

Mount Vernon Signal

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Against Cotton States

Homeowners in Rockcastle file joint suit

Two Rockcastle County attorneys have filed suit against a former insurance provider for the state of Kentucky on behalf of nine Rockcastle residents.

The suit involves Cotton States Insurance, who left the state and other states after huge losses in the industry.

Cotton States, which was represented locally by Mary Mathis Insurance, is being accused of not paying claims on several homes after a May 1st, 2002 hail storm in the county.

The suit was filed by Willis G. Coffey and John D. Ford, who are representing plaintiffs Darrin Allen, Danetta Allen, Kevin Robbins, Cindy Robbins, Shannon Bishop, Angie Bishop, Harry Harmon, Patricia Harmon and Judy Bullock.

The law suit claims that Cotton States paid other claims after the storm, but did not pay the nine named in this particular suit.

The suit has also named two contractors, who did estimates on the homes involved, Crawford and Company and Donan Engineering Company, Inc.

Coffey said that his clients were upset because they had estimates of the damage done to their homes and that Cotton States had paid their neighbors, but refused to pay them, even though they had the same coverage.

"All of our clients paid their premiums in a timely manner, then when they had legitimate claims with substantial damage, Cotton States looked the other way," Coffey said.

"They denied the claims. This suit is about standing up to the insurance industry, telling them in terms that they will understand that you cannot treat your policy holders in this fashion or there will be consequences," Coffey said.

Mrs. Mathis said this week that she obviously does not represent Cotton States any longer and that she

Cont. to A-12

Public statement by Mayor Clarice Kirby

Wednesday, The Signal was given a statement by Mayor Clarice Kirby concerning littering.

According to Mayor Kirby's statement:

"The City of Mt. Vernon will prosecute anyone who breaks the law and is caught littering. We have tried to clean our clean up our city and there is no excuse for leaving your garbage by the roadsides or trashing our drinking water supply in and around Lake Linville.

"Everyone has a personal responsibility to obey the laws and to take pride in the place where they live, travel or visit."

The mayor is asking citizens to report any illegal dumping or littering to City Hall at 606-256-3437 or to the police through 911.

"Be aware that cameras will be recording offenders on tape and this will be used to prosecute any illegal activity," the statement concluded.



A 24-year-old Mt. Vernon girl was critically injured in a single car accident on Monday. Dana Gail Reynolds was traveling toward Mt. Vernon, when she apparently lost control of the above Jeep Cherokee around 12:30 p.m. Reynolds was flown to U.K. Medical Center, where she is still listed in critical condition.



The National Day of Prayer was observed locally last Thursday in front of the courthouse. Several local ministers participated, including Mike Bryant, above, pastor of Faith Harvest Fellowship Church who led the observance. Following the observance, a luncheon buffet was served by the Rockcastle County Kiwanis Club in the courthouse.



Corey Craig, far right, served as spokesman for a group of business owners concerned about the littering and loitering problem on Main and Richmond Streets.

Road and General funds to get the most money

County has \$4 million budget for 2003-04

A tentative budget, totaling \$3,973,383 for the 2003-04 fiscal year, was presented to the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court Thursday by Court Clerk Anna Rose Mullins.

The budget, which will be given to the court for final approval at a later date, has the most money allocated for the road fund (\$69,930), followed by the general fund at \$911,971. The appropriation for the jail is tentatively set at \$717,564.

An appropriation for water systems projects of \$725,000 is included in the appropriations but it was pointed out that this is "pass-through" money expected from the state legislature for use by Eastern Rockcastle Water Association and Western Rockcastle Water Association.

Also included in the appropriations is \$258,677 in grant money, funneled through the county, to the

Industrial Authority in the form of Economic Development Funds and an appropriation of \$223,650 for 911.

Other appropriations include: L.G.E.A. funds, \$65,137; Fairgrounds fund, \$16,000; Forestry, \$1,715; Animal Shelter, \$850 and DES fund, \$664.

Rockcastle County Treasurer Joe Clontz brought the court up-to-date on their major outstanding liabilities, which total just over 6.2 million.

Several of the liabilities that Clontz had to list on the liabilities report, to satisfy state requirements, are not actually the court's liability, rather the court is the pass-through for the funds. For example, in the court's name is the balance of a debt, in the amount of \$263,778, which is actually being paid by Western Rockcastle Water Assn., and the same with the \$1,652,921 still owed on the Courthouse Annex, although the

court does have to contribute several thousand dollars each year toward interest on the note.

Basically, the county has something over \$4 million in liabilities for which they are totally responsible. Major items include \$558,804 still owed on \$1,000,000 borrowed in 1990; to work on the county roads. Since that time, along with paying off the original debt, more money has been borrowed for road work on that same debt. Judge Carlolitis said, \$2,462,231 is the balance due on the jail renovation plus \$66,796 borrowed to operate the jail while it was being renovated, \$349,497 for road work, \$483,752 for bridge construction (overruns on projects paid for partially by FEMA funds such as Mullins Station Bridge and McNew Cemetery Bridge. It also includes \$159,957 for the 911 dept. but, Mrs. Mullins said this was being paid with receipts from the telephone tax.

Judge Carlolitis told the court that there are several counties he knows

Cont. to A-12

In Mt. Vernon

Business owners ask for more police presence

The issue of loitering and littering on Main Street and Richmond Street in Mt. Vernon brought a group of business people and residents of the area to the Mt. Vernon City Council meeting Monday night to voice their concerns.

Corey Craig, President/CEO of Community Trust Bank, served as spokesman for the majority of the group. Mr. Craig told the council that "the increasing problem of people congregating on sidewalks and in parking lots," has become a "safety concern" not just for patrons of local businesses but also for tourists. Craig mentioned to the council the attack on a bank courier on Main Street in broad daylight recently and the fact that customers have expressed concern about their safety while dropping off night deposits. "They say they are afraid to get out of their car because of the large group of people gathered up on the other side of the street," Craig added.

Local attorney Bill Gregory reinforced Mr. Craig, telling the council that he had to spend \$5,000 recently repairing his building on Main Street which had been damaged by teenagers who ran into it with their "wild driv-

ing." "My parking lot has become the town bathroom and dumpster," Gregory said. "There's nothing I can do," Gregory added. "I can't sit up there (at his office building) night after night and I have asked the police to keep people out of my parking lot."

Police Chief Bill Mink told the council that the city decided at one time to write citations for criminal trespass to everyone on private property after business hours. However, Mink said, the citations were dismissed in court because property owners declined to "back" the police.

Mink also said that it was hard for two officers (per shift) to handle the regular police calls and still provide an intense police presence on Main and Richmond Streets.

Owners of a new business on Main Street, Gregg's Woodworking, told the council that they live in an apartment over their shop and are awakened nightly by bass stereotypes from cars on the street and in parking lots on Main Street. "Some hang out all day," Gregg Moyer said "and there is a lot of racing up and down the street." "I like to work at night but I won't do it because there's always several guys staring at me through my window," Moyer added.

Rebekkah Hammond, who lives on Richmond Street, across from the former Dairy Mart, and operates an interior design business out of her home, said she encountered the same problem, with people congregating across the street in the old Dairy Mart parking lot. "They are there in the morning before school and after school they block up the whole area and the music from their car rattles windows," Hammond said.

However, one Main Street business owner, Doug Bullock, didn't see the problem the same as others. Bullock said he has asked people to leave from in front of his business and they did. Bullock said he felt the loitering was going on mainly because the city had nothing to offer as an alternative. "We had the ballpark [at old Mt. Vernon Elementary School] when I was a kid but today, kids have nothing but the parking lot beside Cox Hardware," Bullock said.

Bullock told the council that there

Cont. to A-11

Rep. Ernie Fletcher here

Kentucky Republican candidate for Governor Ernie Fletcher, a United States Representative from Lexington, will be in Rockcastle County on Sunday.

Fletcher will speak at the Old Barn Theatre in Kenfio Valley at 3 p.m.

There will be a free show for those who attend, which will feature gospel, bluegrass and country music.

Rep. Fletcher's stop in the county is part of a two day campaign trip around the state.



Workers were busy last Thursday on the first day of the State Tire Amnesty program. James Renner, solid waste coordinator for the county, said seven or eight truck loads of tires had already been hauled out and there were still tires to be hauled from the three day collection. Renner said about 2,000 tires can be hauled per load. The tires are reportedly chopped up and recycled. Working on the project were: Steve Bradley, Frankie Cope, Danny Bowman and Donald Chappell.