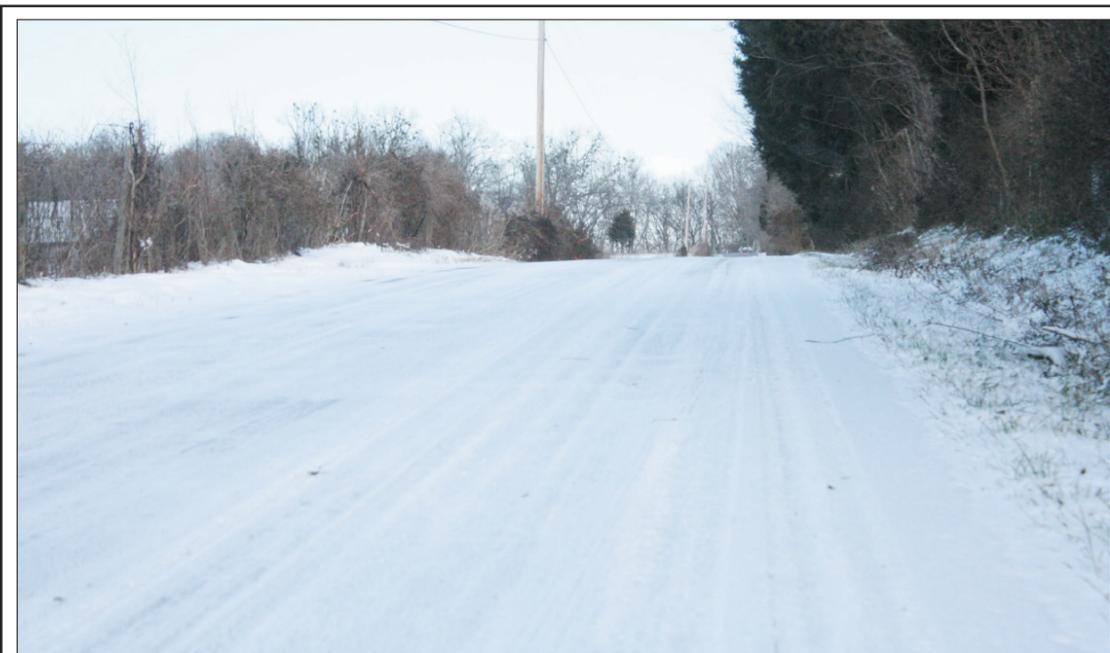


Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

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Rockcastle County Schools were closed Wednesday as a major snow system moved across the state late Tuesday night. Local weatherman Bud Cox reported a half-inch snowfall between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Shown above is Purr Rigsby Road which was completely covered in some areas. Main roads were treated by highway departments before sunrise Wednesday morning while many side roads throughout the county remained covered.

White enters Alford Plea in road rage case

By: Doug Ponder

An elderly man, who is charged with murdering his sister on a Rockcastle County roadway, recently accepted a plea deal in court.

Clyde White, 79, of Corbin entered an Alford Plea to his second degree manslaughter charge in Rockcastle County District Court on Monday.

An Alford Plea is a guilty plea where a defendant may choose to plead guilty, not because of an admission of guilt but an admission that the prosecution has enough evidence to convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It's commonly referred to as the "I'm guilty but I didn't do it plea."

White was also charged with two counts of first degree wanton endangerment but these charges will be dropped as a part of the plea deal.

According to state police reports, Clyde White, 79, of Corbin was originally charged with murdering his sister, Dorothy Whitaker, 83 of Lexington in August of 2011 after he chased a van she was riding in along I-75 into Mt. Vernon. White's brother, Lawrence White, 82, of Lexington was the driver of the van that eventually wrecked on Hwy 461 in Mt. Vernon after Clyde White rammed it several times.

Both Lawrence White and Whitaker were airlifted from the scene.

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Store employee leads police to arrests

By: Doug Ponder

Two Pulaski County men were arrested for shoplifting and complicity to manufacture meth last Tuesday when a Mt. Vernon Rite Aid employee helped police chase the two men after they stole several packs of batteries from the store.

Arrested at the scene was Hayden Len Campbell, 34, of Eubank and Jeffery Martan Scruggs, 26, of Somerset.

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, Rockcastle 911 received a call from a Rite Aid employee saying someone had stolen several packs of batteries from the store and that she was following the shoplifter's white car on Hwy 461.

The Rite Aid employee remained on the phone with 911 and followed the shoplifter's vehicle as it turned right onto Hwy 150 and left onto Hwy 70 in Brodhead.

Officers Jeff Harness and Adam Stallworth were in pursuit of the shoplifters' vehicle and caught up to them on Hwy 70 where they made the traffic stop in the Western Rockcastle Fire Department's parking lot.

Once officers approached the vehicle, they noticed that Scruggs was extremely disoriented and that, while performing field sobriety tests, he appeared intoxicated.

Officers also noticed that the vehicle's license plate was not in the proper place and that it was lying in the rear window. When the officers ran the license plate through their computer system, it was registered to a junked vehicle. However, officers also noted the registration receipt in the glove box contained the correct license plate number.

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Sixth company to be located at SourceHOV

A sixth company will be located at Source HOV and will be hiring more workers at the Mt. Vernon plant.

Quality Associates, Inc., a Maryland-based small business, has been awarded a subcontract by CACI, one of the five businesses at the facility besides SourceHOV, to employ general clerks.

According to Michael Pitts, Senior Director, Programs and Contracts and Facility Security Officer,

Time springs forward this Sunday, 2 a.m.

It's once again time to "spring forward," as daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m. this Sunday.

Before you go to bed Saturday night, be sure to set your clocks forward one hour.

Kiwanis Club spaghetti supper and concert is this Saturday

The Rockcastle County Kiwanis Club will host a spaghetti supper and concert at the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame this Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

The concert will feature country musicians Jordan Leigh and former Southern Strings lead vocalist/guitarist Jake Vanover.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the event. Proceeds will go to the Kiwanis Eliminate Program, RCHS senior trip and Rockcastle County Relay for Life. For more information call 606-256-1000

Carpenter to speak at Chamber meeting

State Senator Jared Carpenter will be the guest speaker for the Chamber of Commerce meeting and luncheon which will be held Tuesday, March 19th at noon at EST Tool and Machine in Brodhead.

All members are urged to attend. RSVP is not required but doing so would be very helpful in knowing how much food to prepare.

these jobs will involve handling incoming documents, removing staples, clips, etc., sorting documents and inserting separator pages between the documents. CACI is one of the five businesses, besides SourceHOV, at the local facility.

Qualifications include some computer skills, willingness to learn new tasks, ability to lift boxes weighing up to 40 lbs. and passing a security background check.

Under terms of the federal contract, 30% of the jobs of the entire Department of Veterans Affairs' contract have to be awarded to minority-owned companies.

Present plans call for the jobs to run through October 24, 2015. Pay is \$14.23, which includes \$3.71 in federal health and wellness benefits, an hour and the jobs will be on the second shift from 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Start date will be in 3-4 weeks from time of application, because of the time needed to run the required security background

checks.

Quality Associates will host a Job Fair on Tuesday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Hampton Inn North in London, Exit 41 off the interstate.

Applicants may also send their resume to mpitts@qualityassociatesinc.com

Currently 350 workers are employed at SourceHOV and plans are for a total of 520 jobs at the facility.

Other websites to which job applications may be sent include:

SourceHOV at www.sourcehov.com;

VASTEC, Inc. - www.vastec.com;

SMRC USA - http://smrcusa.co/careers/opportunities.php;

Oxford Government Consulting - Patricia Norman at

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Woman arrested for drug possession after driving recklessly through Mt. Vernon

By: Doug Ponder

A Lexington woman was arrested for three counts of drug possession last Saturday night, after police made a traffic stop on Hwy 25 in Mt. Vernon.

Arrested at the scene was Kari Ann Krutz, 41, of Lexington.

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, Officer Adam Stallworth received a complaint of a reckless driver traveling south on Hwy 25 near the Hanson Aggregates Rock Quarry.

Stallworth located the vehicle on Hwy 25 and made the stop in the Kwik Mart parking lot. When he approached the vehicle, he noticed that Krutz was extremely nervous

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Cox Hardware closes its doors after 106 years

By: Perlina Anderkin

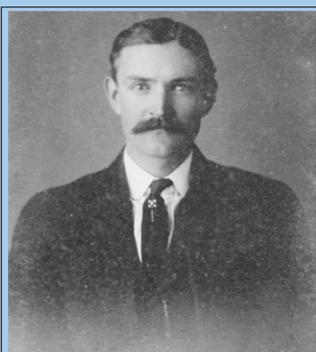
One of the last, and most longstanding businesses in Mt. Vernon, has closed its doors. Cox Hardware ceased operation last Thursday, February 28th, after 106 years.

Martha Cox, who has worked in the store since 1976 and managed the business by herself since her husband, Jim's, death in 2009, said her decision to close the store "was one of the hardest things I have ever done, next to losing Jim." She went on to say, "It was a heartbreaking decision but absolutely necessary at this time. We've outlived our customer base."

The store came into existence in the early 1900s when Claude C. Cox, and his two brothers, Robert and Edward, opened a general store in the old Joplin Hotel on Main Street in Mt. Vernon. Sometime before 1907, the building burned along with all their merchandise. The brothers built the present

building in 1907 with a hardware store on one side, a dry goods store on the other and an undertaker business upstairs. After a period of time, the undertaker business was moved, becoming the present Cox Funeral Home in Mt. Vernon.

Claude's son, John began working in the store upon his return from serv-



Claude C. Cox, original founder of Cox Hardware.

ing in World War II and worked there until his death in 2001, at which time Jim and Martha took over the store. John also served as chief of the Mt. Vernon Fire

Department for many years.

Part of a press release Martha issued at the time of the closing says, "Many employees have come and gone at the old store...many family members have enjoyed the people in the community while taking care of their hardware needs.

Over the years, the store has become a meeting place, behind the coal-burning stove located in the back. Many tales have been told while sharing a lunch or just standing on a soap box, discussing the times and the changing world. Tourists have passed through, enjoying the old atmosphere and young school children have also been brought through to see the things of long ago."

The store has been featured in several magazine articles and on KET's *Kentucky Life*, a documentary still shown periodically on the educational channel.

Commenting on her de-

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Martha Cox, who has operated Cox Hardware by herself since 2009, locked the front door for the final time on Thursday, February 28th.

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