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Rockets ranked 10th in Kentucky - A8

Rockcastle receives grant for shelter

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court and the Rockcastle County Adoption Agency for Pets got some good news this week when they learned that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture had approved a \$62,000 grant for a new animal shelter.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotto announced the grant at Tuesday's Rockcastle County Fiscal Court meeting.

The grant will enable the county to finish a job started by RAAP last year.

RAAP and the county reached an agreement earlier this year for the county to take over the construction project at the animal shelter, which is located in the Roundstone area of the county because they were having trouble obtaining funding.

The county took over ownership of the property and applied for a \$65,000 grant from the state to help finish the animal shelter.

The county will lease the property back to RAAP, who will operate it with the help of the county.

"I think we were pretty fortunate to get a \$62,000 grant, since only \$50,000 was allocated statewide," said third district magistrate Bill McKinney.

"I want to publicly thank Anna Rose Mullins and Mary Jane French, two of our dedicated employees for their work on the grant proposal," said Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotto.

"Some people will probably think we should spend that money on roads, but we have an obligation by law to provide an animal shelter in the county," Carlotto said.

In order to help keep down costs, the county is going to use work release prisoners from the Rockcastle County Detention Center to help with the construction and operation of the animal shelter.

Mrs. Virginia Branscum and her brother Steve Bullen donated the property where the animal shelter is being constructed to RAAP last year.

In other business, the court approved the fifteen member Rockcastle County Development Board.

Those serving next year will be Doug Brock, Larry Carter, John Clontz, Martha Cox, Corey Craig, Gadliff Craig, Larry Hammond, Lee D. Keene, Karen King, Tommy Harold Mink, Keith Smith, Willard Whitaker, David Woodall, Judge Carlotto and magistrate John Holbrook.

Besides Carlotto and McKinney, magistrates Fred Mullins Jr., Jack Bradley, Donald Bullock and John Holbrook were in attendance at Tuesday's meeting.

Test scores show schools apparently doing well

Rockcastle County School Board member Martin Vanzant presented some of his own calculations to the Rockcastle County School Board on Tuesday night, which showed an overall good school system, if you are just looking at test scores.

Vanzant took an in depth look at the results of the CATS test, which were released by the state last week.

Vanzant's research showed that Roundstone Elementary School had the 12th best scores in the state out of 755 elementary schools.

They are in the top 15 percent, with 743 schools scoring lower.

Brookside Elementary School had the 123rd best scores in the state and are in the top 16.3 percent.

Mt. Vernon students were 203rd out of 755 in the state and are in the top 26.9 percent of elementary schools.

Rockcastle County Middle School students had the 20th best scores in the state out of 206 middle schools and are in the top 7.7 percent.

Rockcastle County High School students had the 113th best scores in the state out of 231 high schools and are in the top 5.1 percent.

Vanzant's researched show that Roundstone had a gain of 9 points from a year ago, the middle school



Several members of the Northside Baptist Church participated in Saturday's parade at the Bittersweet Festival in Mt. Vernon. A very large crowd turned out for the parade, and to their delight it was one of the longest in recent years.



The Rockcastle County Middle School Cheerleaders were on hand for Saturday's parade in Mt. Vernon.



A local Cub Scout Pack got a ride from Dr. Tony Arvin and Shannon Burton during Saturday's Bittersweet Festival parade.



Members of the Rockcastle County Saddle Club rode in Saturday's patriotic parade.

Rockcastle man jumps fence at local jail house

By: Richard Anderkin

A Rockcastle County man, who had been on the lam for several months before he was arrested last week, escaped from the Rockcastle County Detention Center on Wednesday.

According to police, Johnny W. Denny, 39, of Mt. Vernon escaped around 3 a.m. after he scaled a fence in the recreation area outside the detention center.

Police had been looking for Denny for several months, after he was charged with Intimidating a Witness, First Degree Burglary, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Littering and parole violations.

Several of the charges against Denny are felonies.

When police finally got Denny last week in the Johnetta area of the county, it took several agencies to get him, including the Rockcastle Sheriff's office, Mt. Vernon City Police, Kentucky State Police and the Pukaski County Sheriff's office, which provided a helicopter for use in the arrest.

Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Trevor Hensley said that Denny was hiding in a cold air return under the floor when police apprehended him.

Three other people, including Denny's girlfriend Jaqueline Goforth, were arrested at the same time as Denny and charged with harboring a fugitive.

Rockcastle County Jailor James Miller said that according to video tapes it took about two minutes for Denny to scale the fence.

Another inmate, Dallas Clifford Jr., was with Denny in the recreation facility, but Miller said that he did not try to escape.

Miller issued a statement on Wednesday which stated that, "the recreation area is now closed until razor wire is added to the ceiling portions. An internal investigation is presently underway by the Detention facility that will focus on the video surveillance tape, timing and ability of Denny to avoid detection in scal-

ing the fence," he said.

Miller stated that all on-duty deputies will be interviewed, and the Department of Corrections is working in cooperating with the Rockcastle Detention Center to reinforce the recreation facility.

Miller said that even though the jail had no non-compliances when the jail was inspected last month, unforeseen circumstances can always occur, and we will not rest and the area will not open until that part of the center is reinforced beyond what even the regulations require.

The recreation area is utilized randomly around the clock, due to the number of prisoners in the jail, and since Denny's arrest last week he had only had one hour of recreation time.

Miller said trying to explain why Denny was allowed to go into the recreation area at 3 a.m.

Also the recreation area had razor fencing across the top of the chain link fence when it was first installed, during the expansion and remodeling of the jail last year.

Miller said that he was considering putting that razor fencing back.



Johnny Denny escaped from Jail Wednesday

Board informed about Learning Center at RCMS

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Middle School 21st Century Learning Center was the main topic of conversation at the monthly meeting of the Rockcastle County Board of Education on Tuesday night.

The board held their monthly meeting at the Middle School.

21st Century Director Jason Cogger told the board of education that the 21st Century Learning Center has had 2,100 student visits so far this school year and 400 adult visits.

The 21st Century Learning Center offers a variety of programs, including enrichment for students in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math. There is also tutoring available for students in those areas as well.

Those four classes are part of what Cogger called a survivor program, with that idea being taken from the hit television series.

"We provide a fun, interactive, safe and drug free environment where students have access to educational and recreational opportunities," he said.

"We try to offer services or programs that benefit our community and the people by doing this we can improve school/community relations," Cogger told the school board.

The after school programs are offered Monday through Thursday at the middle school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Transportation is provided on Monday and Tuesday.

Cogger said there were also weekend programs and 21st Century is also in the process of creating their own television station at the school.

21st Century also publishes a newspaper for the school.

21st Century is funded through a federal grant, which was given to the

school system a year ago.

The three year grant was worth \$1.6 million to the local school system.

The board also discussed the second month attendance report, which showed that Brookfield and Mt. Vernon had the highest attendance at 96.5 and that the Alternative School had the lowest at 83 percent.

The overall attendance for the district in the second month was 93.8 percent, down from 95.7 percent the previous month.

The school system receives their money from the State Department of Education based on the number of students who attend school on a daily basis and if the attendance figures stay as low as they were in the second month of school, it could mean a lot of lost revenue for the school system.

Finance officer Richard Bray said the central office was in the process of correcting the attendance problem in the district and especially at the Alternative School.

The school board should match the \$42,680 when they accept the offer, but annually the school system spends approximately \$300,000 a year on technology.

Track and Cross Country Coach Mark Brunnett was also honored by the school board for being named State Track Coach of the Year by his peers.

All five board members, Dr. G.W. Griffith, Terry Burton, Martin Vanzant, Sam Stallworth and Mike Burdette were in attendance, as was School Superintendent Larry Hammond.