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Vernon Signal

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The Ballard Parsons Highway was officially dedicated Saturday during the 14th annual Ballard Parsons Day and Wildlife Homecoming. Shown in the photo are, from left: Rep. Danny Ford, who was very instrumental in getting the highway (Ky. 1786) renamed along with Bill Jack Parsons, Libby Smith, Donnie Parsons and Gail Coulter.

Mayor Kirby submits Fiscal Year End Report

City hires police officer; Adams resigns

According to Mayor Charice Kirby, four certified applications for the position of Mt. Vernon City police officer were received with one being hired, Roy Gambrell, 28.

Gambrell, who most recently worked for the London Police Department, worked for the city before for about two years. He was hired June 21.

However, longtime police officer Barry Adams submitted his resignation to Mayor Kirby Tuesday to take

a position with the Sheriff's Department.

At present, the city has four officers: Eddie Delaney, acting chief, who is confined to desk duty because of an injury; Mike Peters, acting assistant chief; Sim Thacker and Darnell.

At a called meeting of the council Monday night, a second reading of an amendment to the 2002-03 budget was read and approved.

The largest amendment came in an increase to the general govern-

ment fund of \$331,933, from the original budgeted amount of \$139,468 and an amendment to the police department to \$387,619, from \$419,635.

On Tuesday, Mayor Charice Kirby faxed to the Signal her "Fiscal Year End Update and Report," which follows:

"I realized and knew coming in on January 1st of this year that Budgeted Amounts for fiscal year 2002/2003 were already used up in some

areas or close to it.

I began immediately cutting expenses or waste in all areas. In some areas there was no way to cut anything, like the water plant unexpected break-downs of equipment, chemicals, and required lab tests in the water and sewer departments are some examples.

A huge savings of an estimated amount of \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 was saved at the sewer plant by hauling the huge beds of dried sludge out to area farm land instead of paying \$3,000.00 per load to unload it in a landfill. Also working to find a cheaper more effective chemical to contract the strong odor coming from the sewer has resulted in about \$6,000.00 savings for the past 6 months, and it's a better more simple solution. So these savings, with the cooperation of the employees in the department, offset some of the other unexpected rising costs.

The water plant has had no savings noted except for employees holding the costs down on supplies of every day uses.

The police department in the beginning of this year were exceeding their budget in some areas. Overtime was held to zero but the cost of sending one officer to the training center left a void in the general fund of over \$5,000.00. The ultimate overall budgeted amount for the police department went down before the end of June even though we had put overtime on three officers for a while. Workmen's Compensation increased due to two employees - one police officer and one sewer department worker - being off hurt. I saved an estimated amount of \$6,000 a year on gas by parking the police vehicles at City Hall and around \$1,200 to \$1,600 by not idling unless for a short time.

The street/water/sewer maintenance crew, which consists of the city superintendent and four other employees, has done a good job, considering all they have to do. They had to contend with snow removal that was far worse than any in the last seven years. We have a lack of equipment, I might add, in that area.

A grant for Halcob East water life extension fell to these guys to lay. With rock to cut through and finally now they're getting people's yards reclaimed and sown with grass. I know it had to be trying for the people to have patience with the city. More customers have been added all over the county. The duties of tapping for new meters for people on both water and sewer, is those guys' responsibility, along with water leaks, water meter reading monthly.

(Cont. to A10)

Correction

A story in last week's Signal incorrectly stated that Farlin K. Boshers pointed his rifle at a Kentucky State Police officer. The story should have read that Boshers threatened all officers.

The Signal regrets this error.

Fiscal Court-holds last meeting of fiscal year

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court voted last Friday to contribute \$13,400 in matching funds for a \$120,600 FEMA grant received by the Brittle Ridge Fire Department. The action came in a special called meeting of the court to finish up fiscal year 2002-03 business.

BRFD is one of only seven fire departments in Kentucky to receive a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Fire Administration. The fire department plans to purchase a new truck, valued at \$133,767, with the grant.

In other action, the court voted to advertise for construction of a new bridge over Roundstone Creek (the Grace Baptist Church loop bridge), contingent on state funds being available. The bridge is presently two spans which causes debris to build up, forcing water out of the banks

into fields and roadways. The bridge, presently 9 ft. wide and 42 feet long will be bid for 18 and 20 ft. wide and 42 feet long since 18 wide is the minimum the state requires. However, if the state can't help, the bridge will not be replaced, according to Judge/Executive Buzz Carlotta.

The court took no action on a request by the state that they use chemicals to spray county road ways.

Carlotta and some of the magistrates cited danger to the person using the spray, a lack of suitable trucks for the job and the chance of mist from the spray going into fields and harming crops and animals, as the reason for declining the use of chemicals.

Julie James Miller, presented to the court 12 changes he had made to

(Cont. to A10)

Federal Funds announced for Western Rockcastle Water

The Western Rockcastle Water Association, Inc. received a \$125,000 loan and \$125,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development mission area, announced Senator Jim Bunning recently.

"The USDA Rural Development funds, along with a \$250,000 ARC grant and \$12,000 borrower contribution, will be used to construct approximately 10 miles of waterlines, upgrade over a mile of existing waterlines and a pressure reducing station and replace an existing creek crossing," said Senator Bunning. "This project will benefit 48,000 voters and improve service to 3,991 existing users in rural Rockcastle County and portions of Pulaski, Lincoln and Garrard Counties."

"USDA's domestic water and

waste water programs are an example of USDA Rural Development's priority of helping rural communities provide basic services to local citizens," Bunning said. "Providing communities with necessities such as a clean and safe drinking water supply and new or upgraded water facilities helps improve the economic infrastructure and expand job opportunities for all who live in the region."

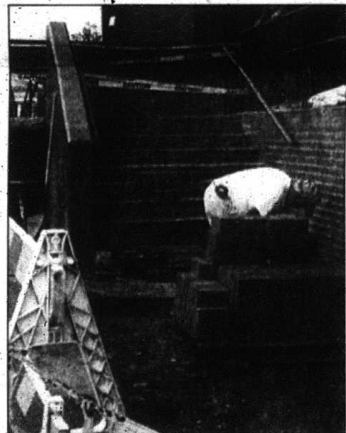
USDA's water and waste water programs, administered through USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service, is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound waste water facilities to rural America. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents.



A Laurel County man was arrested for illegal transportation of alcoholic beverages in a local open territory Tuesday by Deputy Sheriff Ken Holt, far right. The stop was made on I-75 just south of Mt. Vernon. Seized were 72 1/2 cases of beer. Charged was Shane Mosley, 35, of London who was charged with no drivers license in possession. Mosley paid a \$200 fine on the illegally transporting charge, \$25 for no drivers license in possession and forfeited \$124 cash to the Sheriff's Department, along with the contraband beer. Cans from the bust will be donated to a local school program.



To learn more about The Center for Rural Development and how Rockcastle County might utilize its services, a small group from the county toured "The Center" in Somerset on Friday, June 27th. "The Center" assists communities and individuals in Southern and Eastern Kentucky with numerous in-house programs and services ranging from tourism and economic development to technology. The Center also houses a large facility for conventions and special events. Those who attended the tour are pictured above, front row from left: Troy Hansel, Doug Brock and Susan Laws. Back row from left: John Holbrook, Mayor J.C. Griffin and Jerry Retner.



Workmen were busy Tuesday replacing the steps leading to the rear of the courthouse. The steps were replaced because their uneven heights had caused several people to fall, mainly up them. The handicap ramp in the rear of the photo will also be replaced.

Farmers Market in full swing



Carol Sigmon, treasurer for the Rockcastle County Farmers Market, is shown with vegetables the Sigmon family grows. Carol, along with several local farmers, is now providing fresh locally grown produce throughout the summer.

Farmers Market locations can be found at Renfro Valley on Saturdays and Broadhead Fairgrounds on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. until the produce is sold out.

Through the assistance of the Rockcastle Health Department and

the Department of Agriculture, several WEC coupons have been made available to local families. Also, for the first time, a special Senior Program will be available through the Mt. Vernon Senior Citizens Center. All seniors with income less than \$1,385 (one person) or \$1,869 (two persons) are eligible for \$20 per person. See Sherry Mowbray at the Senior Center for more details. Farmers Market coupons may be used at any time during the summer.