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Becky Smith giving Uncle gift of life-insurance company not so generous

By: Richard Anderkin

How much is one man's life worth? The insurance carrier for Donnie Warf, says it is only worth $10,000 to them.

Warf, 51, a former Rockcastle County resident and Mt. Vernon High School graduate is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, due to contracting hepatitis C sometime in the 70's when he worked as a lab technician for the United States Military.

Warf's insurance will not cover all of the costs for an expensive rare surgery that will allow his niece, Becky Smith of Brodhead, to donate a lobe of her liver to her uncle.

The problem is that Becky's insurance will not pay for any of the expenses connected with the surgery and her uncle's insurance company has said it will only pay $10,000 of her expenses. The cost of the surgery could exceed $70,000.

Mrs. Smith is an eighth grade teacher at the Rockcastle County Middle School and she is assistant girls' basketball coach at Rockcastle County High School.

Her father, Ronnie Warf, and her Uncle Donnie are twin brothers.

Donnie also has a sister, Jane Jones, and another niece Janelle Jones, who is a member of the Rockcastle County High School Dance Team.

The dance team will hold a benefit yard sale on August 4 and a benefit car wash on August 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wendy's Restaurant in Mt. Vernon.

"I just thought, if I could help in any way . . . . . your family, you just help them," Smith said.

"Becky's sort of our angel," Warf said. "She comes bearing the gift of life," he said.

When Warf, his wife Irene, and their two sons, first learned of Smith's intentions, Warf told her to think it over.

"My first response to her was, 'Oh, Becky, you don't have to do that. This is not small thing you're doing," Warf said.

"He never asked," Smith said. "He's been overwhelmed by it, I believe," Smith said.

Accepting Smith's gift will alleviate waiting for a cadaver organ donation - a process that can take months or years.

While Warf is class three on the organ donation list - the least severe - he said his condition would continue to deteriorate if he had to wait for an organ donation.

"People need to be aware of how many people are waiting for organs," Warf said.

Every day, 15 people die waiting, while another 60 are saved through transplants.

Nearly 18,000 people need liver transplants. In total about 80,000 people are awaiting some kind of transplant.

While Warf is fortunate to have a family member who can help him,

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Becky Smith has offered to give her Uncle Donnie Warf, part of her liver in an effort to save his life

Work continues on the new $6 million Brodhead School building and school officials still insist it will be ready for the beginning of school next month. Students are scheduled to enroll in all county schools on August 15. District wide day for all school officials is August 14.

Rogers recognizes Roundstone School on House Floor

U.S. Represenative Harold Rogers of Somerset recognized the accomplishments of Roundstone Elementary School during remarks on the House Floor last month.

Rogers particulary pointed to Roudstone's award as a "Title I Distinquished School" by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of State Title I Directors.

Rogers saluted the students, teachers, parents and administrators at Roundstone for their achievement.

It was the first time a county school had been recognized on the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives.

"At Roundstone, a small elementary school in rural southeastern Kentucky, the students are achieving results and exceeding expectation," Rogers said.

"This is a result not only of the students' hard work, but the dedication of their teachers. They realized that the first step toward success was creating an environment in which all students, no matter their ability, can effectly learn.

Second, they have designed a curriculum in which students are encouraged to learn and think critically, to delve into science and mathematical problems, and to write creatively.

Lastly, the parents of the students are involved throughout the process. It is critically important that parents have proper consultation on their children's curriculum, and the parents at Roundstone have been integral to the program's success."

Rogers says the achievement is particularly important for Roundstone, at a time when Americans are seeking results and accountability in their schools. He told his House colleagues that Roundstone has proven it can serve as a model for

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Ten local indictments returned Friday

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down ten indictments on Friday - including one against a local man accused of raping his wife.

Clayton Cox, 26, of Rt. 1, Orlando, was indicted on three counts in connection with a May 6th incident in which police reportedly found a Methamphetamine Lab at his residence.

Cox's wife Halona, also filed a complaint of rape against her husband.

Cox is being held in the Rockcastle County Detention Center on a $75,000 bond. He will apear in Circuit Court later this month.

Lloyd Adkins, 64, of Hwy. 21, Berea, was indicted on five counts in connection with a February 9th breakin at Carter's Laundormat in Mt. Vernon.

He is accused of damaging property in excess of $1,000 and having a burglary tool in his possesion when he was arrested.

His bond was set at $10,000.

Gerald Dean McGuire, 56, of U.S. 421, was indicted on five counts of rape, five counts of sexual abuse in the first degree and five counts of sodomy.

He is accused of engaging in sexual intercourse with a minor girl under the age of twelve for a nine year period from 1980 to 1989.

McGuire has not been arrested.

Troy Reed, 25, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of trafficking in a controlled substance by having Oxycodone in his possession on May 10th.

Delbert Mullins, 33, of Rt. 2, Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of possession of Methamphetamine, while in possession of a handgun. The incident allegedly occurred on May 10, 2001.

Mark Anthony Miller, 40, of Cox Lane Mt. Vernon, was indicted on one count of possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

Bobby Caldwell, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of cultivating marijuana: He is accused of growing more than five marijuana plants on April 26th.

George W. Bradley, 24, of Meife Road, Mt. Vernon was also indicted on one count of cultivating marijuana over five plants on June 14th.

Byron D. Cole, 27, of Livingston was indicted on one count of trafficking in Methamphetamine on May 4th.

John L. Fain, 29, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of being a persistent felony offender.

State indentifies insecticide

State officials still do not know how it got there, but they have identified an insecticide, which is responsible for the deaths of several animals in the Mullins Station area of the county.

State inspector Bill Belcher said the insecticide with the trade name of Furodan was found in tested samples near the dead animals in at the "Sinks" of Roundstone Creek.

Last week local officials were notified as to a possible contamination in Roundstone Creek, by two Berea women who were walking a dog in the creek bed.

The dog apparantly drank from a small pool of water in the creek and died.

Local officials found several other dead animals in the general area around the pool.

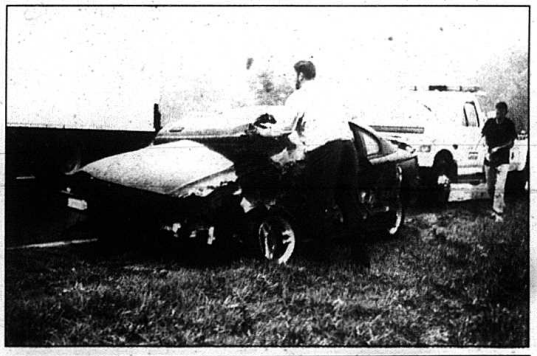
Belcher said that Furodan is an extremely powerful insecticide whose toxic properties can be passed from the carcass of one animal to another on three to four succession.

Belcher said that someone may have used the insecticide to bait coyotes in the area, but that was only a theory.

An unidentified barrell that was located on railroad property near the site has not been determined to be the cause of the chemical vilation, according to Belcher.

Belcher also said that state officials were sure that ground water in the area had not be contaminated and that all well water in the area was safe to drink.

County employees used a backhoe to bury all of the dead animals, which were located in the area.



A Brodhead woman escaped serious injury Wednesday morning when she lost control of her Ford Mustang on I-75. Elaina Renee Leger, of Rt.3, Brodhead, told police that she lost control of her car after it hydroplaned in the southbound lane, which caused her to go into the median and strike a tractor-trailer driven by a El Paso, Texas man. Mrs. Leger was taken to Rockcastle Hospital by ambulance and admitted for treatment of an injured arm and leg.

Berea Funeral Director Drowns in Grayson Lake

Berea Funeral Home Owner, David Williams, 45, apparently drown in Grayson Lake on Sunday night.

According to the Carter County Coroner's office Williams was pronounced dead at midnight.

Major David Casey of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife said the department is investigating the drowning and a complete report will be available pending autopshy and other results.

Casey said that life jackets were in the board but Williams was not wearing one at the time of the accident.

Williams owned and operated Williams Funeral Home in Berea and Carter County Funeral Home in Olive Hill.

David Williams

Blood Drive July 23rd

The need for blood is always critical during summer months. Vacations and factory shut downs cause

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Mt. Vernon Alumni Banquet is Sept. 8

The Mt. Vernon School Alumni Reunion will be held on September 8, 2001 at the Rockcastle Co. Middle School. Registration will be from 4:30 until 7:00 at which time dinner will be served.

Classes of 1951 and 1968 will be the honored classes.

The next planning meeting will be August 8th at 7 p.m. at the Rockcastle Co. Middle School. Anyone wishing to help with the planning is welcome to attend this meeting.