

Mount Vernon Signal

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Mt. Vernon Fire Department and Pongo Fire Department responded to a house fire last Saturday morning at the intersection of Muller Hollow Road and Sand Springs Road in Mt. Vernon. Authorities say the house belonged to Danny Wilkerson of Mt. Vernon. The home was a total loss and no one was injured during the fire. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

City of Brodhead compromises with Kings in new settlement agreement

By: Doug Ponder

The City of Brodhead and a Brodhead couple recently approved an amended settlement agreement for a lift station which will be built to serve the couple's rental property on Chestnut Grove Road in Brodhead.

Cecil and Judy King attended the monthly council meeting in April to discuss the settlement agreement which called for the City of Brodhead to install a lift station to service their property.

The old agreement stated

that the rental home's sewer line backs up during heavy rains causing a nuisance for the owners. In the old agreement, the Kings alleged that the sewer backup was due to the city's infiltration system and the city alleged that the backup was due to the

low lying position of the property.

The Kings told the council during the April meeting that they refused to sign the original agreement because it stated that once the city installed the lift station, the city would have no further duty to the upkeep, maintenance or operation and that the successful operation of the lift station would not be the responsibility of the city after it is installed.

The Kings told the council that if the lift station didn't take care of the problem that they had "a house with no sewer and an obligation to a lift station that didn't work."

After the April Council meeting, the City of Brodhead proposed a new agreement to the Kings that omitted the clause of "once the lift station is installed the city shall have no further duty to the lift station in regards to upkeep, maintenance or operation as these duties shall rest solely with the owners and that the successful operation of the lift station shall not be the responsibility of the city."

However, the new agreement now states the city alleging that the backup at the Kings' rental home is due to the misuse of the sewer lines by the Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center in Brodhead. In the old agreement, the city alleged that the backup was due to the low lying position of the Kings' home.

The council voted unani-

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Former RCHS graduate experiences Boston bombing events firsthand

By: Doug Ponder

A former RCHS graduate experienced the Boston bombing events firsthand this past week.

Josh Nation, 24, of Mt. Vernon is attending graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, which is situated directly north of Boston across the Charles River.

When the two bombs exploded during the Boston Marathon last Monday afternoon, killing 3 people and wounding 282 others, Nation said he was playing basketball with some friends at an MIT gymnasium when a friend came inside and told them he had heard what sounded like two explosions coming from downtown Boston.

"A friend of mine was taking a break from playing

basketball and had stepped outside the gym for a few minutes," Nation said. "By some crazy coincidence, the bombs were actually detonated during the time he was outside and he heard the explosions from across the river."

Shortly after, Nation and his friends learned that two bombs had exploded near the finish line of the Boston marathon and that some people had been killed during the explosions. Nation said he was immediately concerned about the safety of some of his friends who were at the marathon.

"I had several friends who were downtown volunteering for the race and I was immediately worried about them," Nation said. "Thankfully, they were all safe and none of them were at the finish line during the time of the explosions but they were certainly close enough to be frightened."

Nation said that last Monday was a day he will never forget for the rest of his life. He said police were "racing into the city" and that all modes of transportation were shutdown in Boston and surrounding areas. He also said that the cell phone towers were experiencing technical difficulties due to the high volume of calls they were receiving from people who were concerned about loved ones in Boston.

Nation said he was able to contact his family and let them know he was alright. However, he said everyone was on high alert as the people responsible for the bombings hadn't been captured.

"Everyone felt uneasy knowing the terrorists were still out there and probably in our city as no one knew who they were or where they were," Nation said.

Free Trash and Bulk Goods Drop-Off is Saturday

The annual Free Trash and Bulk Goods Drop-Off Day is this Saturday at the Brodhead Fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to Solid Waste Coordinator James Renner, Rockcastle Countians can drop off their unwanted household garbage, furniture, mattresses, dryers, washers and refrigerators.

However, Renner said they would not accept any gas tanks, propane tanks, tires or any other liquid/hazardous materials.

For more information about the Free Trash and Bulk Goods Drop-Off Day contact James Renner at 606-256-1902.

Facilities Plans details renovations and construction projects needed

Over \$36 million in needs for new construction and renovations to Rockcastle County Schools was detailed in the District Facilities Plan adopted at a special meeting of the board of education Tuesday night.

Scott Noel, of Clotfelter Samokar, was the hearing officer for the meeting and conducted a public hearing on the plan prior to the special meeting.

Noel told the board that the most pressing need for the district at this time was a new roof for Mt. Vernon Elementary and the high school, which would conservatively cost between \$3.5 and \$4 million. "The roof at Mt. Vernon is failing and it is going to get worse," Noel told the board.

At the high school, the main concern, besides the roof, is the eight foot wrap around the entire school at the top of the outside wall. "This was a new concept at the time the school was designed," Noel said, "and was used widely throughout the state. It was less expensive then traditional materials but it has broken down and water is getting behind it and causing damage to the building."

Superintendent David Pensol said Wednesday that he expected work to begin at Mt. Vernon and the high school within the next year.

The middle school came in for its share of discussion since the price tag for renovations needed, according to the plan, is \$14,170,349. Noel said the cost for replacing the

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Certificates of Delinquency issued for 2012 tax bills

According to County Attorney William D. Reynolds, 565 letters to 2012 delinquent taxpayers were sent out Tuesday.

The letters inform the late taxpayers that a Certificate of Delinquency has been issued against the property.

Reynolds said that a payment plan was available to help taxpayers meet their obligation. "I'm trying to work with delinquent taxpayers to try and keep them from having to pay four or five times the face value of the bill when they

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New police department enters into "inter-local" agreement with local Sheriff's Department

By: Doug Ponder

The Williamsburg Police Department is the latest addition to an "inter-local" agreement with the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office and several other law enforcement agencies in the Kentucky State Police Post 11 region.

The inter-local agreement for the London State Police Post area now includes the sheriff's departments in Rockcastle, Laurel, Whitley, Knox, Clay, McCreary and Wayne Counties. Williamsburg, London and Corbin Police Departments are also included in the agreement.

Rockcastle County Sheriff Mike Peters said that his department was one of the charter members as they have been a part of the agreement since its creation in May 2012 and that he is glad to see the Williamsburg Police Department jump on board. He said the agreement only allows certified officers to be able to perform duties assigned to them in other counties and cities that are part of the agreement.

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Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant and Police Chief Brian Carter presented officer Jeff Harness a Plaque of Appreciation for his service on the force. Harness resigned to accept a similar position with the Berea Police Department. Shown above from left are: Officer Adam Stallworth, Mayor Bryant, Harness, Chief Carter and officer Ryan Messenger.

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