



Girl's beat Jackson Co. • Pg. A6

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Rockcastle residents Wendell Martin, Dr. Kim Cornelius and her brother, Chris, are shown talking to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet employee Joe Cox, during an open house at Watts Chapel Baptist Church on Tuesday night. The highway department again showed their plans for the new Hwy. 150 between Mt. Vernon and Crab Orchard. Chris Cornelius said that it was his understanding that the state would take both his sister's and his home for the new road. They both live in Mareburg. Martin's home is in Green Acres subdivision and will be spared, according to the new state plans.



A public meeting was held Tuesday night at Watts Chapel Baptist Church on Hwy. 150 near Crab Orchard concerning the new Hwy. 150 from Brodhead to Crab Orchard. Above, Watts Chapel Preacher Dan Gutenson, left, Billy Day and Buddy Hawkins discuss the proposed route, which will apparently take part of Day's farm.

Local man charged with break-ins at churches

A Mt. Vernon man was arrested Sunday night after he apparently broke into two church buildings.

According to Mt. Vernon police officer Ronnie Helled, Matthew S. Holden, 31, was arrested at his home in Northside Apartments, after Helled saw him coming out of the Mt. Vernon Pentecostal Church.

Helled said that Holden had apparently broken into the First Christian Church on West Main Street before he went to the Pentecostal Church.

Officer Helled said that he received a call from Rockcastle's 911 Dispatch that someone was trying to break into cars at Min's Apartments, which is located at the corner of Williams Street.

Helled said that he followed Holden's tracks in the snow, which led him to the two churches.

Holden apparently spotted Helled when he came out of the Pentecostal Church and went back in, locking the door behind him. The officer said that Holden then went through a window of the church and ran to his apartment, where he was later arrested without incident.

Holden was charged with burglary, criminal mischief and evading police.

Holden is being held in the Rockcastle County Detention Center under a \$20,000 bond while he awaits further court proceedings.

Homecoming at RCHS is Friday night

Homecoming festivities at Rockcastle County High School are scheduled for Friday night.

Homecoming will be begin at 5:45 p.m. before the Rockets take the floor against North Laurel. The Lady Rockets will play the second game of the doubleheader. Both teams are coming off big wins at Jackson County and are both ranked number one in the 13th region.

Hammond receives another extension

The Rockcastle County Board of Education voted Tuesday night to extend the contract of school superintendent Larry Hammond.

Hammond has been Superintendent of the local school system for the past eight years and an employee of the school system for the last 25 years.

Hammond's extension will run his contract through June of 2006.

The vote to extend Hammond's contract came after a one hour evaluation by the board but the vote was not unanimous.

Board member Martin Vanzani made the motion and newly elected board member Tina Cain Hasty seconded the motion. Board chairman Terry Burten voted in favor of Hammond's extension and board member Mike Burdette declined to

vote.

Board member Sam Stallworth, who was at the meeting when it started, had to leave because of a break-in at his home.

The board also agreed that school would be held on President's Day next Monday because of the number of days the school system has missed because of inclement weather.

At a later date the board will discuss whether or not to go to school on election day in May, Memorial Day and whether or not to take three days of Spring Break in April.

To date, the school system has missed 12 days because of snow.

According to Mrs. Rose Brown, chairman of the school system's calendar committee, the last day of school is now scheduled for June 5th.

Lights, sirens for local constables still in question

It's becoming a recurring headache for the Rockcastle Fiscal Court — the question of whether to approve the use of blue lights and sirens by the five constables in the county.

The matter was the first order of business at Tuesday's regular meeting. Chief Deputy Sheriff Nathaniel Price presented a letter to the court from the sheriff's department in support of the approval which said in part: "I have found that the office of Constable is a valuable asset, just not to the Sheriff's department but to the district in which they serve."

In the letter, Price said he had contacted the Department of Criminal Justice regarding training available for the constables which would cover such areas as: defensive driving, fire, arms, the Penal Code and instruction on search and seizure laws. This is a basic 40 hour course, Price said, as opposed to the more rigorous 16 week course city police and sheriff's deputies are required to undergo and is provided at no cost to the county. County Judge Executive Buzz Carlolis led the discussion with the court by saying that his office has surveyed several surrounding counties about their policy on this question and had found that Bell, Laurel, Lincoln and Pulaski had not authorized the use of the lights and sirens by Constables. Madison, Estill and Clay do and the matter has not been settled in Garrard Co.

Carlolis read to the court a letter he received Tuesday from the Kentucky Assn. of Counties which said that Constables were currently covered for law enforcement activities and within their capacity as an elected county official. However, the letter went on to say that "another exposure presented to the county involves authorizing the Constable to place blue lights on their vehicle. The KALF policy currently would respond to cover the vehicle used by the constable without the scope of their duty, not personal use."

The letter also said "it is our position that the addition of lights to the vehicles significantly increases the exposure to the county, in particular if the lights are used as a means to high speed pursuit or response. It is recommended that a restriction be placed on the use of the lights, unless the user of the vehicle has received training in high speed operations."

County Attorney Jeff Burdette told the court he felt the county could only be held liable if they were negligent in approving lights and sirens on vehicles without requiring the training. "You have to decide responsibility. You must apply standards," Burdette cautioned the court however

that they could have problems with constables using the lights without training if there were an incident.

Two opposing viewpoints were given the court from two of the Constables present:

"David Mason, 5th District Constable, told the court he felt the equipment was needed to assist him in carrying out his duties. He said that his assistance during a recent felony would have been greater had he been able to let the person, who had just committed the felony, know that he was behind him. As it was, he was only able to keep contact long enough for State Police to make the arrest."

Mason also said he was in the process of getting the training offered but didn't want to "waste his time" taking more if the court was not going to approve the lights and sirens. Mason said he was actually taking an 88 hour course which will meet again beginning March 11. "Without some kind of identification on vehicles we are useless out there," Mason added.

Delno McClure, Constable for the 2nd District, told the court that he would just as soon work as he has been doing — by using the lights for funerals. "I don't want the fiscal court to be responsible for me," he said. McClure also said he had his car painted with identification and in twelve years had never had any problems with anyone.

Mrs. Stanley Payne, whose husband is Constable for the 3rd District,

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ICY roadway in Pulaski Co. blamed for death of Rick Bussell, 16

A Pulaski County youth, with a large family in Rockcastle County, died last Friday at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Ricky Dee Bussell, 16, son of Rick Bussell and Cindy Sears and grandson of Donal Sr. and Mary Bussell of Brodhead, died after he was involved in a head-on collision in Nancy on Thursday night.

According to police, Bussell lost control of his Nissan truck on the slick highway and crossed the center line, hitting a Toyota SUV, also driven by another Pulaski County resident.

Bussell died from a head injury. Family members said that the 16-year-old donated his organs.

(See complete obituary on Page A-3).

Anderkin selected for White House forum

Rockcastle County High School senior, Aaron Anderkin, has been chosen to participate in the "We The People, White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service."

Aaron will be one of three representatives of the YMCA of America to sit on the panel, which will be

chaired by Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The White House has extended an invitation to the nation's most prominent service organizations for participation in the forum. Aaron is the only high school student selected to be part of the panel.

He will travel to Washington D.C. this weekend. The White House forum proceedings will take place on Monday and will be televised on C-span.

Aaron has just recently completed his one-year tenure as Governor of the Senior Kentucky Youth Assembly. He has been an active participant in the Y Club program of Rockcastle County since sixth grade. He has the distinction of having been elected to serve in the two highest state offices of the Kentucky YMCA program: Secretary General of the Kentucky United Nations Assembly and Governor of the Kentucky Youth Assembly. He currently holds the office of vice-president of the Rockcastle County High School Y-Club.

Aaron is the son of Richard Anderkin and Cindy Taylor Anderkin, both of Mt. Vernon.



Lady-Rocket Head Coach Chryl Noble, center, is shown talking to her team during a time-out on Tuesday night. Coach Noble recorded her 200th victory as the Lady Rockets pulled off an upset at Jackson County. Coach Noble is in her 13th season as head of the Lady Rocket program.

Aaron Anderkin