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# Mt. Vernon Signal

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## 129 will lose jobs at Mt. Vernon Plastics



129 employees of Mt. Vernon Plastics have been notified that they will lose their jobs.

By: Richard Anderkin

At a time when Rockcastle County leaders are making an all out effort to bring new jobs to the area, there is bad news this week for 129 employees at Mt. Vernon Plastics Corporation, (MVP).

Last Friday, Alcoa Flexible Packaging, the parent company of MVP, announced that they had sold off part of their plant operation in Mt. Vernon to Berry Plastics of Evansville, Indiana.

MVP's injection molding assets will be transferred from Mt. Vernon's plant and from MVP's plant in Sparks, NV to one of Berry's 12 plants. The most recent job losses at MVP will reduce the workforce at the 20-year-old plant from a time high of 400 to just 120 employees.

The latest round of job cuts follows other lay-offs in the past couple of years at MVP.

An MVP spokesperson would not comment on whether or not the 129 employees would receive any type of severance package, but one employee, who had worked at the plant for 15

years said that no severance package was offered to employees.

"They told us we could work until March 25th and then we could draw unemployment - that's it," the employee said.

"They came in on Thursday and told us that if we were going to lose our jobs we would get a letter on Friday and I got mine," the employee said.

"It is really unfair in a way, they have changed around personnel and moved some of them to the other departments, who have only one or two years in at the plant and some people have as much as seventeen years and they lost their job," the employee said.

The MVP spokeswoman said that an out placement services firm has been retained to assist affected employees in seeking future employment.

"As opportunities arise, the affected employees will be called back for the food service operation based upon job requirements," she said.

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## Filing for Primary concludes

By: Richard Anderkin

A total of 61 local citizens have filed their papers for the upcoming May Primary.

The filing deadline was Tuesday. There are many races in which there will be a race, but there are also many incumbents who will be unopposed again.

There will be county-wide races for Judge-Executive, Sheriff and Jailor.

Incumbents County Clerk Norma Hook, PVA Margaret Offutt, County Attorney Jeff Burdette and Coroner Bill Dowell are all unopposed.

In the County Judge Executive's race, incumbent Buzz Carlouts will be opposed by local businessman Howard Saylor. Carlouts is seeking his third term in office. It is Saylor's first attempt at political office. Both men are Republicans.

Among the new filings this week were Gary Lintville, 46, of Roundstone and Jack Stallworth, 45, of Mt. Vernon for Sheriff.

Lintville is the minister of the House of Refuge Church at Roundstone and manager of Near Auto Center II in Berea.

In a news release Lintville said, "I understand what real leadership is, qualities and virtues like integrity,

honesty, commitment and reliability," he said.

Stallworth is also a minister, who preaches at the Conway Baptist Church. Stallworth is also a bus driver for the Rockcastle County school system.

Those two men and Wayne Lear Sr., 72, John H. Kemper, Jr., 59, former deputy Sheriff Daniel Dean, 44, Billy M. Hammons, 67, and school board member Sam Stallworth, 49, will try and unseat incumbent Shirley Smith, who is seeking his fourth term in office. All are Republicans.

In the race for Jailor, incumbent James E. Miller, 44, faces former three time Jailor and one term Sheriff Billy Kirby, 71. Both men are Republicans.

First district magistrate John Holbrook, a Democrat, will face Larry Newcomb, another Democrat in the May Primary.

The winner of that race will face one of six Republican challengers in the November general election.

Those six are: David T. Gibbs,

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## Ford, Rogers file for re-election

State Representative Danny Ford, 49, of Mt. Vernon has filed for re-election to the 80th District of the Kentucky House of Representatives. Ford will be seeking his eleventh term in office. Ford has served the 80th district since 1982.

He currently is unopposed, but a ruling on Tuesday by Franklin Circuit Judge William Graham extended the filing deadline for Kentucky House and Senate seats indefinitely, because the General Assembly can't agree on where the lines will be drawn.

The General Assembly is required to draw new district lines after each nationwide census.

This year, the General Assembly can't agree because in a nutshell, the Democrat controlled House of Representatives is trying to draw Senate lines for the Republican controlled Senate.

"It is pure politics," said Ford. The filing deadline has also been extended for those wishing to run for the United States House of Representatives.

Currently, incumbent Republican Harold Rogers of Somerset, Kentucky's most experienced legislator, faces a challenge from a London man.

Billy Ray Wilson, 58, is a retiree from the federal government and is seeking his first public office.

No Democrats have filed. Rogers has served in Congress

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State Representative Danny Ford



U.S. Representative Harold Rogers



Rockcastle County Clerk Norma Hook, who is running unopposed again in this May's Primary Election, counts down the time Tuesday to the 4:00 p.m. filing deadline. Only a few more candidates filed this week, making a total of 61 local candidates in the May Primary.

## Philbeck experiences horror of school shooting first hand

By: Richard Anderkin

For most of us the horror of school and public place shootings are only something we only experience by watching the coverage of the events

on television.

For one Rockcastle County man, that is no longer the case.

Greg Philbeck, 31, of Old Broadhead Road is a student at Appalachian School of Law in Grundy Virginia, where three people were shot to death on a January 16th afternoon.

Philbeck, who is currently in his last semester of school at the school, which lies on the border between Kentucky and Virginia near Pikeville, was the last person to speak with one of the victims before he was shot to death.

"If he (the shooter) had of come into his office a minute earlier, who knows what might of happen," Philbeck said.

Philbeck, who was a member of the first class at the school before leaving because of family illness, before returning this year, was a friend of the school's Dean, L. Anthony Sutin, 42.

Philbeck was in Sutin's office only

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## Clarification

It was reported in the November 29th edition of the Signal that police said alcohol may have been a contributing factor in a wreck which claimed the lives of two young Rockcastle County people in a traffic accident on November 24th.

Missandra Gisser and Robert Allen, both 21, died in the 6 a.m. accident.

An autopsy on Ms. Gisser, the driver of the car, revealed that alcohol nor drugs were in use by her at the time of the wreck.

Our apologies to her family.

## Hayes held without bond

Last Friday night Mt. Vernon City Police Officer Barry Adams arrested James E. "Bubba" Hayes, 20, of Hwy 70 and charged him with four counts. Hayes was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, receiving

## Four more indictments

Four more indictments have been released from the January session of the Rockcastle County Grand Jury, including one for Rape.

Jeff Howard, 34, of Rt. 2, Mt. Vernon, was charged with the December 20th rape of an 18-year-old woman.

Howard will be arraigned on February 22nd. He is currently free on a \$25,000 property bond.

Robert Daniel Brummett, 35, of Simpson Road, Brodhead, was indicted on a charge of illegally using David Brummett's social security number.

Lesley Bryant, 33, of Hwy. 39,

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James and Angie Mullins' Ford Taurus was heavily damaged last Thursday morning when high winds toppled this tree around 5 a.m. at Renfro Valley. In the past week, nearly two inches of rain has fallen in the county. The recorded high temperature was Tuesday when the mercury reached 70 and the low temperature this month was 11 degrees.