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Mount Vernon Signal

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Grand Jury issues one indictment

The only indictment returned by the Rockcastle County Grand Jury on Friday was against a Mt. Vernon man, who had recently been released on parole.

Danny Ray "Bird" Bustle, 34, of Mt. Vernon was named in a four count indictment in connection with a September 28th incident involving his estranged wife.

Count one accuses Bustle of unlawful imprisonment, first degree by knowingly and unlawfully restraining the liberty of Lisa Ann Bustle and under circumstances which exposed her to a risk of serious physical injury.

Count two accuses Bustle of four degree assault by hitting his estranged wife causing physical injury.

Count three accuses Bustle of custodial interference, by knowingly without legal right taking the couple's juvenile son from the custody of his estranged wife without permission.

Count four accuses Bustle of being a persistent felony offender because he had been convicted in 1999 of Arson.

Bustle's bond was set at \$15,000 cash, ten percent, or \$1,500. He has not been arrested.

Fall has been wet

The months of September and October have been very wet and unseasonably warm.

According to statistics from the Cox Funeral Home weather station, during September the mercury climbed above the 80 degree mark 21 of the 30 days with the high for the month being 95 on the ninth and tenth. The low for the month was 43 on the 24th.

During the month of September a total of 4.32 inches of rain fell. Already in October 4.29 inches of rain has been recorded with the most falling on October tenth when 1.77 inches fell.

Rain has been recorded eight of the sixteen days in October and the temperature has been 80 or better four of the 16 days in the month, with the high of 85 being recorded on the third. The low for the month was 38, which was recorded on the fourth.

Rehab Center gets good report card

Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (RHRC) recently earned accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The status was awarded following a comprehensive on-site review of the facility and its operations in September.

Only about six percent of the state's 304 nursing facilities have achieved JCAHO accreditation. Most of these are within acute care facilities, while freestanding facilities such as RHRC rarely are accredited. The standards required by the JCAHO are even more demanding than federal and state regulations.

"We're extremely pleased that Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center was able to meet this challenge on its first attempt," said Steve Ester, President and CEO of Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Center, Inc. "It is important to us that all of the facilities and programs operated by our organization achieve and maintain the highest level of quality, and this accreditation is evidence that Rockcastle Health does just that."

Joseph E. Lambert, Chairman of the Board for RHRC, said that the achievement demonstrates that the county's only nursing facility is community-centered.

"Local ownership and management is at the heart of what this organization is all about. We are solely focused on providing exceptional care by highly trained healthcare professionals who are part of this community," Lambert said. "We want everyone in the area to join with us as we celebrate this accomplishment."

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A large crowd attended the annual Bittersweet Festival in Mt. Vernon over the weekend. The annual parade was quite a show for the spectators on hand. In the top photo is Mt. Vernon's new fire truck which was purchased from a firm in New York. In the second photo is the RCHS Marching Band. In the third photo is the RCHS Dance Team and at left is Ms. Crystie Hughes with her daughter, Sydney. See more photos from the festival inside this week's Signal. Photos of the Baby Contest and entertainers will appear in next week's Signal.

Photos By: Richard Anderkin

Three receive sentences in federal prison

Three Rockcastle County residents were sentenced October 3rd in federal court on drug related charges.

According to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's office in London, Wally "Junie" Kirby, 45, Juanita McCormick Watkins, 33, and Billy Jack Rayburn, 24, of Rockcastle County pled guilty on June 17th.

Kirby and Watkins pled guilty to manufacturing methamphetamine, (meth).

According to authorities, the two were manufacturing meth in the woods behind Castle Village on September 3rd when then Brodhead City Police Officer William Harris received a tip that the production lab was there.

Kirby received ten years and one month of jail time and Watkins received a sentence of ten years incarceration.

Both were also sentenced to three years of supervised probation, after

they serve their time.

Rayburn pled guilty to possessing equipment to make meth.

He received a sentence of three years in federal prison, also followed by three years of supervised probation.

According to Gregory F. Van Tatanhove, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, the guilty pleas also involved other

cases and several agencies participated in the case. Some of the others involved were members of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Mt. Vernon City Police Department and the Rockcastle County Sheriff's office.

Kirby is certainly no stranger to jail time. In 1995, he shot and killed his pregnant girlfriend.

McKinney remains CEO of powerful burley co-op

The party line held last Wednesday at the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative, but the opposition made itself heard.

By a three-vote margin, Henry West of Paint Lick held off a challenge from Roger Quarles of Georgetown to retain the presidency and control of the organization.

Quarles said he was disappointed. "But I think we've done some good here," he said. "I think the 13 votes (for Quarles) indicated they'd like some changes made."

West pledged to work with all 30 members of the board of directors, including his detractors. Seven directors - two new and five incumbents - were sworn in last Wednesday, along with four at-large incumbents.

West, who has been president for a year, has been criticized for the way several contentious issues were handled by the board, including purchasing a \$1.2 million tobacco warehouse to turn it into a co-op receiving station.

"I'm aware that I've made some

decisions that haven't been popular," West said afterward. "I'll certainly listen to my critics more. It was never my intent to exclude anybody... Maybe it was a lack of communication."

Criticism has also swirled around the co-op's CEO, Danny McKinney, of Brodhead. McKinney was also re-elected to his office, but after an unusual vote.

McKinney was the sole nominee, but out of the 39 directors who voted, nine voted against him.

West said he saw the vote as a "statement of support of Danny... I think two-thirds is a pretty supportive vote." West also defended McKinney's \$135,000-plus salary and benefits package, which critics have called exorbitant.

"Danny is paid well, but I think he deserves it," West said. As to comments that McKinney really controls West, West said, "I do depend on Danny. I trust his judgment. We don't always agree." West said in those

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Gospel music celebration

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center is the place you will want to include as part of your travel plans if you enjoy gospel music. An outstanding variety of gospel shows will be part of the annual Gospel Music Celebration on October 17, 18 and 19.

Gospel favorite, The Primitive will perform in the New Barn on

Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$13.00 and \$15.00 each plus tax and handling. On Friday, October 18, The Kaprielis and the River in the Old Barn Theater for two performances at 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Tickets are \$14.00 each plus tax and handling.

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Bittersweet Festival 2002 deemed a great success

Special to the Signal

The 2002 Bittersweet Festival was alive and well. The attendance was definitely increased and planning participation was also. Mount Vernon Renaissance Director and Bittersweet Coordinator Carol Bryant solicited the help of the local Kiwanis Club to help plan and produce this year's event. Several additional community leaders came on board to help and the festival was off and running.

The advertising theme for the city is "Main Street Mount Vernon, Welcome Home!" The Bittersweet Festival is taking on a grass roots, back to basics atmosphere. This is in keeping with the historic preservation efforts of the Mount Vernon Renaissance KY Committee. In addition to the Bittersweet Festival, this committee is planning more events to draw people to our beautiful downtown area. Restoration and rehabilitation of some downtown buildings is already in progress and new businesses will economically revitalize the town.

The festival included the second annual baby pageant, a variety of music from gospel and contemporary

Christian to bluegrass and country. The sound equipment was provided by Bentley Cromer and the coffee house steps served as a stage. The entertainment committee from Kiwanis did an outstanding job with the line up of entertainers. Volunteers for the entertainment committee were Connie Graham, Joanne Robbins, Teresa Vanzant and James Miller.

The baby pageant and parade were coordinated by Dana Mason, who did an excellent job with both events. The vendors and decorations committee volunteers were Kathy McCauley, Debbie Brown, Rebekah Hammond and Shelly Bradley.

The City of Mount Vernon also donated the time of employees: Chris Robinson, Dale Cotton, Herb Johnson and Eddie Stewart to help with general maintenance and decorations. James Miller provided four volunteers that helped with decorations and keeping the streets clean. It really does "take a village" to produce a good festival.

No Southern festival would be complete without cloggers and a parade and this year both were standing. The Bittersweet Cloggers

solicited audience participation and proved themselves people ready to lend their left foot from their right foot. The parade was an excellent blend of area organization and political candidates with the RCHS Flag Team and Band leading. The Mount Vernon Fire Department, along with Brodhead, Livingston and Brindle Ridge were on hand with sirens and bells. R-Tec transportation vehicles, go-carts and horses, antique cars and hot-rods all were on hand to display community involvement and interest.

The vendors were very happy with the flow of people and several commented about how wonderful it was to see so many children having a good time. They also noticed how clean our town is and how caring the festival committee was to check on them and take care of any needs that might arise. The food, crafts, servers, churches, and fund-raising booths, all seemed to do well. The Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum booth provided information and items for sale. They also provided live WRVW radio coverage during the festival.

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