



Mount Vernon Signal

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Board will decide on calendar Thursday

The Rockcastle Board of Education will decide next Thursday on a calendar for the rest of the school year during a special called meeting beginning at 5 p.m.

School Superintendent Larry Hammond said this week he would present the board with several options, including one that would extend the school day for students.

Hammond said the school system's calendar committee had come up with the final options and recommendations for the board to review last week.

The change in the calendar has been necessary because of the number of days school has been dismissed because of inclement weather. To date, the school system has missed twelve days and Hammond said that, because of the trend this winter, it is highly probable more days will be missed before winter is over.

Hammond said that the calendar committee did not recommend students make-up any days during Spring Break but that would still be the final decision of the board.

Spring Break is scheduled for April 7-11 and even if the board does vote to go to school that week, the school system could only make up three days because of Kentucky Education Association meetings.

Hammond said the recommendation of the committee on the extended day called for students to go 30 minutes longer each day for 24 school days. He said that the committee also recommended going to school on Memorial Day and Election Day in May.

Although many school systems in the state have been out all week because of last weekend's winter storm, Rockcastle has gone to school each day this week.

But, on Monday, the attendance was only 85 percent, according to

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Local family loses everything in house fire Saturday night

A Rockcastle County family lost everything in a house fire on Saturday night.

Chris and Janice Gail Poynter and their three children, escaped the fire, but were unable to get anything from their home.

Mrs. Poynter said the entire family was at home preparing for bed when they heard a smoke alarm going off in the upstairs of the home.

Mrs. Poynter said that when she and her husband got upstairs there was already smoke in the house and the wall was black around an outlet.

"We couldn't get the dog out because we didn't have time to save anything," she said.

"Within a minute the wall was on fire. It is absolutely the scariest thing I have been ever been through," she said.

Mrs. Doan said the outpouring of support from the community had been overwhelming since the fire and that her family really appreciated it.

She also said she wanted to praise the Broadhead and Mt. Vernon fire fighters who came to the scene.

"They are really special people - can't say enough about them," she continued.

The family also lost a house dog they had had for nine years.

"We couldn't get the dog out be-

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Chris and Janice Gail Doan, and their three children, lost everything in a Saturday night house fire. What remains is shown above.

County spared from really harsh weather conditions

By: Rickard Anderlin

Rockcastle County residents were among those spared from the effects of Saturday and Sunday's horrible winter weather, although one local man probably doesn't think he was so lucky.

Roy Sanders, who lives along the Rockcastle River, between Livingston and the Laurel County line, lost six vehicles because of high water.

Livingston fire chief Sam Stallworth said that Sanders, who is a long haul truck driver, was away from home over the weekend and when he returned he found a mess.

"His doublewide mobile home was also flooded by the high water coming from the river," Stallworth said.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloffis, who also lives on the banks of the river, said Monday that he had seen the river much higher at times.

Carloffis said that Greer Brothers Construction did have to move several pieces of heavy equipment because of the high water.

"The water would have gotten their equipment, but they had been keeping an eye on it all night long and as soon as they could get some men there on Sunday morning, they got it moved to higher ground," he said.

Greer Brothers is currently work-

ing to replace the Interstate 75 bridge which crosses the river at the Rockcastle-Laurel line.

Carloffis said that some county roads had also been damaged by flooding and that the county road department was currently working to fix them as fast as possible.

Rockcastle weatherman Bud Cox said that he recorded over four inches of rain over the weekend, although

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Twelve indictments returned

A Rockcastle County Grand Jury returned a total of 12 indictments last Friday.

Those indicted and their alleged offenses are:

Kesha Saylor, 23 of Crab Orchard and Mignon Looney, 21 of Broadhead are charged with burglary, first degree and theft by unlawful taking in connection with a break-in at

the home of Attorney David Howard.

Darrell M. Blackburn, along with Daniel N. Blackburn, is charged with burglary, third degree, involving a break-in of a building belonging to J.J. McKinney. Della M. Horn is charged with complicity to burglary, third degree in the same incident.

Both Blackburn men are charged with theft by unlawful taking and Horn is charged with complicity to theft by unlawful taking.

The incident allegedly occurred in October of 2002.

Michael Durham of Flat Gap Rd., Berea, Mitchell Dooley and Michael Richmond, both of Mt. Vernon, are all charged with burglary, first degree, stemming from a break-in at the home of Darrel W. Isaacs on December 3, 2002. The three are also charged with theft by unlawful taking in the same incident.

Aaron Blackburn of Bullock Ave. in Livingston was indicted for burglary, second degree at the home of Robert Allen on or about February 8, 2003 and for assault, third degree on Jason McCowan, a state police officer.

Terry E. Riley of East Bernstadt was indicted on three counts: operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs; fleeing or evading police, first degree and criminal mischief, third degree in January, 2003.

Three indictments were also returned against Randall Glenn Harty of Rt. 1, Broadhead for possession of a controlled substance; possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, first offense, all from an arrest in October, 2002.

Lesley A. Bryant of Crab Orchard was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, first degree, dating from June of 2001.

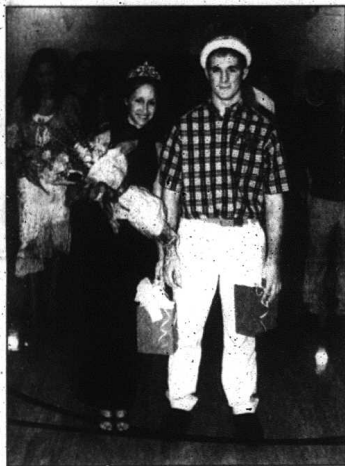
Firefighters rescue London man from cave

Mt. Vernon and Livingston firefighters rescued a London man from a cave on Mullins Station Road Friday morning.

Firefighter Brian Hansel said the man was camping inside the cave with five other people from Laurel County and had gotten separated from his party overnight.

Hansel said it took rescue workers about an hour to find the man.

"They had been down there for two days when this happened," Hansel said.



Seniors Benny Northern and Elizabeth Matekovich were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at RCHS Friday night.



Members of the Rockcastle County High School Band played at Friday night's homecoming. Shown above are: Elizabeth Bobo in front. Second row from left: Rebecca Graves, Chris Robbins, Drew Davidson and Josh Nation. Pictured in back is Mary Brinson-Inback.

Tournament at Brodhead

The Sarah Dawes Memorial's on 5 Basketball tournament will be held Saturday, March 1, 2003 at Brodhead Elementary School.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to the Sarah Dawes Forever

Smiling Award. Miss Dawes, a cousin of Corey Scott of Brodhead organizer of the event, was killed in a car crash in Indiana in 2001 at age 16.

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High water from the Rockcastle River forced Greer Brothers Construction to move several pieces of heavy equipment out of harm's way. The County was spared from the ice storm that hit other parts of the state, but some flooding was reported.