

Mount Vernon Signal

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Local Grand Jury returns indictments

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury returned indictments against seven people Friday for crimes ranging from child abuse to theft by unlawful taking.

Calvin Ray Dawson, Jr., 31, of Davis Street, Mt. Vernon, was indicted on one count of criminal abuse.

The alleged incident that resulted in the indictment occurred on April 19 in which he is accused of kicking his son, who is less than twelve years of age, in the head.

Jason Northern, 22, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on two separate charges. He is accused of having a stolen ATV in his possession on April 12 and he is also accused of owing child support in the amount of \$4,800.

Police said they were informed about the ATV by Brodhead resident Mike Gates, who had purchased the ATV from Northern. According to police, Gates told police he did not know the ATV had been stolen until a reward offer appeared in the Signal.

Joseph L. Phillip, 26, of Pineville, an inmate at the Rockcastle County Detention Center was indicted for escape, after he did not return to the jail on time from furlough on May 14.

He was also indicted on a charge of introducing marijuana into the detention center and for being a persistent felony offender.

Kelly D. Prewitt, 39, and Melissa K. Dean, 32, of Mt. Vernon were both indicted for criminal trespass and theft by unlawful taking. They are accused of unlawfully entering the home of Billy Joe Prewitt on May 16.

Dennis James O'Reilly of California was indicted on one count of flagrant non-support of his two minor children. The indictment says O'Reilly owes \$29,000 in support payments.

Livingston man dies before second trial

A local man who was scheduled to be retried on drug charges on August 23 has died.

Ronnie Patrick Johnson, 39, of Rt. 2, Livingston died Saturday night around 9:45 p.m., after he shot himself in the head with a .38 caliber pistol, according to Rockcastle County Bill Dowell who said that Johnson died at the scene.

The shooting took place at Sand Hill, at the home of Johnson's girlfriend, Aline Blackburn, according to police, who also said that Blackburn witnessed the shooting.

According to court records, Johnson was convicted in February by a Rockcastle County Circuit Court jury, of trafficking in a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance - first degree while in possession of a handgun. The jury recommended a sentence of 15 years for Johnson, but he was released from jail on May 26, after Circuit Judge Dan Venters set aside his verdict and ordered a new trial.

Venters' decision for a new trial came after a motion by defense attorney William Gregory, who contended that the jury was not sworn in before the trial began.

Reward offered in Miller murder case

Cumberland Valley Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information about the shooting death of a local man whose body was found in Laurel County in 1995.

Robbie Lee Miller, 29, of Rt. 5, Mt. Vernon was last seen alive in Richmond on September 30, 1995, and his badly decomposed body was found a week later by hunters in a wooded area off Slate Ridge Church Road in the Lily Community.

Miller had died from a single gunshot wound to the head.

Crime Stoppers doesn't want your name, just your information. Crime Stoppers pays for clues leading to the arrest of a suspect or suspects involved in the crime.

If you have any information about Miller's death call (606) 878-2746 or contact them on the web at www.londonpd.com.

Rockcastle resident dies in Tennessee

A Rockcastle County mother of six was killed in a two vehicle accident in Lebanon, Tennessee, last Tuesday.

According to police, Judy Ann Adams, 44, of Buffalo Hollow Road, died at the scene of the 10:30 a.m. accident on Interstate 40.

Police said witnesses reported Mrs. Adams' vehicle traveling erratically along I-40 for about ten minutes before the collision.

Funeral services for Mrs. Adams, who is survived by a daughter and five sons, were held Saturday. She was buried at Fairview Cemetery.

Board hears proposal from drug testing firm

The Rockcastle County Board of Education heard a proposal from a Lexington company concerning the drug testing of athletes at Rockcastle County High School during their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night.

The board did not accept Forward Edge's proposal, and opted to advertise for bids for the drug testing. Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond, said that Forward Edge would likely be the successful bidder because of their low price and because the school system has been pleased with the work Forward Edge does.

All Rockcastle County High School athletes will be tested for illegal drugs, beginning with the start of school in August.

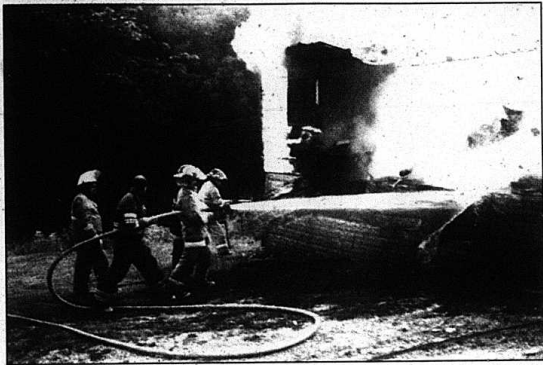
The board will discuss the matter at next month's meeting. The board also recognized the Rockcastle County High School boys' baseball team and the RCHS Girls' track team on their regional championships.

The State Department of Education's Title I Director, Diane Robertson, also presented Roundstone Elementary School principal David Pensol with a Distinguished School Award for accomplishments at Roundstone, during the last school year.

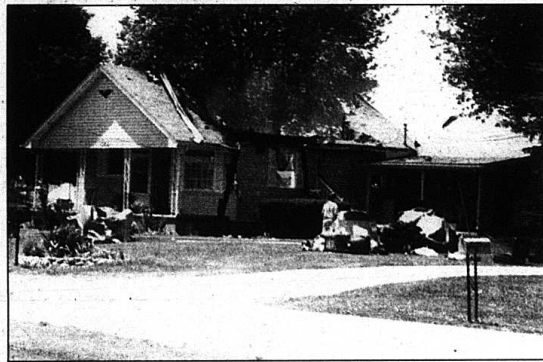
Correction!

In a story published in the May 25th edition of the Signal, we reported that Benji Jones, 31, of Sand Hill had been convicted of several charges involving an incident with his wife and 10-month-old son in August of last year. Jones does not have a 10-month-old son, the child was a 13-year-old girl. We regret this error.

E-mail us on the Web at mvsignal@sun-spot.com



Mt. Vernon firefighters spent over eight hours Wednesday morning fighting fires at Chestnut Ridge and in Mt. Vernon. Above, they extinguished a blaze at the home of Tom Denny on Chestnut Ridge. Arson is suspected in the fires on the Denny property.



Brodhead, Mt. Vernon and Brindle Ridge firefighters responded to a house fire on Hwy. 328 at Bee Lick Thursday morning around 10:30 a.m. The home of Tim and Debra Owens was completely destroyed by the fire, although firefighters were able to save some of the household items, before the roof caved in. Tim Owens was arrested at the scene by police for violation of an emergency protection order. Police are also investigating the fire as possible.

Lambert is Outstanding Alumnus at EKU

Judge Debra Hembree Lambert, Circuit Judge for Family Court in Rockcastle, Pulaski and Lincoln counties was recently named Outstanding Alumnus 2000 by Eastern Kentucky University, College of Family and Consumer Services.

Judge Lambert graduated from EKU with honors in 1983 receiving her B.S. degree in Child and Family Studies and a minor in Special Education, Learning and Behavioral Disorders.

She later graduated from the University of Kentucky School of Law and practiced in Mt. Vernon for several years before beginning her service as family court judge.

Judge Lambert spoke to honored graduates and faculty at the award ceremony regarding her experiences at Eastern Kentucky University. She credited Eastern for its caring professors with much of her success.

Dr. Betty Powers, former chair of her department, was particularly influential to Debra, having been her professor and having demonstrated to Judge Lambert the beauty of doing nice things for young people who need a little help. "I hope I never forget what I have learned here at the Burrill Building and I hope I never missed an opportunity to help a child," Judge Lambert said.

She told the group how Dr. Powers offered to write a letter of recommendation for Lambert to attend law



From left: Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Lambert, Judge Debra Hembree Lambert and Dr. Diane Maynard, chair of EKU's Department of Family and Consumer Services.

school at the University of Kentucky if she promised never to forget what she learned at Eastern about children and families and to find some way to help children in her practice of law.

Lambert said that as Family Court Judge she has now found the perfect

blending of her love for children and family issues and the law.

Judge Lambert lives in Mt. Vernon with her husband, Joseph Lambert, who serves as Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court and their two sons, Joe, 15 and John, 9.

Brad Paisley at Renfro Valley Saturday night

The Academy of Country Music's "Best New Male Vocalist" for 2000 will be in Renfro Valley on Saturday night.

Brad Paisley will perform one show at 7 p.m. in the new barn theatre.

The 28-year-old up and coming superstar has numerous hits already to his credit, including: "He Didn't Have To Be," "Mo'Nether," "I'm Never Would of Worked Out Anyway," and "Who Needs Pictures."

"So Brad, what kind of music do you like?" his Grandpa asked him when he was four. Paisley said he really didn't know, so he asked his grandpa what his favorite music was and his grandpa said country.

That conversation was the beginning of what some have termed a charmed life for Paisley.

Tickets for Brad Paisley are \$18.00 and \$20.00 and can be purchased at



Brad Paisley

Firefighters battle fires Wednesday morning

Members of the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department spent more than eight hours on several different fire calls Tuesday night.

The majority of their time was spent at the residence of Tom Denny on Chestnut Ridge Road, where firefighters responded to three different structure fires.

In each case, firefighters believe the fires were intentionally set, because when they first arrived on the scene, a mobile home, a garage and the actual residence of Tom Denny were all on fire.

Firefighters said the fire that destroyed Denny's home had been set around the fuel oil tank, where its line had been cut.

Fire also destroyed the garage and partially destroyed a mobile home on the property.

Firefighters said that no one was home at the time of the fires and that the first time they were called to the scene they were able to put out the fires at the residence and at the mobile home.

But a short time later they were called back to the scene and found the residence on fire again. This time the residence was completely destroyed.

Rockcastle County Deputy Sheriff Trevor Hemsley said Wednesday morning that an arson investigator with the Kentucky State Police had been called to the scene.

In between the first and second runs to the Denny property, firefighters were called to the home of David Alcorn on Negro Town Hill in Mt. Vernon.

Firefighter Brian Hansel said that Alcorn and his two children were asleep in the mobile home when the fire broke out somewhere in the middle of the mobile home.

Hansel said that Alcorn and his children were lucky to get out of the trailer alive.

"It was pretty heavily involved when they woke up," Hansel said.

Boyd ends state title hopes for Rockets

The Rockcastle County Rockets baseball team's run at a state title ended Thursday night in Corbin, where Boyd County handed the Rockets a 15-0 loss.

The Rockets had advanced to the final eight teams in the state, with a 2-0 win over Lee County the night before.

But on Thursday night, the Rockets faced one of the top pitchers in the state in Boyd County's Jason Keyser.

Keyser allowed only one hit and two walks during the five inning contest. Only one of the four Rocket batters never made it to second base.

In the first inning Rocket starter Greg Harper had gotten two outs, before umpire Don White missed a call at first, which allowed Boyd County to remain alive with two men on.

Harper then walked the next two batters, walking in a run and the next Boyd County batter got a hit driving in two. Before it was all said and done Boyd County had scored four runs with two outs.

Harper would give up a total of eight runs before he was lifted in the third for Brandon Bishop. Bishop pitched an inning giving up seven runs and Andrew Cash pitched the final one and two thirds and did not give up a run.

Second baseman Shea Taylor had the only hit of the game for the Rockets.

On Wednesday night junior pitcher Christopher Parsons had his best outing of the year, allowing only one hit, going the distance for the Rockets. Parsons also struck out seven and walked only four.

Parsons also led the Rockets with the stick, picking up three hits in his four at bats.

Derrick Bustell, Andrew Cash and Jacob Burdette all had two hit games. Taylor, Harper, Neal Childers and Billy Hackworth, all picked up