



Mount Vernon Signal

ing Rockcastle County Since 1887

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Ramsey indicted in brutal murder

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Grand Jury, handed down eleven indictments last week for crimes ranging from murder to flagrant non-support of a minor child.

Bobby Ramsey, 39, of Berea, and formerly of Rockcastle County, was indicted for murder. He is accused of killing Karen Taylor, 40, who was apparently a friend he had met while in prison.

According to police, Ramsey shot Taylor several times and twisted her hands off in an attempt to conceal her identity.

Taylor's decomposed body was found a few days after she had been murdered in the Hummel section of Rockcastle County by two local men who were running.

Dr. Lee Cain and attorney Willis Coffey spotted Taylor's body, which was about ten feet from the roadway.

Ramsey is currently being held in the Madison County Detention Center. He was charged in that county for attempted bank robbery, after the July 3rd murder he is accused of.

Earlinda Lee Cotton, 37, of Negro Town Hill Mt. Vernon was indicted on a charge of cultivating marijuana.

Clinton James Helman, 29, of Trotwood, Ohio, was indicted on three counts in connection with an alleged break-in at Rite-Aid in Mt. Vernon on August 14th.

He was indicted for burglary, criminal mischief, and fleeing and evading police.

Eric S. Pittman, 26, of Monticello was indicted on a charge of flagrant non-support of his children in the

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Several local supporters attended a fundraising event for U.S. Representative Ernie Fletcher, the Republican Party's candidate for Kentucky Governor, on Saturday night at Renfro Valley. State Representative Danny Ford, of Mt. Vernon, who is Fletcher's local campaign manager, said several thousand dollars for Fletcher's campaign has been raised locally. Above, Fletcher talks with Ford's brother, Sam, left, and Sharon and Douglas Dell Ponder. Also in the photo at far right are Gary and Gertha Mink.

In Mt. Vernon

Festival is October 10 and 11

This year's Mt. Vernon's Bittersweet Festival kicks off at 4 p.m. Friday, October 10th with over 60 booths, including arts/crafts, jewelry, antiques, candles, face painting, wood crafts, pillows, floral arrangements, etc. and a booth manned by the Sheriff's department and Mt. Vernon city police to fingerprint your child. There will also be food vendors set up and pony rides and a petting zoo will be located below the courthouse at the "gravel pit".

At 6 p.m. C.C. Chance will be providing country-western music will provide country-western music on stage. Fire the Choir and 40 Days West will be providing contemporary Christian music beginning at

6:30 and Wild River will begin performing at 8 p.m.

The annual 5K Run and Health Walk will be Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with late registration at 7 a.m. At 10 a.m., Northside Baptist Church's "puppets" will be performing, along with an interpretive movement by the church and more gospel singing. The Bittersweet Cloggers will perform at 11 a.m. and the parade will arrive at noon.

C.C. Chance will again perform at 2 p.m., Wayne Harris will be singing gospel at 3 p.m., southern gospel singer Michael Frutkin will be performing at 4 p.m. and Behind the Cross, a local women's gospel quartet, will be singing at 5 p.m.

The evening's activities will conclude with a street dance with the Wild River Band performing, beginning at 8 p.m.

Festival is deadline for signing petitions

The recent drive for signers of a petition in support of additional traffic signals on the bypass, will come to an end with the Bittersweet Festival the week end of October 10-11, according to Keith Bussell who is spearheading the effort.

Bussell said Tuesday that petitions will be collected from businesses on Thursday and Friday before the festival and will be available during the festival for additional signatures. They will then be compiled for presentation to the Cumberland Valley Area Development District and the State Transportation Cabinet.

The petition asks for additional traffic control devices at the bypass's intersection with Richmond Street and West Main Street. Also being requested is lowering of the speed limit to 55 all along the bypass and flashing warning lights before the signal at the West Main Street intersection.

Willalla Day This Saturday

Everyone is invited to the annual Willalla Day Festival Saturday, September 27th.

Events begin at 8 a.m. with the opening of yard sales and continues through 2 p.m. with a pie and dessert auction.

At 9 a.m., horse and wagon rides

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Several races locally

Kentucky will elect new Governor in November

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle County voters along with voters in the rest of the state of Kentucky will have a lot of decisions to make in the 2003 General election.

Locally there is a race for a seat on the Rockcastle County Board of Education in division one which consists of the voting precincts of South Mt. Vernon and East and West Livingston.

Board member Sam Stallworth resigned several weeks ago, after he realized he could not legally serve because he is the water superintendent in Livingston and was a member of the board.

State law prohibits a person from holding two government paid jobs and although the pay for sitting on the school board is low it is still considered a paid position by the state. Stallworth's daughter, Angie Stallworth is trying to win her dad's vacant seat, as is Donna Hay of Sand Springs who lost to Stallworth in the last school board election by only 31 votes.

In Livingston, there are two people on the ballot for council seats. Curt McHargue, who is a former Livingston Mayor, was appointed in January by the council to fill a vacant seat and was required to run this fall.

Council member Jason Medley resigned from the council after he moved out of the city limits and left another vacancy on the council.

Charlie Newcomb, who is the son-in-law of Mayor, J.C. Griffin is on the ballot with McHargue. They will make up the four member council with Todd Mink and Kathy Carpenter.

Also locally there is a race for the position of Circuit Judge. Former Circuit Judge Dan Venters, who set on the bench for nearly twenty years, resigned this summer, and was replaced by Robert E. Gillum, a Somerset attorney, who was appointed by Governor Paul Patton.

Noted Somerset defense attorney Mark Stanzano, who is a past president of the Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, is one of his opponents.

Gillum's other opponent is Mike Duncan a former assistant Commonwealth Attorney, who was defeated by a large margin by local attorney Debra Lambert when they ran for Family Court Circuit Judge.

Statewide, the Republican candidate is U.S. Congressman Ernie

Fletcher of Lexington and the Democratic candidate is Ben Chandler, a Versailles native and grandson of the late and very famous Kentucky Governor "Happy" Chandler. Chandler is currently the state's Attorney General and has held other statewide public offices.

Polls indicate the two men are in a virtual dead heat in their race to succeed Governor Paul Patton.

If Fletcher were to win, he would be the state's first Republican Governor since the 1960's when Louie B. Nunn of Glasgow was elected.

In the race for Secretary of State, Republican C.M. "Trey" Grayson will square off against Democrat Russ Maple.

In the race for Attorney General, Republican Jack D. Wood, Democrat State Representative Greg Stumbo and veteran office seeker Gatewood Galbraith will face off. Galbraith is on the ballot as an independent candidate.

In the race for Auditor of Public Accounts, Democrat Crt Lualien, a former aide to Governor Patton will face Republican Lisa Greenwell.

Republican Adam Koening will try to unseat Democrat Jonathan Miller in the race for State Treasurer.

Republican Richie Farmer is using his statewide notoriety as a former University of Kentucky basketball player to try and win the seat of Commissioner of Agriculture, but he faces a tough challenge from Alice Woods, Basler, who is the wife of former U.S. Congressman Scotty Basler, himself a former Wildcat player.

Basler is also a former Lexington Mayor and a farmer.

In Rockcastle County there are 9,029 Republican's registered, 1,132 Democrats and 414 other registered voters.

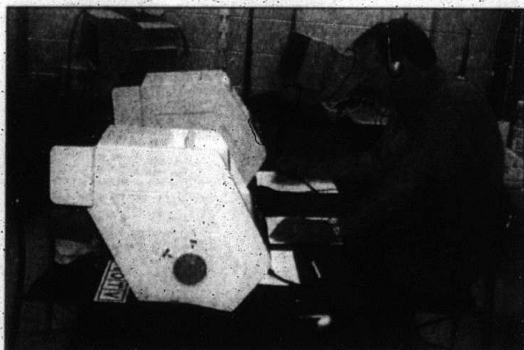
Rockcastle County Clerk Norma

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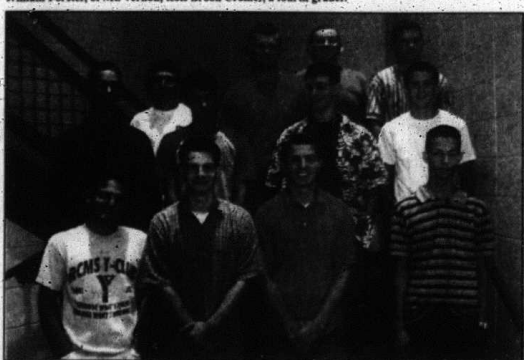
Positions filled

At the August 27th meeting of the Rockcastle County High School SBDM Council Meeting, recommendations for several coaching positions were made.

Recommended for employment were: Josh Martin and Adam Childress, paid and volunteer assistant football coaches, respectively; Mark Brummett, assistant boys basketball coach; Jesse Mahaffey, head softball coach and David Riddle and Ken Hopkins, assistant softball coaches.



Members of the Mt. Vernon Lions Club spent last week at Mt. Vernon Elementary School testing second through fifth grade's eyes with the new Optic 200 machines. The four machines were bought with funds solicited from individuals and businesses in the county by the club. In the above photo, Lions Club member William Forster, of Mt. Vernon, tests Brook Cronner, a fourth grader.



King candidates for 2003 Homecoming are, front row, from left: Anthony Cook, Matthew Logan Stamper, Lance Baldwin and Cole Dorsey. Second row: Dustin Albright, Matthew Bray, Neal Depew and Nicholas Williams and, back row: Matthew Silcox, Adam Hensley, Stephen Powell and James Crócher.



2003 Football Homecoming will be held immediately following the Rockets game with Clay County this Friday night. Candidates for queens are, front row, from left: Rachel Wright and Kim Clatt. Second row: Megan Anderkin, Holly Kidwell and Trese Robinson. Third row: Katie Stevens, Heaven Spoonamore and Johana Abney. Back row are: Allison Anderkin, Amanda Rogers and Claudia Schmidt. Not present for photo was Hollie Barnett.