

Mount Vernon Signal

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Northside Baptist Church van involved

Two killed in accident on Hwy. 150

A tragic accident on Hwy. 150, last Wednesday night, has left two Rockcastle countians dead.

The wreck gained state-wide attention because one of the victims involved was driving a church bus. Jackie Dixon, 68, of Mt. Vernon and Stacy Nicely, 29, also of Mt. Vernon died in the accident.

Dixon was driving a Northside Baptist Church van heading toward Brodhead when Nicely, apparently, crossed the center line, causing a head-on collision.

Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell pronounced Dixon and Nicely dead at the scene. Dixon's three passengers, David Brock, 55, Kenny Owens, 66 and Carl York, 13, all of Brodhead were treated for minor injuries at the Rockcastle Hospital.

The wreck occurred around 8:30 p.m. on Hawes Hill next to the entrance to Houston Point Subdivision. Police said that neither driver was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash and that alcohol may have been a contributing factor. But test results on Nicely will not be released for at least thirty days. Although police said that Dixon was not wearing a seatbelt, church members and family members said that he always wore a seatbelt when driving.

One of the first people on the scene was Natalie Taylor of Mt. Vernon who was traveling toward Mt. Vernon after attending church in the Quail area. Mrs. Taylor said, "There ended up being several people there before the police or ambulance arrived. We were all willing to help any way we could but there just wasn't anything we could do except pray and we did."

Mrs. Taylor, who is a physical therapist, said that Nicely had no pulse at the scene but that Dixon was still conscious for a short time after the accident. Dowell said that both men died from blunt force trauma due to the impact.

"Jackie was like a second father to me," said Northside Baptist pastor Chad Burdette. "Jackie always put people first in his life and he loved Northside. He was a true, devout Christian man," Burdette said.

Northside is one of the fastest growing churches in Rockcastle County with average attendance on Sunday morning of approximately 225. They have grown to the point where they run two church buses for each service. Dixon usually took the 150 Brodhead route on Wednesday night and had already dropped off about 10 passengers when the acci-

dent occurred. Jackie's wife, Nell, said the support from the church and the community, after the accident, has been overwhelming. "We really appreciate everything everyone has done for us. This has been a trying time but, with God's help, we have made it through," she said.

Mrs. Dixon's family is certainly no stranger to tragedy. In 1978, her niece, 4-year-old Jennifer, was killed in an accident on the family farm while riding a pony. In May of 1983, Mrs. Dixon's sister, Pam and her two small children, Cindy and David, were killed in an accident on I-75 when the car they were riding in was hit head-on by a state police cruiser which had been stolen by a Laurel County man in an attempt to escape arrest. In 1999, Mrs. Dixon's brother, was killed in an accident involving an all-terrain vehicle, also on the family farm. In the same year, Mrs. Dixon's brother-in-law died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Her brother and brother-in-law were both 46 years old.

See complete obituaries elsewhere in this week's Signal.



Jackie Dixon

Indictments

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury has handed down seven indictments.

Those indicted, and their charges are:

• Shawn Patrick Davidson, Rt. 1, Brodhead, possession of a controlled substance, first degree, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, first offense, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs, first offense.

Cont. to A-8

A tragic accident occurred Wednesday on Hwy. 150, killing two people.

One of those two people was Jackie Dixon, 68, of Mt. Vernon who was driving a Northside Baptist Church van. Stacy Nicely, 29, was also killed in the accident. The Church held a special service on Wednesday after the wreck.



In Medicaid

Gov. Patton orders \$250 million cut

The state Medicaid program will make more than \$250 million in cuts to deal with increasing enrollment and growing costs. Gov. Paul Patton announced last Thursday.

The Medicaid program is facing a \$450 million deficit next year. Most other states are facing a similar situation with their Medicaid programs. According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey, 49 states are making plans to have already acted to reduce Medicaid spending growth.

Kentucky's Medicaid program has an annual budget of approximately \$4 billion and provides health care coverage to more than 600,000 people. The number of people on Medicaid this year is expected to exceed projections by 41,000 individuals.

Gov. Patton noted that the state has been addressing problems with the Medicaid budget for nearly two years. He appointed a Medicaid Steering Committee in 2001 to start dealing with this problem, thus helping to avoid making painful cuts until now.

"To date, this effort has achieved great success," Gov. Patton said. "Despite increasing pressures on the program, we have been able to balance the Medicaid budget for fiscal years 2001 and 2002, produce annualized savings of \$201 million, and access additional federal revenues

without making across the board cuts to providers and without reducing eligibility."

However, increasing health care costs and a growing number of Medicaid recipients is forcing the state to make cuts in the program. Some of the specifics include:

• Eliminating the low intensity level of care for people seeking to qualify for nursing home care or the Home and Community Based Waiver services. This means Kentucky, like most other states, will have one level of care. Estimated savings of \$45 million.

• Equalizing Medicaid payments for people who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid currently pays any deductible or co-pay for these recipients for outpatient services. With the change, Medicaid will not pay deductibles or co-pays if it exceeds the Medicaid rate. This will not affect services to the approximately 86,000 people dually eligible for both programs. All other states in the in the southeast have implemented this change. Estimated savings of \$53 - \$57 million.

• Requiring \$3 co-payments for optional services, including adult users of dental, chiropractic, optometry, podiatry and audiology services. Children, pregnant women and those living in institutional settings are exempt from co-pays.

Next week, we will have a story as to the effect these cuts will have on care providers locally.

Former resident dies in wreck

A former Rockcastle County man died Monday as the result of an automobile accident in Corinth.

Donnie Ellis Phelps, 43, of Dry Ridge was reportedly a passenger in a vehicle driven by his sister.



Donnie Ellis Phelps

Cont. to A-8



Rockcastle County Fiscal Court received a \$6,726.00 Area Development Fund check at the monthly meeting of the Cumberland Valley Area Development District Board of Directors. This grant was awarded to assist the Rockcastle County Public Library in purchasing an automation system and was made possible by the Kentucky State legislature through the dedicated efforts of State Senator Albert Robinson, and State Representatives Marie Rader and Tim Couch. From left to right are: Senator Albert Robinson, Representative Marie Rader, Corey Craig, Rockcastle County Public Library treasurer, Jerry Burke, Technology Coordinator, Rockcastle County Public Library, James Garrison, Chairman, Cumberland Valley Area Development District and Representative Tim Couch.