Rockets defeat Clay 4-...
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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 118 • Number 51 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, October 2, 2003

Fiery crash claims life of former Rockcastle resident

A former Rockcastle County native, who was residing in Somerset, was one of two truck drivers killed in a fiery collision in Indiana last Wednesday.

She was Deborah J. (Miller) Hyden, 29 daughter of Anne Hayes of Mt. Vernon and was buried in Mt. on Sunday.

According to police, Tim Gordon, also 29, of New York, lost control of his tractor-trailer, crossed the median and hit the Mayflower Van Lines truck that Mrs. Hyden was driving.

Local funeral director Roy Martin, who owns the funeral home which took care of services for Mrs. Hyden, said authorities thought Mrs. Hyden died of blunt force trauma injuries before the fire began, which police called an inferno.

A complete obituary appears on page A-3 of this week's *Signal*.

Jordan Cash wins regional

RCHS Golf team advances to state tourney

The Rockcastle County Rocket Golf team finished second in the 10th regional golf tournament on Tuesday, shooting a combined score of 313, seven shots behind the winner Clay County.

Although the Rockets finished second, they will advance to the state tournament next week, which will be held in Morehead.

Seventh grader, Jordan Cash shot an even par 72 and won a play-off to defeat 120 golfers in competition. 24 teams participated in the regional tournament. Jordan is the son of Warren and Becky Cash of Mt. Vernon.

"Our guys played great as a team, but Jordon put up an awesome performance and everybody, including our older players, are very proud of him," said Head Golf Coach Jesse Mahaffey.

The other four Rockets participating were Colby Brown, who finished third with a score of 76, Aaron Cash, who shot 81, Ronny McClure who shot an 84 and Matthew Silcox, who fired an 85.

Editor's Note: See next week's *Signal* for complete coverage.

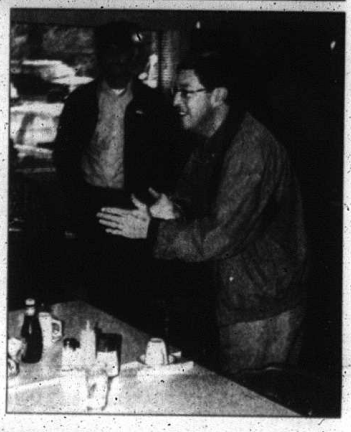
It's "Fall Back" Time Sunday

Daylight saving time is over for another year Sunday and we get back the hour we lost in April.

Be sure to set your clock back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Clarification...

In last week's *Signal*, Danny Ford was identified Ernie Fletcher's local campaign chairman. He is, in fact, Fletcher's Regional Coordinator and local County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette is Fletcher's local campaign chairman.



Kentucky Attorney General Ben Chandler brought his Democrat Gubernatorial campaign to Rockcastle County on Wednesday. Chandler met with supporters at Jean's Restaurant. He is shown above talking with supporters,from left: William McClure, Doug Brock, Joe Bullen and former Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King. Chandler is shown at far right: In the photo on the right, Chandler is shown speaking to the crowd. Vester Maples is shown in the backround. Chandler and Republican Ernie Fletcher are considered to be in a dead heat to replace current Governor Paul Patton in November's General Election.

Photos By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle County High School Junior Johnna Abney, daughter of Johnny Fred and Penny Abney of Quail and freshman Anthony Cook, son of Shirley Cook of Mt. Vernon were selected football homecoming Queen and King for the year 2003 during festivities Friday night.

Ben Chandler campaigns in Rockcastle

Kentucky Attorney General Ben Chandler from Versailles, who is the state's Democrat Party nominee for Governor, was in Rockcastle County on Wednesday morning.

Chandler met with supporters at Jean's Restaurant at Burr and gave a short talk to the crowd.

One of the things Chandler told supporters was that his first memory of Rockcastle County was when his grandfather, former Kentucky Governor and Baseball Commissioner A.B. "Happy" Chandler ran for Governor as an independent candidate.

It was a race the former Governor didn't win, but his grandson told the group that he was ten-years-old at the time and remembers Rockcastle County as his first campaign stop with his late grandfather.

Chandler and Republican U.S. Congressman Ernie Fletcher are considered in a dead heat for the Governor's office in November's election. Chandler also told local supporters that he was the type of person who took all Kentuckian's opinions and needs into consideration.

Chandler was first elected Attorney General in 1995 and it is well noted that he has disagreed with his own party from time to time and, especially, current Governor Paul Patton.

His local campaign chairman Joe Bullen was among those to welcome Chandler to the county.

TCD project enjoys 100% support from Fiscal Court and CVADD, Bussell says

Oct. 11th is deadline for signing petition

Keith and Betty Bussell of Mt. Vernon, organizers of the drive to have traffic control devices installed at two locations on the 461 Bypass, met with the Cumberland Valley Area Development Board in Somerset on Wednesday, September 24th.

Following the Bussell's presentation, the board voted unanimously to submit a letter of support for both traffic signals and lowering the speed limit on U.S. 461. Mr. Bussell also met with the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court on Thursday, September 25th and they also will be submitting a letter of support.

October 9 and 10 is when petitions will be picked up from all area businesses and churches and during the Bittersweet Festival, on October 10 and 11, will be the last time anyone will have a chance to sign the petition.

As documentation for the need for the signals and lowering of the speed limit, Mr. Bussell pointed out that since 1998, there have been 121 accidents resulting in 70 injuries and six death on all of Hwy. 461, from Mt. Vernon to US 80 in Pulaski County. As for the two intersections listed in the petition specifically, Bussell said he would make them available as soon as they were compiled. "One death is too many," Bussell said.

"We are asking everyone to please go out of your way to sign your name at a participating business or church. If you do not know where to fine one, call me at 256-1204," Bussell added.

Letters of support for the petition should be mailed to Petition, P.O. Box 4161, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456.

The petition states:

(Cont. to A-9)

Bittersweek Festival set for October 10-11

The annual Bittersweet Festival gets underway next Friday night, October 10 when booths will be open on Main Street for business and C.C. Chance will be providing country music on stage, along with Fire the Choir, 40 Days West and Wild River.

The annual 5K Run and Health Walk will be the first event of the day on Saturday and the day's events will include a puppet performance by Northside Baptist Church, the Bittersweet Cloggers performing at 11 a.m. and the parade will kick-off at noon.

C.C. Chance will again be performing, along with Wayne Harris, Michael Frederick and Behind the Cross.

The festival will conclude with a street dance with Wild River Band performing, beginning at 8 p.m.

Served eight months

Sgt. Loudermilk returns home from Iraq

By: Richard Anderkin

United States Marine Staff Sergeant Ryan Loudermilk, a 17 year veteran of the armed services, is home and well after serving eight months in the war on Iraq.

The Rockcastle countian, who also served during Desert Storm, arrived home last week.

Ryan talked candidly about his time in Iraq this week and about the love and warmth he felt when he arrived home.

"There is no place like home," Ryan said.

Ryan, who is 36, is also a Kentucky State Police officer who has been on the force for eighteen months.

After arriving home Ryan received a new state police cruiser in recognition of his time served for his country. He will go back to his job as a state trooper next month. Right now he is enjoying spending time with his family and friends and church members of the Bible Baptist Church, where he has been a member for many years.

Church members also held a reception for Ryan last week.

Being a true father, son and also a distinquished U.S. Marine, Ryan said he was more concerned about how his family felt and worried about him being deployed than he was for his own safety.

"Our armed services is very careful about safety for each other and we are also very well trained," the Staff Sergeant said.

"We were the only Marine Military Police Unit that was in Baghdad during the time I was there and, thankfully, none of the men in my platoon, Alfa Company, which is part of the 101st Airborne Division, were injured," he said. There were a total of 36 men in his platoon.

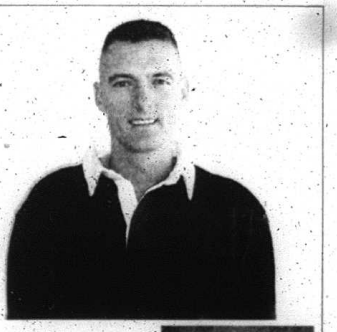
"I was concerned for my family's worries, especially my six-year-old son, Zachery, who knew that his dad was in harm's way - that was probably the toughest part of serving in this war," Ryan said.

Ryan also has a two-year-old son Jacob and an obviously a loving wife Kelli, whom he credits with great strength, courage and support for his family while he was gone to Iraq.

"While we were in Kuwait, before the war started we were able to communicate with our families, but once the war started it could take as long as a month to get a letter home or receive one and verbal communication was almost impossible," he said.

Ryan's platoon, of which he is Commander, was responsible for security for many details from looking after superior officers to overseeing the security for soldiers who were assigned the horrible task of digging up

(Cont. to A-9)



U.S. Marine Sergeant Ryan Loudermilk, pictured above, spent eighth months in Iraq and returned home safely last week. His family, wife Kelli and sons Zachery and Jacob are pictured at right.