Mount Vernon Signal

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Rockets Begin Play Saturday
See Special Section Inside

County applies for grant

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has applied for a Land and Water Grant, totaling $77,300, covering everything from the senior citizens center to a recreation area at Livingston to the ballfields at Brodhead.

The largest project in the grant application is for $52,300 for the senior league baseball field -- the smallest project is $500 for the renovation of public restrooms at the little league baseball field/basketball court.

The biggest ticket item in the application for the senior league baseball field is $17,500 for paving of the entrance road to the field and the parking area. Also included in the project is $10,800 for a chain link fence around the perimeter of the property; $10,000 each for construction of public restrooms and a municipal sewer line tie-in and construction and $4,000 for landscaping.

Another project is for the Coach Preston Parrett Gymnisium outdoor recreatin area totaling $17,000.

This project includes $6,500 for exterior lighting; $3,500 for resurfacing/reconstructing outdoor recreation area and parking lot; $3,000 for renovation of public restrooms inside the gymnasium; $2,000 for relocation of overhead utility and $1,000 each for landsaping and exterior basketball goals.

$7,500 is being applied for for resurfacing/reconstructing utdoor recreation area and parking lot at the Rockastle County Senior Citizens Center and landscaping.

The least expensive item applied for is $500 for the renovation of public restrooms at the little league base-

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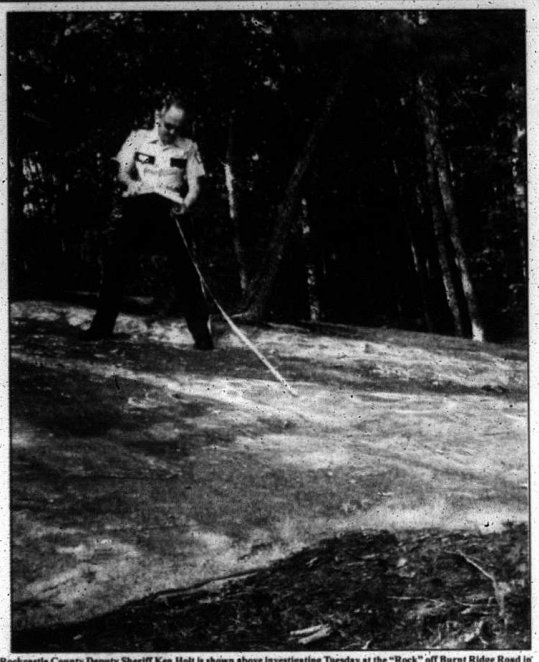

Rockcastle County Deputy Sheriff Ken Holt is shown above investigating Tuesday at the "Rock" off Burnt Ridge Road in northern Rockcastle County, after a Fairfield, Ohio woman apparently fell to her death on Sunday evening. Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell said that an autopsy on Monday revealed that Jessica M. Phelps, 20, died from massive blunt force trauma injuries due to her fall. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Mrs. Phelps sustained a broken back and severed spine in the accident. She was with her husband and another couple, according to Holt. Deputy Holt said he was still investigating the case. Mrs. Phelps is at least the fifth person to lose their life at the "Rock", which is one of Rockcastle County's most scenic places. Deputy Holt said Mrs. Phelps could have fallen as far as 100 feet.

Police charge Bobby Ramsey with murder

Last Friday police arrested a Mt. Vernon man and charged him with the brutal murder of Karen Taylor, 40, of Lebanon, Ohio.

Bobby Ramsey, 39, was first arrested in Madison County on Friday and charged with tampering with physical evidence, and being a persistent felony offender.

He is also charged in Madison County with an attempted robbery of Cumberland Valley Bank in Berea.

According to Rockcastle County Sheriff Darrell Doan, Ramsey was arrested without incident and is currently being held in Madison County, but will likely be transferred to Rockcastle County.

Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane said that others are believed to be involved in the murder case and the investigation is ongoing.

Karen Taylor's decomposed body was found 3.1 miles from Renfro Valley about ten feet off a county road at Hummel, on July 6th by two local runners, Dr. Lee Cain and Attorney Willis Coffey.

According to police, Taylor's hands had been severed from her body in an apparent attempt to conceal her identity.

Taylor died as the result of several gunshot wounds to her head and upper body.

Police think she was murdered around July 2nd.

Det. Lane said police have interviewed several people in the case and that they are still talking to people in the Berea and Richmond area, but that Ramsey, who has spent ten years of his adult life in prison for other crimes, is certainly the main suspect.

Ramsey was released from jail

(Cont. to A9)

Bobby Ramsey

Karen Taylor

From Livingston man

Fiscal Court hears complaint

Donald Rice of Livingston was the first order of business for the Rockcastle Fiscal Court at their regular meeting last Wednesday. Mr. Rice was upset that the City of Livingston is building a picnic shelter structure adjacent to the Coach Preston Parrett Gym at Livingston. The structure, Rice said, through his spokesman Brady Durham, prohibits the use of a double gate he built into his property and, Durham said, Rice was given right-of-way through the property by Judge Buzz Carloftis.

However, Judge Carloftis disputed this claim, saying that, besides the fact that he did not have the authority to grant a permanent right-of-way, Rice had already made an access through the existing fence before the county owned the property, and without the permission of Daniel Boone Development Council who owned the property at that time. Carloftis also said that he gave Rice permission to install the gate with the understanding that it was not a permanent easement.

Rice, noticeably upset, said he had installed the gate at a cost of $1,000. However, Carloftis said this expense was of "no concern" to the county

(Cont. to A9)

Local manufacturing plant gives boost to Lions' project

Reynolds Food Packing and Alcoa Aluminum surprised Mt. Vernon Lions Club President David DeBoard recently with a nice donation to his "Building a Better Future for our Community and County" project

The business donated $1,200 to help with the purchase of several Optic 2000 eye screening machines to be used for children and adults.

To date, Mr. DeBoard has raised about $7,000 which will pay for four machines and will help toward purchase of other equipment needed for complete screening capabilities of Rockcastle Countians.

"We deeply appreciate Reynolds Aluminum's outstanding help and all the other businesses and individuals who have assisted us in this project," DeBoard said.

Circuit Judge Robert Gillum, left, swore-in Terry Jackson as the new police chief of Mt. Vernon Monday morning. Looking on is Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarice Kirby.

The Rockets football team will see their first home action in the Jamboree Friday night, August 29th against South Laurel. As part of bowl activities, a Jamboree Queen Bowl Queen will be crowned from the senior class. Candidates are, front row, from left: Allison Anderkin, Becca Alsip, Rachel Childress, Serena Cunagin, and Tiffany Hopkins. Back row: Maggie Phillips, Amanda Rogers, Brooke Smith and Sheena Swinney. The queen will be chosen by a vote of the entire student body.

Reynolds Food Packaging recently made a $1,200 donation to the Mt. Vernon Lions Club toward the purchase of Optic 2000 eye screening machines for use in the county. The machines will be used for children and adults in the county by the Lions Club for early detection of eye problems. In the photo are, from left: David DeBoard, Mt. Vernon Lions Club president; Reynolds comptroller Sandra Carroll; Reynolds plant manager, Doug MacMurdo and Cledith Thacker, Lions Vice District Governor.