

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

In an attempt to clarify some important issues regarding the disputed Oscar Isaac Road, the O'Neals feel that our readers of the Signal should hear from the other side, because you are only hearing what the fiscal court wants you to hear, and the O'Neals names keep appearing if the Signal by Buzz Carlotta. We think this is because he wants to keep it at front and center of the controversy he keeps referring to. We don't appreciate this and request that he cease and desist from such activity!

Buzz Carlotta needs to put the blame of the controversy in its proper perspective, since he now has a rather extensive survey of the Oscar Isaac Road, showing the amount of land taken from the O'Neals property. The citizens have a right to know the truth. If he would tell you the true facts about this controversy, he would remind you that the fiscal court violated state regulations in 1976 when it accepted a 15 foot right-of-way into its road plan. He would also tell you that road maintenance, such as mowing and road patching, has been continued by the county on the Oscar Isaac Road to current date. He would tell you that the deed transferring this road property to the county in 1976 is defective, which means it has a cloud on the title. You must not knowingly deed away property which does not belong to you. He, too, would tell you that the O'Neals lost part of their Tract #2 due to corner shaving, their private 15 foot right-of-way to Tract #3 and other land from Tract #3 running parallel with the road due to public encroachment.

Here is how the 15 foot right-of-way became property of the O'Neals through a chain of title. Private right-of-ways, like buildings and other

things such as fences and trees, transfer along with the property unless there is a restriction clause in the deed. Our research revealed no such clause. In 1943 Oscar Isaac Road deeded his brother, Charlie, a 20 acre tract along with a 15 foot right-of-way to that property, Charlie Isaac, 1944, after building a road upon that property along with his father, Albert (see court record testimony) deeded Walter Miracle the 20 acre tract; Walter Miracle, 1945, deeded Wm. (Bill) Sparks 12 acres of this tract, subsequently becoming Tract #3 of William Sparks. He had already bought two other tracts from Walter Miracle. In 1946 James Sparks deeded the other eight acres by Walter Miracle. In 1967 the O'Neals purchased all three tracts of the William Sparks' property from the Sparks' heirs.

The person who deeded the county the now called Oscar Isaac Road in 1976, according to research through the recorded deeds in the Rockcastle County Clerk's Office, never regained title to any portion of this 20 acre tract, including the 15 foot right-of-way, since 1943.

In closing, we ask the readers to decide for themselves who caused the controversy! Also, ponder in your mind who has contributed the most land toward the improvement of this road. The only money we are getting from our land is for the additional land granted through the condemnation suit.

Denver O'Neal

Oscar Isaac Road

Dear Editor,

The Family Life Abuse Center is a domestic violence program that provides shelter and other assistance to victims of domestic violence (women, men and children). Our program serves the Cumberland Area

District - which includes Rockcastle, Laurel, Whitley, Knox, Bell, Harlan, Jackson and Clay counties. Services are cost free and based upon the individual's need. Referrals are made regarding community resources such as housing, education or job training, as well as group or individual counseling. There are victims advocates who work within our shelter to provide legal advocacy. My position within the program is to raise community awareness and educate the public regarding domestic violence.

The month of October is a time when domestic violence advocates around the nation draw attention to the epidemic of domestic violence and its devastating consequences. In research conducted by the United States Department of Justice, 53% of all victims of crime identify the offender(s) as an intimate partner, relative, friend or acquaintance. Victims identified intimate partners (current or former spouses, boy or girlfriends) as the perpetrator in 10% of all violent crimes. (Remission, 2001).

This year, we are asking people to help and this epidemic by providing support to domestic violence victims and to inform perpetrators there is no excuse for abuse. The Family Life Abuse Center will hold a candlelight vigil to honor domestic violence survivors and pay tribute to those who lost their lives as a result of abuse. This event will take place on Thursday, October 3rd at the Mt. Vernon Courthouse Lawn at 7 p.m.

In conjunction with the candlelight vigil, we have developed a community awareness project entitled "The Safe Site" as a way to educate the public about domestic violence and to provide information specific to our program. The project includes informational brochures to be placed in bathrooms and a clear vinyl sticker to be placed on window fronts indicating the phone inside may be used to contact our program or the police. We are calling upon local businesses and community organizations (libraries, banks, police departments, health care facilities, social service organizations, schools, etc.) to participate in promoting domestic violence awareness. The best way to do so is to create a supportive environment within the community.

We are asking the community to display purple ribbons during this month as well. The purple ribbon campaign began as a way to honor and remember loved ones who lost their lives to domestic violence. The symbol has been adopted by domestic violence advocates, friends and families as a visible gesture of support for survivors and victims of domestic violence. The display of purple ribbons sends the message there is no place for domestic violence in the home, workplace, community or school.

We need to understand that domestic violence is our business. When a neighbor, friend, co-worker, or family member is suffering, they need to know help is available.

Domestic violence is not something that can be regarded as a "pri-

vate affair" any longer. Only once we begin to understand the dynamics of abuse can we make a difference. To join our efforts, please contact our program (see number below). Thank

RHRCC presents weekly column

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc., announces the beginning of a new public service for its patients. Beginning October 3, the hospital and its medical staff will present a weekly medical column in the Mt. Vernon Signal on topics of interest to persons in our area. These articles will include information and advice in the areas of medicine, surgery, sports medicine and wellness. According to Steve Estes, CEO of Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc., "Our mission is to deliver the highest quality of healthcare to those we serve. I believe that this educational effort will allow the hospital and our medical staff to accomplish that mission."

The articles will concentrate on prevention of problems, when to seek care for symptoms or medical illnesses and what options and treatments are available. The articles will help a person understand what symptoms he or she can take care of at home and when he or she should be checked at the clinic or hospital. "We hope that our physicians will be able to share information with the community with our goal to have a healthier Rockcastle County," says Dr. Tony Arvin, Chief of Staff at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc.

Among the first articles to be presented will be *Guard Against Pneumonia, Time for Flu Shots, What High Blood Pressure Does to You, Are You Suffering from Back Pain? Start Exercising, Exercise to Lose Weight, Preventing Problems with Cysts and Skin Cancers are Common on the Face.*

Since Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. and its medical staff want this column to be as useful as possible to its patients, they encourage readers to call or

you for your consideration. Shana Goggins, Family Life Abuse Center Outreach Educator; Donna Randall, Family Life Center Victim Advocate

write to the hospital or their physician with topics they would most like to see. "It is important to our physicians that we inform patients and members of our community about topics that are important to them and their families," says Kristal Harper, Director of Rockcastle Medical Arts. Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. looks forward to comments and suggestions from readers on making this a worthwhile service for the public.



Taco Bell

SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

Big Beef Nacho Supreme

12" x 12"

Redeem this coupon and receive 50¢ off any combo meal

Located at Exit 62 - Mt. Vernon

Notice

The RCHS Marching Band members will be busy on Saturday, September 28th working to raise money for new band equipment and a trip to the Disney Magic Days Band Competition held in Orlando, Florida. Some of the band members will be working at Pizza Hut and others will be holding a car washing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rocket Car Wash, next door to Wendy's. Come by and get your car washed and go to Pizza Hut for a good meal. Donations will be accepted.

Bus Drills Early Dismissal

The Rockcastle County Schools will be conducting bus drills on Wednesday, October 2, 2002. The Rockcastle County High School and Middle School will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. Buses will then proceed to the elementary schools where the drills will be conducted. Please adjust your schedule for this early dismissal. No school on Thursday and Friday, October 3rd and 4th for CKEA.

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LET'S DANCE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

COSTUME! HULA-HOOPS! BOWLING! REFRESHMENTS! PRIZES!

Date: Saturday, October 12.

Time: 8:00 p.m. to Midnight

Cost: \$10.00 Single/\$20.00 Couple

Where: Acton Folk Center

Tickets available at all Berea National Bank locations

refreshments

50's music/dancing

*hula-hoop, limbo, & best costume contest

*bowling & games

*door prizes & vintage cars will be on display

SPONSORS:

Pizza Hut

Dominos' Pizza

Papaleno's

Papa John's

Coca-Cola Bottling

Blockbuster Video

Recordsmith

Sonic Drive-In

Lee's Famous Recipe

Video Productions

Subway of Berea

Superior/Ala Food Mart

Bent's Restaurant

Blondie's Ice Cream Parlor

EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
T. Kevin Flanery, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Dana Mayton, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable George C. Carlotta, Rockcastle County Judge/Executive
Honorable Norma Houk, Rockcastle County Clerk
Members of the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Clerk of Rockcastle County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2001. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in **Government Auditing Standards** issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the **Audit Guide for County Fee Officials** issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2001, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with **Government Auditing Standards**, we have also issued our report dated May 20, 2002, on our consideration of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with **Government Auditing Standards** and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following reportable condition:

- Lacks Adequate Segregation of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed - May 20, 2002