responsible for monitoring a county's progress on cleaning up dumps or implementing mandatory pick-up.

"It would just be more state involvement in local government and if the cabinet decides a county isn't in 85 percent compliance that county would lose ten percent of their road money they receive from the state," he said.

The Republican version in the Senate calls for a ten percent increase in road money as an incentive, which is a much better idea," Ford said.

Carlitos said that he thought the state legislature was playing politics with what could become a hot issue, come election time.

It is purely politics, if counties can be successful in cleaning up garbage through the laws already in place, why haven't they done it," Carlitos said.

Carlitos said that 95 of the state's 120 County Judge-Executives have endorsed statewide mandatory pick up.

Carlitos also noted that Congressman Harold Rogers had gotten millions of dollars for a federal program, which is helping to clean up Kentucky.

Through Rogers' PRIDE program, counties with mandatory garbage pickup receive much more money to help in the clean-up of their counties.

And as for education, the Judge only laughed. "We have been trying to educate the people in Kentucky about disposal of garbage for 40 years and it hasn't worked," he said.

Carlitos said he knew the Rockcastle Fiscal Court could implement mandatory pick up, but if other counties around Rockcastle did not have mandatory pick up, people from other counties would dump their garbage in Rockcastle. "It would end up costing our taxpayers more to dispose of our garbage and other illegally dumped garbage," he said.

Carlitos said that Rockcastle County had spent over a half million

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Renfro Valley... "probably one of those made-up places"

Special to the Signal

By: James Zaccaro

Renfro Valley, KY - Located in the foothills of the beautiful Cumberland Mountains in Rockcastle County, 45 miles south of Lexington, Kentucky and 120 miles north of Knoxville, Tennessee, aptly Val-

ley whose history dates back to 1791.

Those of us who are familiar with Renfro Valley have a hard time understanding how anyone could say it's probably just a made-up place.

After all, this year Renfro Valley is celebrating its 62nd season! As founder John Lair once said, "Renfro

Valley is a real, honest-to-goodness place down in the hill country." Oh, some refer to it as a "wide spot" in the road, but that's okay, we don't mind, we never wanted to be big and flashy and commercialized anyway, that's not what we're all about. But, to as-

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The Rockcastle County High School cheerleaders won the district tournament championship, which was held last week in Jackson County. The cheerleaders also won their division in the KAPDS tournament and will compete in the state next week. On hand to accept the district tournament trophy were, front row, from left: Jennifer Carmack and Tara Burton. Back row, from left: Chelise Swanson, Lindsey Hixson, Emily Wright, Whitney Hamed and Elizabeth Masturbolo. Not shown were: John Blakely, Nicole Collins, Caitly McElrath, Bernice Ambrose, Jessica Jones, Leslie Saylor, Ashley Miller, Amber Thacker, Brittany Asher, Rebecca Aldy, Brook Smith, Tara Barcott and Jamie Orsillo. The squad is sponsored by Rhonda Rose.



A grand opening for the CenterNet Technology Center at the Rockcastle County Courthouse was held Monday morning. Above, Rockcastle Development Board member Doug Brock, Development Board Chairman John Clontz, Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis, Rockcastle School Superintendent Larry Hammond and Magistrate Bill McKinney, among a host of others were on hand for the ceremonies. The Technology Center is located on the third floor of the courthouse and is open to the public. Mrs. Kathy Carter Bels, the Community Education Coordinator for the local school system, is making the rounds. The Rockcastle Development board spear headed the efforts to construct the center with the help of \$73,000 in local donations. Those donating to the project were: Rockcastle Hospital; the Farmer Bank of Mt. Vernon, Citizens Bank, Rockcastle Fiscal Court, City of Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle School System and Rockcastle Development Board. The project was funded mainly by a federal grant through the CenterNet Rural Development in Somerset and Clay County. Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis, Jr., Executive Director of the Development Board and Development board member Les Koon for their work on the project. Technology Center board members are Koon, Towery, Dr. Tony Arvin, McKinney and Kelly Penzel.