

On Monday of this week, Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarice R. Kirby received a most interesting telephone call. Santa Claus himself called the Mayor to advise her that he would be coming into Mt. Vernon the evening of December 5th and plans on spending a few weeks visiting with the people of Rockcastle.

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Following information received by Deputy Ken Holt, while investigating a string of home burglaries in the county, members of the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Department obtained a search warrant and raided a local man's home last Saturday night.

According to Sheriff's Deputy Matt Bryant, a large amount of drugs, cash, numerous guns and tools were found at the home of Andre L. "Andy" Barnett, 38, of Cove Branch Road during the search. One of the guns, a .22 caliber target rifle, found in a van next to the Barnett residence, had been entered as stolen in 1983 in Illinois.

Sheriff Darrell Doan estimated the value of the stolen property recovered at around \$100,000.

Barnett faces numerous charges, including three counts of possession/use of a police radio; receiving stolen property; trafficking in controlled substance (two counts) and two counts of controlled-prescription drugs not in original container.

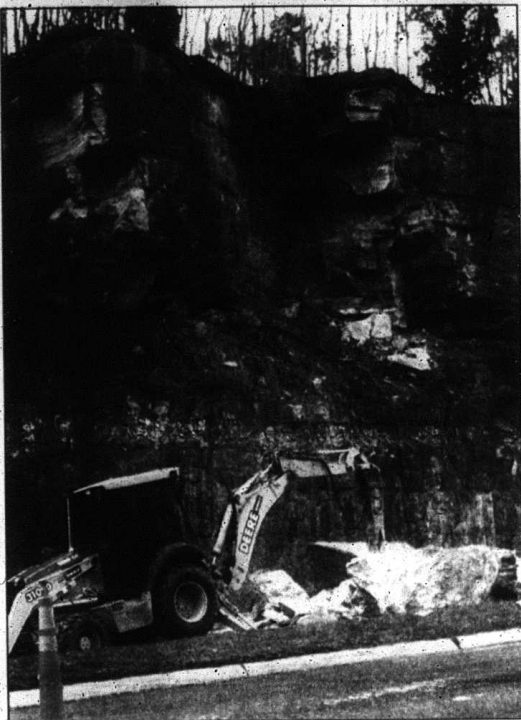
Sheriff Doan said that anyone who has had firearms, jewelry, tools or other items stolen should contact his

Barnett is lodged in the Rockcastle County Jail under \$10,000 cash bond.

The investigation leading to Barnett was of a string of recent home burglaries in the Red Hill area which Deputy Ken Holt was investigating. Holt said that a 15-year-old juvenile from the Red Hill area has been arrested and charged with two of the burglaries. The investigation is continuing, Holt said, with additional charges expected.

On November 3rd of this year, the juvenile allegedly entered the home of Peggy Carpenter and Brandon Mason, both in the Red Hill area, and took items of value including firearms, electronic equipment and jewelry.

The juvenile has been lodged in the Laurel County Juvenile Detention Center.



A large section of the cliff overhanging U.S. 25 south of Mt. Vernon fell onto the highway about 7 o'clock Monday night, demolishing a six inch water line and disrupting service to many customers in the Burr, Brush Creek, Carter Ridge and outlying areas. Service was temporarily restored late Wednesday but had to be disconnected again early Thursday morning while contractors blasted off other overhanging rock. The complete clean-up and restoration project is expected to take four to five days.



Kelly Roberts, 24, of Eubank escaped serious injury when the 1999 Pontiac Grand Am she was driving was struck by a large utility truck Monday afternoon at the intersection of 150 and 70. Ms. Roberts was travelling toward Broadhead on 150 when she stopped to turn onto 70. The truck, driven by Robert McDowell, was unable to stop and attempted to go by Roberts on the left side and struck Roberts on the driver's side. Roberts was ejected from the vehicle and the car's airbags deployed, saving Roberts from serious injury.

Residents of Carter Ridge, Brush Creek, the Burr area and outlying

Residents of Carter Ridge, Brush Creek, the Burr area and outlying areas have been without water since Monday night and service was not expected to be restored until late Wednesday following a six-inch water line break on U.S. 25 south of Mt. Vernon.

The break was caused by falling rocks, some as big as 50 ton, from the cliff face along U.S. 25.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Clarence Kirby said Wednesday that state highway officials had told her it would take about five days for the rock to be removed and the line repaired. In addition, other rock along the cliff face, more of which fell Tuesday night, will have to be removed to prevent another fall.

The mayor said that in order to restore service to residents in the area, she had ordered line to be laid next to the median as a temporary measure and that when the rest of the rock overhanging the road was taken down, probably Thursday, the temporary line would have to be discon-

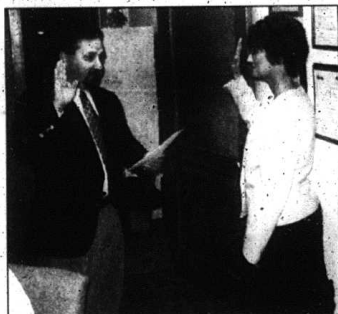
nected to keep it from possibly being broken.

Of course, there will be a boil water advisory in effect once service is restored and, customers of Eastern Rockcastle Water Association also affected by the break, have already been issued a boil water advisory on the Orlando (Brush Creek) line, according to Randy Corry, general manager for ERWA.

Corry also said Tuesday that a repair is necessary on a water line in the Sand Springs area (after Fletcher Cave) and service may be interrupted while repairs are made.

Weather permitting, Corry said the line, which crosses four creeks, will be repaired Wednesday or Thursday and, during that time, customers beyond Fletcher Cave on the Sand Springs Road, will not have service. Afterwards, of course, there will be a boil water advisory for those customers also until further notice.

A boil water advisory means that water must be boiled three minutes before use.



Newly-elected Rockcastle County Board of Education member Angela Stallsworth was sworn-in by County Attorney Jeff Burdette at the regular meeting of the school board Tuesday night. Ms. Stallsworth will serve the remaining three years of her father's, Sam Stallsworth's, term.

Alexander is finalist for Wendy's Heisman

The "firsts" just keep coming at Rockcastle County High School and this time, it's an individual whose achievement is gaining the school and community national notice.

On Monday, a ceremony was held at RCHS honoring Seth Cody Alexander, a senior at RCHS, for achieving the rank of national final-
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Rockcastle County Sheriff Darrell Doan and several deputies worked hours Monday night unloading a U-Haul van they rented to confiscate stolen property from the home of Andy Barnett Saturday night. All items were catalogued and residents who have had firearms, jewelry, tools, etc. stolen should contact the Sheriff's office to see if items can be identified. In the photo are, from left: Deputy Sheriff Joe Rush, Sheriff Darrell Doan, Constable David Mason, Michael Brummett, Deputy Derrick Price and Deputy Rick Brummett.



Cody Alexander, a senior at RCHS, has been named a national finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award. The announcement came at a ceremony at the high school Monday. Cody is one of 12 national finalists and will be travelling to New York December 12-14 to participate in the Heisman weekend festivities. ESPN2 will feature all 12 finalists during the awards ceremony. With Cody in the photo are, from left: his sister, Courtney; his mother, Irene; father, Gerald and RCHS principal John Hale.