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Mount Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 116 • Number 41 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50 a copy - Thursday, July 18, 2002

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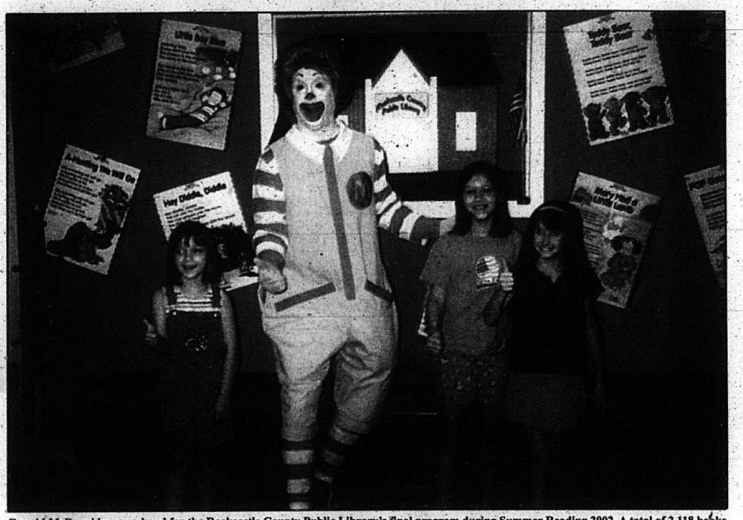

Ronald McDonald was on hand for the Rockcastle County Public Library's final program during Summer Reading 2002. A total of 2,118 books were read by youth from Rockcastle County. Above are the winners in the 1st - 3rd grade category from left: Rachel Johnson, third place; Jazmin Johnson, second place and Megan Martin, first place. More photos will appear in next week's *Signal*.

Mt. Vernon City Council tables budget

Approximately 22 Mt. Vernon City employees showed up at the city council meeting on Monday night to see if the council was going to approve a second reading of the budget that would cut out their family health care plan.

The council took no action, which means for now, the city will continue to provide a family health insurance plan and operate without a budget due July 1st.

The city's premium for the health plan is $19,000 a month.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King has been a very strong advocate of the family health insurance plan, because she says the city should not expect their employees to work for relatively low wages and less benefits.

The council and mayor have been at odds over the latest budget because the mayor says the city needs more money.

Council member Joe Mullins told the rest of the council and Mayor King that it would be very hard for the council to make a decision on a new budget because it was an election year, referring to the fact that two council members are running for mayor and King is also up for re-election.

Jody Adams, a patient at Rockcastle Hospital and Doug Bullock, are also candidates.

Mullins said in his opinion that he did not think the current council would approve any tax before the fall election.

After the meeting Mullins said that he understands the importance

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Steve Owens files for school board member

Stephen Owens, 55, has filed for school board member in the third district, which is comprised of West Mt. Vernon, North Mt. Vernon and Bullock precinct.

Owens is a lifelong resident of Rockcastle County and graduate of Brodhead High School. He attended Eastern Kentucky University and graduated from the University of Wisconsin's Prochnow Graduate School of Banking.

He is married to the former Onna Kaye Hutt of Maretburg. They have two children, Jeffrey and Angela, both graduates of Rockcastle County High School.

From 1970 until 1974, Mr. Owens was employed by the former Bank of Mt. Vernon. From 1974 to 2001, he was a bank examiner for the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions, which for the last 15 years he served as a District Manager for Lexington and Bowling Green field offices.

Mr. Owens' family has been actively involved in the educational field, as his mother, Mrs. Barbara Owens was a teacher at several Rockcastle County Schools. His wife, who is retiring in August, has been affiliated with the local school system for 34 years as a teacher and administrator.

Dr. G.W. Griffith, who is the cur-

(Cont. to A-8)

Steve Owens filed for District 3 School Board.

Wayne Stewart Memorial dedicated

Family members and community leaders gathered recently at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc., to dedicate a special memorial honoring former hospital administrator William Wayne Stewart for his many years of service to the hospital. A large, color photograph of Mr. Stewart was hung above a bronze plaque in the hospital's front hall as a way of reminding patients, visitors and employees of the many contributions he made.

"Wayne Stewart was one of the founders and principal architect of the modern Rockcastle Hospital. For more than a quarter century, he gave tirelessly of his time and effort toward building the outstanding hospital facility we have today," said Chairman of the Board, Joseph E. Lambert. "We are pleased to establish this visible reminder of his work on behalf of the people of this community."

Mr. Stewart served as Rockcastle Hospital's Administrator from 1983-1989. He served on the Board of Directors from 1972 until his death on March 7, 2001.

In addition, Mr. Stewart also served on the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation Board, where he worked for economic improvement for the county and surrounding areas. He was an educator, farmer, businessman and unparalleled community leader. Posthumously, he was elected to the Rockcastle County Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Ruby Stewart said she was pleased that the hospital would recognize her late husband in such a fashion.

"Wayne loved Rockcastle Hospital and the people who worked there. He would have been very pleased – I know I was," she said. "It was a good picture and what they said about him on the plaque was nice. It was sweet of them to do that."

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc., is a not-for-profit community hospital, which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). It operates inpatient and outpatient acute care programs, 60 long-term beds for ventilator-dependent patients, a home health care service. The organization recently purchased a local nursing facility, which has been renamed Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation

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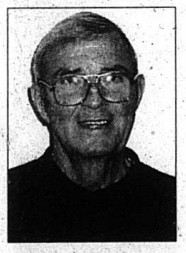
Former public official Billy Kirby, 71, dies

Former Rockcastle County Jailer and Sheriff Billy Kirby died Tuesday at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington after undergoing heart surgery.



Kirby, 71, was well-known and well respected in Rockcastle County, where he had served in public office for 20 years.

Kirby was Deputy Sheriff from 1966-70 and was elected Sheriff in 1970.

He served one term in that office and in 1978 he was elected jailer, an office he served three terms in.

He retired in 1993.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys; daughters, Mary Nita Thompson and Margaret Kirby and sons, Jody and Billy, all of Rockcastle County.

A complete obituary appears on page A-4.

$1.2 million collected

County Attorney Jeff Burdette's office collected over $1.2 million in delinquent child support payments during the most recent fiscal year according to the statistics of the Cabinet for Families and Children. With nearly a 20 percent increase from last year, Burdette and his staff have surpassed their goal of a million dollars in collections for this fiscal year.

A recent report of the Office of

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Count down to Relay for Life

Only two more weeks until the American Cancer Society Relay for Life on Friday, August 2nd. The event will begin at 7 p.m. with an opening ceremony. A schedule of events for the evening of August 2nd will be posted in the Mt. Vernon Signal next week. The Relay for Life is not just for people who are walking on a team. Everyone is invited to attend the August 2nd event, whether you are a cancer survivor, participating on a team, or would like to enjoy the entertainment and festive activities. We invite everyone to attend. If you are a cancer survivor and would like to be a part of this event then please call Sandra Bullock at 758-8058 or Mary Ann McNew at 256-4046.

Purple bows (while supplies last) can be purchased for a $10 donation to the American Cancer Society. The purple bows are in support of cancer awareness and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event on Friday, August 2nd at the Rockcastle County Middle School. The bows have been donated by Darlene Larkey's uncle, Carl Ward, at the New London Florist. If you would like a purple bow to hang at your home or business then please call any of the numbers listed in the article.

We are still in need of corporate sponsors as well as items for auction. If you are interested in being a corporate sponsor and/or donating an item for the event then please contact Danielle Smith at 256-3907. The deadline for corporate sponsors is Friday, July 19.

The next Relay for Life planning meeting will be Thursday, July 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the community room of the Cumberland Valley Home Health located in the Industrial Park. All team captains need to be at the July 25th meeting in order to stake out where their campsite will be located.

If you have any questions about the event then please contact any of the following people or other names and numbers listed in the article: Kelly McClure at 256-4122, Tom & Darlene Larkey at 878-9412, Stacy Gentry at 758-0233 or Cynthia Rogers at 679-3287.

Eversole is a cancer survivor

Martha Eversole was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in June of 2000.

Her symptoms first occurred in the Fall of 1999 after a good mammogram report in late August. By October she began to experience swelling in her right arm, followed by back pain, and then abdominal pain. After going to several doctors from November 1999-May 2000 with no diagnosis, the cancer had an opportunity to spread to other organs."

"I want everyone to be aware that cancer can be in your bodies and appear in strange ways that doctors don't recognize and if they don't take

(Cont. to A-8)

Several of the people attending the dedication of the William Wayne Stewart Memorial gather next to the photo and plaque, which has been placed near the entrance at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. From left: Joseph E. Lambert, Debra H. Lambert, William B. Bailey, Jr., Ruby Stewart, Bige W. Towery, Jr. and James W. Lambert.

Steve Estes, CEO for the Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, donated $1,000 as a corporate sponsor for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event. Pictured with Mr. Estes is Danielle Smith, sponsorship chairperson for Relay for Life. Friday, July 19th is the deadline for corporate sponsors. The hospital is also sponsoring two teams for the event.