

Mount Vernon Signal

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Indictments returned

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down three indictments on Friday, all against local residents.

Tonya Looman Denny, 25, of Rt. 1, Brodhead was indicted on three counts, in connection with a break-in at the home of Mark Loudermilk on November 21.

Denny is accused of taking jewelry and mail that was owned by Loudermilk after she allegedly entered his residence.

Marvin Cumigan, 36, of Hwy. 2549, Mt. Vernon, was indicted on a count of stalking and one count of first degree wanton endangerment.

Cumigan is accused of stalking Regina Lay, at her Mt. Vernon office and then entering the office, where he grabbed her arm, on October 26.

Christopher Sean Mullins, 24, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on one count of second degree escape.

He is accused of running off from Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Darrell Doan on October 27, while Doan was trying to serve papers on him.

No word from state on new landfill

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotti is who is vehemently opposed to a proposed landfill in the Little Clear Creek section of the county, said Wednesday that the state had made no decision on the matter.

Last week the Rockcastle Fiscal Court passed a resolution opposing the landfill, which would be on the property of David McFarland near the Rockcastle-Madison County line.

Police looking into burning of cross

Kentucky State Police Detective Mike Hopkins, a member of the Special Hate Crimes Unit, is investigating a cross burning incident, which took place in the county in late December.

Hopkins confirmed that the case involves Denver O'Neil, a resident, who lives on Oscar Isaacs Road in northern Rockcastle County.

Hopkins said that a cross was burned in O'Neil's yard sometime around Christmas and that someone fired shots at the same time.

"I think the shots were just fired to get Mr. O'Neil's attention so he would see the cross burning, because it went up pretty quick," he said.

Hopkins said he had few leads in the case, but that his investigation was continuing.

O'Neil is currently involved in a lawsuit with the county and several of his neighbors over the legal right-of-way on Oscar Isaacs Road.



Rockcastle Development Board Executive Director Bige Towery, Jr., discusses the Internet at the new Technology Center at the Rockcastle Courthouse with CenterNet Project Manager Pam Bridgman and Systems Specialist Jonathan Foster. At left, a technician runs wire as part of the finishing touches at the Tech Center.



Agreement between RAAP, county reached

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has reached an agreement with the Rockcastle County Adoption Agency for Pets.

The two had been negotiating a contract for the past several months, but at last week's fiscal court meeting the magistrates and Judge finalized an offer to RAAP, who accepted it.

The county has agreed to provide part of the labor for the construction of RAAP's new animal shelter on Old Sigmund Road in the Roundhouse section of the county.

The county is currently involved in a lawsuit with the Trixie Foundation, a group that sued the county and 59 others in the same last year.

In their suit, The Trixie Foundation claimed that the county was not taking care of the stray animal population correctly.

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotti said that last week's action by the court will help the county to do a better job of taking care of stray animals and it will also help RAAP, who has been working for the past three years trying to build an animal shelter.

The county has agreed to provide partial labor and equipment for the construction of the facility and continuous labor for maintenance of the grounds, once the project is completed.

The maintenance labor would be provided by work release prisoners from the Rockcastle County jail.

The county also agreed to maintain the road to the facility and give \$500 per month to RAAP to help with monthly operating expenses once the project is completed.

Last week's action also enabled the county and RAAP to apply for a \$600,000 grant from the state of Kentucky through the Animal Control Advisory Board.

Carlotti said he did not know if last week's action would help the county in their lawsuit, but he said that either way, it was something the entire county could benefit from.

Tech Center will benefit entire county

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle's new technology center will open in February, according to Rockcastle County Development Board Executive Director Bige Towery.

The technology center is located in the former Circuit Courtroom on the third floor of the old Rockcastle County Courthouse.

At the direction of the Development Board, the courtroom has been completely renovated for the Tech Center, which will feature video conferencing, free public access to computers and desktop conferencing.

The tech center in the courthouse is part of the CenterNet Regional Telecommunications Network, which is administered through the Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

CenterNet, a regional network, is bringing vast new telecommunications capabilities to Rockcastle and 39 other counties in Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

The network features both Internet services and high-quality video conferencing which allows individuals to communicate across long distances with both video and audio contact.

CenterNet has been made possible by a \$7 million grant from the Small Business Administration, The Small Business Administration and The Center for Rural Development.

expensive technology to be used as a business recruitment and workforce development tool.

Locally, the development board has used donations from the Bank of Mt. Vernon, Citizen's Bank, Rockcastle Hospital, Rockcastle County Schools, The City of Mt. Vernon, The Rockcastle Industrial Development Authority, to raise the \$73,699 it took to do the work in the old courtroom.

"It will take time to identify local needs and the Center's use and ultimate success depend upon the initiative taken by the community," Towery said.

The Rockcastle Fiscal Court has reached an agreement with the Rockcastle County school system, who will play a large role in the Tech Center.

"Linking the Center with the 21st Century Community Learning Center at the Rockcastle County school system will benefit the center greatly,"

Towery said.

"This alliance should assist us with the staffing of the Center which has been a concern and it will also provide technical and professional expertise to make this operation successful," Towery said.

Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond said he was very pleased with the agreement between the school system and the Board of the Tech Center.

"Through Century 21st we will be able to place our community education coordinator at the Center on a full-time basis," he said.

Cont. to A-9

Still No Salt

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotti said this week that the county road department still had received no salt for county roads.

Carlotti said that manufacturers have told him that because of the demand, not to expect any the rest of the winter.

That is not good news for the Rockcastle County school system which has already had to dismiss school ten days this winter because of slick roads.

The last day missed was Friday, when school officials had to call it off because of black ice.

As it stands right now, students would be dismissed for summer break on May 31.

Spring Break is April 9-13.

Clarification

A Mt. Vernon man pled guilty recently in Rockcastle District Court to two counts of criminal littering.

According to court records, Quentin Barnett, 82, was caught twice on video camera throwing trash from his car.

Barnett was sentenced to 60 days in jail and given a \$1,000 fine but, because of his age, the fine and jail time was suspended and he was placed on probation for two years.

The county has cameras at illegal dumpsites in the county and Buzz Carlotti says the county will prosecute anyone caught illegal dumping.

Editors Note: A portion of the above story was left out of last week's newspaper.



Students at the Rockcastle County High School selected basketball homecoming queen candidates on Tuesday. They are pictured above, front row, from left, Courtney Alexander, Lindsey Parsons, Tami Taylor, Rachel Childress and Allison Anderkin. Second row, from left, Tara Burton, Tammy Dees, Jennifer Kidwell and Brittany Asher. Back row, from left: Kallista Robinson, Angela Boreing and Elizabeth Matekovich. Homecoming had been scheduled for Friday night, but the game was cancelled. School officials did not know Wednesday afternoon when homecoming would take place.

Not the One!

Mt. Vernon City Clerk, Kaye Rader said this week that the Roger Bingham, who is participating on the television show Survivor is not her brother.

"I think they are about the same age and of course they have the same name, but it's not my brother," she said.

Ms. Rader said she had been asked the question several times in the past couple of weeks.



New KSP Officer

Jason Lee McCowan of East Bernstadt, has been assigned to Rockcastle County, by the Kentucky State Police. McCowan was a member of the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California prior to being employed by the Kentucky State Police.