

Mount Vernon Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244

Volume 127 • Number 30

.50 per copy

Thursday, July 11, 2013



McKinney's Tire and Service Center on Main Street in Mt. Vernon was heavily damaged Monday when a black truck crashed through the wall after being hit by a runaway car. Authorities say a silver Lincoln Town Car, driven by Tammy Newton, 41, of Berea, slammed into a parked black Ford Ranger owned by Blake McKinney causing the Ford Ranger to go through the wall of the building. Newton told authorities she realized her brakes had gone out after turning onto Old US Hwy 25 from Hwy 25. Newton managed to navigate down the curves on Old US 25, at times reaching speeds of 50-60 MPH before going between two other parked vehicles and slamming into McKinney's truck. Newton was transported to Rockcastle Regional Hospital where she was treated for non-life threatening injuries and released. Owner Bill McKinney said the wall has been patched up and that he will meet with his insurance adjuster later this week to determine damages from the accident.

Rockcastle Fiscal Court opens bids for new Climax Fire Department at Tuesday's meeting

Four bids were opened at Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fiscal Court. However, the court was able to award only one bid, for wood framing and metal work. Keith Bullock submitted the low bid, \$35,604 labor only, for this portion of the construction. The county plans to furnish all materials for the building since they are exempt from paying sales tax. The county will contact D&B Electrical and ask them to separate the

materials from the labor in their bid.

The court also received a bid for the electrical work, from D&B Electrical LLC in Berea, of \$36,235 but that bid included materials as did a bid for a "turn key" job for \$279,261 from R&R Builders in Berea. County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis and magistrates agreed not to consider that bid because of the cost. The only other bid received was for \$45,000 for wood fram-

ing and metal work from Rondal Baker. The county must still get bids for a heating and cooling system, plumbing, flooring, concrete work and drywall.

During the meeting, the

court also agreed to pay \$22,688 to complete payment for the City of Brodhead's new park. The park includes two shelter

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Blacktopping concerns discussed at Brodhead Council meeting

By: Doug Ponder

A Brodhead citizen attended the city's monthly council meeting to discuss his concerns with the new blacktopping project. Randy Abrams said he lives at the end of Proffitt Street in a cul-de-sac. Cul-de-sacs are oval shaped pavement designs that are placed at the end of dead-end streets for motorists to

turn around.

The current blacktopping plans show that the city is only paving approximately two-thirds of the street and leaving out the section in front of Abrams' house and three other homes. Abrams suggested that the pavement toward the end of the street needs

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Local police receive tips in search of missing Berea teen

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle County Sheriff's Department and Mt. Vernon Police Department received a couple of tips last week about the alleged location of a missing Berea teen's body.

Sheriff Mike Peters said the tips dealt with the alleged burial of missing Berea teen Brookelyn Farthing, 18. Farthing went missing in Berea on Saturday, June 22nd.

Peters said they received one tip that her body was buried in the woods around the Climax area and another tip that said her body was buried in the woods around the Conway area. He said officers from the two departments extensively searched the woods in the two areas but they didn't find anything.

"We traced the woods in both areas and found nothing," Peters said. "We even retraced the same wooded areas as well as surrounding wooded areas in case we all missed something but we still didn't find anything."

Peters went on to say that

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Mt. Vernon man arrested for meth manufacturing

By: Doug Ponder

A Mt. Vernon man was arrested for manufacturing meth last Thursday after officers from the Mt. Vernon Police Department and Rockcastle County Sheriff's Department raided a home on Low Gap Road in Mt. Vernon.

Arrested at the scene was Jordan Michael Carpenter, 19, of Mt. Vernon.

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, Assistant

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Mayor Medley, others visit Virginia trail town

Livingston Mayor Jason Medley gave a report to the city commissioners Monday night on a recent visit made to Damascus, Virginia by himself, Commissioner Katha Carpenter, City Clerk Trish Doan and Police Chief Carl Swannigan, and their families. The group paid their own expenses for the trip.

Medley said the visit was made to get a feel for the issues Livingston will have to deal with in their development as a trail town. "Damascus's has a population of 1,000 people, with 11

bike rental shops and, each year, has 160,000 to 200,000 visitors," Medley said. There are no big hotels/motels in the town, most of the tourists stay at bed and breakfasts or go to nearby Abingdon where there are big motels/hotels.

The mayor also said that in 1999, the city had a yearly budget of \$50,000. Today their annual budget is \$1.5 million. Tourists are shuttled to the top of a mountain and then ride bikes to the bottom, about

(Cont. to A5)

Former school bus driver arrested for inappropriate communication

By: Doug Ponder

A former Rockcastle County school bus driver was arrested at the central office of the school board Tuesday afternoon for using electronic communications to solicit pornography and other sexual offenses to male minor students on his former bus route.

Arrested was Joshua Glenn Robbins, 29, of Brodhead.

According to Kentucky State Police reports, Trooper Scottie Pennington received complaints in June from the parents of two male students who rode Robbins' school bus on his former bus route.

The parents told Pennington that when they read some of their sons' Facebook messages and cell phone text messages they had found several inappropriate conversations between their children and Robbins. One of the male students had sixty messages that were reportedly inappropriate in nature and the

other male student had three but said he had deleted a large number of his old messages.

In some of the messages between Robinson and the male students, the conversations were about inappropriate acts while looking at porn websites.

After discovering the inappropriate messages, one father sent a message to Robbins from his son's Facebook account telling him that he had been caught. Robbins reportedly replied and admitted to the father that he was wrong for having the inappropriate conversations with his son.

Robbins also told Pennington that he had been having inappropriate conversations with the two male students. After receiving consent from Robbins to search his phone, Pennington also found a message from Robbins asking one of the male students to come stay with him.

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School board will wait to raise drop-out age

On the recommendation of Superintendent David Pensol, the Rockcastle County Board of Education opted to not make a special motion to raise the drop-out age to 18. Instead the board will pass the law as part of their acceptance of their policy manual from the Kentucky School Board Association at a subsequent meeting.

The action came following Pensol's "Superintendent's Report" during which he told the board that the local district was already making strides in combating drop-outs, cutting the figure to 14 this year (not including those who left to be home-schooled), from 16 the year before. The superintendent said that all 14

were 18 and could sign themselves out. As to the lower rate of drop-outs, Pensol said "we are having individual conversations with students and making

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Rockcastle celebrates wet Fourth of July

By: Doug Ponder

Many people had to bring their Fourth of July cookouts and celebrations indoors last Thursday when a large amount of rainfall moved through the county.

Local weatherman Bud Cox said the slow continuous rain on the holiday

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The City of Mt. Vernon held a Grand Reopening of Lake Linville Boat Dock last Wednesday. Thursday and Friday. The event was designed for the community to view the changes and future plans for the boat dock and campgrounds and to officially meet the new operators Teresa and Lester Ratliff. Shown above during the ribbon cutting ceremony last Wednesday are, front row from left: District Court Judge Katie Wood, Circuit Court Clerk Eliza York, Rockcastle County Development Board Coordinator Lynn Tatum, Mr. and Mrs. Ratliff with their granddaughters Alexis and Lacie, Brodhead Mayor Walter Cash, Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant, Administrative Assistant Jill Medley, Rockcastle County Tourism Executive Director Susan Tomes Laws, City of Mt. Vernon Water Clerk Torsha Lear, City Councilwoman Shelly Lewis, Councilman Charles Wayne Bullock, Livingston Mayor Jason Medley and Senator Jared Carpenter. Shown in the background are a host of other onlookers, county and city officials.

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