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Sen. Worley announces water projects for Rockcastle

Water projects, totaling \$725,000, are included for Rockcastle County in the Kentucky General Fund budget recently approved by the General Assembly, according to Senator Ed Worley, D-Richmond.

Worley is Rockcastle's new State Senator.

"Times are tough, this budget is tight and it's appropriate that we focus on the basics," Worley said. "Given the economy, I think we've come up with a responsible plan that will address pressing needs and solve many problems for Rockcastle County citizens."

The \$1.4 billion state spending plan for the budget year ending this June 30 and the year ending June 30, 2004, includes no new taxes. It has been approved by the House and Senate and sent to Gov. Paul Patton, who has not acted upon it.

Especially, the budget's priorities are elementary and secondary education and human services. There are many cuts in other areas.

Funding for water and sewer projects is one key new initiative established in the budget. A total of \$112 million will be invested in projects statewide to make clean water accessible for the first time to 28,600 Kentuckians, improve water service for an additional 712,000 citizens, and improve wastewater service for thousands.

In Rockcastle, the legislature included \$475,000 for the improvement of existing water lines, including upgrading small pressure tanks and increasing larger lines. In the western part of the county, \$250,000 is allotted for new water line infrastructure and water line extension projects.

County Judge/Executive Buzz Carlisle "couldn't be more thrilled" with his county's new water projects and believes that "results such as these are a very prime example of how both Sen. Ed Worley and Rep.

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Rockcastle County High School boys' basketball coach Clayton Cash, center, and assistant coaches Jason Coguer and Jerry Reynolds talk to their team during the regional finals on Saturday night. The Rockets lost to Cumberland in the finals, finishing off another good basketball season for the boys who went 24-5 this season and played most of their games on the road.

Suspected Meth lab seized at Scaffold Cane

A makeshift lab, with suspected methamphetamine residue, was seized by law enforcement officers from the residence of Joey Thacker on Scaffold Cane Road in Rockcastle County during the early morning hours last Friday.

According to sources within the Rockcastle Co. Sheriff's office, a tip from an informant, who gave information to Berea City Detective David Gregory, led to an execution of a search warrant for Thacker's residence.

Rockcastle Chief Deputy Sheriff Nathaniel Price credits cooperation between the Berea City Police Department, the Rockcastle Sheriff's Department and DEA Task Force member and Mt. Vernon City Police-

man Barry Adams, as the keys to a successful operation.

"We used the information, the experience and the training of the agencies and officers involved to move quickly to locate and dismantle this suspected meth lab," Price said.

In Rockcastle Circuit Court

Two sentenced to prison

Eddy F. Montgomery, Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockcastle, Lincoln and Pulaski Counties, announced today that two Rockcastle men were sentenced to prison in Rockcastle Circuit Court.

Johnny Denney, 40, of Mt. Vernon was sentenced to five years imprisonment for the offense of Escape, second degree. Denney escaped from the Rockcastle County Jail on October 10, 2001. His sentence will run consecutive with the 35-year sentence that he is currently serving.

Orlando Kates, 27, of Orlando had his probation revoked and was sentenced to two years imprisonment for testing positive for the use of Amphetamine and Methamphetamine and failing to report to his probation officer.

Houk arrested

Jimmy Houk, 47, of Freedom School Road, Mareburg, was arrested Wednesday, March 19 and charged with four felonies related to a stolen prescription pad.

According to Rockcastle County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette, a complaint was issued after a fraudulent excuse was presented to one of the local schools.

Further inquiries apparently led Mt. Vernon Police Officer Eddie Delaney to file charges against Houk of Theft of a Prescription Pad, Illegal Possession of Prescription Blank, Forgery and Unlawful Transcription with a Minor. All are Class D felonies.

Houk, a former Rockcastle County ambulance driver, is alleged to have stolen the prescription pad locally, filled it out to represent an excuse for a student to miss school by forging a third-party signature and having a minor present it, according to police.

Houk, who is free on \$2,500 cash bond, will be arraigned in district court and the case will be presented to a Rockcastle County Grand Jury at its next session.

Worley to be guest speaker at Kiwanis

Senator Ed Worley will be the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club at noon on Thursday, March 20, 2003 at Kastle Inn Restaurant.

Senator Worley will be speaking about projects for Rockcastle Co. All public officials and interested citizens are invited.

No reservations are needed.

For more information, you may call 606-256-5105.

Lady Rockets, Rockets lose in regional

By: Richard Anderkin

It's not been the week that followers and supporters of the Rockcastle County basketball programs thought it would be.

The Rockcastle County Rockets and the Lady Rockets each lost in the regional finals.

The boys lost to Cumberland and the girls lost to Jackson County.

On Saturday night the boys' loss to the lowest rated team in the regional tournament in Cumberland.

The main factor, the Rockets shot 32 percent from the field. It was the worst shooting night the Rockets had experienced all year long.

"Sometimes it just doesn't go in and tonight was evidence of that," said Rockcastle head coach Clayton Cash who led the Rockets to a 24 and five record this season.

The Rockets scored only 15 points in the first half, but they never quit, coming back in the second half to take the lead at 47-46.

However, the Rockets poor shooting continued after they took the lead and Cumberland was able to floor them on the other end of the floor.

The eventual outcome was a 57-44 loss.

Senior Chris Settles led the Rockets in scoring with 13 points, senior Aaron Anderkin had 12, senior Aaron Miller had 10, point guard Aaron Cash had 6, junior Devin Taylor had 6, senior Jason Reynolds had 5 and sophomore Blake Roberts had 2.

In the semi-final game on Friday night the Rockets defeated Knox County by 18 points. The game was controlled by the Rockets, mainly by their defense which allowed the Panthers only 36 total points, while the Rockets racked up 61.

Aaron Cash had 23 points, Settles, 12, Miller, 4, Reynolds, 5, Anderkin, 15 and Colby Brown, 2.

Cash, Settles and Anderkin made the all-tournament team.

The Lady Rockets suffered the same fate as the boys, when they lost in the regional finals.

The Jackson County Lady Generals, who have been ranked high in the state all season long, eventually prevailed over the Lady Rockets in a hard fought contest, 54-40.

"Our girls played hard, we just made some mistakes we really shouldn't have," said head coach Chrysti Noble.

"I am extremely proud of our team, they are a great group of kids," Noble said.

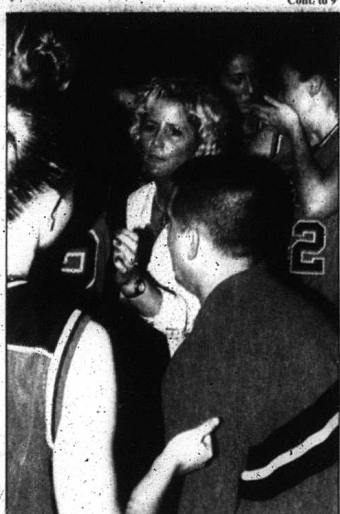
Jackson County defeated the Lady Rockets two of three times this season.

Sophomores Johnna Abney and Heather Hammond and senior Jessie Hayes made the all-tournament team.

This year was the first time ever that both basketball teams at RCHS played in the regional finals.

On Monday night, Abney had 21, Tara Rowe, 3, Hayes, 6, and

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Rockcastle County High School girls' head basketball coach Chrysti Noble is shown above giving her team instructions during the regional tournament held at Whitley County. The Lady Rockets were defeated in the regional finals, but had an excellent season finishing with a record of 26-7.

New called Eastern Rockcastle Water Association New name for Rockcastle Water Association

Rockcastle Water Association has added Eastern in front of its name, "in an effort to better identify our company," said Randy Cory, general manager of ERWA.

As Rockcastle Water Association, Cory said, customers had trouble differentiating as to who to call for service, to report an outage or about billing problems. "This should help identify our company and the customers we serve," Cory said.

Eastern Rockcastle Water Association has been in existence since 1993 and serves customers in the

Sand Springs area, at Sand Hill, Brush Creek and from the eastern tip of Rockcastle Co. to near Livingston.

"Customers are encouraged, before reporting a leak or other inquiries, to make sure the appropriate water company is being called."

ERWA's number is 256-5480.

For service from the other water companies in the county, call:

City of Mt. Vernon, 256-2879;

City of Livingston, 453-2061; City of Brodhead, 758-9866 and Western

Rockcastle Water Association 256-8283.



The Rockcastle County Tourism Task Force of the Rockcastle Development is in the process of constructing two "Welcome to Mt. Vernon" Signs, which will be placed at the corner of U.S. 25 and Hwy. 461. The Task Force has raised \$8,300 to date from local businesses. The signs will have solar lights and a sprinkler system for the landscaping. A picture of one of the signs to be purchased is shown above. Anyone interested in donating to the project should contact Danny Settles, project coordinator.



Civil War buff, Bobby Wilson, far left, of Livingston, brought his Civil War artifacts to Mt. Vernon Elementary School recently. The exhibition and information session was part of the school's Extended School Services. Helping Mr. Wilson with the after-school program was Casey McClure and Drew Davidson, both at the Union garb and MYES teacher Drayne Lee, who coordinated the program as part of a unit he is teaching on the Civil War.