Anderkin attends Conference - Pg. A4.

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Mt. Vernon Signal

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—Enjoy your Independence—

Americans will celebrate the Fourth of July on Thursday and Mrs. Mabel Rickles is obviously in the spirit. Her home on West Main Street in Mt. Vernon is beautifully decorated. The *Signal* will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of the national holiday. Have a safe and Happy 4th.

Meth is problem for Rockcastle, southeast Ky.

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette says the manufacturing and selling of the illegal substance Methamphetamine (Meth), is the current biggest drug problem in Southeastern Kentucky, including Rockcastle County.

"It is no doubt the poor man's cocaine, but the problem stretches across all classes of families," he said.

"The good news is that we have made great strides in putting the brakes on the problem in this county in the last couple of years and a lot of people responsible for making and selling the illegal drug are in jail," he said.

"There are a lot more sentences in the works - especially in federal court, which means more drug dealers and manufacturers will be off the streets," he said.

"They have got making the stuff down to an art," said Mt. Vernon Police Officer Barry Adams.

Adams, who also works with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency based in London, said the problem with Meth is that most people have what it takes to make some form of it in their garage.

Some of the igrediants used are, batteries, lighter fluid, Sudafed tablets, anti-freeze and Red Devil lye.

"There are different forms and strengths of the drug, depepding on who makes it, but any form is very dangerous," Adams said.

Adams, who has had special training concerning the manufacturing of the drug, said that when people first started making the drug, they would make it into a crystalized type of powder and snort it.

"A lot of them have started making the liquid form and inject-

"They can make it in their homes, barns, inside cars and even in the woods, if they can get the right ingredients and have a pot and a hot fire," he said.

Of the last 116 indictments returned by the Rockcastle County Grand Jury in the last eighteen months, over half of those have involved either the manufacturing of Meth, possession of the drug for use, or possession of the drug for sale.

The Webster dictionary defines Methamphetamine as "An amine derivative of amphetamine used in the form of its crystalline hydrocholoride as a stimulant."

"If you could see some of these people after they have taken some of this drug, you'd definitely know it is a stimulant," Adams said.

Burdette praised the help of retailers, who have notified police when large quanities of items needed to make Meth are bought.

"They (the retailers) have been very cooperative and helpful with a lot of our worst repeat offenders," Burdette said.

Burdette said that he expects more indictments involving Meth when the Rockcastle Grand Jury meets later this month.

City of Mt. Vernon passes new budget

The Mt. Vernon city council voted 3-2 on Monday night to pass the first reading of their 2002-03 budget.

Council members, Lonetta Daugherty, Wayne Bullock and Joe Mullins voted in favor of the budget, while council members Clarice Kirby and Jackie Renner voted against it.

Both said on Tuesday that they were very uncomfortable with the proposed budget and Mrs. Kirby said it was very hard for anyone to understand.

In a memo to the council in June, the Mayor said the council should think about several ways to increase revenues, such as raising the payroll tax a half percent to one percent, raising water and sewer rates, a restaurant tax, an insurance tax above the one the county already has and cutting expenses to meet the city's revenues, such as laying off employees or cutting benefits.

Apparently the council did none of those things on Monday night.

According to the budget presented to the *Signal* on Tuesday, the city will spend $361,000 on the police department, $94,000 on administrative salaries, which

(Cont. to A-5)

Assistance deadline nears

The final day for residents and business owners in Rockcastle County to register for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency is Monday.

Anyone who suffered uninsured losses in the April and May floods, severe storms and tornadoes can seek state and federal recovery assistance if the damage occurred in the county. The toll-free registration number is 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The number for persons with speech or hearing impairments is 1-800-462-7585.

The sixty-day registration period provided under federal law closes Monday, July 8.

Rockcastle unemployment 6.0 percent

The Kentucky Cabinet for Workforce Development announced this week that Rockcastle County's unemployment rate had increased from April to May by seven tenths of a point.

Rockcastle's jobless rate stands at 6 percent, while the state's is 5.1.

Although the county's rate increased slightly, from April to May, it is still 6.9 percent lower than the previous year's rate, which stood at 12.9 percent.

6007 Rockcastle Countians were employed in May and 385 were unemployed.

The lowest unemployment rate in Kentucky was recorded in Woodford, Oldham and Jessamine Counties. All three had a rate of 2.7 percent. The highest unemployment rate was recorded in Magoffin County, which had a rate of 13 percent.

Court orders three to serve full terms

Eddy F. Montgomery, Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockcastle, Lincoln and Pulaski Counties, announced last week that three local people had their probation revoked and were sentenced to prison in Rockcastle Circuit Court.

According to Montgomery, Robbie Newcomb, 24, of Mt. Vernon, was sentenced on May 18, 2000, to a period of six years to be probated for a period of five years for the offenses of two counts of burglary, third degree and four counts of theft by unlawful taking over $300. Newcomb admitted that he was convicted of DUI, first, alcohol intoxication, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

He also admitted to the use of methamphetamine on two separate occasions, while on probation. Newcomb's original sentence of six years imprisonment was imposed by Circuit Judge William T. Cain.

Montgomery also stated that, Donald Newcomb, 21, of Mt. Vernon, was sentenced on June 11, 1999, to a period of six years imprisonment probated for a period of five years for the offenses of three counts of burglary, third degree, five counts of theft by

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High in June 91

Twenty-three out of the thirty days in June, the mercury climbed to over 80 degrees, with the high for the month of 91 degrees being recorded on June 4th, according to local weatherman Bud Cox.

Cox said that he recorded 4.21 inches of rainfall for the month and that the low temperature was 53 degree on the 17th.

On Monday the mercury climbed to 89 at the weather station in Mt. Vernon and on Tuesday the temperature was 70 degrees at 8 a.m. but climbed to 87, before rainfall caused the temperature to drop to 73 by 4 p.m.

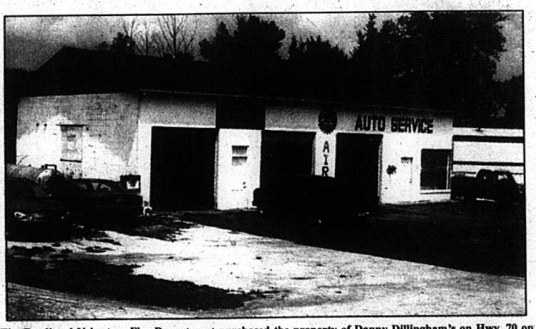
Bluegrass Festival

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center is putting on the final touches for a busy summer weekend with the 19th annual Old Joe Clark Bluegrass Festival on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Bluegrass music fans are in for a real treat with three consecutive days of pure non-stop bluegrass bliss.

(Cont. to A-5)

The Lewis Family

Shown above is a preacher with the The Lamb of God Ministry, which is one of three ministries to hold church services at the Rockcastle County Detention Center each week. He is baptizing an inmate at Lake Linville in April. Several inmates have been baptized in the past year, seven during April. Church services are available to inmates at the detention center on Monday, Thursday and Sunday.



The Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department purchased the property of Danny Dillingham's on Hwy. 70 on Saturday for $45,500. Brodhead Rural Fire Chief Johnny Benge said that the garage and lot will be converted to a fire department substation for the western portion of the county. The new fire station will eventually lower insurance rates for residents in the area. Benge said the Rural Department already had a fire truck and that as soon as possible they would convert the building to a fire station. The fire department is soliciting and accepting donations to help pay for the property. For more information contact Benge at (606) 758-0206 or Brodhead Council member Everett Albright at (606) 758-9633. Donations can also be made at Citizens Bank in Brodhead and at B & L Grocery in Quail.