



Boys & Girls advance • Pg. A8

Mount Vernon Signal

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Students going to school longer

Students in the Rockcastle County school system are going to school just a little bit longer than usual these days.

The Rockcastle County Board of Education voted last Thursday night to extend the instructional time for the school system by 30 minutes each day for 24 days.

The extended instruction time began on Monday of this week and will last for 24 days, until April 3rd, according to Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond.

Hammond said the vote by the board actually only extends the school day ten to fifteen minutes, because all of the elementary schools were already going longer than required by the Ky. State Department of Education.

Hammond said the biggest change in time spent at school was at the Rockcastle County High School and the Rockcastle County Middle School.

By going the extended half hour for 24 days the school system will make up two days missed because of inclement weather.

The board also voted to take off Memorial Day on May 26th and

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Rewards being offered for pet killings

Rewards are being offered this week for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who have killed family pets in Rockcastle County.

Frank Stallworth and his family live at Roundstone near Grace Baptist Church and in the past year and a half someone has poisoned two black Labrador Retrievers and a cat with anti-freeze.

"One of the dogs was blind and both were in a pen when someone put anti-freeze in their water bowl," he said.

"It takes a low life person to kill a child's pet and I hope the state strengthens the cruelty to animal law now in effect," he said.

A bill now being considered in the state legislature, House Bill 435, strengthens the current cruelty to animal law and would make it a felony for someone to intentionally

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Three people were injured in a single car wreck on Mullins Station Road Monday afternoon. Police said Halona Cox, 28, of Mt. Vernon, lost control of her Chevrolet car around 2:15 p.m. and went over a steep embankment into Roundstone Creek. Cox, John David Riddle, 34, of Mt. Vernon and Melissa Mason, 22, of Mt. Vernon were all injured in the wreck. The two women were treated at Rockcastle Hospital and released. Riddle from transferred from the local hospital to the University of Kentucky Medical Center. At left, rescue workers Steve Griffin and Bryan Hansel, assist-Mason. After being released from the hospital Cox was arrested and charged with DUI.

Police making strides in solving numerous crimes

Rockcastle County law enforcement has been working overtime in order to deal a blow to those responsible for a rash of break-ins that have taken place during the past few weeks, according to a recent press release issued by Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette.

Burdette said the Kentucky State Police and detectives stationed here, and the Rockcastle County Sheriff's office have successfully solved several recent burglaries, and the investigation continues.

"At least six recent thefts have been solved to the point that arrest warrants have been issued," Burdette said. "Law enforcement has worked together, with the help of the community, to successfully pinpoint facts necessary to identify those responsible for the recent thefts. And, we have much more to do and the work is ongoing," Burdette added.

A recent burglary at Flat Gap in Rockcastle County, at the Darrell Isaacs' residence, has resulted in the indictments of Michael Durham, 22 and Michael Richmond, 22; both of Mt. Vernon and Mitchell Dooley, 18, of Flat Gap. Most all the items stolen have been recovered and the arrest of the third suspect, Mitchell Dooley, is pending.

A February 12th burglary of a building, owned by Bobby Bishop in Brodhead, has resulted an arrest warrant being issued for a suspect au-

thorities believe is responsible. Authorities are not releasing the name of the fugitive, pending his apprehension.

The residence of Mark Robinson, on Cove Branch, was burglarized on February 21 and three arrest warrants were issued by the County Attorney's office. One defendant, Billy Gene Robinson, is in custody under a \$10,000 cash bond, following a preliminary hearing on Burglary 1st degree charges on Monday. Two other arrests are expected shortly.

On February 27th the home of Chara Whit, near the Rockcastle Library in Mt. Vernon was burglarized and arrest warrants were issued shortly after securing evidence at the scene, including witness statements that were crucial to the investigation.

John Kemper, Jr., 26, of Conway was arrested Saturday night, March 1st, after a burglary at Robbie's Antiques on U.S. 25 at Conway. Deputy Sheriff Joe Rush and KSP Trooper Lave Owens made the arrest after a neighbor observed the defendant in the store and detained him until authorities arrived. Kemper is under a \$15,000 cash or property bond, pending a preliminary hearing scheduled for Monday, March 10.

"These are cases where the identity of the perpetrators are known, arrests are being made, preliminary hearings are being held and presentment to the Rockcastle Grand Jury is imminent. We are pleased with law enforcement's quick response and detailed investigations," Burdette said.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy, Nathaniel Price, acknowledged pending joint investigations with the KSP, including a case where Kentucky State Police officer Jason McCowan arrested Keesha Saylor of Crab Orchard and

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Kenna Lanham was 47 Guilty verdict returned in beating death

By: Richard Anderkin

A Garrard County jury found Phillip Lanham guilty Friday of suffocating his wife and tampering with evidence. Lanham is a former Rockcastle County School System instructional assistant.

Lanham's wife, a Rockcastle County school psychologist, Kenna Lanham, was 47, and had worked for the school system for 13 years, before she was brutally murdered in her Cartersville home on October 11, 2001.

When police arrived on the scene, they found Kenna Lanham beaten and lying in bed. It is unclear how long she had been dead.

The jury recommended that Phillip Lanham, also 47, receive the maximum sentences allowed by law: a life sentence for murder and five years for tampering with evidence, to be served consecutively. The earliest Phillip Lanham would be eligible for parole is in 20 years.

Kenna Lanham's relatives, wearing homemade buttons depicting Kenna with two grandchildren, hugged each other after the verdicts were announced in court.

"I'm just so relieved," said Freddie Isaacs, Kenna Lanham's sister. "It's just been like a bad dream."

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Phillip Lanham



Kenna Lanham

Ben Perry takes over as ASPI Director

By: Richard Anderkin

Appalachian Science In The Public Interest (ASPI), is a non-profit organization which was established in 1977 as an environmental education organization in Kentucky.

The organization is based in Rockcastle County and they have a new executive director.

The new director is Ben Perry a 45-year-old father of four who decided a couple of years ago that he would get out of private business and dedicate his time environmental issues.

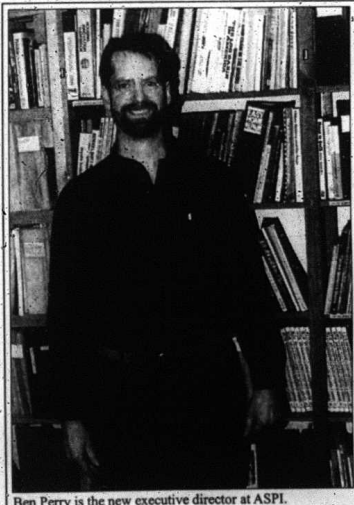
"I gave in to my life-long passion for environmental issues and enrolled in the graduate environmen-

tal systems program at the University of Kentucky in August of 2000," Perry said.

Perry completed his Master's Degree this past year and is currently working on his Master's thesis. He has been associated with ASPI since 2001, when he began in a part-time position.

Perry says the mission of ASPI is to make science and technology responsive to the needs of the people of Central Appalachia. "We are dedicated to education, advocacy, research and demonstration regarding issues that affect Central Appalachia," he said Monday.

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Ben Perry is the new executive director at ASPI.



A very large Rocket crowd showed up Tuesday night to cheer for the Lady Rockets in their game with Clay County in district tourney play. The girls led wire to wire and will play in the championship game Thursday (tonight) against Jackson County at 6:30 p.m. In the finals, the boys will play Clay County in the finals of their district after the girls game. Advance tickets can be bought at RCHS for \$5.00 each.