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Two from Brodhead among three sentenced

Three men who already entered guilty pleas were sentenced Friday in Lincoln Circuit Court.

The heaviest sentence handed down by Circuit Judge William Cain Friday was to Kenneth Smith, 30, of Brodhead.

Smith pleaded guilty to five counts of receiving stolen property and trafficking in methamphetamine. He was sentenced to a total of seven years in prison. Actual sentences were five years on the receiving stolen property convictions and seven on the drug charge but the sentences will run at the same time for a total of seven years.

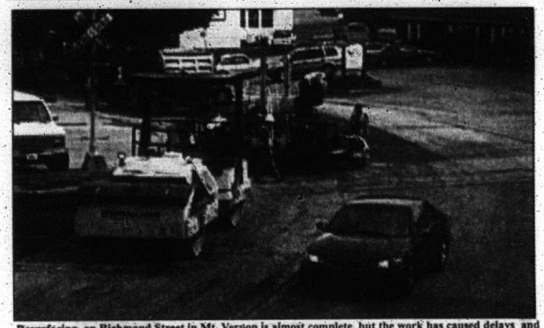
Smith was arrested in March along with a woman, Suzy Cromer, 36, of Brodhead, who allegedly sold methamphetamine to an undercover agent of the Kentucky State Police. Cromer entered a guilty plea Friday to reduced charges of possession of drugs. Commonwealth Attorney Eddy Montgomery recommended a sentence of three years for Cromer. Cain will pronounce final sentencing on Sept. 24.

Also Friday, Richard Travis Morrow, 23, of Tateville, was sentenced to 2.7 years on three counts of burglary. Morrow and a partner, Norman Decker, both pleaded guilty to burglarizing the Dollar General Store, McDonald's Restaurant and Save-A-Lot on April 20, 2001. Decker previously was sentenced to five years in prison. Morrow will serve a total of 12 years and seven months. He was already serving a 10-year sentence on a case in Pulaski County. The Lincoln County sentence will start after that 10-year hitch in state prison is up.

Cain also sentenced Andrew Tolman, 23, of Stanford to a year in prison on his guilty plea to criminal possession of a forged instrument. Tolman allegedly cashed a $400 check that had been forged. He was indicted in January.

For Students Rockcastle County Schools begin next Wednesday, August 6th which will also be another enrollment day for new students

Kentucky's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Joseph Lambert of Mt. Vernon, far left, swore-in new Circuit Judge Robert Gilliam on Friday, during a ceremony at the Rockcastle County Courthouse. Circuit Judges William T. Cain and Debra Lambert are also shown in the picture.



Resurfacing on Richmond Street in Mt. Vernon is almost complete, but the work has caused delays and aggravation for many Mt. Vernon businesses. Officials said that all of the resurfacing should be completed this week.

The Rockcastle County 11-12 year-old baseball team made it to the final four of the state baseball tournament recently. It was only the second time in history that a team from the local league made it to the state tournament. The Rockcastle team finished third in the tournament after defeating Painstville 14-0 and Louisville Champion, J-Town 3-2 before being eliminated by Lexington Gardenside 6-1. The team is pictured above, front row, from left: Patrick Kirby, Grant Burdette, John L. Saylor, Cody Mize, Tanner Childress and Dustin Reynolds. Middle row, from left: John Moon, Dustin Bullock, Tanner Perkins, Jordon Barnett, Brandon Burkhart and Logan Kincer. Back row: Coaches Ricky Kirby, Jeff Bullock and Johnny Boone Saylor.

Rogers obtains over $2 million for Rockcastle

U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-5) has secured $480,000 for the City of Mt. Vernon to improve sewage service and $200,000 to construct a new municipal conference center at Renfro Valley. Funds were included in the FY 2004 VA/HUD Appropriations Bill, which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee this week.

"The federal investment in improve the wastewater infrastructure in Mt. Vernon is a vital part of the community's economic expansion," Rogers said today. "Improved sewer service will give Mt. Vernon the ability to provide service to a growing number of homes and businesses and meet the area's needs in the future."

The funding announced Monday will be used to install a gravity sewer line and pump station to service a number of older homes that have outdated and limited septic systems. The area flows into a sinkhole, which most likely impacts the drinking water supply. The project will improve sewage service to approximately 50 households.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarice Kirby said Tuesday that the residents that will be served by the expansion are in the Horseshoe Bend area of the city. She said that a planned housing complex on Richmond Street will also be served by the expansion.

Concerning the Conference Center, Rogers said, "Renfro Valley has a long, rich history of providing quality entertainment to Kentuckians and visitors from around the nation." The addition of a new conference and civic center will compliment those efforts and help attract new visitors to the area. This facility will also help serve the needs of this growing community."

The funding will be used to construct a multi-purpose civic center. The new facility will include a 12,000 square feet auditorium space with an additional community center area of 4,000 square feet. The center will be located adjacent to the Entertainment Center Complex in Renfro Valley.

Rogers also secured $1.5 million to continue efforts to widen I-75 in Rockcastle County.

"Good highways are essential to keeping Kentucky moving forward as we work to create new jobs and better communities," Rogers said. "The widening of I-75 is vital to improving the safety of the traveling public and meeting the increasing travel demands of this growing region."

Over the last two years, Rogers has helped provide $7.5 million to expand I-75 in Rockcastle County.

Rogers worked to obtain the fund-

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61st annual Renfro Valley All Night Gospel Sing

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center is the place you will want to be on Saturday, August 2 with the 61st Annual All Night Gospel Sing.

This year, the tradition will change times but great entertainment will continue. The All Night Gospel Sing begins at 7 p.m. and continues until midnight. Holding its own from the start, the singing is an event that not only brings people from other areas but also is something local folks would not miss.

Today, as in the early days, the All Night Gospel Sing continues to attract Southern Gospel fans from several states. The stage of the New Barn Theater will fill with the glorious sounds of some of Southern Gospel Music's favorites. This year, the featured groups are the Gospel Enforcers, Booth Brothers, The Sons Family, Jeff & Sheri Easter and Calvary Heirs.

Make plans today to attend this Sing, starting at 7 p.m., in the New Barn Theatre on August 2. Tickets are $18 and $20 plus tax and handling. Tickets are going fast, to reserve yours, call 800-765-7464 or 606-256-2638.

Come early and spend the week end with us. Shop in the Village, complete with the Country Music Store and enjoy home cooking at the historic Lodge Restaurant. You will want to include the Saturday afternoon Mountain Gospel Jubilee as part of your Renfro Valley experience, along with a visit to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center is conveniently located just off I-75 at exit 62. Make Renfro Valley a week end getaway. Visit Renfro Valley's web site at renfrovalley.com

Reviving the Renaissance Program

By Audrey Burke

On Wednesday, July 23, the Rockcastle County Development Board brought together a committee at the Telecommunications Center in downtown Mt. Vernon to discuss the revitalization of Mt. Vernon's Main Street Kentucky Renaissance Program.

The program, which had reached Silver Level status last fall, had to be sidelined the first of the year due to the city budget.

The Renaissance Program was established by the Patton administration in 1996 as a means to recognize and honor those cities whose citizens work together and utilize their resources to restore and revitalize their downtown area.

Mayor Kirby recently requested that the Rockcastle County Development Board take the lead in reviving the program and help in forming an actual board, which could establish some short-term and long-term goals for the program.

The committee of fifteen people, who met to discuss the future of the program, identified the immediate need of finding ways to bring people into the downtown area and the need to do some more curb-appeal work in the Renaissance Area of downtown.

Martha Cox, who has been a key figure in the Renaissance program since its inception says, "Finding ways to bring people, especially tourists into the downtown area will be a much needed shot in the arm for businesses in the downtown area." Especially for those which have just recently moved in, or planning on moving into the downtown area. We need a program such as Renaissance to help pull people together and make our community something we can all be proud of."

The Main Street Renaissance Program is strictly a City of Mt. Vernon project and falls under the jurisdiction of the City Council. And even though other county offices would be interested in playing a part in reviving the downtown area, they cannot be a part of this program. County Judge Buzz Carloftis stated that, "The county cannot legally play a role in the Renaissance Program because it is a city program. But the Fiscal Court certainly supports the efforts of The Renaissance Committee/Board and wishes them much success."

Shirley Cummins of R-Tech, also one of the original committee members, pointed out that the Main Street, Renaissance Program and involved citizens were the keys to restoring downtown Mt. Vernon and the survival of many of its' businesses. She also stated that structured correctly, and managed effectively, the Main Street Renaissance Program could do great things for downtown Mt. Vernon.

The committee plans on getting together again in the next couple weeks to start outlining their short-term and long-term goals and to start the process of establishing an actual board.

Relay for Life honors heroes and survivorship

For many cancer survivors, every day is an accomplishment and victory. On August 1, cancer survivors are invited to participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Survivors Celebration, starting at 5:30 p.m. All cancer survivors will receive a "badge of courage" and will be recognized for their strength and courageous battle in the fight against cancer.

Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's national signature activity, is a unique event that brings the community together to raise awareness and funds for cancer research, remember those who lost their fight to the disease and celebrate the victories of all cancer survivors.

All survivors are invited to share their courage with the community and kick off the overnight event by leading the first lap of the Relay for Life. "When you see the faces of the survivors and the unbelievable courage and heroism that they possess, it is truly amazing. You are motivated to continue battling this disgusting disease," said Kelly McClure, Relay for Life chair.

If you are a cancer survivor, please join in the celebration of life by participating in the opening "victory" lap.

For more information about Relay for Life or the American Cancer Society, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit us on the web at www.cancer.org.

Participate in Relay for Life

This year, more than 553,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer, more than 1,500 people a day. By participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, you can help fight cancer by walking laps all night long and raising funds for cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services. Gather a team of friends, family and co-workers to participate in this life-saving event in Rockcastle County on August 1 at 7 p.m. at the RCMS track. *There is no finish line until there's a cure.*

Hope For A Cure

Night may fall, but darkness cannot conquer the hope for a cure. At the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Rockcastle County, luminaria will be lit as small lights of hope in honor of those fighting the battle against cancer and in memory of those who have lost the fight. The candles wil burn throughout the overnight event as a symbol of the many reasons we work to conquer this disease. To purchase a luminaria in honor or memory of your loved one at this year's event, come to the Relay for life on August 1 at the Rockcastle County Middle School track.

Events of the Night for Relay for Life

All events will be held at the Rockcastle Middle School track on

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1 Voice will perform during the Relay for Life this Friday night, which will be held at the track/football field at the Rockcastle County Middle School. Members of the group are shown from left: Greg Bullock, Rhonda Bray and Rodney Wright.