



Rockets win two • Pg. A6

Mount Vernon Signal

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In Mt. Vernon Council to go ahead with water project

The Mt. Vernon City Council voted recently to go ahead with a proposed \$5.4 million water project for the city.

If the city can obtain the funding for the project would include a new 30 inch transmission line and water intake valve that would be built at Lake Linville so more water could get to the city's water plant at Renfro Valley.

Currently the plant produces, on the average, of two million gallons a day, but has the capacity to produce four million.

Also included in the project would be major changes in the city's (Cont. to A7)

Four arrested

Four Rockcastle County men were arrested last week after police located a man they were looking for.

According to Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette, police were looking for Sammy Stewart, 27, of Orlando because a bench warrant had been issued for him.

Burdette said that State Trooper Tommy Cromer stopped the four men to serve the warrant and located several illegal drugs in the car.

Stewart was charged with possession of a controlled substance in the first degree and trafficking in a controlled substance second offense.

Roger Evans, 22, of Mt. Vernon was charged with possession of a controlled substance first degree. He is currently on probation because of other crimes.

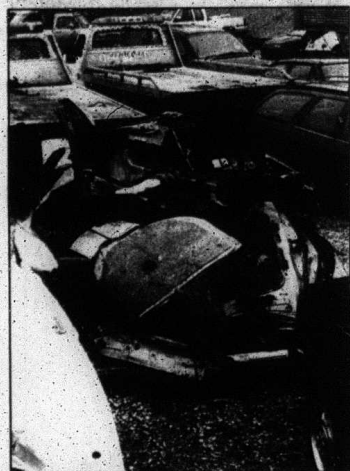
(Cont. to A7)



Tuesday morning's snow storm caused several wrecks in the county, including one on I-75 at the Exit 59 overpass. Above, rescue workers are shown removing an Ohio woman, who was a passenger in a car involved in that accident. The car and a truck, which was hauling motorcycles in a large utility trailer collided on the bridge.



A truck pulling a utility trailer full of motorcycles was involved in a two vehicle accident on Tuesday morning. Several wrecks occurred in the county because of an inch snowfall. An Ohio woman was injured in the wreck.



Mt. Vernon firefighters had to use the Jaws-of-Life to cut apart the above car to free a local woman who was trapped. Pamela Hansel, 51, of Mt. Vernon was taken to Rockcastle Hospital where she was admitted.

Rogers obtains \$9 million for Rockcastle Co.

U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers announced last week that he obtained \$362 million in targeted federal funding for a wide range of projects in southern and eastern Kentucky, including Rockcastle County. The funding is included in the fiscal year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which is comprised of 11 different spending bills.

President George W. Bush is expected to sign the bill as early as this week.

\$9 million of the funding will be spent on projects in Rockcastle County.

They include \$6 million to continue the six-lane expansion project on I-75 in the county and \$3 million for forest preservation and to fight marijuana cultivation and lawlessness in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Rogers also obtained \$17 million more in funding for his eastern Kentucky PRIDE program.

PRIDE provides money for dump site clean-ups and money for low income families to replace or build septic systems on their property.

To date the Congressman has obtained \$140 million for the project. Rockcastle County is in the area served by PRIDE.

Local woman hurt in wreck Wednesday

Last Wednesday Mt. Vernon firefighters had to use the Jaws-of-Life to cut apart a car that a local woman was trapped in after a wreck on U.S. 25.

Mt. Vernon assistant fire chief David Bales said the wreck happened after a mail truck headed to Mt. Vernon Post Office rear ended the vehicle causing it to hit the back of a cattle trailer around 3:30 p.m.

After the car hit the cattle trailer it went over a steep bank near the entrance to Christian Appalachian Project, on Green Fish Hill.

The woman, Pamela Hansel, 51, of Mt. Vernon was taken to Rockcastle Hospital where she was admitted for treatment because of her injuries.

The driver of the mail truck, Preston Jones was not injured.

Bales said that the roadway was slick and probably attributed to the accident.

The mail truck was totaled in wreck, but Mt. Vernon Postmaster Kim Owens said another truck was sent from Lexington to pick-up mail at her post office, Livingston's post office and the post office in Renfro Valley.

Mrs. Owens said there were no delays in mail service because of the wreck.

Numerous break-ins reported Rose's One Stop, Hiatt's 5 & 10 burglarized

By: Richard Anderkin

A number of break-ins have occurred in the county over the past week at homes and businesses, including Hiatt's 5 & 10 in Mt. Vernon and Rose's One Stop in Brodhead.

Last Thursday, thieves threw a rock through the front door of Hiatt's, which is located on Main Street in Mt. Vernon around 4 a.m.

Owner Billy Hiatt said a person living in an apartment, located in another building on Main Street, heard the noise made by the rock going through his door, but did not report the incident to police.

Hiatt said he learned of the robbery on Friday when he went to open his store around 8:15 a.m.

Hiatt said thieves took five Fenton lamps from his store valued at \$300 each.

The longtime Mt. Vernon businessman said he was in the process of installing an alarm system in his store.

In Brodhead, Rose's One Stop was broken into Monday night the same way Hiatt's was hit on Thursday.

Owner Luther Rose said someone threw a large rock through the front door of his store around 2:15 a.m. Tuesday morning. Rose's is located on Hwy. 150 near downtown Brodhead.

Rose said that thieves took about \$3,000 worth of cigarettes.

Rose's wife Bonnie, who runs the store along with her husband said she thought Brodhead police officer Joe Bussell had gone off duty around 2 a.m.

Brodhead's other police officer Jason Kirby, who has been employed by the city about a week, is off work on Monday and Tuesdays.

"We don't need police officers on duty in the city during the day or even until 11 p.m. at night because we are all open," said Mrs. Rose.

"We need them on duty when we go home and maybe some of this crime would stop - it gets really frustrating replacing doors and losing inventory," Mrs. Rose added.

Brodhead City Clerk Becky Bussell said that Chief Bussell had been on duty from 7 a.m. Monday morning.

Numerous other break-ins have been reported throughout the county.

Two men kicked in the back door at the home of Ben and Geraldine

French on Saturday evening. The French's home is on Hwy. 150 at Mareburg.

Mr. French said he and his wife were at home in their basement when he thought he heard something and proceeded to the top floor.

"They didn't get anything, but they did tear up our french doors," Mr. French said.

The incident occurred around 5:30 p.m. Mr. French said that he thought the two men were on foot, but Rockcastle Sheriff Darrell Doan said a witness saw a red car pick up two men on the roadway.

Police also reported break-ins at the home of Garlan Cummins and Ipa Cummins last week. Both homes are on Hwy. 150 between Brodhead and Crab Orchard.

Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane said that police had made headway on the rash of break-ins and that other arrests were imminent.

"The main problem is that so many of these people get hooked on drugs, such as methamphetamine and they will do just about anything in order to be able to purchase it," he said.

Lane declined to identify the people police think are responsible for the latest break-ins because he said they would run.

"We (police) are holding our own and believe me that is not an easy task right now," Lane said.

Last week the Rockcastle Grand Jury handed down six indictments for earlier break-ins in the county.

"We've just about got them all and we will be presenting other burglary cases to the Grand Jury," Lane added.

Brent Kirby verdict upheld by High Court

Rockcastle, Lincoln and Pulaski Commonwealth Attorney Eddy F. Montgomery announced this week that Earl Brent Kirby, 46, of Mt. Vernon, has had his conviction for reckless homicide upheld by the Kentucky Supreme Court.

According to Montgomery, Kirby was convicted in August 2000 by a Lincoln County jury for the shooting death of Lester "Frankie" (Cont. to A7)



Thieves threw a large rock through the front door of Rose's One Stop in Brodhead Monday night. Owner Luther Rose is shown repairing the broken door.



Luckily no one was injured in a wreck on Hwy. 150 Thursday morning. A truck hauling wood chips lost control in front of Houston Point Subdivision and the soft ground on the shoulder of the road caused him to overturn. The wreck caused delays for motorists traveling the road. It took several hours to clean up the accident.