Homecoming wins three state championships - Pg. A9

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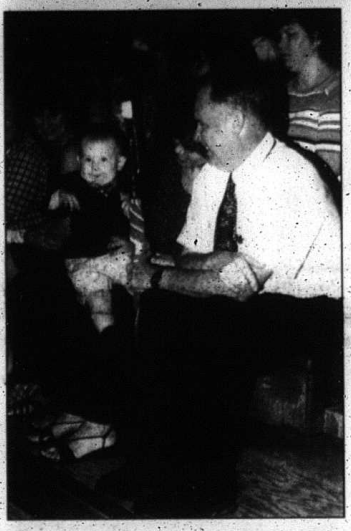
Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 • Volume 117 • Number 34 • Ph. (606) 256-2244 • 50¢ a copy • Thursday, June 5, 2003



174 seniors at Rockcastle County High School received their graduation diplomas on Saturday during the annual ceremony. Above, from left are Rockcastle County School Board Chairman Terry Burton, guest speaker Don Meyer and Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond. At left, one-year-old Owen Falin, is shown all smiles, about the graduation of his mother Marie Collins. Amanda Cummins was the Valedictorian of the class of 2003 and Jessica Thacker was the Salutatorian.

Three police officers resign; Mayor Kirby cites low pay

It cost the City of Mt. Vernon over $5,000 to send Chris Jones to sixteen weeks of basic training at the Department of Criminal Justice School, and they will receive nothing for their investment.

After graduating on May 16th, Jones resigned from the Mt. Vernon Police Department on May 19th to accept employment with the Berea Police Department.

Mayor Clarice Kirby told the city council at their regular meeting Monday night that Jones told her he thought he might get laid off (from the MVPD) so he put in applications in other towns. She said he was offered almost twice as much as he would have been paid by the City of Mt. Vernon by Berea and accepted that position.

Currently, the average starting pay for a police officer in Mt. Vernon is $6.75 an hour while Berea pays around $12 an hour.

The question of whether the city could recoup their investment in Jones training, Kirby told the council that Jones was not required to sign a contract before attending the school and, while she thought the city should try to recover their investment in Jones' training, she didn't know exactly how to go about it. Kirby did say that she felt Jones should "be thankful that he was given the opportunity to attend the school by the city and pay us (the city) back."

The state pays for the school fees but the city pays the person attending while they are in school plus mileage -- the $5,453.73 for Jones dating from January 20th.

Two other resignations, that of Brian Doan on May 21st and Ronnie Hellard, also last month, were also noted. Both left for employment with the Knox County Sheriff's Department.

The three resignations leaves the local police force very short-handed, down to four active officers, according to Chief Bill Mink, including himself. One officer, Eddie Delaney, remains on sick leave at least through June 30th, Mink said.

The city has applied for a grant to employ three additional officers which will pay 75% of their salary.

Councilman Bryan Hansel commented that if the council "wants to get and keep good officers, we might ought to look at the pay." However, no action was taken.

The good news for the council from Chief Mink was that the city was presented with two federal forfeiture checks on May 7th in the total amount of $23,963.90. The presentation was made at the United States Attorneys and Drug Enforcement Agency meeting held at the Manchester Police Department.

Mink said the checks were presented to Sgt. Barry Adams and himself and were the largest checks given to any agency participating in the D.E.A./H.I.D.A. Drug Task Force in the Eastern Division of Kentucky in 2003.

The funds must be used for law enforcement purposes stated in the city's "Application for Transfer of Federally Forfeited Property, form DAG 71," which increases, not supplants, the city's normally appropriated operating budget. Mink said the funds can be used to purchase police equipment and vehicles only.

In other action, Mayor Kirby brought the council up-to-date on the audit report for 2000. According to a letter to Mayor Kirby from Simons, Elliott & Company, PSC, who are conducting the audit, a copy of the depreciation schedule for the water and sewer operations as of June 30, 1999 cannot be located. The letter

Cont. to A-11

Relay for Life seeks support from Rockcastle County

The American Cancer Society and its two million volunteers are working diligently in communities, like Rockcastle County to reduce the threat of cancer. Your help is needed to make the hope of conquering cancer a reality by taking part in Relay for Life.

Relay for Life is an overnight fundraising event filled with activities, food and community spirit. Approximately 600 people attended last years Relay for Life and a little over $21,000 was raised for the first annual Relay for Life held in Rockcastle County.

Cancer survivors, challenge everyone in Rockcastle County to get involved in the American Cancer Society's national signature event, Relay for Life.

Committees are being formed to coordinate the event that is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 1. However, they are still in need of volunteers. The next planning meet-

Cont. to A-11

Queen Candidates

Six girls will vie for the title of Queen of the Headwaters of the Dix River Festival on Saturday, June 7th at Brodhead.

The girls will be judged on an essay, their poster and an interview.

Contending for the crown are: Ashley Cottrell, Michelle Rowe, Amber Didonato, Kayla Lear, Elizabeth Matekovich and Brittany Perkins.

The winner will be crowned by reigning queen Rachel Childress at about 6:40 p.m. and will receive a $100 savings bond from Citizens Bank.

County's insurance rates increase by $38,874; 9/11/01 attacks cited

At a special called meeting of the Rockcastle Fiscal Court on May 28th, the magistrates and Judge Executive Buzz Carloftis took some of the "trickle down" effect from the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks on the United States -- it came in the form of a hefty rate increase for the county's insurance premiums.

Larry Denny with the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO), the carrier for all the county's insurance, told the court that all counties saw increases and they were mainly due to the 9/11/01 attacks.

For example, the county's all-line fund rate increased by $23,877 to a total of $70,018 (a 51% increase) because that fund covers the county's volunteer fire department's fire engines and other vehicles. A full 70% of the county's total values listed on the vehicle report, is from the fire departments, according to Carloftis.

Another jump came in the rate for worker's compensation which jumped to $34,285 from $19,378, a 77% increase. All together, the county's insurance premium for the year will be $104,303 and that excludes the county's share of employee health insurance premiums.

Cont. to A-11

A Rockcastle County man was killed Wednesday morning when he lost control of the above Ford Festiva around 2:15. Jason Houk, 24, was pronounced dead at the Rockcastle County Hospital around 3:30 a.m. by Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell. Dowell said that Houk hit an embankment on Hwy. 150, when he exited (old Hwy. 461). Services for Houk are scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday at Dowell and Martin Funeral Home and visitation is after 6 p.m. on Sunday.

2nd Annual Discovery Festival is June 6-8 at Renfro Valley

The BitterSweet Cabin Museum is proud to announce the Second annual Discovery Festival, featuring the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial June 6 - 8.

Returning for this year's celebration on Friday evening, June 6th only, at 8 p.m. is Kentucky Chautauqua member, Scott New, in a free performance as Daniel Boone. Mr. New, a professional living history interpreter, says his goal is to strip away the hype and uncover the real Daniel Boone. Throughout the festival, Jim Sayre will portray Abraham Lincoln, The Great Emancipator. Meriwether Lewis, performed by Skip Jackson, will tell about the great discovery expedition.

The festival is free of charge to the general public and is held on the grounds of the Renfro Valley Entertainment Center off I-75 at Exit 62. Festival hours begin at 4 p.m., Friday afternoon and run to 9 p.m. that evening. Saturday's hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday's hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will be filled with demonstrators and artisans such as broom, soap and candle making, wood carving, chair weaving, toy making, furniture making, blacksmith and tatting. There will be scheduled performances, featuring the Eversole Brothers with mountain music, tomahawk throwing and Indian music by Becky Hines as Sacagawea. Local and regional participants will present long rifle demonstrations, surveyor's camps, a duel style gunfight and a Mandan Indian village display. These gifted artisans and performers are sure to make this event one of your annual favorites.

Cont. to A-11

Local man killed in accident

A Rockcastle County man was killed Friday when a tractor he was mowing with overturned, killing him instantly, according to Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell.

Richard Spoonamore, 70, was mowing on his property near Orlando around 5:00 p.m., when the tractor overturned on a hillside.

Dowell said that Spoonamore died from internal injuries.

(A complete obituary appears on page A-3).

Rockcastle County Week End Events

4th Annual Brodhead Headwaters of Dix River Festival
5 p.m. Friday, June 6th
through
8 p.m. Sat., June 7th

Rockcastle River Day
Noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, June 7th
ASPI's Demonstration Center

2nd Annual Discovery Festival
Renfro Valley
Friday, June 6th
through
Sunday, June 8th.

The 2nd Annual Discovery Festival will be held on the grounds of the Renfro Valley Entertainment Center June 6-8. The festival features the Lewis and Clark Expedition and is being held under the auspices of the BitterSweet Cabin Museum. The festival is free of charge.