

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Girls win Somerset Tourney • Pg. A6

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McKinney brothers pled guilty to fourteen counts

Two Rockcastle County men have pled guilty to 14 counts each of illegal possession of wildlife, and were ordered by the court to pay fines totaling \$25,000, complete 150 hours of community service and serve jail time.

Following a two-month investigation by state wildlife and boating officers Steve Isaacs and Sgt. Rex Burkhead, Michael McKinney, 22, and Jonathan McKinney, 26, both of Mt. Vernon, were arrested and charged in September with illegal possession of 38 whitetail deer and 31 wild turkey.

Both violators also had their hunting licenses suspended for five consecutive years.

Equipment confiscated and awarded to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) by the court included 23 firearms, two bows, 12 knives, nu-

merous deer and turkey-related taxidermy items, and a videotape of many of the wildlife violations, along with footage of marijuana cultivation and processing.

The Rockcastle County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was awarded \$2,500 of the bond moneys in this case at the request of Officer Isaacs. Kentucky State Trooper Coby Smith also assisted in the case, and the Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette was instrumental in prosecuting the offenders.

The department and I are very pleased with the support of the county attorney's office on this case, and the citizens of Rockcastle County who support wildlife conservation," said Officer Isaacs.

Michael McKinney served 45 days and Jonathan McKinney 15 days in the Rockcastle County Jail before being released on probation.

Veterans may be eligible for help from state, feds

You may be entitled to receive benefits from the Federal Veterans Administration that may include compensation for disease or injury received while in service.

Information on pensions for wartime veterans, survivor benefits and assistance with medical expenses will be available.

Rockcastle County receives over \$2 million per year from veteran benefits.

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs provides counseling and assistance to veterans and dependents in filing claims for state and federal veteran benefits.

This is a service provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. There is no charge or fee of any kind.

A veterans benefits field repre-

sentative will be in Mt. Vernon at the Rockcastle County Courthouse on

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Heating funds to be provided

The Daniel Boone Development Council will again be administering the Home Energy Assistance Program for low income families.

The crisis component will start on Monday, January 6th. Benefit levels and eligibility standards for this component will remain the same.

For more information, contact Daniel Boone Development Council at (606) 256-5315 or stop by the office on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, Monday through Friday.

County, city officials to be sworn-in this week

By Richard Anderlik

County and city officials in Rockcastle County will begin taking the oath of office this week.

Many of those taking the oath are new to their jobs after winning seats in the May Primary and November General Election.

In Mt. Vernon, a swearing-in ceremony is planned for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the local fire department on Richmond Street.

Newly elected Mayor Clarice Kirby will be sworn-in as will three new council members and three incumbents.

The new council members to be sworn-in at Mt. Vernon are Betty Carter Russell, Bryan Hansel and Steve Renfro. They will join incumbent council members "Clark" Joe Mullins, Tzannetta Daugherty and Wayne Bullock on the council.

Former council member Gene Cromer did not seek re-election and former council member Jackie Renner was a candidate for Mayor in November. Mrs. Kirby, who defeated incumbent Karen King and others in the fall election, is also a former council member.

Mrs. Kirby will be Mt. Vernon's first full-time Mayor and receive a salary of \$36,000 per year. She will also receive health insurance and retirement benefits.

Rockcastle County officials will be sworn-in on Friday at 3 p.m. County Clerk Norma Houk said the ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. in the county's Technology Center on the third floor of the courthouse.

All incumbent county-wide office holders, except for Sheriff

Shirley Smith will take the oath. Smith was defeated by one of his former deputies, Darrell Doan in the primary.

Doan will be the only new county wide office holder to be sworn-in.

Doan said Monday that he would have his six deputies sworn-in on Friday at the same time as other county officials take the oath.

Doan said that his six deputies are, current deputy Joe Rush, former Mt. Vernon police officer Nathaniel Price, current Livingston police officer William Harris, Derrick Price, who apparently has no experience, Kenny Holt, a former deputy under Clarence Harty and Rick Brummett as court bailiff.

Doan said that Mrs. Connie Bullock, who is the current secretary in the Sheriff's office, will also remain on his staff.

At Brodhead, since all council members and Mayor Walter Calk will remain in office, their swearing-in will likely not take place until their first regular monthly meeting on January 13th.

Newly elected Livingston Mayor J.C. Griffin, said Tuesday that swearing-in at Livingston would take place during their regular monthly meeting on Friday January 10th.

Griffin said the meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. The new Mayor said Monday that, after he was sworn-in, he would have a lot of questions for the current council and for city clerks.

Griffin said he was under the impression that the city was having problems with the Internal Revenue Service and that an audit of the city's finances had not been conducted since the year, which will be on January 14th.

The council will also have to de-

side who to appoint to the four member council because only three people ran for office in the general election.

Griffin said that he and council members, Kathy Carpenter, Jason Medley and Todd Mink, will try to appoint someone as soon as possible and they will also address the apparent vacancy in the police department.

Griffin, who owns L.E.'s Place a restaurant located on Main Street defeated incumbent Mayor Curt McHargue in the general election. McHargue was a Livingston council member when he was appointed to the Mayor's position.

Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond said the local board of education would likely follow standard policy and conduct their swearing-in ceremony at the first school board meeting of the year, which will be on January 14th.

Newly elected board member

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Clarice Kirby



Darrell Doan



J.C. Griffin

News of 2002: tragedy, politics and progress

Editors Note: A brief look back at the events making headlines in Rockcastle County in 2002 revealed tragedy, sorrow, happiness and progress. It was also one of the most deadly years ever on Rockcastle roadways. The following is a brief look at the year, as followed through the pages of this publication.

By Richard Anderlik
The first edition of the year had a variety of stories, from murder and mayhem to politics and farming.

A former Rockcastle County father and son, Larry Stidham and his son James were arrested on Christmas Day and charged with murder.

The two were accused of killing a Clay County man.

A Livingston man was charged with rape, first district constable Tommy Bullen was charged with trafficking in cocaine and the first Ky. resident to ever sue the state in an effort to implement mandatory garbage collection, Jerry Waddle of Livingston died.

Mt. Vernon councilman Jack Renner filed for Mayor and Rockcastle County Board of Education member Sam Stallworth filed for Sheriff.

Local farmers learned they would share in another \$425,000 in funds from the nationwide tobacco settle-

ment and a Brodhead man was accused of participating in a \$20 million scam against McDonalds.

The RCHS girls varsity won the Tennessee and Holiday Hoopla tournaments over the holidays and the boys varsity won the McCreary Central tourney and placed third at Berea's tournament.

County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifitis filed for re-election and former Jailer and Sheriff Billy Kirby threw his hat into the ring against current Jailer James Miller.

The RCHS Dance team placed second in a national competition in Gatlinburg and six RCHS football players received all state honors.

The transfer of ownership of Sowder Nursing Home to Rockcastle Hospital Inc. was completed and 15-year-old Aaron Poynter died in a single vehicle wreck on Sweetwater Road.

Disgruntled customers of Charter Communications asked for help with their problems. From the Mt. Vernon City Council and possibly the worst news in recent years for the Rockcastle County economy came from Mt. Vernon Plastics.

Plastics officials announced that 129 more employees at the plant, located in Rockcastle Industrial Park #1, would lose their jobs. At one time Plastics employed 400 people, but the job cuts in January and at other times before then reduced the force to only 120 people.

State Representative Danny Ford filed for re-election and a total of 61 candidates filed by the deadline for the May Primary, including all county incumbent office holders.

In February Charter Communications General Manager attended the Mt. Vernon City Council meeting and discussed the poor service his cable company was providing to county residents.

The GM had few answers for the council and crowd and he made no apologies for the poor service. He would later attend another meeting.

Stanford Attorney J. Paul Long, a democrat filed to run for State Representative against Danny Ford a republican, after the state extended the filing deadline because of a dispute over district lines.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King filed for re-election and an audit of the city's finances for fiscal year 1999 revealed that the city had spent \$352,000 more than they had budgeted.

Rockcastle Fiscal Court Administrative Assistant Anna Rose Mullins was honored for 30 years of service to the county and a local man,

Everett McClure, helped a TN woman escape from a kidnapper at the Marathon Station in Renfro Valley.

Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond got a one year extension on his contract,

making it good through August of 2005 and local firefighters complained to the 911 board about the way some of their calls were being handled by 911 dispatchers.

RCHS junior Tammie Dees was

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Above are the members of the Rockcastle County High School boys' basketball team, which won the boy's 13th regional title for the first time in school history last Spring. Members of the team are shown front row, from left: Austin Miller and Chris Settles. Second row, from left: Aaron Anderlik, Jordan Cash, manager, Cory Reams, Chris Childers, Devin Taylor, Jason Reynolds and Aaron Cash. Third row, from left: manager Jake Riddle, Derrick Hurst, Darren Harris, James Isaacs, Blake Roberts and Anthony Stevens. Back row, from left: Andrew Hammond and Stephen Boring. The Rockets lost in the first round of the Sweet 16 to Paducah Tilghman.



Above is Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifitis and David Henderson, Ky. Music Hall of Fame board member before the official ribbon cutting in Renfro Valley in May. Carlifitis is holding the official scissors.