

Mount Vernon Signal

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Rockets beat Danville, Pg. A10

One killed, others hurt in 461 wrecks

Two separate accidents in the past week on Hwy. 461 in Rockcastle County resulted in one death and two injuries.

On Monday morning, a Flint, Michigan man was killed when he lost control of his Chevrolet Beretta crossing the center line and hitting a tractor trailer head-on.

Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell pronounced Curtis M. Wallace Jr., 45, dead at the scene of the 5:30 a.m. accident.

Members of the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department had to use the jaws of life apparatus to free Wallace's body from the wreckage.

The driver of the truck, Stanley Cramley, 47, of Parkersburg, West Virginia was not injured.

Authorities said Wallace, who was traveling north, had been visiting relatives in Somerset.

The accident occurred seven miles south of Mt. Vernon.

Last Friday, a Brodhead man was seriously injured when he was involved in a three-vehicle crash on 461.

According to a report filed by Kentucky State Trooper John Yates, a Somerset man apparently fell asleep as he traveled toward Mt. Vernon and struck two other vehicles in the southbound lane, causing the three-car crash.

The most seriously injured was Steven Lunsford, 25, of Brodhead, whose Ford Ranger was hit head-on by another Ford Ranger driven by Floyd Mounce, 25, of Somerset.

Lunsford's vehicle went over a guardrail and traveled about 70 feet over an embankment before coming to rest.

According to police, before Mounce hit Lunsford his vehicle side-swiped another truck driven by Donald Chandler, 71, of Cookeville, TN.

No one in the Chandler vehicle was injured, but Lunsford and Mounce were taken to Rockcastle Hospital. Lunsford was later flown to the University of Kentucky Medical Center with multiple injuries. He was listed in fair condition at U.K. on Wednesday.

Mounce was treated at Rockcastle Hospital and referred to a plastic surgeon because of injuries to his face.

Spoonamore still at large

Police are still looking for a Brodhead man who ran off last week after he was arrested on an outstanding warrant for probation violation.

Joe Michael Spoonamore, 25, of Castle Village apartments was arrested around 10:15 p.m. Monday March 20, by Brodhead City Police Chief Joe Bussell and Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Ronnie Roark.

According to police, after Spoonamore was handcuffed he escaped from Bussell and Roark.

Police said Spoonamore fled on foot. A search helicopter and search dogs were brought in to scour the Brodhead area, but were unable to locate Spoonamore.

Spoonamore was convicted in 1997 for a 1996 break-in at the Rockcastle Middle School.



A Michigan man was killed instantly Monday morning when the above car he was driving hit a tractor trailer head-on on Hwy. 461. The Michigan man was the sixth person killed on Rockcastle highways in the past twelve months.

Clean-up week a success

Kentucky's top environmental officer, James Bickford, was in Rockcastle County last week to help with the clean-up of four illegal dumps.

Bickford arrived by helicopter on Wednesday to help local volunteers, county employees and employees from the state's Environmental Protection Agency clean-up an illegal dump.

The same group, which also included work release prisoners from the Rockcastle County Detention Center also cleaned up three other dumps along the Rockcastle River from Livingston to the county line.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlolito deemed the clean-up a great success.

During the four day clean-up 366 automobile tires, 546 bags of garbage and 33,920 pounds of white goods, (refrigerators, stoves, other appliances and scrap metal) were picked up.

Carlolito said he wanted to thank Bill Belcher with the EPA who selected Rockcastle from 13 other counties, Solid Waste Coordinator Scotty Berman, Road Foreman Jack Crumpler and Chairman of the PRIDE program in the county, Don Coyle.

Carlolito said he also wanted to thank Gary Miracle for disposing of the white goods at no cost to the county.

The county did foot the bill for disposal of the rest of garbage picked up.

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Blood Drive on April 6th at Rockcastle Hospital

Blood is needed everywhere, every day. The Rockcastle County Hospital asks you to ensure blood is available for area hospital patients by donating on Thursday, April 6, 2000, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the CKBC bloodmobile located in the parking lot. The drive is being sponsored in conjunction with Central Kentucky Blood Center. The community is encouraged to attend.

Every three seconds in the United States someone receives a blood transfusion. Blood and blood components are used to treat accident and burn victims, cancer patients and other patients undergoing surgeries and medical treatments.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 100 pounds and be in good general health. The complete process takes less than an hour, with the actual donation of one pint lasting 10 minutes. Blood can be donated every 30 days.

Through the support of volunteer donors and drive sponsors like Rockcastle County Hospital, Central Kentucky Blood Center provides blood to 68 hospitals in 54 Kentucky counties.

All donors on April 6, 2000, receive a free thank-you gift. For more information call Loreta Robinson at (606) 679-7413.

Correction

We have been informed, by people who obviously know more about it than we do, that last week we incorrectly named a railroad crossing on U.S. 25 the Gary Elmvile crossing.

The crossing is reportedly known as the Sexton Crossing.

County loses additional funding for Hall of Fame

In Senate budget proposal

By: Richard Anderkin

There seems to be gridlock in Frankfort these days and it is very likely that the 2000 session of the General Assembly will end without a state budget for the next two years.

State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon, who is the floor leader for the Republican's in the house said a budget could be passed when the General Assembly reconvenes for its final two days on April 13 and 14, but nothing will happen unless compromise can be reached by the House, Senate and Governor's office.

Rep. Ford said this week that the main problem is that Kentucky Governor Paul Patton wanted a huge tax increase to fund his budget for the next two years, but he did not have enough support for a tax increase to get it passed.

Therefore the Governor is at odds with the Republican controlled Senate and has said he will never support his budget proposal, Ford said.

The Governor issued a statement this week saying the Senate budget would cut out hundreds of thousands of dollars for Rockcastle County and millions across the state.

"We were elected to move Kentucky forward, and to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for all Kentuckians. Our budget proposal stands for the people and progress, the Senate republican 'budget stands still,' the Governor said in the news release.

"The Senate was fair to everybody, in the fact they cut out all special programs, they did not treat anyone any different from anyone else," Ford said.

For example, the Senate budget cut out \$1.5 million for exhibits for the Kentucky County Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley, something Ford had lobbied for.

"The House budget had already cut the \$1.5 million to \$1 million because it did not vote for the Governor's tax increase," Ford said.

Rep. Ford also said that it was evident that the "old buddy system" was alive and well in the House's budget proposal. "As always there were a few counties that benefited greatly from the budget while the rest of the state got very little," Ford said.

"The Senate budget cut all that out and now we must proceed by trying to reach a compromise on a

budget that does not include any new taxes," Ford said.

In Governor Patton's new attempt he claimed that the Senate Republican budget would cut education in Kentucky by \$39 million and that Rockcastle County would lose over \$14,000 in education funding.

He also claims that under the Senate proposal Rockcastle County would lose \$24,000 in funding for the housing of juvenile offenders.

The Governor said the county also stands to lose \$245,000 in matching funding for grants for the Appalachian region.

And he also pointed out that the \$15 million for the Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley was cut from the budget.

"That is so misleading," Rep. Ford said.

"What Governor Patton is referring to are cuts in the increases he proposed, nothing in the Senate budget was cut from the last biennium and in fact every government agency saw an increase of some type," Ford said.

Rep. Ford is a member of the conference committee that will try to hash out some type of agreement in the next two days in Frankfort, but if they can't it is highly likely a special session will be called in the summer.

"The Republican leadership in the House and Senate want to come up with a legitimate budget that does not include any tax increases," he said.

"At this point no one knows what will be included in the budget and what will not," he said.

Kirby gets 16 months

Dallas Kirby, 49, of Quail was sentenced in federal court last week after he pled guilty to a charge of manufacturing marijuana.

Kirby received a 16 month sentence and will be placed on three years of supervised probation following his release from prison, according to a media release from the U.S. Department of Justice in London.

Kirby joins several other members of his family who have pled guilty in recent months to possessing and distributing illegal drugs.

Greenwood in Renfro Saturday

The 2000 Concert Series at Renfro Valley will kick off Saturday night when recording star Leo Greenwood takes center stage.

Greenwood will perform two shows at 7:00 and 9:15 p.m. in the new barn theatre on the Renfro Valley grounds.

"This concert is sure to be an unforgettable night," said Renfro Valley's Director of Entertainment, Connie Peterson.

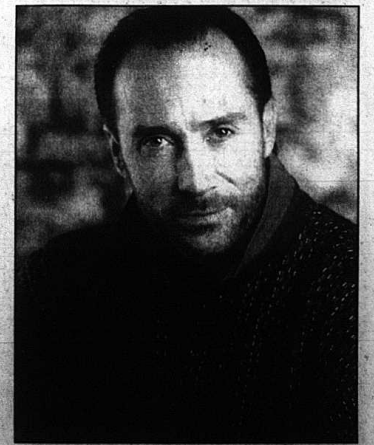
Peterson said that Greenwood will perform such hits as "Somebody's Gonna Love You", "You've Got A Good Love Comin'", "If Only For One Night", and "God Bless the U.S.A."

Greenwood's career in country music is a textbook example of the ingredients required to sustain longevity in show business.

Ever aware that an artist can be new to the public just once, he continues to find ways of reinventing and re-packaging his talent, much to the delight of his fans. His persistence to maintain stardom has established him as a much sought after mainstay for country music lovers.

"Although they fondly remember those exciting early hits and ensuing awards, today they look forward with enthusiasm to the new surprises this diverse, unpredictable, but always entertaining performer

(Cont. to A11)



Leo Greenwood will perform two shows in Renfro Valley on Saturday night.



Work is well underway on a new building in the Rockcastle Industrial Park that will house Integrity Mold and Die. The company is relocating from Berea and is expected to be in operation later this year. Earlier this month the Mt. Vernon City Council voted to loan the company \$100,000 to be used for equipment purchases. The loan will be paid back over a ten year period with an interest rate of 3.5 percent. The money comes from the city's Urban Development Action Grant fund.