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Mount Vernon Signal

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City keeps policeman Jim Rhodus

City Policeman Jim Rhodus will remain a policeman for at least 30 more days.

That was the decision of the Mt. Vernon City Council at a called meeting Friday, called to discuss the status of Rhodus, and to discuss a new policeman to replace Tyree Gray Jr., who transferred from the police to the city sewer plant.

At a previous meeting, Police Chief Joe Howard recommended Jamie Fortner, 24, be hired to replace Tyree.

Rhodus, who has been city patrolman for the Lake Linville area this summer, had asked to replace Tyree, but Chief Howard declined to recommend him.

That brought a rebuff from Councilman Tom Welch who called Rhodus the best policeman Mt. Vernon has had in a long time, and a man deserving of continued employment as a policeman.

Rhodus was hired as a part-time, temporary officer for late

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Post office site unchanged

Postal Service officials reaffirmed this week that the property chosen earlier for a new post office at Mt. Vernon will be purchased.

The service said in a news release that it will purchase the Henderson property at the intersection of Richmond and Lewis Streets for the new post office.

Reportedly, the purchase is not closed, but the Postal Service is obligated to exercise its option. Rumors have persisted locally that the post office will be located at another site.

The site contains 22,900 square feet and was chosen over several other sites in the city by a committee representing the postal service.

Miss Rockcastle...



Miss Julie Dowell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Dowell of Mt. Vernon, was crowned Miss Rockcastle USA 1987 at the annual pageant Saturday night at the high school. Miss Dowell, a senior at RCHS, was also named Miss Photogenic. (See other pageant pictures on second front)

Car hits house



Terry Goff of Pine Hill talks with ambulance attendant Wayne Sowder following a one-car accident Tuesday lat Pine Hill. Goff was one of four in the car that went over an embankment and crashed into a house. Goff was later hospitalized in fair condition.

Four hurt in Pine Hill wreck

The Pine Hill curve that has a history of serious accidents, was the scene of another one Tuesday afternoon.

Four persons were injured, one seriously, when a car driven by Geraldine Allen rounded the curve southbound on U.S. 25 went out of control, plunged over an embankment and slammed into a house.

Passengers in the car included Terry Goff of Pine Hill who was

admitted to Rockcastle County Hospital for injuries. His condition Wednesday was described as fair.

James Lewis Mink was taken to the hospital where he was treated and released.

James Singleton of Red Hill received a scratch on his arm and declined treatment.

Mrs. Allen was taken to Rockcastle County Hospital treated and sent to the University

of Kentucky Medical Center where her condition Wednesday was described as serious.

The front of the auto was crushed under the floor of the house. The windshield was pushed back into Mrs. Allen's face. It took ambulance attendants nearly 45 minutes to free her. A wrecker was used to pull the car from under the house.

No one in the house was reported injured.

Dry weather effecting crops

There hasn't been enough rain during September to get your big toe wet, someone remarked the other day.

They were right. There's only been 1.46 inches of rain between Sept. 1 and 20.

If discounting .43 of an inch that fell on Aug. 31 but recorded at Cox Funeral Home Weather Station as is the normal procedure, on Sept. 1, then only 1.30 has fallen, well below last year, when there was 2.20 inches on Sept. 25 that brought the month's total to well over five inches.

September to date (as of Tuesday) has had about average temperatures. The high this month was 88 on Sept. 11. The

low was 44 on Sept. 2.

Incidentally, Sunday night's low was 50 and Monday night's low was 47. A few milder showers were expected but they were predicted to be very light, if at all.

Some areas of the state were feeling the results of very little rain. Close-by Madison County has had a near rain free month.

In Rockcastle, late or fall pastures are beginning to be ef-

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Report county AIDS free

By: Richard Anderkin

Is Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or AIDS, as it is more commonly known, a problem in Rockcastle County?

According to Dr. Reginald Finger of the state's sexually transmitted diseases (STD) program office, there has been only two cases of the disease diagnosed and reported to his office from the several counties Cumberland Valley Area Health District, of which Rockcastle is a part.

Other counties included in the district are Jackson, Clay, Bell and Harlan counties.

Dr. Finger said Monday that his office would not give out information about AIDS victims in counties where only one or two cases had been reported because of the fear that the people might jump to conclusions about who the person is, or may go into a panic about catching the disease.

According to Dr. Finger of the infectious disease program, one of the cases was reported in 1985 and the other in 1986.

Rockcastle County Hospital Administrator Wayne Stewart said Monday that no cases of AIDS had been confirmed in this county. "To the best of my knowledge no cases have been diagnosed in this county."

Stewart said.

Stewart did say that the AIDS test had been given to a patient at the hospital, but that it was inconclusive. "The patient did not come back for further testing," Stewart said.

The STD office reported that (Cont. to A4)

Skills tests scores in county schools show marked drop

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle's school system isn't the best school district in the state, nor the worst either, just 147th.

The statewide essential skills test rankings were released last week by the Lexington Herald-Leader, which showed Rockcastle County declining from 122 a year ago.

Rockcastle County School Superintendent Bige Towery Jr., said Monday that while he definitely was not trying to make excuses for the low ranking, he wanted to point out the fact that students in Rockcastle County scored only less than one percentage point lower than they did a year ago.

This year's composite score for the local district was 54.3 down from 55 a year ago.

Towery also pointed out that student's test scores on the Kentucky Essential Skills Test fell in all of the grades that the state uses for their rankings.

Third graders this year scored 57.1 down an amazing 8.3 from 1986. The fifth grade had a composite score of 52.9 down 2.6 points. Seventh graders had a score of 56.5 down from 57.8 and tenth grade students at R.C.H.S. had a score of 50.8 down a drastic 6.7 points from 1986. Overall the only other class that declined is scores was the ninth grade. Grades one, two, four, six, eight, eleven and twelve all showed an increase from a year ago.

This year's ranking was the worst ranking for Rockcastle County since the state started ranking school districts in 1983. In '83 the local district was 161 out of 178 school districts.

Test data consistently revealed that students in the richer independent school districts scored higher.

All 178 school districts in Kentucky have scored above the national average the last two years. Two years ago, 16 districts scored below the norm.

Several urban districts were among the highest-ranked, while districts in rural southeastern and south-central Kentucky were among the lowest-ranked.

Independent districts tended to score higher than countywide districts.

All six counties surrounding Rockcastle out scored the local district with the exception of Jackson County.

Neighboring Berea Independent school system earned seventh in the state, while Somerset was 30, Pulaski County, 100; Laurel, 140; Lincoln, 133; Madison, 87; Science Hill, 59; Garrard County, 106, and East Bernstadt, 14.

The Kentucky Essential Skills Test measured students' proficiency in reading, writing, Math, spelling and library skills. The rankings are based on students' scores in reading, writing and math.

The scores are based on a scale in which 50 is the national norm and 100 is the highest possible.

County illiteracy pinpointed

By: Ray McClure

Rockcastle has been listed among 23 counties in Kentucky where between 50 and 60 percent of the adults 25 years and older have not completed the eighth grade and are considered functionally illiterate.

Only two counties—Jackson and Cumberland have higher illiteracy rates. Jackson, the highest with 62 percent and Cumberland with 61 percent. Clay, Owsley and Wayne were close to the edge with 59 percent. Rockcastle's exact figure was not reported.

Counties with the lowest illiteracy are Fayette, Oldham, Boone and Jefferson. The figures on literacy come from the 1980 U.S. Census.

The survey shows those who are included to be functionally illiterate, or those unable to read well enough to be functional. They cannot fill out a job application, read labels on prescription bottles, on grocery items, a letter and most written words.

Illiteracy is believed to be one of America's gravest problems. It is estimated that one in five adults in the U.S. is illiterate, which is about 27 million people. One publication says 60 million. At the same time, the Census Bureau contends that 99.5 percent of Americans are literate.

In legal terminology, literate means the ability to write one's name.

In its findings, the bureau reported:

(Cont. to A-10)



Norman Harrison of Cincinnati, Ohio, lies on the yard at the home of Tilman Daugherty on U.S. 25 south of Mt. Vernon Tuesday after he swerved his pick-up truck to miss another car and overturned in the driveway. He was treated at Rockcastle County Hospital and released. Harrison was visiting relatives at Broaddus.