



Boys and Girls win A-10

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40455 - Volume 115 - Number 19 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50 a copy - Thursday, February 6, 2002

Local man helps TN woman escape

A Tennessee woman was able to escape from her boyfriend on Saturday morning thanks to the help of Everett McClure.

McClure, who is an attendant at the Marathon gas station in Renfro Valley, told police that the woman

came running into the station around 7:30 a.m. crying and screaming that she had been kidnapped by her boyfriend.

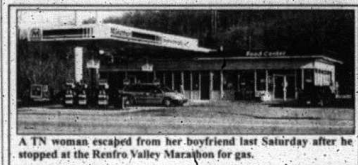
Mt. Vernon police officer Nathaniel Price said that the woman told police her boyfriend, Arthur

Tucker of Morgan County Tennessee, had burnt her mobile home down the night before and beaten her after he found her with another man.

Price said that Tucker bought a dollar's worth of gas and that he paid for it, before he left.

McClure, who has worked at the station for the past 32 years, said he told Tucker that the woman wasn't going with him. McClure said the woman had gotten behind the counter and that Tucker actually started to take the woman from the station by force before he stopped him.

Price said he notified Berea police that Tucker was traveling north on I-75 after he arrived at the Marathon station and that Berea police (Cont. to A-11)



A TN woman escaped from her boyfriend last Saturday after he stopped at the Renfro Valley Marathon for gas.



Everett McClure helped a TN woman escape from her boyfriend Saturday morning.

911 board hears complaints from county firefighters

By Richard Anderkin
A large crowd, mostly county firefighters attended Thursday night's monthly 911 board meeting to voice their concerns about 911.

Livingston fire chief Sam Stallworth and Mt. Vernon fire chief Gary Hansel were the most vocal two in the crowd.

Both men said that 911 needed two dispatchers on duty at all times, because of the number of transmissions made each day, especially during a fire or wreck.

Stallworth even called for the firing of dispatcher Jamie Alcorn.

Stallworth told 911 board chairman Harry Harmon and 911 Director Bonnie Roark, that Alcorn had told a lie on him during a January 15th fire in which Livingston was called to aid Mt. Vernon at a fire in Johnetta.

"Quite frankly I want him fired," Stallworth said.

Roark said Tuesday that she had listened to the tapes of that day's radio transmissions and could find nothing concerning what Stallworth was talking about, but that she would continue to investigate the matter until it was resolved.

As for two dispatchers on duty at all times, Roark said that 911 was losing about \$1,000 a month at the present time and there was not enough money available to keep two dispatchers on duty.

The local 911 board receives approximately \$13,000 from local residents who pay a \$2.00 monthly fee on each phone line in the county.

Harmon told the crowd that everyone needed to work together to make 911 work as smoothly as possible.

"We all make mistakes and when things like this are called to our attention we will try to correct any errors in the system," Harmon said.

Harmon, who has been a board member since 911 was implemented in the county is Director of the Rockcastle County Ambulance Service.

Stallworth and Hansel, as well as other firefighters also complained about the directions they were given to fires by dispatchers.

The men said the directions were often very inaccurate and incomplete and it made it difficult to find a fire or wreck.

"Our dispatchers give you exactly what they get from a caller - we are not crazy people and we don't

give out wrong directions on purpose," Roark told the firefighters.

"It is very hectic at 911 many times and there are some callers who will tell you to go to the big rock by the road or they will say - Harry knows where it is, he has been here before - but Harry isn't always work-

(Cont. to A-11)

Police make drug arrests

Last Thursday at approximately 10:10 a.m. a male subject armed with a handgun entered the Hill Top Flea Market approximately two miles south of Mt. Vernon in Rockcastle County demanding money from an employee, according to a news release from the Kentucky State Police.

The employee at the flea market then allegedly stabbed the subject who fled the scene in an older model dull or faded black Ford Mustang around 1:15. The suspect was described as a white male, 150 pounds, long blonde hair and wearing blue jeans.

Anyone having any information is asked to contact the Kentucky State Police in London at 1-800-222-5555 or (606)878-6622. Detective Gary Lane is conducting the investigation and was assisted at the scene by Trooper Coby Smith. The investigation is continuing, according to the release.

Attempted robbery at Flea Market

Tuesday, the Mt. Vernon Police Department obtained a search warrant for an apartment located in Broadhead at Castle Village, according to a news release from the department. "The residence of Juanita Watkins, 30, was searched and drugs and equipment to manufacture methamphetamine were seized," according to Mt. Vernon Police Chief Bill Mick.

Wally "Junie" Kirby, 44, and Watkins were charged with manufacturing methamphetamine first degree and lodged in the Rockcastle County Detention Center, under a \$50,000 cash bond.

Kirby and Watkins were indicted numerous times last year for manufacturing methamphetamine.

Deputies that assisted in the search and arrests were KVP Vehicle Enforcement, D.E.A., K.S.P., Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office and Broadhead Police Joe Bussell.

Dr. Griffith re-elected chairman Hammond gets one year extension

The Rockcastle County Board of Education re-elected Dr. G.W. Griffith, chairman and Terry Burton, vice-chairman, for the coming year, during their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday night.

The board also approved a one year extension on the contract of Superintendent Larry Hammond.

Hammond who has served as Superintendent for the local school system since August of 1995, now has a contract through 2005.

The vote on Hammond's contract was unanimous with all five members, Dr. Griffith, Burton, Sam Stallworth, Mike Burdette and Martin Vanzant voting in favor of the extension.

The board also approved a Pre-Engineering Program for the Rockcastle County High School, which will be part of next year's curriculum, after representation by RCHS teacher Pat Greene.

Superintendent Hammond also reported that middle school math teacher Patty Reese was retiring at the end of February.

McKinney avoids felony indictment

A Broadhead man has reached a plea agreement with the Commonwealth Attorney's office that may keep him from having a felony conviction on his record.

Last week, Mike McKinney, 30, agreed to participate in a Pre-trial Diversion program, which will basically place him on probation for four years.

McKinney was arrested on December 8th, 2001, after he fired a shot through a screen door at his

(Cont. to A-11)



RCHS Homecoming is Saturday

Basketball Homecoming at the Rockcastle County High School is scheduled for Saturday night, when the Rickets will face the Somerset Briarjumper. This year's homecoming queen candidates are shown above from left: freshmen Brittany Offutt, Johnna Abney and Heaven Spoonmore. Second row, from left: sophomores Rachel Childers, Sheena Swinney and Jennifer Kidwell. Third row, from left: juniors Elizabeth Matekovich, Tammy Dees and Brittany Asher. Back row, from left: seniors Jessica Ramsey, Sheena Miller and Angela Boring. The queen will be crowned during festivities between the JV and varsity game.

Fiscal Court approves state's rural road recommendations

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court approved the maximum salaries for Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlfotis, County Clerk Norma Houk, Jailor James Miller and Sheriff Shirley Smith, during their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday.

The last Kentucky General Assembly set the maximum each one will make this year at \$62,258. That does not include a \$300 monthly expense account provided by the state. If Houk or Smith's office does not collect enough fees they pay their salary the fiscal court is required by law

to make up the difference.
The court also approved the Kentucky Department of Transportation's recommendations for Rural Secondary roads in the county for fiscal year 2002-2003.
The state will spend \$314,500 (Cont. to A-11)

Renfro will open for 63rd consecutive season on March 1st



Rockcastle native Connie Hunt Peterson has taken over as General Manager and CEO of the Renfro Valley Entertainment Center.

By: Richard Anderkin
In two weeks, the Renfro Valley Entertainment Center will open for the 63rd consecutive season.

Renfro Valley, which is now under the ownership and direction of the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame board will also experience the opening of the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame this year.

The Inaugural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for the first class of inductees will be held Thursday, February 28th at the Marjorie Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington.

A soft opening of the Hall of Fame is scheduled for April, with the Grand Opening in May.

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center, which employs approximately 200, when in full operation, also has a new General Manager and Chief Executive Officer.

Connie Hunt Peterson, who has been with Renfro Valley for the past 12 years, was appointed to her new position last November by the executive committee of the Hall of Fame board.

Peterson replaced Jane Thorne, who had held the position for several years.

Mrs. Peterson, who started at Renfro Valley in the ticket office, served as vice-president of entertainment for several years, before being named to the top post.

"I love Renfro Valley and am

looking forward to a great season in 2002," she said.

"We have something really special here and I think our staff and entertainers are committed to making Renfro Valley the best it can be in 2002," she said.

"We have the majority of our entertainers on the Barn Dance and Jamboree back this season and we also have several new entertainers on the concert schedule," she said.

Among those making their first trip to the valley are the Bellamy Brothers, Keith Urban, Restless Heart and James Gregory.

Renfro Valley will open on Friday, March 1st, with the Jamboree Show at 7 p.m.

The Mountain Gospel Jubilee will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 2nd and the historic Barn Dance will take center stage at 7 p.m. March 2nd.

The first concert of the season will also be on Saturday March 2nd, with the Osborne Brothers and Dean Osborne and Eastbound, performing in the new barn theatre.

Also performing in March will be Dale Ann Bradley and the New Country Creek Girls, IIIrd Tyme Out, Dr. Ralph Stanley and the McKameys will be in Renfro Valley, Easter weekend.

The Gospel Talent Contest will also be held on March 16th and 23rd. Restless Heart comes to the Val-

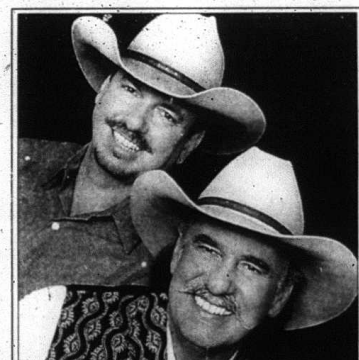
ley on April 6th, Mike Snider, April 13th, Charley Pride, April 20th and Carl Hurley, April 25, 26 and 27th.

In May, the Inspirations, Brad Paisley, Michael Combs, Keith Urban and Elvis impersonator, Bill Kelly

will be there.

In June, the Martins, Bellamy Brothers, Oak Ridge Boys, The Carolina Boys, Neal McCoy and Gene Watson will perform.

(Cont. to A-11)



The Bellamy Brothers will perform in Renfro Valley on June 8th.