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Police make arrests for stolen vehicle

Last Friday, Kentucky State Police Trooper Coby Smith observed a 2000 Nissan Xterra SUV reported stolen from Somerset earlier drive onto I-75 from U.S. 26 in Mt. Vernon traveling southbound, according to KSP Public Affairs Officer Craig Sutton.

Sutton said that Smith attempted to stop the vehicle when the driver began to accelerate in an attempt to elude. The vehicle continued southbound until the driver exited the interstate turning onto KY 909, approximately 13 miles from where the vehicle was first observed.

The driver proceeded in an attempt to elude arrest by driving into a wooded area off I-75 known as Cromer Ridge in northern Laurel County.

After searching the area for the vehicle, both suspects along with the vehicle were located approximately one mile off the roadway along a trail where the vehicle had become disabled after striking a tree.

Both occupants were located and the driver, Robert L. "Robbie" Sandusky, 18, of Mt. Vernon, was arrested and lodged in the Rockcastle County Jail charged with Receiving Stolen Property (vehicle), Possession of Methamphetamine, and numerous traffic offenses.

Sutton said his passenger, Mary A. Durham, 19, of Mt. Vernon, was transported to the UK Medical Center in Lexington for treatment of injuries she sustained when their vehicle struck a tree. Durham apparently broke a shoulder and the vehicle was totaled in the wreck.

Durham was charged with Receiving Stolen Property (vehicle) and Possession of Methamphetamine.

Trooper Coby Smith is conducting the investigation and was assigned

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Republican U.S. Congressman Ernie Fletcher brought his gubernatorial candidacy to Rockcastle County on Sunday, where he held a campaign rally in Renfro Valley. Above from left are Ronnie Bishop, a field representative of Fletcher, who performed for the crowd; Renfro Valley Entertainer and MC Jim Gaskin, Fletcher and his wife Glenna, who was celebrating her birthday. About 200 people attended the rally. Below, the Fletchers are shown with State Representative Danny Ford, of Mt. Vernon, who introduced and endorsed the Congressman during the rally.



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School board hears transportation, changes in pay schedule requests

The Rockcastle County Board of Education held their May meeting at the Rockcastle County Library Tuesday night. The meeting was held at the library in order for the board members to be made more aware of the partnership between the library and the Rockcastle County School System. As part of the program, drama students from the Rockcastle Middle School presented an adaptation of *Hamlet* for which grant funds from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation were used.

Following a tour of the library's children and young adult section, Kathy McKibben gave the board a brief overview of the library's activities which involve several different entities in the county and point out what is available for all county residents.

As one of the first items on the agenda, the board heard a request from Lonetta Daugherty that some provision be made to transport students at Mt. Vernon Elementary within the 5 mile radius that is presently prohibited.

Mrs. Daugherty said that since she and her husband both had to leave home early to work, it was a hard-

ship to get her children transported to the school because her babysitter lived inside the 5 mile radius.

Superintendent Larry Hammond told Mrs. Daugherty this was, really, not feasible since if an allowance were made at Mt. Vernon Elementary then it would have to be made at other schools in the county and that was not practical.

Hammond said it would involve purchasing different (smaller) buses and additional drivers at a cost of \$250,000 or more. "I don't see this as a great likelihood, unless directed differently by the board, especially as the budget becomes tighter and tighter," Hammond said.

RCHS teacher Connie Riddle spoke to the board about the possibility of changing the teachers' pay schedule from once a month (on the 20th) to either the 30th, which would give the teachers a check on August 30th, semi-monthly or every two weeks.

Mrs. Riddle said the 20th of the month payday made it especially hard on new teachers, who have to work from July 20th this year until September 20th before receiving a paycheck.

Rockcastle County Schools Finance Officer Richard Bray, who was at the meeting to present the board with the 2003-04 salary schedule and tentative working budget, responded that the 30th was out of the question since teachers would not have worked the required number of days before paperwork was processed for the first paycheck of the year to be issued on August 30th.

Bray told the board that the every two week option was not a good one because it would require extra personnel to help with processing the additional paperwork needed for this system. Calling the two-week system a "nightmare," Bray added, "Hardly any districts pay every two weeks. About half the districts in the state pay monthly and the other half wish they did."

Five teachers, including Mrs. Riddle, were present at the meeting and, on question, Riddle told the board that everyone she had talked with or heard from was favorable to the change to semi-monthly or every two weeks.

However, Supt. Hammond agreed with Bray that it would require additional staff to change to semi-

monthly or every two weeks and budget priorities had to be established.

A short recess followed with the next item of business a presentation of the 2003-04 salary schedule to the board by Bray.

Bray said the legislature had, for the first time, mandated a dollar amount raise for teachers and administrators, making up to \$40,000 a year, of \$1,000, instead of the usual across-the-board percentage raise for everyone. Those making over \$40,000 would receive a mandated 2.7% increase (as opposed to last year's 3% increase).

Classified personnel will also receive the 2.7% increase, although the legislature mandated the increase this year for the first time ever.

The mandate had no effect on the local system, Bray said, because

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At fiscal court meeting

Lights, sirens for constables discussed again

The oft-discussed issue of approval of blue lights and sirens for constables was brought before the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court again at their regular meeting Tuesday.

Roger Pigg, 4th District Constable, asked the court to approve lights/sirens for his car. Pigg told the court he had "been involved with helping the Sheriff's Department every way I can." Pigg also had several petitions from people in his area supporting his request for use of the lights/sirens. "I could be of better service to the people of Rockcastle county, especially in District 4," Pigg added.

Pigg also presented Judge Buzz Carlifio and Magistrates with polaroid shots of his car which has already been painted with proper identification. "I want to be part of Rockcastle County; to provide a better environment for our children," Pigg told the court.

Carlifio pointed out to the Magistrates that the court can approve lights/sirens on an individual basis and can withdraw the approval if warranted.

When Carlifio asked for discussion on the matter from the Magistrates, Fred Mullins, Magistrate for

the 4th District, said he was still in favor of approving the lights/sirens and reinstated his motion from the March 25, 2003 meeting. In that motion, approval was contingent on a number of requirements being met such as 40 hours of training, no patrolling on the interstate, etc.

When no second to Mr. Mullins' motion was forthcoming, Carlifio, saying he understood the concerns on both sides of the issue, especially the concern that all law enforcement was not being used to its full capacity, seconded the motion himself, as allowed by law. With no further discussion, the roll call vote resulted in four no votes. Afterward, Magistrate Ralph Allen said, "I am not bad against lights but (County Attorney) Jeff Burdette read the law and people need to know just exactly the way the law reads and maybe some people's minds would be more settled."

Burdette responded that basically the law states that no constable can use blue lights/sirens or have them installed on vehicles unless approved by the fiscal court of the county they are in.

The penalty for violating KRS 180.950, the state statute dealing with

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Fletcher brings campaign here

U.S. Congressman Ernie Fletcher's gubernatorial campaign rolled through Rockcastle County on Sunday with a large rally at the old barn in Renfro Valley.

Over 200 people attended the bluegrass and gospel event, and the crowd also heard from Republican front-runner Fletcher about why he should be Kentucky's next governor.

Primary Election Day is May 30th and Fletcher told the crowd that he would "be honored and humbled to be your next Governor."

"I'm running for Governor because I think we can do better in this state," Dr. Fletcher told the crowd. "We can improve education, we can lower the cost of health care, and we can bring good jobs to Kentucky, and I will be the candidate who gets it done."

The Mother's Day Rally, which featured songs honoring the several mothers in the audience, was hosted by State Representative Danny Ford, who introduced Fletcher to the crowd.

"I am proud to support Ernie Fletcher for Governor, someone who can restore honor and dignity to the Governor's office in Frankfort," Ford said. "You look at Dr. Fletcher, a man who is a trained engineer, who has

been a fighter pilot in the Air Force, and who served his community as a family doctor and you realize that this person has a true compassion for his fellow Kentuckians."

Fletcher talked about his wife and the mother of his two children, Glenna Fletcher, and said that "she will make a wonderful First Lady of Kentucky."

"The first race I ran for State Representative, Glenna and I walked every precinct twice," Fletcher said. "I saw a government that was getting more intrusive, that was raising taxes and putting undue regulation on small businesses. Our message was simple—let's reduce government, lower the taxes, and empower people and businesses to succeed."

Fletcher was elected to the General Assembly in 1994 and served one term before leaving his district changed during redistricting. He won his current 6th District seat in the U.S. Congress in 1998 and is now serving in his third term.

"I serve the people of the 6th District just north of here," Fletcher told the crowd. "And you all have a superb Congressman in Hal Rogers. He is one of the most effective Congress-

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It was a busy day Monday and Tuesday at Mt. Vernon Scrapyard as the White Goods Collection, sponsored by the Rockcastle County Conservation District, kicked off. Trucks were lined up from the scrapyard for a long ways with people waiting to dispose of their old refrigerators, water heaters, stoves, etc. In the above photo, Donnie Drew, second from left, waits to unload mostly water heaters taken from the Red Hill area. With Drew in the photo are Scottie Renner, Chris Saylor and Ray Oakes.



The above building, located on the Hwy. 461 by-pass, which will house an Adult Day Care Center, is in the process of being built. The owners of the property say they will have activities for seniors and will provide meals and that RTCC will provide transportation to the center, once in operation. The facility is scheduled to open sometime this summer.