



Rockcastle Seal
See Page A1

Holiday Deadline

The December 25th issue of *The Mt. Vernon Signal* will be printed Tuesday, December 23. Deadline for news and ads for that issue is Monday, noon, December 22nd.

Also, the Signal office will be closed the week of Dec. 29 thru January 2 and the Signal will not be printed the first week of January.

Stewart arrested on drug charges

An Orlando man was taken into custody Monday by law enforcement authorities and is expected to face a litany of felony drug charges.

A search of the residence of Elmer Boyd Stewart, 42, turned up nearly 21 lbs. of marijuana, several hundred narcotic pills and approximately \$47,000 in US currency.

According to Sheriff Darrell Doan, DEA Task Force Agent Barry Adams and Deputy William Harris, in cooperation with the Rockcastle County Attorney's office, secured a search warrant on Monday evening and it was executed on the same day.

Stewart was lodged in the Laurel Co. Detention Center.

More Indictments Returned

Numerous more indictments have been returned by a Rockcastle County Grand Jury.

They include:

- Steve W. Deany and Terry York, 33, both of Castle Village Apartments in Brodhead who were indicted for Trafficking in Controlled Substance, first degree (selling Oxycodone to a confidential informant);

- Shirley J. Allen, 42 and Anita Allen, 37, both of 110 Carter Drive in Mt. Vernon were indicted on two counts, of Trafficking in Controlled Substance (selling Hydrocodone to a confidential informant);

- David Wayne Smith, 37, of Annville was indicted for receiving stolen property and obscuring identity of a machine or property;

- Steven Scott Roden, 32, of Richmond was indicted for Possession of a Methamphetamine Precursor, first offense;

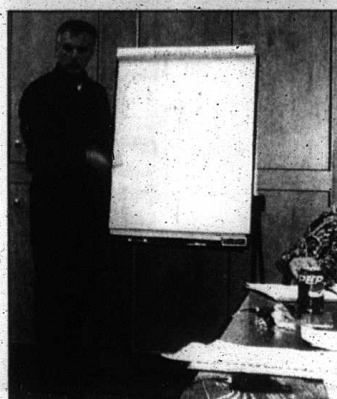
- Elliot Doolley, 24, also of Richmond, was also indicted for receiving stolen property;

- Robert K. Miller, 40, of Rt. 3, Mt. Vernon and Claydon Cox, 39, of Rt. 2, Mt. Vernon were both indicted for Flagrant Non-Support of minor children;

- Johnnie Sparkman, 40, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on two counts of Theft by Deception;

- Patti Leger, 31 and John D. Riddle, 35, both of Mt. Vernon, were named in a joint indictment for Trafficking in Controlled Substance, first degree and Complicity to Trafficking in a Controlled Substance, first degree;

(Cont. to A-10)



Local Renaissance Committee travels to model communities

By Tonya J. Cook

Last Wednesday, December 10th, the Mt. Vernon Renaissance Committee, along with members of the Rockcastle County Development Board, traveled to Stanford, Springfield, Liberty and Greensburg to witness these communities revitalization. The progress is being made through local funding, together with state and federal grants obtained through economic development programs and Renaissance Boards.

The Main Street Renaissance Program was begun by former governor Paul Patton. There are three levels: bronze, silver and gold by which cities are ranked and which determines their level of eligibility for funding. Mt. Vernon, as well as all of the cities visited, is at the silver level. Grants are made available through the Main Street Renaissance Program, Transportation Cabinet and the Cumberland Valley Area Development District, a writer of grants which governs the Mt. Vernon area. There are also historical preservation grants available.

The first stop was Stanford where

Jerry Renner, director of the Rockcastle County Development Board/Renaissance Committee and Tom Tyler, a member of the Renaissance Committee, met with Bill Fox, Industrial Board Director, Mayor Eddie Carter, Andrea Miller, Chamber of Commerce Director and Mary Middleton, Main Street Renaissance Director.

Stanford has two industrial parks. One is 65 acres and the new one, currently being built, has 240 acres. The city has natural gas, as well as a city and county payroll tax. It has received approximately one million dollars in various grants. There are plans to rebuild Fort Logan. There is also a new lake with a marina that covers about 800 acres. The lake is used exclusively for recreational purposes. Funding for this project came from the Fish and Wildlife Department.

Stanford also has a bypass around the city but there is no indication that it has affected downtown businesses.

The next stop was Springfield which has also two city-owned indus-

It was a packed house for Tuesday's meeting on a petition by the Brodhead City Council, asking County Judge/Executive Buzz Carlolitis to redraw fire district boundary lines between them and Western Rockcastle Volunteer Fire Dept. (formerly Brodhead Rural Volunteer Fire Dept.). Carlolitis told the parties that, because of the state statute under which WRVF was formed, he did not have the authority to redraw boundary lines. However, he did give the departments an order to come to an "agreement" beneficial to the citizens of the area by January 5, 2004 or he will "resolve the matter." At left, Carlolitis explains a rudimentary map of the area in question to the crowd.

trial parks, the largest being 450 acres with access to natural gas. There are several on-going renovation projects which include the courthouse, a slum area with 27 homes and an opera house built in 1900.

The opera house is being renovated with two grants, totaling \$925,000. There are plans to use it for offices, as well as a community theatre.

The town's success is attributed to the strategic placement of committed people on their Renaissance Board, two of which are Neil Haydon, director and Laurie Smith, city clerk.

Springfield, which has had an operational tax since 1968, has received \$150,000 for a ballpark. Springfield is also home to St. Catherine College which plans to expand to a four-year program in the near future.

The city has also buried their utility lines. In most cases, the city put up 50% matching funds for various grants.

Greensburg was next on the agenda and the group met with Mike Mills, director of the Greensburg Renaissance Committee and Wilma

(Cont. to A-10)

By County/Judge Executive Carlolitis

No decision but fire departments told to "agree"

Tuesday's regular meeting of the Rockcastle Co. Fiscal Court, and the hearing date on a petition filed by the Brodhead City Council, turned into a lengthy affair and the result probably didn't satisfy anyone.

The petition was a request Judge/Executive Buzz Carlolitis rule on a request that the boundary lines be redrawn between Brodhead City's fire department and the Western Rockcastle Volunteer Fire Department (formerly Brodhead Rural Volunteer Fire Department), probably didn't satisfy anyone.

Carlolitis, after reviewing the situation for everyone present, said that he did not have the legal authority to decide the issue since "the statute under which the City of Brodhead filed the petition asking for me to redraw the boundary does not permit me to do that, according to the state's Attorney General's Office, the Department for Local Government and the County Attorney."

Carlolitis said he could not rule on the matter since the Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department was organized under the City of Brodhead, a legal municipality, and the Brodhead Rural Volunteer Fire Department (now Western Rockcastle Volunteer Fire Department) was organized pursuant to KRS chapter 273 as a non-profit corporation and, as such, is not subject to a ruling by him on boundary lines.

The problem, basically, appears that under present boundaries, the City of Brodhead only has responsibility for fire protection of property within the city limits while Western Rockcastle Volunteer Fire Department has responsibility for the area surrounding the town.

This creates a problem for property owners such as Dee Bussell, who was at the meeting, who lives 3.4 mile from the railroad tracks in the middle of Brodhead but outside the city's limits. If he has a fire, Western would be called and have to come from Hwy. 70, up 150 and through Brodhead to get to Mr. Bussell's property. However, Western's chief, Johnny Bengue, who was at the meeting, said his department had a truck headquartered at Brock's Auction Barn, just outside of Brodhead, which would be used to answer calls in the area of the City of Brodhead.

Wednesday, Carlolitis told the Sig-

nal, "I don't mind trying to straighten their problem out for them, and I do honestly believe that Brodhead Rural should be divided to allow Brodhead City to serve Copper Creek, Bowling Ridge, Chestnut Grove, Hwy. 1505, etc.; it's just that I was not permitted by state law, according to the attorneys with whom I spoke. Come January 5th, however, I will take steps to resolve the problem myself if they don't do it themselves."

Carlolitis is referring to taking action under KRS 39A.030 which grants the county judge/executive authority to declare that an emergency exists and grants extraordinary authority over the direction of emergency response forces.

Using the threat of invoking this statute, Carlolitis issued the following order to both departments:

"To better deliver emergency fire protection services to the citizens of Rockcastle County, to provide for the relief of homeowners in Rockcastle County, to foster a better working relationship among the various volunteer fire departments throughout Rockcastle County, and to help create a closer relationship among the fire departments, the city councils, the county government, the county's emergency operations center, and other emergency responders, it is hereby ordered, pursuant to KRS 39A.030, that:

1) All fire department chiefs meet together to review their present fire department district boundaries and agree to any changes that will be beneficial to the citizens for the delivery of emergency services, using as a priority the capacity of the department's response time to any location in the county.

2) Each fire department enter into written Mutual Aid Agreements with all other fire departments within Brodhead County.

3) Each fire department provide a list of necessary equipment for the improvement of firefighting should there be alterations in the present fire department boundaries.

4) The City of Brodhead's City Council agree to enter into a written agreement with the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court to house a county-owned firefighting vehicle at the City of Brodhead.

(Cont. to A-10)

City of Mt. Vernon sued again over former officer's actions

Sim Thacker resigns over first incident

The City of Mt. Vernon has been sued again over alleged abuse by a former Mt. Vernon police officer.

Besides the city, Sim Thacker, a former city police officer, was also named as a defendant in the suit, filed by local attorney Willis Coffey on behalf of Roger "Crow" Mink of Rt.

5. Mt. Vernon.

In the first suit, this time the incident reportedly took place while Thacker was on duty.

The suit alleges that on June 17, 2003 in Rockcastle County, "the defendant Sim Thacker, acting within the scope of his employment as a police officer of the Mt. Vernon Police Department; wrongfully and unlawfully arrested the plaintiff and proceeded to use excessive and unnecessary force against the plaintiff in effecting such arrest."

The suit contains a total of five counts, including: assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, outrage, false arrest and negligent hiring and retention.

The first suit was filed by John Kevin Falin of Mt. Vernon who alleged a November 11, 2003 incident while Thacker was off duty and was made up of the same five counts as in the Mink case.

Thacker resigned from the Mt. Vernon Police force through his attorney on Tuesday, December 2 during a closed hearing at City Hall.

County Clerk's Office Holiday Schedule

Due to the state shutting down their computer system over the holidays, the office of Norma Houck, County Clerk will be closed December 24 through the 27th for Christmas and January 1, 2 and 3 for New Year's.

London woman killed on I-75 Saturday

Wreck was one of many after first snow of season

A three vehicle crash on Interstate 75, approximately one mile south of Mt. Vernon, on Saturday claimed the life of a London woman.

The accident occurred during the first snow of the season for the county and the roadway was reportedly covered with snow and ice.

This apparently caused Carl Maggard, 51, of Richmond, who was traveling south on the interstate, to lose control of his 2001 Dodge Durango. He then crossed the median into the northbound lane, sideswiping a 2003 Toyota 4-runner, driven

by Carey D. Kopolowitz, 51, of London. The Durango then continued southbound, striking a 2001 Honda SUV head-on. The Honda was driven by Kresley Brannum, 22, of London.

Tracie A. Hampton, 44, and Aubrey Smith, 28, all of London and passengers in the Brannum auto, were transported to the Rockcastle County Hospital for treatment. Brannum and her mother, Tracie Hampton, were later flown to the UK Medical Center in Lexington for treatment where Hampton died of her injuries about 4 1/2 p.m.

Maggard was transported to the Rockcastle County Hospital for treatment. His wife, Janet, 52, was not injured and neither were Kopolowitz, nor his wife Susan, 44, as a result of the crash.



A London woman was killed in an Saturday morning traffic accident after Mother Nature dropped the first snow of the season on the county, causing at least 14 wrecks. The London woman, Tracie A. Hampton, died at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.