

Rockets are ranked 5th
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Members of Livingston and Mt. Vernon volunteer fire departments extinguished a blaze at a home on Gauley Branch on Monday morning. The log home of Steve, and Janet Bolton was heavily damaged by the fire, which apparently started around the fireplace. The original cabin was built around 1860, and was completely restored several years ago, by well known artist Sandy Spiegel. The Boltons lived at the house with their children and did not have any insurance on the structure. Livingston firefighter John Kuhn said that most of the fire damage was limited to two rooms, but that there was extensive water and smoke damage throughout. At left, Mrs. Bolton shows firefighters how to gain access to an upstairs bedroom.

Judge jails Barnett

Rockcastle District Judge Walter McGuire jailed an elderly Mt. Vernon man on Wednesday, on charges of contempt of court.

Quentin Barnett, 73, of Mt. Vernon, who was placed on probation last year, after he pled guilty to criminal littering, was placed in the Rockcastle Detention Center for an

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RCHS Rifle Team will represent Kentucky in the Nationals in June

The RCHS Rifle Team has earned the privilege to represent Rockcastle County and the state of Kentucky in the National Three Position Air Rifle Championships (Sporter Category) in Atlanta, Georgia on June 9th, 10th and 11th.

After winning the Kentucky State Air Rifle Championship in December in Owensboro, the Rifle Team traveled to Shelbyville on Saturday, March 17th to compete in the national preliminaries. The team shot an all time high score of 2,068 to beat our closest competitor, Mullenburg South High School by 45 points. Out of 24 sports competitors, Senior Tami Taylor placed first in the state with a score of 540/600; Tim Tyler placed third with 519/600; Shannon Bullock placed fourth with 514/600 and Johnathan Noe placed 10th with 495/600. This is the team that will be representing Kentucky in the National Championships in May in Reno, Nevada. The school has a total of 37 other athletes with Hawaii taking first and Rockwood placing sixth in the nation. We appreciate all the support and encouragement the school and the community gives to these athletes.

Other members of the team are: Senior - Jefferson Smith, Jason Martin, Ronald Willey, Zach Shepherd, Claudia Vejrazka, Tara Thompson, Adam Stallaworth, Josh Hayes, and Brittany Edwards. The team is coached by Sergeant Major Keith Taylor.

At Mt. Vernon

Council votes for employee drug testing

By: Richard Anderkin

The Mt. Vernon City Council voted on Monday night to continue on a path of drug testing for all 32 city employees.

The council voted to contract with the National Safety Alliance, from Nashville TN, who will conduct the random drug and alcohol test.

Two of the city's employees, Dennis McClure and Junior Gray, who have their CDL license will be required to take the drug test initially.

The rest of the city's employees will be put in a computer and randomly chosen to take the test.

Supervisors such as police chief Bill Mink or City Clerk Kaye Rader can also request a test for an employee in their department, if they have reasonable suspicion that an employee is taking drugs or using alcohol on the job.

According to Chief Mink, who has been working on the new drug testing policy, any employee who refuses the test will be terminated.

The council also agreed, at the suggestion of Mink, that if an employee tests positive for drugs or alcohol while on the job, they should be terminated.

The council also agreed that they should not pay for any rehabilitation for an employee who tested positive for drugs.

The council discussed the possibility of allowing employees who test positive and go to rehab on their own, be allowed to get their job back. The council did not make any decision on that matter and basically left it up to the Mayor.

The initial cost to the city for the

drug testing will be \$967.00. Each test that is conducted after that will be \$67.50 each. The drug test will be conducted at the Rockcastle Hospital, who will forward the samples to the National Safety Alliance.

Mink said that the city would be notified within 24 hours of any positive result.

"It will just be the luck of the draw for everyone, some employees may never be tested and some may be tested a couple of times a year," Mink said.

The council must amend their personnel policy and pass an ordinance concerning the drug testing

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Inmate escapes

A Rockcastle County Detention Center inmate walked away from the lock-up around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday morning.

According to police, Charles Marlow, Jr., 31, of Mt. Vernon was apparently outside the facility dumping garbage, when he ran off from a deputy jailer.

Rockcastle County Jailer James Miller said that he was conducting an internal investigation into the escape and that all deputies on duty at the time were making a complete report.

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A life-size bronze statue of legendary Renfro Valley Barn Dance performer Old Joe Clark was dedicated during a memorial service on Saturday afternoon. Several dignitaries, including former Kentucky Governor Ned Breathitt were on hand, as were members of Clark's immediate family. Shown, above, from left: daughter Sara Grace Miracle, grandson Christopher Miracle, son-in-law Gary Miracle, son George Clark, wife Jean Clark, sons Terry Clark and Butch Clark. At left is Terry Clark standing next to his father's statue. Terry performed with his father for twenty years on the Renfro stage.

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