

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244 Volume 138 • Number 44 1.00 per copy Thursday, December 19, 2024

Operation Give Hope



The Give Hope Project was called a huge success by organizers after about 700 people took part in the event Saturday, December 14 at the middle school. The event provides toys, backpacks and other gifts to children in need in Rockcastle County. Organizers would like to thank all who helped make the day of giving a wonderful day in which 25 visitors were saved. The event was sponsored by the Rockcastle Association of Kentucky Baptists.



City of Brodhead on board with proposal for new water line project

By: Mike French
Editor

The City of Brodhead has officially agreed with an idea dealing with a new water system in the region by way of a newly adopted ordinance.

Several months ago, RCIDA Executive Director Jeff VanHook presented an idea that he and Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook Jr., along with other officials, had been working on for some time related to drinking water. VanHook said the idea would serve several purposes for several cities and water systems as well as solve existing problems for several cities. "This is a perfect example of a win, win, win scenario," VanHook said.

More than once Mount Vernon city officials had discussed a need for a new water plant. The City had spoken about the issue in public meetings saying the current plant is already nearing capacity and a new water plant may be

required if more growth and development occurs.

When two new industrial sites were established in Mount Vernon, the need was brought to the center of attention since VanHook said the sites are expected to bring new development that will likely need massive utility services. "The fact is, Mount Vernon gets their water from Lake Linville. And Lake Linville cannot get bigger. There is a limit to how much water that lake can supply," VanHook said.

Also VanHook pointed out that since Mount Vernon residents and Brodhead residents depend upon the lake for their water source, an accident or unpredictable event could be disastrous. "God forbid, but one accident on the Interstate with the wrong chemical on board, or one unforeseen issue with the lake, and it could be a disaster. We need a second/backup water source in the event of some sort of emer-

(See "Brodhead" on A5)

Livingston still swimming in debt with water system

By: Mike French
Editor

The Public Service Commission has filed paperwork, according to a Lexington television news station, asking the City of Livingston, Woodcreek Water Association and Kentucky American Water Association several questions concerning the recent water shutdown in Livingston.

As reported in the Signal in November, the Woodcreek Water Association, who supplies water to the City of Livingston, had turned the water off in Livingston due to an overdue bill. The shutdown cause local officials to rush into action in attempts to have the water turned on again.

According to several sources, the City of Livingston had an overdue balance of about \$114,000 when the water was turned off. Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., declared a state of emergency and drove to Frankfort seeking a grant to pay part of the overdue bill and have the water turned on again. Holbrook was able to convince KIA (Kentucky Infrastructure Authority) to pay half of the bill and

to get Woodcreek to agree to turn the water

back on temporarily with the promise of a \$57,000

payment from KIA.

After the payment was

School board hears latest reports about construction

By: Mike French
Editor

Members of the Rockcastle County School Board held their regular monthly meeting last week with a full

agenda.

The monthly guest speakers were representatives of the Area Technology Center who reported progress as well as plans for the future. The present-

tation lasted nearly an hour and informed the board of events and activities at the center.

Next on the agenda, CMTA Consulting Engineers, Inc. representatives provided their final report concerning the work they were hired to do two years ago.

CMTA presented the board with ideas that would save the district in utility costs at every Rockcastle school. The plans includes many steps that would reduce electrical costs and increase efficiency. The project would be expensive but officials said they expected the savings in utilities would pay for the project.

According to data presented at the meeting, CMTA engineers have done just that. Representatives said they were able to reduce RCHS utility costs by about 60% per year without adding new equipment. Also, the new equipment installed

(See "School" on A5)

agreed to and Woodcreek turned the water back on, the Public Service Commission (PSC) began an investigation into why the water bill became past due in the first place and how to avoid the same circumstances again in the future.

Part of that investigation prompted the PSC to file the letters to

Livingston, KAW and Woodcreek asking questions about the circumstances. According to officials, the questions include how long the bill has been overdue, how many notices were given to Livingston, how many gallons of water was sold to KAW and asking all three to explain the cause of the problem.

(See "Brodhead" on A5)

County hears budgets from clerk and sheriff

By: Mike French
Editor

Members of the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court held their regular monthly meeting last

week with a short agenda.

After approving the minutes of previous meetings, the court heard from County Clerk Danetta Ford-Allen who presented the Clerk's budget to the court for approval.

The budget shows the 2024 budget as compared to the 2025 budget. According to the 2025 budget, total receipts are budgeted at \$3,741,150 as opposed to the 2024 budget of \$3,608,456. The 2025 disbursements are shown at \$3,690,103 as

(See "County" on A5)

Merry Christmas

We hope you enjoy our Christmas issue this year. The holiday events in Rockcastle County have been well attended and quite festive.

There are no photos of the Livingston

(See "Christmas" on A5)

Of Special Note Inside

- Viewpoints Pg. A2
- Obituaries Pg. A4
- Sports Pg. A6

Contact us at: mvsignal@windstream.net
Deadline submission is 4:00 p.m. Monday

- Court News Pg. A8
- Classifieds Pg. B7

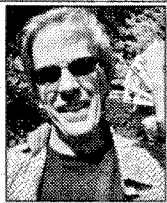
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Aces Over

By: Mike French



So, what is your New Year's resolution? Is it attainable or just a pipe dream?

I don't make them very often because there isn't much in life that I have wanted to do, that I haven't already done. It has been both a blessing and a curse that I am somewhat of a risk taker by nature. But because of that, even some of the wild pipe dreams that I have had in life, became reality.

I have always said that my biggest fear in life is that I would be an old man in a rocking chair with a shawl over my lap thinking, "I wish I had tried that!" So, anything I wanted to try in life, I did it. As far as I can recall, I have only one goal that I never attempted.

This attitude has caused me mounds of trouble in life. I mean I have had some story-book, difficult times that would make a Hollywood movie, all because I have been a "tryer." When there is something in my heart

that I want to try, I have always tried it. Regardless of how ridiculous it may be, regardless of how many people warned me against it, regardless of how impossible it seemed, I have always tried it. Sometimes I had trouble because of it.

But, I can say that it is amazing how many times those "impossible dreams" were not so impossible after all. Yes there are times that I failed and couldn't reach a certain goal but I don't have to wonder or wish I had tried. Still, much more often than not, those things that were considered "crazy ideas" were successful and I am glad I did it. The times that I failed was my own fault. I approached the task with less than total confidence and was therefore doomed to failure from the beginning.

If I have learned anything in my many, many years of life, it is that there is no such thing as

an "impossible dream." Even the wildest, most fantastic, ridiculous ideas we can imagine are actually attainable goals. If a person's mind is set on reaching the top of a mountain, then it's height and slope and distance are not the deterrent. The only deterrent is not taking the first step.

As a child I heard

adults say "You can do anything you want to do." As with most youth, I thought to myself, "yeah, right!" But I have discovered, they were telling me the truth.

The truth is, I have had people actually laugh when I told them of a goal I had. They honestly thought I was

(Continued on A3)

ramblings...

by: perlina m. anderkin

Unfortunately, Perlina is feeling under the weather this week and was unable to write her column. However, she asked that we publicly thank all our loyal readers and subscribers for your support throughout the year.

Everyone here at the Mount Vernon Signal wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

There will be no newspaper next week due to the holidays but we will return in 2025 with the January 2 edition. Our offices will be closed December 19th-30th.

T.J.'s Journal

By: Tonya J. Cook



Taking the Last Stand

Where has the time gone this year? Here it is, almost Christmas and in a few days after that will be the start of a new year. I don't know what to expect in the year ahead but I don't think it will hold many things that are good.

Meanwhile, there is this year to get through at the present. I'm running behind on everything... or at least the things that I'm able to do. Some things I've had to face that I simply can't do anymore and probably never will again.

I've managed to get a

few cards ready to be mailed. Mom always had her cards ready no later than the tenth of December. That is when she always put up the Christmas tree. I always got so excited to see the decoration boxes come out of storage. I knew just exactly what was in them. Before we got the artificial tree, I always went with my Uncle Junior to get the tree. He would cut it from some land that my grandpa Roscoe Norton owned in Rockcastle County which was always referred to as "down at the river". I can

(Continued on A3)

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MERRY Christmas

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Merry Christmas

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Aces

(Continued from A2) being ridiculous. "You aren't rich enough." Or "you aren't smart enough." Or "you aren't educated enough." Or "you don't speak well enough." Or, "you are too old...too small...too tall...too stupid." It seems it is easy to come up with a reason why one can't reach a particular goal. But the truth is, not one of those excuses can stop a person once their heart and mind is set towards a goal.

I am a little naive, a little nerdy, and just a country boy. But people have no idea that I have lived through things that most people I know have only read about in magazines. But only because I was too stupid to know I shouldn't try. So I tried.

I say all that to say this. When it comes time to set your New Year's resolution, I wish people would stop setting such limits. Aim high. No...higher! In fact, the sky is the limit. Very, very little in life is unattainable.

Here's hoping you reach all your goals and don't sell yourself short by setting those goals too low. Reach for the stars when you set your reso-

lution. Aim for the top but just know you have to be willing to live that kind of life to get there. If you are willing, you are able.

By the way, my one uncompleted goal? To get a pilot's license. But I'm not dead yet!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

T.J.'s

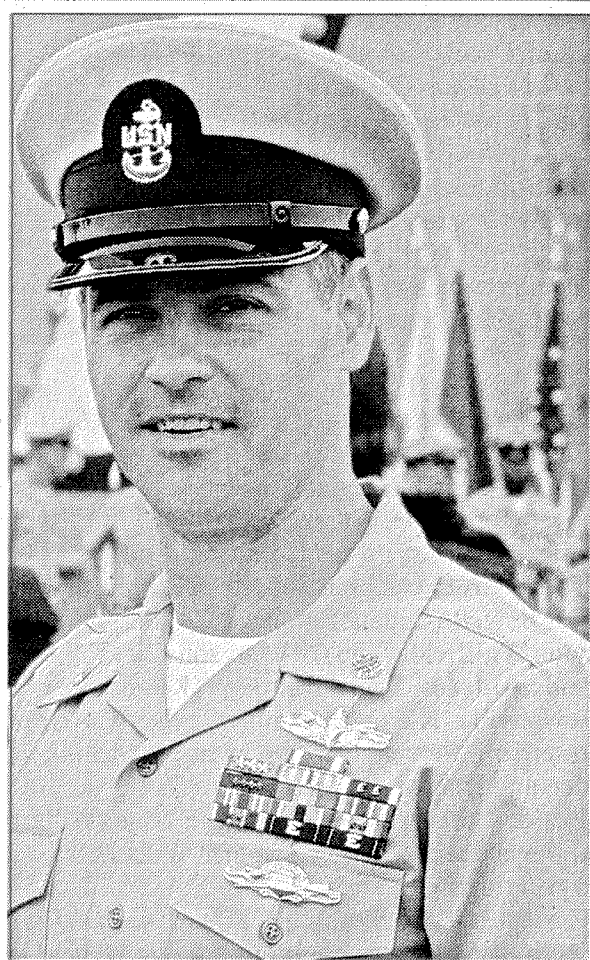
(Continued from A2)

still smell the wonderful aroma of that pine or cedar in the house. He usually got a little holly and mistletoe, as well. I always helped with the decorating. There was an angel that was put at the very top of the tree. It was from 1920, bought the first Christmas my grandparents were together. I still have that angel and some ornaments that my grandma, Evelyn Price-Norton had when she was a child. They go back to 1902 and to a few years after that. I still have those as well and other ornaments and decorations that were bought down through the years.

I don't think I'll be able to make the fruitcake, the dressing or the boiled custard that has recipes

going back to the antebellum south in our family. They have been enjoyed by our family far beyond a hundred and fifty years. My great-great grandma, Nancy Sharp-Otey was the wife of a Baptist minister. She and my great-great grandpa, Rev James Otey had a huge home and ran a boarding house there. She became known far and wide for her culi-

nary arts and was often hired to cook for large parties and weddings as far away as Knoxville, about a hundred miles away. The clients would send a train ticket for her or a carriage and a driver. These were some of her recipes. Closer to Christmas, I hope to make a determined stand and decide to make some of these wonderful things.



Chief Petty Officer Cole French

Chief Petty Officer Cole French was Pinned Aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN70) on 27 September, 2024.

Cole is a former graduate, and resident of Mt Vernon. Cole is the grandson of Joe and Letha French who have been long standing residents of Mt Vernon until recently.

It's been a long wait, hard earned and a well deserved selection for advancement, and to wear the anchor.

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Christmas
and
happy
new year

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Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

Rockcastle County Bookmobile Schedule

Monday, December 23rd: Spiro, Level Green, Willailla, Ky. Hwy. 3245, Bryant Ridge, Ottawa and Bee Lick.
Monday, December 30th: Brodhead, Copper Creek, Green Hill, Fairview and Brindle Ridge.

Rockcastle Historical Society & Museum
The Rockcastle County Historical Society & Museum meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Limestone Grille.

Christmas & New Year's Hours at Circuit Clerk's office

The Rockcastle Circuit Clerk's Office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th, in observance of Christmas. Regular business hours will resume Thursday, December 26th. **The office will also be closed** Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31st and January 1st in observance of the New Year's holiday. Regular business hours will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Military Mental Health & Depression Prevention Coalition

The Rockcastle County Military Mental Health & Depression Coalition meets on the 2nd floor of the courthouse every second Tuesday at 10 a.m. for a coffee muster. Coffee and donuts provided.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

TOPS, Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Brodhead Community Center.

Vietnam Veterans Meeting Date

Vietnam Era Veterans, that attended Livingston High School, are asked to meet the last Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., for breakfast and conversation, at Marcella's.

Kiwanis Club Meeting Location Update

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club meets the first Thursday of each month at Marcella's Restaurant at noon and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays at Limestone Grille. Kiwanis is a service organization working to improve the lives of children. The public is invited.

Chamber of Commerce Meetings

The Rockcastle County Chamber of Commerce meets once a month, on the third Tuesday, at noon at Limestone Grille. All members are encouraged to attend.

VFW Post 5908

Rockcastle Memorial VFW Post 5908 at Lake Linville welcomes all military service members and their families. The post is open by appointment only, currently. If you would like to rent our event hall for special occasions, please call the number below. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 5 p.m. Those wishing to contact the VFW for help, information or any need, please contact Post Commander Michael Parsons 859-308-3568 and Chaplain William B.J. Thomason at 606-392-1207.

DAR Meetings

The Rockcastle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution meets the first Monday of each month, September-May at 6 p.m. at First Christian Church in Mt. Vernon. All prospective members are welcome to attend.

Mt. Vernon Lions Club

The Mt. Vernon Lions Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Limestone Grille.

American Legion Post News

The David M. Smith American Legion meets at the Veterans Center the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. For more info, call Commander Kathy Bobo at 606-308-1208 or District Commander B.J. Thomason at 859-358-2882.

Rockcastle UNITE Coalition

The Rockcastle County UNITE Coalition meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at noon at Marcella's Farm to Fork Restaurant to plan activities. Please join us each month.

Celebrate Recovery/AA/NA

Monday-Celebrate Recovery-Brodhead: Community Outreach Center, Monday, 6 p.m. 36 Castle Village Dr., Brodhead, Ky. Contact: Nathan DeLeon 859-230-9590, Kathryn Pope 606-308-3099.

Tuesday-Celebrate Recovery-Mt. Vernon: Northside Baptist Church, 777 Faith Mountain Rd., Mt. Vernon, Ky. Tuesday, 6 p.m. Contact: J.R. Cornelius 859-314-7828.

Tuesday - MARA - Medicated Assisted Recovery Anonymous - Mt. Vernon: 2 p.m., 75 East Main St., Mt. Vernon. Contact: 606-308-8900 for info

Wednesday-Air-All In Recovery-Mt. Vernon: 12 p.m. 75 East Main St., Mt. Vernon, KY. Contact: 606-308-8900 for more info.

Thursday-Celebrate Recovery-Step Studies - Women Only: Community Outreach Center, 36 Castle Village Dr., Brodhead, Thursday, 6 p.m. Contact: Kathryn Pope, 606-308-3099 or Shell Bader 606-219-5653.

Thursday-Alcohol Anonymous-Brodhead: 7 p.m. 75 East Main St., Mt. Vernon, Ky. Contact: 606-308-8900. Please park in the Coffey & Ford parking lot

Sunday - Celebrate Recovery Step Studies-Men Only. 6 p.m. Northside Baptist Church, 777 Faith Mountain Rd., Mt. Vernon, Ky. Contact: Jason DeBord 606-386-0646 or J.R. Cornelius 859-314-7828.

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Obituaries

Geneva Sparks

Betty Geneva Sparks, 94, of Berea, moved to her heavenly home on Monday, December 9, 2024. She was born March 10, 1930, to the late Chester and Lucinda Hensley. She was a Godly woman who loved the Lord and her family with all of her heart. She set an example of grace, love, and forgiveness for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren that will lead them all their lives.



Geneva was a prayer warrior and she never ceased to see the beauty in those around her. Her generosity knew no limit. She enjoyed reading the Bible, her family, cooking, and singing. She was a devoted mother, friend, and grandmother. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion that touched the lives of everyone who knew her. Her warm hugs, words of wisdom, and encouragement will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by: her sister, Alice Alexander; her children, Betty Sue Hylton, Rhonda Williams, Luella Sparks, James Sparks, and Brenda Cantrell; her grandchildren, Regina Rash, Charley Hylton, Amy Hathcox, Barbara Capling, Amanda Williams, Trish Colvard, Derek Jones, Courtney Sparks, Tyler Sparks, Devin Sparks, Jennifer Pratt, Holly McEachern, Jon Paul Kidwell, Gunnar Smith, Garrett Howard, Kayla Howard, and Hannah Howard; her honorary granddaughters, Erika King and Carla Anderson; her 22 great grandchildren; and one great great grandchild.

She is preceded in death by: her siblings, Henry Hensley, John Hensley, Laura Stinnit, Oma Abrams, Maggie Brewer, Harvey Hensley, Earnest Hensley, Irving Hensley, Elmer Hensley, and Charley Hensley; her daughters, Angela Darleen Sparks and Angela Cantrell; her son, Marvin Sparks; her grandson, Brandon Jones; and her granddaughter, Peyton Gestl.

Services to celebrate her life were held Saturday, December 14, 2024 at Higher Praise Ministries Church by Bro. Chris Davidson. Burial followed in Scaffold Cane Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Garrett Howard, Derek Jones, Jon Paul Kidwell, Charles Hylton, Matthew Hylton, Adrian Talamantez, Gunnar Smith and Tyler Sparks.

The family would like to extend thanks to everyone who has provided support during this time.

Obituary provided by the family.
Please visit www.DowellMartin.com or Dowell & Martin Funeral Home's Facebook page to view online obituary.

No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 19th -
December 30th

Past, present and perfect!

Philippians 3:12-16 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ. V 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. V 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. V 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing you be otherwise minded, God will reveal even this unto you. V 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Paul is reminding the brethren at Phillipi that there is a need to be looking forward and to not get bogged down looking backwards. Knowing the danger of this both for them and himself. Those of us that are walking the Christian Walk are constantly reminded that we have not reached our eternal goal. Until we do, we must keep working toward being Christ like. So many people upon entering

Christianity, tend to look at their past as if it still controls who they are. Unfortunately, sometimes they are drawn back to that because it is comfortable there. Paul here is admonishing the church at Phillipi and those who follow them, we are to keep looking forward. Also to realize that we all are works in progress. The level of maturity in a congregation will vary from one to another. 1 Peter 2:2 says, There will always be babes in Christ desiring the sincere milk of the word and those that are more mature in Christ, which need strong meat. Hebrews 5:14 also tells us, But strong meat belongs to those who by reason of use of their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

I say all of this to say God expects us to grow in the spirit upon becoming Christian. That requires us to study, listen to sound preaching, to pray, to meditate daily upon the word of God. We must have some endurance and persistence to accomplish reaching our goal of heaven!

Everyone Welcome
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Providence
CHURCH of CHRIST

Come Worship With Us! Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:30
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:20- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00

Willard Carl Brown

Willard Carl Brown, 96 of West Chester, OH died December 15 at UC West Chester Hospital in West Chester, Ohio.

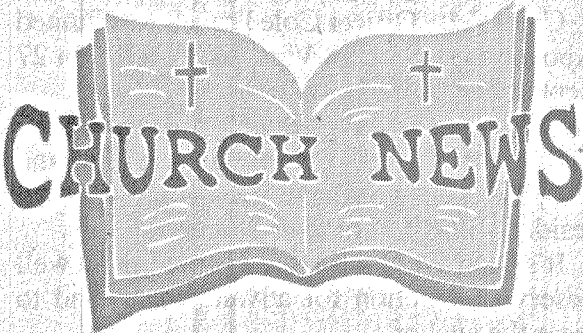
He was born April 18, 1928, in Quail, Kentucky to the late Dennis Carl and Daun Hamm Brown. On June 4, 1953, he married Nina Bullock, and they enjoyed 46 years till her passing in 2000. From that union came two children, Susan and Phyllis. Willard served his country in the Army in Korea from 1950 to 1952, was a member of the of Providence Church of Christ, American Legion #194 in Mason, OH and enjoyed gardening, UK basketball, playing Rook, cracking walnuts and the Cincinnati Reds.



Those left to celebrate his life are: his children, Susan Sewell (Eudene) of West Chester, OH and Phyllis Whitfield (John) of Madisonville, KY; two grandchildren, Tyler Ramsey (Kandance) of Madisonville, KY and Caroline Taylor (Chris) of Amsterdam, Netherlands; two great-grandchildren, Aiden and Duncan Ramsey.

Besides his parents and his wife Nina, Willard was preceded in death by a brother, Wilburn Brown and sister, Irene Moore.

Cremation was chosen by Willard and his family with plans for a celebration of life to be held in January, dates and times to be set at a later date.



Let the Bible Speak

Tune in to "Let the Bible Speak," with Brett Hickey, on Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m. on WDKY Fox TV

Special Christmas Service

Sunday morning, December 22nd, 11 a.m., Creekside Baptist Church, 2261 Copper Creek Road, will host a special Christmas service.

Pastor, Bro. Jack Stallworth invites everyone to come and worship with us in this special Christmas service.

Alfred Widner, Jr.

Alfred Widner, Jr., 74, of Mt. Vernon, husband of Monica Widner, died Saturday, December 14, 2024 at his home. He was born October 6, 1950 in Coxton, Harlan County, the son of the late Alfred, Sr. and Trula Burns Widner. He was a retired coal miner and a United States Army Veteran.



He is survived by: his wife, Monica Moore Widner; two daughters, Charity Falk (Daniel) and Lesley Burdette, both of Mt. Vernon; and two sisters, Maryanne Smith of Beaver Dam, and Carolyn Raines of Owensboro. Also surviving are six grandchildren and several great grandchildren. In addition to his mother and father, he is preceded in death by a brother, Donald Wagner and a sister, Cathy Hobby.

The family has chosen cremation and no services are planned.

Dowell and Martin Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Carol Joan Fordyce

Carol Joan Fordyce, 76, of Louisville, returned to her heavenly father on Sunday, December 1, 2024 with loving family be her side. She was born on August 22, 1948, in Berea, Kentucky to the late Samuel E. and Gorgia (Allen) Davidson. She was a faithful member of the Cornerstone Pentecostal Tabernacle, where she attended even as her illness made it difficult. Carol enjoyed fishing, working with ceramics and cooking. Her biscuits and gravy, chicken salad, chili and potato cakes will be forever remembered by her family. She took pride in making sure no one left her table hungry. Her true passion was serving the Lord and spending time with her family. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband James Ray Fordyce, son James Byron Fordyce and son-in-law David Miracle.



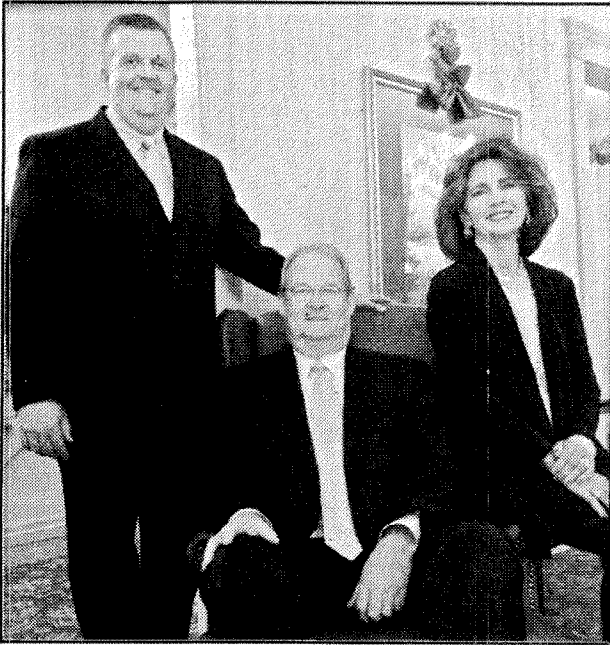
She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughters, Halia Baxter and Sandra Miracle (David), grandson James Wesley Baxter (Heather), great granddaughters Madison Baxter and Makenzie Baxter, brother Armel Davidson (Mabel), sisters Barbara Cox, Dora Pigg, brother-in-law Tom Fordyce (Rita), sister-in-law Pat Fordyce and a host of nephews, nieces and family and friend.

Funeral services were conducted on December 5, 2024 in the chapel of Schoppenhurst, Underwood and Brooks Funeral Home (Preston Hwy at Brooks Road) with internment in Brookland Cemetery.

Merry CHRISTMAS

From the Families and Staff of
Dowell and Martin Funeral Home
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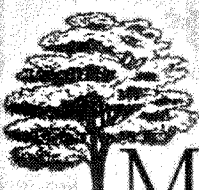
we would like to wish you and yours a very blessed Christmas and thank you for your continued trust and confidence.



Roy and Pamela Martin
Steve Martin



Pamela Martin, Kelli Miller,
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Brodhead

(Continued from front)

gency." So, VanHook and Holbrook began working with other cities and proposed a new waterline from the Danville area, along the KY-150 corridor to Mount Vernon (the same virtual path as the natural gas line currently on its way to Mount Vernon) who can supply about six million gallons of water to the area.

The line would be available for several cities and water sources including Danville, McKinney Water District, Crab Orchard, Stanford, Western Rockcastle Water Association the Cites of Brodhead and Mount Vernon. So VanHook is asking each city along the route to agree to become a partner in ownership of the line. "It would be like a co-op and each owner would have a back up water supply in the event something went wrong," VanHook said. "Also, as growth and development happens, this line could supply those involved in the growth without maxing out the existing systems. New industry in the new parks would have a water source without even having an effect on existing local water sources. It is a truly a win for everyone."

VanHook said the municipalities involved would be owners in the system and would receive rebates or dividends each year as an owner, making the water less expensive for customers. "The goal here is keep water as cheap as possible for customers along the entire corridor," VanHook said.

The cost of the line is unknown at this time but VanHook said the goal is to cost each partner nothing. "The hope is that the line gets paid for through the grants that are available," he said. "Entities working together like this opens the project up for several federal and state grants like it did on the gas line project. If it works out, it shouldn't cost the partners anything to build the pipeline," he said. "Forming this corporation of entities who own the line also protects each city. The commission would be responsible instead of the cities."

The City of Brodhead adopted an ordinance last week that agreed to the formation of a Corridor commission.

"We already had a resolution supporting and joining the 150 water corridor," said Brodhead City Commissioner Brian Bullock. "They requested an ordinance and we were happy to comply. This makes us a part of a commission that will manage the project and operate the water system once it is completed."

Bullock said the City of Brodhead must continue to purchase water from Mount Vernon at the current levels and current price. But as the city and region grows, the new water source may provide water for those areas. "The City of Brodhead will have zero investment. We really have nothing to lose here," said Bullock.

Debt

(Continued from front)

Since the situation arose in November, the City of Livingston has since expressed an interest in selling the city's water and sewer system. The City Commission voted

unanimously to give Mayor Sandi Singleton authority to negotiated with potential buyers.

The PSC has given those involved until December 20 to respond to the letter's questions.

Mayor Singleton said she has a meeting scheduled this week with Woodscreek to discuss the potential sale of the water system.

Christmas

(Continued from front)

Christmas Parade in this issue since the town has not held their Christmas event at this time. The Livingston Christmas parade and evening with Santa is scheduled for this Saturday, December 21 and though space will be limited, we will publish as many photos as we can in the next issue of the *Signal*.

We hope all you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we thank all our readers for your support throughout the year.

County

(Continued from front)

opposed to the 2024 disbursements of \$3,533,279. The budget was approved unanimously.

Finance Director Dale McNew also presented the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Budget which also compared 2024 numbers with the 2025 projected numbers. According to the Sheriff's budget, total receipts are shown at \$758,641 compared to the 2024 receipts of \$722,586. Total disbursements are shown at \$758,641 in 2025 while disbursements in 2024 were \$707,586 with \$15,000 in excess fees. The zero-balance budget assumes four full time deputies.

McNew said the budget shows additional disbursements of \$51,005 over the 2024 budget but the fiscal court contribution will remain at \$202,969 and the difference will be made up through other areas of the budget.

McNew also asked that maximum deputy salaries be set at \$450,000 for 2025. Deputy salaries were set at \$425,000 in 2024. McNew reported that the department is getting a lot more interest in deputy positions since there has been salary increases and public perception has improved nationwide. McNew said there are currently four deputies but hiring a fifth deputy may cost very little since the existing deputies are having to work overtime to cover the county. The funds used for overtime pay may pay a large portion of a fifth deputy's salary, he said.

The court unanimously approved the budget and salary requests. McNew also reported the money has been transferred for a new police vehicle. The court had previously approved \$27,500 toward the vehicle with a \$14,803 grant covering the remaining costs.

The court also heard the Livingston Tourism report showing \$664.91. The expense report shows the court how the \$1,000 program support from the fiscal court is used each month. The court also approved the next three months of program support.

The court also ap-

proved the monthly bill of \$1,140 to Lynn Tatum as program support for the Rockcastle County Development Board.

Court members approved the Animal Shelter report which showed 66 dogs and 29 cats taken in through November. The report says 71 dogs and 33 cats were disposed of in November.

Jason Medley, director of the Livingston Gym reported \$1,170 in rental fees for November.

Magistrate Shane Thacker asked Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. if the county has any options as to how gravel roads are maintained. Currently the county used DGA (Dense Grade Aggregate) on the 114 miles of gravel roads in the county. DGA provides fine particles mixed with small rock to allow for compaction and a strong base in the event the road is blacktopped in the future, according to rock quarry sources. "I have a lot of gravel roads in my district and sometimes that DGA just makes a sloppy mess," said Thacker. "I have had a lot of people complain about the mess it makes."

However, Holbrook said DGA is "by far a better base" than other gravel options. Holbrook said he does not think there is an option that would create a strong road base as long as the DGA that is used is of high quality.

Thacker agreed the material provides the best base but asked if there is a way to create a cleaner surface.

Holbrook said the county could keep an eye on local gravel roads in an attempt to repair damaged areas.

Holbrook, along with County Clerk/Treasurer Kelly Ponder, asked the court to transfer \$175,000 from the occupational tax fund to the general fund and then transfer \$140,000 from the general fund to the jail fund, \$25,000 from the general fund to the LGA fund and \$10,000 from the general fund to the 911 fund. All requests were approved.

Having no further

business, the court was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 4 p.m. in the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

School

(Continued from front)

at the elementary schools has saved thousands of dollars per month. One representative explained that the ionization process caused particles in the air to bind together which allowed the school's filter system to catch more particles. One representative said "the project has exceeded all promises and has saved about \$350,000 for the district." The speakers said the district saved enough to pay for the entire project, the district will keep those saved funds in the budget year after year. "This is just more money in the budget and more that we can do for our children," said Chairman Angela Stallsworth-Mink.

The board also heard a report concerning the new \$58 million RCMS project. Representatives of the construction companies said all is going according to schedule thus far. Plans include blasting for a new road during the Christmas break. Once the break is over, buses may travel on gravel driveways while construction of new roadways into and out of the school are constructed. "We have to remember, this is an occupied demolition but there has been no dangerous conditions so far," said one spokesman.

There is also some interior demolition expected soon. Contractors have plans to divert traffic, buses and students during any demolition for safety purposes. Speakers said there are always some issues during all occupied demolitions but construction companies will work with school officials as they arise.

In other action, Finance Director Jenny Sweet provided the monthly financial report

which was approved unanimously.

Director of Student Services Marcus Reppert said the school calendar committee has held meetings and has presented optional calendars to the board along with a recommendation for which calendar option to approve. The board will study the calendar options and vote in the January meeting for the 2025-26 school calendar.

Reppert said the district has already missed five days this year, which he says is extremely unusual. "Of course we had the I-75 shooter, a hurricane and two snow days in December which very rarely happens. So this is an unusual year," he said.

The board also heard Superintendent Dr. Carrie Ballinger's Personnel Action Report. It is as follows:

Full time certified employees hired

Katherine Coffey, CO-iterant LBD teacher at the hospital classroom.

Full time classified employees hired

Katelyn Chrisman and Shanlee Childress, boys 4th and 5th grade basketball coach at MVES; Courtney Hammons, girl's tennis coach at RCHS; Sam Pensol and Z. Devin Hasty, boys 4th

and 5th grade basketball coach at BES; Kristopher Linville, boys 4th and 5th grade basketball coach at RES.

Resignations

Donovan Howard, substitute midday bus driver; Bert King, assistant girl's basketball coach at RCHS; Candice Gibson, food service cook/baker at RES; Kristen Taylor, substitute instructional assistant.

Certified substitutes

Kristen Taylor and Kaitlin Thacker, substitute teachers district wide.

Classified substitutes

Kylee Rodefer, Samantha Smoker and Natalee Dillingham, substitute instructional assistants.

Classified staff updates

Ashley McClure, mid-day substitute bus driver.

Volunteers

Shannon Burton, boy's 4th and 5th grade basketball at MVES; Bert King, girl's basketball coach at RCHS; Zachary Tareky, wrestling team at RCHS.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned. The January meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14 at 6 p.m. in the Teach and Learning Center on Richmond Street. The public is invited to attend.

The Friday Night

Gospel Singing

Proudly Presents!

"The Hagars"

Free Admission

December 20th at 6pm

9174 Main Street Livingston KY

Merry Christmas

May your days be merry and bright with the light of God's love.

We thank you for the privilege of serving you and look forward to your continued friendship from

Rockcastle County Attorney

Jeremy Rowe

& staff

Richmond St. • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-2728

SPORTS

Lady Rockets defeat Somerset

The Rockcastle Lady Rockets picked up their first district win Friday night with a resounding 71-29 win over Somerset on the road.

The Rockets jumped out to an 11 point lead after the first quarter, 19-8. The second quarter saw that lead extend outscoring the Briar Jumpers 16-4 for a 35-12 halftime lead.

The second half was much the same with the Rockets outscoring Somerset 36-17 for the win.

Junior Taylor King led all scorers with 24 points and six rebounds.

Sophomore Tessa Begley added 11 points and five rebounds.

Junior Macy Spivey had eight points and two rebounds.

Sophomore Sadie Osborne went three for four from the field scoring seven points and picking up a rebound.

Junior Ella McKinney added five points and two rebounds.

Senior Brylee Mullins scored four points and had six rebounds.

Sophomore Kinsley Smith had four points and two rebounds.

Senior Markley Richards picked up two points and five rebounds.

Kaylee Smith had two points and four rebounds.

Tatum Bishop and Khloe Bussell each had two points with Bishop having a rebound and Bussell picking up two rebounds.

Jaden McPhetridge got two rebounds while Carleigh Philbeck, Hailey Mize and Kelsey Maupin each picked up one rebound.

This win brought the Lady Rockets' record to 2-2 on the young season.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Rockets lost a tough one to Madison Central, 54-35.

Taylor King was the lone Rocket in double figures with 18. Macy Spivey added nine. Tessa Begley scored six and Kaylee Smith had two.

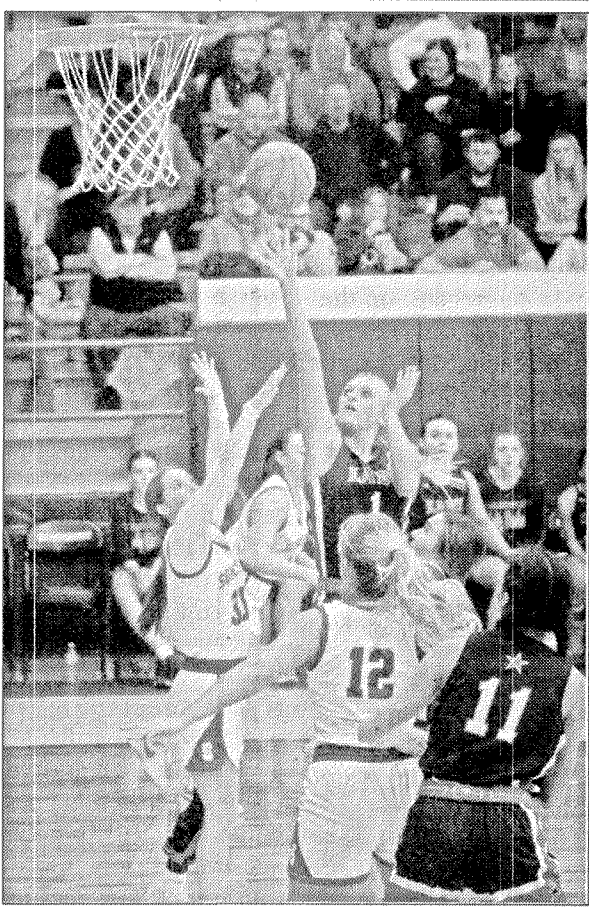
Spivey and Begley each had five rebounds. King picked up three. Smith and Markley Richards had two each. Hailey Mize, Kinsley Smith, Sadie Osborne and Ella McKinney each picked up a rebound.

After defeating South Laurel for their first win of the season, the Lady Rockets lost to North Laurel, 70-39.

Macy Spivey led the Rockets with 12. Taylor King had 10. Tessa Begley, Kinsley Smith and Ella McKinney each had three. Kaylee Smith, Tatum Bishop, Markley Richards and Sadie Osborne each scored two.

The Lady Rockets were set to face Boyle County Tuesday night and will begin holiday tournament play to round out December.

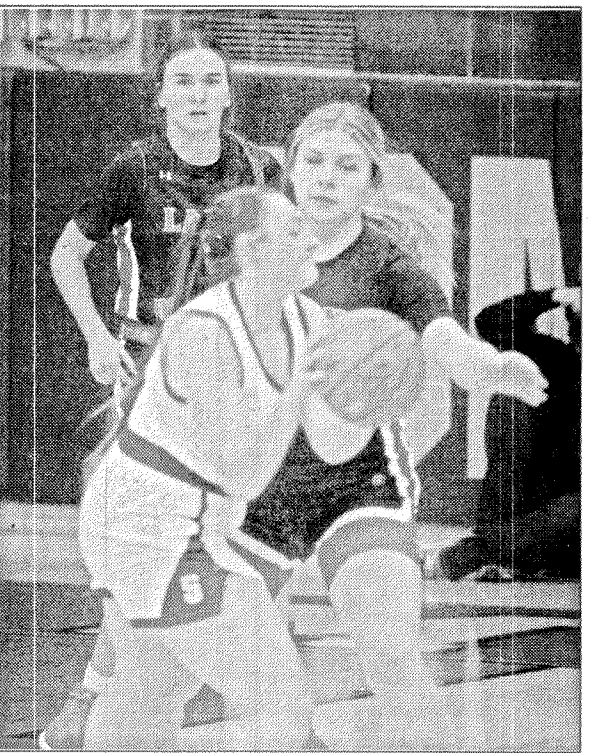
The Lady Rockets next home game is January 3rd when Somerset comes to town for a doubleheader with the Rockets.



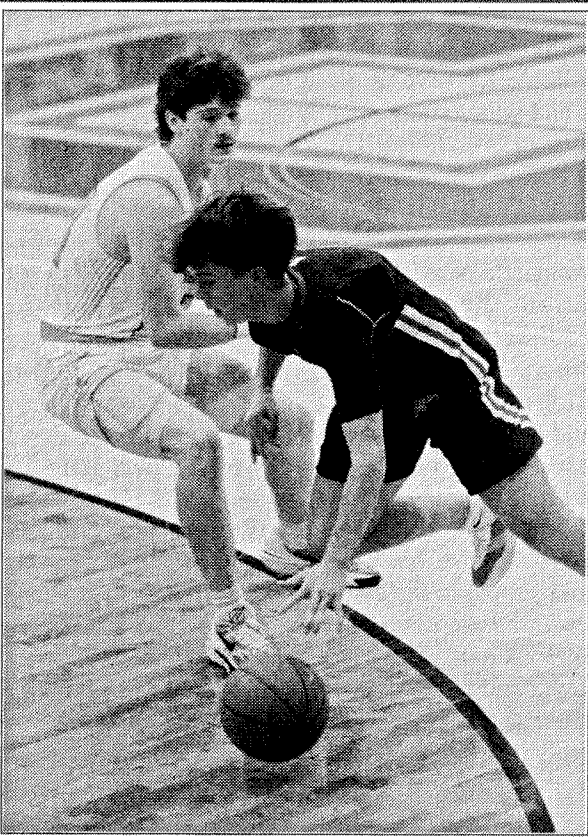
Taylor King goes up for two of her game high 24 points in the Lady Rockets' 71-29 win over Somerset Friday night.



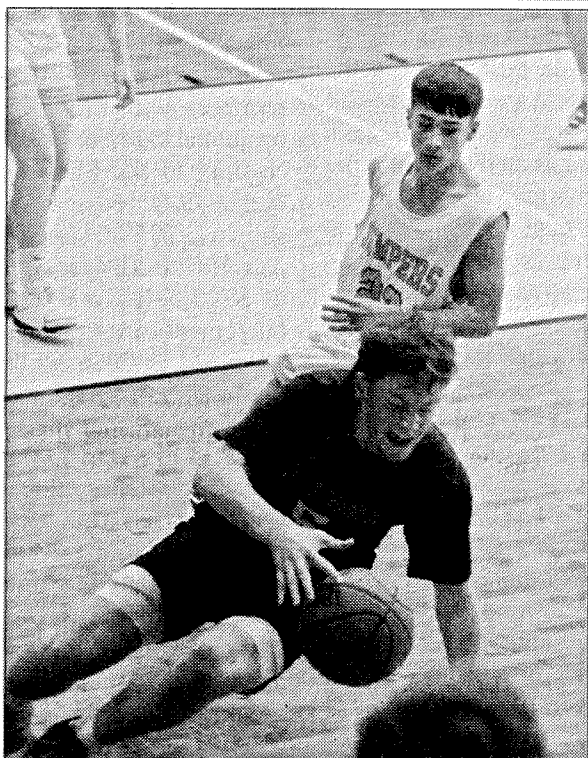
Brylee Mullins stops a driving Briar Jumper during the Lady Rockets' win over Somerset.



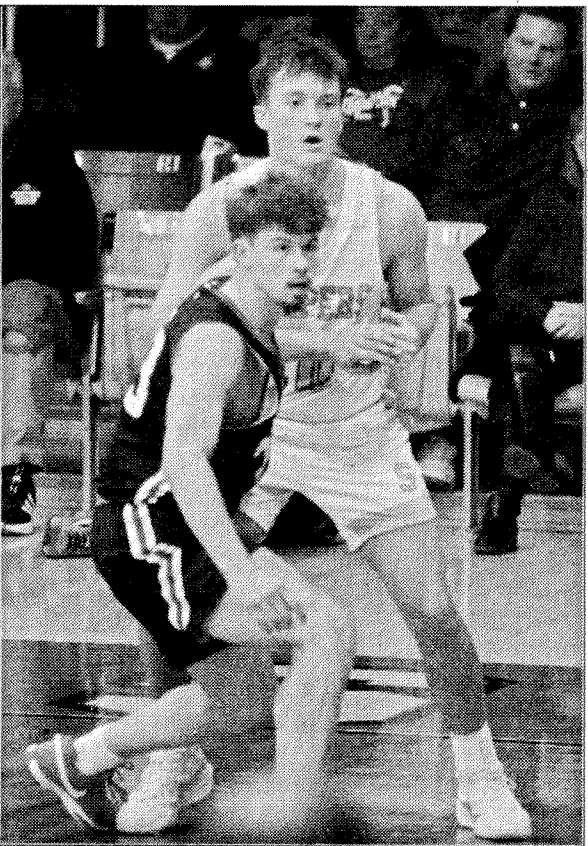
Kaylee Smith applies defensive pressure during the Lady Rockets' win over Somerset. Also shown is teammate Tessa Begley.



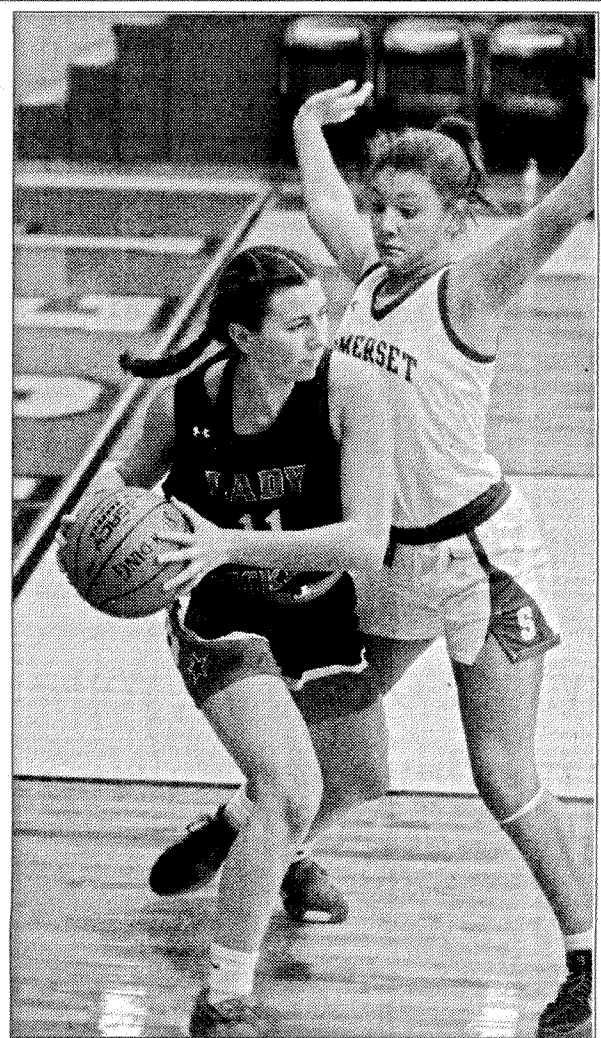
Zeke Fain drives by a Briar Jumper during the Rockets' 63-40 loss to Somerset Friday night. Fain, along with Connor Hunt and Xavier Leger led their team with seven points each. Jace Rogers added six. Maddox Parsons and Colton Cash scored five each. Blake Mullins added two and Isaiah Jackson scored one.



Jace Rogers gets tripped and fouled during the Rockets' loss to Somerset Friday night.



Blake Mullins guards the post during the Rockets' loss to Somerset Friday night.



Kinsley Smith looks for a teammate during the Lady Rockets' 71-29 win over Somerset Friday night.

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Yards to Paradise

by Max Phelps

Adding Apples or Other Fruiting Trees to Your Landscape

There can be multiple reasons for placing one or several fruiting trees in your landscape.

Maybe it's for a unique yard, perhaps for food security, maybe you want birds and other wildlife to visit your yard or even set up home there, or it might be that you want some heirloom fruits like your great grandparents used to raise. Those and other reasons we can discuss as a separate topic sometime. Right now, let's look at the where, what and the how-to of planting apples or other fruiting trees and such at your place.

First, you could consider a fruiting full sized apple rather than a crabapple, or the usual maple tree.

If you don't like apples, then a pear or persimmon or mulberry might suit you better. Fruit or nut trees can substitute for the common

shade trees most yards have. And you could easily choose a fruiting pear instead of a Bradford pear tree.

For smaller yards or for planting close to the house, serviceberries are a no-brainer as they are a good small tree for the small yard that looks good in all seasons and also have delectable small blueberry-like fruits. Similarly, cornelian cherry dogwoods or kousa dogwoods or paw-paw trees can fill in nicely at the corner of the home or scattered among larger trees.

Dwarfing rootstocks can allow the homeowner to have small versions of big trees—the fruits are regular sized, not little, on such trees. A row of dwarf apples on the right roots can be planted just a couple feet apart and tied to a wire or fence or other support and produce and allow the creative gardener to have early, late, sweet, sour, modern and antique

kinds of apples all in a rather small space.

Since apples, and many other fruits, need two or more cultivars that are compatible and bloom at the same time—consider getting a multi-graft tree that already has two or more varieties on it if you only have room for one tree.

Maybe your yard has no topsoil, or maybe it's bone dry or soppy wet for long periods of time. Although many fruits need good soil, there are reasonable solutions you can implement for one or just a few trees. Consider terracing and backfilling good dirt behind a retaining wall, as this should provide ideal planting dirt. If it's just for one tree, a circle of stones with good dirt filled in the middle should do fine. The raised area can also solve a soggy soil dilemma. For the sloped area, just three or four sizable boulders and a couple wheelbarrows of topsoil should enable the planting of an individual fruit tree in a poor spot—in a miniature raised bed.

Large trees having

deep roots stand up to droughts much better than trees on dwarfing roots, so keep this in mind unless you are able to irrigate or water regularly.

It is smart to choose varieties of apples and other fruits for your yard that are the most disease resistant (unless you don't mind spraying fungicides and such on your trees). Even some cultivars resist bug bites better than others. And most all fruiting plants can benefit from seasonal additions of appropriate fertilizers applied at the preferred dates.

Earlier we mentioned terracing. Have you thought of standing below a wall and picking strawberries (or any small fruit or vegetable) that you have planted on top of the wall? Or standing on the top of the wall to pick fruit from trees planted below the wall? Most of us already know nice walls look good and are an asset in most landscapes. They can create planting areas where none existed before just the same as they can create a useful flat area for a patio or make a yard easier to mow.

Those that have no space can often use a large planter pot to have a couple dwarf trees or bushes for producing fruits as well as flowers and herbs even on a balcony or stoop

Among the reasons for planting apples or any other fruit at your home is the diversity available.

There may be five apple choices at your supermarket, but you can

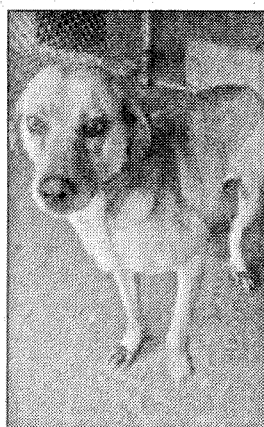
grow any of a hundred or more varieties on your own fruit tree. In fact you could even have a dozen flavors on one tree—I have both a pear and an apple that has a dozen different varieties on the same tree.

Your fruit may not be as shiny or perfect as that

at your favorite market, but fresh picked home-grown fruit will likely wow your taste buds in a way fruit taken from a storage warehouse and shipped thousands of miles never will.

The author is a landscaper. Contact: rockcastles@gmail.com

Pawfect Pets



This week's installment of Pawfect Pets includes Betsy, the female hound mix that is one year old and friendly (left) and Rocky, the male who is shy. Anyone interested in adopting one of these pets or any other animal at the Rockcastle County Animal Shelter, should visit the shelter or call 256-1833. There will be a \$20 adoption fee.

Josie Cruz receives Essay Award from DAR

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution actively supports historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavors. One way the Society promotes education is to sponsor every year in the school systems the American History Essay Contest open to all 5th-8th graders. The topic for this year's American History essay for grades 5th-8th was: "Enjoying a new king of Tea Party!" In the 1770's there was a movement of protest from the colonists against the British due to taxes and laws. Along the eastern coast a growing number of patriots held "tea" parties. The Boston Tea Party was on December 16, 1773, and the Charlestown, SC Tea Party and the Chester Town Tea Party followed in 1774. In October 1774, 51 women in Edenton, NC decided to refuse to buy tea from the British because of their high taxes and laws. In 1775, women in Wilmington, NC burned their tea for the same reasons. The writer was to imagine they were one of these women boldly participating in one of these Tea

Parties in NC and give details of either the Edenton Tea Party or Wilmington Tea Party. They were to describe the tea party, and why they would choose to join them.

One essay winner from each grade level was eligible to be submitted by the local chapter for state competition. State winners will be judged on national district level and finally district winners will be eligible for the national competition in Washington this June. National winners will be awarded

at Continental Congress and presented with a medal, certificate, and monetary award.

The Rockcastle Chapter awarded this year's chapter winner a certificate and medal. The 5th grade winner of this year's contest was Josie Cruz of Mt. Vernon Elementary School.

There were no entries for the other grades. Rockcastle Chapter would like to thank all who participated in this year's contest and look forward to reading next year's entries from such talented writers.



Josie Cruz and American History Chair, Sharon Lovell.



Rockcastle Chapter DAR presented Amanda McNew (left) and Edwina Angling DAR Literacy Champion Awards for their work in promoting literacy.

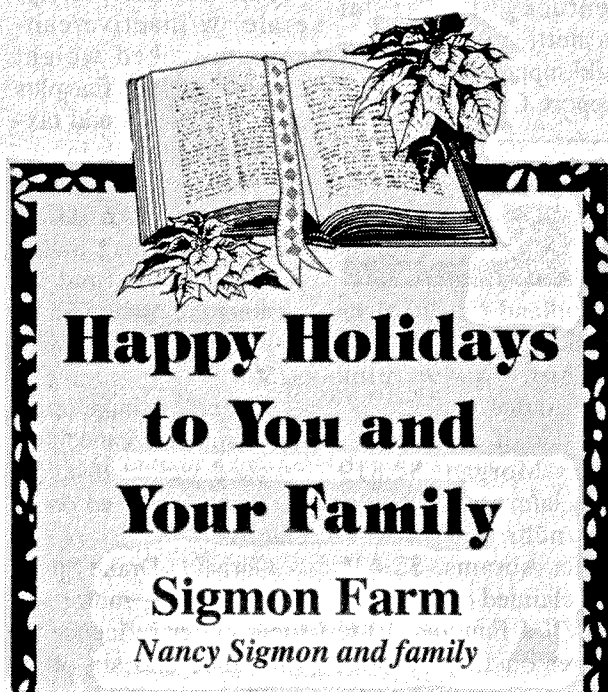
Kentucky hosts new drive safe campaign

To keep roadways as safe as possible throughout the holidays, law enforcement in Kentucky is joining the nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign Dec. 13, 2024, through Jan. 1, 2025.

To kick off the campaign, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety will host a press conference in Frankfort featuring local, state and nonprofit officials.



Merry Christmas from the City of Mt. Vernon



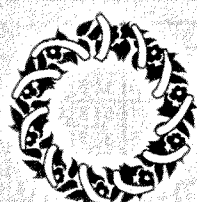
**Happy Holidays
to You and
Your Family**

Sigmon Farm
Nancy Sigmon and family



from the folks at

**Snack
Shack**



Glenda McFerron Smith - Owner

Closed Christmas Day

News from the Rockcastle Courthouse



Marriage Licenses

Polly Mathis, 67, Brodhead, retired and Hobert Fabin Proctor, 65, Harrodsburg, retired. 12/11/24

Circuit Civil Suits

Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Mickey Barnes, complaint for child support and medical support.

Discover Bank v. Charlotte N. Lake, \$7,901 plus claimed due.

Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Ruby Hasty, complaint for child support and medical support.

Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Crystal Barnett, complaint for child support and medical support. CI-00324

District Civil Suits

Midland Credit Management, Inc. v. Jodi L. Hellard, \$649 plus claimed due.

Bank of America v. James Morgan, \$2,819 plus claimed due.

Synchrony Bank v. Sheila Abrams, \$2,435 plus claimed due.

LVNV Funding, LLC v. Preston L. Swanson, \$1,844 plus claimed due.

LVNV Funding, LLC v. Jackson Sparks, \$1,496 plus claimed due. C-00301

District Court

December 12, 2024
Hon. Benjamin R. Hardy

Anthony Scott Lawson: disregarding stop sign, \$50 fine; operating on suspended/revoked operators license, \$100 fine plus costs.

Jorge Lira Loaiza: no operators/moped license, \$100 fine plus costs.

James Moore: operate w/inactive/cancelled/revoked motor fuel tax license, bench warrant (bw) issued for failure to appear (fta).

Jose Otero Lopez: operate w/inactive/cancelled/revoked weight distance tax, \$25 fine plus costs; failure to add taxable unit to taxable inventory, \$25 fine.

Neyelin Coromoto Portillo: failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, \$500 fine plus costs/suspend \$250.

Manpreet Singh: operate w/inactive/cancelled/revoked weight distance tax license, agreed order entered.

Christian Drake Spencer: operating motor vehicle under influence of substance and six other charges/ Rocket Docket

offer/plea set for 12/18/24.

Deonte Dwayne Spriggs: failure to add taxable unit to taxable inventory; part 395/Fed Safety Regs-Hours of Service for Drivers; Viol Part 390 Federal Safety Regs-General Policy, bw issued for fta.

Aman Tilahun Tefera: operate w/inactive/cancelled/revoked weight distance tax license, bw issued for fta.

Melissa VanWiunkle: operating on suspended/revoked operators license and failure to wear seat belts, bw issued for fta.

Speeding: Rodney H. Cameron, Christian Blake Jackson, Michael Paul McCollum, license suspended for fta.

Kenneth Wayne Watts: failure to wear seat belts, license suspended for fta.

Christopher S. Foster: disorderly conduct, \$100 fine plus costs.

Lucas Tyler Isaac: theft by unlawful taking and possession controlled substance, Rocket Docket

offer/plea set for 12/18/24.

Derek Kendrick Kisee: resisting arrest: 365 days in jail/to serve 45/remainder probated/costs waived.

John McClure: possession controlled substance, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, possession of synthetic drugs, Rocket Docket offer/plea set for 12/18/24.

Garner Prescott Mink: driving on DUI suspended license, failure to wear seat belts, possession controlled substance, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, Rocket Docket offer/plea set fr 12/18/24.

Justin C. Whitt: assault (two counts), fleeing or evading police (two counts), possession/use of radio that sends/receives police messages, drug paraphernalia - buy/possess, failure to register transfer of motor vehicle, 12 months each count/to serve concurrent/credit time served/costs waived; license to be in possession and fail-

ure of non-owner operator to maintain req. insurance, 90 days in jail (each count/to serve/credit time served/concurrent).

Deeds Recorded

James H. and Brenda J. Lambert and Lora Lee Lambert, property in East View Subdv., to Lora Lee Lambert. No tax

Jackie and Jennie Payne, property in Rockcastle County, to RGL Regional Industrial Development Authority, Inc. Tax \$2,042

Wayne Baker, property in Rockcastle County, to Danny Baker. Tax \$10

Stevie Duff, property in Newland Addition to City of Brodhead, to Robert Lay. Tax \$40

Gary L. and Bessie Mae Puckett, property in Rockcastle County, to Edward Charles. Tax \$9

Raymond Douglas Morgan and Tyler Cordell and Kierstan Morgan, property in Rockcastle County, to Tyler Cordell and Kierstan Morgan. Tax \$2.50

Carl D. Benge and LaTanya R. Hager, property in Rockcastle County, to Kristofer and Emily Hisel. Tax \$249

Joanie Compton, property on Mullins Station Road, to Charles Ernest Hines. No tax

Merry Christmas
from the staff and
management of the
Mount Vernon Signal

Notice from the Rockcastle County Tax Office

Any person/business/employer who issues Federal Form 1099 payments for services performed within the county are required to provide that information to the:

Rockcastle Occupational Tax Office
PO Box 1810
Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456
by February 28, 2025

3	2	7	6	1	9	8	4	5
5	1	6	3	8	4	7	9	2
9	4	8	7	2	5	1	6	3
7	9	3	2	4	1	5	8	6
1	8	2	5	9	6	3	7	4
4	6	5	8	3	7	2	1	9
6	7	4	1	5	3	9	2	8
8	3	1	9	6	2	4	5	7
2	5	9	4	7	8	6	3	1

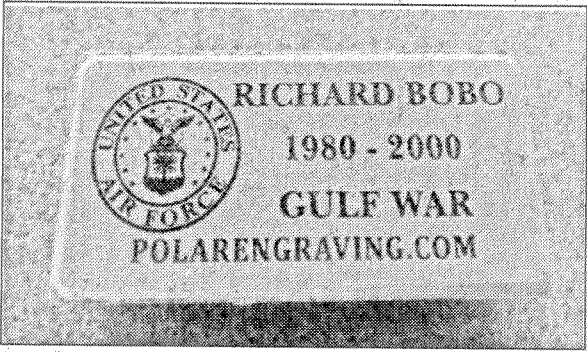
SUGAR'S PUZZLE ANSWERS



SPEAK UP	RAYS	SCALP	OPAL
IDOL	HIRER	MALE	
SAYONES	GOODBYES		
EMOTE	CONVERSES		
ADO	EVE		
KARATE	EDDO	SAM	
APES	MONO	UVULA	
STATE	OF	SOBRIETY	
HELIX	FUME	IDEA	
ARM	CASE	SKIERS	
AIR	STY		
HEARTIEST	AMASS		
EXPRESS	CONTEMPT		
MISO	TAUPE	GORY	
STEW	OUTED	SKYE	

“Walk of Honor” Fundraiser

The “David M. Smith” American Legion Post 71 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5908 are holding a brick fundraiser to construct a “Walk of Honor” at the recently opened Rockcastle County Veterans Park. Engraved bricks will be the foundation and will honor Rockcastle County Veterans, past and present. Order forms will be distributed by members of the two organizations. If you have any questions or would like an order form contact Richard Bobo at (606) 308-2271 or email boborichard719@gmail.com.



Merry Christmas

During this holiday season
and throughout the year,
may God quiet you with
his peace, comfort you with his
presence and bless you
with his love.



From left: Matthew Bustle, Shelly Clements, Richard Lynch, Isaac Day, Dawn Meyers and David Collins.

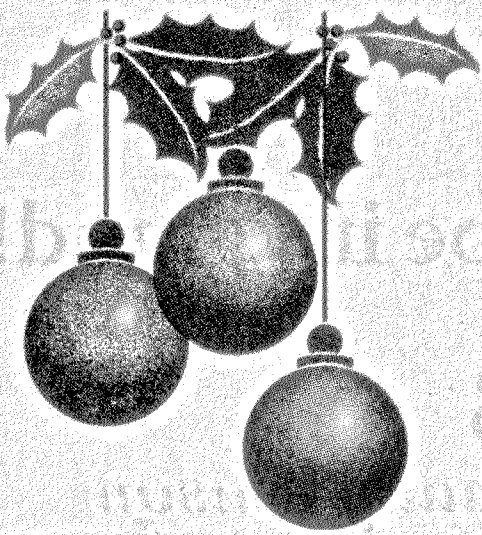
Merry Christmas from the staff at

Collins Respiratory Care

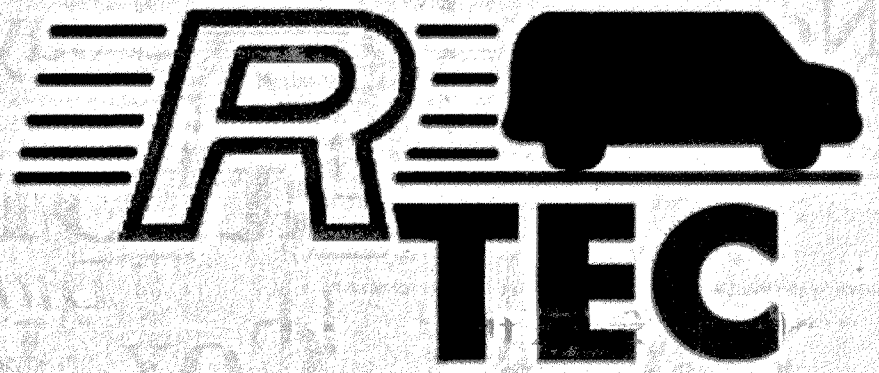
Owners: David Collins & Shelly Clements

Main St. • Brodhead • 606-758-9333

Merry Christmas



from all the employees at...



Shirley Simmons
Frieda Parsons
Stacey Clark
Dale Shelton
Jaime Martin
Lorne Santo
Theresa
Heidi Freeman
Kimberley Martin
Janet McGuire Singleton
Lesley Burdett
Linda Callebba
Michael Siper
Randy Lewis
James Morgan
Chris Hansel
Mike
Rebecca Bullock

May the
Christmas
season
fill your
home
with joy,
your heart
with love,
and your
life
with
laughter

Jessica Coates
Stella Newcomb
Annie Mullins
Peggy Dickerson
Donna Mildrum
Dora
William Taylor
Teresa Kern
Joshua
Ann D. Moran
Randy Reimer
Ch. B. King
Eddie Hayes
Shirley
Karen Garfield
Matt Greer

happy new year



No matter how you say it, we hope it's grand!

- Attorneys -

James L. Cox, Heidi Weatherly

**Staff: Shari Proctor, Amanda Brown
and Vina Cain**

Thank you for your business this year!

115 Richmond St. • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-5111



From left: Shari Proctor, Heidi Weatherly, James L. Cox, Vina Cain and Amanda Brown.

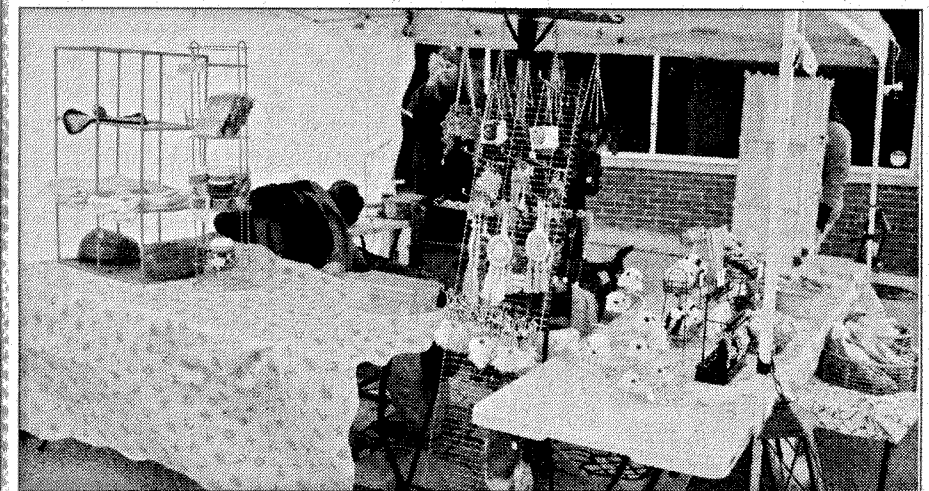
Scenes from the 2024 Noel Night Market



Tents lined Main Street during the Noel Night Market event.



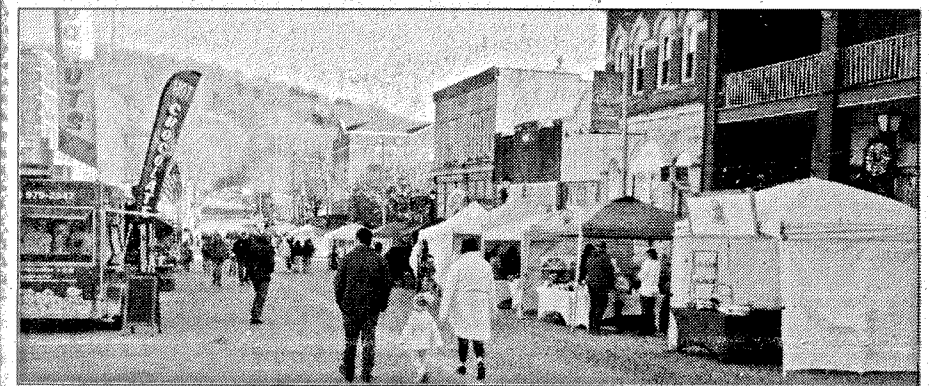
Specialty foods from Confection Connection were available during the Noel Night Market.



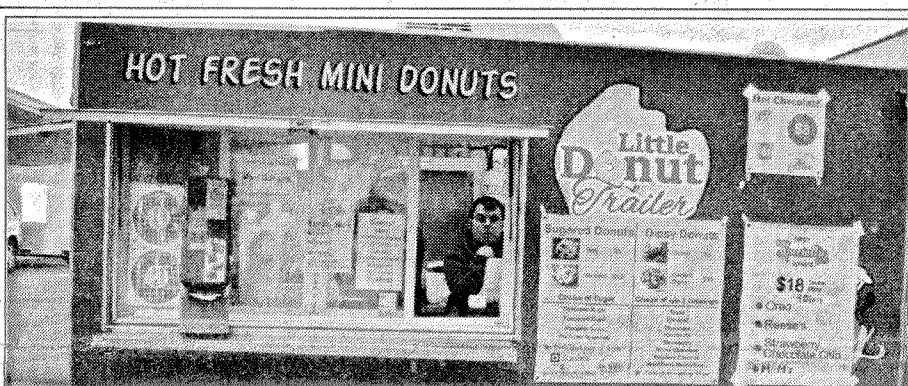
Handmade arts and crafts filled the Noel Night Market event.



Toys were also available during the night market.



Main Street was busy during the Noel Night Market.



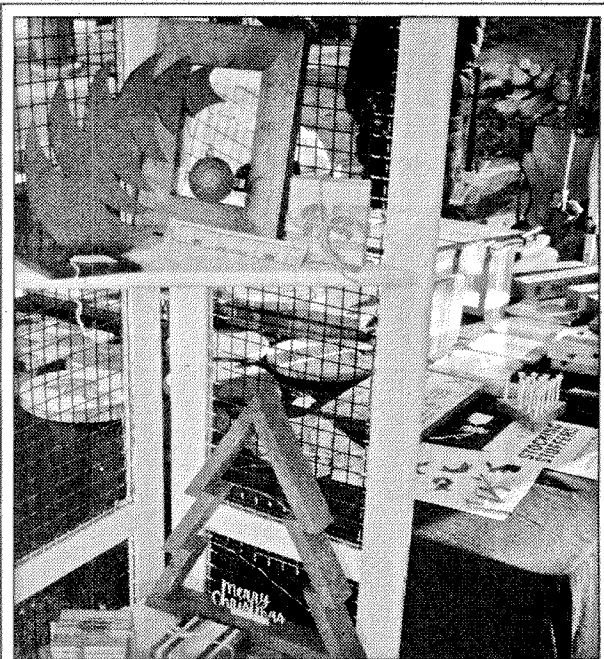
Food Trucks were a popular attraction at the Noel Night Market.



Best Wishes for a Happy
& Healthy New Year



ROCKCASTLE
REGIONAL
HOSPITAL & RESPIRATORY CARE CENTER



Handmade crafts were among the most popular at the Noel Night Market.



Handmade wooden items were popular at the night market.



Christmas trees and decorations were popular at the Noel Night Market.

The Signal office will be closed from Thursday, December 19 to Monday, December 30 in observance of the holidays



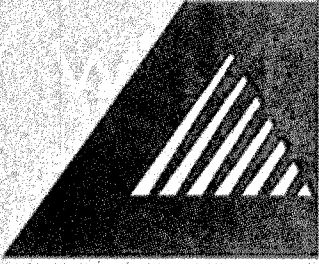
From left: Anthony Asher, Betty Frederick, Lisa Hopkins, Amber Nicely, Jaclyn Bullock and Julie Pigg.



Warm wishes to all of you for a joyous holiday season.
Many thanks for your continued patronage.



Front row from left: Betty Frederick, Rachel Taylor and Carissa Hensley. Back row from left: Khristy Couch, Keith Pierce, Cathy Howard and Sandy Durham. Not pictured: Malinda Pigg.




Community Trust[®] Bank

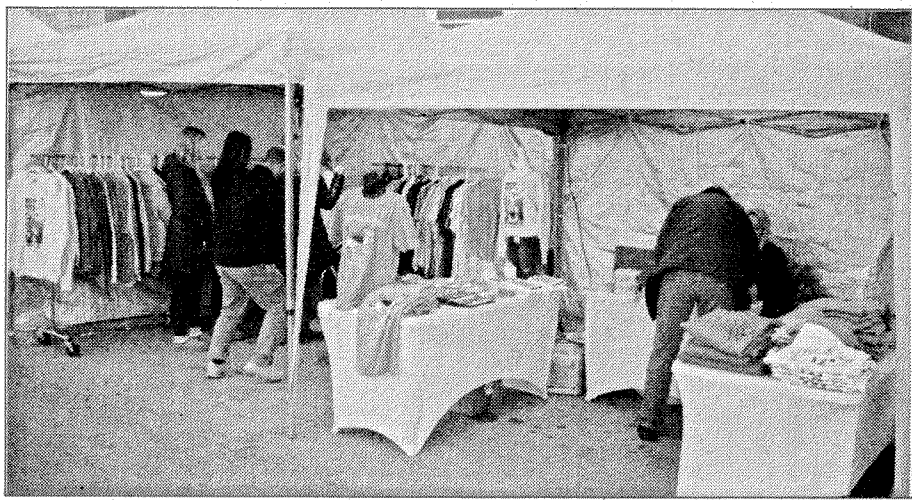
Highway 461 Bypass • Mt. Vernon
606-256-5141

120 East Main Street • Mt. Vernon
606-256-5142

Closing at noon December 24th and closed December 25th and January 1st

Member FDIC

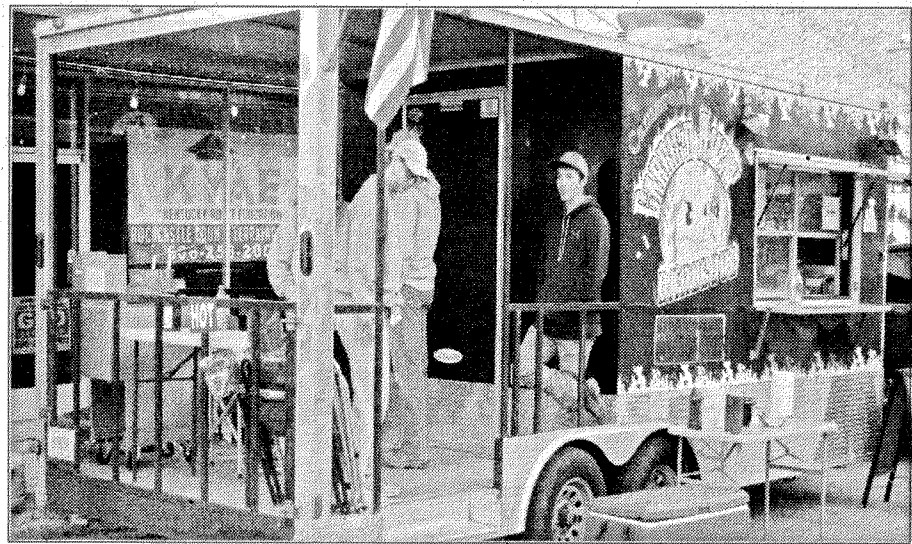




Clothing was one of many items visitors could purchase at the night market event.



Candice Crochet offered many types of crochet items.



Bar-b-que was very popular during the night market event.



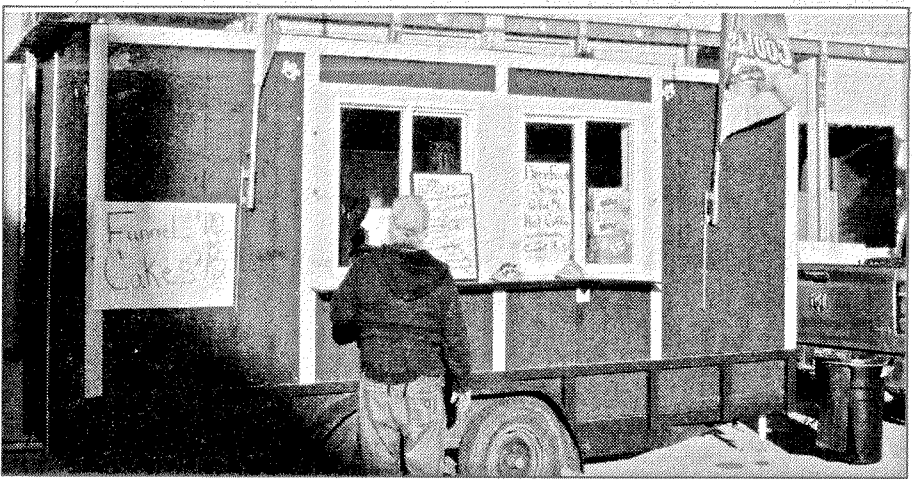
Vendors offered many types of goods for those shopping during the Noel Night Market.



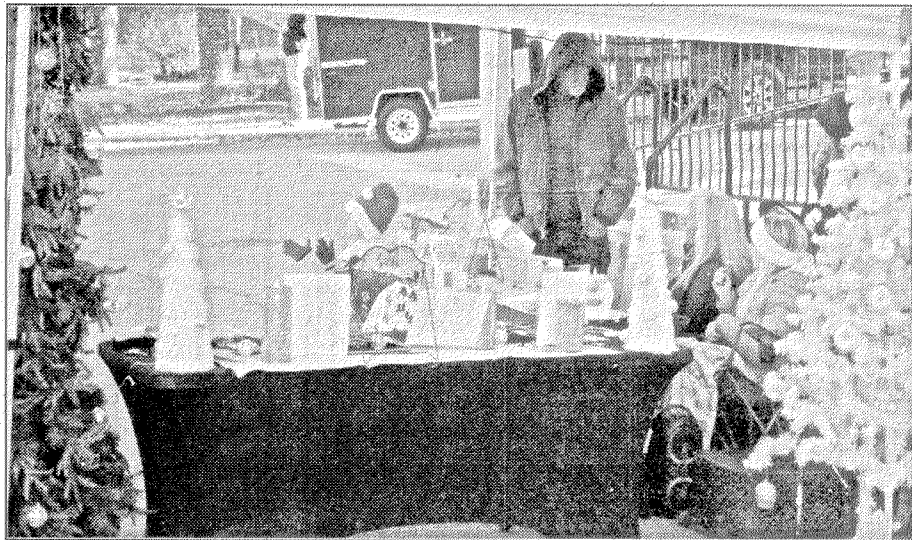
Vendors sold all types of crafts and hand made items during the Noel Night Market.



Main Street was lined with vendors selling crafts and goods to the many shoppers on Main Street.



Food trucks were popular during the Noel Night Market.



Temperatures were cool but manageable for the countless vendors on Main Street during the Noel Night Market.

from
County Clerk
Danetta Ford-Allen
and staff


Merry Christmas
Wishing you a season that's merry and bright with the light of God's love



Front row from left: Danetta Ford-Allen, Bailee Sue Allen and Tina Gibbs.
Back row from left: Selena Thompson, Brylee Peters, Sonya McGuire, Skyler Horn, Anita Moore and Janet Blevins.



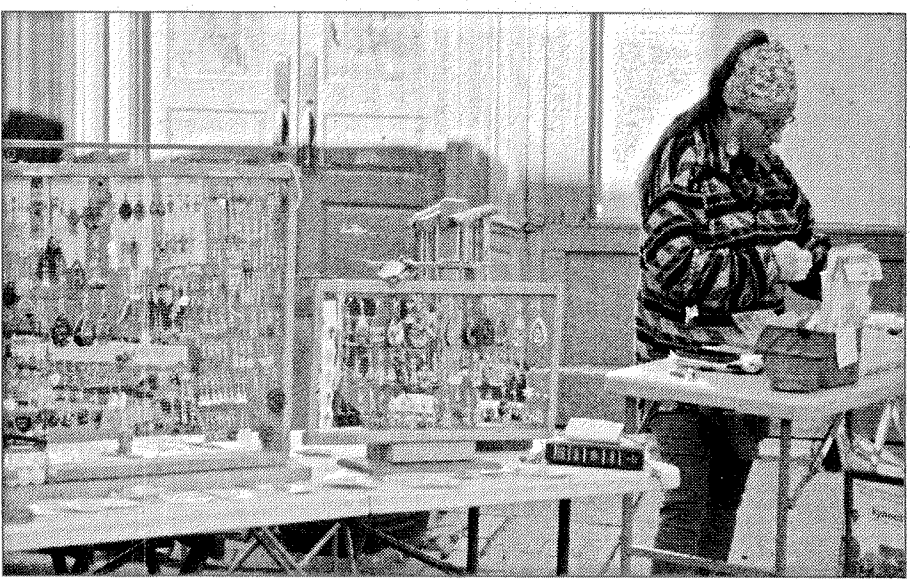
Hand made crafts were very popular during the Noel Night Market.



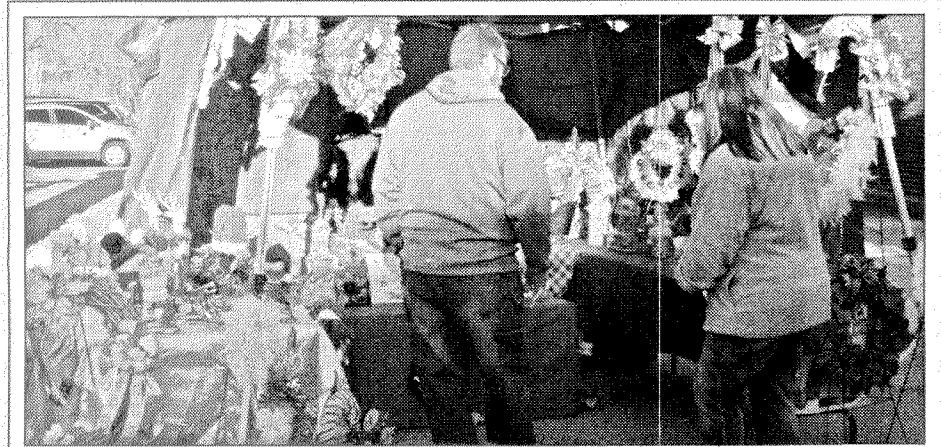
Groups and organizations provided vending booths for the Noel Night Market shoppers.



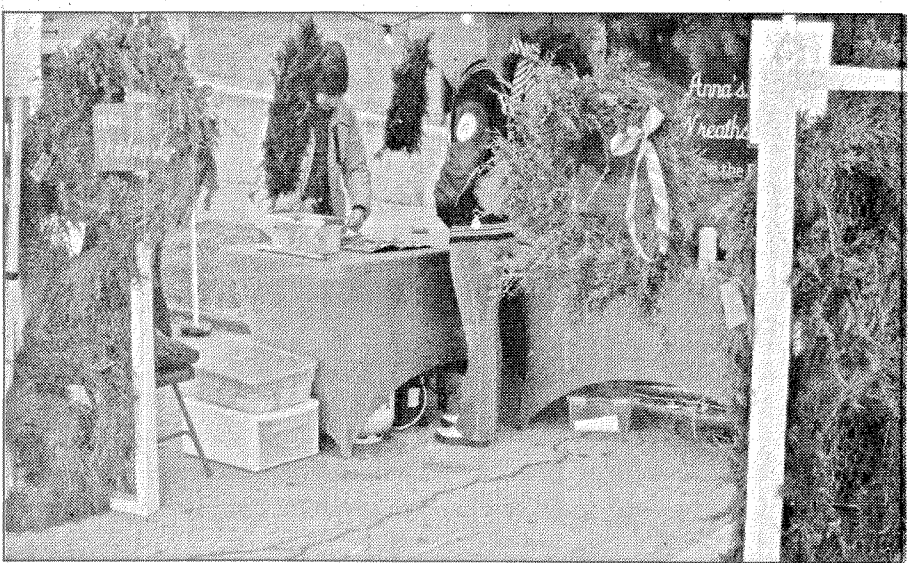
Specialty crafts were offered throughout the Noel Night Market event.



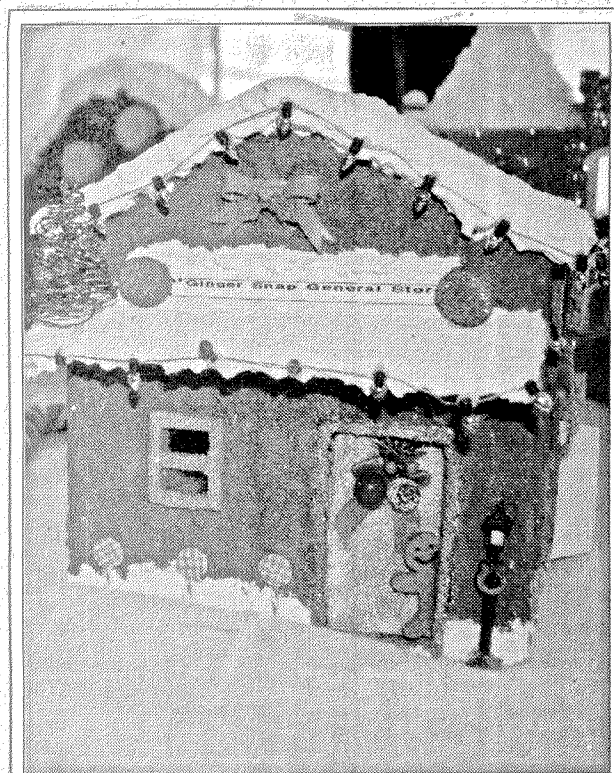
Jewelry was one of the many popular items for sale at the Noel Night Market.



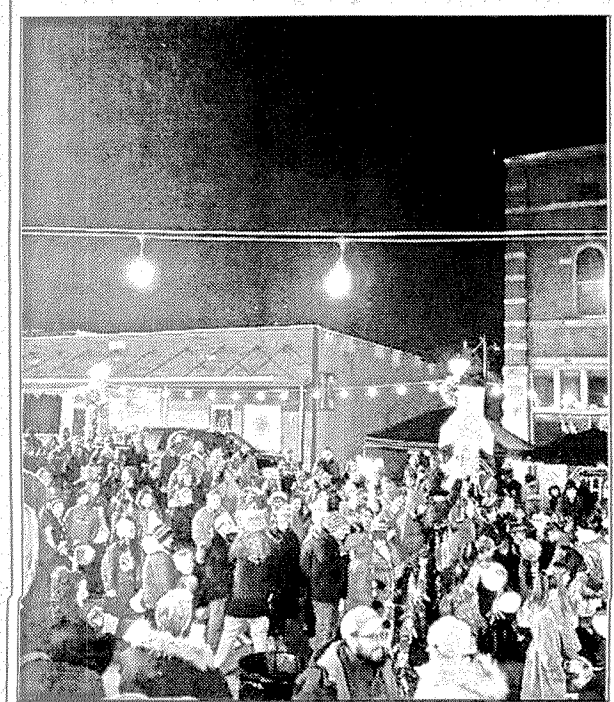
Many visitors came to Main Street for the Noel Night Market event.



Christmas wreaths were a big hit at the Noel night Market event.



Ginger bread houses were popular at the night market.



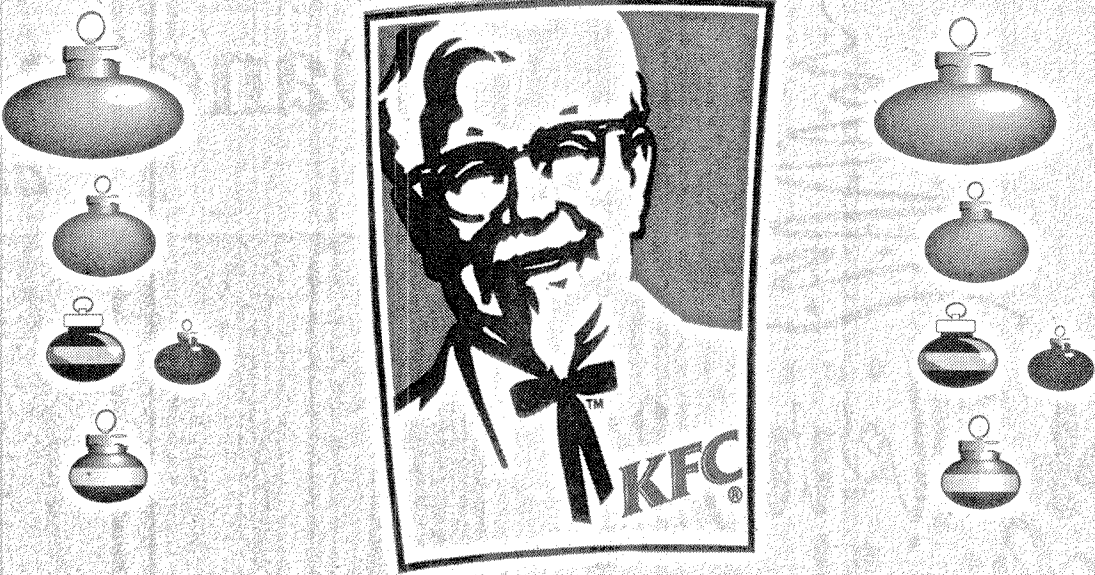
One of the spectacular events sponsored by the Rockcastle Arts Association at the Noel Night Market included the Kid's Lantern Parade. Each participant made their own lantern and lit up Main Street of Mount Vernon by carrying their lantern through town in the night.

Merry Christmas
from all of us at the
Mount Vernon Signal

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

May you and your loved ones enjoy all the splendor of this
very special time of year.
It's been a pleasure serving you.

From Denise Wallin and all her employees at



From left: Russell Hood, Rick Robinson, Blake Powell, Joey Maggard, Linda Bowman, Teresa Gentry, Denise Wallin, Aurora Reyes, Micah Hughes and Jamie Daniels.

KFC closing Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. • Closed Christmas Day
New Year's Eve and New Year's Day 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.



A huge tent kept some vendors and customers warm and dry during the Noel Night Market.



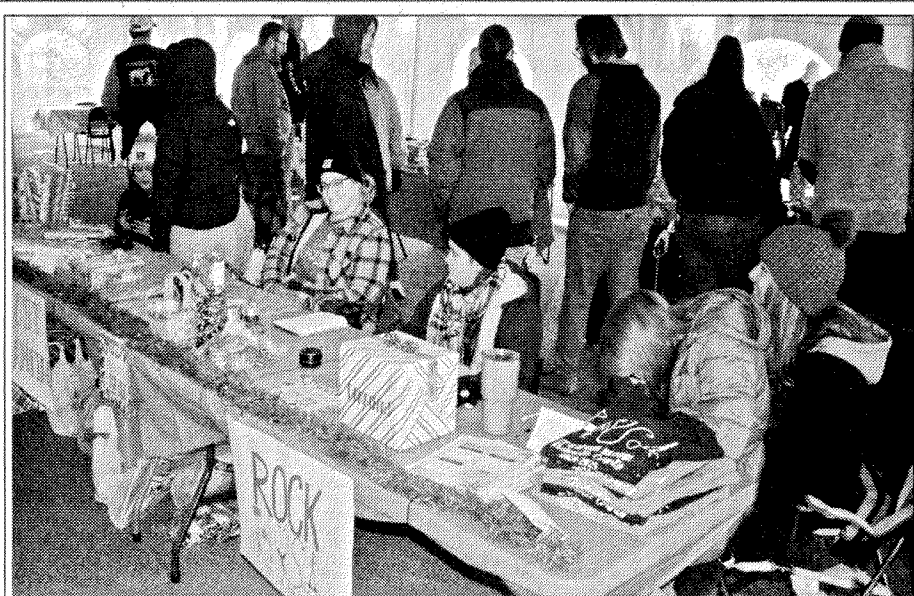
Guests visited the dozens of vendors under the big tent just off Main Street.



Many handmade items were available at the Noel Night Market event.



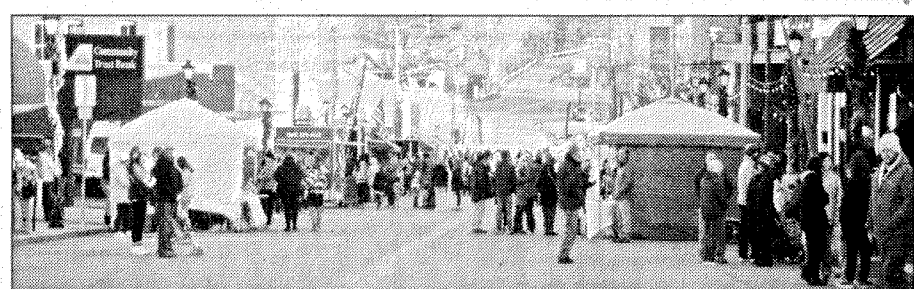
Gingerbread houses at Penny's Holiday Houses were among the most popular at the Noel Night Market.



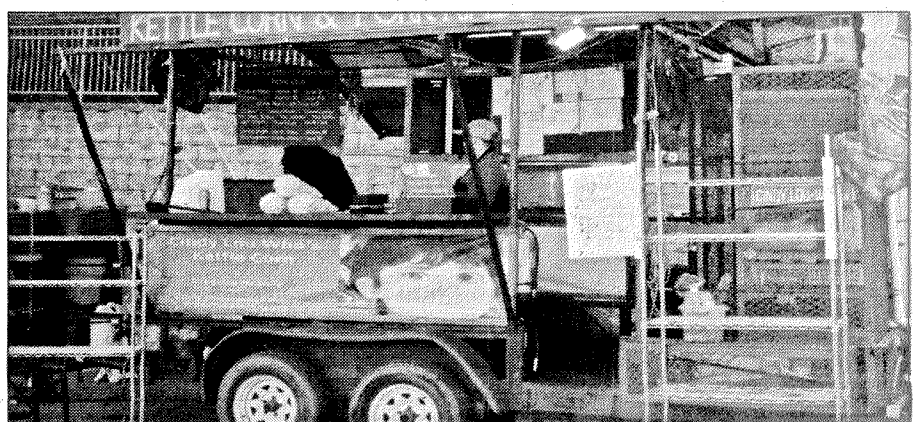
Cookies, cakes and treats were popular under the big tent at the Noel Night Market event.



Vendors offered countless crafts and goods to shoppers at Noel Night Market.



Shown above, the crowd began to gather an hour before the Noel Night Market began.



Food trucks had lines of customers once the Noel Night Market began.

No paper next week!

Signal office will be closed
December 19th- 30th



Our very best wishes for
a hearty and satisfying
holiday season.

For the privilege of serving you,
we are sincerely thankful.

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606-256-0131



We'd like to join you and your family in giving thanks to
our Lord for His love and guidance, just as we thank you
for your trust and support this past year.

Coffey & Ford, PSC
Attorneys At Law

Willis Coffey and John D. Ford

Main St. • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-4405

The Reason for the Season

Submitted by Brandon Storm

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11, KJV)

As we enter the Christmas season, these words from the Gospel of Luke remind us of the profound significance of this holy celebration. Christmas is more than a time for festive decorations, family gatherings, and giving gifts. It is a moment to reflect on the ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to bring hope, joy, and salvation to all. His arrival in the humblest of settings reveals God's love for humanity and the transformative power of His grace.

At its core, Christmas calls us to embrace the true spirit of Christ's birth—a message of love, generosity, and compassion. Just as the shepherds left their fields to worship the newborn King, we, too, are invited to pause, reflect, and realign our hearts with the joy and purpose Christ brings. This sacred time of year allows us to focus on the values of

faith, family, and gratitude that anchor our lives amidst the hustle and bustle of daily demands.

The holiday season often brings warmth and joy, but it can also be challenging for those facing loneliness, grief, or hardship. Simple acts of kindness, like offering a meal or lending support, allow us to share Christ's light and embody the season's true spirit.

For many, food insecurity makes the holidays anything but joyful. By donating to or volunteering with God's Pantry Food Bank, you can help provide nutritious meals and hope to needy families. As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, let the story of Christ's birth inspire us to renew our faith and embrace opportunities to grow in love and service.

His humble beginning teaches us that greatness can emerge from the simplest circumstances and calls us to live with intention, purpose, and compassion, carrying His love into the new year. Together, we can positively impact our communities and the world around us.

God's Pantry Food Bank operates the Southeast Regional Distribution Center at 1215 East 4th Street in London, Kentucky

for those seeking assistance or wishing to support local efforts. This facility serves as a hub for distributing food to regional partner agencies.

Additionally, there are other resources in surrounding areas. Mount Vernon in Rockcastle County has Feeding the Flock Ministries at 1422 Quail Road in Mount Vernon and Grateful Bread Food Pantry at 3065 Richmond Street in Mount Vernon, both in Rockcastle County.

You'll find Double Springs Food Pantry in Lincoln County at 770 Highway 3276 in Waynesburg and Hustonville Baptist Church at 9959 West Main Street. Visit the organization's website, godspantry.org/help, to find other locations.

Whether you celebrate in quiet reflection or surrounded by laughter and loved ones, may the joy of Christ's birth fill your heart with peace and hope. Let this Christmas be a time to renew your faith, treasure your blessings, and share the light of God's love with all. May the season's true meaning guide your steps and bring comfort and joy to you and your family.

It's an honor to serve as your state senator. I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Stay safe this season

The holiday season is once again upon us, and for many that means it's time to deck the halls inside and out. With the rush to get into the spirit, safety can sometimes be overlooked. LG&E and KU are offering these simple tips to make sure your holidays are safe and bright.

Decorating indoors: Inspect your lights and throw out any that are frayed or damaged. Don't overload electrical outlets.

Use smart plugs and set timers to make sure you don't leave your lights on longer than you should.

Place holiday trees and decorations at least three feet from fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.

Minimize open

flames by using battery-operated candles.

Ensure all cords are in good shape. Never run them under rugs or near heat sources and avoid tucking them into too-tight spaces.

Decorating outdoors:

Hang decorations and holiday lights outside during daylight hours.

Always carry ladders parallel to the ground and look up for power lines before positioning your ladder.

Make sure ONLY to use weatherproof extension cords and power strips.

Make sure trees have not grown too close to a power line before stringing lights.

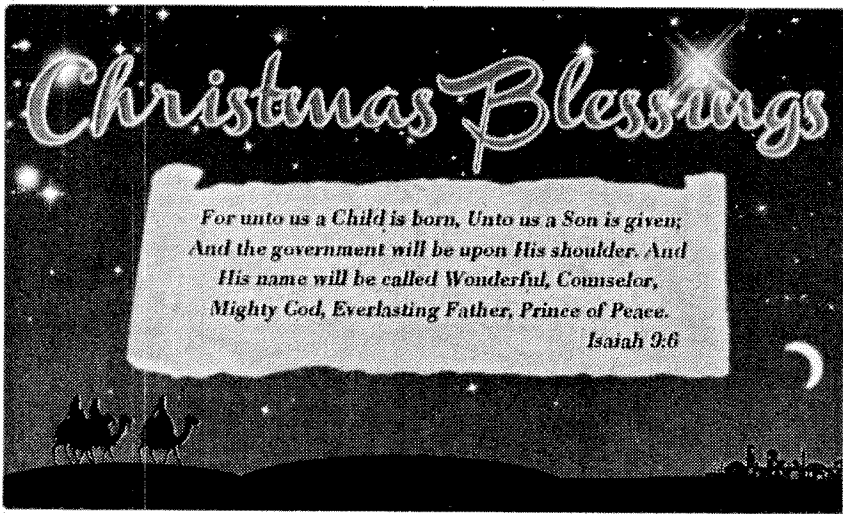
Make sure your lights are fastened securely enough to withstand strong winds.

When it's time to retire some of those old strands of lights, consider replacing them with LED light strands which are safe to the touch and shatterproof. They also use less energy.

Visit lge-ku.com/safety for more important electric and natural gas safety tips and information.

No paper next week!

Signal office will be closed
December 19th- 30th



Merry Christmas and thank you for the privilege of serving the citizens of Rockcastle County

Shannon Franklin
Rockcastle Sheriff

No paper next week!

Signal office will be closed
December 19th - 29th



It's Been Our Pleasure Serving You!

Happy Holidays and many thanks for your kind patronage this past year.



May peace and joy come to you during this holy season



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dba South Central Insurance

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256-0047

Classifieds

CLASSIFIED RATES

- Local Rates - \$5 for 25 words or less - .10 each additional word
 - Display Classifieds \$5.00/Inch
- Deadline for Classifieds is 4 p.m. Monday**

For Rent

Mt. Vernon Housing Authority open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Applications accepted Monday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rent based on income. 256-4185.

Accepting Applications

For 2 and 3 bedroom units at Valley View Apartments. Rent based on income. Call 256-5912. TDD for hearing impaired only. 1-800-247-2510.

For Rent

Maple Street Storage of Brodhead
606-308-3032
606-392-8654

Property For Sale

30 Acre Stand of Timber. Sawmill nearby. Call 606-594-8990. 33xntf

Posted

Posted: No hunting, foraging, or trespassing on the **Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve** owned by the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. Violators will be prosecuted. 44x5

Posted: No trespassing of any kind on property located at 692 Houston Farm Road by owner Frank Bradley. 40x3

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on property belonging to Wayne and Marie Bullock on Kincade Ridge Road and 1250 Spiro Road, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 37(24)51
Posted: No hunting or trespassing on the former Berl Hopkins' land (now belonging to Judy Hopkins Marsh) on KY 461 near US 150 and 461 intersection. 27x20p
Posted: Absolutely no trespassing on land belonging to LJI Honeycomb LLC for any reason. Formerly known as Christ Outreach for the Blind. Violators will be prosecuted. 23(24)x51

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on property belonging to Brian and Angela Burdine and located at 428 Black Bear Lick Lane, Livingston. Violators will be prosecuted. 47xntf

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on farms, belonging to Gary and Peggy Roberts, on KY 3245. Violators will be prosecuted. 36/24x52

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on land belonging to Glen Roberts at 560 Dix River Branch Road, Brodhead. Violators will be prosecuted. 35xntf

Posted: Property belonging to Kitty Reese on Smallwood Road at Roundstone. All trespassers will be prosecuted. 49xntf

Posted: No hunting, trespassing or ATVs on land belonging to Jason and Sara Coguer at Roundstone. Not responsible for accidents.

Posted: No trespassing, hunting or fishing on land belonging to Rachel Denney on Hwy. 3245 (former Reggie Bengé property).

Farm Equipment

Heavy duty 584 International tractor and 7 ft. bush hog, \$3,500; Keller 24 ft. extension ladder, \$160; industrial upholstery machine w/table, \$200 and Earth Wood stove, \$175. Call 606-386-9810. 43x1

Notices

Notice is hereby given that Dora Rash, 120 Lair St., Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456 has been appointed Administratrix (no will) of the estate of Dennis Rash, deceased, on the 5th day of December, 2024. Any person having claims against said estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Dora Rash or to Kelli Brown Goldberg Simpson, LLC, 9301 Dayflower St., Prospect, Kentucky 40059 on or before June 5, 2025.

Motor Vehicles For Sale

For Sale: 1957 Chevrolet Pickup. V8, automatic transmission. Show truck. \$15,900. 606-386-1470 or 859-893-6825 44x5

Cresthaven Cemetery Plots

Call Will Bishop @ 606-308-2490 or Shannon Bishop @ 606-308-9988

Professional Services

Owens Monument: Located behind Owens Funeral Home in Brodhead. Open Mon-Fri. 8 to 5 and Sat. 9 a.m. to noon. 606-758-9600. 14xntf

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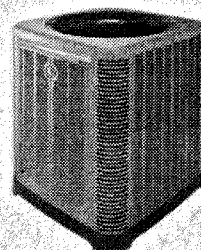
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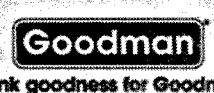


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we'd like to display our gratitude to
our neighbors and friends

Citizens Insurance Agency

210 E. Main St. • Mt. Vernon
(606) 256-2611



*We are here to help you with all your
insurance needs.*

**Bryan Clontz, Janice Adams,
Tara Boone and Stacie Thacker**

Donnie Singleton

**Closed December 24th & 25th
and January 1st**



Mount Vernon Signal

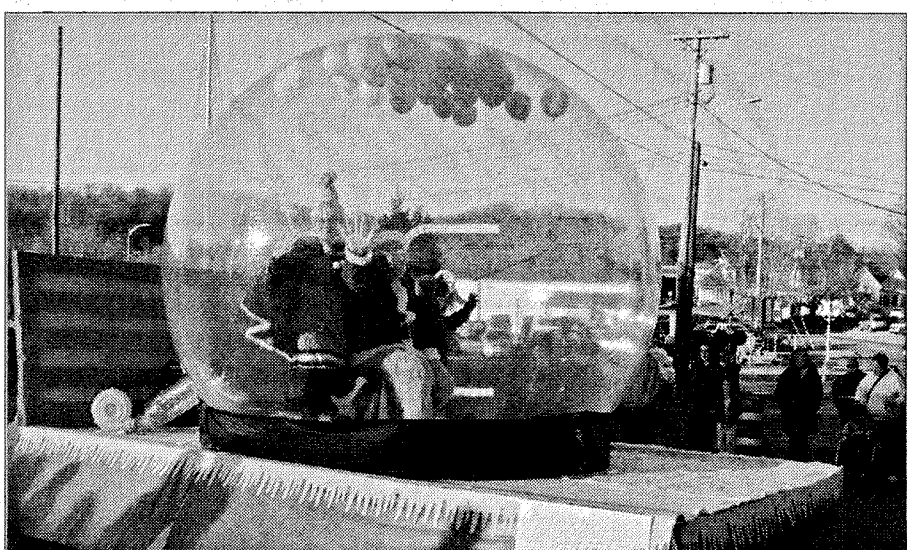
Third Section

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Scenes from Mount Vernon Christmas Parade



Antique tractors were a big hit in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



The Limestone Grill displayed a popular float with the crowd as well as judges since the float won the first place award in the Business category.

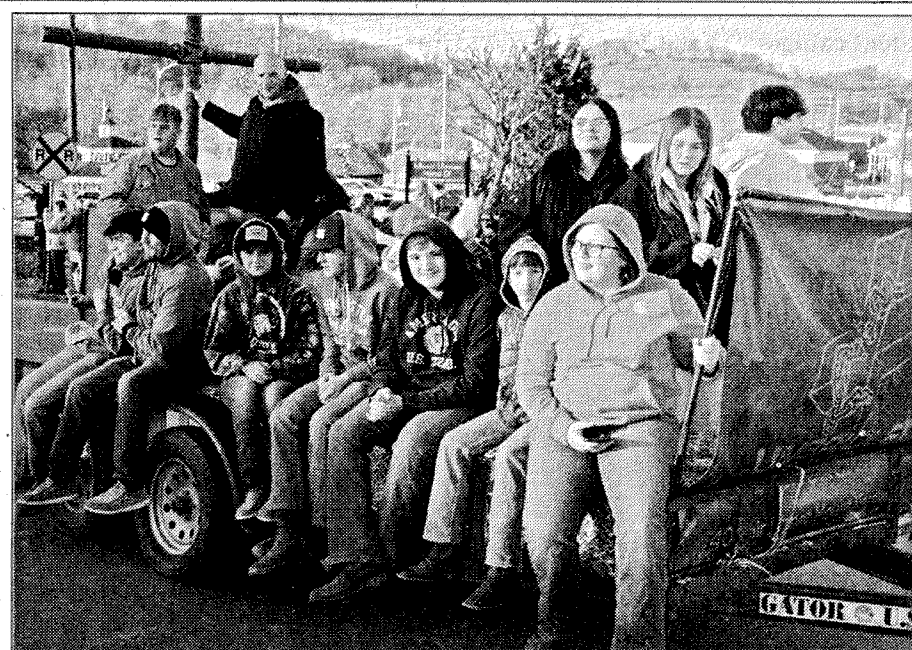


The UCA National champion at the National High School Championship Super Varsity Division II Game Day RCHS Cheerleaders served as the Grand Marshall for the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.

The Mount Vernon Christmas Parade was one of the longest in Mount Vernon history. Officials offered a "thank you" to all who participated in the event and those who helped make the parade one of the best ever.



The Fountain of Life truck carried Abraham Lincoln during the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



Several members waved at the crowd from the Ubriddled Church float.



The First Christian Church float took the second place award in the Church category during the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.

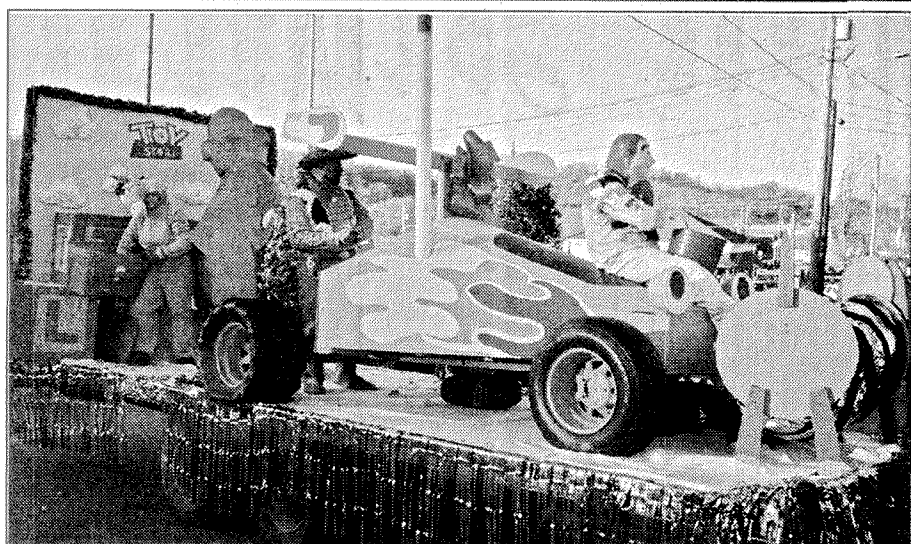


Merry Christmas

Citizens Bank

MT VERNON BRANCH





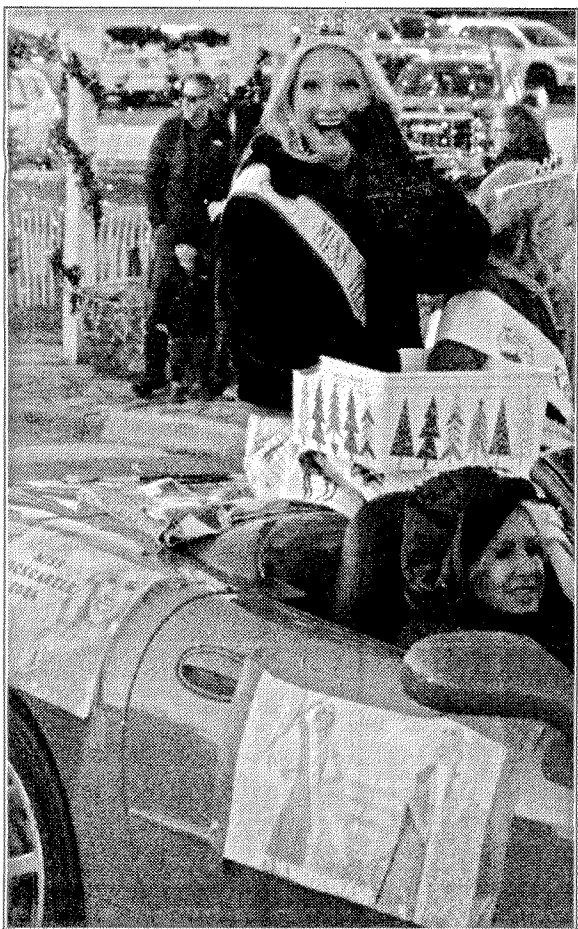
The Mount Vernon Paw Spa float displayed the Toy Story Theme for the crowd during the parade.



The Tic Toc Christian Preschool float won the first place award in the School category in the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



Scarlet Jane waved at the crowd in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.

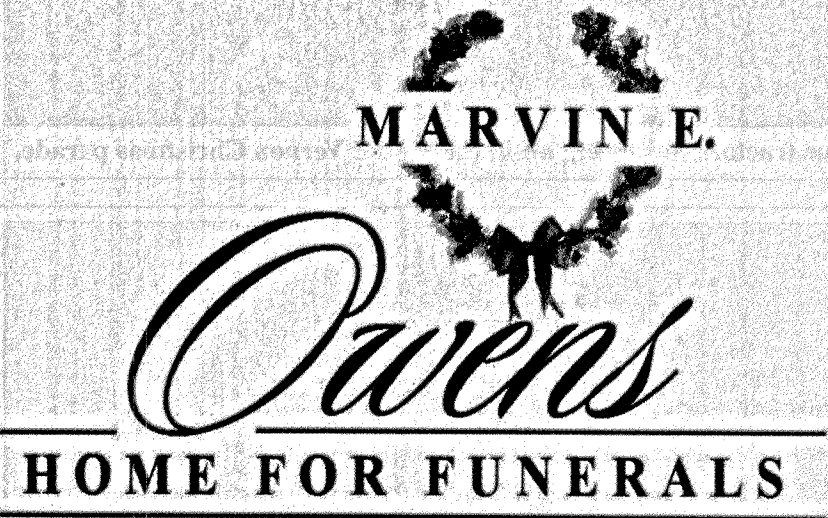


Emma Noel waved at the crowd in the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



The McKinney family pulled a huge Santa down Main Street..

No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 19th - 29th



Brodhead, KY • 606-758-9600 • 1-877-600-9601

Merry Christmas

from

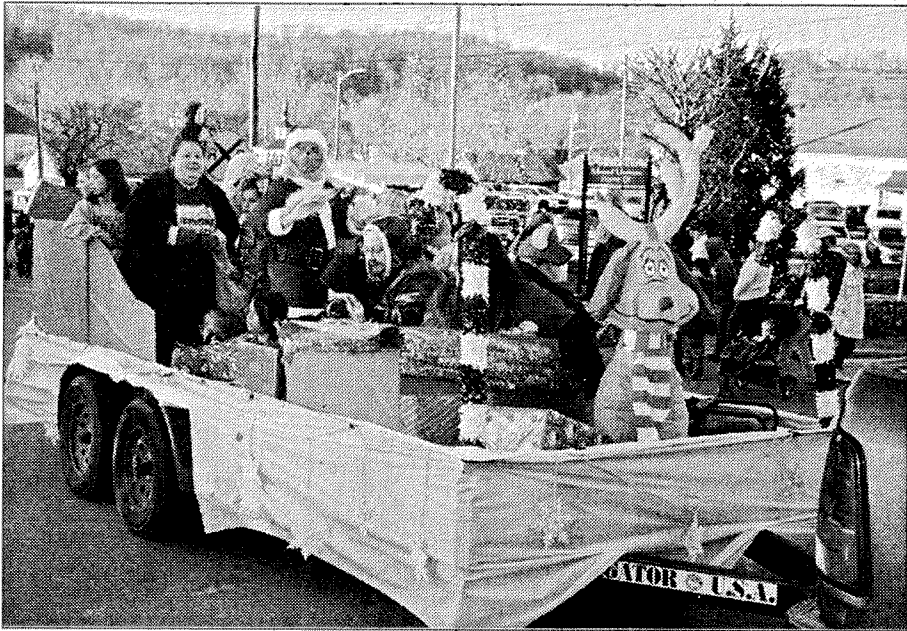
Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance

Mt. Vernon • 256-2050



Front row from left: Amber Miller, Chelsea Bell and Christa Taylor.
Back row from left: April Smith, John Lawson, Marlene Lawson and Crystal Griffin.

Office Closed December 24th & 25th and January 1st



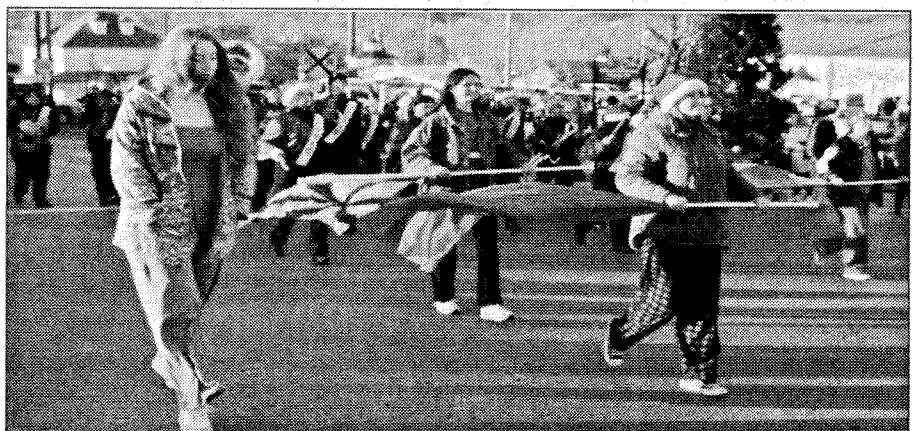
Members of the Mount Zion Baptist Church tossed candy from their float throughout the parade.



Katie Wynn waves at the crowd on the Climax Fire Department float which won the first place award in the Other category.



The Nail House Float took second place in the Business category.



The RCHS Marching Rockets helped lead the Mount Vernon parade down Main Street.



The Rockcastle Therapy Associates took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Noble Automotive took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.

A Hillbilly Christmas

Twass the night before Christmas
And far from my home,
A little bit scared as I traveled alone,
I stopped to rest and rented a cabin,
Late in the night, unsure what might happen.
I settled in quick and went right to bed
Happy at last to just lay down my head,
When all of a sudden somewhere on the mountain,
The Hillbillys began singing, dancing, shoutin'.
The sound was like thunder, it woke the whole town,
The Hillbillys were having a Christmas Ho-Down.
Me in my cabin unable to sleep,
Standing in nightshirt and only sock feet.
No hope for rest I decided to go,
So I dressed myself warmly, and walked out of my cabin

And into the cold.
Walking in the moonlight on a new fallen snow,
Passing through the woods to a place I didn't know.
I arrived at the cabin not sure of the time,
It was a very big cabin much larger than mine.
The inside was well lit and gave off a glow,
That shone out the windows and on to the snow.
Taking a breath, I knocked on the door,
The host was a man I had never seen before.
After looking me over, saying get on in here!
Once inside I knew I had nothing to fear,
Even hillbillys won't shoot you this time of the year.
The festival inside was wonderful to see,
The hillbillys were happy as happy could be.
In the corner an old jug band was playing a song,
In the center of the room a great dance going on.
I was invited to dance, but danced very little,
When I saw a great table just loaded with vittles.
After filling my plate and a jar of country wine,
I sat with the hillbillys and started to dine.
After eating and dancing for most of the night,
I realized these hillbillys are really all right.
Growing tired and sleepy, and ready to go,
I thanked my new friends as I walked out the door.
As I headed toward my cabin the stars as my light,
I was filled with new hope on this wonderful night.
Arriving back home and warm in my cabin,
I pondered this night, and all that had happened.
Lying in bed, I thought of this place,
My heart filled with joy and warmth of God's grace.
So for all of earth's people, and all of life's faces,
And for those far from home, staying in strange places,

I prayed to our Lord on this most Holy of Nights,
Take care and watch over us and help us do right.
Merry Christmas, God Bless...and to all a Good Night!!
L.H. Bennett

No paper next week!
Signal office
will be closed
Dec. 19th - 29th

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from your friends at the

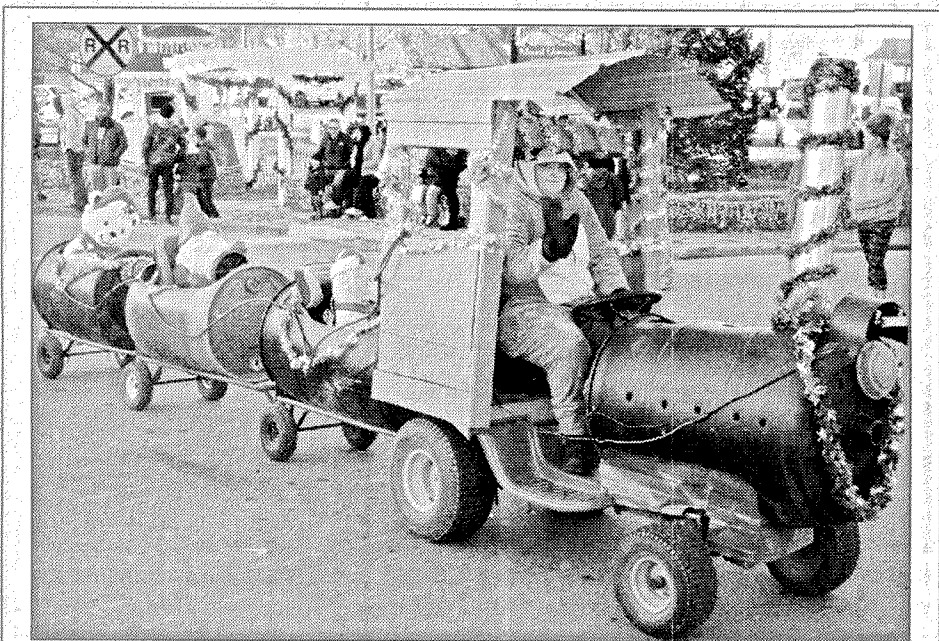
Rockcastle County P.V.A. Office



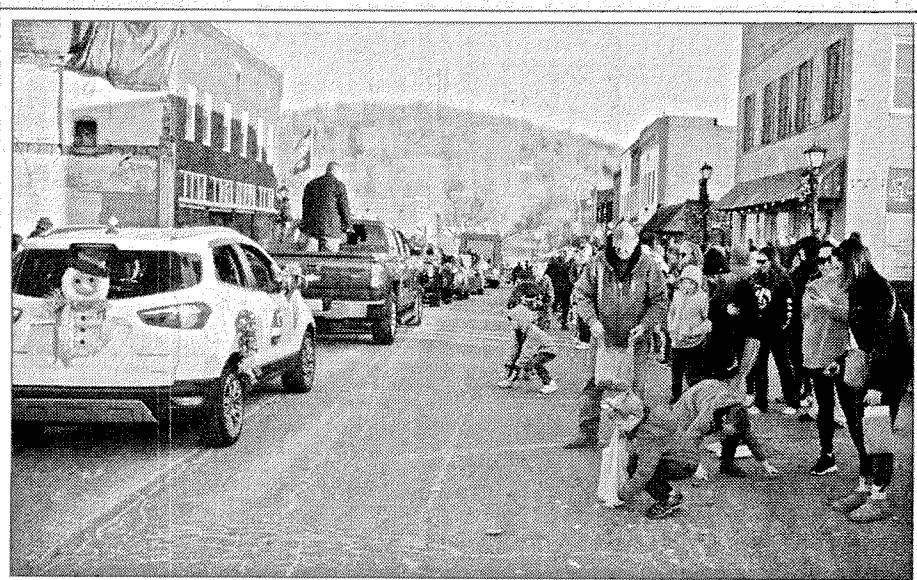
Jessica Smith, Jennifer Payne, Brandy Bowman,
Kathy Robinson, PVA and Cyndie Offutt

Third Floor Courthouse • Telephone 256-4194

Closed December 24th & 25th
December 31st & January 1st



The Rockcastle Train pulled several children down Main Street in the Christmas parade.



Visitors to Noel Night Market moved aside for the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



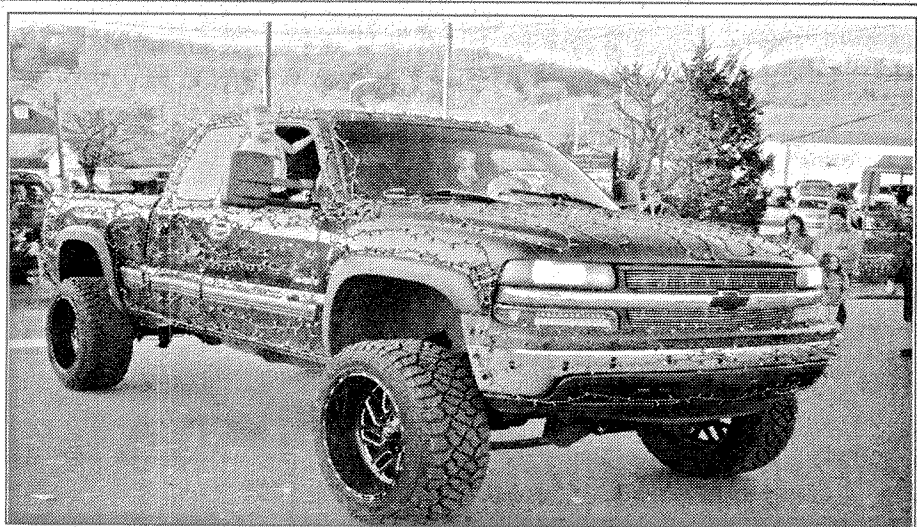
The Rockcastle County Bookmobile driven by Olivia French, Bookmobile librarian, was on display in the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



Gary Nicely displayed his popular classic vehicle drawing cheers from the crowd along Main Street.



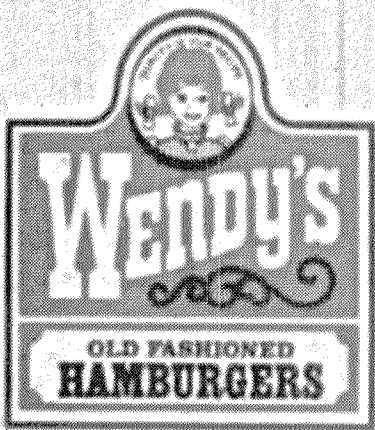
Kentucky Fried Chicken rode down Main Street in the Christmas parade.



Several vehicles were well decorated during the parade in Mount Vernon.

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!

From Chris Settles and
all the employees at



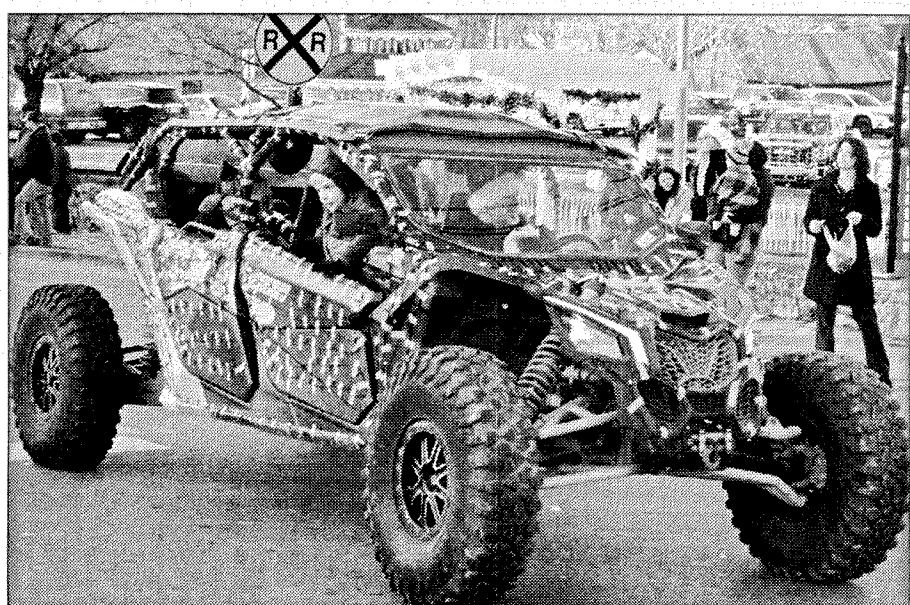
US 25 North • Mt. Vernon • 256-5611 or 256-0818

Closing at 9 p.m. Christmas Eve • Closed Christmas Day
Closing at 10 p.m. New Year's Eve - Open New Year's Day at 10 a.m.

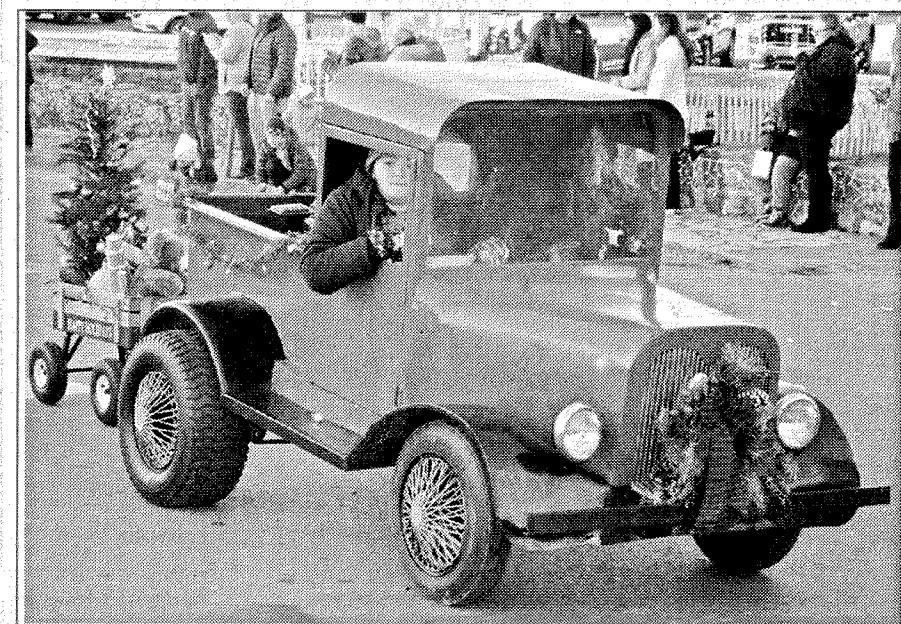




One of the classic trucks in the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade drew cheers from the waiting crowd.



ATVs of all shapes and sizes took part in the Christmas parade.



Meredith Gross took second place in the Other category during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Rockcastle EMS tossed treats to the crowd during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Side by sides were a popular addition to the Christmas parade.



This Jeep was well decorated for the parade.



40 Church St.
Mount Vernon Ky. 40456
(606) 256-3333
sugarmountaintrading.com

birthday party

Y	R	A	P	M	U	S	I	C	A	Y	A	M	A
P	T	O	S	S	D	O	O	F	S	S	G	T	G
S	Y	R	K	A	I	T	L	Y	N	I	S	L	A
S	D	E	A	O	B	A	L	L	O	N	S	A	M
N	K	N	L	P	N	S	D	I	T	F	Y	E	E
A	T	B	E	I	A	T	N	D	J	A	U	N	S
N	O	P	S	I	A	S	O	U	L	A	B	N	F
E	Y	L	E	H	R	H	G	E	A	E	C	L	A
A	S	F	E	J	P	F	M	U	G	E	F	K	E
I	E	M	C	J	P	S	I	S	K	N	I	R	D
S	S	N	A	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	T	S
A	H	P	L	A	Y	S	Y	G	E	C	Y	E	S
S	Y	F	B	U	E	E	L	E	S	E	A	E	C
O	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	Y	R	A	M	U	M

JACK
BALLONS
PRESENTS
KAITLYN
IMCON
PLAY
ELESE
TOYS
FUN
FRIENDS
FOODS
CANDLES
HAILEY
DRINKS
AMAYA
GAMES
MUM
MUSIC
TABLE
PARTY

SUGAR'S PUZZLE PAGE

SPEAK UP

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20						21								
					22	23			24					
25	26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35	36				37	38			
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42						43					44			
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				50					51					
52	53	54				55	56			57	58	59	60	61
62										63				
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

ACROSS

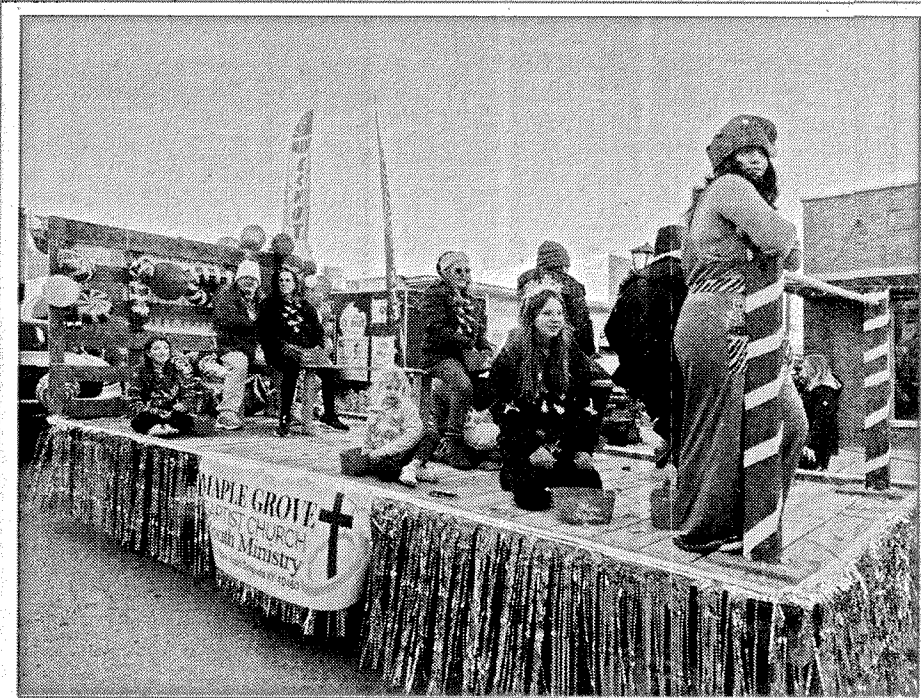
- 1) Beachgoers catch them
- 5) Hair-raising place?
- 10) Milky, iridescent gem
- 14) Object of worship
- 15) Hatchet man's opposite
- 16) One of the sexes
- 17) Bids adieu
- 20) Hardly underplay on stage
- 21) Engages in chit-chat
- 22) Noisy bustle
- 24) Madam of 2-Down
- 25) Kind of chop
- 29) Edible root of the taro
- 31) Uncle of an entire country
- 34) "Planet of the ..."
- 35) Like old recordings
- 37) Lobe in the mouth
- 39) What all drivers should be
- 42) DNA strand's shape
- 43) Display intense anger
- 44) Creative mental spark
- 45) Equip for war
- 46) 24-can unit
- 48) Some pole bearers
- 50) Put on TV
- 51) Slop spot
- 52) Most vigorous and cheerful
- 57) Accumulate

- 62) Go "humph!"
- 64) Japanese soup
- 65) Brownish gray
- 66) Like many horror films
- 67) One-dish meal
- 68) Exposed publicly
- 69) Type of terrier

DOWN

- 1) "All ...!" (court phrase)
- 2) First mate?
- 3) Toy that does tricks
- 4) Coin opening
- 5) That girl
- 6) '50s TV "Kid"
- 7) Jason's fabled craft
- 8) Author Urin
- 9) Shown to be true
- 10) Game played with a deck of 40 cards
- 11) Reduces debt
- 12) On the safe side, at sea
- 13) With a discount of
- 18) Tidy
- 19) Gobble up
- 23) Audition tape
- 25) Buckwheat porridge
- 26) More fitting
- 27) Coin of the ... (a country's money)

- 28) Spumante lead-in
- 29) Follow as a consequence
- 30) Gloom partner
- 31) Glove material, sometimes
- 32) Change to fit
- 33) "You ... well" ("Why not?")
- 36) Does in, gangland-style
- 38) A sundial hour
- 40) Cause enthusiasm
- 41) Better than good
- 47) Noble prefix with "crat"
- 49) Burmese currency
- 50) Cupid's projectile
- 51) Mining excavation
- 52) Does some tailoring
- 53) Departure
- 54) Church area
- 55) Son of Isaac, in Genesis
- 56) Cottontail's tail
- 58) Capacity units, these days
- 59) Run ... (go nuts)
- 60) Agile
- 61) Eyelid affliction
- 63) Flanders on "The Simpsons"



The Maple Grove Baptist Church float brought attention from the crowd during the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr tossed candy and bubbles to the crowd during the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



The RCHS Marching Band helped lead the parade in Mount Vernon.



Many vehicles took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



Frosty was a popular presence in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.

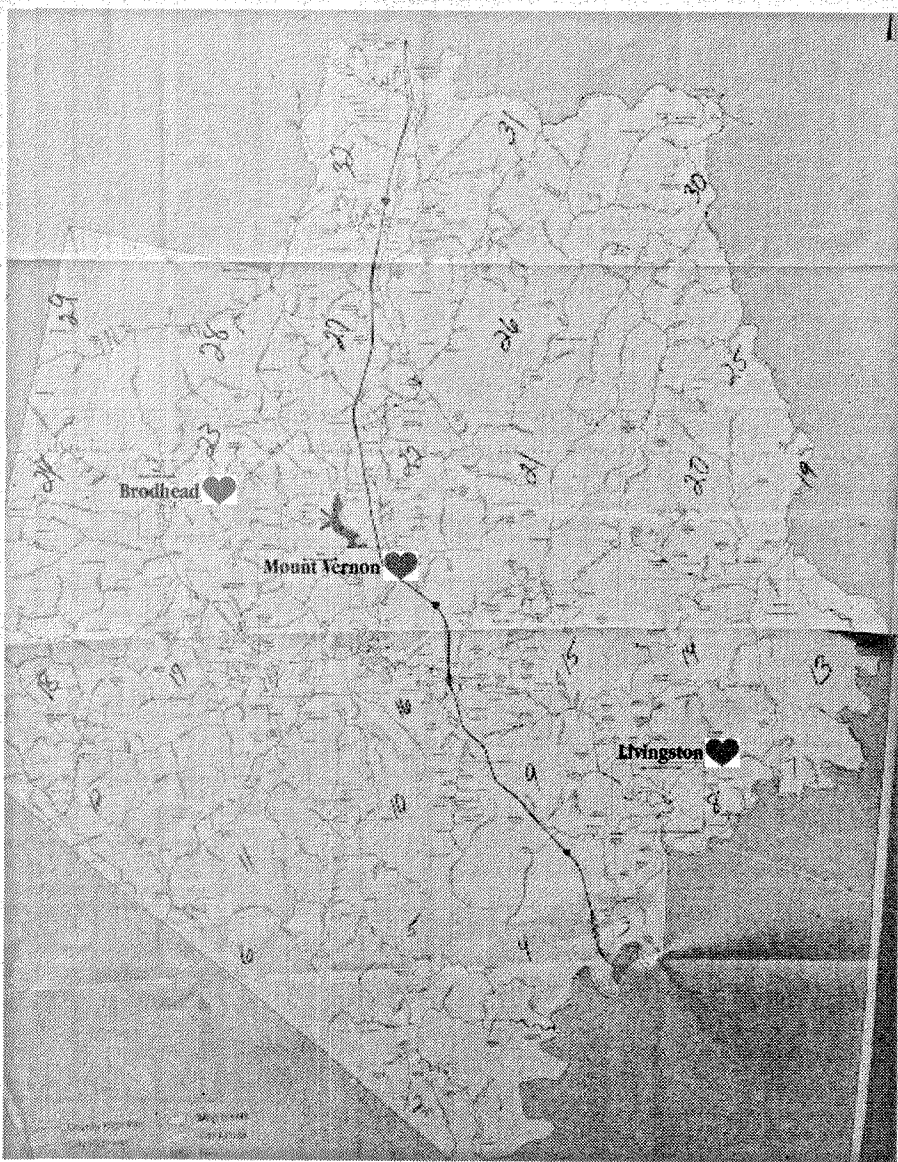


Becky Bullock and son Brody tossed candy to the crowd along Main Street in Mount Vernon.



Several fire trucks included younger family members riding along and tossing candy to the crowd.

RCIDA working together to bring jobs from across the world to these locations!



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

from all of us at
Rockcastle
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Jeff Vanhook - Executive Director
Chairman Corey Craig
Roland Mullins • Jason Medley • Dale Whitaker
Donna Hopkins • John Ford • Steven Eversole • David King



The Cedar Rapids Swim Team float was a big hit during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Mount Vernon's ladder truck impressed lots of children in the Christmas parade.



The Climax Fire Department took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



The Mount Vernon Fire Department was well represented in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.

"Christmas Bells"

December 22, 2016
by Jerry Hopkins

One of the things that I most like about this season of the year is the music. There is a message in music that speaks to the deeper, inner yearnings of every person. It is a language of the soul that can inspire or depress. It has always been part of the story of Christmas and New Years. In music we find an important and vital message for every one of us. It isn't just religious. It is deeply and practically essential in the natural and human being. Life has a harmony, a rhythm, a melody that transfuses the whole and transcends the individual. There is the heartbeat, the pulse, the basic harmony of the physical body's rhythmic functioning and the social relationships in which we engage.

There are times when this natural harmony, rhythm and melody are upset. This comes as disharmony, unrhythmic and unmelodious things intrude into our lives. Life seems to be out of order and we can't seem to get things going right. There are even mental disorders and discouragements. Sad things intrude and life's melody is interrupted. Such a thing happened to one of America's greatest literary figures and poets — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Longfellow's daughter had beautiful long hair and it was summer time in 1861. She wanted it cut and finally her parents were convinced. Her hair was cut and her mother Fanny wanted to preserve some of her hair for the future. Fanny was preparing to do that by melting wax in which to encase some of the strands of her daughter's beautiful hair. She had a flame melting the wax to complete this project when a gust of wind came through the window and the flame flared toward her catching her dress on fire. She screamed as flames engulfed her. Longfellow in the next room writing heard her. He tried to put out the fire, embraced her and vigorously tried to extinguish the flames to little avail. Finally, he was able to get them put out and they tried to help her re-

cover. She died the next day from her severe burns. The Civil War came that year and later Longfellow's son was seriously wounded. Longfellow wrote in his journal of this experience in Fanny's death, "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays." Later he would write, "I can make no record of these days. Better leave them wrapped in silence. Perhaps someday God will give me peace." His journal entry for December 25th of 1862 said, "A merry Christmas' say the children, but that is no more for me."

He could not enjoy any holiday after such tragedies. For a long time there was nothing that he could do to celebrate or joy in because of his great loss. Life's harmony and rhythm had been interrupted and he seemed not to be able to get it back. Then came 1864 and he heard the bells on Christmas Day and life's harmony came back into his experience. This is the story behind that great Christmas song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Let us take the time to just read this great poem written in the midst of tragedy and pain in Longfellow's life and remember the wonder of life's melody, life's harmony and rhythm. Longfellow titled his poem "Christmas Bells".

*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong, And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!"*

*The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

Longfellow came once again to recognize the great truth that underlays all of life, even though tragedies and sorrows come to us. It is the message of that first Christmas when the little baby, helpless as an infant, faced the hate and horror of Herod and the foes of faith, as well as the celebration of parents and the Wise Men who brought gifts. Longfellow captures in this great poem the truth of this season and the real-

ity of a God who is not dead and who does not sleep. He knows and He is real. This fact we must once again affirm with Longfellow also as we celebrate the coming Christmas Day — "The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

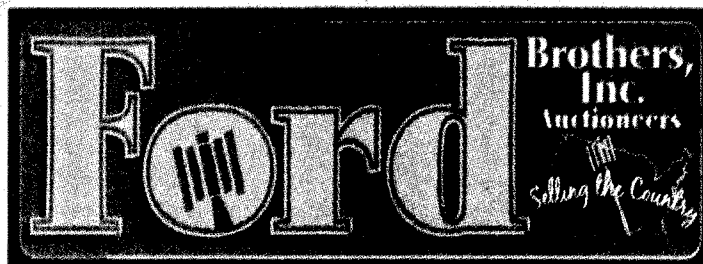
Have a wonderful, joyous, melodious Christmas season. Enjoy the music! Embrace the real meaning of this wonderful time celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ who came to deal with our worst

problem and pain—our sin with all its suffering, sorrow and sadness. It is this problem that takes away life's song and celebration. Accept Jesus and join in the joy and gladness.

Let me hear from you on what you think about Christmas music and life's rhythms. Share with me at drjerryhopkins@yahoo.com. You may also reach me by "snail" mail at Dr. Jerry Hopkins, P. O. Box 1363, Marshall, Texas 75671. Dr. Jerry Hopkins is an historian and retired professor of history.



**This Christmas season
is the perfect time to say it
was a pleasure working with you.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**



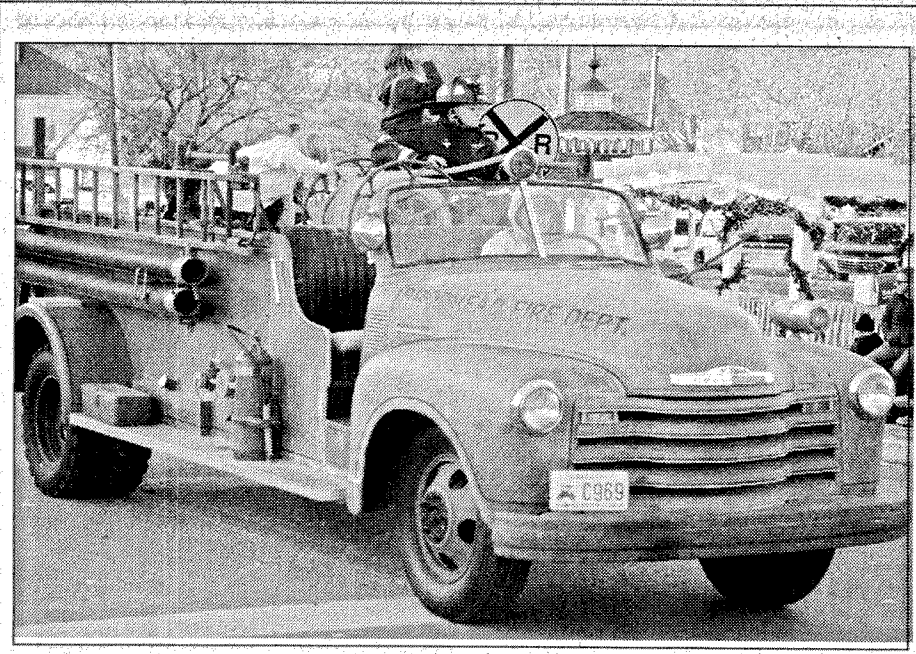
**Weichert,
Realtors®**

Ford Brothers

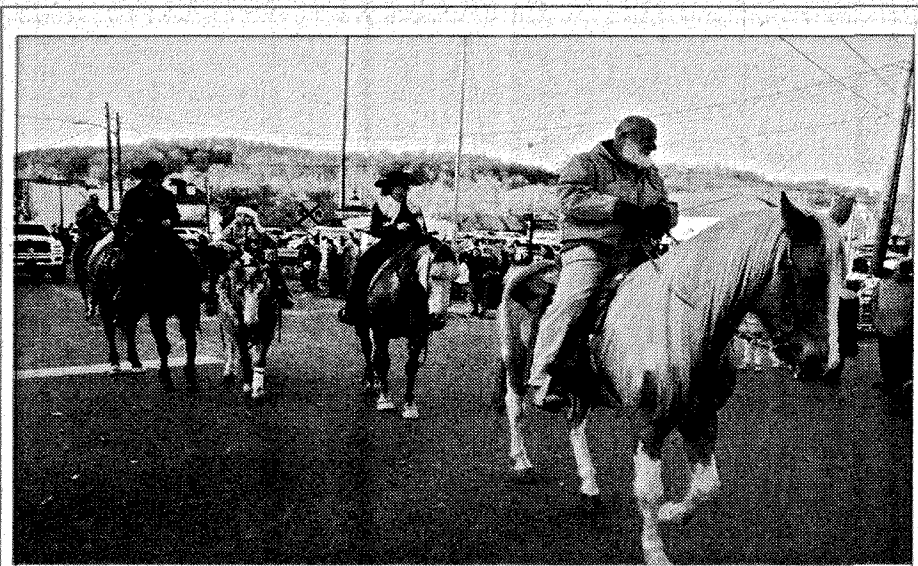
606-256-4545 • Mount Vernon • 1-800-435-5454



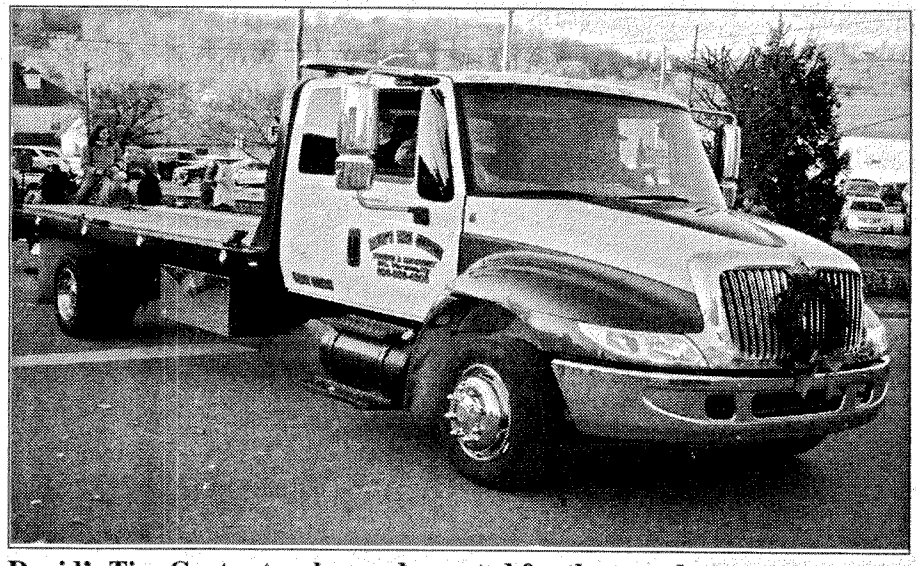
Santa and Mrs. Claus along with Santa's favorite elf brought up the rear of the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



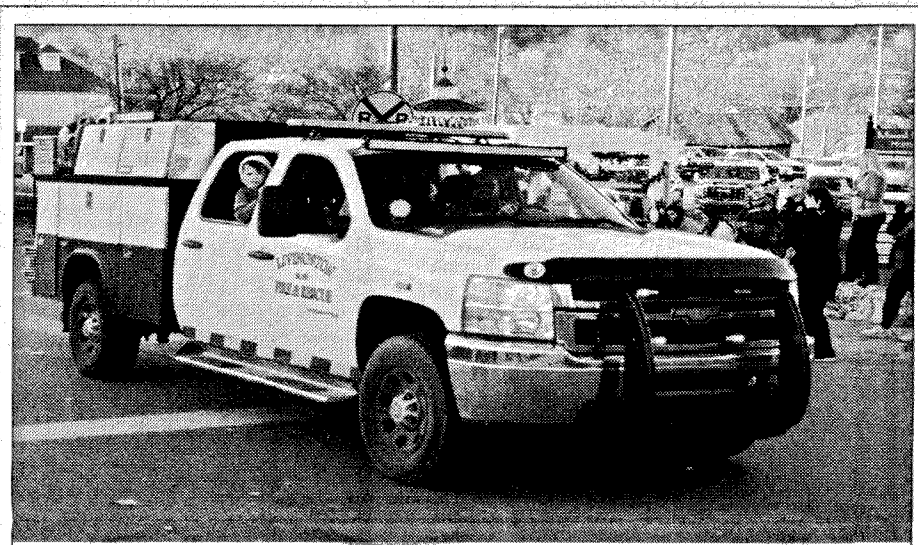
The classic Fire Truck was a big hit during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Horses are always among the favorite entries in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



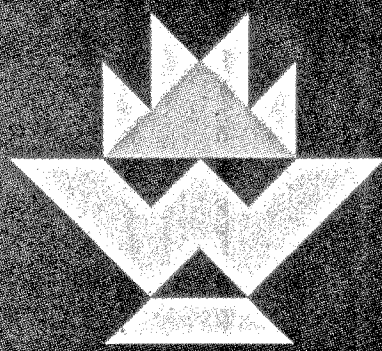
David's Tire Center truck was decorated for the parade.



Livingston Fire and rescue took part in the Mount Vernon parade displaying one of their utility trucks.



A Brodhead fire truck ran sirens as it traveled down Main Street in Mount Vernon.



WHITAKER BANK

UNIQUELY KENTUCKY

The magic of Christmas never ends, and its greatest of gifts are family and friends.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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Mount Vernon Signal

Fourth Section

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Scenes from 2024 Brodhead Christmas Parade



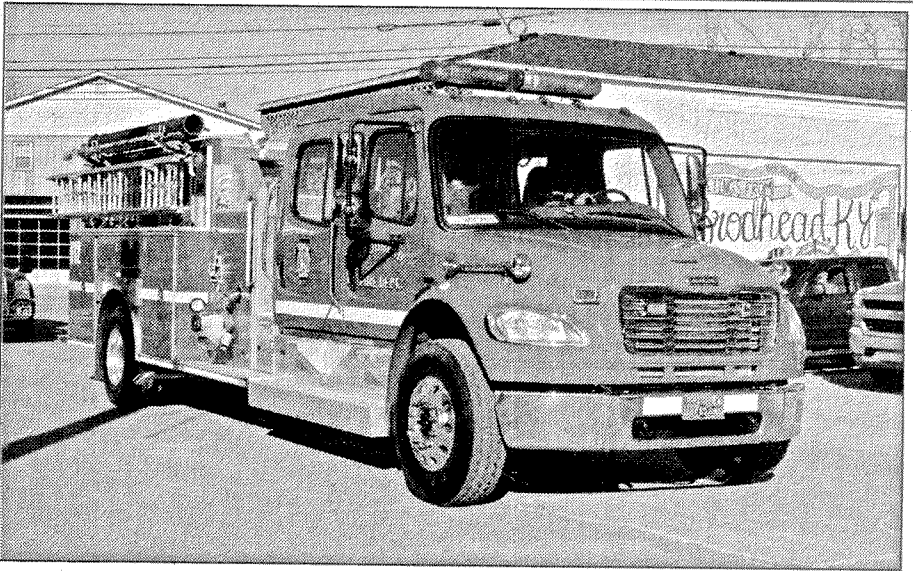
The Freedom Baptist Church float was very popular in the Brodhead parade. Several floats tossed treats to the crowd.



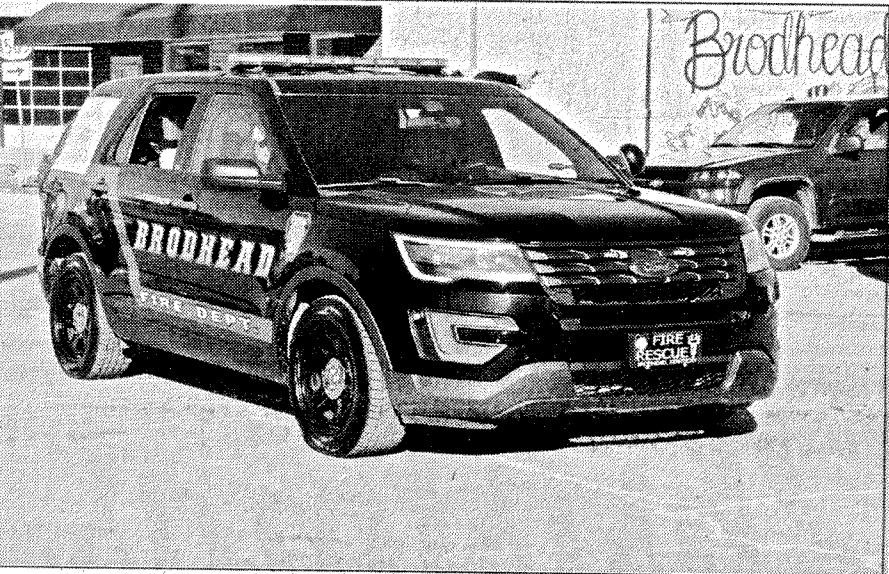
Lacey Long, Miss Little World's Fair, waved at the crowd in the E. J. Taylor Memorial Brodhead Christmas Parade.



Brodhead Police were represented in the Brodhead parade.



Fire trucks had sirens blazing during the parade.



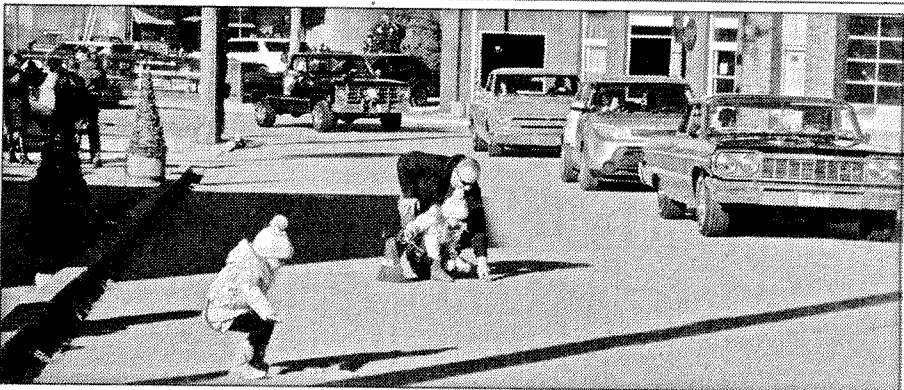
The Brodhead Fire Department was well represented during the parade.



Fire trucks tossed candy to the waiting crowd.



Commissioner Harold Taylor drove his Chevy Impalas in the parade.



Youngsters enjoyed grabbing treats off Main Street during the parade.

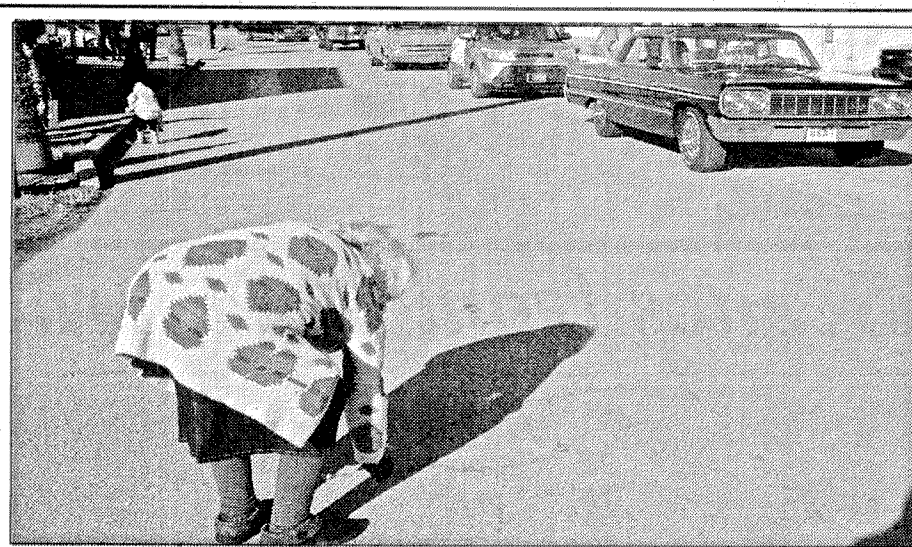


Citizens Bank
BRODHEAD BRANCH





Livingston Volunteer Fire Department took part in the Brodhead parade as well.



Young, old and all ages in between enjoyed grabbing the treats tossed by Brodhead parade entries.



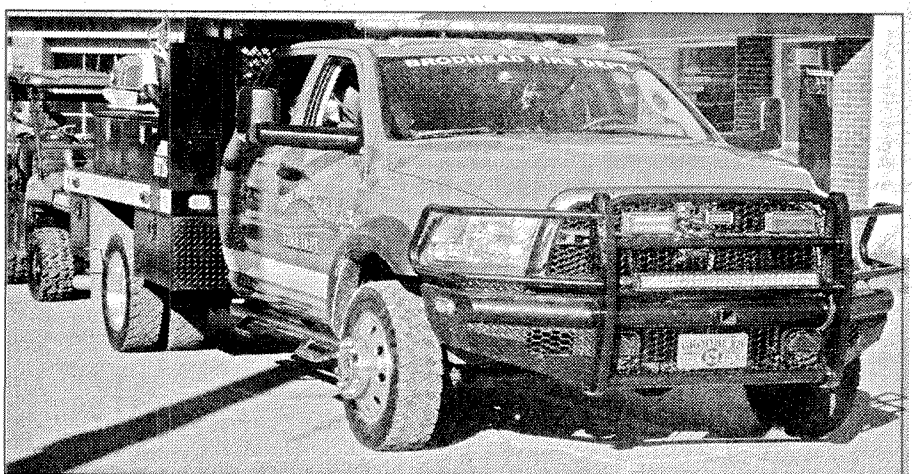
Mayor Jerry Adams waved to the crowd while his wife Julie shared candy during the Brodhead parade.



Many participants including Scarlett Jane, Miss Kentucky, took part in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Classic Chevrolet trucks were decorated during the parade in Brodhead.



The Brodhead parade displayed many types of official vehicles.

Merry Christmas

All of us at Brodhead Pharmacy would like to thank all of our customers for a great year.
Stop by to see us and let us help you with all your prescription needs.



Front row from left: Judy Neal, Angie Day, Howard Saylor and Sheena Stewart.
Back row from left: Michelle Coffey, Jessica Carpenter, Kim Kidwell, Kenny Adams and Hope Bishop.

Closed December 24th & 25th and January 1, 2024

• Brodhead Pharmacy •

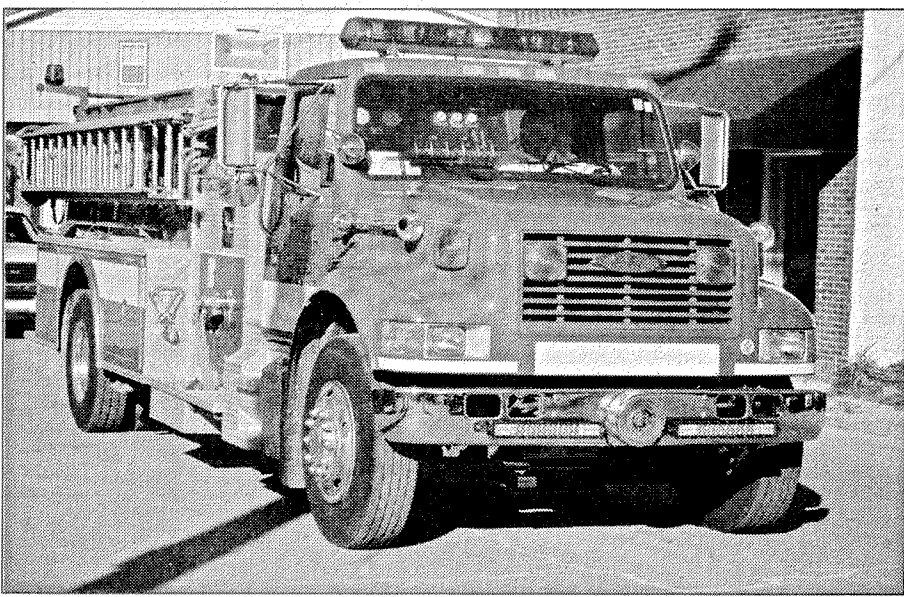
David Collins, Owner Main St. • Brodhead • 606-758-4373 Howard Saylor, Pharmacist



Tony and Donna Hopkins brought out their El Caminos for Brodhead's parade.



Classic square-body Fords were a popular addition to the parade.



Climax Vol. Fire Dept. took part in Brodhead's parade.



Even fire trucks were well decorated during the Christmas parade as this one from the Mount Vernon Fire Department.



Miss Rockcastle County Emma Noel 2024 waved at the crowd during the Brodhead parade.



Classic square-body Chevrolets are a popular treat during parades.

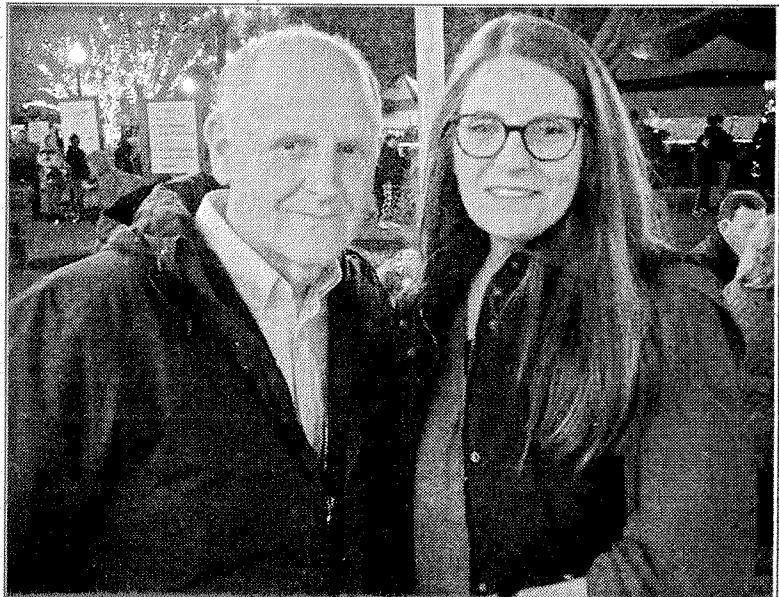
The
*Mount
Vernon
Signal*
office will be
closed for the
holidays
from
Thursday,
December 19
through
Sunday,
December 29



Youngsters rode in some fire trucks during the Brodhead parade.

*May your heart and home be filled
with peace, hope, and love this
Christmas season.*

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*



Howell and Gail Holbrook

**HOWELL
HOLBROOK***Jr.*
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

Merry
Christmas

We'd like to send our
greetings for a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all our
neighbors and friends!



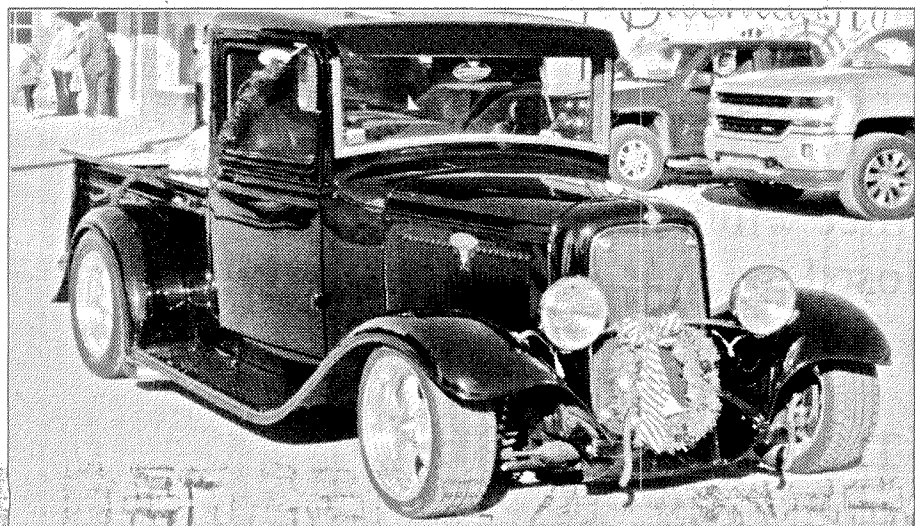
Lone Star Farm & Home
Hwy. 150 between Mt Vernon & Brodhead
606-256-0234
Closing at Noon Christmas Eve



The classic Ford Mercury was popular in 1949 and still is today.



The Mount Vernon Fire Department was also represented in the Brodhead parade.



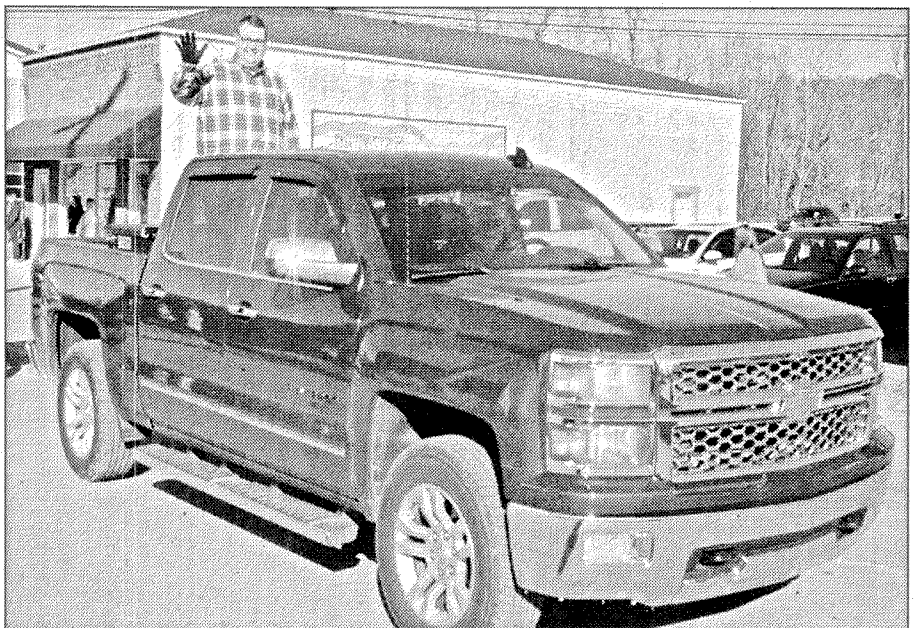
Classics brought a lot of attention during the Brodhead parade.



Donnie and Terina Helton drove their classic Chevelle in the Brodhead parade.



Mount Vernon Fire Department brought their ladder truck to the Brodhead parade.



Popular personalities including Rockcastle weatherman Jordan Smith took part in the parade.

Subscribe today to the *Mount Vernon Signal*. Just call 606-256-2244. You may pay by phone or in person.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Celebrating Over 50 Years in Business!

Thank you to all our loyal customers!

Merry Christmas, neighbors.

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Teresa Jackson, Agent
912 W Main Street
Bus: 606-256-2119
teresajacksoninsurance.com

I wish all my neighbors peace, joy and love this Christmas season and beyond. I'm blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

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State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2006048

Central Body Service

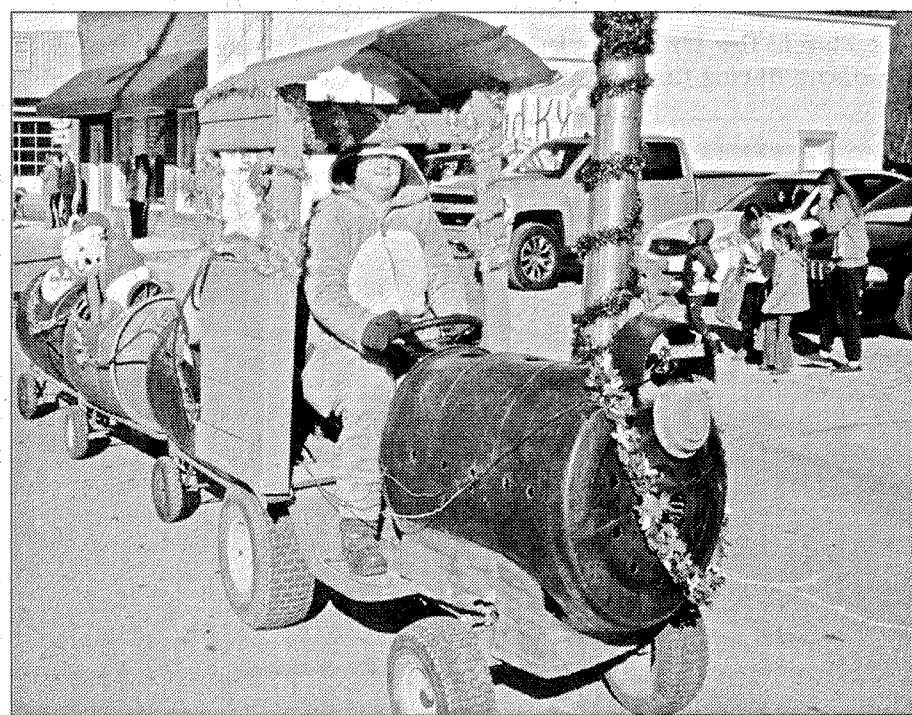
Mt. Vernon • 606-256-4210



Santa's elves waved at the crowd during the Brodhead parade.



Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr, waved to the crowd during the Brodhead parade.

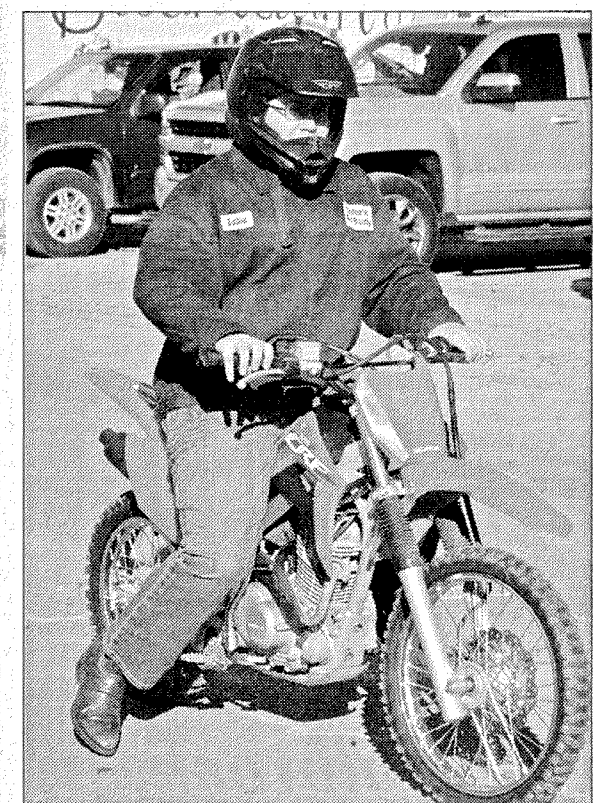


The Brodhead parade train was popular during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Ronnie and Melissa Owens took part in Brodhead's parade.

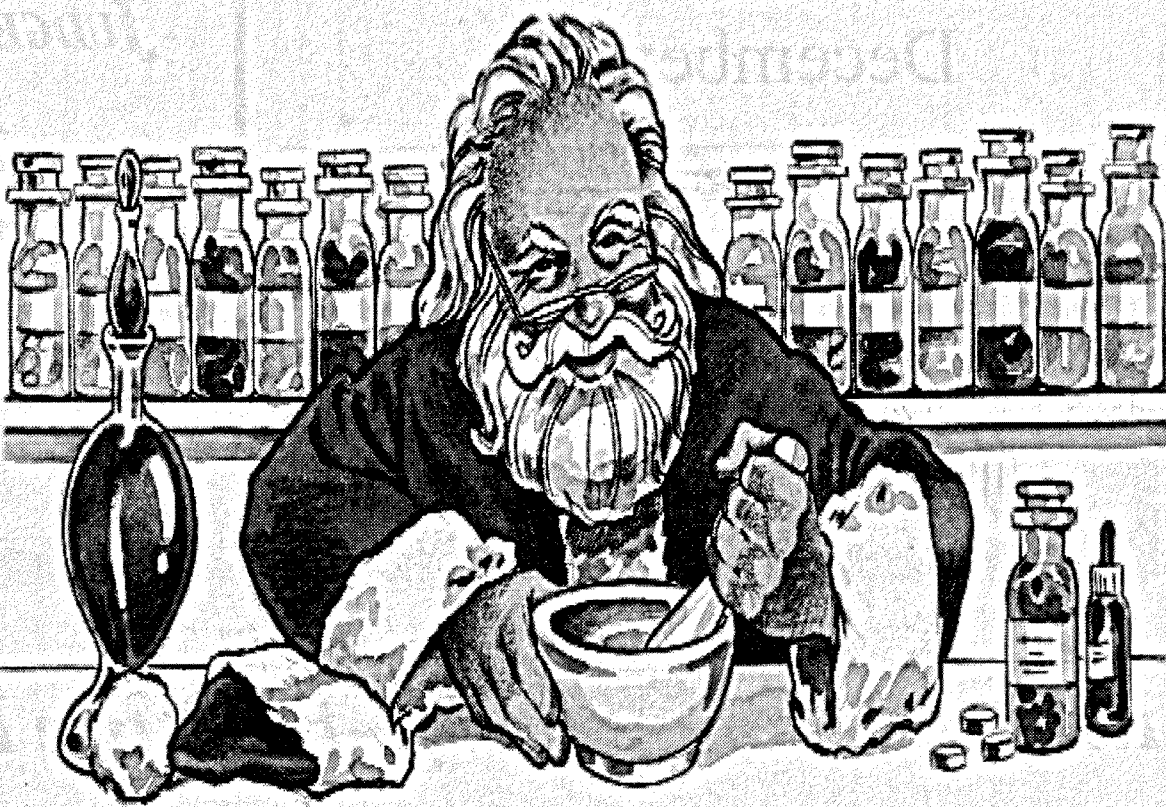
No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 19th - December 30th



Dirt bikes were a popular addition to the Brodhead parade.



Santa and his favorite elf waved at the crowd during the Brodhead parade.



Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday!

We're dispensing our best wishes and they include a large measure of thanks to our loyal customers.
We truly appreciate your trust in us.

ROCKCASTLE

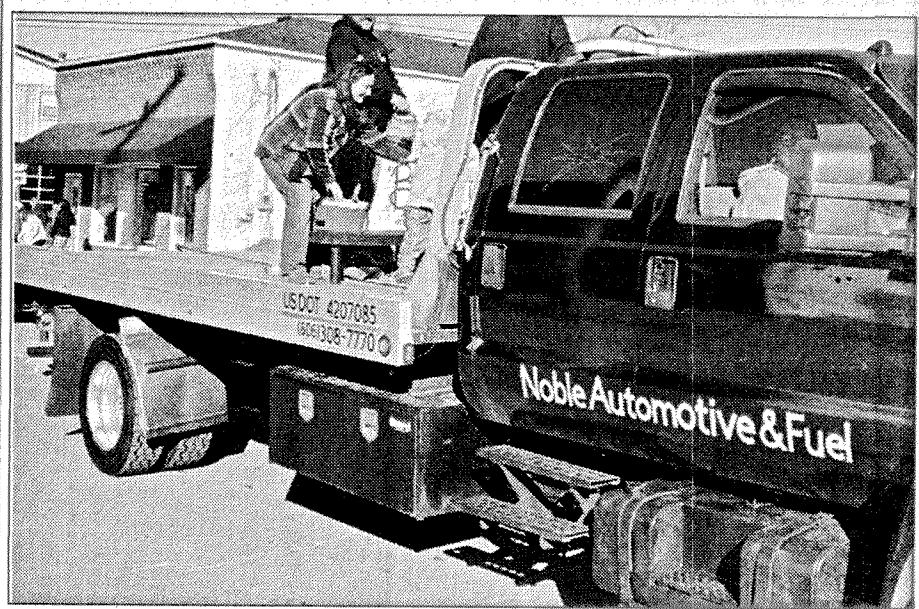
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Noble Automotive and Fuel tossed candy and treats to the crowd in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Classic tractors were a hit during the Brodhead parade.

Santa and his elf



The classic fire truck carried Santa and his elf along Main Street in Brodhead during the Christmas parade.

No Signal next week!
Mount Vernon Signal office
will be closed from
December 19 -
December 30



Merry Christmas

OUR WARMEST THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES FOR A
MAGICAL CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

**JUDGE KATIE & KEVIN SLONE
AND TYLER WOOD**



from

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr.

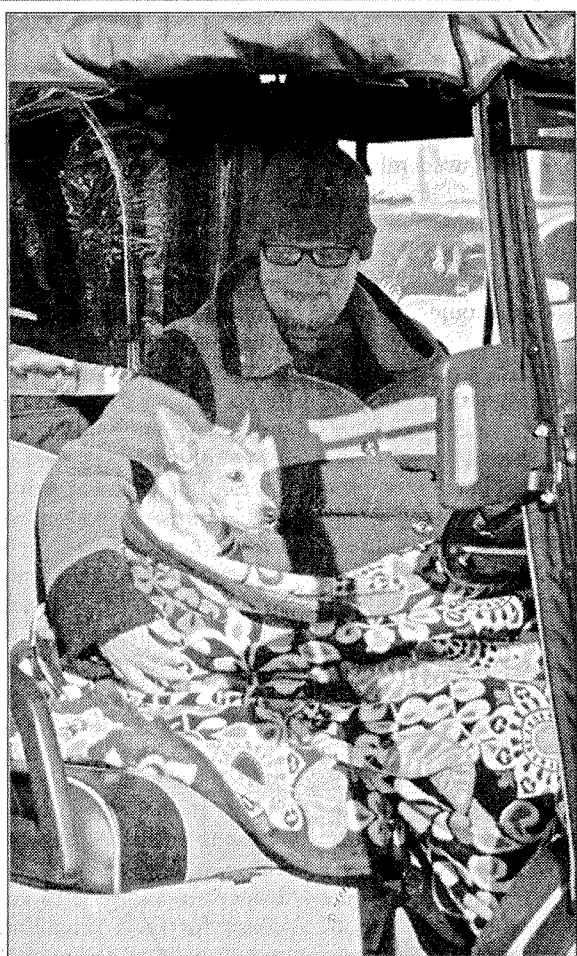
and the

Rockcastle County Fiscal Court

May this great season find each of you in health and good will
for your neighbors and families.



Back row from left: Magistrates Lee Earl Adams, William Denny, Mike McGuire, Shane Thacker, Doug Prewitt and County Attorney Jeremy Rowe.
Front row from left: Wanda Coffey, Judge-Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., Vicky Miller and Kelly Ponder. Not pictured: Marissa Hayes.



Some brought their pets along for the ride.



ATVs joined in the Brodhead parade.

Kentucky State Police looking for recruits

Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky State Police (KSP) announced that the agency is accepting applications for those interested in becoming a hometown hero to join cadet class 106. Candidates selected for the final hiring register who are from Posts 1, 2, 5, 6 and 16 will receive guaranteed assignments at their home post location. All other applicants will be assigned to their home or bordering post based on positions and agency need. KSP is offering an increased starting salary for sworn officers, with compensation starting at \$67,615 annually, and an improved retirement system with a sick leave buyback program.

"We are building a new Kentucky home and to ensure all Kentuckians feel safe and are safe in their communities, we need dedicated individuals joining Team Kentucky as our finest heroes," said Gov. Beshear. "The Kentucky State Police is nationally recognized for their training and expertise and applicants will receive the best when they join Cadet Class 106."

Cadets without a prior background in law enforcement will undergo an intensive 24-week training regimen,

with over 1,000 hours of classroom and practical field study. Cadets will be trained in various critical topics, including constitutional law, juvenile and traffic laws, crisis response, criminal investigations and community relations. Specific training areas also cover weapons use, first aid, high-speed pursuits, crowd control, hazardous material handling and implicit bias education.

Those with prior law enforcement experience can apply to participate in KSP's Law Enforcement Accelerated Program (LEAP), which enables seasoned officers to join the agency through an accelerated 13-week course program.

"Patrolling the scenic landscape of Kentucky combined with an exceptional salary package provides an amazing career opportunity for future troopers," said Recruitment Branch Commander Sgt. Michael Murriell. "Those interested in serving local communities, safeguarding citizens while having an 'office with a view', should apply for cadet class 106." Interested applicants should visit the online portal to submit their application from any electronic

device. Cadet Class 106 and the LEAP program applications must be submitted to the KSP Recruitment Branch by close of business April 25, 2025. The upcoming cadet class is slated to begin August 10, 2025. Those interested in applying can visit KSP's website for the minimum requirements, disqualifications and a list of required supporting documentation (physical standards requirements and testing information). They can also email the KSP recruitment branch at KSPRecruit@ky.gov for questions or assistance with applying. KSP's mission is to provide better public safety, maintain critical services, and better reflect the diverse communities that KSP serves. For more information about KSP's commitment to creating a better Kentucky, click here. On Nov. 10, KSP welcomed 83 cadets to the training academy to begin their journey of becoming a state trooper dedicated to serving and protecting all Kentuckians. In June,

the Beshear-Coleman administration announced that 37 troopers graduated from the KSP training academy and were ready to serve the commonwealth, safeguard lives and property, assist their fellow Kentuckians in law enforcement and reduce crime. The next cadet class is slated to begin in November, and the academy received a record number of applications. Gov. Beshear signed House Bill 380 expanding the eligibility of potential peace officers to include individuals who are not yet 21 but will reach this statutory requirement by the time certification is completed to help law enforcement agencies expand their workforce.

Also, as the Governor recommended in January 2022, \$12.2 million was included in the state budget for KSP to purchase body cameras, which is the first time in the commonwealth's history that funding has been allocated for this much-needed expense.

Merry Christmas from all of us at the
Mount Vernon Signal



Wishing you and your family peace, love and joy during this holy season.

From
**Rockcastle County Jailer
Nathan Carter**
and the entire staff of the
**Rockcastle County
Detention Center**

Rockcastle County Recycling Center open for recycling drop-offs

The Rockcastle County Recycling Center is located at 2528 South Wilderness Rd (US 25 South) beside the Rockcastle County Road Department Garage and is open Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. (closed on major holidays).

The following items may be recycled:

Newspapers w/inserts, magazines, catalogs, office paper, junk mail, shredded paper (needs to be bagged), books, phone books (paper products cannot be plastic lined or coated), cardboard (both corrugated and slick), plastics #1 Pet or Pete, plastics #2 HDPE, (no sheet plastics or plastic bags of any kind; no buckets or totes, no matter what number is on it), metal cans, aerosol cans, aluminum cans, aluminum foil, aluminum pie plates, glass bottles and glass jars (lids must be removed and discarded), old cell phones, car batteries, empty printer and toner cartridges, old computers (no monitors of any kind) and computer accessories, telephones, radios, digital clocks, (no televisions of any kind), rechargeable batteries (if the battery says rechargeable on it, then it is recyclable), and large bulky metal items.

Clean used motor oil may also be dropped off at the Rockcastle County Road Department Garage.

Recycling Drop-Off Trailers are available for use at:
Brodhead (behind City Hall)

Conway (by Brindle Ridge Volunteer Fire Dept.)

Livingston (between Liv. Fire Dept. & City Hall)

Pongo (by Pongo Volunteer Fire Dept.)

Climax (by Climax Volunteer Fire Dept.)

Violations may be issued for putting trash in the recycling trailers!!!

If you have any questions, you may call the Rockcastle Solid Waste Office at 606-256-1902.



Funded in part through a grant from the Kentucky Pride Fund, Division of Waste Management.



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“Kennedy Retrospect”

by Jerry Hopkins

Always the arrival of the third week of November each year brings the memory of the assassination of JFK. There is always the likelihood that someone will raise the question about knowing where you were when the news arrived that the young president had been brutally slain. All circumstances around that tragic event are still sad and depressing. Yes, I remember where I was and what I was doing that day so many years ago. I was in the lunch room working on the Brodhead High School annual. It was the fall of my senior year. Someone had a television playing and the news broke into whatever was playing and the tragic announcement came that John F. Kennedy was dead.

Shock came with that sad announcement and a sustained grief and sorrow began to spread across the country from the epi-center of that tragic event in Dallas. Nothing after that for our country would ever be the same. A great sorrow would descend upon the nation and a prolonged time of grief would mark the future. Such a young man with so much potential in leadership and vision had his life tragically cut down. Yet there was much that would surface in the intervening years about Kennedy that would not commend him or improve



his relatively brief presidency. Those around him and many in the citizenry would seek to afford him a special place in the pantheon of the presidency, putting him on the level with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Arthur Schlesinger and other historians and political pundits would promote Kennedy and his visionary agenda to greatness. Of course, President Lyndon B. Johnson would use Kennedy's death to promote his liberal, leftist agenda in welfare and other radical measures. Johnson's Civil Rights initiative was not as much a liberal, leftist effort as it was a grassroots effort to bring rights to all citizens as should have been the case from the beginning in the years after the American Revolution.

After years of studying and teaching the presidents and our history, I must conclude that Kennedy was not one of our great presidents. Anyone elected to the presidency is an exceptional person, but not all presidents can be said to be great. I'm using some of the greatest presidents as the "standard of judgment" in defining greatness. By this I mean such men as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew

Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump. I have intentionally not included in this list some of the famous and much promoted of presidents, such as James K. Polk, U. S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton. For a variety of reason these presidents should not be counted great. There are leadership weaknesses, political flaws, financial failings, moral lapses and personal faults that mark their lives and relationships. As you can see, I have not marked the great presidents by their political party as being great or otherwise. Those that I have marked as great also had some weaknesses and failures in their career, but these did not, I believe, mark them as weak and ineffective presidents.

Kennedy did not have a distinguished political or governmental leadership background. He was young, ambitious, wealthy and well-educated. His family influences, his social connections, his wealth, and his political connections together enabled him to prevail in both the popular vote and the electoral college. The facts regarding what was accomplished when he was president were not exceptional. No great act or program can be credited to his leadership as president.

In the wake of Kennedy's assassination there was an effort to compare and connect him with Abraham Lincoln who was known as "the great emancipator," so as to give

Kennedy some kind of legacy beyond the tragedy that had come to him, to his family and to the nation. That would never be workable because there wasn't anything that could connect them other than the violence of assassination. Lincoln's long, distinguished leadership during the Civil War has no comparable equivalent in any president, certainly not Kennedy. In addition, the revelations after Kennedy's short presidency of his marital infidelities and immoralities will forever mark him as morally weak and flawed.

I know that such moral failures on the part of Kennedy is often dismissed as just the expected actions of famous and otherwise good men in such a prominent position. So we refuse to hold such men accountable for their moral failures, men such as Franklin D. Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, and John Edwards. It is hard to exalt these men to any level of greatness when they could not control their lusts and physical ambitions. There is a terrible chemistry that often results in tragedy and failure when it comes to sex, wealth and political power. All through history these elements have carried with them terrible consequences, awful failures, tragic defeats. This has been true even for some of those closest to God, such as King David and King Solomon.

What such moral failures reveal is the tragic selfishness, utter sinfulness and wicked self-centeredness that characterize such men and their supporters. Kennedy did not rise above

the moral and financial ambitions of his Irish father and family heritage. His family's wealth came from many dishonest activities and other flawed relationships. These failures do not commend an individual or a family to greatness or moral superiority. Certainly, we should not in any way excuse the evil of Kennedy's assassination, but this alone does not mark him for greatness or goodness. We should consider the whole of his life—family, heritage, background, moral accomplishments, political accomplishments and presidential achievements.

The media refused to expose the moral failures of Kennedy so as not to endanger his political success. In some ways this was fashioned by the enormous influence of Kennedy wealth, political connections and social prominence. This combination would continue through the intervening years and would drive others into prominent positions, particularly the presidency. It is in the present yet empowering those with awful and tragic political ideas. Once again we need news and media outlets that are concerned about truth, moral integrity, financial honesty, political conservatism and social reality. Most of our citizens, I still hold, believe there is truth, moral goodness, financial honesty, political conservatism and social simplicity. While we should recognize the tragedy of Kennedy's assassination and the awful heritage of that event, we should not elevate him to the level of greatness that others deserve so rightly and appropriately.

So much more should be said about this question of greatness in relation to the presidency, but that will have to wait. I know that many of you have opinions different than mine. I once embraced a different view of the periods known as Progressivism, the Great Depression and the New Deal and the years we know today as the Sixties, but I have, since witnessing the failures of the politics that have brought us to the moral, financial and political failures of the current presidency of Joe Biden, come to believe we should not honor unduly such leaders. We are witnessing today the vile embrace of immoral behavior, financial failure, political deception, tyrannous leadership and blatant lying as acceptable. Could it be that we have come to this dark day because we have not held our leaders in the past to account for their financial, moral, political failures?

Such ideas as emphasized in this column need to be part of our community conversation as we consider what we need to do. We have permitted our future to be jeopardized and threatened by unnecessary debt, government intervention and political tyranny. What do you think? I look forward to hearing from you regarding what you may think important and right historically. You can reach me by email at drjerryhopkins@yahoo.com, or by snail mail at P. O. Box 1363, Marshall, Texas 75671.

I will gladly listen to, or read, your comments and in time respond if necessary and appropriate.

Dr. Jerry Hopkins is a historian and retired university professor.



Youngsters grabbed all the treats they could carry during the Brodhead parade.

MERRY

Christmas!

from

Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk

Eliza Jane York-Hansel

Wishing you and your family all the gifts of this magical time of year.

For your friendship and support, we are deeply grateful and look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

Front row from left: Stephanie Allen, Sam Alcorn and Kim Denny.

Back row from left: Renita Blanton, Brittnay Mullins, Marcia Olinger, Eliza Jane York-Hansel, Priscilla Napier, Karen Hamm and Brenda Miller.

Closed December 24th & 25th - December 31st & January 1st

Rockcastle County Courthouse • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-2581

Suicide Warning Signs for Youth

Be a Lifeline

It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
 - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
 - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
 - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
 - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org or reach out to a mental health professional.

988 SUICIDE CRISIS LIFELINE