

Mount Vernon Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244

Volume 127 • Number 14

.50 per copy

Thursday, March 21, 2013



An Orlando man was seriously injured early Saturday morning after he fell more than 30 feet into a vent shaft in a wooded area behind Citizens Bank in Mt. Vernon, while allegedly trying to escape from police. According to state police reports, Elmer Lewis Stewart, 29, of Orlando fell in a tunnel vent shaft at the Hanson Aggregates Rock Quarry after he parked his car in the Citizens Bank parking lot and ran into the woods. Police believe Stewart was trying to avoid a road block because of an active warrant for his arrest for fleeing and evading police. Stewart was transported by ambulance to Rockcastle Regional Hospital and was airlifted to the UK Medical Center. He is currently listed in stable condition and is being treated for a broken leg and several severe lacerations. Police said Stewart would be arrested on the warrant once he is released from the hospital. Shown above are the Brodhead and Mt. Vernon Fire Departments forming a rope rescue.

Man seriously injured after falling into vent shaft early Saturday

By: Doug Ponder

An Orlando man was seriously injured around 2 a.m. Saturday after he fell more than 30 feet into a vent shaft in a wooded area behind Citizens Bank in Mt. Vernon, while allegedly trying to escape from police.

According to state police reports, trooper Adam Childress and Mt. Vernon police officer Ed Robinson were conducting a road block at the intersection of Hwy 150 and Williams Street when they noticed a vehicle pull into the Citizens Bank parking lot.

After noticing that the vehicle's operator didn't use the ATM machine, officers proceeded to the Citizens Bank parking lot to investigate the suspicious vehicle. Once officers arrived, they found the vehicle abandoned and observed that the vehicle's engine was still hot.

Officers had begun to search the surrounding area for the driver when they heard someone screaming for help in the woods behind Citizens Bank. Moments later officers found Elmer Lewis Stewart, 29, of Orlando in a tunnel vent shaft in a wooded area at the Hanson Aggregates Rock Quarry.

Officers then contacted Rockcastle 911 to inform them of the situation. Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue and Brodhead Fire Department responded to the scene and performed a rope rescue to safely bring Stewart up the steep vent shaft.

Stewart was transported by ambulance to Rockcastle Regional Hospital and was airlifted to the UK Medical Center. He is currently listed in stable condition and is being treated for a broken leg and several severe lacerations.

Officers said they believe that Stewart was trying to avoid the road block because of an active warrant for his arrest for fleeing and evading police and, reportedly, that he did not have a driver's license. Officers said Stewart would be arrested on the warrant once he is released from the hospital.

City of Livingston now saving \$500 a month after energy audit grant

By: Doug Ponder

The City of Livingston is saving more than \$500 a month, after receiving an energy audit grant from the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative, which helped them discover they had been overpaying KU for energy used at their wastewater treatment plant.

The city of Livingston discovered they could save around \$500 a month on their wastewater treatment plant electric bill after engineers performed tests in

Comedy show is this Friday at MVES

Rockcastle Regional Hospital will host a family comedy show at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School on Friday, March 22nd at 6 p.m.

The comedy show will feature local comedian Drew Davidson. Davidson is a 2007 RCHS graduate and a 2011 Northern Kentucky University graduate with a bachelor's degree in acting performance.

He has recently performed stand-up comedy routines at numerous prominent comedy clubs such as the Go Bananas Comedy Club in Cincinnati, Ohio Funny Bone Comedy Club in Newport and Comedy Off Broadway in Lexington.

Tickets purchased before the event are \$2 each for students (ages 4-17) and \$4 each for adults. Tickets purchased at the event are \$3 each for students and \$5 each for adults. Children who are three years old and under will be admitted free.

Advance tickets will be available through Thursday and can be purchased from Arielle Estes at Rockcastle Regional Hospital or Melinda Kincer at Mt. Vernon Elementary.

Proceeds will go to the March of Dimes Foundation to improve the health of mothers and their babies. For more information contact Arielle Estes at 606-256-7880.

February to identify energy conservation opportunities. The RCDI grant paid all expenses for the Rural Communities Assistance Program to perform an energy audit at the plant.

Land Sale to White House Clinic held up

At a special called meeting of the Rockcastle Industrial Development board last Thursday, representatives of White House Clinic were told the price of land they want to buy in Rockcastle Business Park South had gone from \$75,000 to \$87,825, as a result of a survey completed by Kentucky Surveyors. The survey added .513 acres to the site and \$12,825 to the cost.

Stephanie Moore, a White House Clinic representative, asked the board to consider selling the 3.513 total acreage for \$75,000, which would adjust the per acre price to \$21,349.27, or have the property resurveyed to omit the easements that total .508 acres.

The board decided to go into closed session at that point to discuss the proposals. Later, in open session, the board told Moore that they had opted to keep the

During the energy audit, RCAP discovered that the city was paying Kentucky Utilities more than they should for their allotted electric usage. Since 2009, the city has been paying a

property at the surveyed 3.513 acres but offered two options: 1) White House Clinic purchases the 3.513 acres at the asking price of \$25,000 per acre for a total cost of \$87,825 or 2) White House pays the \$75,000, up front and makes annual payments of \$2,565 for five years, at which time title to the property would be transferred to White House.

Moore, and another White House representative to the meeting Chuck Morgan, told the board they would take the proposal back to their board meeting, scheduled for March 28th.

The next meeting of the RCIDA board is set for Monday, April 8th at 11:30 a.m.

"power service rate" for electric at the plant. The PS rate plan is offered by KU to customers who use over 50 KW a month and do not exceed 250 KW.

However, the audit revealed that the city had only been using an average of 8.5 KW a month at the plant since 2009.

Mayor Jason Medley said he contacted KU when he first learned of the audit and switched their wastewater account over to a better rate. He said they now pay based off a general service rate that KU offers for customers who use under 50 KW a month.

"When I first saw the results of the audit, I called KU and switched our account from the PS rate to the GS rate," Medley said. "No one would disagree to something that would offer us the same service and save the city more than \$500 on their monthly electric bill."

Although the wastewater plant used nowhere near 50 KW, Medley said KU still charged the city a cheaper

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Monday storms wreaks havoc in Rockcastle Co.

By: Doug Ponder

A severe storm system moved across the state on Monday, bringing severe thunderstorms, heavy rains and high winds to the county within a twenty-four hour period.

The storm system wreaked havoc for many residents and businesses in Mt. Vernon who experienced a power outage as a result of a blown transformer at the Ramsey Trailer Park on Davis Street in Mt. Vernon.

According to CSEPP Director Hal Holbrook, lightning struck a transformer around 12:30 p.m. in the Ramsey Trailer Park, causing it to blow and catch on fire. Fortunately, he said the fire extinguished itself after a few minutes preventing any serious damage to the resident's homes in the trailer park.

Kentucky Utilities crews responded to the scene and had

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Renfro Valley begins its 2013 season

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center began its 74th season March 1st. Renfro Valley is second only to the Grand Old Opry in its longevity.

The season has started under new management with Doris Sanders assuming the position of President/CEO in January.

"I look forward to an opportunity to work with a wonderful team and learn and grow in my new position," Sanders said. "I have high expectations and goals for a great 2013 season."

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Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue and Mt. Vernon Police Department responded to a two vehicle accident Wednesday afternoon at the intersection of Williams Street and West Main Street in Mt. Vernon. Authorities say a white Jeep Cherokee, driven by Harold Spears, 24, of Somerset, was traveling north on Williams Street when it struck a grey Ford Focus driven by Brian Mullins, 28, of Brodhead, who was traveling west on West Main Street. Spears' passenger, Maria J. Holsing, 51, of Mt. Vernon, had to be extricated from the Jeep Cherokee and she was transported by ambulance to Rockcastle Regional Hospital. Her condition was unknown at publication.

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