



See Special Basketball Section Inside

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Volume 127 Number 13 PH. (606) 256-2244 FAX (606) 256-2245 30¢ a copy Thursday, January 9, 2003

Andy Barnett pays fines of nearly \$2,000 Faces Drug Charges

A local man has pled guilty to numerous wildlife charges and faces other charges for drug trafficking. Andy Barnett, 38, owner of Barnett's Auto Salvage at Cove Branch was arrested on December 19th and charged with three counts of buying fur without a permit and having a seven point whitetail rack in his possession, also without a permit.

Barnett was also charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance and trafficking in marijuana. Barnett was also charged with receiving stolen property. He is accused of having a stolen firearm in his possession that he knew was stolen.

Barnett pled guilty to the wildlife charges and paid fines and court costs in the amount of \$1,970.50. \$100.50 went to court costs, \$1,300 was paid as a fine and \$1,570 was paid to the once defunct local Sportsman Club.

A court date of March 12th, concerning the drug charges, has been set for Barnett for a pre-trial conference.

Barnett is currently free on bond. The local Sportsman Club will meet next Tuesday night. For more information contact Perry Mink at (606) 5198.

Officers Barry Adams, Ryan Loudermilk and Steve Isaacs worked the case against Barnett.

The good, bad and sad news

2002: A year to remember

The second six-months of 2002 in Rockcastle County began with County Attorney Jeff Burdette citing the manufacturing and selling of Methamphetamine (Meth) as the cur-

Cont. to A-10



Members of the Rockcastle Circuit Court and other County officials were sworn-in by Rockcastle District Judge Walter McGuire, last Friday. The court is shown in the top photo. Sitting is Judge-Executive Buzz Carloffs, who is beginning his third term in office. Standing from left: David Gibbs, first district magistrate, William Denny - second district magistrate, Bill McKinney - third district magistrate, Fred Mullins, Jr. - fourth district magistrate and Ralph Allen - fifth district magistrate. McKinney is entering his third term, Mullins his second and Gibbs, Denny and Allen are beginning their first terms in office. Newly elected Rockcastle Sheriff Darrell Doan and his six deputies were sworn-in last Wednesday. Doan is shown standing in front of his deputies. His deputies are pictured from left: Rick Brummett, Court Bailiff, William Harris, Kenny Holt, Special Deputy, Nathaniel Price, Derrick Price and Joe Rush. Doan defeated three term Sheriff Shirley Smith in the Primary. He has worked as a deputy for Smith and former Sheriff Clarence "Jib" Hasty. Not shown was secretary Connie Bullens. (Photos By: Richard Anderkin)

\$3 billion cut was expected Heating program should be fully funded this year

Local Daniel Boone Development Corporation Director Betty Carter Russell was breathing a little easier Wednesday, than she had on Monday and Tuesday.

The director of the local Community Action Agency had been very worried about last week's announcement by the federal government that money for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP) would be cut by some \$3 million statewide.

Nationwide the cut would have been \$3 billion. However, Wednesday, Russell's supervisor notified her that the Bush administration had changed their mind about the spending cuts in the program.

"We were processing as many emergency cases as we could this week, before the money ran out, but now we are feeling a whole lot better about the funding for this much needed assistance program," Mrs. Russell said.

On Monday and Tuesday the local agency, which is located on Main

Street in Mt. Vernon, assisted 145 families and spent \$30,000 to help them heat their homes this winter.

Currently the agency is taking only crisis applications for assistance. To qualify a family must have a disconnect notice or a four day supply of fuel. They must also be low income.

During the subsidy phase of the program in November, the local agency assisted 996 families and spent over \$110,000 in the county.

Mrs. Russell said that the crisis program will run into March, but the exact cut off date is not known. It will depend on how much money the program actually gets from the federal government.

The LIHEAP program has been in existence for 18 years and has helped thousands of Rockcastle County families.

For more information call Daniel Boone at (606) 256-5315 or stop by their office on Main Street in Mt. Vernon.

Western Water project among Patton ARC recommendations

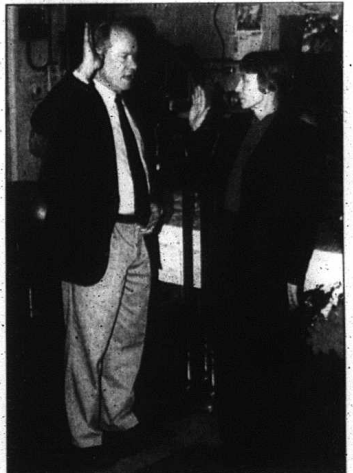
Last week, Kentucky Governor Paul Patton; and the Department for Local Government, announced 19 projects that will be recommended for funding to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Full project applications for funding will be forwarded to the federal ARC office in Washington, D.C. for

final approval. Projects can begin when final approval is received and grant agreements are signed.

Gov. Patton said, "The ARC has been a partner in progress with state and local governments for more than 35 years. I'm pleased that through this partnership, we are able to rec-

Cont. to A-10



In the top photo, newly elected Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarice Kirby, right, took the oath of office last Wednesday from Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Lambert. Kirby has begun her first term in office and is Mt. Vernon's first full-time Mayor. In the bottom photo, are members of the council at Mt. Vernon. Front row, from left: Wayne Bullock and Joe Mullins. Back row, from left, Steve Renfro, Lonetta Daugherty and Brian Hansen. Not present was Betty Carter Russell. Hansen and Renfro will begin new terms on the council. Mullins and Bullock have been on the council for several years.

Reynolds moves other operations to Plastics

Reynolds Food Packaging, an Alcoa business, announced recently that it will close the qualified Plastics Plant, located in Rutland, Vermont, and move operations to its plant in Mt. Vernon. The closing is set for February 28th.

Both facilities produce a line of thermoformed containers for the foodservice industry with similar products that can be provided from a single plant. There currently are 25 hourly and 7 salaried employees at the qualified plant.

In making the announcement, Mike Roeder, president, Reynolds Food Packaging, said "the closure is

the result of excess capacity. While it was a difficult decision to make, there just wasn't a need to continue to operate two plants producing similar products when production can be handled by one facility. We appreciate the hard-work of the qualified employees over the years and their contributions to the community."

Paula Quick, an Alcoa spokesperson, said that Alcoa anticipates additional staffing but exact requirements are not known as this time. "Basically, the move to Mt. Vernon will broaden and diversify that plant's product line and help solidify its position as a manufacturing center of

excellence within Alcoa." Quick said. "This means increased job security for Mt. Vernon plant employees and increased financial sustainability for the plant."

Burdette may run for Ky. Attorney General

Political sources have indicated that Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette may soon announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Kentucky Attorney General.

Dan Vice, vice president and Director of U.S. operations for Reynolds Food Packaging said, "Our efforts in the weeks ahead will be

Cont. to A-10

RCHS Rifle team wins state runner-up title



Rifle team members pictured from left: SGM Keith Taylor, seniors Melissa Jones, Cory Canterbury, Adam Stallworth and Sarah Steele. Kneeling are Erik Stallworth and Derrick Hensley. Not pictured were Joshua Hayes, Jason Daniels and Josh Page.

The Rockcastle County High School rifle team traveled to Shelby County on the 14th of December to fire in the Kentucky State Air Rifle Championship (sporter category).

Breaking a three year tradition of winning the state title, the local team placed second in the state, behind Henderson County. The Rockcastle team fired a team score of 2422. Henderson County fired a 2516.

New team member, senior Cory Canterbury's score of 501 earned him 4 position on the All State First Team. Senior Adams Stallworth shot a 496, along with senior Melissa Jones' 494, earning both a place on the All-State Second Team. Team members, Erik Stallworth and Derrick Hensley fired scores of 466 and 465, respectively.

Members of the team who did not compete were: Sarah Steele, Josh Hayes, Jason Daniels and Josh Page. The team also competed this year at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, Tennessee and Fort Benning, Georgia, as well as a local match with Southwestern Palaski. Plans call for at least four to five matches to be fired around the state later this year.

See other photos Page A-4

Burdette, who was reelected to his third term as County Attorney in November of last year, has recently generated publicity statewide for prosecution of Fish and Wildlife violations here in Rockcastle County. In Sunday's edition of the Lexington Herald Leader, credit was given Burdette for prosecution of several significant cases, including one of the largest in Kentucky history. He practices law with his associate, Bill Reynolds, on West Main Street in Mt. Vernon.

Burdette was named Kentucky's Young Republican of the Year in 1992 and Kentucky's Young Farmer Spokesperson of the Year in 1993. He was also instrumental in having the Rockcastle Young Republican Club named Club of the Year in 1992.

When asked about reports of his potential candidacy, Burdette would

Cont. to A-10



Rockcastle County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette