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Mount Vernon Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 114 - Number 33 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, May 17, 2001

The Rockcastle Council for the Arts, The Rockcastle County High School/Technology Center, 21st Century Community Learning Center and Rockcastle Kiwanis Club presented "Just Desserts" to students at Rockcastle County High School on Friday afternoon. The play was also presented to the general public on Friday night, which included a dessert buffet. Above, Jack Lewis, left, played Arny Costello and right, Gary Mink played Max Clairborn in a scene on Friday afternoon. The production was directed by H. Allen Pensol.

Local man kidnapped

A Missouri couple who had apparently gained the trust of a local man, kidnapped him Monday night and drove him to Caryville, Tennessee before was able to escape.

Mike Jones, 54, of Mt. Vernon was apparently kidnapped by Justin Lillard, 22, and Ruth Ann Morris, 29, both of Missouri, after they asked Jones if they could test drive a pick-up truck he had for sale.

Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane said that Jones agreed to the test drive and went along with the couple, who also had a fifteen-month-old baby with them.

Lane said that after Jones got in the truck, Lillard got in the middle of the S-10 truck and Morris drove, while Jones sat in the passenger's seat.

Apparently after Morris had driven a short distance, Lillard pulled a roofing knife and got Jones in a head lock, pressing the knife against his throat.

After Morris stopped in Caryville, Lillard turned to attend to the child and Jones attempted to escape when a struggle broke out.

Jones managed to get away from Lillard and Morris, who drove off in the pickup. Jones was treated at a Caryville hospital for minor cuts. He reported the incident to police, after he went to the hospital.

The incident occurred at 6:20 p.m. at the home of Mike's mother, Mary Ida Jones, on West Main Street in Mt. Vernon, according to Lane.

Lane said that Jones had left the truck at his mother's to make it more visable to potential buyers.

Lane said that Jones was not reluctant to go with the couple because he had become acquainted with them while they were staying at Ashlee's House, a homeless shelter on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, which is located next to his mother's store.

The couple and infant child had been staying at the shelter since April 2nd.

After Jones escaped the couple left Caryville traveling south on I-75 in the red S-10.

No arrests had been made as of press time.

Justin Lillard

Ruth Ann Morris

Migrant program helping over 300

By: Richard Anderkin

Migrant Advocate for the Rockcastle County School System, Charles Napier told the Rockcastle County School board Monday night that the main focus of the program he heads is to solve problems.

The federally funded Migrant program has been in operation in Rockcastle County for the past eight years.

Currently, the program serves 319 people in Rockcastle County. 216 of those children enrolled in Rockcastle County Schools.

76 are children too young to attend school and 27 are those under age 21, but not in school, for whatever reason.

Napier told the board that the Migrant program dealt with a variety of problems ranging from families being homeless and hungry to children needing clothing or something as simply as a cap and gown for graduation.

Napier said that his staff, which includes recruiter Tabatha Denny, part-time advocate Linda Osborne and program assistant Kim Hamp-

(Cont. to A10)

Indictments for rape, drugs returned

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down a total of fifteen indictments on Friday for crimes ranging from rape to possession of Cocaine while in possession of a firearm.

Wayne Everett Hawkins, 41, of Bowling Ridge Road, Brodhead, was indicted on two drug related charges.

He is accused of possession methamphetamine(meth) and marijuana on April 12th.

Carl Eugene Ruppe, Jr., 22, of Castle Village Apartments, Brodhead, was charged with possession of meth, marijuana and drug paraphernalia on April 13th.

Darrell L. Renner, 33, of Carter Drive, Mt. Vernon was indicted on five counts involving drugs.

Renner is accused of possession of chemicals to make meth, possession of meth, marijuana, Xanax and drug paraphernalia while in possess-

(Cont. to A12)

Seats filled on councils

Elections for Site Based Decision Making Councils at each county school have been held.

The new councils will begin their terms in office on July 1, 2001.

In some cases, such as at the Rockcastle Middle School and the

(Cont. to A10)

Court to take over project

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court and the board of directors of the Rockcastle County Adoption Agency for Pets (RAAP) have finally come to terms.

After months of negotiating the court voted Monday to accept ownership of the current property, which is is owned by RAAP and located in the Roundstone area of the county.

RAAP had tried for the past couple of years to build an animal shelter on the property and had raised

(Cont. to A12)

Cox bound over to local Grand Jury

A preliminary hearing was held Monday in Rockcastle District Court related to recent felony charges against Clayton Cox, 26, of Orlando.

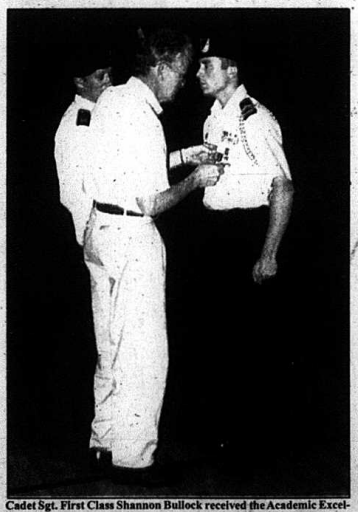
Cox was charged with Rape First Degree, Manufacturing of Methamphetamine and possession of a controlled substance.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette, who handled the hearing, stated that the court formed probable cause for the felony charges and bound Cox over for consideration by the Grand Jury. Bond remained at $75,000 cash or property.

Cox was accused of holding his wife, Helena Cox at knife point while he raped her and made several threats to kill her.

Upon arrival and investigation by police of the domestic violence call, officers located general items consistent with manufacturing metham-

(Cont. to A12)



Cadet Sgt. First Class Shannon Bullock received the Academic Excellence Award from Rockcastle County School Board member Sam Stallsworth during the JROTC awards banquet held at the Rockcastle County High School Tuesday afternoon. Also in the photo is JROTC's Command Sgt. Major Charles Robinson. Photos of all award winners will appear in next week's *Signal*.

Several sentenced

Eddy F. Montgomery, Commonwealth Attorney for Rockcastle County, announced Friday that the following people were sentenced to prison in Circuit Court.

Ricky Bussell, 45, of Brodhead, had his probation revoked and was sentenced to a period of two years imprisonment.

John R. Saylor, Jr., 19, of Mt. Vernon, was sentenced to a period of

(Cont. to A10)

Agreement costs court $43,388

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis announced Tuesday during the Rockcastle Fiscal Court meeting that the county had cleaned up four illegal dumps in order to meet the requirements of an agreement with businessman David McFarland.

McFarland was in the process of building a landfill on his property at Little Clear Creek earlier this year when several citizens and the Rockcastle Fiscal Court objected.

Although McFarland had received permission from the state to build the landfill he agreed not to do so, if the county would clean up four

(Cont. to A12)

The Rockcastle County High School Band and Flag Corp were selected to compete in the 2001 Orlando All-Star Music Festival in Florida this past weekend. Both groups gave outstanding performances and as a result, the Flag Corp took first place in their division as well as scoring a rating of Superior. The RCHS Band placed second in overall concert band category with a rating of excellence. Members of the Flag Corp, shown above, are front row from left: Brittany Mason and Tasha Parsons. Second row from left: Amanda Ramsey, captain Jessica Ramsey, Jamie Frederick, captain Stephanie Haarman, and Cassi Ramsey. In addition to the competition, students were able to visit several Walt Disney World parks including MGM Studios, Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center. *(See band photo on page A-12)*