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Two escape serious injury in another by-pass wreck

A Sand Springs couple escaped serious injury Tuesday afternoon when they were involved in yet another accident at the traffic light in front of the Rockcastle County High School on the Hwy. 461 by-pass in Mt. Vernon.

According to police, Jess and Renda Rutherford had stopped their vehicle on 461, waiting to turn left into Town and Country Motors, when a transfer truck traveling toward Somerset hit the Rutherford vehicle in the driver's side.

Eyewitnesses said the truck driver apparently did not see the Rutherford vehicle in time to stop and instead of trying to miss their vehicle on the right side of the road next to the high school, he went to the left of the Rutherford vehicle into the north-bound lane of the by-pass.

"If a vehicle had of been coming or one had been sitting at the light waiting to turn into the high school it would have been a total disaster," said Larry Gooch, owner of Town and Country Motors, who witnessed Tuesday's accident.

The light in front of the high school has been the site of numerous auto accidents, mostly attributed to people running the red light.

"There is not a day goes by that someone, usually a transfer truck, doesn't run that light," Gooch said. "They come off the hill from the interstate and I don't know if they just don't realize a light is there or they just don't care, because they will blow their horns and go right through that light," Gooch said.

State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon said Tuesday that a four-way light would be installed to replace the current three way light, sometime after July 1, but he said that it was his understanding that the highway department had no plans to put

in a left turn lane into Town and Country Motors.

"I was able to get the change in the light included in the state budget

Big Hill reconstruction dedication set for Friday

Dedication ceremonies for the reconstruction portion of Highway 421 (Big Hill) will be Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Kentucky Governor Paul Patton and Transportation Secretary James C. Coddell will join State Representative Marie Rader, Jackson County; Rep. Danny Ford, Rockcastle County; Rep. Harry Moberly, Madison County and other state and local officials for a formal ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the reconstructed portion of Big Hill that runs from Rockcastle County through Madison County into Jackson County.

The public is invited to the ceremonies, which will be held on US 421 approximately 1.7 miles south of KY 21 in Madison County.

Completion of the road reconstruction has been a long time coming, which makes the celebration all the better, according to a press release from the House Republican Office in Frankfort. A 1994 Jackson County Sun article reported that "for over 30 years (Big Hill improvement) has been promised time and time again."

Committed action began in earnest in 1992 when a meeting was arranged to discuss the project with then Transportation Secretary Don Kelly, state and local officials, and Jackson County citizens. Though the

this year, but the placing of a left turn lane would be totally left up to the Department of Transportation," he said.

Big Hill reconstruction dedication set for Friday

project had been on the six-year road plan, it had been reshuffled for other priorities several times. By the fall of 1993 design plans were completed followed by Right of Way purchases, utility work and ultimately construction, according to the release.

The primary importance for upgrading Big Hill has always been safety, but there are other important benefits that the new road will provide. Emergency units will be able to travel more quickly and road maintenance will be considerably less. Safer and better road conditions are

Lovell, others sentenced Monday in Circuit Court

Eddy Montgomery, Acting Commonwealth Attorney for Rockcastle County, announced Monday that Barbara Lovell, 27, of Mt. Vernon, was sentenced to a period of 10 years imprisonment. Lovell pleaded guilty in April to her role in the 1997 murder of Charles "Tody" Baker, 31, of Mt. Vernon. Barbara Lovell's husband, David Lovell is scheduled to stand trial for Baker's murder and other related charges later this year. Baker's body was found buried 14 feet below the earth's surface on Tank

Kentucky State Trooper Lefe Owens talks with Renda Rutherford, after another auto accident at the traffic light on the Hwy. 461 by-pass in Mt. Vernon Tuesday afternoon.

"The four way light will certainly help the people going out of here and MaHaffey's (Sporting Goods), but it will do little to stop the number of accidents at the light," Gooch said.

Big Hill reconstruction dedication set for Friday

even expected to assist the economic development efforts of the area, according to the press release."

"This is a project that residents have needed for many years to improve safety and driving conditions for motorists," said Rep. Rader. "Completion has come through the efforts of many folks through the years - efforts that are very much appreciated. I am glad the day for celebrating is at hand," she said.

The reconstruction of Big Hill cost over \$14 million.

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Hill last year. An autopsy revealed that Baker had been shot several times. Barbara Lovell admitted to shooting Baker, but prosecutors said she did not fire the fatal shot. Lovell also pled guilty in federal court in May to drug related crimes. Her two sentences will run concurrently. Also on Monday, James Flannery, 33, of McKinney Road, Eubank, was sentenced to a period of one year

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Court to sue landowners over Oscar Isaacs Road

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court voted Friday to file suit in Rockcastle Circuit Court against all property owners along the Oscar Isaacs Road in northern Rockcastle County.

The action came following another altercation on Thursday between Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis and members of the county road department with landowner Denver O'Neil.

Landowners along the road have asked the fiscal court on several occasions to widen the road and to do something about fence posts and stakes that some landowners were placing in the asphalt in the roadway.

The road, which runs off Sweetwater Road, is only fifteen feet wide and was accepted into the county road program in 1976.

Carlotis said that under state law, county's could not accept a road with less than 30 feet right-of-way. Carlotis said that law had been on the books since 1964.

During Friday's court meeting Carlotis reminded the magistrates that he had written several letters and had talked to most landowners along the road encouraging them to work out their problems on their own, but that no action had been taken and that it had become necessary to file the condemnation suit.

This law suit will be for the good of all landowners along the road and for all those people who use the road on a daily basis," Carlotis said.

On at least two different occasions the Judge himself, has pulled metal stakes from the roadway and a few weeks ago he ordered the road

Boil water advisory lifted for some users

A boil water advisory has been lifted for water users in Mt. Vernon and Brodhead.

According to Burgess Mullins, Mt. Vernon water plant supervisor, the advisory was lifted on Tuesday afternoon.

The advisory was issued last Friday after a main water line break at Renfro Valley.

Mullins said the break occurred on the new line, which was put in during the city's recent multi-million dollar upgrade and expansion project.

"It just takes new dirt time to settle and it probably moved some, causing one of the joints to come apart," he said.

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department to pull down a large concrete obstruction that had been built at the entrance to the road, by landowner Denver O'Neil.

"It is the county's position that, regardless of property boundaries, recorded deeds, and obvious lack of a recorded 30 foot right-of-way, the county has, nevertheless, gained absolute and legitimate control of its maintenance right-of-way through the theory of perspective easement.

The county cannot be prevented from maintaining its ditches, shoulders, and other appurtenances that benefit the traveling public, regardless of the landowners," the Judge said.

Carlotis said that the construction of a subdivision on the road has also complicated matters.

"A Berea company has called me several times complaining that they could not deliver single-wide or double-wide mobile homes to the subdivision without getting into a disagreement with property owners

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Hearing on new road planned

A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 22 to gain public comment on a new road from Hwy. 150 to Copper Creek to Interstate 75 at Conway.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis said officials with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet had recently met with him and some members of the fiscal court concerning the new project.

Carlotis said it was his understanding that the highway department was considering the project in order to help cut down on the volume of traffic on Hwy. 150 and to help congestion at the Renfro Valley, Mt. Vernon interchange on Interstate 75.

Carlotis said that highway engineer David Beatty told him that any new project from 150 to the interstate would not affect the reconstruction of Hwy. 150, which is slated to get underway later this year.

A completely new road would be built, if the state goes ahead with the project and Copper Creek road probably would not be affected, according to Carlotis.

"I think that project would be great for the northern part of the county because of the new interchange and it would help with flow of traffic, especially on 150 and at the light at the junction of 150 and 461," Carlotis said.

A public hearing on the project will also be held at Crab Orchard, although a date has not been set.

911 spends \$180,000 on equipment for enhanced

The price of progress doesn't come cheap, as members of the Rockcastle County 911 board and their employees well know.

Last week, employees of Emergi-Tech Corporation installed \$180,000 worth of equipment on the 911 center in the Rockcastle County courthouse, as part of the board's plans to upgrade the system to enhanced as soon as possible.

Local 911 Director Tim Cameron said the equipment will enable 911 to keep and make available all of the necessary information on all of the residents in the county, when the enhanced 911 is put into place.

Cameron said that all dispatchers will be trained on the new equipment, first and then the mapping and gathering of the information from each household will begin.

Cameron said that he and assistant director Bonnie Roark, will do the mapping and information gathering themselves, so that they know all

of the information gathered is accurate.

"We will work on that full time once everybody is trained on the new equipment and we hope we can get that done in a year or so," he said.

Cameron and Roark will go door to door in the county, finding out who lives where, how many are in a household and if the family has any special medical conditions or needs.

"It will certainly speed up response time and it will make it easier for emergency personnel to know what to do in certain situations," he said.

Once enhanced 911 is up and running, when a person calls 911, their address, the number of people in their household and any special medical problems will appear on the 911 screen.

Currently 911 operates on a monthly budget of about \$12,000. That money is paid by county phone

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Local 911 Director Tim Cameron, right, and Assistant Director Bonnie Roark, left, spent last week in Columbus Ohio, receiving training on the new enhanced version of the 911 emergency phone system.

