



Mountain Signal

ISSN 0000-0000
ROCKCASTLE LIBRARY
60 FORD DR.
MOUNT VERNON KY 40456-2148

le County Since 1887

Mountain, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 117 - Number 6 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50 a copy - Thursday, November 14, 2002



Main Street in Mt. Vernon has not been the safest of places lately for motorists. Three wrecks, including the one shown above, have happened in the past few weeks. The above wreck happened last Wednesday, before that wreck in the same location on Old U.S. 25 and Main Street, five vehicles were involved. The latest wreck on Main occurred on Sunday. Luckily no one has been seriously injured.

Trial dates set for alleged drug dealers

Reprinted from *The Advocate Messenger* Thursday, November 7, 2002

By Allison Wray
Staff Writer

Eleven people recently were arrested and indicted for their involvement in an alleged major drug trafficking ring headed up by former Mt. Vernon police officer Larry Gene Thompson, Sr.

The investigation leading up to the arrests lasted nearly 15 months and exposed cocaine and marijuana trafficking from Texas to Kentucky, according to the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to criminal complaint affidavits from DEA Task Force Agents Steve Koerner and Frank Hicks, and several confidential witnesses and several cooperating defendants were secured who led to the arrests of Thompson, Sr., 46, Paul Napier Road, Brookfield and also of R. L. Brodhead, Joshua D. McClure, 20, 675 Ky. 198, McKinney; Darlene Moore, 37, and George Moore, 47, both of 125 Brookview Road; Hustonville; Larry Gene Thompson, Jr., 22, R. L. Brodhead; Nathaniel L. Pope, 20, Danville; Bobby Thompson, 54, Stanford; Raul Rome, 32, Stanford; Greta Thompson, R. L. Mt. Vernon; Julio Salvador DeJesus Reyes-Munoz, 30, Brookfield and William Montavious Hughes. All defendants, with the exception of Thompson, Sr., are scheduled for a jury trial at 9 a.m. Jan. 2 in U.S. District Court in Lexington. A jury trial for Thompson, Sr. is set for 9 a.m., January 5.

Charges

According to the indictment, Thompson, Sr., Thompson, Jr., R. L. Brodhead, Greta Thompson, Pope, Hughes, Durham, Darlene Moore, George Moore and Reyes-Munoz, all face one count of conspiring to knowingly and intentionally distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, five kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine.

That count carries a possible sentence of not less than 10 years and not more than life imprisonment, not more than a \$4 million fine, or both and supervised release not less than five years.

Twenty-seven other counts, involving the previously mentioned defendants, have been filed. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Walker said the court expects to prosecute to the highest degree in each case.

The investigation A confidential witness told police and DEA agents that during the last part of 1999, he/she began purchasing multi-ounce quantities of powdered cocaine from a man in connection with Thompson, Sr. and was told that a Mexican in McAllen, Texas, was supplying the ring with about 20 kilograms of cocaine every other week.

On March 11, 2002, a cooperating witness said that he/she had been buying high quality cocaine from Robert "Bobby" Durham, whom he/she had met in the McAllen area. The

witness said Durham was arrested with several hundred Oxycontin pills in Texas. The affidavit says that on February 18, 2001, Durham was arrested in Texas for felony possession of a controlled substance, but that charge was dismissed and purged.

The witness also said Durham's suppliers were "those Thompsons" and that the head of the organization was the "old man." The witness said Junior Thompson, also referred to as Larry Thompson, Jr. was selling for the "old man," also referred to as Thompson, Sr.

The affidavit also said the witness testified Thompson, Sr. to Scott Newcomb, who was arrested on January 25, 2000 on drug charges. Newcomb was given 96 months imprisonment with 10 years supervised release and is currently in the federal penitentiary in Manchester.

An earlier investigation of Calvin Allen and others involved in a cocaine trafficking ring in the Lexington area, produced a cooperating defendant for investigators. The defendant said he/she had been purchasing kilogram quantities of cocaine from Joshua McClure, stepson of Thompson, Sr. The defendant said he/she purchased six kilograms of cocaine from McClure for \$31,000 per kilogram prior to his/her arrest.

In August, 2001, an interview was conducted with another confidential witness who said he/she began selling cocaine in the Stanford area at

the age of 16.

That witness stated that through his/her relationship with Newcomb and Thompson, Sr.'s daughter, he met Thompson, Sr. and had purchased cocaine from him on four occasions.

Lexington Drug Enforcement Administration officers began working with a confidential witness in 2001 to survey the purchasing of cocaine from those involved in the trafficking ring.

State police supplied the witness with pre-serialized U.S. currency for purchasing. Several of those arrested were observed with cocaine through ground and air surveillance, the affidavit said.

Arrests

On August 11, state police arrested Thompson, Jr. for alleged possession of about two ounces of cocaine. DEA reported in the affidavit they received an anonymous complaint regarding suspected drug activity at the residence of Thompson, Jr. and Nicky Thompson, who are also listed as having a residence in the Sand Spring community, located near Eubank.

Richard Badaracco of the DEA said the investigation of the trafficking ring is still on-going and more arrests are expected.

The majority of those allegedly involved in the trafficking were arrested October 16. Most arrests took place at the individual's homes; (Cont. to A-12)

In excess of \$10,000

County receives bill for pregnant prisoner

By Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court got some bad news from Rockcastle County treasurer Joe Glantz on Tuesday.

During their regular monthly meeting, Glantz told the court that the Rockcastle County Detention Center had received a bill for over \$10,000 for a female prisoner who had delivered a child while in the custody of the jail.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette told the court that it was his understanding that Jacqueline Goforth, 24, had been released from jail, on bond, because she was nine months pregnant, a couple days before her child was born.

However, Burdette said that Goforth was arrested a couple days later after police allegedly found an illegal drug in her possession.

"She broke the law and I've just one of those things, she was arrested and the same day she had her child," he said.

The most discussion concerning the bill was about whether or not the county was responsible, even though Goforth was in the custody of a deputy jailer at the time of the birth.

The largest of the \$10,000 plus bill was from the University of Kentucky Medical Center and dated back to January of this year.

Burdette also said it was his understanding that the case against Goforth was to have gone before the Rockcastle County Grand Jury, but as of now had not.

The court also discussed the recently opened Rockcastle Animal Shelter at length.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotti, magistrates and the county attorney discussed what would be the best operating hours, fees and which is going to be the best way to euthanize the animals at the shelter with director Christina Trump.

The current hours for the shelter are 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The court also set an adoption fee of \$20 for dogs and \$10 for cats.

Those people who cannot show proof that they are in-county residents will also have to pay a \$10 fee to drop off an animal.

Trump also told the court that one person had been dead-end-penned at the shelter was the wiring system, which allowed the freezer, which houses the dead animals to shut down.

Once an animal is euthanized it is wrapped and frozen and later disposed of at a landfill.

Trump said that after the freezer shut-off some of the animals thawed, which made for quite a smell.

The court agreed to have someone fix the wiring so that it could carry the electrical requirements of the freezer.

Magistrate Bill McKinney told the court that they would have to take a wait and see attitude for now because they were trading new waters with the animal shelter and that hours of operations, fees and other services at the shelter would likely have to be changed in the next several months.

The court also set a date of De-

cember 16th for a public hearing concerning the five year report on Solid Waste in Rockcastle County. That hearing will be held at 10 a.m. at the local courthouse.

The court also appointed Roy Reynolds, Patty Himes, Brenda Powell and Millie Eaton to the Rockcastle Extension Board.

Clerk says apparently no election problems

Rockcastle County Clerk Norma Houk announced this week that alleged problems at the North Mt. Vernon Voting Precinct last Tuesday were apparently unwarranted.

Mrs. Houk said that the election board met with officials from the precinct after the allegations were made that some voters may have voted twice or just left after they signed in, only to come back and vote later.

Mrs. Houk said that the sign-in book showed 385 people signing in and the voting machine showed 385 people voting.

She also said that there was not white-out in the sign-in book, as had been alleged by some.

She said that none of the candidates in last week's General Election had asked for a re-count of the vote totals, although some of the races in the county were very close.

Christmas in the Valley

The Kentucky Tourism Council has selected Christmas in the Valley as one of the Commonwealth's winter holiday "Top Ten" events.

Christmas in the Valley is held every weekend November 15-December 14, in Renfro Valley.

A panel of impartial judges selects the Kentucky Tourism Council "Top Ten" Events for each season. Criteria for selection include popularity of the event, its impact on the local tourism economy as well as cultural and historical significance.

For more information, contact Renfro Valley Entertainment Center at (800) 765-7464.

In Climax

Newest Rockcastle business to open soon

The newest Rockcastle County industry is not located in either of the Rockcastle County Industrial Parks. It's not located in any of the three Rockcastle County towns either.

Actually for this new industry it

would be impossible for it to be located just about anywhere else in Rockcastle County than where it is.

King bottling, inc. is located at Climax and is the latest business venture of local developer and former

grocery store owner David King, of Mt. Vernon.

The reason for its location is the Old Fred Mullins Spring, which has now been renamed Rockcastle (Cont. to A-12)



King bottling inc. will open in Climax in January.



225,000 gallons of spring water emits from the Rockcastle Springs at Climax each day. The spring is the source for a new Rockcastle plant, which will bottle water and provide bulk water.