



Rockers win nine straight - Pg. A8

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Burdette gets Betty Lewis Service Award

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette has received the prestigious Betty Lewis Children's Service Award.

The annual award was presented to Burdette on Monday by Ms. Lewis' daughter, Lisa Clontz, during a ceremony in Mt. Vernon.

The late Ms. Lewis was a social worker, the first director of the Family Resources Department for the Rockcastle County School System, a counselor at the local Comprehensive Care Center, she worked with Home Health and was involved in the Rockcastle County Literacy Program.

She also was deeply involved in the local girl scouts program and the candy striper program at Rockcastle Hospital.

Ms. Lewis died as a result of pancreatic cancer in 1996.

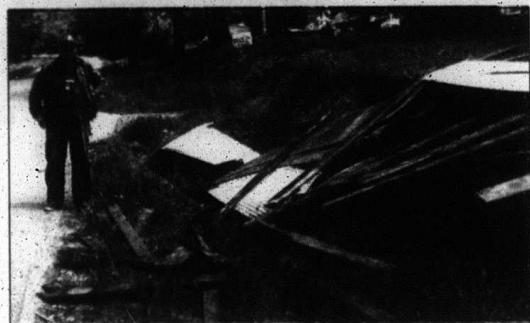
Burdette's assistant Bill Reynolds nominated Burdette for the award.

In his nomination of Burdette he wrote, "I believe the true meaning of the Betty Lewis Award is best signified by bestowing the award upon Jeff. Jeff's selflessness has given many hours of his limited spare time among his activities outside his duties as County Attorney, include speaking to Foster Care parents about responsibilities involved in Foster parenting, speaks to classes at all local schools and schools outside the county, volunteers for youth camps in a variety of settings; teaches Sunday School classes for youths at the church he attends, teaches youth during Vacation Bible School, volunteers in many fund-raising efforts for youth for different charities, supports the Children's Reading Program at the county library and is a former member of the Rockcastle County Literacy Council. He annually supports the national camps for blind children."

"Jeff goes above and beyond his duties as County Attorney. He dedicates his time to being special providing this fact through, enforcing child support orders through giving Christmas presents to needy children and to giving money when a youth would indicate that they need money. I remember I had a job working in the County Attorney's office very long when a youth walked in requesting to see Jeff. The juvenile was brought to my office instead. When I asked the youth what I could do for him, he said he hoped five dollars to get something to eat. I explained in my most articulate way that I couldn't give him the money, that wasn't the way it worked. The youth then simply stood up and said, 'OK, but Jeff will help me. He has several times.' That symbolizes the true meaning of the Betty Lewis Award."

After receiving the award Burdette stated, "There are several people, many up this room, who I believe deserve this award more than I."

(Cont. to A-12)



Darrell Cress, who lives on Wab-Jones Road, stands besides part of a roof that was on his barn before a Sunday morning storm took most of it off. Several trees were uprooted and several buildings, mostly barns and outbuildings were damaged by the apparent small tornado.



Sunday's heavy rains caused a lot of problems for residents of the Robert Ford Subdivision in Mt. Vernon. City maintenance supervisor Dennis McClure had to use a backhoe to clear the street from the rocks and debris that was swept into it. Shown above is the result of his clean-up and an exposed sewer line. McClure said that water washed away the covering over the sewer line. Residents on the street believe the water is coming from the Castle Ridge Subdivision, which is located on the hillside next to Liberty Drive. Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King and one of the subdivision owners, John Clontz, said they were working this week to correct the problem.

Local man becomes eighth fatality of year



Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette, left, accepted the Betty Lewis Children's Service Award from Lisa Lewis Clontz.

A wreck at the junction of West Main Street and the Hwy. 461 by-pass on Friday night claimed the life of a Mt. Vernon man.

According to Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell, Trenton Owens, 33, of Davis Street, was killed instantly around 10:45 p.m. when he pulled into the path of a transfer truck.

Dowell said that the truck driver stated that Owens never hit his brakes and pulled directly into the intersection from the Old Brodhead Road.

The truck was traveling toward Reno Valley.

Owens' body had to be removed from his vehicle by members of the Mt. Vernon Fire Department, after his car was pinned against the guardrail. Owens is survived by his wife Melissa and by children, ages one and three.

Local man avoids arrest

A Bryant Road man was able to avoid an arrest on Monday night, after he eluded Brodhead police officer William Harris.

According to reports, Wesley Perkins Jr., 39, is wanted on outstanding felony warrants from 1999.

Harris apparently tried to stop

(Cont. to A-10)

Baker brothers bound over to Grand Jury

By: Richard Anderkin

Two Crab Orchard men and a Berea man have been bound over to the Rockcastle Grand Jury on charges of criminal conspiracy to commit murder and attempted murder.

Last week, Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Aaron Matthews testified in open court that brothers Henry Baker, 32, and Benny Baker, 35, of Crab Orchard paid Floyd Neeley, 30, of Berea, \$1,300 worth of the illegal drug medium phenytoin to kill Dominic Jones of Negro Creek.

Matthews also testified that Neeley used an assault rifle on the night of March 10th to shoot into the bedroom area of Jones' mobile home on Negro Creek Road.

Matthews said that several shots were fired into Jones' mobile home around 1:30 a.m. which was occupied by six people, including two children.

Melissa Carmen Lawson, 23, of Brodhead was shot twice. Lawson who married Jones while the two were in jail was apparently in the bedroom with him when she was wounded.

The deputy testified that Baker, who was arrested the day before after he reportedly burned down a house in Lincoln County in order to cover up a drug lab operation, called Neeley from jail to order the hit. Neeley was supposedly, at the Baker brothers' mother's house.

Matthews said that another man, Carl Jason Caldwell, 19, of Brodhead, witnessed the attempted murder from a separate vehicle. Matthews told District Judge Walter McGuire that Caldwell also witnessed the conversation considering the hit.

It is unclear what role Caldwell was playing in the attempted murder, but when the defense attorney for the

Bakers called Caldwell to the stand, he refused to testify, citing the fifth amendment. Caldwell had been subpoenaed by the defense.

Caldwell is charged with felonies in Rockcastle County, one for assaulting a police officer.

Matthews said that Neeley was in the back of a pick-up truck, which pulled in front of Jones' mobile home and that he stood up and began firing. Matthews testified that shots were fired back and actually struck the Toyota truck.

The deputy testified that he was still unsure who fired the shots from the trailer, but that a person close to Jason Caldwell admitted the truck was hit. However, an attempt was made to fix the truck, after the shooting.

During the hearing it was also pointed out that the Bakers and Jones were former acquaintances, who were apparently involved in a drug related feud.

Matthews said that Jones' mobile home had been shot into a couple of weeks before the March 10th incident.

At one point during the hearing, defense counsel even accused Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette and police of coercing their own witness, (Jason Caldwell), because Caldwell took the fifth amendment after he was called by the defense.

Defense attorneys also asked that all charges be dismissed saying all of the evidence presented was based on Caldwell's statements.

Burdette said that the evidence against the Bakers and Neeley was substantial and McGuire agreed. All three men are being held on a \$50,000 cash bond and the case will be pre-trial bond and the case will be pre-trial bond and the case will be pre-trial bond.

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Kentucky State Troopers Lyle Owens and Tommy Cromer are shown discussing the details of a wreck on Interstate 75 Sunday afternoon. Owens said that two men from Indiana drove their motorcycles into the rear of a Mercedes around the 70 mile marker after traffic began to slow. The two men were both injured and taken to Berea Hospital. The Interstate was blocked for about an hour which resulted in an eight mile back-up.



Trenton Owens, 33, of Mt. Vernon was killed on Friday night after he pulled his vehicle into the path of a transfer truck on the Hwy. 461 by-pass in Mt. Vernon.