Mount Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 118 - Number 11 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, December 25, 2003

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Santa visits Children's Story Hour
See Page A5

No paper next week

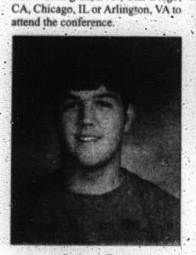
The Mt. Vernon Signal will not publish a newspaper the week of Jan. 1, 2004. The Signal office will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 4. We wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Bray selected for conference

A Rockcastle County youth has been selected to represent Kentucky at a 2004 International Leadership Conference.

Jackson Bray, a junior at Rockcastle County High School and the son of Dennis and Rhonda Bray of Ottawa, will join other students from across the U.S. and more than 40 countries to debate and discuss current issues in law, international diplomacy, national security, business, congressional policy and leadership.

Bray, who was nominated for participation in this leadership conference by Nancy Hale, will go to either Washington, D.C., San Diego, CA, Chicago, IL or Arlington, VA to attend the conference.



Jackson Bray

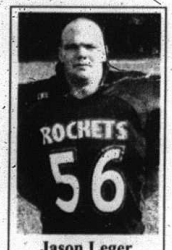
Leger commits to Wildcats

Rockcastle High School senior football player Jason Leger will soon do something no other Rocket has ever done -- he will sign a letter of intent to play football on a scholarship at the University of Kentucky.

One of his former teammates, William Blair was a member of the Wildcats this season as a king snapper, but he is a walk-on.

Leger is the son of Mike Leger and Shelia and Garry Hurst of Brodhead.

Jason was a four-year-starter for the Rockets and played in two state championship games, as a sophomore and junior.



Jason Leger

Open House at Adult Health Center

An open house will be held at the Wayne Stewart Adult Health Care Center on the 461 Bypass on Tuesday, January 6th from 10 a.m to 2 p.m.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 11 a.m.

Brandon Smith, 19, of Mt. Vernon escaped serious injury last Thursday when his 1986 Chrysler was struck by the pick-up truck in the bottom photo. Smith was pulling onto the 461 bypass from Town and Country Motors when he was stuck on the driver's side by the truck, driven by Jeremy Owens of Pulaski County. Owens was traveling north on the bypass and reportedly ran through a red light. Smith was taken to the Rockcastle Hospital where he was freated for cuts and bruises and released Friday.

Renaming roads will face Magistrates in new year

By Perlina M. Anderkin

Rockcastle County Magistrates aren't happy about it, and they made that clear at the last meeting of the court, but a big task facing them in 2004 will be the renaming of county and state roads in their districts.

"I wish someone else would do this," was the comment of Fred Mullins, Magistrate for District Four.

But, Third District Magistrate Billy McKinney, who was the most outspoken about having to change road names, said that the fiscal court is the only one who has the authority to name the roads in their district.

Meeting with the court was John Patterson, State 911 Coordinator who told the magistrates that they need to establish some rules before the renaming process such as not using words that sound the same but are spelled differently, i.e. Deer Road/ Dear Road; single word names whenever possible; no personalized (both first and last) names; if two roads have the same name now, change the one that affects the least number of residences, etc.

"If you don't have rules," Patterson said, "then you will wind up compromising, the process will not make sense when you're done and, at some point, someone will get hurt or die (because of confusion about location by emergency vehicles)."

Patterson told the group that this (changing road names) was a "painful process" because no one wants their address charged. However, Patterson said the Magistrates are charged with making the changes in order to comply with postal regulations and to enable emergency services to be able to more easily locate homes where an ambulance or law enforcement is needed. "People's lives and property depend on getting it right," Patterson added.

Also, as an added incentive, Patterson said that money collected as a tax on cellular phones, now going to the State Police, will come to Rockcastle County as soon as the process is completed and this would amount to between $40-$50,000 in additional revenue for the local service. "I believe money from Rockcastle County belongs in Rockcastle County," Patterson said.

If the Magistrates want to hold a public hearing for the renaming process, Patterson offered to be present to help explain the necessity of the changes. "You need a logical street naming system for the county that can be built on," Patterson added.

McKinney took issue with a list of the roads in his district which had been assigned different names for purposes of identifying them for the computer.

The Herbert Lear Road was identified as Mistletoe Road and McKinney's question was who had decided on road names.

County Judge Executive Buzz Carloftis, who was involved with the road mapping project, immediately assured McKinney that the road names were changed on his list only as a temporary measure so the computer would accept the finished mapping portion of the project. He pointed out that some county roads now have two, three, four and as many as five different names for the same road. One set of five different roads in the county now have the same name, maybe due to a magistrate having named it for a friend who moved from one road to another.

Carloftis went on to say that a set of 16 different roads have the same family's last name; a set of 14 roads have the same family's last name and the same is true for a set of 12 roads and 10 roads. "Some roads in Rockcastle County have one name for one end of a road while the other end has a different name," Carloftis said. He further pointed out that some roads have a name for one end, another for the middle section and yet another for the other end. "There have even been instances where road names have been changed according to the person's multiple marriages," Carloftis said.

Two-Phase project

Carloftis pointed out to the magistrates that the process is two-phase project, the first being approval of the mapping project as ordered by the state Transportation Cabinet. The magistrates were given a map of the roads in their district with each road marked SR (state road), CR (county road) or PV (private road). The magistrates must first check the designations to see if they are appropriate and then go on record approving the map.

Then, the fun begins. The renaming process is one that is necessary so that mail can be addressed and delivered correctly and, as mentioned before, emergency vehicles can find people who need them more easily and quickly.

(Cont. to A-10)

Sturgill indicted in Barnett shooting

A Mt. Vernon man has been indicted for the November 19, 2003 shooting of Andy Barnett.

Michael Sturgill, 35, was indicted this month by a Rockcastle County Grand Jury for first degree assault and turned himself into the Sheriff's Department on Tuesday of last week.

Deputy Sheriff Matt Bryant said the indictment was issued on evidence received from witness statements after Barnett was shot in the left arm area early in the morning on November 19th near his home.

At the time, Barnett had just been released on bond after a police raid of his residence which turned up numerous items of stolen property. Barnett originally told officers that he shot himself but Bryant said evidence, including a hand gun recovered at the scene, and the witness statements pointed to Sturgill as a suspect.

Sturgill is free on a $10,000 property bond.

Former Circuit Clerk Denver Miller dies

Denver Miller, 67, of Rt. 4, Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County Circuit Court Clerk for three terms, died Monday, December 22, 2003 at the Rockcastle Hospital.

At the time of his death, Miller was serving as an administrative assistant to the Administrative Office of Courts. He was very active in civic affairs and was instrumental in formation of the Rockcastle Ambulance Service.

Survivors include his wife, Mattie Miller; one son, James Miller (Dee Ann) of Mt. Vernon; two daughters, Teressa Vanzant (Lonnie) of Mt vernon and Pennie House (Mike) of Nicholasville; one brother, Walter Miller, Jr. of Brodhead; one sister, Ida Whitson of Brodhead; four stepchildren, David Creech (Lorna) of Hollister, MO, Renita Kelly (Renta) of Nicholasville, Denise Blevins (Tim) of Glades Spring, VA and Manuel Creech of Mt. Vernon and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, December 27, 2003 at 2 p.m. at Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Randall Adams and Bro. Rick Reynolds officiating. Burial will follow in the Ottawa Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home after 6 p.m., Friday, December 26.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hickory Grove Pentecostal Church Building Fund at Rt. 3, Box 721, Brodhead, Ky. 40409.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's *Signal*.

Former Circuit Clerk Denver Miller

Conviction overturned

The Kentucky Court of Appeals has overturned a lower court ruling concerning a local man's conviction in an alleged drug case.

"I am very pleased that we were able to win this case for Glen Hammond and his family," said Hammond's London attorney Warren Scoville.

Glen Hammond, 47, of Red Hill, was arrested in August of 1999, after police said they discovered an inside marijuana production facility. They also confiscated weapons and what they said were two stolen ATV's.

The case may go to the the Kentucky Supreme Court, but for now, Hammond, who has been out on an appeals bond, is a free man.

"This was an important case, the court of appeals has made it clear that it will not tolerate police action, wherein there is a reckless disregard for the truth by police officers," Scoville said.

"We are a nation of laws and the law applies to everyone including the police," he said.

The court of appeals, what they considered false statements made by KSP Detective Tim Engle in affidavit to obtain the orginal search warrant.

Judge Cain to retire Jan. 1

Reprinted from the December 18th issue of the Somerset-Pulaski News Journal

By Sharon Dodson

Pulaski Circuit Judge William "Bill" Cain is hanging up his judicial robe -- at least for the 28th Judicial Circuit.

Cain announced last week that he will be retiring January 1 after 20 years on the bench. He is the second Pulaski circuit judge to retire this year.

Daniel J. Venters, Cain's counterpart, retired in June to return to private practice. The two worked together, sharing the same courtroom for 10 years.

Cain plans to spend more time traveling with his wife, but has not ruled out returning to the courtroom in the future to serve as a special judge on cases.

Nominations for the vacant judgeship will be accepted, and the names of three candidates will be submitted to Gov. Ernie Fletcher, who will fill the appointment. The appointee will serve until the next General Election in the fall of 2004.

Somerset attorney Robert Gillum was appointed, and later elected, to fill the judgeship created by Venters' retirement. He was elected last November, defeating two other candidates -- Mark Stanziano and Mike Duncan.

The 28th Judicial Circuit consists of Pulaski, Lincoln and Rockcastle counties.

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you

James and Perlina Anderkin, Richard Anderkin, Spencer and Paige Benge, Allison Anderkin