

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887



April 12-26 Pride clean-up weeks set

Rockcastle County residents who want to spruce up their community can volunteer during the PRIDE Spring Cleanup, April 12 thru April 26.

During this two-week period, James Renner, local PRIDE coordinator, has scheduled cleanup activities across the county. Volunteers will provide the manpower to clean roadsides, hillides and waterways and PRIDE will provide the trash bags, gloves and safety vests. "By working together today, we can have a cleaner, healthier tomorrow," said Karen Engle, Executive Director of PRIDE.

In previous years, Rockcastle County volunteers have made a tremendous difference. Since 1997, PRIDE cleanup efforts in Rockcastle have produced impressive results:

- 1 stream cleaned
- 43 dumps cleaned up
- 18 roadways cleaned
- 64 appliances collected
- 389 tires collected
- 1,428 bags of trash and 296 tons of trash collected

In this effort, 486 volunteers worked 2,285 hours. "It is easy to see that PRIDE - Personal Responsibility In A Desirable Environment - is making progress in cleaning our region's environment, but we still have work to do. So do something that makes a difference

Volunteers needed

Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarice Kirby said Tuesday that volunteers to help during the PRIDE Spring Cleanup (April 12-26) are still needed.

"We have only had about 20 people to sign up to date and there will be many more needed," Mayor Kirby said.

According to the Mayor, on the last Saturday of the clean-up, volunteers will be rewarded with a cook-out at Lake Linville with free food and entertainment, beginning at 1 p.m.

Set your clocks forward Sunday

Daylight Saving Time goes into effect at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, April 6. Remember to set your clock forward one hour Saturday night before going to bed.

DST will remain in effect until the last Sunday in October.

Burning law in effect through April 30

County Judge Executive Buzz Carlotta issued a reminder to Rockcastle Countians this week that the Forest Service's "Burning Law" will be in effect through April 30th.

During this time, it is unlawful for anyone to set fire to, or to procure another to set fire to, any flammable material capable of spreading fire and located in or within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland.

There is an exception to this law between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., prevailing local time.

And, of course, all fires should be attended until extinguished.



In the top photo, Todd Fields is shown standing with the group of students he was taking on a retreat Friday when he was murdered. In the bottom photo is Fields and his wife, Lynnell and two children Savannah and Sophia. The Fields have been missionaries in Honduras for the past 13 years and are from Rockcastle County.

Two from Bee Lick indicted for methamphetamine sale

A Lincoln County Grand Jury, last Friday, indicted a Bee Lick couple for, among other things, allegedly selling methamphetamine to an undercover police informant last month.

Suzi Cromer, 36 and Kenneth Smith, 30, were charged with involvement in the sale of methamphetamine to the undercover agent. Both of the accused listed Broadhead addresses, but were arrested on Smith's property in the Bee Lick section of Lincoln County.

Police originally went to Smith's house to look for items stolen in Rockcastle County and found the makings of methamphetamine, a drug typically manufactured in home labs and sold on the street.

Cromer allegedly sold some of that meth to an undercover state police informant with the cooperation and advice of Smith.

In the indictment, Cromer was charged with five counts of receiving stolen property. Items stolen from five different locations in Rockcastle

County were allegedly found at Smith's home.

The two also were charged with

manufacturing methamphetamine while in the possession of a firearm.

(Cont. to 10)

Freedom Fund established by local American Red Cross

The Daniel Boone Chapter of the American Red Cross, in collaboration with Community Trust-Bank, announced recently that the community can support our troops and their families here at home by donating to the Freedom Fund. Money raised will be used to support the American Red Cross' emergency communication system, mobilizing and deploying Red Cross Workers to live and work alongside the troops and other social services, including access to financial assistance, verification of information required for emergency leave, counseling, family support and veterans assistance.

Dawn Lewis, executive director of the Daniel Boone Chapter said, "This is a great opportunity for the community to show its support of our troops and the American Red Cross workers stationed in Kuwait. All money raised will go to benefit our troops, our workers in Kuwait and the families back here at home."

To make a donation to the Freedom Fund stop by any Community Trust Bank located in Mt. Vernon, Richmond or Berea or the American Red Cross office, located at 1835 Big Hill Road, Berea, Ky. 40403 or you can call (859) 986-4221 and make a donation by credit card.

Missionary murdered in Guatemala

Todd Fields was from Rockcastle

A missionary, who is a native of Rockcastle County, was shot and killed Friday during a robbery in Guatemala.

Todd Fields, 41, of Mt. Vernon, who had been a missionary in Honduras for 13 years, was leading a group of high school students on a retreat to neighboring Guatemala when the group was robbed, said his wife, Lynnell Hammons Fields.

Details are still somewhat sketchy, but Mrs. Fields, who worked with her husband in the mission field, said he was driving a van carrying two other adult missionaries and the children of other missionaries.

"Men in a van pulled up alongside their van and tried to get them to stop and tried to run them off the road," Mrs. Fields said. Her husband, in turn, tried to get away and run the bandits off the road.

Friday's tragic incident happened on the Pan American Highway, Mrs. Fields said.

At some point, Fields was shot, and the robbers then took the other two adults and students to a secluded spot and robbed them. No one else was harmed, Mrs. Fields said.

Mrs. Fields said that her husband was apparently shot twice, the last time through the heart.

"Knowing Todd, he probably told the bandits to take his life and leave the rest alone," Mrs. Fields said.

Fields' father, Bob Fields, who along with his wife Eddie, run cleftrock, a Christian retreat at Pongo, said he was informed that after the bandits took the other adults and students to the secluded location they were bound, face down and held at gunpoint for an hour and a half.

"Everyone was robbed, including Todd and the only thing left in the van was Todd's passport," Mr. Fields said.

The Rev. Kenton Parkey, who had led several mission trips from Wildie Christian Church located here in Rockcastle, to the Fields' mission in Pena Blanca, Honduras, said he was devastated when he learned the news Saturday.

The Fields lived in Honduras with their two daughters, Savannah, 14, and Sophia, 10.

"He warned us on our trips that it was dangerous in several areas where you don't travel alone," Parkey said. "He knew the danger, but we never dreamed it

would happen to him."

Todd's parents were career missionaries in Israel, and Fields and his wife were also former members of the Peace Corps.

During the past 13 years, the couple had been missionaries affiliated with Global Outreach International of Tupelo, Miss. Global is a non-profit foundation that helps people of developing countries and leads church-based missions. Several Kentucky churches sponsor the Fields' mission work.

The Fields have built churches, schools and two "feeding centers" to feed children rice, beans and milk. The Fields also set up a couple of tilapia fisheries so that locals could raise the freshwater fish to eat.

"Todd loved people and he worried about people starving," said his wife of 20 years.

"Anyone that knew Todd knew him as a gentle giant of a man," said his brother-in-law Eddie Hammond.

Todd stood 6 feet 5 inches tall, weighed more than 300 pounds, and knew no strangers, according to family members and friends.

"He was a very gentle man, and he loved the Honduran people," said Wes White, director of personnel for Global Outreach. "He was a dear friend."

And despite the danger, church groups saw how Todd Fields and his family showed unconditional love to the Honduran people. It was a message that hit home particularly to teens from the States that visited the Fields family, Parkey said.

"What they brought the reality of what they have here, and that someone would be able to give up the comfort we have here to help those people," Parkey said.

Mrs. Fields said that her and her two children would likely return to Honduras to continue the Lord's work.

"Although this is so tragic and painful, you can't stand for something the majority of your life and just say I give up when something bad happens," Mrs. Fields said.

"I know Todd was right with God and I'm sure God was glad to get him," she said.

Todd Fields was a 1979 graduate of Rockcastle County High School and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University.

Funeral services for Fields are

(Cont to 10)



Staff members and students with the Rockcastle County High School JROTC have made a display at the high school in honor of the 30 men and women who are currently serving in the United States Armed Services. (Editors Note) In next week's issue of the Signal we will honor them individually.



Members of the Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church at Maple Grove have asked that all Rockcastle Countians leave their outside lights on in honor of the men and women who are risking their life for their country, until the war in Iraq is over.