

Rockets are 23-2

## Coroner says shooting was another suicide

Police are investigating another suicide this week in Rockcastle County.

Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell said that a Pennsylvania man apparently shot and killed himself sometime Thursday evening in a somewhat remote area near Boones Gap at the Madison County line.

Dowell said that residents in the area found Raridall S. Sutton, 39, of Smithfield Pennsylvania, in his Toyota pick-up, which he had pulled off the side of the road, around 2:30 p.m. Friday.

Dowell said that Sutton had shot himself in the head. An autopsy was ordered in the case.

Dowell said Sutton did not have any identification on him when he was found - but that the license plate provided enough information for authorities to begin the search for his identity.

Sutton's family members had reported him missing earlier in the week and he had left a suicide note in Pennsylvania.

No foul play is suspected in the case, which is being investigated by Dowell and Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane.

## Court looks at \$6.5 million county budget

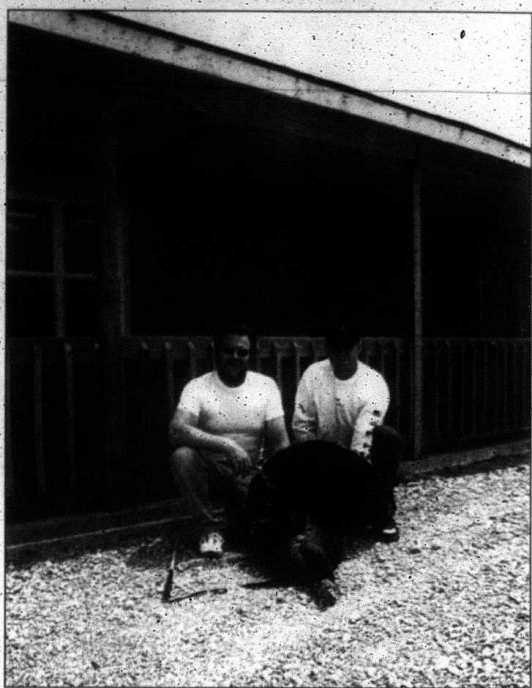
The Rockcastle County-Fiscal Court got a look at the county's budget for the coming fiscal year, at a called meeting Tuesday morning.

The total county budget for the fiscal year, which will start on July 1, is \$6.5 million.

Right now the budget is only tentative and the court will approve the final budget at the June meeting of the court.

As it stands right now the court plans to spend \$880,000 in the general fund, \$930,000 in the road fund, \$750,000 in the jail fund, \$250,000 in the 911 fund; \$300,000 in the economic assistant fund, \$54,000 in the CSEPP fund, \$54,000 in the LGFA fund, \$83,000 in the Office of Justice Program and \$3.15 million on the Kentucky-Country Music Hall of Fame fund.

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Mike Gates, left and Shane Edwards, a staff member, show off the 24 pound turkey Gates recently killed on his land at Pine Hill.

## Rose Brown chosen for position at central office

Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond announced this week that Mt. Vernon Elementary School principal Rose

Brown had been hired as the new Director of Student Services for the local school system.

cation field for the last 21 years, served the last six as principal at Mt. Vernon. Before that she was assistant

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## Coach house has a lot of interesting stories, rumors

By: Richard Anderkin  
"If these walls could talk - on the stories they could tell," said Charles Stanley Phillips, grandson of the late Wally Phillips.

Stanely Phillips, Craig Clark and Gerald Chasteen are in the process of restoring one of Rockcastle County's oldest homes - one that has quite a history.

Ulysses S. Grant ate lunch there. Frank Smith was shot to death there. A 30-year-old woman died during childbirth and according to one man's story still haunts the place.

Some say that you could throw down coal dust at night at the bottom of the steps and in the morning children's footprints would be there!

J.S. Adams kept slaves to work the farm and Tom Jim Ballard made legal whiskey there.

Even if it sounds like the set of a Walt Disney adventure film, the place is real. The house, which is located in the Red Hill Section of Rockcastle County, is the home of the late, great actor.

Wally Phillips bought the place from Thaddeus Drew, his father-in-law. Thad Drew got the property house from Tom Jim Ballard who got it from J.S. Adams. Records of ownership before Adams are gone—burned with the courthouse in 1873, but a man named Stephen Gilbert did the original survey.

One of the oldest, if not the oldest house in Rockcastle County, Wally's house was originally intended to be a coach house where people and animals rested on their long trips from London to Richmond. The house stands beside the original Daniel Boone trail that eventually became the main road from Indianapolis to the Cumberland Gap.

Craig Clark called the Red Hill Road, the Old State Road because it was the main thoroughfare from Ohio to Tennessee.

Though it can't be documented, legend has it that "Devil Bill" Adams, one of the county's most colorful characters owned the house and farm. It is said that he owned 6,000 acres

of land in the area, and kept 75 slaves on the place.

The slave houses were kept across the road and some 200 yards from the coach house. "Devil Bill" apparently didn't like the smell of the shanty in which he housed his slaves. How "Devil Bill" got his nickname is a matter of some conjecture, but it apparently had something to do with the way he treated his slaves.

J.S. Adams is the first recorded owner of the coach house and the property adjacent to it. According to records in the County Court Clerk's office T.J. Ballard (Tom Jim) bought the place from the J.S. Adams heirs on the 17th of April, 1872. Little is repeated about J.S. Adams, but he did run the place as a coach house until his death.

Tom Jim Ballard is another one of those colorful characters that have

popped up in Rockcastle County from time to time. Tom Jim was the last to run a coach house on the premises. He died shortly after the turn

Tom Jim was a gambler. It is told that he played cards whenever possible. It is also told that he would very often involve passing livestock drivers in card games and while they gambled he stole a head or two of the stock. They usually drove a cow or a pig over the cliffs behind the house. Rather than try to struggle with a dead or hurt animal it would be donated to the inn. Thus, Tom Jim stayed in fresh meat.

Tom Jim was one of the two proprietors of legal stills in Rockcastle County at one time. The other licensed operator was Dave Betherum who lived at Sand Springs. These were the two men who were involved

in the famous Ballard-Betherum fight in front of the courthouse. The whole thing apparently started as a squabble over the county whiskey business. When the dust settled, Betherum was shot and Ballard was cut severely. Both men lived, but Ballard lay near death in the coach house for days.

Another man who lay wounded in the house was not so fortunate. Nothing is known except that his name was Haley and he was involved in the shootout between the Haley family and the Mullins family at Salt Petre cave. Haley died in one of the upstairs rooms of the old coach house.

One man, Frank Smith, was shot to death inside the house. Circumstances surrounding the shooting are hazy, but it was allegedly a man-

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The old coach house at Red Hill is one Rockcastle County's oldest landmarks and is in the process of being restored.



Gerald Chasteen, Charles Stanley Phillips and Craig Clark, will restore the old coach house at Red Hill to its original form.