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SUSPECT KILLS HIMSELF AS OFFICERS APPROACH

ROWAN COUNTY FRANKLIN COUNTY

Author: Compiled From Staff, Wire Reports

Article Text:

A fugitive who eluded police for four days near Morehead killed himself yesterday afternoon. Checking on a tip, Morehead police finally caught up with Jason E. Clark, 23, in an abandoned car 300 yards from Ky. 32. The two officers told the Clearfield man to drop his rifle and give himself up, but he refused, said Morehead Police Lt. Mike Adams. "He just turned the rifle on himself and fired a single shot. That was it," he said. Clark was wanted for armed robbery of a convenience store early Tuesday and was suspected of robbing the same store Jan. 10. After the Tuesday robbery, police said, Clark shot at a police sergeant who tried to stop him. For several days, he kept police and Rowan County residents in suspense as he was spotted several times, but managed to elude capture each time. "He was just good at knowing how to navigate the hills and woods in the dark," Adams said. An autopsy of Clark's body is pending at the state medical examiner's office in Frankfort.

Boyfriend subject to protection order: A judge's decision to issue a domestic violence order in a "boyfriend/girlfriend" case, which was not strictly that of a married or cohabitating couple, was upheld by a divided Kentucky Court of Appeals yesterday. Laura P. Wiley obtained the order against Charles Barnett. She alleged Barnett had, among other things, banged on her car window, threatened to kill her and followed her car "in a reckless manner" from Franklin County to Fayette County. Instead of pressing criminal charges, she sought a protective order. Wiley and Barnett had no children in common and had never lived together. But Franklin Circuit Judge Reed Rhorer found that they met the definition of an unmarried couple for purposes of the domestic-violence law. An appeals court panel upheld Rhorer 2-1. "The domestic violence statute was enacted for the purpose of protecting a person, such as Wiley, who engages in a lengthy, intimate relationship with a partner who perpetrates violence against her," Judge Julia Tackett of Lexington said in the majority opinion. Judge Tom Emberton of Edmonton joined her. Report tracks social services: The Cabinet for Families and Children has published online a new report that tracks the effects of Kentucky's social service programs. The report, All Families Matter 2001, is the second annual report measuring changes on issues of child safety, child well-being, permanency for children, family self-sufficiency, and the quality of the social services system. State officials said the report shows that the percentage of child victims of abuse or neglect who suffer further mistreatment within a year has dropped sharply, and child support collections have risen. Officials said the report shows a need for improvements in foster care and adoption services. The full report is available at <http://cfc.state.ky.us/outcomes2001/>.

Memo:

STATE NEWS

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