



The northbound lane of I-75 was closed for some-time Friday afternoon, after two cars and three transfer trucks got entangled at the 60 mile marker of I-75. Above, Mt. Vernon firefighters work to free a Wilmott, Ohio woman from the Oldsmobile she was a passenger in. At left, a 17-year-old West Chester, Ohio girl was removed by firefighter Steve Griffin and EMS Director Harry Harmon. Another Ohio woman was also injured in the wreck. One of the injured was flown to the University of Kentucky Medical Center with a head injury.

Coffey chosen as new principal at middle school

By Richard Anderkin
Saturday the Rockcastle County Middle School Site Based Council selected a new principal.
By a vote of 3-1, the council selected Anthony Coffey, over the two other applicants, Tammy Miller and Jason Cogner.
Coffey will replace John Hale, who is the new principal at the Rockcastle County High School.
Hale replaced Ruth Allen-Hamilton, who retired on June 30.
Coffey, 32, taught in the Rockcastle school system for seven years, he was the principal at Shopville Elementary School for one year and last school year he was director of the middle school's 21st Century Learning Center.
The *Signal* was informed last week by a central office employee that according to the school's by-laws the vote to hire a principal had to be 4-0, because Mrs. Miller was a member of the council, but of course she could take no part because she was also an applicant for the job.
But Mrs. Terry Parkey, a teacher at the middle school and chairperson of the of the selection process, said Tuesday that she had sent a copy of the site based council's policy on hiring a principal to the state department.
Charles Edwards, who is Director of School Based Decision Making Councils at the state department, said that he had talked with Mrs. Parkey about the school's by-laws.
Edwards said that he told Mrs. Parkey what the council's options were, but Mrs. Parkey said that Edwards actually made a ruling in the case and that the council was "bound by his decision."
Edwards said that he never saw a copy of the middle school's by-laws, but Mrs. Parkey said that she e-mailed him a copy of the school's policy on hiring a new principal.
Mrs. Parkey also provided the *Signal* with a copy of the council's policies, which included a paragraph stating that "if unanimous agreement cannot be attained, consensus has been reached when only one member of the council cannot agree to the proposed action."
Edwards said that if a council has a quorum, which is a majority of the members, then it was his opinion that all policies would apply, such as a 3-1 majority in hiring a principal.
Saturday was the final day in office for the 2000-2001 council at the middle school.
If the council could not have reached a decision, the task would have fallen to the new council, which took office on July 1.
None of the current teacher members, Mrs. Parkey, Charlotte Bullock or Mrs. Miller were re-elected to the council last Spring.
Parent member Ray Hensley is the only member of the old council, who remained on the new council.
Mrs. Brenda Click, who voted for Mrs. Miller on Saturday, did not seek
(Cont. to A10)



Anthony Coffey is the new principal at RCMS.

Court applies for grant for shelter

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court cleaned up some unfinished business during a special called meeting on Thursday.
The main item of business was the final reading of the county's \$6.5 million budget for the coming year, but the court took several other actions.
It was also the first year in several that the county has a positive balance in each of their sixteen accounts.
The court voted to apply for a \$65,000 state grant, which would be used to help them finish an animal shelter at Roundstone.
The court is the new owner of the building and property that had once been owned by the Rockcastle Adoption Agency for Pets.
The court reached agreement earlier this year to assume ownership of the property and to finish construction on the project.
The court plans to use county employees and work release prisoners to help in the construction of the facility and to use work release prisoners to help operate it, once it is completed.
Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifotis said the court should know in about six weeks if the grant application has been approved by the state's department of agriculture.
The state has set aside \$500,000 for animal shelters in the year 2002.
A six member board will decide who gets approved for the grants.
The court agreed to employ Don Coyle, as the new solid waste coordinator, who will take the job on a three month trial basis at his request.
The court also laid off former Solid Waste Coordinator and Work Release supervisor Scotty Berryman.
The court also hired Bobby Bishop, Jr., owner of Bishop Tire as

the new Director of the county's Emergency Management Agency.
The director of EMA is a part-time position, which will pay \$10,000 a year, including benefits.
The court also agreed to hire James Renner, former owner of Renner Garbage Service as Work Release Supervisor.

Two held on \$50,000 cash bond in drug case

Two Rockcastle County men are being held in the Rockcastle County Detention Center on a \$50,000 cash bond each, after both were charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, (Meth).
The charges came on June 25, after Mt. Vernon police officer Barry Adams stopped a vehicle operated by Shawn Davidson, 21, of Rt. 1, Mt. Vernon.
According to police reports, Davidson was wanted on outstanding warrants when Adams spotted him driving his Chevrolet on Hwy. 461.
Davidson and his passenger, Phillip Falin, 26, of Orlando, were both charged with manufacturing meth in the first degree.
Davidson was also charged with

The court also went into executive session to discuss possible litigation, on two separate fronts.
Part of the discussion concerned the Rockcastle County Fair Board and the other discussion discussed local contractor Mike Cameron, who is attempting to collect money owed
(Cont. to A10)

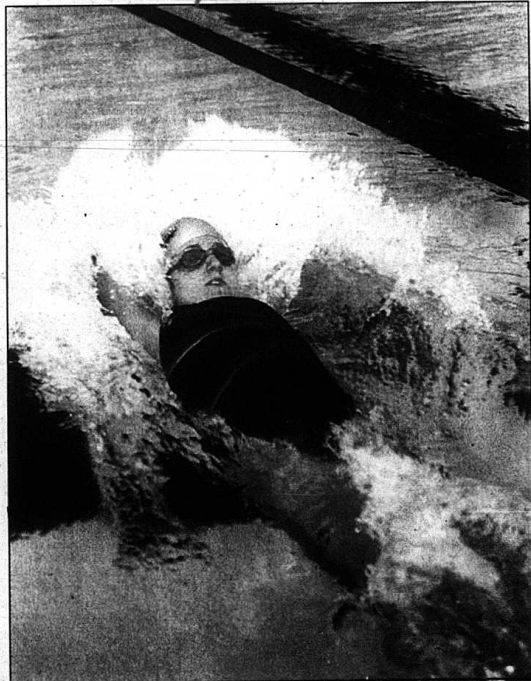
operating a motor vehicle on a suspended license.
Davidson will appear in court on July 7. Falin is scheduled to appear on August 20.
Falin, who is currently on parole, pled guilty in August of 1997 to setting fire to officer Adams' vehicle on January 6, 1997.
Falin was sentenced to five years in prison on August 27th of '97, but has since been released on parole.
Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette said he asked for such high bonds in the case, because of the seriousness of manufacturing meth.
"It is becoming a growing problem in our county and we must do something to try and deter its manufacturing and use," he said.

Development board to sponsor strategic plan

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Development Board is in the process of applying for a \$16,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, which will be used to help defer the cost of developing a strategic plan for

Rockcastle County.
Development Board Executive Director Bigge Towery Jr., said this week that the grant application would be submitted in the next few days.
Rockcastle is eligible for the grant
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Cedar Rapids beats Eagles Nest



9-year-old Rachael Cash takes off in the backstroke event during a swim meet with Eagles Nest last Tuesday night. The Cedar Rapids Dolphins won the event, but are 1 and 2 thus far this season. Their next meet is Tuesday, July 10th at Cedar Rapids.