

Merry Christmas

from our families to
yours

Mount Vernon

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Livingston Christmas parade brings joy to many



Santa and Mrs. Claus (Bobby Wilson and Commissioner Sandi Singleton) greeted a long line of youngsters after the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday. The parade was called a great success by the Mayor of the city Larry Davidson and Singleton said the events after the parade, including the snacks and visits with Santa, were just as successful. Each child received gifts from the North Pole pair and were then treated to snacks and treats in the old Depot building.

By: Mike French
Editor

The City of Livingston Christmas celebration once again brought cheers from the crowd lining Main Street Saturday, December 16.

The mayor and city commissioners were seen at points throughout the parade, along with countless fire vehicles, tractors and decorated floats.

After the parade, a long line formed in the cool night air near the old Train Depot Building where Santa and Mrs. Claus (Bobby Wilson and commissioner Sandi Singleton) waited inside with gifts for all who came to visit. Children of all ages made their way

through the Depot doors to find the jolly old elf waiting to greet the youngsters while Mrs. Claus gathered age-appropriate gifts for each visitor. The guests were then treated to snacks and drinks in the warmth of the building to end the night.

Wilson, who was born in 1937 and is a lifelong resident of Livingston, was transported in the parade and to the public greeting, in the Mount Vernon 1937 fire truck.

Officials say they were well pleased with the entire event and wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Officials also offered their appreciation to all who made the evening possible with donations and with their time.

Appreciation given to those who helped during evacuation in city of Livingston

By: Mike French
Editor

During the Livingston City Commission meeting, held last week, Police Chief Travis Davis held a special ceremony to officially thank those who helped the city's residents during the recent train derailment and evacuation.

"There were a lot of people who took risks, faced challenges and rose above and beyond the call of duty during the evacuation of our city," said Davis. "So many did so much to help their neighbor. But none did more than our first responders

who truly put their own safety and well-being aside for the safety of our residents. We owe these people a special kind of appreciation."

Though Davis said it was a very small token, he had wooden and brass plaques engraved for some of those who helped during the event. "The plaque is a small token of our appreciation, but they represent a very large appreciation we all have for all of you," he said.

Davis used his time on the monthly agenda to (See "Helpers" on A6)

Fiscal Court accepts department budgets

Changes to Administrative Code

By: Mike French
Editor

After a work session last Monday to discuss details that were expected to arise during the regular meeting, the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court held their monthly meeting Tuesday afternoon led by Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr.

During the work session, the court had discussed providing the city of Livingston with a list of accepted uses of the \$1,000 in monthly tourism support from the county. However, at the regular meeting, nothing was addressed concerning the list. Officials say they need some time to discuss and organize the details of allowable expenses and will have such a list to be approved by the court at a later date.

The court also unanimously approved listing 42 acres in Livingston for sale for \$79,900. The

court also approved \$1,140 in support to the Rockcastle County Development Board and \$25,000 in quarterly support to the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority.

Rockcastle County Clerk Danetta Ford-Allen presented the clerk's budget to the court for approval. The budget included a request for \$30,000 in support from the fiscal court to be used to help the clerk's office pay operational expenses during the first several days of 2024, since the office will not be able to collect some fees during that time due to the implementation of new equipment. The funds will be returned as part of the excess fees at the end of the year, according to Allen.

(See "Court" on A6)

Board member Misty Lakes resigns Thursday

School staff recognized

By: Mike French
Editor

Members of the Rockcastle County School Board changed the night of their regular meeting this month, making the Thursday night meeting a special called instead of regular.

To open the meeting, the second and third grade choir at Brodhead Elementary School performed two Christmas songs for the board. "We just wanted to bring a little Christmas cheer," said Principal Nick Williams.

Williams then presented the board with student achievement progress over the past year. According to the report, Brodhead students have greatly improved their proficient levels in math and reading. "It looks like Brodhead Elementary School is the place to be," said board chairman Angela Stallsworth-Mink.

Superintendent Dr. Carrie Ballinger then presented the school staff with (See "School" on A6)

Livingston about to receive \$300,000 previously withheld

By: Mike French
Editor

The regular monthly Livingston City Commission meeting was held last week to a full house. As the first item on the agenda, Mayor Larry Davidson opened the floor to any guest who might wish to speak.

Two different guests spoke up asking about the possibility of repairing potholes in roads in and around the city. One guest

offered to give the city \$20 to help pay for such repairs. However, Mayor Davidson explained that the city is planning to repair most of the potholes (See "Withheld" on A6)

Santa Claus is definitely coming to town

Wait...he's already here

By: Mike French
Editor

In the 14th century, Saint Nicholas of Myra was the most generous of the saints. So much so that legends were spawned after his death about his ability to

magically find ways to give to others. The Dutch then transported the legend of Saint Nicholas (Sinterklaas) to New Amsterdam (now New York) along with the custom of giving gifts and sweets

to children upon his Feast Day.

In 2023, in America, in Kentucky, in Rockcastle County, in Mount Vernon, Spencer Bengé, 58, dons the bright red pants, jacket and hat, the wide black

belt, and the shiny black boots, grabs his red sack, combs his long, white beard, and heads out to meet countless children across the county.

Several local residents have become popular for playing Santa Claus,

including the late John Holbrook, past Mt. Vernon mayor Mike Bryant and Bengé, who wouldn't miss the chance for anything.

"It is such a joy to see the children standing in line with such anticipa-

tion and happiness," said Bengé. "It is all about the children and I think I love it as much as they do."

Bengé started playing the part about five years

(See "Santa" on A6)

Of Special Note Inside

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Contact us at: mvsignal@windstream.net
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ramblings...
by; perlina m. anderkin

At this Holy time of the year, when we should be focused on giving thanks for the birth of our Lord, I find myself weary and having to work hard to find the peace that should be a part of my life, especially during this time of year and period of my life.

I worry for the hostages still being held by the terrorist group Hamas, who attacked and slaughtered hundreds of Israeli citizens (including beheading babies) in October and who have caused innocent Palestinians, by the thousands, to pay with their life because of Hamas's hatred of the Jewish race and their determination to wipe them from the earth.

I grieve because "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men," as called for by the evangelist Luke in the 1st Century, is not something that anyone on present day earth is enjoying. There is strife everywhere and no end seems to be in sight.

I do rejoice in my family and in the fact that our little corner of the world is relatively free from the problems of the big city areas. In the majority of our biggest cities, the need and well being are being given precedence over our own citizens in need.

The policies of the present regime in Washington are causing untold suffering on the streets of our big cities and in our southern border towns. Citizens there are wondering why illegal immigrants, who have no actual claim on our country's resources, are receiving creature comforts that should be allotted first for our own citizens.

But, then we feel compassion for these illegals who are suffering because they are being used as pawns by globalists to usher in a one world government made up of elites and their servants.

In several instances, public services are being withheld from our citizens and given to these illegal immigrants.

The Department of Veterans Affairs was recently caught processing over 160,000 medical and dental claims for illegal immigrants while Veterans don't get the care they've earned by serving our country.

I see pictures and hear stories of our Veterans being on our streets without food, shelter and medical care and it's heartbreaking. Then, I see our government funding the defense of Ukraine's border and their civil servants' pensions and I know that there is definitely evil afoot in the form of destroying our country from within.

It's a tip-off to their

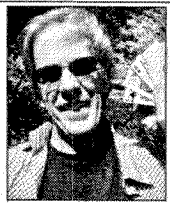
plan, when you read that a settlement of the differences between Russia and Ukraine was negotiated early in the conflict but was then not supported by our government because they wanted this proxy war to continue.

Millions of US citizens evidently support the continued funding of the war, even after there has been no accounting for how billions of dollars sent to Ukraine, along with billions in war materials, has been spent/used. And, Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense threatens that not funding the war will cause our country to have to send our young men and women to fight Russia. How preposterous!! And even the suggestion that our government would even consider such an action should be enough to bring about a protest the likes of which this country has never seen before.

I'm getting off track badly but I am so very concerned about the di-

(Continued on A-3)

Aces Over
By: Mike French



This is not what Christmas was meant to be. What we Americans celebrate every December 25 is not what was intended when the original event took place, in my opinion.

Our vulnerability to peer pressure and marketing ploys and big business and political exploitation, has turned a Christian holiday into little more than a self-indulgence celebration. Our egos and our urge to outdo our neighbors and bring attention to our own success, has turned a sacred event into a shopping spree.

It wasn't until about 1900 that people started making Christmas about gifts and ribbons and bows. The first public Santa appeared at Macy's in 1862 as a marketing ploy to convince shoppers that they needed to buy gifts for Christmas. That didn't work very well since people didn't have very much money for such indulgence. So the brilliant, greedy minds of

big business set out to focus Santa's attention on children.

It is much easier to convince a child that Christmas is about a "jolly old elf" who will bring you things if you are a good child and ignore you if you are a bad child. It was brilliant. They put a brand new responsibility on parents across the country. "Do you want your child to think they are a bad child? Do you want them to think they are failures and no one loves them? Even Santa doesn't want them? Is that what you want to teach your child? If not, BUY SOMETHING!"

Practically overnight, the plan worked. Parents everywhere were willing to spend money they couldn't afford and would never spend on themselves, as long as it would teach their child that they can succeed and they are good and they are loved. Money that parents would never spend, was less important than their child's peace of mind.

From there, the laws of nature took over. "If my neighbor bought his child a new bike, then I am going to get my child a bigger bike! I can't have my child seeing other kids getting big gifts and thinking Santa ignored him!" It was the perfect plan.


And sure enough it has evolved just as the Devil himself had hoped.

With you, all this has absolutely nothing to do with the Birth of Jesus. But that is how smart they are. They kept some of the real meaning of Christmas as part of their campaign. Santa and reindeer and Frosty displays, and intertwined the Jesus aspect with buying gifts and more shopping. Society even tied the two things together in such a way that many feel they aren't celebrating the Birth of Jesus unless they spend a lot of money.

I am older now but not old enough to remember the early 1900s. How-

(Continued on A-3)

T.J.'s Journal
By: Tonya J. Cook



Dear Journal,

Yesterday, Stanley and I caught a nice day for this time of year and took advantage of it. We took winter flowers to put on our family's graves at various cemeteries scattered about the county. I made saddles of flowers and some bouquets for the vases. I think they turned out really well. They had holly, greenery, red berries, poinsettias, and white magnolia blossoms in them. Our niece, Karen Adams, was supposed to bring arrangements for the remainder of our family. However, she woke up very sick and wasn't able to come.

Stanley and I headed out for the cemeteries around mid-afternoon and it was warm for this time of year. As the evening wore on it began to get cool with a wind blowing. By late afternoon, it was cloudy and getting dark early. The wind was blowing in a cold front that brought rain later in the night. It was a bittersweet afternoon as all of the family

at the cemeteries were so much a part of our past. It was a nice gesture to put flowers on their graves but oh, the memories of the family weigh on your heart like the weight of the world. Nobody realizes just how much they are missed throughout the whole year and especially around holidays when you remember the old days of long ago.

We, as most people do at this time of the year, recall the various Christmases of our past. Most recall all of the family and friends, the good times we had, and simple things in life that brought us such joy. As I remember, it was the simple things that brought the most joy...having all of the family and friends around the table, talking, eating a holiday meal together, going to church, and singing Christmas carols. Then, there was the joy of giving...not getting. It wasn't about what you got, it was about the giver giving you something that over-

(Continued on A-3)

Rockcastle
Historical Haven
Presented by
Rockcastle Historical Society
By: Markita Proctor

Just a few shopping days remain to get the perfect gift for Christmas. Today many of us head off to Somerset, Danville, Richmond, Lexington, or further to find the perfect gift. There was a time when Rockcastle County had many shops to find the perfect gift.

The December 20, 1901 edition of the Mt. Vernon Signal is full of advertisements from the local businesses, all proclaiming that they had the perfect gifts.

J. C. Hocker & Co. of Livingston Ky claimed that Santa himself had made his headquarters with this merchant. They boasted a beautiful assortment of holiday goods including toys: dolls, wagons, carts, and sleds for boys and girls, albums, pictures, lamps perfumes, and fine stationery for the ladies—fireworks: Roman candles, skyrockets, firecrackers, all to be fired for Christmas. J. Thomas Cherry of Brodhead proclaimed himself the "Wide Awake Merchant who knows the need of the holiday trade." Cherry also claimed to be the headquarters for Santa Claus. Frith & Dunn (also of Brodhead) claimed to be the agents of Santa. Cox Brothers of Mt. Vernon claimed a full stock of dry goods. Notions and gents, furnishing goods that are first class: overcoats, dress

suits, shoes, hats, and many more things of the latest style, just opposite the courthouse! R. P. Pike of Brodhead claimed to be the place to get your Christmas candies and fresh fruit, as well as a complete line of fresh groceries! Houk & Adams of Livingston advertised that Santa Claus would be pleased to show you through his display of all kinds of holiday goods!

Throughout the years, merchants came and left the little towns of Rockcastle County, but the traditions remained.

Stockings were stuffed with nuts, hard candies, apples, and occasionally an orange. The Christmas tree was cut from the family farm, mistletoe was hung to allow or to encourage a sto-

(Continued on A-5)

Tourism News
By: Jessica Blankenship

A look back at Tourism in 2023

As we wrap up a very busy 2023 in tourism, I wanted to reflect on some highlights and the impact that tourism has on Rockcastle County, as well as our region. Being the Music Capital of Kentucky, we are blessed to have the official Kentucky Music Hall of Fame & Museum, bringing visitors from all around the world to learn about our state's rich musical heritage. The museum hosts monthly songwriter series, as well as private events, and hosted over 20 tour groups. We also hosted the Kentucky Blues Music Festival, which will return on June 22nd in 2024.

The Kentucky Food Truck Championship more than doubled its size from the first year. In 2023, we saw over 35 food trucks, along with 30

craft vendors, live music, and a children's play area. Over 10,000 people attended the event, which highlighted culinary delights you must go to a major city to taste. It will be back September 14th, Renfro Valley Entertainment Center hosted quite a few sold out concerts and comedy events in 2023. They expanded their offering by going beyond country and bluegrass and utilizing both barns for entertainment. Hosting shows year-round has also helped the community with increases in sales of lodging, camping, restaurants, as well as gas and other stores in the area. In 2024, it will be a major anniversary celebrating 85 years in music entertainment.

There were several new events alongside established events. Friday

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Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from
The Brays
Josh, Jana, Trapper, & Isla

JOSH BRAY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ramblings

(Continued from A2)

rection in which our country is headed. I'm not sure it can be altered and, the saddest part is, I'm not sure that a vast number of our citizens are even aware of how close we are to losing everything we hold dear as a free country. I don't think they will even realize what we have lost until it is too late.

We have a Michigan Muslim publicly calling for Holy War against the US but nothing is done about it by the FBI. However, hundreds of US citizens have been languishing in a DC Gulag for almost three years for daring to walk through our nation's capitol, in protest of a stolen election which has had the most severe consequences imaginable. A protest which saw the murder of unarmed Ashli Babbitt by Richard Byrd, a capitol police officer, who was immediately exonerated for the killing by the Department of Justice.

The most chilling thing about our present day culture is that Democrats are no longer bothering to hide their intent.

Democrat Representative Joaquin Castro, in a public speech, claims that if Democrats in the House of Representatives vote for a secure border, "you are surrendering to right-wing racism."

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, who recently held a Christmas dinner for elected POC (people of color) only, blames "white supremacy" for Boston's problems and says she's working with the police department and the FBI to deal with it.

California legislators recently passed an "insurance equity" bill. Included in that bill is a provision that says children 12+ can run away from home, the state will house them without any parental notification.

LAPD's first non-citizen police officers are set to graduate from a police academy.

According to *Rasmussen Reports*, more than 20% of voters who

used mail-in ballots in 2020 admit they participated in at least one form of election fraud.

Bridges were blocked last weekend in Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California, Minnesota and Georgia to protest Israel's fight against terror group Hamas.

Earlier this month, in Canada, a 53-year-old transgender woman competed in a sanctioned swimming event for girls, **ages 8 to 16**. He also changed in the girls' locker room. This person is a professor at York University and specializes in child behavioral science.

And, for animal lovers, Biden's EPA just doubled down on animal testing. It's the largest resurgence of animal testing in US government history. Where are you PETA about something that is actually important??

Anyway, I'm so sorry to be such a Debbie Downer during this most Holy season for we Christians but I am so concerned about the world that we have let develop and what it will mean to future generations.

Keep praying for our country and have a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year and work however you can to elect a government in 2024 which will put our country and its people first.

Tourism

(Continued from A2)

After Five was part concert, part car & motorcycle show in downtown Mt. Vernon. It will be back in May, June, and July of 2024. RocktemberBlast proved to be successful in the Industrial Park during Labor Day weekend. It is being discussed to bring it back in 2024.

Bittersweet Festival saw Tyler Booth performing as a headliner on Friday night, giving an extra boost of attendance and vendor booths. City of Livingston's Homecoming was a successful event as well during Labor Day weekend.

As the holidays came,

Noel Night Market & Christmas parades for Brodhead, Mt. Vernon, and Livingston were successful with family friendly activities. WLEX-TV did a weeklong feature capturing the people and places that make our community a home to many.

The Veteran's Park was completed, as well as installation of playground equipment near Lake Linville. Downtown beautification efforts continue thanks to the city workers and volunteers.

Now as the year closes and we look into 2024, we can see growth in our community bouncing back stronger than ever before. For 2024, we will see many activities return and even bigger than ever. It will also be another year for the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies. Having the Hall of Fame and Renfro Valley has given us the opportunity to claim we are the Music Capital of Kentucky.

For more information on tourism events, be sure to check out www.rockcastletourism.com or on Facebook. If you would like to volunteer for any of the events, please do not hesitate to contact one of our board or staff members.

Aces

(Continued from A2)

ever, I have heard stories from my grandparents and my parents.

In every story they told me about their childhood Christmases, it was a joy-filled celebration. They loved Christmas and everything about it.

I am convinced that people loved Christmas and were filled with just as much joy as anyone today. I think people loved it for the right reasons in those days.

I have seen some kids actually complain that their Christmas "gift from

Santa" wasn't enough. They were mad.

It is a shame that we have turned such a sacred thing into a marketing, showcase. I wonder sometimes if children opening the gifts under the tree even get a chance to think about why they are celebrating. My guess is that many don't.

I am afraid the number gets smaller every year of those who celebrate the actual Birth of Christ. So many live a lifestyle that God calls an abomination and promotes the murder of innocent children, that I wonder if they would know the reason for the season in the first place.

But alas, I am right with you. I borrowed money from a finance company this year and will pay all year for gifts I purchased. My favorite memory is me and mom decorating and wrapping gifts. I am in the same boat as most of us.

Anyway, for those that are left who remember being overjoyed that Christmas is about the Birth of Christ instead of about opening gifts, may you have the best Christmas ever.

I wish a very merry Christmas even to those who don't remember why we celebrate it. Maybe eventually they will come to know.

In the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. If you get time, or the inclination, open the book that tells the true story of Christmas. It is quite informative.

**The Signal
office will be
closed
December 22
through
Januray 1**

Joy To The World, The Lord Will Come Again!

The song joy to the world is a very popular song, especially this time of year. Christ came and established his kingdom here on earth, his church. What a glorious occasion that was, what a tremendous sacrifice that was made to bring the New Testament into effect. But just think how great his second coming will be, if you have made preparation for that event.

Philippians 2:10-11 says, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; VS 11 And that every tongue should confess that Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. You see right now men and women can shake their fist in God's face, but folks there is coming a day when all of humanity will know that he is Lord of Lords and King and Kings.

When that time comes all wrongs will be made right, sorrows and troubles will be no more, disease and sickness will be no more, there will be no more separations. The days of deceit and manipulation will be behind us. We will no longer be exposed to the evil of this world, such as all the snares of the devil, sexual immortality, hatred, violence, children being sexually, mentally, emotionally abused, the slaughter of innocent babies. What about lying, cheating, stealing, all the things Christians should hate will be no more.

People of the world seek joy from the world. Think of how all marketing schemes project the joy these products will bring you, whether it be a new car, a fancy home, a boat on the lake, dining in a nice restaurant. These things are fine, and they make our life here easier but the joy they bring is temporal, it only lasts for a season. The eternal joy that comes from knowing that one is right with God surpasses anything that we might possess in this life. We go to great lengths to have joy for ourselves and our families as it pertains to wealth and possessions, when will that end? It will end with the grave if one is not ready for the second coming of Christ. Are you ready? Do you have the joy of knowing you will be going on to better things when this life is over or upon the Lord's return? John 15:11 tells us, These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Everyone Welcome
Robby Cable - 606-305-8452
109 Providence Cemetery Rd. • Brodhead

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

T.J.'s

(Continued from A2)

the years becomes a sentimental piece of your life, even only in memory. Most folks didn't have a lot of money and may have given you something they had made. I remember one year many years ago I had two girlfriends, sisters, who were having a rough patch financially and gave me a handmade antique quilt their grandmother had made

several years before. She had passed away and they loved her dearly. They gave me what I often consider the dearest, most precious gift I've ever received. I know just how much that quilt meant to them. There isn't any money in this county that could buy it from me. It is memories like that that bring real joy to your life. This holiday season, I hope all will have memories that produce great joy.

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board Sponsored By Cox Funeral Home

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Rockcastle County Bookmobile Schedule

Tuesday, December 26th: Spiro, Level Green, Willailla, Hwy. 3245 and Bryant Ridge. **Wednesday, January 3rd:** Adult Day Health and Wayne Stewart Center.

Vietnam Veterans Meeting Date

Vietnam Era Veterans, that graduated from Livingston High School, are asked to meet the last Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. for breakfast and conversation at Limestone Grille.

Health Department Holiday Hours

The Rockcastle County Health Department will be closed December 25 and December 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. We will be open December 27 and December 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be closed December 29 and January 1 in observance of the New Year's Holiday. We will be open January 2, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Weekly Grief Support Group

There is a Weekly Grief Support Group which meets each Thursday at 2 p.m. at Hospice Care Plus & Compassionate Care Center, 350 Isaacs Lane, Richmond. Please pre-register at hospicecareplus.org or by calling 859-986-1500. Open to anyone whose loved one was cared for by Hospice Care Plus. If travel is an obstacle, contact Abby at the number above to request alternative grief support options.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club now meets at Limestone Grille each Thursday at noon. 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/or District Commander William B.J. Thomason at 606-392-1207.

Rockcastle Historical Society & Museum

The Rockcastle County Historical Society & Museum meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at RTEC garage/training room.

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 Limestone Grille the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. If you wish to eat before the meeting, arrive at 5 p.m. For more info, call Commander Kathy Bobo at 606-308-1208 or Chaplain B.J. Thomason at 859-358-2882.

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.

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.

Wednesday-Alcohol Anonymous-Mt. Vernon: 12 p.m. 55 Crawford St., Mt. Vernon, KY. Call 606-308-4893 for info. or rides.

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: 8 p.m. Community Outreach Center, 36 Castle Village Dr., Brodhead, Ky. Call 606-308-8900.

Friday-Celebrate Recovery-Livingston School Cafe 9226 Main St., Livingston. 6 p.m. Contact: J.R. Cornelius, 859-314-7828.

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.

Man's Need of Salvation

Man needs salvation because of sin. (Rom.3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Man needs salvation because he is a man and not an animal. No animal needs salvation. Man is physical and spiritual. (2Cor.4:16) For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. There is a part of man that cannot be satisfied by bread alone. (Matt.4:4) The rich fool made the mistake of thinking that his soul could live on material things. (Lk.12:15) Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth.

The history of the world is but a history of man's need of salvation. The downfall of man (Gen3) The seperation of a race, Abraham's descendants (Gal.3:16-19) Animal sacrifices testified to this need- "a remembrance of sins year by year" (Heb.10:1-4) The birth of Christ. (Matt.1:21) And she shall bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins. Christ on the cross. (1Cor.15:3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. Christ resurrection. (Rom.4:25) Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Man needs of salvation because he needs help now. Needs guidance. (Jer.10:23) O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Needs happiness. (Psa.144:15) Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

Man needs salvation because he must spend eternity somewhere. In heaven. (Jno.14:1-4) Or in hell. (Rev.20:14,15)

Man's need of salvation is seen in the great commission. (Matt.28:19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Thank you for reading this article. We have videos to watch on our You Tube channel Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ Mt Vernon Kentucky. Everyone is welcome. We offer free Bible correspondence course.

REMEMBER GOD LOVES YOU AND

WE LOVE YOU TOO

• **Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ** •

Sundays @ 10 a.m. & Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. • Everyone Welcome

Bro. Ora Baker 606-878-8104 • Bro. Dale McNew 859-582-4021

Church is located 2 Miles South of Mt. Vernon on Hwy. 25

Obituaries

Raymond Asher

Raymond Asher, 102, of Crab Orchard, died December 11, 2023 at the Franklin R. Sousley VA Healthcare Center in Lexington. He was a WWII U.S. Army Veteran. First stationed in the Panama Canal Zone, he was re-deployed to Europe and served under the command of General George S. Patton in Belgium and Germany. He was born November 8, 1921 in Roark, KY, the son of Reverend B.G. and Maultie Langdon Asher. He was a farmer and saw mill operator/logger for most of his life. He was a member and elder of Crossroads Assembly of God in Brodhead. He was a man of faith, loved the Lord and shared his testimony at every opportunity.



He loved his family and taught us to have faith in God, and loyalty to family, the meaning of fortitude and to do things right the first time - like he did. He was dearly loved and will be sorely missed.

From the age of 16 throughout his lifetime he found joy by singing in church and last sang in his church at the Crossroads Veterans Day celebration on November 12, 2023. He enjoyed playing softball for many years and played in the old timers games when he was in his sixties. He liked to trail ride, years ago on horseback and not so many years ago on a four wheeler. He was an avid reader of the Bible and history until health issues prevailed.

Those left to celebrate his life include: his son, Raymond Jr and Patricia of Brodhead; daughter, Rita Genton and Jerry of Waynesburg; and son, Anthony and Julie of Mt. Vernon; one brother, Beldon Asher and Helen of New Salsbury, IN; one sister, Cathy Staley of Whitley City; and his grandchildren, Michael Genton, Amanda Dudley, Brent Asher, Carly and Callie Asher, all of whom he loved very much. Also surviving are seven great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by: his loving first wife of 54 years, Nellie Bishop Asher and his second wife, of 18 years Mary Ruth Miller Asher; brothers, Wesley and Waldo; and sisters, Lois Asher, Etta Brandenburg, Helen Wilson, Marion Byrd, Callie Howard and Norma Floyd.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Crossroads Assembly of God in Brodhead with: Brother Ralph Reynolds, pastor of Crossroads Assembly of God; Brother Dan Guetenson, pastor of Watts Chapel Baptist Church and Brother Keith Asher officiating. Burial with Military Honors followed in Piney Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Michael Genton, Jeff Cromer, Kenny Asher, Toby Asher, Shannon Bishop and Jerry Denney. Honorary pallbearers were: Dougie Bishop, Billy Dowell, D.R. Blanton, Bill Dyehouse, Roy Bishop, Leonard McClure, Tim Baugh and the late Johnny Benge.

The family requests donations to Heritage Hospice in Danville.

Arrangements were by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

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

Kathleen McKee

Kathleen McKee, 81, of Richmond, IN, died Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at Ambassador Healthcare. Born October 28, 1942, in Mt. Vernon, to Owen and Iva Sargent Burdette, Kathleen lived in this area most of her adult life. She worked as supervisor of linens at Reid Health. Kathleen enjoyed putting jigsaw puzzles together and being on Facebook. Her family also remembers her love of pickles and always making sure she was well stocked.



Survivors include: her mother, Iva Burdette; daughters, Missy (Mark) Cooper and Tammy (Tim) Burch; sons, Tim (Sara) Parrott and Curtis Parrott; grandchildren, Masheila Bilbry, Michael (Atalie) Keister, Brandon (Tiffany) Hammer, Christopher (Mariah) Cooper, Caitlin Cooper, Michael (Kristina) Parrott, Shelby (Billy) Hampton, Elizabeth (Jeff) Woods, and Emily (Kaleb) Fouche; great grandchildren, Matthew, Zachary, Zayden, Cadence, Bentley, Paisley, Braylee, Paysen, Jordan, Adalyn, Devin, Samantha, Jacob, and Michael; great great grandchild, Remington; sisters, Carolyn (Al) Lambert and Jewell Burdette; nieces; nephews; and cousins.

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Robert "Bob" McKee; father, Owen Burdette; son, Dwayne Parrott; great grandson, Brantley Isaiah Hammer; and brother, Eugene Burdette.

Services were held Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at Doan & Mills Funeral Home. Burial was in Goshen Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Hideaway Trails for Hope Ranch, 4734 B Road, New Paris, OH 45347 or hideawaytrailsforhoperanch.com.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com

Ila Willene Cash Burton

Willene Cash Burton, 92, died peacefully while asleep at her home in Ottawa on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

Willene, as she was known, was born December 3, 1931, to Homer and Cordia Singleton Cash. She was a lifelong resident of the Ottawa Community and a lifelong member of Ottawa Baptist Church. She was a housewife and farmer working beside her husband Otis "Pete" Burton whom she married on January 15, 1949. He preceded her in death on January 19, 1998. She was an excellent cook and was known in the community for her chocolate and coconut crème pies. She spent her entire life working and providing for her family. In her later years she worked for the Cumberland Valley Health Department. Willene was a devout Christian, loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She thought of others before herself.

Willene is survived by: three children, Judy (Doyle) Wilson, Terry (Cindy) Burton and Debbie Johnson; eight grandchildren, Travis (Sheri) Wilson, Todd (Mackielee) Wilson, Heather (James) McMillin, Tara (Matthew) Brown, Matthew (Crystal) Bustle, Daniel (Elizabeth) Bustle, Courtney (Aaron) Mills, and Allie (Will) Padgett; 12 great grandchildren, Lyla and Caraline McMillin, Jaxon, Adalyn and Alaina Bustle, Carlee and Carson Bustle Paisley, Mia and Emmett Mills, Cooper Brown, and Tycen Wilson; a sister, Joann Brown, brothers; Paul (Debbie) Cash and Carlos (Madonna) Cash; and sister-in-law, Reba Cash. Many nieces, nephews and cousins were all very special to her.

Other than her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by: a granddaughter, Carrie Frances Burton; brothers, Gaffer and Walter Cash; a sister, Maxine Daugherty; an infant sister, Phyllis Judy Cash; son-in-law, Brian Johnson; a sister-in-law, Juanita Cash; and brothers-in-law, Junior Daugherty and Clinton Brown.

Services were held December 15, 2023 at Ottawa Baptist Church with Bro John McPheron and Edward Daugherty officiating. Burial followed at Ottawa Cemetery.

Donations can be made to the Ottawa Baptist Church building fund.

Condolences may be made at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com

Barbara Graves

Barbara Sue Graves, 66, of Richmond, died Friday, December 15, 2023 at her home.

A visitation for Ms. Graves was held Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in High Dry Cemetery.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's Signal.

Please visit www.DowellMartin.com to view online obituary.

Sara Marie Smith

Sarah Marie Smith, 79, of Brodhead, died Monday at her home. She was the widow of Gordie Smith.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Dowell and Martin Funeral Home.

Please visit www.DowellMartin.com to view online obituary.

Church News

Christmas Play Replay

Creekside Baptist Church will be presenting *The Christmas Story* Christmas Play Sunday morning, December 24th at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited and welcome to come and visit with us for this very special Christmas service.

Christmas gifts will be given out to all children who are in attendance. Thanks to our local businesses for making this possible.

The church is located at 2261 Copper Creek Road. Bro. Jack Stallworth is pastor.

Dwayne Carpenter

Bro. Dwayne Carpenter, 59, of Calloway, died Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at his home. He was born in London on June 12, 1964, the son of Russell and Shirley Marie North Carpenter.



He was a certified baker for Flowers Bakery and had been the Pastor at Cupps Chapel Holiness Church for 25 years.

He is survived by: his loving wife of 39 years, Lisa Francisco Carpenter; two sons, Robbie Dwayne Carpenter of Brodhead, and Travis Kyle Carpenter and wife Kadi of Livingston; his grandchildren, Kaleigh, Landon, Kason, Karson, and Kashton Carpenter; his mother, Shirley Carpenter of Livingston; and a brother, Michael Glen Carpenter and wife Beth of Crab Orchard. Several aunts and uncles also survive.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 15, 2023 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. Marlow Napier, pastor of Kings Highway Church of God. Burial was in Carpenter Family Cemetery in Livingston.

Pallbearers were: Glenn Benge, Robbie Carpenter, Travis Carpenter, Rick Holt, Travis Philpot, and Mick Turner.

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

Lisa Hofmann

Lisa Hofmann was born April 3, 1978. She spent her short time on earth caring for her daughters, Brianna and Destiny, several foster children, her many nieces and nephews, and fiercely loving her husband Tim.



She was a graduate of North Laurel High School and attended Berea College. She was a talented artist and creative soul.

She is survived by brothers, Kenneth Begley and James Begley (Marthann) and Sisters Jenny Ceesay (Ismaila), Ruby Connell (Perry), Patricia Pope, Linda Lyons (Roger), Charlotte Bowman, Zella Denham (Joe), Ruthie Begley, and Sandra Butler. She is also survived by Kevin, Christopher, Bethany, Nathan, Donavyn, Ismaila, Sadibou, Jaden, Nos, and Zoey, to all of whom she was a second mother. She was preceded in death by: her parents, Kenneth Begley, Barbara Begley, and Charles Sturgill; and brothers, Jackie, Bruce, and David.

Memorial services were conducted Saturday, December 16, 2023 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. Matthew Bowman.

Obituary provided by the family.
Please visit www.DowellMartin.com or Dowell & Martin

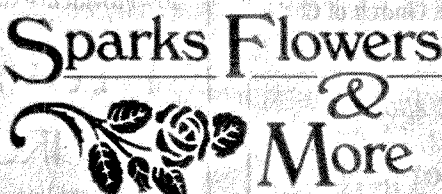
Merry CHRISTMAS

From the Families and Staff of
Dowell and Martin Funeral Home
and
Sparks Flowers & More



Roy and Pamela Martin
Steve Martin

we would like to wish you and yours a very blessed Christmas and thank you for your continued trust and confidence.



Pamela, Jan and Kelli

West Main St.
Mt. Vernon
606-256-2991
606-256-2485

Obituaries

Gordie Smith

Gordie Smith, 84, of Mt. Vernon, went to Heaven on Thursday, December 7, 2023 after a short illness. He was born August 14, 1939 in Orlando, the son of Mitchell and Letha (Bowman) Smith. He retired from Parker Seal and was a charter member of Higher Praise Ministries. He found great joy in watching his grandchildren play ball and giving a referee or two a hard time. Gordie enjoyed hunting and fishing, sitting on the front porch, and shining his lawn mower while watching The Price is Right in the garage. On June 2, 1961 he was united in marriage to Sarah Marie Rigsby and they enjoyed 62 years together.

Those left to celebrate his life are: his wife, Marie of Mt. Vernon; his children, Tina Gibbs (Dave) of Brodhead, and Darren Smith (Becky) and Stacy Smith (Nacole), both of Mt. Vernon; nine grandchildren, Mark Hupp-Smith, Jordan Smith, Darby Smith, Dalton Gibbs, Izak Gibbs, Cameron Smith, Kaylee Smith, Bella Smith, and Jenna Smith; two great grandchildren, Ella Smith and Ismira Hupp-Smith; special friends, Richard Northern and James Scalf; as well as several nieces/nephews, friends and neighbors. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Kermit, James, and Denzil Smith and two sisters who died at birth.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at Higher Praise Ministries with Pastor Chris Davidson and Bro. Lonnie McGuire officiating. Burial was in Briarfield Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Jordan Smith, Dalton Gibbs, Izak Gibbs, Cameron Smith, Tim Smith, David Smith, Billy McKeenan, and James Scalf. Honorary pallbearers were: Rick McCoy, Richard Northern, and Scott Smith.

Arrangements were by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

Obituary provided by the family.

Please visit www.DowellMartin.com or Dowell & Martin Funeral Home's Facebook page to view Mr. Smith's online obituary.

Joyce Vinson

Evelyn Joyce Vinson, 83, of Bellevue, KY was called home by the Lord on Monday, December 11, 2023 at her home surrounded by her loving daughter and granddaughter. She was born in Rockcastle County on February 28, 1940, the daughter of Roy and Opal Fields Robinson.

She was a devout Baptist as well as an avid, loving nurse for over 22 years. Even after retirement, she still had the disposition of always helping, healing, and loving all. She loved her family fiercely and as her family knew her, she remains "Mom" and "Grams". She will be missed in a way that will never heal.

Graveside services were private at the request of the family. Interment was in Bales Cemetery in Livingston.

Donations are requested to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements were by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

Obituary provided by the family.

Puzzle Answers 12-14

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

SUGAR'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

ANDI	STATS	RAVI
REIN	CHIRP	ULAN
MAST	HUMOR	DONG
YHER	USSIA	HOUSE
RIB	NIL	
PRINCE	OF	EGYPT
AI	ERNES	AHEAD
ITA	TEASE	MRI
WAACP	GRADE	PUN
CHIN	AS	SYNDROME
EAU	ONA	
BOYS	FROM	BRAZIL
UPAT	SNOOT	OTIS
MILE	ECONO	RENO
PEER	SETON	SMEW

Puzzle Answers 12-21

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

SUGAR'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

ROACH	FACE	PLUM
IGLOO	AGHA	RENO
DROPPED	OUT	DATS
BETTER	GAS	VIE
LIEN	WIDELY	
SEQUENCE	AREA	
ARUMS	LADY	BLAY
GRIPS	ARE	STOGY
ASTI	ITEM	HONOR
CRAIG	SUPER	REGO
SOLEMN	TREE	
OVA	POT	AREYES
BOIL	BED	ONEWITH
ELMO	LAID	SENTA
ROSS	KAID	TREAD

Kenny Robinson

James Kenneth "Kenny" Robinson, 69, of Mt. Vernon, died Thursday, December 7, 2023 at University of Kentucky Bluegrass Hospice Care Center in Lexington. He was born in Berea on September 11, 1954, the son of James Milton and Katreka Blakeman Robinson. He was a retired loan officer for Whitaker Bank and attended First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon.

He is survived by: his loving wife of 45 years, Sherry Graham Robinson; his children, Coby Robinson and Kaliesa Hunt and husband Brad, both of Mt. Vernon; two grandchildren, Bryce and Kinley Hunt; and a brother, Robbie Lee Robinson and wife Audrey of Raleigh, NC. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jimmy and Kay Robinson.

Memorial services were conducted Monday, December 11, 2023 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. Dennis Wilder, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon.

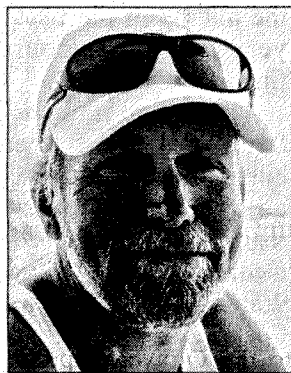
Honorary pallbearers were: Robbie Robinson, Brad Hunt, Bryce Hunt, Jason Allen, Roy Martin, Rusty Clark, Coby Robinson, Richard Graham, and Gary Lee Miracle in honor of his father, Gary Miracle.

The family requests donations to the First Baptist Church building fund at PO Box 639, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

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

William Bryan Castleberry Jr.

In loving memory of William Bryan Castleberry, Jr., who departed this world on December 3, 2023. It's with a heavy heart that we share the news of his



passing. Bryan was not just a father and husband but a source of unwavering support, endless laughter, and heart big enough to warm a blizzard.

As we reflect on the countless memories we shared, we are grateful for the lessons he taught us, the love he showered upon our family and the joy he brought so many around him.

Even the small moments with Bryan could make lifelong impressions and I know so many around him would echo that sentiment.

His legacy is not just in the stories we tell or the pictures we hold dear, but in the values he instilled—kindness, laughter, resilience and good ol' challenge the system.

Bryan was born June 3, 1963 in Oklahoma City, OK to William Bryan Castleberry, Sr. and Judy Herndon. He is survived by: his loving wife, Kimberly Bevan Castleberry; one son, Cole (Jessica); and his beloved dog, Cow. In addition, he is survived by: his father, Bryan Sr.; stepmother, Barbara Marshall Castleberry; his mother, Judy Duff; two sisters, Kimberly (Ray Sikorski) and Suzanne Bender; two nieces, Mary Golsan and Jacqui Verace; and nephew Dylan Hidalgo.

In accordance with his wish's cremation was done. No services are scheduled. A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

Carolyn Halcomb

Carolyn Halcomb, 81, of Brodhead, died Thursday, December 14, 2023 at UK Medical Center in Lexington. She was born May 25, 1942, in Stanford, a daughter of the late J.C. and Opal Marie Young Dawson. She had been a Certified Medical Assistant who had worked at Sowder Nursing Home for 45 years. She was a long time member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. On September 1, 1961, she was united in marriage to Donald Ray Halcomb and they enjoyed 46 years together prior to his passing July 24, 2007. She found great joy in sports—NASCAR/football/basketball/baseball, she enjoyed cooking, especially for others, and enjoyed eating out with her church family.

Those left to celebrate her life are: her children, Billy Ray Halcomb of Brodhead, Danny Dale Halcomb (Melissa) of Stanford, and Bobby Lee Halcomb of Brodhead; her grandchildren, Lakin, Rachele, Angel, Blake and Gabe; her five great grandchildren; as well as a host of friends and neighbors.

Besides her parents, and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Lee Farris.

Services were held Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals with Bro. Randal Adams officiating. Burial was in Oakhill Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy in Carolyn's memory may be made to Mt. Zion Baptist Church or Oakhill Cemetery.



Haven

(Continued from A2)

len kiss or two, apple stack cake was a common treat, and fireworks were set off late into the night. If the family couldn't afford fireworks they would simply fire off their guns.

Many of our old traditions were from old superstitions. According to the December 14, 2023 blog post "Holiday Superstitions and Celebrations of Old" from the Mastgeneralstore.com blog, many of our traditions are a "mishmash" of traditions from Ireland, Scotland, England, and Germany. One of the traditions from the "old county" was the gifting of fruitcakes. Many of the early settlers did not have access to the ingredients for fruitcake. Apple stack cake was their answer to a desire for fruitcake. Interestingly, the blog post suggests that many believe there was a bit of magic mixed in with the apples and cinnamon and that sharing them with family and friends would bring good luck.

Mistletoe also has some old superstitions associated with it. The tradition of hanging mistletoe goes back to pagan tradition. According to the website, www.worldofchristmas.net, mistletoe was used to decorate the home during winter solstice. "Mistletoe was believed to ward off evil spirits and witches from home. It is also believed to be a symbol of fertility, love, and romance." Many believed the plant was good luck. The idea of kissing under the mistletoe can be traced back to Greece. "Kissing under the mistletoe is

from a Greek festival tradition and stands for deep romance or a lasting, loyal friendship." Mistletoe could be found hanging in many old Kentucky homes and still in many of our homes today.

According to the rethinkruralholidayplaces.com, Christmas was a 3-4 day celebration when people would visit family and friends often including "serenading" with visiting, singing, storytelling (many of which being tales of ghosts or haints), and simple merriment-making. Many of the old folks celebrated "Old Christmas" was celebrated on January 6th. Old Christmas was a more solemn end to the celebration, with church, quiet meals with family, and Bible reading.

Old Christmas comes from the idea that January 6th was the date the three Wise Men traveled to Bethlehem to see the Messiah. For centuries Christmas was celebrated on that date. This changed with the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar. After the change in the calendar, Christmas was celebrated on December 25. Even so many continued to celebrate "Old Christmas" on January 6. Many in Appalachia and Kentucky held on to the tradition.

As Christmas day draws nearer and you wrap up your holiday shopping, You should definitely visit one of our local merchants! You may want to fill the stocking with firecrackers, nuts, hard candy, apples, and maybe even an orange. Have some apple stack cake, and hang the mistletoe for a stolen kiss or two. Maybe even mark your new calendar for January 6 and an Old Christmas remembrance.

Mayor charged with harassment

By: Mike French
Editor

According to a criminal complaint summons of the Commonwealth of Kentucky vs Larry Davidson, dated December 4, 2023, the Livingston Mayor has been charged with disorderly conduct in the second degree and harassment with no physical contact.

The summons orders Davidson to appear before a judge in Rockcastle District Court on December 20 to face the criminal charges.

According to the complaint, the charges stem from a confrontation between Davidson and Rockcastle County Magistrate Doug Prewitt.

There has been some disagreement between some members of the fiscal court and Davidson, and other Livingston city officials, over the past few months concerning support from the fiscal court to the city.

The court currently provides \$12,000 annually to the city for tourism support to be used to promote the tourist industry or related expenses. However, for some time, the fiscal court provided an additional \$1,000 per month to the city to help expenses involved with the Livingston police department.

When Davidson took the reins as the new mayor, he released police chief Mikie Ashurst and, through approval of the commission, hired Travis Davis as the new police chief. However, according to some magistrates, due to undocumented rumors concerning Davis, some magistrates refused to provide the funding to the police force citing liabilities to the county that may be involved.

volved.

Davidson petitioned the court to reinstate the funding but the vote failed 3 to 2. City Clerk Samantha Smoker then petitioned the court a second time but no second was made to a motion by Magistrate Shane Thacker.

Davidson then petitioned the court for \$1,000 in program support for the City of Livingston stating he would not use the funds to support the Livingston Police Department. However, Thacker's motion was once again left without a second and the motion died. Some heated discussion resulted in the meeting but was quickly squelched by Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., who moved the court onto the next item on the agenda.

According to the summons, on November 28 Prewitt entered the courthouse to find Davidson sitting on a bench in the second floor hallway. The complaint says Prewitt approached Davidson saying "he had nothing against Livingston" and that he "often does business there and supports the town." The complaint goes on to say that Davidson is accused of "screaming and yelling" at Prewitt. Further, Davidson is accused of standing close to Prewitt and pointing his finger at him as well as asking Prewitt to "take it outside."

The complaint also says Davidson returned later to apologize to courthouse staff who apparently heard the incident.

The incident was investigated by the Kentucky State Police, who apparently confirmed Prewitt's report of the incident.

Withheld

(Continued from front) referred to by both citizens, but is currently waiting for funds for the projects. "I can assure you it will cost more than \$20 but once we have the funds available, we are looking at repairing those areas and more," he said. "But once we do, if you wish to donate to the city, you may do so at any time. For the areas that are not in the city limits, you will have to take that up with the fiscal court."

Davidson and commissioners have worked diligently with the Department of Local Government (DLG) to update audits and other issues over the past several months in order to release funds that the city would be entitled to if all required audits were completed. The mayor announced two months earlier that the DLG was taking over the audit process for the city, in an effort to bring the city into compliance.

The administration also brought the water and sewer department into compliance with the hiring and training of the new water supervisor, according to commissioners and the mayor. Davidson announced that over \$300,000 in total funds are about to be released to the city, due to the work the current administration has done with the DLG and the water and sewer department. "As everyone probably knows, eleven and one half months ago (before this administration took office) the City of Livingston could not have access to certain funds. But now those funds are about to be released," he said. Davidson also signed a resolution accepting \$153,000 of the funds that stem from the occupational tax and other areas that had been held up due to lack of compliance of the city.

Davidson said of the funds about to be released, about \$75,000 is designated to the Livingston Road Department and must be used on roads. "Getting these funds freed up will make a difference in our ability to take care of such issues," he said.

In other action, Livingston resident Melissa Hahn brought up the issue of a Livingston-focused social media page which announces Livingston activities, on which she and others had apparently been blocked. Hahn brought the concern to the commission in September and Davidson said he would investigate the issue. "I have researched the issue. This page has nothing to do with the City of Livingston," said Davidson. "It is a private Facebook page, created by an elected official long before they became an official and was created for the betterment and advancement of Livingston. The city has no official website yet. We are working on that. I am grateful for the page this individual uses to advance our city, but it is not a Livingston website and those that have been blocked are up to the individual and are blocked in an effort to avoid negativity in our city. I am proud and thankful that page exists, but it is not the city's official page."

Davidson said the city will accept bids for the Firehouse Project until January 1. "We have three bids thus far and will take

bids till the end of the year," he said. The project includes adding a restroom and other work planned to make the area more "community friendly."

Police Chief Travis Davis presented awards to first responders during the recent train derailment. (See related story.)

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11 at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Helpers

(Continued from front) present the awards to a chamber lined with officers in full gear.

The awards were handed out to representatives of departments, organizations and individuals, including Constables Bryan Wynn and Steve Griffin. Also recognized was the Rockcastle County School system and Dawn Carpenter. One award was presented to the EMS workers who worked through the incident and another to the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Department.

"I saw these people do battle under some fierce circumstances. I watched Shannon Franklin go to war with CSX over releasing information to the public. I saw EMS crews go door-to-door in a smoke-filled town to get our residents to safety. These people risked their own well-being to help Livingston citizens," Davis said.

Each first responder, or a representative, stepped to the front of the chambers to accept the plaque.

Mayor Larry Davidson agreed with the recognitions. "All our first responders are our lifeline," he said. "I, and the citizens of Livingston, simply can't thank you enough," he said.

Santa

(Continued from front) ago and realized his own long white beard would fit perfectly into the character. "I ordered the suit and my son, Marcos, and I made a video wishing everyone a Merry Christmas dressed as Santa and an elf and posted it on social media," he said. "After that people started calling and asking if I would play Santa at their events."

Soon, Bengé was getting calls in October and November "booking" him in advance. "The only reason I agreed is for the children, but then I started really enjoying seeing their excitement. It was even better than I expected."

Bengé says the experience has now infiltrated his life. He plays the part to the fullest and it shows to each child that comes to him.

"I get some truly sad stories from children who just hope to get anything at all. And then there are those who are scared of Santa and I get to try to bring them around. And then some are overjoyed and pulling on my beard to make sure I am the real Santa."

Bengé says when he is asked by a child if he is the real Santa Claus, "I say 'yes' I am the real deal. After all, at that time, I am Santa."

Bengé says he has dealt with countless situations with parents and children during his efforts. "Some parents tell

me such sad stories about their child. It is hard to hear some of the things some children have to go through. But I am there to help them forget that for a moment."

Bengé says he enjoys the questions children ask him in private. "How many elves do you have, is Rudolph real and how can you be everywhere in one night," are some of the common questions. "I just make it up on the fly," he said. "There is always a way that it can be done. And if I need it, I can always use 'it's magic' to explain things."

Bengé says he plays Santa now around ten or more times per year and each year gets a little busier with the role.

Fortunately, I love doing it," he said. "When you get that kid that runs up and hugs your leg and looks up at you with such adoring eyes, that's what it is all about."

For adults around the county, when you see the jolly old elf at a local event, you will know a lot goes into making Santa appear for pictures across the county.

For children, when you see that same Jolly, old elf, that's Santa and that's all you need to know.

Court

(Continued from front)

The entire budget shows receipts estimated at \$3,608,456 and total disbursements at \$3,533,279 for a book balance of \$75,176. The court approved the budget proposal unanimously.

In other action, the court agreed to provide \$10,577 toward the purchase of a new cruiser for the sheriff's department. According to Deputy Dale McNew, the sheriff's Department will pay the remaining balance of \$31,731.

McNew also submitted the Sheriff Department's budget, which showed an increase of \$41,000 over last year's budget. However McNew said the department is asking for the same \$202,969 contribution from the fiscal court and the extra \$41,000 will be made up through department revenues. According to the budget, the extra \$41,000 is expected to come from a combination of delinquent taxes, commissions on taxes and court security.

The total Sheriff's Department budget shows expected revenues of \$697,586 and disbursements at \$682,586, leaving a \$15,000 balance.

The budget was approved unanimously.

The court also agreed to continue the building lease for the Rockcastle County Library for an additional 10 years for \$5 per year. The library officials agreed to change the contract from a 50% utility share with fiscal court, to the library paying all their own utilities. The motion passed unanimously.

The court agreed to provide \$1,000 to the Rockcastle County Cemetery Board and \$350 to the local DAR chapter to add four names to the county's War Memorial. Through research, the DAR discovered the names Kenneth Allen, James Harold Brock, Wiley Robert Cable and Melvin Douglas Gregory that should have been on the local monument.

The court also altered the County Administrative Code to raise the

project bid price, which requires a bidding process. The code previously stated that any project over \$30,000 must be let out for public bid. However, the new code will require public bids on projects over \$40,000. The state of Kentucky requires public bids on projects over \$30,000 but state law allows counties to set their own rate.

Holbrook also asked the court to remove the portion of the code that requires employees to give two weeks notice in order to receive their personal time pay. "I don't know why this is in the code. If they don't give us notice, we give them their money anyway. I will never refuse to give someone the money they have already earned," said Holbrook.

The court agreed and voted unanimously to accept the changes to the code.

The court also heard the monthly report from the Rockcastle Animal Shelter and the Livingston school gym rental report. The report showed rentals of \$1525 for November. The court also voted to keep Jason Medley as director of the gym for another six months.

The court was also presented with the November financial statement for each county fund. December marks the middle of the fiscal year for the court financials.

There were no transfers. Having no further business, the court was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9 at 4 p.m. in the third floor conference room at the courthouse.

The public is invited to attend.

School

(Continued from front)

sented certificates of recognition to employees who have shown exemplary dedication and commitment. Those recognized included Betty Holt from the Rockcastle Academy for Commitment, Vickie Castle from the vocational school for Teamwork, Brianna Adams of BES for com-

mitment, Stephanie Hurst of RES for Commitment, Brittany Adams of RCMS for Teamwork, Morgan Taylor of RCHS for Respect and Robin Bowman of MVES for Commitment.

Also recognized for their special effort during the recent train derailment in Livingston were bus drivers Bobby Dees, Willametta French, Bobby French, Hershel Callihan, Rosemary Stallsworth, Carolyn Holt and Brett Noble as lead mechanic.

In other action, the district signed a contract with CMTA two years ago that would guarantee a reduction in utility costs through upgrades to the school district's buildings. Preston French, CMTA engineer, told the board the company had guaranteed a savings of \$156,000 annually but in the past year the district has saved \$246,000 in utility costs. "One of the best things about our contract is that the school district gets to keep all those savings," said French.

Facilities director Trent Clark said the company has been a service to the district. "I can say that they stick with us even after they had finished, and that is a huge plus," he said. "Just last month I called them and they stopped by and helped us with some work that saved us at least a \$10,000 service call. They have gone above and beyond."

Finance Director Jenny Sweet told the board there is an additional \$1,843,638 in the Fund One Account due to local tax collections. Sweet said the sheriff's department will be collecting more to be delivered to the district soon. The monthly financial report was approved unanimously.

The board also heard a report, which included the highest possible audit rating after the audit was completed recently. "If Mrs. Sweet told you something, it was factual," said one representative.

The board also approved the calendar committee to start composing the 2024-25 school calendar. Director of Student Services Marcus

Reppert told the board the committee will meet soon and get feedback from the results of those meetings. In January, the committee will recommend options to the board and in February the board will vote on the final calendar.

Sweet also recommended KEMI (Kentucky Employee Mutual Insurance) for the upcoming school year's worker's compensation insurance company. Sweet said the cost next year will be \$12,496 less than this year, due to the implementation of safety measures by faculty and staff. The total cost is expected to be \$45,818. "We have a better rating now thanks to the hard work of everyone in our district," Sweet said.

The board also tabled bid opening for a ramp needed because of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and paving construction at the high school and MVES. According to Clark, the bidders have asked for extended time to study the plans and check for the existence of rock at the sites.

Sweet also announced the district has now received a total of about \$100,000 from FEMA for safety measures taken during the COVID pandemic. The board had already received \$78,000 but Sweet said she appealed that decision asking for more funds. "When you consider everything including paper towels and cleaning and sanitizing materials, it takes a lot of money," she said. The district recently received an additional \$25,000 to cover the costs of such measures. "I will say, Jenny (Sweet) never gave up. She worked hard to get the district all we were entitled to and that \$100,000 can play a big role in our budget," said Dr. Ballinger.

As a final note, board member Misty Lakes announced her retirement. Giving a lengthy speech, Lakes thanked each person she had worked with over the past 4 1/2 years as a board member. Lakes submitted her resignation on December 14.

The Superintendent's personnel action report was not available at press time. See the next issue of the *Signal* for the report.

Notice of Vacant District 4 Board of Education Seat

The Rockcastle Board of Education ("Board") is seeking applications for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board representing seat Division # 4. This appointment will be effective until the end of the term in 2024.

Responsibilities include: setting policy to govern the District; hiring/evaluating the Superintendent; and levying taxes and adopting the District budget.

Board members must:

- Be at least 24 years old and a Kentucky citizen for the last three years;
- Be a registered voter in the particular District of the vacancy;
- Have completed the 12th grade or have a GED certificate;
- Meet all other legal qualifications (KRS 160.180); and
- Complete required annual in-service training.

Applications are available at the Rockcastle County Board of Education.

Mail applications to:
Superintendent, ATTN: Board Vacancy,
245 Richmond Street, Mount Vernon, KY 40456

News from the Rockcastle Courthouse



Deeds Recorded

Doris Jean Owens, property located on US 150, to Lynn Gutenson. No tax

Teddy J. Phillips, Brittany M. and Cody Oyler, Connie L. and Merrill D. Lavy, Clarence F. and Suzanne C. Phillips and Bonnie S. Brooks, property on Wolf Creek Road, to James Bradley Baldwin. Tax \$57

Heather Renee Damrell, property in Rockcastle County, to Joshua Curtis Smith. Tax \$175

Brittany Cox, property on Albright St., to Christopher Michael Wren. Tax \$100

Christine Barnes, property on Parker Hollow Road, to Carl Smith. Tax \$11

Ethel Bowling, property on State Road, to Marvin E. and Judy Owens. Tax \$100

Shirley Irene Wilson, property in Rockcastle County, to Kelly and Lora McBee. Tax \$30

Billy Shawn and Rita Brown, property in Christine Taylor Plat, to Linford and Sharita Hurst. Tax \$12

Wendell Ray and Bobbie Spradlin, property in Mt. Vernon, to Billy and Karen Barron. Tax \$6

Herschel and Carol Waterman, property on Poplar Gap Road and waters of Crooked Creek, to Danny Jump. Tax \$50

Rita Kirby, property in Rockcastle County, to Tracie Caldwell and Rita Kirby. No tax

Jennifer M. and Austin Christopher Arit, property in Brodhead, to Weichert Workforce Mobility, Inc. Tax \$160

Weichert Workforce Mobility, Inc., property in Brodhead, to Derrick Walters and Charmaine Calhoun. Tax \$160

Herschel and Carol Waterman, property in Rockcastle County, to Danny Craig Jump II and Danny Jump. Tax \$50

Leonard Dale and Marlene Miller, property on Crooked Creek Road, to Shannon Bishop and Kevin Carder. Tax \$44

Amy and Franklin Mize, and others, property in Rockcastle County, to DGS Development Ltd. Tax \$265

Tommy Ray Philbeck, property on Chestnut Ridge Road, to Charles Patrick Philbeck and Elijah Baker. Tax \$10

Yolanda Jimenez, property in Rockcastle County, to Rhys Edward Lloyd and Charlotte Emma Sorrell. Tax \$120

Bernice Whitehead (POA for Margaret Alcorn), property in Rockcastle County, to Michael W. Alcorn. No tax

Rita Brown, property near Maple Grove Road, to Brian and Melony Wynn. No tax

Matthew Dane Cox, property in Rockcastle County, to Ridney Cameron. Tax \$27

Rogert Eugene and Rosalind B. Philbeck, property on Woodland Drive, to Cameron Properties LLC. Tax \$50

Robert and Melinda Monk, property near US 25 in Renfro Valley, to Jennifer Sharon and Kenneth Alan Gilmer. Tax

\$125 Ashley Minor Sizemore, property in Rockcastle County, to Phillip R. and Trisha A. Doan. Tax \$33

Rosalyn Nathsha and Cody Vest, property on Lambert Road, to Troy and Sharon Blair. Tax \$140

David Edward Morgan, property in Rockcastle County, to Satika Lynne Morgan, Trustee. No tax

Cecil and Judy King, property on Tyree St., to Willard and Virginia Durham. Tax \$130

Norman Richard Clouse, Jr., property in Rockcastle County, to Arvel Jessie and Cynthia Lynn Clouse. Tax \$20

Clinton Graves, property lots in Skaggs Creek Addition to Skaggs Creek Cemetery, to Terry Cromer and Ronnie Cromer. No tax

Glenna Joan Bates, property on Sand Springs Road, to Timothy and Tammy Renner. Tax \$8.50

Clara Louise Benge, property on KY 1650, to Billy Ray Graves II and Daniella Graves. No tax

Samuel P. Gibbons, property in Orlando, to Roy E. Gibbons. Tax \$20

Ronald Parker, property in Quail Community, to Laura Potts. Tax \$118

James and Rhonda E. Brumett and Barbara Wilmott, property on Negro Creek County Road, to Joyce and Joey Spoonamore. Tax \$62

Circuit Civil Suits

Discover Bank vs. Aaron C. McKeel, \$7,111 plus claimed due.

Connie Lewis vs. Jonathan Wayne Lewis, verified petition for dissolution of marriage.

Tabatha McCracken vs. Eric McCracken, verified petition for dissolution of marriage.

Dale Creech, et al vs. TWL Logistics, LLC, claim for property return and damages claimed due.

JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. vs. Tim R. Gadd, \$18,171 claimed due.

Barbara Cunningham vs. William Cunningham, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc. vs. Donald Chasteen, \$129,586 plus claimed due.

Amy Nicole Martin vs. Joshua Wayne McElroy, petition for dissolution of marriage.

District Civil Suits

Baptist Healthcare System, Inc. et al, vs. Rocco Bowling, \$1,524 plus claimed due.

Baptist Healthcare System, Inc. et al v. Heather D. Morris, \$3,989 plus claimed due.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Sonya McCreary, \$980 claimed due.

Crown Asset Management, LLC vs. Peyton Saylor, \$1,873 plus claimed due.

Sandia Resolution Company, LLC vs. Maeteca Shackleford, \$747 plus claimed due. 23-C-00229

Marriage Licenses

Erica Hope Halfacre, 38, Mt. Vernon, accounting and Don Lee Mebane, 37, Mt. Vernon, CDL truck driver. 11/21/23

Gracie Annabella Payne, 20, Mt. Vernon, Bucces and Logan Isaiah Brown, 21, Mt. Vernon, Asahi Bluegrass Forge. 11/28/23

Jessica Lee Newcomb, 42, Mt. Vernon, factory and Michael Nolan Peters, 50, Mt. Vernon, factory. 12/1/23

Cherrie Dhalene Wilson, 55, Mt. Vernon, EMT and Shannon Lewis Griffith, 51, Mt. Vernon, retired. 12/1/23

Brianna Kaylee Renee Helton, 20, Livingston, stay at home mom and Jacob Jefferson Wright, 27, Livingston, heavy diesel mechanic. 12/6/23

Daisy Simpson, 67, Gainesboro, TN, retired

and Gerald Edward Kirby, 76, Orlando, retired. 12/11/23

Isabella Faye Clouse, 20, Brodhead, instructional assistant and Freddie Lee Doyle, 21, Brodhead, unemployed. 12/13/23

District Court

Randy R. Adams: possess open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, \$25 fine; operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol, sentencing order entered.

Jeremiah Alexander Cain: operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol, sentencing order entered.

Christopher Jason Elam: operating motor vehicle under influence of alcohol, sentencing order entered.

Lucas Brayden Messer: alcohol intoxication in a

public place, \$100 fine plus costs; false report an incident to law enforcement, 30 days in jail/probated 24 months on condition.

Speeding: Ronnie P. Redden, Jordan Blake Stamper, bench warrant (bw) issued for failure to appear (fta); Debbie Sue Bruner, paid;

Jason Paul Torres: failure of owner to maintain req. insurance/security, bw issued for fta.

Nicholas Yazell: assault, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, attempt disarming a peace officer, bw issued for fta.

Speeding: Debbie Sue Bruner, paid; Jordan Blake Stamper, license suspended for fta;

James L. Bowling: fines/fees due (\$443), bw issued for fta/nine days in jail or payment in full.

Amy Lynn Brown: fines/fees due (\$1,293) bw issued for fta/26 days in jail or payment in full.

Amanda Byrd: fines/

fees due (\$823), bw issued for fta/17 days in jail or payment in full.

Anthony Lee Clemmons: failure of non-owner operator to maintain req. insurance, 30 days in jail/probated 24 months on condition/costs waived.

Nathan Gadd: fleeing or evading police, 365 days in jail/probated 24 months on condition/costs waived.

Nicholas A. Johnson: fines/fees due (\$168), bw issued for fta/four days in jail or payment in full.

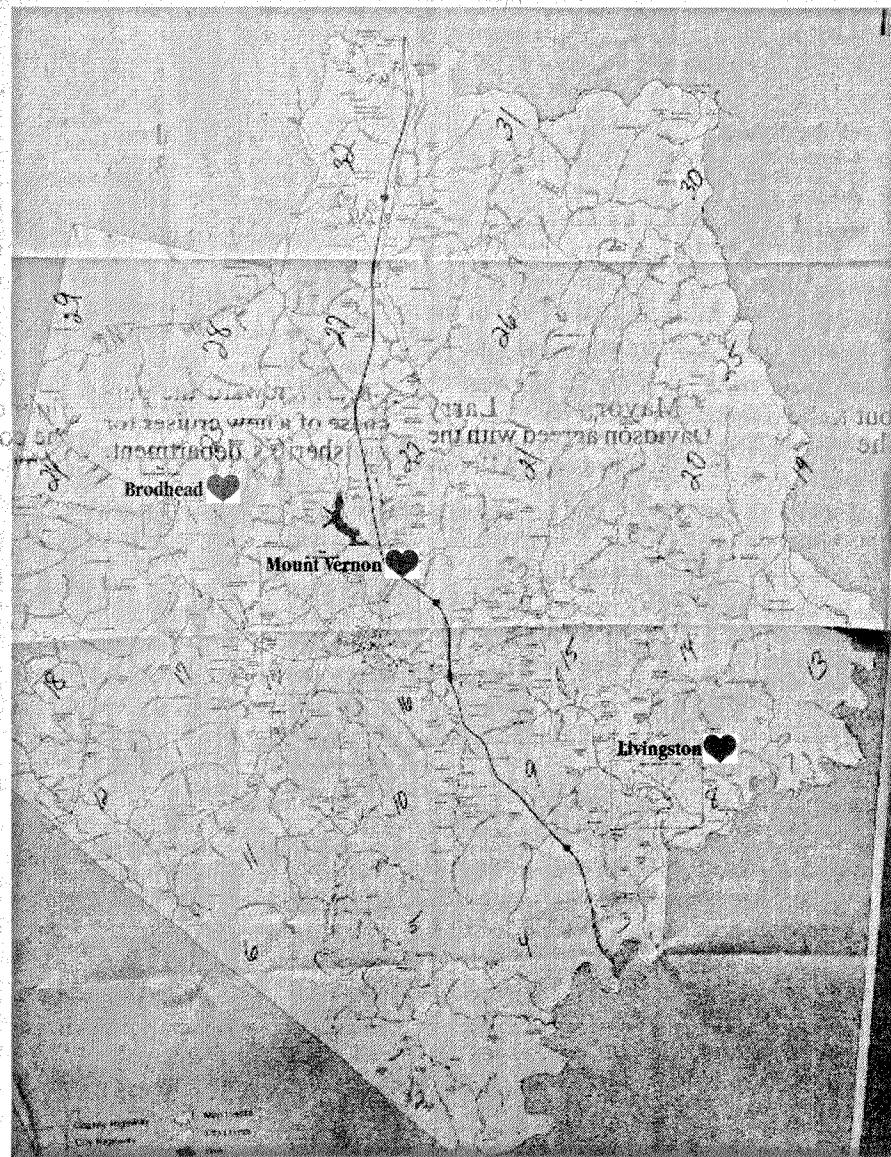
Sabrina Neeley: unauthorized use of motor vehicle, bw issued for fta.

Joel Newcomb: fines/fees due (\$1,448), bw issued for fta/29 days in jail or payment in full.

Jimmy C. Shafer: fines/fees due (\$273), bw issued for fta/six days in jail or payment in full.

Randy Lee Singleton: fines/fees due (\$169), bw issued for fta/four days in jail or payment in full.

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Chairman Corey Craig

Roland Mullins • Jason Medley • Dale Whitaker

Donna Hopkins • John Ford • Steven Eversole • David King

SPORTS

Rockets beat Boyle County Rebels 64-61

It was not only the third win for the Rockets in this young basketball season, but it was the second win over a Boyle County team -- the Rockets defeated Danville 66-49 December 5th.

The game against the Rebels looked as if it was going to be another easy one for the Rockets when they jumped out to a 17-10 first quarter lead, were ahead 40-24 at the half and had increased that lead to 48-31 about a third of the way through the third quarter. But, the Boyle Co. Rebels weren't through. They had cut the lead to 10 at the third quarter stop and even took the lead at the five minute mark in the fourth quarter, 52-51 on a Rocket turnover.

The Rebels were up 59-57 with 1:53 left in the game but, the Rockets steadied their ship at that point. Walker Craig put two free throws in to tie the score at 59 all and then, following a Rebel basket, hit a three pointer with 53 seconds on the clock to give his team the lead at 62-61. The Rockets pulled the rebound down off a missed Rebel shot and were playing keep away when the Rebels had to start fouling. Three fouls later, senior Skyler Durham stepped up big, calmly sinking two free throws to make it 64-61 and then he blocked the last Boyle County shot of the game to seal the win.

Craig led the scoring for his team, getting 20 points the first half and adding 13 in the second for 33, including going 4/4 from the three point line and 7/8 from the charity stripe. Craig also pulled down nine rebounds to

lead his team in that category along with Connor Hunt who also got nine rebounds. Hunt also drew two charge calls in the game and would have had three but a block call won out when the referee with the charge call acquiesced.

Besides Craig's 33, Hunt and Durham each got 10 points; Trent Wilson scored six; Jace Rogers and Colton Cash two each and Harper McCool got one. Durham was also credited with four assists in the game.

The Rockets hit 13/18 free throws and shot 50% (23/46) in field goals, compared to Boyle's 38.3% (23/60). The Rockets also won the rebounding war 41-29. Besides Craig's and Hunt's nine each, Durham pulled down seven rebounds, Cash and Rogers got three each, McCool two, Kaleb Alexander one and the team was credited with five. The Rockets also hit 72.2% of their free throws (13/18) to Boyle's 50% (11/22).

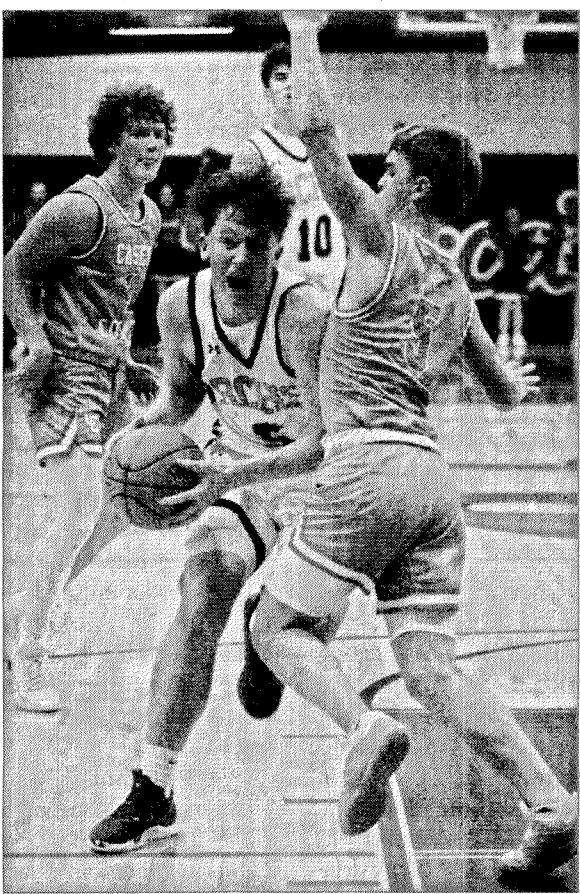
Rockets defeat Casey 92-58 and Eastern

The Rockets then picked up two more wins, defeating district foe Casey County Rebels 92-58 Friday night and Eastern on Saturday 62-58.

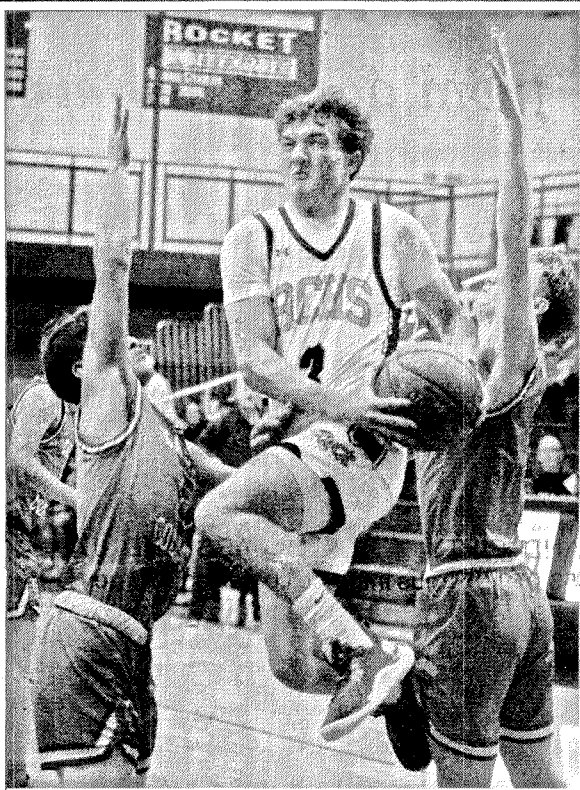
Against the Rebels, the Rockets were ahead 29-21 at the first quarter stop and 53-36 at half-time and were up 72 to 53 at the end of the third quarter.

Durham hit the first points of the game for his team, a three and went

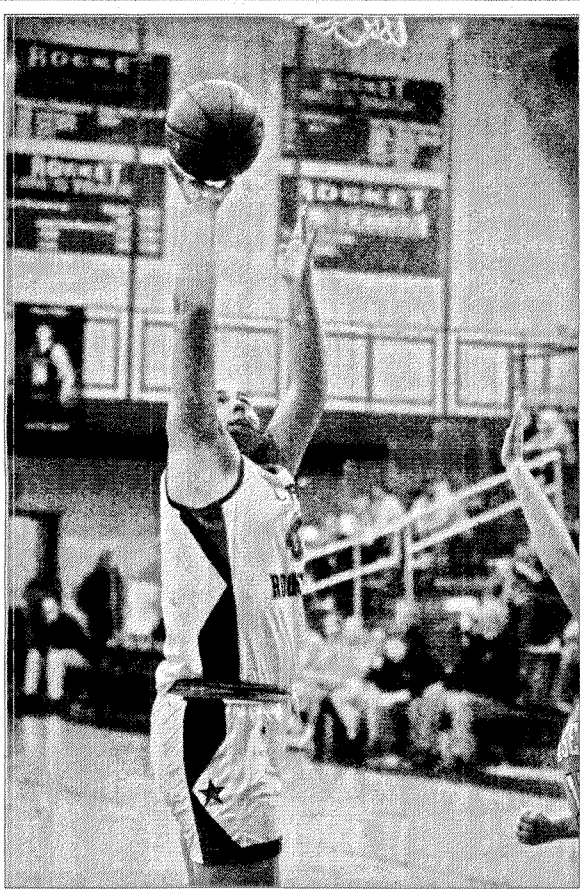
(Cont. to A9)



Jace Rogers works hard to get to the basket during the Rockets' 92-58 win over Casey County last week. The Rockets are 5-1 heading into holiday tournament play.

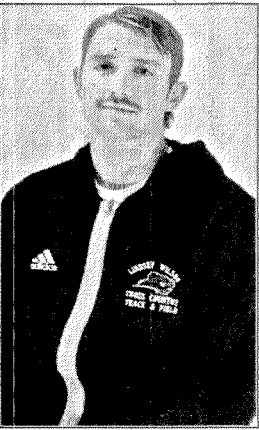


Caleb Moore takes it to the basket during the Rockets' 92-58 win over Casey County last week.



Brylee Mullins goes for two during the Lady Rockets' 76-34 win over Casey County Friday night.

Logan Bullock named Athlete of the week



Congratulations to RCHS graduate, Logan Bullock, for being named Men's Mid-South Conference Indoor Track and Field Athlete of the Week

Win 60-37 in snooze fest Lady Rockets beat Lady Rebels

From the opening tip-off of the Lady Rockets matchup with the Lady Rebels Tuesday night, there was never really any question of what the game's outcome would be.

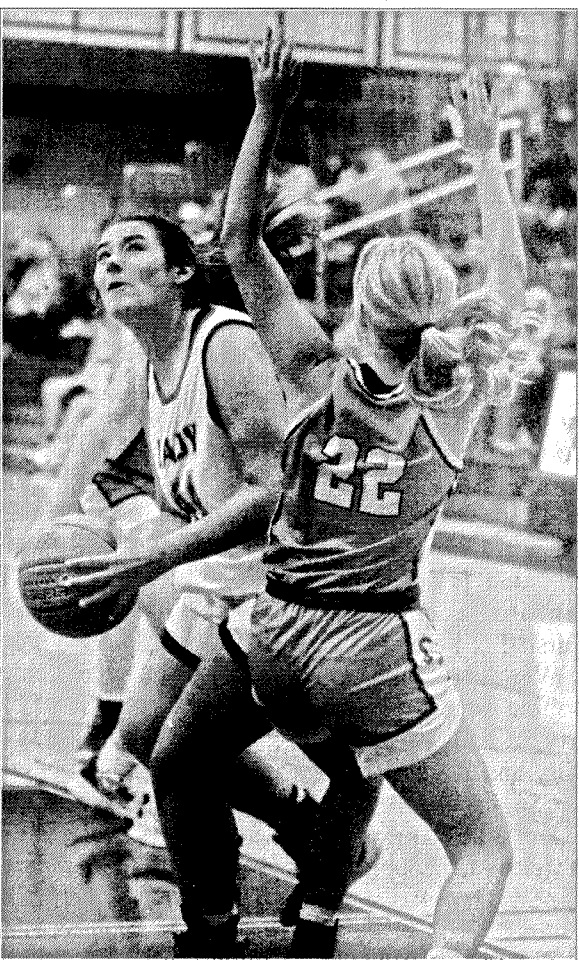
The Rebels scored a two basket early in the first quarter but then went to the 1:14 mark of the quarter before scoring their second for an

11-4 first quarter lead for the Rockets.

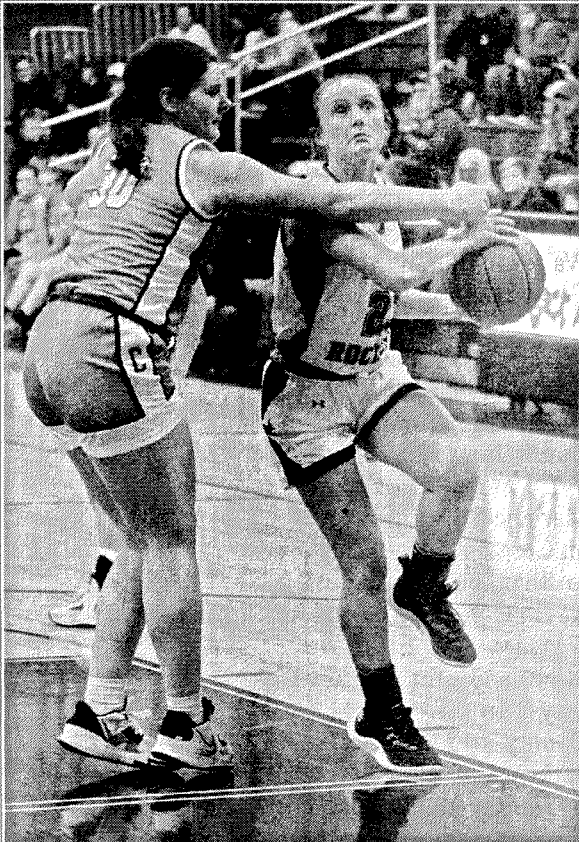
The Rockets were up 26-16 at the half and 39-23 at the third quarter stop before winning 60-37. Twelve Lady Rockets got in the game with seven getting into the scoring column.

Macy Spivey led the scoring for the Rockets

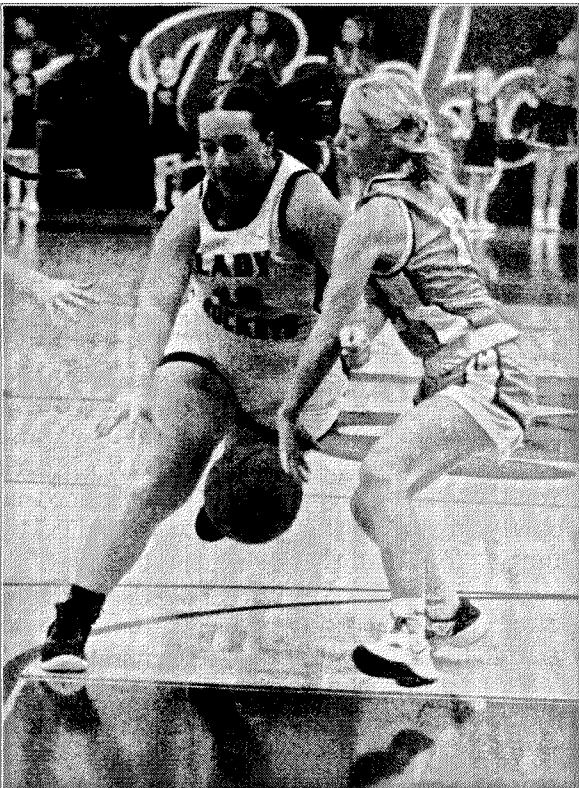
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Abby Deleon works hard in the paint during the Lady Rockets' 76-34 win over Casey County Friday night. The Lady Rockets are 5-1 heading into tournament play.



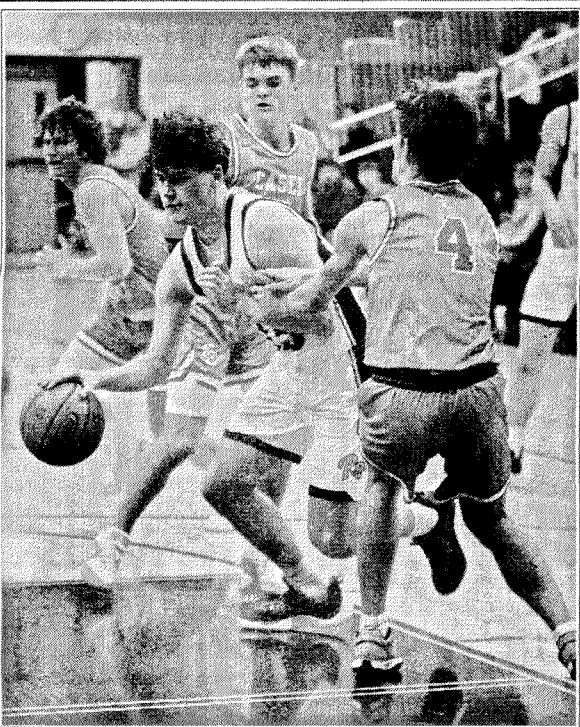
Ella McKinney drives to the basket during the Lady Rockets' 76-34 win over Casey County Friday night.



Kelsey Rowe drives around a defender during the Lady Rockets' 76-34 win over Casey County Friday night.



Trent Wilson picks up a steal during the Rockets' 92-58 win over Casey County last week.



Colton Cash works around a defender during the Rockets' 92-58 win over Casey County last week.

DAR award



RCHS Art Teacher Courtney Baktis and her students are the recipient of the DAR Community Classroom project sponsored by the Rockcastle Chapter NSDAR Inc. Ms. Baktis and her students used the proceeds of the gift to purchase certain art supplies for their upcoming projects.

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on November 20, 2023, scheduling a hearing to be held on January 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time and continuing until called from the bench by the presiding officer, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room of the Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2023-00010, An Electronic Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Kentucky Utilities Company from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2022.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Kentucky Utilities Company
220 West Main Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

A public hearing will be held on January 4, 2024, at 9 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, at the offices of the Kentucky Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, to examine the application of the fuel adjustment clause of Jackson Energy Case No. 2023-00014 for the period November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2022. Individuals interested in attending this hearing shall notify the Public Service Commission in writing of their intent to attend no later than December 27, 2023. If no notices of intent to attend are received by that date, this hearing will be canceled and the matter shall be considered submitted for decision based on the evidence in the record. Written notice of intent to attend this hearing should be sent to: Executive Director, Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602, or electronically to PSCED@ky.gov, and should specify the Cooperative to which the comments relate. This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov and public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

“Lady Rock”
(Cont. from A8)

with 17 points, hitting 8/10 free throws and getting the team's only three point basket. Taylor King was next with 15 points; Talynne Shearer scored 11; Haven King got nine points; Camryn Cash four and Markley Richards and Abby DeLeon each scored three points.

The Rockets hit 81% of their free throws, going 17/21 as a team.

Shearer and Spivey also led the team in rebounds, each pulling down six; Haven King got five; Taylor King and Ella McKinney four each, Camryn Cash two and Kelsey Rowe, Markley Richards, Sadie Osborne and Abby DeLeon, one each for a total of 31.

Lady Rockets
beat Casey 76-34

It was another easy victory for the Lady Rockets Friday night as the Rockets got their second district win of the season, beating the Casey Co. Lady Rebels 76-34.

The Lady Rockets jumped out to an early first quarter lead 29-12 and never looked back, leading 50-22 at the half and 67-29 at the third quarter stop.

Macy Spivey and Talynne Shearer battled for scoring honors for their team with Spivey winning with 26 points to Shearer's 23. Spivey was 6/6 from two point range and 2/5 on three point attempts. She

also was 8/12 in free throws. Shearer was 8/9 in two point baskets, 2/5 for three pointers and 4/5 from the free throw line. Taylor King got 10 points; Camryn Cash scored five, including the other three point basket; Brylee Mullins got four; Tessa Begley, three; Markley Richards and Kelsey Rowe, two each and Haven King one.

Shearer dominated the rebounding stats, getting 10; Spivey got four; Cash and McKinney three each; H. King and Kelsey Maupin two each and T. King, Rowe, Richards, Kinsley Smith, Osborne, Mullins and DeLeon, one each for a total of 31.

“Rockets”
(Cont. from A8)

on to hit five more in the first half. Craig, who also hit six three point shots, took scoring honors for the Rockets with 25; Durham's 18 was next; Trent Wilson scored 17, 13 in the second half and was credited with three steals; Hunt and Rogers got 11 points each; Colton Cash five; Kaleb Alexander two and Maddux McClure three.

Against Eastern, the Rockets were down one at the first quarter stop, 14-13 but came back in the second quarter to go ahead 29-21 at the half. The Rockets lost the second half 37 to 33 but were able to hang on for the four point, 62-58 win.

Wilson took high point honors for his team with 21

points, going 6/6 from three point range and 7/8 overall. Craig had 17 points and also dished out five assists; Rogers got 15 points and led the rebounding wars with seven; Durham scored seven points and was credited with three assists and Hunt got two [pomts.

Besides Rogers seven, Wilson hauled in five rebounds; Hunt got four; Craig and Cash three each; Cash two and Wilson one.

The Rockets are 5-1 on the season with their only loss coming at Somerset, by two points.

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Commonwealth of Kentucky
28th Judicial Circuit
Rockcastle Circuit Court • Division I
Civil Action No. 23-CI-00003

Wintrust Mortgage, A Division of Barrington
Bank & Trust Company, N.A. Plaintiff

V.

Mary Wilson, Bradley Wilson Defendants

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a judgment and order of sale entered in this action on July 11, 2023 for satisfying the judgment entered in favor of the plaintiff against the defendants in the amount of FIFTY THREE THOUSAND FIFTY NINE DOLLARS AND 07/100 (\$53,059.07) plus interest, costs and attorney fees. I will offer at public auction the hereinafter described real property in Rockcastle County, Kentucky.

At the Courthouse on East Main Street
Mt. Vernon, Kentucky
on Thursday, December 21, 2023
Beginning at the Hour of 10:00 a.m.

Said real property being more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract of land located in Rockcastle County, Kentucky, which is more particularly bound and described as follows:

Beginning at a stake and set concrete block in the east right of way of Old Highway #25 and a corner common to Elizabeth Zeiger; thence S 7 E 184 feet with said Old Highway #25 to a stake and stone in old line, corner to James D. Goforth; thence S 82 E 150 feet with Goforth's line to a stake and stone, corner to Goforth and Collins; thence N 1 E 207 1/2 feet to a set concrete block in Collins' line; thence N 77 W 45 1/2 feet with Collins to a set concrete block, corner to Elizabeth Zeiger; thence with Zeiger's line S 82 W 125 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 8/10 of an acre, more or less.

Subject to all restrictions, conditions and covenants to all legal highways and easements.

Commonly known as: 463 Upper Calloway Loop, Mount Vernon, KY 40456

Being the same property conveyed to Mary Wilson and Bradley Wilson, wife and husband who acquired title, with rights of survivorship, by virtue of a deed from Zannie Burdine, unmarried, dated July 1, 2019, recorded July 8, 2019, at Deed Book 0269, Page 0389, Rockcastle County, Kentucky records.

The property shall be sold upon the
following terms & conditions:

1. The real property shall be sold together as a whole.
2. The real property shall be sold for cash or upon a credit of thirty (30) days with the purchaser(s) required to pay a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price in cash on the date of sale and to secure the balance with a bond approved by the Master Commissioner.
3. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of (4.75%) per annum until paid in full. The bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment and shall be and remain a lien upon the property sold as additional surety for the payment of the purchase price.
4. The purchaser shall pay the 2023 local, county and state property taxes.
5. Unpaid delinquent State, County and/or City ad valorem real estate taxes owed to those government entities, and not sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action shall be paid from the sale proceeds.
6. Full satisfaction of the judgment shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale.
7. The purchaser shall have possession of the real property upon compliance with the terms of the sale.
8. In the event the plaintiff is the successful bidder, and the sale price does not exceed the amount of the judgment, no deposit or bond shall be required.
9. The sale shall be made subject to all easements, set back lines, restrictions or covenants of record or otherwise and shall be sold "as is".

John D. Ford
Master Commissioner
Rockcastle Circuit Court

The Friday Night
Gospel Singing
Proudly Presents!
"Jaclyn E. Ilock"
CHRISTMAS
BREAKFAST
SPECIAL
Free Admission
December 22nd at 6pm
9174 Livingston Ky 40445

Commonwealth of Kentucky
28th Judicial Circuit
Rockcastle Circuit Court • Division I
Civil Action No. 22-CI-00163

Click n' Close, Inc. Plaintiff

V.

Linda Rhodus Defendant

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a judgment and order of sale entered in this action on November 7, 2023 for satisfying the judgment entered in favor of the plaintiff against the defendants in the amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT DOLLARS AND 05/100 (\$126,968.05) plus interest, costs and attorney fees. I will offer at public auction the hereinafter described real property in Rockcastle County, Kentucky.

At the Courthouse on East Main Street
Mt. Vernon, Kentucky
on Thursday, December 21, 2023
Beginning at the Hour of 10:10 a.m.

Said real property being more particularly described as follows:

Lots Number 119 and 120 as recorded on the Plat of the C.L. "Lafe" Owens Subdivision, in Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County, Kentucky, Plat being recorded in the Office of the Rockcastle County Clerk in Plat Book 1, Page 1, said lots fronting on Joyce Street. Reference is made to said Plat for a more complete description of said lots.

All of Lots number 121 and 122 in the C.L. "Lafe" Owens Subdivision to the Town of Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, as recorded on Plat of same in the Office of the Clerk of the Rockcastle County Court in Plat Book 1, Page 1. Said lots fronting on Joyce Street. Reference is hereby made to said Plat for a more complete description of said lots.

AND Lots number 123 and 124 as recorded on Plat of the C.L. "Lafe" Owens Subdivision to the Town of Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County, Kentucky, Plat being of record in the Office of the Rockcastle County Clerk in Plat Book 1 Page 1, and lots fronting on Joyce Street and reference being hereby made to the aforementioned Plat for a more complete description of said lots.

Property Address: 215 Joyce Street, Mount Vernon, KY 40456
Parcel Number: 046W-18-019

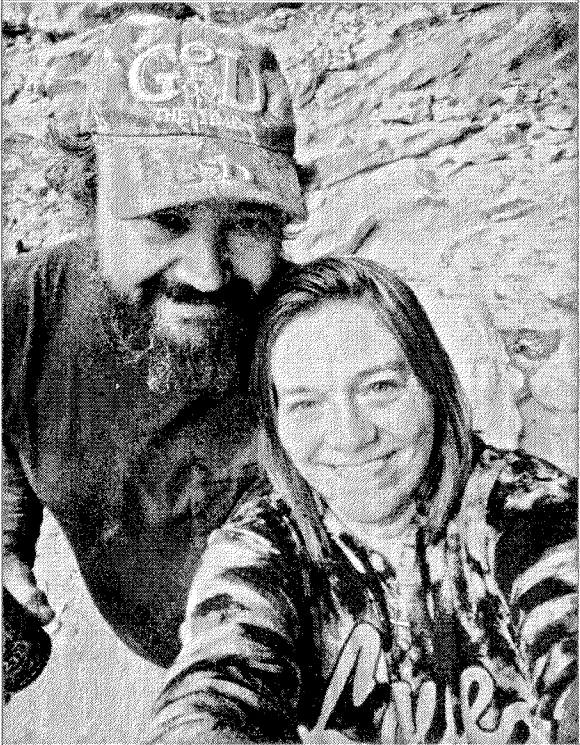
Being the same property conveyed to Linda Rhodus, Unmarried, from Billy R. Cummins and Shirley Cummins, husband and wife, by Deed dated 08/20/2021, recorded 08/31/2021, Rockcastle County Clerk's Records, and being known as 215 Joyce St, Mount Vernon, KY 40456

The property shall be sold upon the
following terms & conditions:

1. The real property shall be sold together as a whole.
2. The real property shall be sold for cash or upon a credit of thirty (30) days with the purchaser(s) required to pay a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price in cash on the date of sale and to secure the balance with a bond approved by the Master Commissioner.
3. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of (2.875%) per annum until paid in full. The bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment and shall be and remain a lien upon the property sold as additional surety for the payment of the purchase price.
4. The purchaser shall pay the 2023 local, county and state property taxes.
5. Unpaid delinquent State, County and/or City ad valorem real estate taxes owed to those government entities, and not sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action shall be paid from the sale proceeds.
6. Full satisfaction of the judgment shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale.
7. The purchaser shall have possession of the real property upon compliance with the terms of the sale.
8. In the event the plaintiff is the successful bidder, and the sale price does not exceed the amount of the judgment, no deposit or bond shall be required.
9. The sale shall be made subject to all easements, set back lines, restrictions or covenants of record or otherwise and shall be sold "as is".

John D. Ford
Master Commissioner
Rockcastle Circuit Court

Let's not forget the reason for the season.
Jesus Christ was born and hung on the cross to pay for our sins and if we just believe we can be saved. It is best to give and help others as you can than to receive.



Wishing everyone a blessed and
Merry Christmas
from Joanie and Frankie Woodall
at

Woodall's
Tree Service

Fully Insured
25 Years Experience

Frankie
Woodall
606-308-2382

Joanie
Woodall
606-308-3190

Diversity Club and Save the Children create room for children

The RCHS Diversity Club painted the walls and set up a room for parents to take their children, when they are waiting for court in the Rockcastle County courthouse. Officials say there are sometimes long waits before a hearing takes place but this room provides a place for children to remain occupied while waiting. The room, sponsored by the Save the Children Foundation and painted by the Diversity Club, will be free for any parent or child who needs to fill some time. Club members, sponsors and supporters shown at right standing are County Clerk Eliza Jane York-Hansel, Keith Pierce, Elias Blade, Brock Mason, Richelle Riddle, Tyler Holeman, Savannah Howell, Jane Venters, Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. Janaye Burton, Dr. Carrie Ballinger and Kaylee Hargis. at the ribbon cutting ceremony last week. The bottom photo shows, painters Kaylee Hargis, Brock Mason, Elias Blade and Janaye Burton. Club sponsors are Holly Robinson, Tyler Holman and Rachelle Riddle. Anyone at the courthouse is invited to use the third floor room next to the district court room.



Kentucky drivers reminded to plan safe rides this holiday season

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, 2023 through Jan. 1, 2024.

To raise awareness and kickoff the campaign, state and national highway safety officials recently joined together for a press conference at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC).

"As Kentuckians begin celebrating the holidays with family and friends, we're urging everyone to do so responsibly," said KYTC Office of Highway Safety Executive Director Bill Bell. "Drunken driving-related crashes are 100% preventable. Our ask is simple: plan a sober ride home so your family rings in the new year with joy, not grief."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), impaired driving-related crashes tend to increase during the holidays.

"Nationally, more than 1,000 people died in drunken driving crashes in December 2021 — the most since 2007," said NHTSA Regional Law Enforcement Liaison Program Manager Frank Enko. "If your celebrations include alcohol, book a safe ride home or designate a sober driver. Our goal is for everyone to ar-

rive to their destination safely."

In Kentucky, 479 impaired driving-related crashes, resulting in 201 injuries and 16 deaths, occurred during the Christmas and New Year holidays over the last five years.

"Drugs and/or alcohol not only hinder your ability to drive, but also affect your judgment about whether you can or should drive," said Louisville Metro Police Department Traffic Division Sgt. Ron Fey. "While we aggressively patrol for impaired drivers year-round, joining this effort will make our roadways safer during this heavily-traveled season."

Former Mothers Against Drunk Driving National President and Kentucky native Alex Otte spoke of her experience and life-threatening injuries sustained when hit by a drunken boater in 2010.

"If you are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and make the decision to get behind the wheel, you put everyone on the road in danger, including yourself," said Otte. "We need a commitment from every person to keep the roads free of impaired drivers, not just over the holidays, but every day."

To prevent impaired driving-related tragedies this holiday season,

KYTC recommends the following:

1 Before festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night;

2 If impaired, use a ride-booking company or taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation;

3 If you see an impaired driver, safely pull over and contact law enforcement. You may dial the KSP toll-free line directly at 1-800-222-5555 or call 911;

4 If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to their destination; and

5 Wear a seat belt! It is not only the law, it is the best defense against an impaired driver. Buckling up helps prevent injury and death if involved in a crash.

The press conference was followed by a NHTSA Region 3 meeting consisting of representatives from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

The "Drive Sober" campaign is funded by NHTSA and distributed to law enforcement agencies through each state's highway safety office.

For more information on drunken driving, visit <https://kydrivesoberholiday.com/>

Christmas Blessings

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder, And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

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

Shannon Franklin
Rockcastle Sheriff

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Warmest wishes of the Christmas season and best wishes for happiness in the new year

Law Office of James L. Cox, PSC

Law Office of Heidi Weatherly

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

Refreshments will be served following Mass



Music provided

O, Come all Ye Faithful and

Join us as we worship and praise our Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son. Let us come together to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 10:30 p.m. at

Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Catholic Church

Williams Street • Mt Vernon, Ky.

The people of Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Catholic Church wish each and everyone a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Faith Filled New Year.

County responsible for some bills that are difficult to plan

By: Mike French
Editor

There are countless expenses involved with operating a city or a county. Many residents of a community may be unaware of many of the expenses involved in a county budget, according to several officials.

One expense that is rarely discussed at public meetings is the expense

involved to defend an accused criminal or deal with legal matters.

Many have heard a judge tell a defendant "If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you." However, someone must pay that attorney and, in many cases, it is the taxpayer, through the local fiscal court, who must foot the bill. The State of

Kentucky also shares in the expense.

Such expenses appear to be rising over recent years, according to Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook. "In 2020-21 fiscal year, the county paid \$5,760 to public defenders" he said. "In 21-22 we paid \$13,390 and in 22-23 we paid \$6,262." However, thus far in this fiscal year (2023-24), the county has already paid \$11,690 in fees to public defenders though the fiscal year is only in the second quarter.

According to County Attorney Jeremy Rowe, the judge in each case makes the decision who pays for the public defender that has been appointed. "The judge in each case has the full authority to check which ever box they prefer," said Rowe.

Rowe and Holbrook agree the current sudden rise is slightly misrepresenting since bills from public defender Heidi Weatherly were received this month for the past several years of service. The bills average \$205 for each client for a total of \$7,600.

According to Holbrook, such expenses make the budget process slightly more difficult. "This is an expense for the county but we don't really have any control over how much it is," he said.

Rowe says most juvenile cases are paid by the state and many guardianships are covered by the county. However, it is still up to each judge how those expenses are divided. "I'm sure that in some cases, the defendant in a trial could have covered some of the expense but I don't think it is questioned that often," said Rowe. "If someone receives a court-appointed attorney, I think the county and the state cover the cost of that attorney."

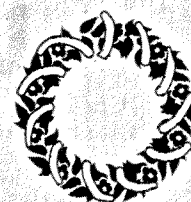
Holbrook agreed that the arrest of a suspect may often cost the county more than taxpayers may realize.

No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 22nd - January 1st



from the folks at

Snack Shack



Glenda McFerron Smith - Owner
Closed Christmas Day

Suicide Warning Signs for Youth



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.



Public Notice

Rockcastle County Fiscal Court

Second and final reading of the ordinance amending the Rockcastle County budget for fiscal year 2024 to include unanticipated receipts in the amount of \$1,066,666.99 and increasing expenditures \$1,066,666.99 was adopted by the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court on December 12, 2023.

Copies of the ordinance is available for public inspection in the County Judge/Executive's office, 2nd floor Courthouse, 205 E. Main St., Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court certifies that the summary above is true, correct and written in a way calculated to inform the public of its content.

Rockcastle County Fiscal Court
By: Vickie Miller, Fiscal Court



Wishing you a Merry Christmas ...


***Teresa Jackson Ins Agcy Inc**
Teresa Jackson, Agent
912 W Main Street
Mount Vernon, KY 40456
Bus: 606-256-2119

and a joyous New Year.
May the joy of the season make all your wishes come true.
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.*
CALL ME TODAY.

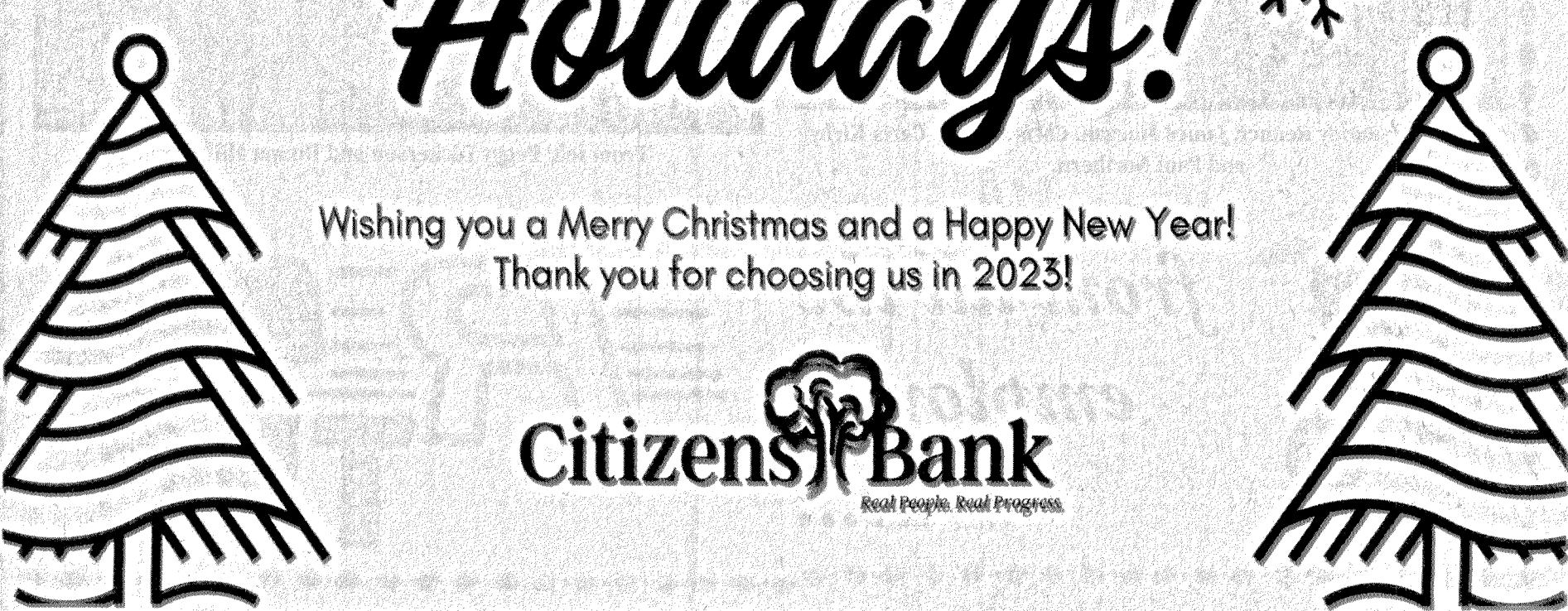
 **State Farm®**

1101447.1


State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL



Happy Holidays!



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Thank you for choosing us in 2023!



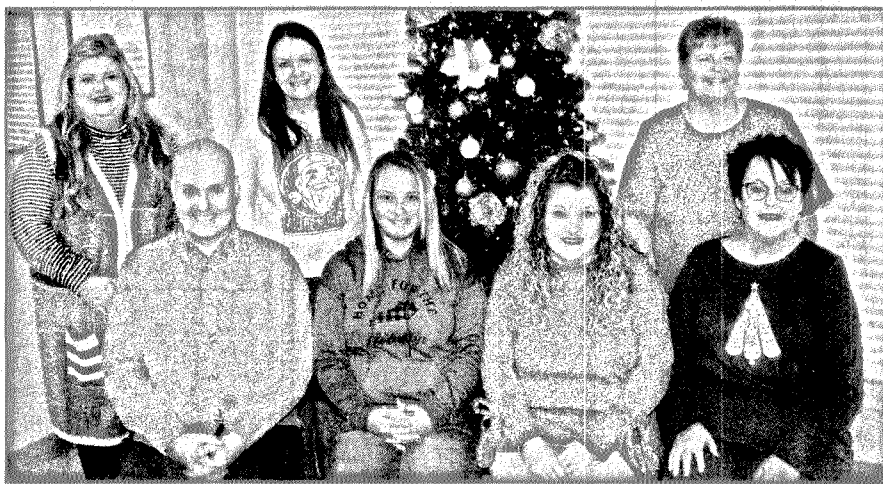
Citizens Bank
Real People. Real Progress.

MERRY Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Wishing you a Christmas that's
merry and bright!"



Front row from left: Freda Parsons, Shirley Cummins and Lois Hayes.
Middle row from left: Linda Callebs, Tracy Champion, Anne Weber and
Jaime Martin. Back row from left: Randy Lewis and Heidi Parman.



Front row from left: Abram Taylor, Lorrie Santo, Lesley Burdette and
Kimberley Martin. Back row from left: Shondale Philbeck, Michelle
Robinson and Karen Carrillo.



From left: Randy Renner, James Morgan, Chris Hansel, Chris Kirby
and Paul Northern.



Front row from left: Josh Napier, Eddie Hayes, Mike Dixon and
Shane McClure. Back row from left: Becky Bullock, Jamie Stanley,
Tammy Jo Collbaugh and Shonda Singleton.



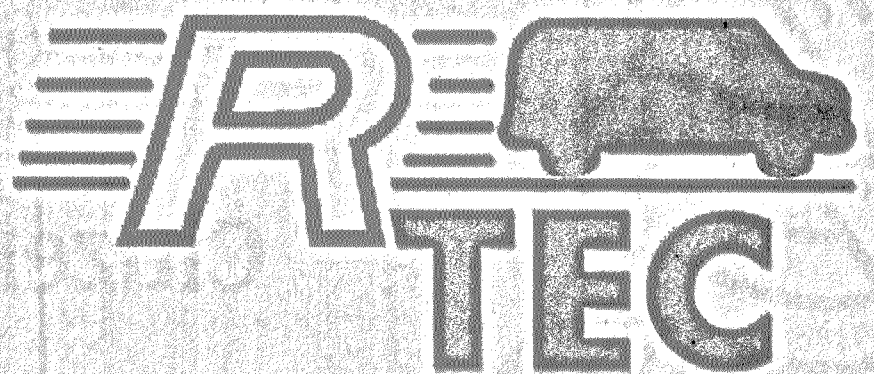
From left: Dale Shelton, Jessica Coates, Angela Mullins,
Chris Meece and Stella Newcomb.



From left: Peggy Dickerson and Donna Milburn.



*from all the
employees
at...*



Mount Vernon Signal

Second Section

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Scenes from 2023 Livingston Christmas Parade



Santa and Mrs. Claus handed gifts to all who came to visit Saturday after Livingston's Christmas parade.



Santa was delivered this year in the Mount Vernon 1937 fire truck.



The Climax Fire Department was well represented during the Christmas parade in Livingston Saturday.



A long line waited outside for children to visit Santa after the Livingston parade.



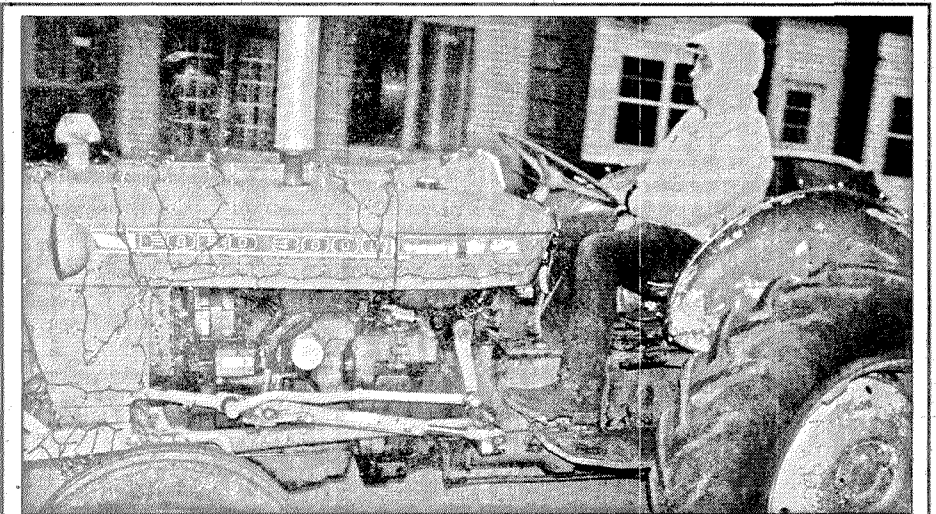
Snowflakes and wreaths decorated this Jeep during the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.

Merry
Christmas

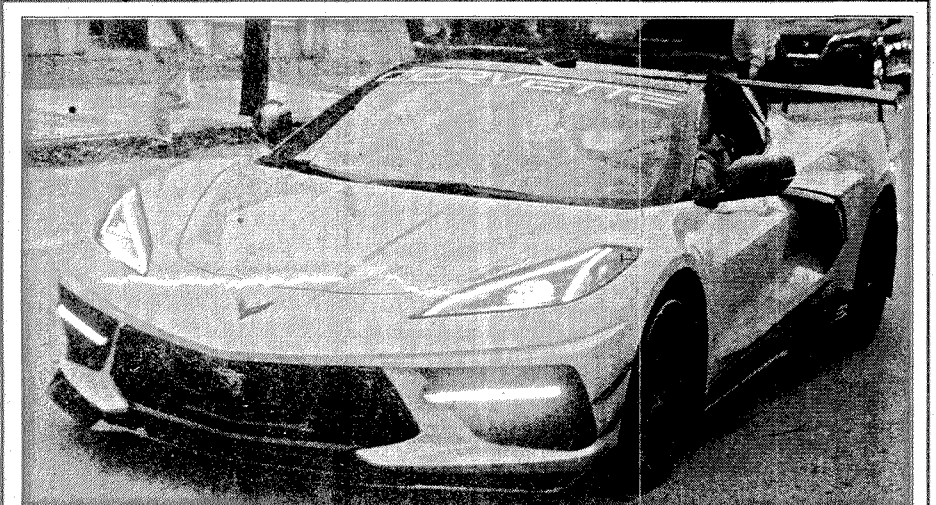
Best Wishes for a Happy
and Healthy New Year!



ROCKCASTLE
REGIONAL
HOSPITAL & RESPIRATORY CARE CENTER



This tractor was well decorated during the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.



One of the most popular entries in local parades was this rare Corvette that drew more cheers Saturday in the Livingston Christmas parade.



The Grinch was present throughout the Livingston Christmas parade and events after.



A very small girl rode in a remote controlled car bringing up the rear of the Livingston Christmas parade.

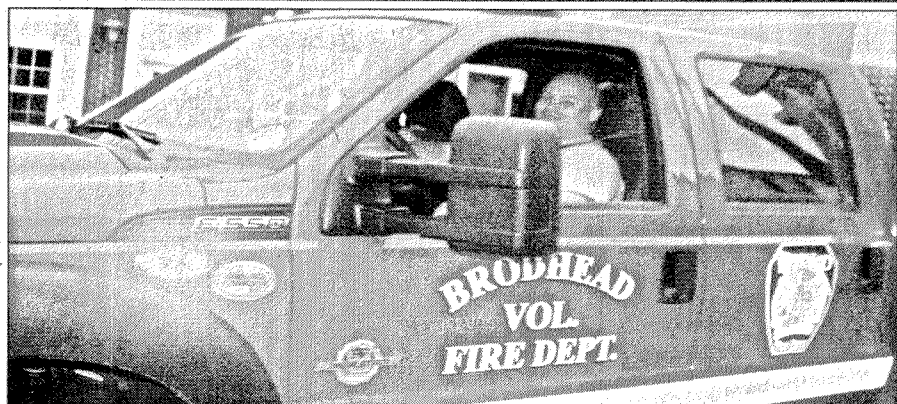


Some children had the chance to ride in fire trucks during the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.

The Signal office will be closed
December 22 through January 1



This custom classic drew smiles from car enthusiasts at the Livingston Christmas parade.



Assistant Chief Brian Bullock drove one of the Brodhead fire trucks in the Livingston Christmas parade.



Fire trucks were a popular participant in all the parades in the county.

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



Merry Christmas

Thank you for placing your confidence
in our family for over 100 years.



Cox Funeral Home

Family Owned & Operated Since 1907
Lewis Cox, Shirley Cox, Sherry Cox, Kevin Fletcher
80 Maple Dr. • Mt. Vernon, KY
Phone Anytime Day or Night
visit us at www.coxfuneralhomeky.com

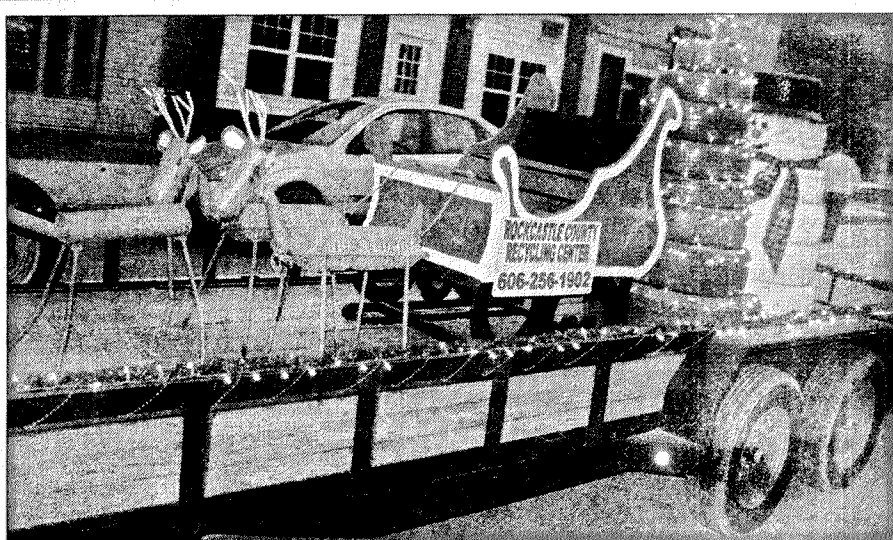


Locally
256-2345
or toll-free
1-888-825-2345

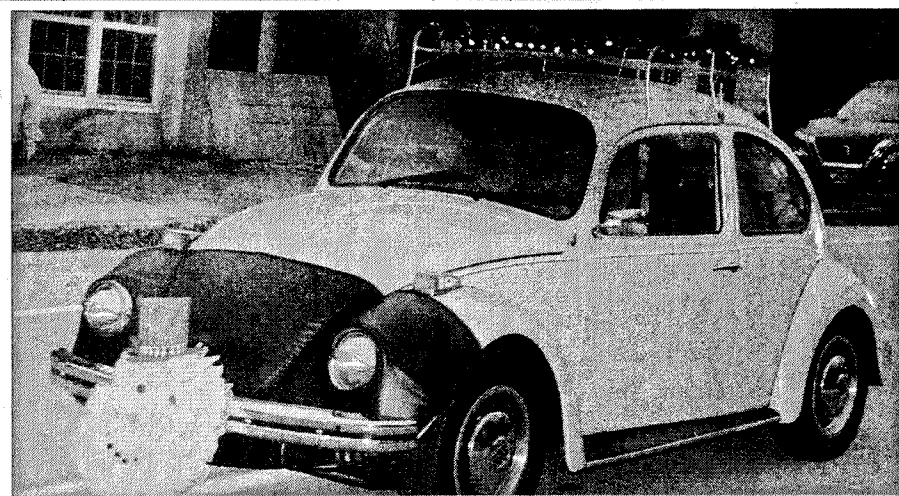




Mustangs are always a favorite among parade entries and this one was not disappointing.



The Rockcastle Recycling plant float rode down Main Street in the Livingston Christmas parade.



This classic Volkswagon was a popular vehicle in the Livingston Christmas parade.



Pleasant Run Missionary Baptist Church was one of the well-loved floats in Saturday's Christmas parade in Livingston.



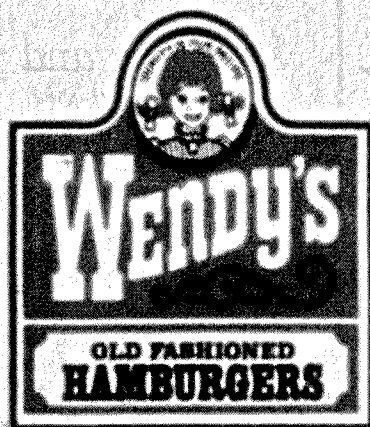
Four wheelers were a popular in the Livingston parade Sturday.



This dune buggy brought cheers as it drove down Main Street in Livingston during the Christmas parade.

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!

*From Chris Settles and
all the employees at*



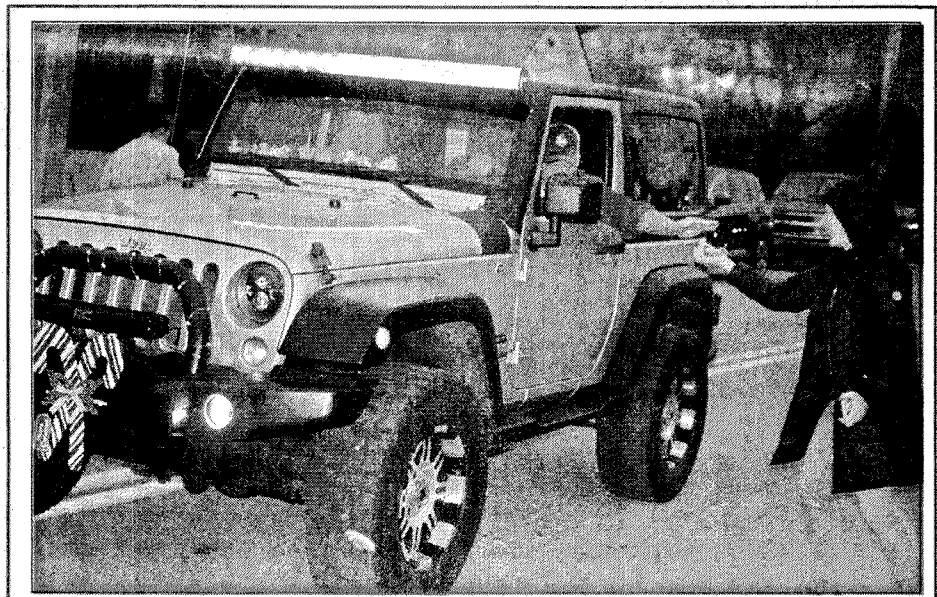
US 25 North • Mt. Vernon • 256-5611 or 256-0818

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.

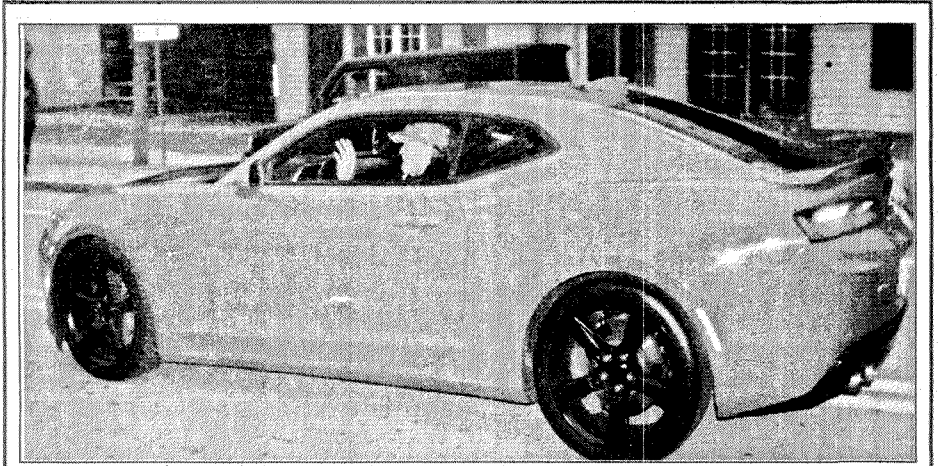




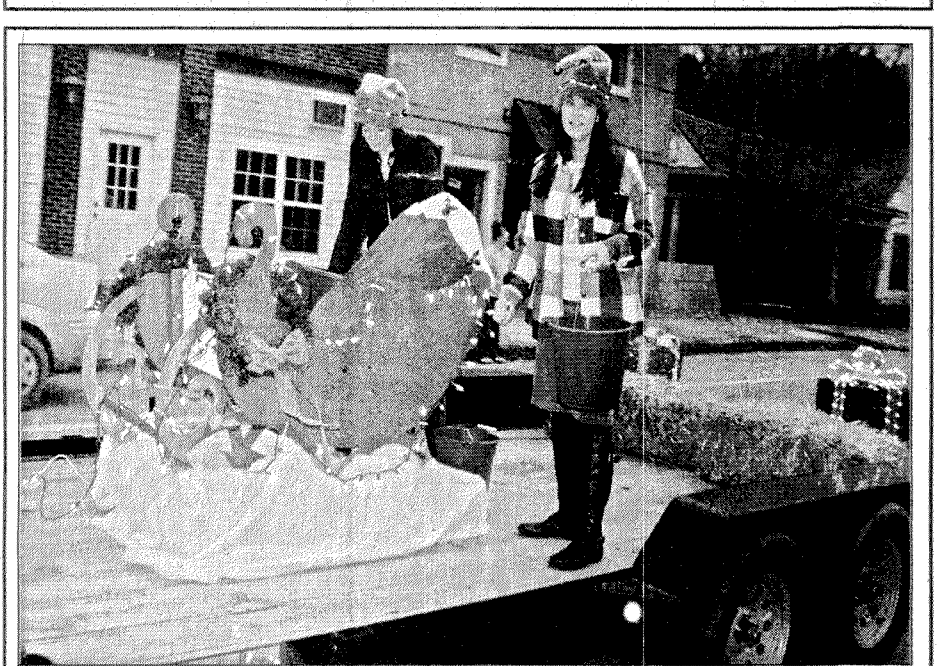
This Chevrolet Camaro was driven by Magistrate Mike McGuire in the Livingston parade Saturday.



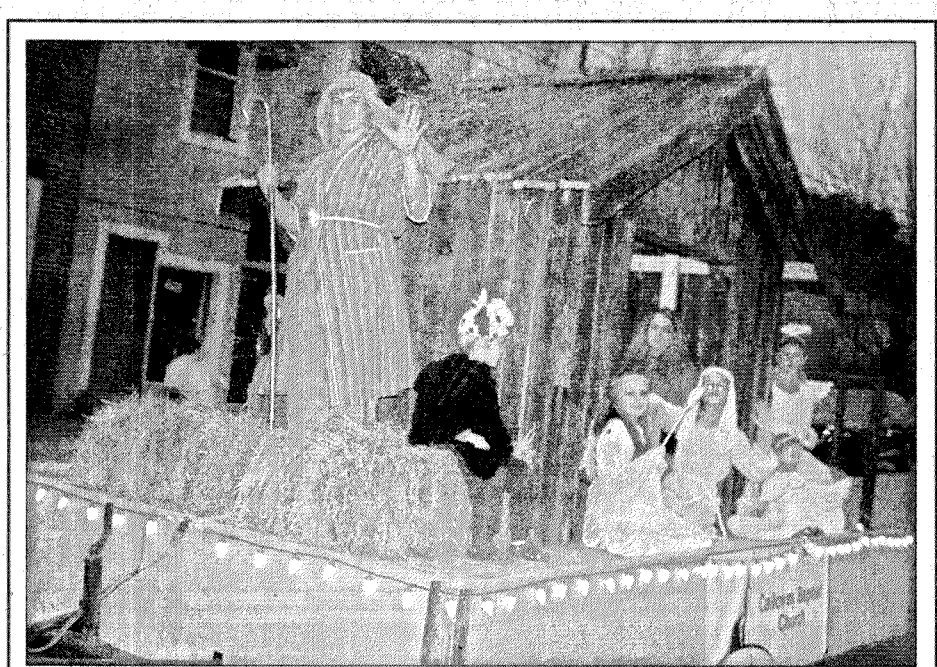
Another Jeep was well decorated in the Livingston parade Saturday.



Fast and fancy cars were popular in the Livingston Christmas parade.



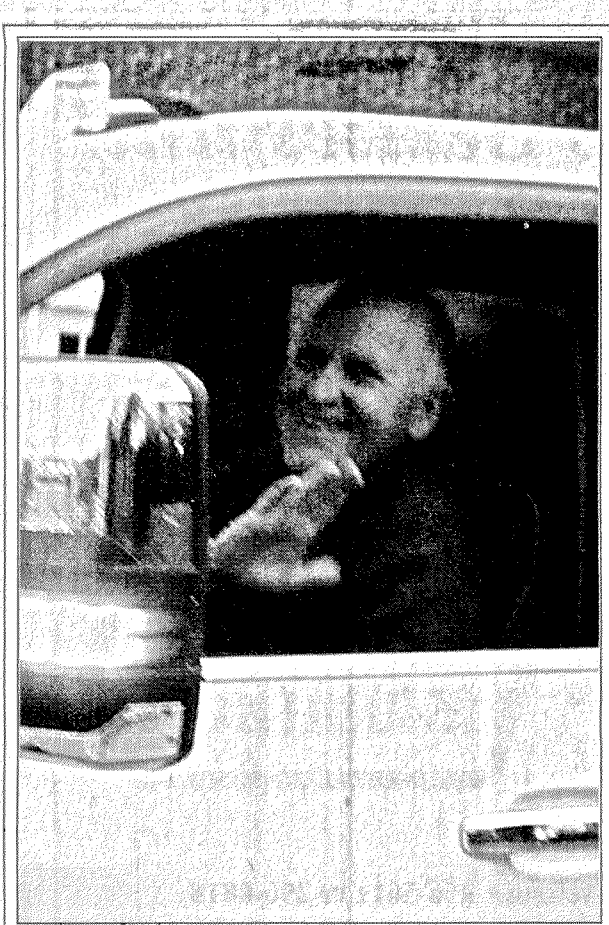
Judge Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr.'s family shared treats with those in attendance at the Livingston Christmas parade.



Calloway Baptist Church entered their nativity scene in the Livingston Christmas parade.



Climax Volunteer Fire Department took part in the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.



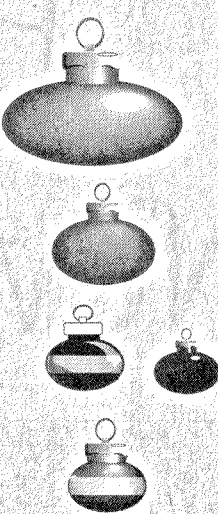
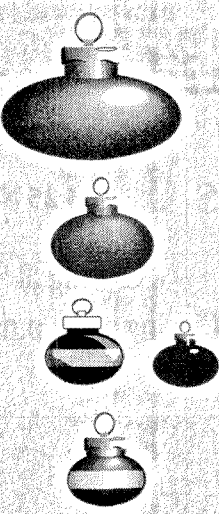

Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. pulled one of the floats in the Livingston Christmas parade with bubbles filling the air.




All sorts of characters took part in the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.

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 and all her employees at





Back row from left: Troy Lear, Eric Burke, Blake Powell and Greyson Hikel.
Left middle: Angel Smith and Kirsten Moore. Left front from left: Russell Hood and Lucy Cole. Beside Colonel Sanders from left: Denise Wallin, Jamie Daniels, Teresa Gentry, Jackson Reams, Dalton Hopkins, Linda Bowman and front Dora Lee Griffith.

KFC closing Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. • Closed Christmas Day • Regular Hours Through New Years



Mount Vernon's fire department took part in the Livingston Christmas parade.



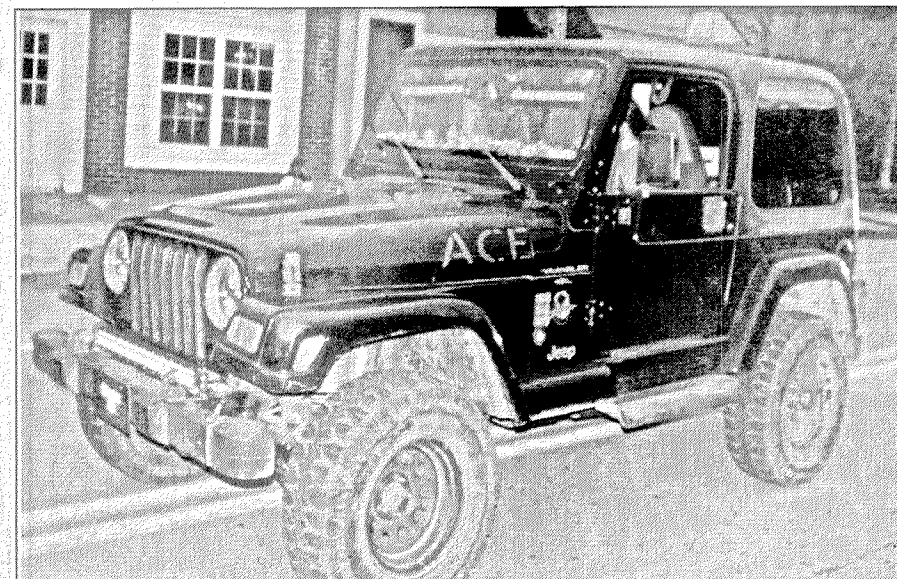
Several Livingston fire trucks took part in the Christmas parade Saturday.



East Bernstadt Fire Department took part in the Livingston parade.



The Rockcastle County Sheriff's office was seen in the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.



Jeeps have been a popular theme this year at local parades.



Livingston Mayor Larry Davidson dressed in a Santa suit during the annual Christmas parade Saturday.



Mrs. Claus (Commissioner Sandi Singleton) and others took pictures of the Livingston Christmas parade as it passed through town.



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



Seated: Jenni Ellis, Robyn Fain and Jerusha Robinson.
Back row from left: Cooper Ford, Conner Ford, Ella Ford, John Ford, Beatrice Robinson, Hannah Robinson, Alexander Robinson and Owen Hazelwood.

Main St. • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-4405

No paper next week,
December 28th

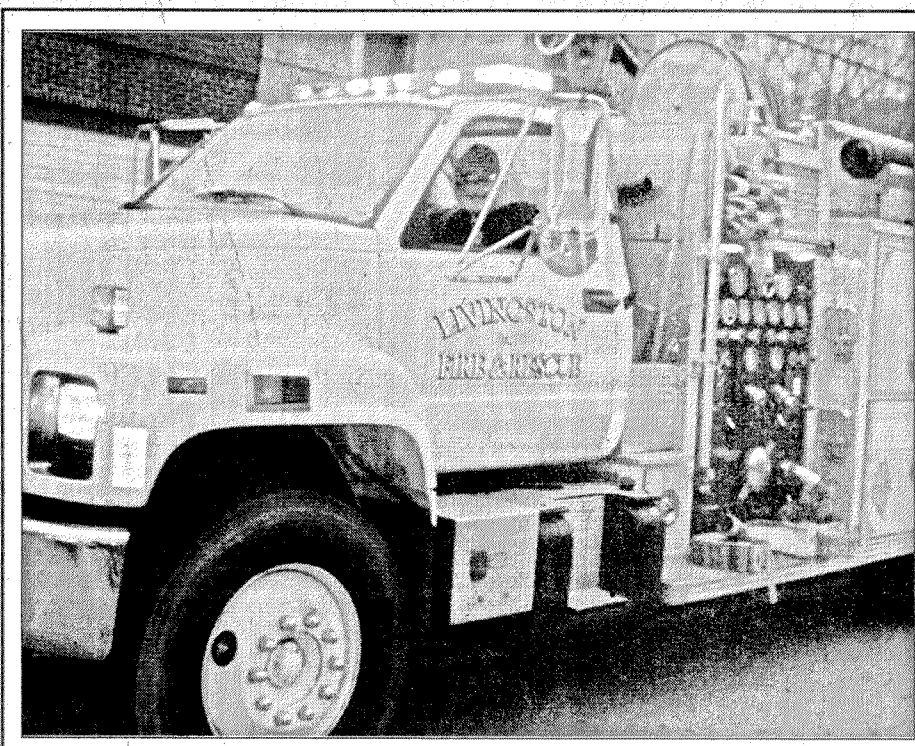
Signal office
will be closed
December 22nd -
January 1st



Santa rode in the 1937 Mount Vernon fire truck in the Livingston parade.



Santa (Bob Wilson) was born the same year as the 1937 firetruck that delivered him to town this year.



This was one of several Livingston fire trucks in the parade Saturday.



Livingston Fire and Rescue had sirens blaring during the Christmas parade Saturday.



Rockcastle County Fire departments were well represented during the Livingston Christmas parade Saturday.



The Rockcastle Outdoor Company van pulled one the the floats during the Livingston Christmas parade.



Police Chief Travis Davis led the Livingston Christmas parade last Saturday.



The Brodhead Police Department was well represented in the Livingston Christmas parade.



Some bystanders climbed on cars to get a good view of the Livingston parade.

Merry
Christmas
from
French
Photography

Merry Christmas

May peace and joy come to you during this holy season

Mathis Insurance Agency

dba South Central Insurance

Auto • Life • Home

20 Church St. • Mt. Vernon

256-0047

Santa Letters

Jamie Bryant's First Grade MVES Class

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been good all year. You should know that I want a pooping flamingo for Christmas. I hope that it snows.
Love,
Ella Lunsford
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good and a little naughty. You should know Santa Clause. I like his reindeer. I hope I get a dog.
Love,
Ella Lovell
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good and bad all year. You should know I want makeup for Christmas. I hope you get me makeup for Christmas.
Love,
Myla M.
Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I have been good and naughty. You should know I want furbies and a LOL. I hope it snows on Christmas.
Love,
Laura
Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I have been pretty good. You should know the toys I like. I hope to see my mommy.
Love,
Dalton
Dear Santa,
How are your elves? I have been naughty and good. You should know how to make presents. I hope your elves are good like Casper and Cici.
Love,
Myla F.
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good and naughty. You should know if I am on the

naughty or nice list. I want a bouncy house. I hope you enjoy the cookies.
Love,
Evaleigh
Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Claus and Rudolph? I have been pretty good. You should know I want a dog. I hope you bring a dog to me.
Love,
Maryanna
Dear Santa,
How are you and how are the elves? I have been naughty a little and I have been good. You should know I want to get a 410 shotgun. I hope you get my message.
Love,
Dylan
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good all year. You should know I'm on the good list. I hope you have a sled.
Love,
Chase
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good all year. You should know what I want. I hope I get a new case for my ipad.
Love,
Rylee
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good most of the year. You should know I want a ps5 and Madden+ VR! I hope it snows on Christmas.
Love,
Greyson
Dear Santa,
I love you. How are the elves? I have been good and naughty. You should know I want a baby doll. I hope you are safe.
Love,
Hunter
Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I

have been good all year. You should know I want more stuff. I hope it is snowing on Christmas.
Love,
Isla
Dear Santa,
How are the elves and Rudolph? I have been bada little. You should know I want hot wheels. I hope you have a big beard.
Love,
Randall
Dear Santa,
How is Blitzen? I have been good and naughty. You should know I want a girlfriend. I hope you have a big beard.
Love,
Nirvana
Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I have been good all year. You should know I want a hoverboard. I hope I see you.
Love,
Carson
Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been good all year. You should know if I am on the good list or on the naughty list. I hope you bring a jet to me.
Love,
Camden

Robin Bowman's First Grade MVES Class

Dear Santa,
My name is Ben and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a PS5, 100 Paw Patrol toys and a
Dear Santa,
My name is Emmy and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a tub to put my orbeez's in, a new Barbie doll and Legos.
Dear Santa,
My name is Gunnar and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a ball that you throw, a

football, and a football helmet.
Dear Santa,
My name is Elijah S. and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are Hot Wheels cars, a Paw Patrol van, and a Spiderman airplane.
Dear Santa,
My name is Elijah D. and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a kitten, a Nintendo Switch and a few trains.
Dear Santa,
My name is Maelynn and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are LOL dolls, Squishmallows and toys for my baby brother and baby sister.
Dear Santa,

My name is Harper and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a kitten, Squishmallows, and a Nintendo Switch.
Dear Santa,

My name is Preston and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a PS4, a new 4-wheeler, and a new bike.
Dear Santa,

My name is Lennon and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a Bluey toy, a Nerf gun, and Hot Wheels.
Dear Santa,

My name is Mackenzie and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a Pikachu plushie, Stitch plushie, and a puppy plushie.
Dear Santa,

My name is Zoey and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are LOL dolls, Squishmallows, and cute necklaces.

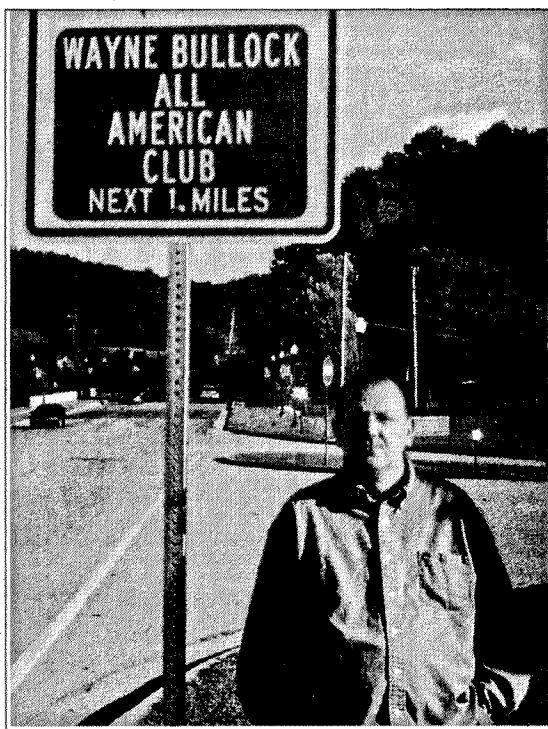
Dear Santa,
My name is Connor and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a puppy, a PS5, and the Fortnite game.
Dear Santa,
My name is Kaydee and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a Bluey toy, a Squishmallow, and Nintendo Switch.
Dear Santa,

My name is Michael and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wish is a ukulele.
Dear Santa,

My name is Skylar and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are

a Squishmallow, a paint set and a bunny.
Dear Santa,
My name is Shasta and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are jewelry, a big Twix, coloring books, notebooks, Squishmallows and baby Jesus.
Dear Santa,
My name is Jaxson and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are race cars, monster trucks, dinosaurs and Legos.
Dear Santa,
My name is Kadence and I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice! My Christmas wishes are a velociraptor, the new Barbie movie, and a doctor's kit set.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Charles Wayne Bullock
City Mt. Vernon Councilman
All-American Club President

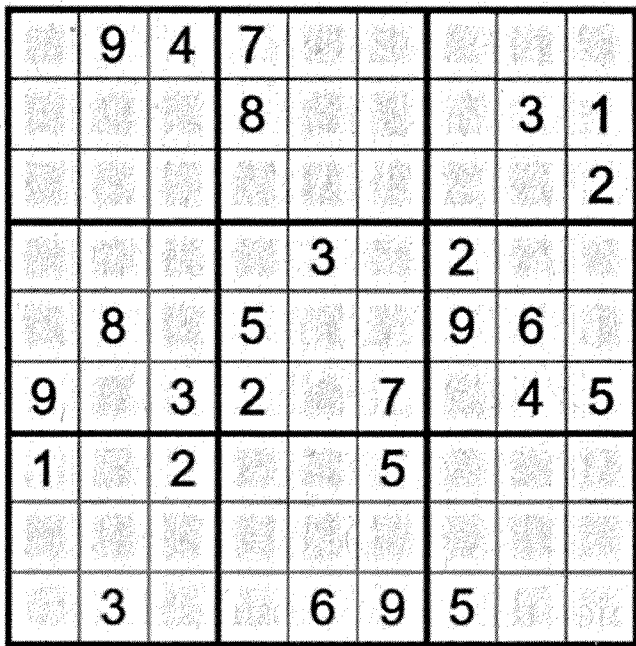
Sugar Mountain Trading Co.



Kentucky Hand Crafted Soap

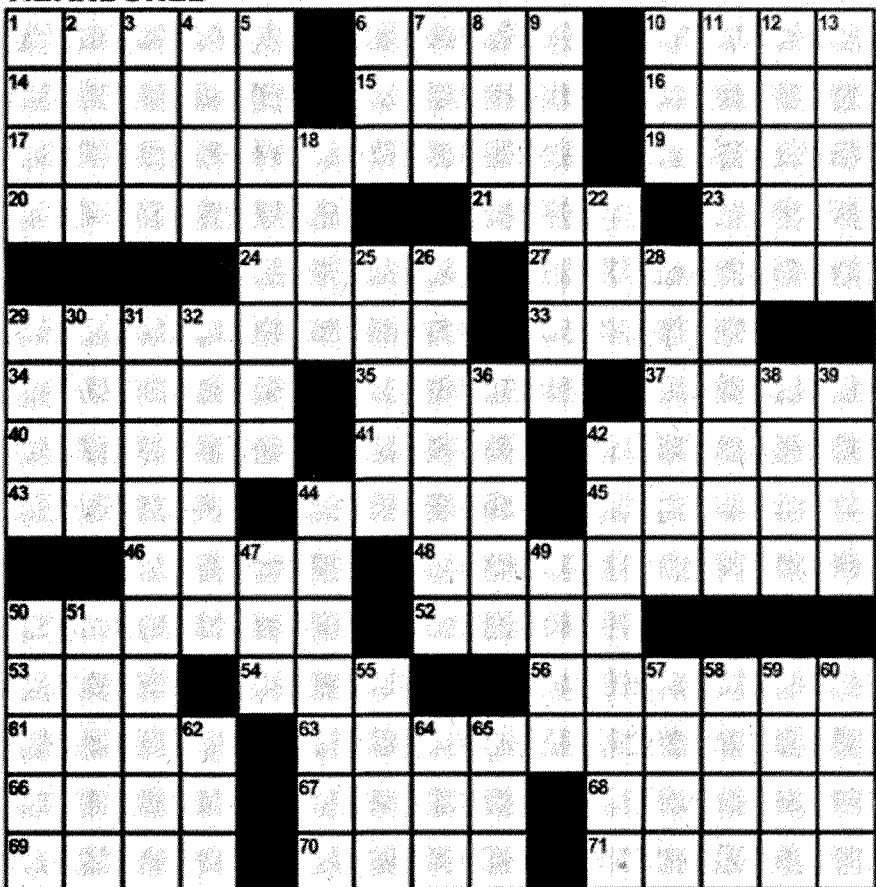
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SUGAR'S PUZZLE PAGE

ABANDONED



ACROSS

- Apartment pest, briefly
- Something that's often made up
- Fruit with a stone
- Domed home
- Khan (var.)
- Gambling mecca
- Didn't finish, as school
- Mare's feedbag fill
- "Irish" dog
- Shell's game?
- Engage in rivalry
- Deed encumbrance
- To a great extent
- Chronological order
- Apartment listing datum
- Jack-in-the-pulpits, e.g.
- The Tramp's beloved
- Sheepish cry
- Seizes firmly
- A word with you?
- Inexpensive cigar
- Piedmont wine center
- Gossiper's topic
- Testimonial dinner, e.g.
- Rugged rock formation
- Conscience
- Like moments of silence
- Apple source
- Eggs, to a biologist
- It may cook your goose
- Ridges on ranges
- Produce steam
- Wipe one's hands of
- "Tickle-me" character
- back (easy-going)
- message (made one's point)
- "Lady Sings the Blues" star
- cut a living (barely got by)
- Auto tire necessity

DOWN

- Gets free (of)
- Jack's giant
- What little things mean?
- Egyptian Christian
- Beyond repair
- Current "in" thing
- Before today
- Drink really quickly
- Corrode
- One who is not amateurish
- Stop bothering
- Up to the point that
- Stroll like a cowpoke
- Leprechaun's land
- "Aye, aye ___!"
- Showy success
- Most proximate
- Usurer's victim
- "The Forsyte"
- Does the wrong thing
- Some deed types
- One facing the pitcher
- Voice an objection
- Eagerly expecting
- Greenhorn
- Most transparent
- Of low character
- Band trailer item
- Heraldic fur
- Not at all tipsy
- Quarter-round molding
- Boat-deck wood
- Ornamental jug
- Pitchfork piece
- Jazz singer Jones
- Fish of the herring family
- Alamos, N.M.
- Board game roller
- Not divisible by two

Winter Wonderland



NIPPY
SNOWBALL
HOT CHOCOLATE
SNOWFLAKE
FROSTY
ICICLE
SKATING
WONDERLAND
SLEDDING
FROZEN
BLIZZARD
SKIING
SNOWFALL
GLISTEN
WINTER

DAR presents awards at Christmas Dinner

Rockcastle Chapter Regent Karen Adams presented several awards at the chapter's annual Christmas dinner. In the top photo Debbie Brown received the DAR medal of appreciation for her many years of promoting the work of DAR. In the second photo, Lisa Lewis was presented her 20-year service award. In the third photo, Regent Adams also welcomed newest member Dolores Morris to the chapter and presented her with a welcome packet. In the fourth photo Regent Adams and Historic Preservation Chair Tonya Cook presented Cecil Houck the Excellence in American History Award for his many years of preserving Rockcastle history and for his work at the Rockcastle Historical Society. The chapter raised nearly \$1700 with their annual fundraiser auction with Santa and his helper as auctioneers as seen in the bottom, photo. The proceeds from the auction go towards projects for education, historic preservation and patriotism.



By Brandon Storm
State Senator
Wishing you a Merry Christmas

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." — Isaiah 9:6

As we approach the holiday season, I extend warm wishes to each of you and your families—a heartfelt Merry Christmas. During your busy schedules, I encourage you to carve out moments for family and reflect on the season's true reason.

With 2024 just around the corner, it's hard to believe how swiftly time has

Legislative Update

passed since the whirlwind of Thanksgiving. Christmas is upon us, evident in the twinkling lights on trees, the glow of candles in windows, and the anticipation in children writing their wish lists to Santa.

Here in Kentucky, Christmas unfolds with a unique blend of Southern charm. Our hometowns come alive with festive decorations, and families unite, merging the warmth of shared moments with the essence of faith. This season is synonymous with giving, presenting a prime opportunity for communities to support those less fortunate.

Community holds a

special place in Kentucky, and our acts of kindness define the holiday spirit. Neighbors exchange cookies, and families extend helping hands to those in need, embodying the central essence of the Christian faith. I urge you to contribute to this tradition by assisting those less fortunate.

As we gather around the dinner table or Christmas tree to create memories with family and friends or to worship with our congregation, remember those who work during the holidays. Extend gratitude and kindness for our military service members, abroad or overseas—

away from their loved ones—our first responders who will cover the shifts many of us will be fortunate to be home during. Also, express kindness to those within retail as you wrap up your holiday shopping.

I am honored by the privilege of serving as your Senator. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we partake in church services, family dinners, and cherished traditions, let's remember that this season is where faith, family and tradition converge, creating a distinctly Bluegrass Christmas atmosphere.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." — Luke 2:14



Merry Christmas from the City of Mt. Vernon



May you and your family enjoy the many blessings that give true meaning to the holiday season.

We feel privileged and blessed to have you as our customers.

Thank you for your patronage.

Tobacco Barn

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Closing at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve • Closed Christmas Day

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

Chism Drive Thru Storage. 9 1/2 x14 indoor units. \$50. 24 hr. access and security cameras. 859-559-9903. 3xntf

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. 14xntf

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
606-308-2491

Property For Sale

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

Posted

Posted: No hunting, trespassing, dumping, ATVs on land owned by Lawrence and Kendra Claunch on Cove Branch Road (known as Buzzard Rock). Violators will be prosecuted. 44x2

Posted: No trespassing on property owned by Shannon Hellard on Cove Branch Road in Rockcastle County. All violators will be prosecuted. 8/17/23

Posted: No trespassing or hunting on land belonging to Wayne and Marie Bullock on Kincade Ridge Road. 39x24

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: Absolutely no trespassing on land belonging to LJJ Honeycomb LLC for any reason. Formerly known as Christ Outreach for the Blind. Violators will be prosecuted. 33(23)x25

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on farms, belonging to Gary and Peggy Roberts, on KY 3245. Violators will be prosecuted. (46(24)x52)

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on land belonging to Orville and Bernice Burkhardt on Cove Branch, Livingston, Mt. Vernon. Anyone entering the property must be with Orville Burkhardt. Violators will be prosecuted. 35(23)x51p

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

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on Carlton Hunt Property, located at 230 Frosty Hollow Road, Mt. Vernon. Violators will be prosecuted. 43x2p

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on the former Berl Hopkins' land (now belonging to Judy Hopkins Marsh) on KY 461 near US 150 and KY 461 intersection. 40(23)x25

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 be-

longing 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 Benge property).

Posted: No trespassing on property known as C.B. Owens Farm across from Fairgrounds in Brodhead. Violators will be prosecuted. 25ftn

Miscellaneous For Sale

Cresthaven Cemetery Plots. Contact Billy Dowell, 606-308-1058. 39xntf

Notices

I will be selling a 2019 Ford F250, Vin #1FT7W2BT6KEF87925 on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 11:30 a.m for storage and repair bills. Inspection of the vehicle is only available by calling 859-699-6300 for an appointment. 43x3

Notice is hereby given that Peggy Mitchell, 1097 Muirfield Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45245, has been appointed Executrix of the Estate of Charles Evert Murray, deceased, on the 4th day of December 2023. Any person having claims against said Estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Peggy Mitchell or to Hon. John D. Ford, P.O. Box 247, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456 on or before June 5, 2024 at 11 a.m. 43x3

Notice is hereby given that Zach Ellison, 2628 Copper Creek Road, Crab Orchard, Ky 40419, has been appointed Executor of the Estate of Glenn Edward Ellison, deceased, on the 11th day of December 2023. Any person having claims against said Estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Zach Ellison or to Hon. William A. Leger, P.O. Box 1250, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456, on or before June 12, 2024 at 11 a.m. 44x3

Notice is hereby given that Angie Yauger, 49 Barnswallow Lane, Mt. Vernon, Ky 40456, has been appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Brian Yauger, Sr., deceased, on the 6th day of

December 2023. Any person having claims against said Estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Angie Yauger or to Hon. B. Travis Newman, 2420 Frankfort Avenue, Suite 300, Louisville, KY 40206 on or before June 10, 2024 at 11 a.m.

Lost

Lost: Male German Shepherd, answers to Jake. Has two collars - one is a training collar. \$100 reward. Last seen in Benton Bullock Subdv. If found, please call 606-256-0454. 44x2

Suicide Warning for Youth

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.



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Mount Vernon Signal

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The Rockcastle JROTC hosted a Winter Clothing Drive during the first two weeks of December. In the drive, the Rockcastle JROTC collected 832 items which amounted to 447 pounds of clothes to donate to the CAP (Christian Appalachian Project) program.

Wildlands Ambassador needed from Rockcastle

The Kentucky Wildlands announces 2024 Ambassador Program to expand and promote tourism in Southern and Eastern Kentucky

The Kentucky Wildlands, a regional tourism marketing initiative, is excited to announce a 2024 Ambassador Program that will expand and promote Southern and Eastern Kentucky as a regional tourism destination.

The newly launched program is seeking tourism Ambassadors to share the region's rich heritage and showcase the natural beauty of The Kentucky Wildlands, a sprawling 14,000-square-mile region spanning 41 Southern and Eastern Kentucky counties.

"We're very excited to launch this program," said Tammie Nazario, director of The Kentucky Wildlands. "We already have some amazing ambassadors who helped launch the popular Kentucky Wildlands Waterfall Trail and now we're

ready to grow that network as we move toward future projects."

The goal of the program is to turn every visitor encounter into a positive experience and grow new storytellers for Eastern Kentucky. Storytelling has always been one of the most effective ways to connect with people, especially in Appalachia. This desire to share one's story and be surrounded by listeners is what makes this program powerful.

Ambassadors will work in partnership with The Kentucky Wildlands to represent the region in a positive light and establish brand recognition; create online content such as reviews, posts, and blogs; facilitate communication by reviewing and listening to visitors' comments and suggestions and relaying them to the team; and attending or helping to organize tourism events.

If interested in becoming a 2024 Ambassador, please visit www.explorekywildlands.com

and fill out an application form. For more information, contact The Kentucky Wildlands at 606-677-6150 or email administrator@kywildlands.com.

The Kentucky Wildlands serves Adair, Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Estill, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe counties.

No paper next week!

*Signal office will be closed
December 22nd - January 1st*



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

MAMAW'S KITCHEN

Regina Poynter Hoskins

KENTUCKY BEER CHEESE BISCUIT

2 cups flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
12 tablespoons cold, unsalted butter, diced
1/2 cup cold buttermilk, shaken
2 eggs, 1 reserved for egg wash
4 ounces beer cheese, room temperature
1 tablespoon water

Preheat oven to 425°. Add flour and baking powder to large bowl. With an eclectic mixer fitted with dough hooks if you have them or the regular beaters will work. With the mixer set on low, add in the butter and mix until the butter is broken into little balls. Whisk the buttermilk, whole egg, and beer cheese in a measuring cup. Add it to the flour and butter mixture, still mixing on low speed. Once mixed, remove the dough from the bowl and knead it on a floured board. Roll the dough out into a 10- by 5-inch rectangle. The dough should be around 1/2 inch thick. With a sharp, floured knife, cut the dough lengthwise in half and then across in quarters, making 8 rough rectangles. Separate the

second egg, place the white in a small dish and add the water to make an egg wash. Save yolk for another dish (maybe cornbread?). Arrange the rectangles on a baking sheet and brush the tops with the egg wash. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until brown and somewhat puffy.

DEBBIE'S BISCUITS

4 cups self-rising flour
2 tbsp of baking powder
2/3 cup of shortening
3 tbsp of butter
1 cup milk
3/4 cup buttermilk

Preheat oven to 450°. Mix flour and baking powder together, then mix in shortening and butter. Lastly, stir in milk and buttermilk until soft dough forms. Place extra flour on the plate. Spoon only enough dough for a large biscuit onto flour in plate. Sprinkle flour over biscuit dough and pick up dough; pass it from hand to hand a couple times and then put it on baking sheet. Repeat until all biscuit dough is on sheet. Now pour 1/4 teaspoon melted butter on top of each biscuit; bake for 15 to 20 minutes.



from

Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance

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From left: Christa Taylor, Chelsea Bell, John Lawson, Amber Miller, Marlene Lawson and Crystal Griffin.

Office Closed December 25th & 26th and January 1st

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

& Happy New Year

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our neighbors and friends

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Donnie Singleton

**Closed December 25th & 26th
and January 1st**

