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Mount Vernon Signal

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A 15-year-old former Rockcastle County High School student was killed in a single car wreck on Sweetwater Road Monday night. The 2000 Grand Am Poynter was driving appears in the top photo. Two Stanford men escaped serious injury Saturday night after the vehicle they were riding in was rear ended by a tractor trailer on I-75. Police say that the driver of the tractor-trailer was apparently traveling at a high rate of speed when he virtually ran over the vehicle in the photo at left. Luckily no one was seriously injured. On Wednesday morning another wreck involving two tractor trailers occurred on I-75 near the 64 mile marker. Two tractor-trailer trucks were involved in the accident, which was caused when one of the tractor-trailers rear ended another one. One of the trucks was hauling potatoes, which were scattered all over the roadway. The northbound lanes of I-75 were closed for about three hours and one lane was closed for about six hours.

Photos By: Richard Anderkin

Monday wreck claims life of 15-year-old

A former Rockcastle County High School student was killed Monday night in a wreck on Sweetwater Road.

Aron "Arab" Poynter 15, was apparently the driver of a 2000 Pontiac Grand Am that ended up in a creek off Sweetwater Road.

According to Rockcastle County Deputy Sheriff Joe Rush, Poynter was driving a car owned by Anita Smith of Woodland Place, Mt. Vernon and traveling toward Copper Creek at a high rate of speed, when he lost control of the car.

Rush said that car overturned at least three times before coming to rest in the creek.

Poynter was trapped in the vehicle, but his passenger Michael Stamper, 14, a Rockcastle County Middle School student, was able to walk away.

After Poynter was freed from the vehicle he was taken to the Berea Hospital by members of the Rockcastle County Ambulance Service.

Poynter was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Stamper was taken to the Rockcastle Hospital, where he was treated and released.

Rush said that he was still investigating the accident, but that there was no evidence of drugs or alcohol in the vehicle.

He also said that he did not know as of yet, if the vehicle was stolen or not, since Poynter was only 15 and obviously did not have a drivers license.

School officials at RCHS said Poynter had attended school there this year for only a few days and that they had had trouble keeping up with his whereabouts.

Aron Poynter, who was preceded in death by both of his parents, Warren Poynter, Jr., and Judy Damrell Poynter, was buried at the Fairview Cemetery in Rockcastle County on Thursday, (today).

He is survived by four brothers, John D. Poynter of Berea, with whom Aron lived, Jason Poynter, Rodney Poynter, Brian Poynter, and a sister, Brandy Lamb of Mt. Vernon.

Other survivors include: his paternal grandmother Nora Dees Poynter, his maternal grandfather, John Damrell both of Mt. Vernon and a host of other family members. He was also survived by a special friend and teacher, Shaun Burdette.

Pay raises discussed

The Mt. Vernon City Council has discussed the possibility of raising the Mayor's pay.

At last month's meeting the council and Mayor Karen King discussed the possibility of giving raises to the Mayor and also a small raise to the council.

Mayor Karen King said Wednesday that a wide range of salaries for the Mayor was discussed from $1,500 a month to $50,000 a year.

Nothing was decided and no votes were taken.

Under state law, Kentucky City Councils cannot raise the pay of a

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CAP's GED program still strong after twenty years in Rockcastle

By: Richard Anderkin

The Christian Appalachian Project's (CAP) Adult Education program has been a part of the educational fabric that has blanketed Rockcastle County for twenty years.

And just because there are a few changes on the way doesn't mean that the program will offer any less to its participants.

"To educate is to develop mentally, morally or aesthetically through instruction and those objectives have always been present at CAP," said full-time teacher Keith Gilbertson of Berea.

The face of education is changing in Kentucky and the state has revamped the GED test to make it more up to date with today's world.

With the process of change, CAP is also modifying their programs to meet the future of the 21st century and better prepare their students in the GED program, according to public relations director Karen Spivey.

CAP's spectrum of educational programs range from exploring basic reading skills to preparing for extensive collegiate exams, according to Bobbie Playforth, the local director of the educational programs at CAP.

"I guess the bottom line is we want everyone to understand that nothing has changed at CAP - we are still very proud of our educational programs and we are working very hard to change our curriculum to meet the needs of the people whom we serve," Playforth said.

In the past 20 years the educational programs at CAP have helped nearly 2,000 Rockcastle residents obtain their GED.

The current GED program is housed at the learning center in Renfro Valley, where it has been located for several years.

The learning center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-through Friday, with evening classes also available.

Besides the programs offered at the learning center in Renfro Valley, CAP also provides a School on Wheels program where teachers actually go into the homes for instruction.

Teachers have also been very involved with inmates at the Rockcastle County Detention Center, where they have helped numerous prisoners obtain their GED.

"The good thing about our program is there is really no qualifications," Playforth said.

"We are here to help people and we take a lot of pride in that," she said.

At the Detention Center, CAP's program has helped many inmates to obtain their GED.

"I can't say enough good things about CAP's program," Rockcastle County Jailer James Miller said.

"We have had a lot of people who have been able to actually improve themselves while here at the Detention Center because of CAP's efforts," Miller said.

"So many of these people think they have no help available, but if you really want to make an effort the GED program is one place to start," Miller said.

Besides going into the Detention Center, many work release prisoners go the center in Renfro Valley for help.

"In addition to GED instruction, CAP also provides tutoring for post secondary education entrance exams, compass tests (vocational schools), ACT and SAT preparation, pre-employment tests for local industries and ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) for military vocations," Spivey said.

The Adult Education program has a number of flexible options that are available to the local community and would accommodate various needs and individual requests. The program includes one on one tutoring, on-site education, home based instruction, and on the job instruction.

An ample computer learning lab is also located at the Adult Education Center, with open access five days a week, in addition to the scheduled class time. Microsoft Office and various other software are available in both daytime and evening sessions.

"Recent updates and changes with GED have many prospective students fearful of the upcoming transitions, when in fact the modifications are more beneficial to the program," Playforth said.

Tax credits are available for employers which provide incentive to employees and encourage completion. For more information regarding GED benefits and qualifications, please contact Rockcastle Adult Education Center at (606)256-5307.

The Christian Appalachian

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Keith Gilbertson is one of four fulltime teachers at the Adult Learning Center in Renfro Valley.

Several file for upcoming Primary

Filings for the upcoming May Primary Election continued this week, with eight more hopefuls throwing their hat into the political ring.

Larry D. Leece, 51, of Copper Creek has filed for magistrate in dis-

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Money available for new septic systems

If you are a homeowner and have a failing septic system or a "straight pipe," you may be eligible for a free septic system. The program is part of the $9,000,000 "PRIDE Homeowners Septic System Program." In Rockcastle County, the Cumberland Valley RC&D Council and the Rockcastle County Conservation District are jointly administering the project. The project is being funded by a grant from the Hal Rogers PRIDE program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To be eligible for the program the applicant must meet the HUD poverty guidelines and must own the property on which the septic system will be installed. The grant program is for existing homes and is not for new/unoccupied homes. If your home is near a municipal or county sewage line, the grant program will also pay the expenses to hook your home onto the sewage line.

This program is targeting a known 36,000 straight pipes and failing septic systems throughout the 40 county PRIDE area. Pollution from straight pipes and failing septic systems is the main water pollution problem in eastern Kentucky. Nearly 1/2 the private drinking water wells in Kentucky are contaminated with coliform bacteria, an indication that the wells may be contaminated water. By installing adequate septic systems or hooking on to an existing sewage line we can all be a part of drastically improving the water quality of eastern Kentucky and Rockcastle County.

In Rockcastle County, applications for the "Homeowner Septic System Program" can be picked up at the Rockcastle County Conservation District office at USDA Service Center, Hwy. 150. The homeowner will complete the grant application, provide proof of income, and proof of ownership of the property on which a septic system is to be installed, along with other documentation as required in the grant administration procedures. For further information regarding these grant funds or to pick up an application, please stop by the Rockcastle County Conservation District Office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone: (606)256-2525 Extension 3.

Working on their GED Tuesday at the Adult Learning Center at Renfro were Laura Dunn, Germaine Felts and Shirley J. Gabbard. Third from right is teacher Sharon Hurley and far right is also teacher Doris Grant.