

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 114 - Number 49 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50 a copy - Thursday, September 6, 2001

Junie Kirby arrested on drug charges

A Rockcastle County man who shot and killed his pregnant girlfriend in 1995 has been arrested on drug charges.

Wally "Junie" Kirby, 44, of Castle Village Apartments Brodhead was arrested on Monday and charged with manufacturing methamphetamine.

Kirby and his current girlfriend Juanita McCormick Watkins, 30, also of Castle Village Apartments, were arrested on Monday by Brodhead City Police Officer William Harris.

Harris arrested the two after the Rockcastle 911 dispatch received a complaint.

Harris said that when he arrived at Castle Village, Kirby and Watkins were apparently making the illegal drug methamphetamine in a wooded area behind the apartment complex and that they had several of the ingredients used to make the illegal drug in their car.

While Harris was searching Kirby's vehicle he came across a milk jug that Kirby told Harris had milk in it.

Harris said that when he opened the jug it actually was a type of ammonia used to make the illegal drugs and that Harris was overcome by the fumes.

Harris was admitted to the Rockcastle Hospital, where he was treated for the effects of the ammonia. Harris was kept overnight at the hospital and will not return to work until this Friday.

When Kirby appeared in court on Wednesday he was found in contempt of court by District Judge Mike Henry for disrupting court and his case on the charges of manufacturing meth were not heard.

He is due back in court on September 12th and is being held on a \$50,000 cash bond.

Kirby pled guilty in 1998 to second degree manslaughter and received a sentence of five years in prison for the February 24th, 1995 shooting death of Tracy Caudill, 22, of Orlando.

Caudill was carrying the couple's second child when she was shot. Kirby pled not guilty and claimed self-defense.

Cont. to A-3



Former teachers and administrators of Livingston School were honored during the annual homecoming on Saturday as Grand Marshalls of the 2001 Livingston Homecoming. Some of those teachers in attendance were Sharon Ponder, Preston Parrett, Gatliff Craig, Mike Robbins, Janie Harper, Joanna Allen, Lee Gentry, Hannah Gentry, Peggy Phillips and Joyce Faulkner. In the front of the float are Jamie Ornela and Hannah Saylor, co-homecoming queen candidates.



Members of the Livingston Pentecostal Church won first place for their float in the Livingston Homecoming parade held Saturday. The theme for the float was the Ten Commandments.

Fiscal Court takes over ownership of former school

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court voted last week to take over ownership of the former Livingston School property and to begin the necessary steps to put it back in condition for public use.

The school was closed in 1994 by the Rockcastle County Board of Education and has deteriorated and been heavily vandalized.

Daniel Boone Development Corporation bought the property in 1996 thanks to a \$42,000 state grant, but no work has been done on either structure.

Following is a time line of events surrounding the Livingston School: 1994: Rockcastle Board of Education close the Livingston School.

1994-1996: Livingston School property continues under ownership of the Board of Education. Board of Education becomes concerned about the future use of the structures and the property's vandalism.

1996: Daniel Boone Development Board, Inc., with main office in Manchester, looks over the buildings and seeks ownership of the property. By state law, the School Board cannot hand over the property without just compensation.

July 1996: State Representative Danny Ford provides \$42,500 state funding to Daniel Boone Development Council, Inc., to purchase the Livingston School property from School Board. Transaction is completed.

Cont. to A-8



Rockcastle County Farm Bureau Agent William K. Bullen and his wife Betty Sue will officially retire on October 31st after 34 years as head of the agency. Mr. Bullen has been associated with Farm Bureau since 1953. The Bullen's daughter Marlene Lawson has been appointed agency manager. The Rockcastle County Farm Bureau Federation has 3,000 members, up from 600 in 1967.

Bittersweet Festival is Oct. 5-6

The annual Mt. Vernon Bittersweet Festival has been scheduled for October 5-6.

According to Carol Kirby, festival coordinator, the festival will have something for everyone.

The theme of this year's festival is "A Family Affair".

Kirby said that the annual 5K run will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, beginning at the Rockcastle County Courthouse. There will also

be a kid's fun run the day of the race. Pre-registration costs for that event is \$12.00 and \$14.00 the day of the race.

For more information on the race call 256-3284 or (606) 878-8000.

Kirby said that the festival committee is also trying to compile a

cookbook that can be purchased to benefit the festival and the public is encouraged to send recipes to the festival committee. Kirby said the first issue will deal with basic and simple cooking.

The festival committee is also sponsoring a Bittersweet Festival Pageant.

The festival committee is comprised of Kirby, Sherry Hanel, Teresa Bussell, Janet McClure and Lisa Smith.

For more information contact City Hall at (606) 256-3437.

Saylor, Toney plead guilty

Eddy F. Montgomery, Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockcastle and Pulaski County, announced Tuesday that a total of four people were sentenced terms of imprisonment, in Circuit Court.

According to Montgomery the following people were sentenced to prison and/or entered pleas of guilty. Heath Toney, 32, of Eubank received 11 years imprisonment for the offenses of Criminal Attempt to Commit Robbery, First Degree and Robbery, First Degree. Toney received

Cont. to A-3

Houses must have permits

Rockcastle County Solid Waste Ordinance 90-3 requires that all households in the county register with a permitted collection service or take their waste to an approved transfer station according to Don Coyle, Solid Waste Coordinator. That transfer station is BEE Transfer at Burr. Coyle said the waste management office requires proof of transfer station drop off by all Rockcastle residents.

"The continuing efforts to clean up our roadside and illegal dumps by the county and PRIDE will be greatly helped if everyone complies with this ordinance," he said.



Junie Kirby was arrested on Monday after police found a meth lab in the woods near Brodhead.



Mrs. Juanita Medley was honored as the Livingston Citizen of the Year by committee member Del Ponder. Mrs. Medley lives in Livingston with her husband Billy and four sons.



Nine Rockcastle County High School students will vie for Renfro Valley Jamboree Queen this Friday night when the Rockets take on Lincoln County in their annual bowl game. Shown above front row from left are: Angela Boring, Tammy Peyton, Daphne Adams and Courtney Alexander. Back row, from left: Shanda Stamper, Melissa French, Kalissa Robinson and Crystal Cameron. Not shown - Holly Mullins. The game will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the crowning of the queen at half-time.