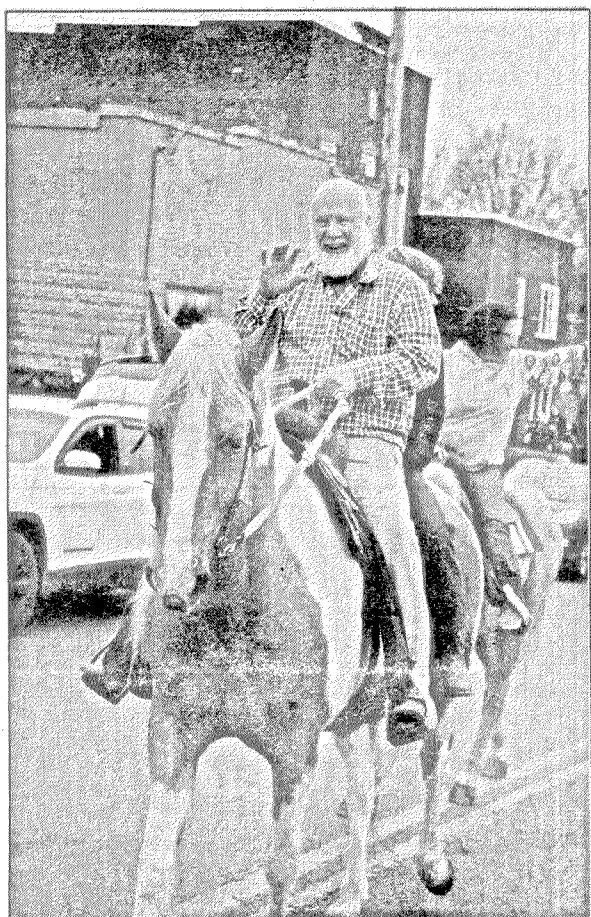


Scenes from Mount Vernon Christmas Parade



One of the longest parades in Mount Vernon history started down Main Street.



Riders enjoyed their horses during the Mount vernon Christmas parade.



Santa and Mrs. Claus (Spencer Benge and Dr. Carrie Ballinger) waved at the crowd during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



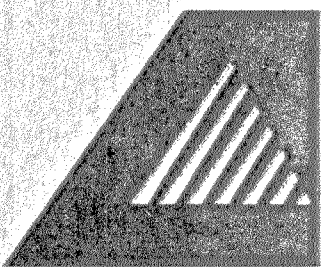
An anxious crowd awaiting the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.

Merry Christmas

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



Front row from left: Betty Frederick, Khristy Couch, Rachel Taylor, Jaclyn Bullock and Bernice Whitehead.
Back row from left: Keith Pierce, Julie Pigg, Lisa Hopkins, Amber Reynolds and Sandy Durham.
Not pictured: Anthony Asher, Cathy Howard and Malinda Pigg.



Community Trust® Bank

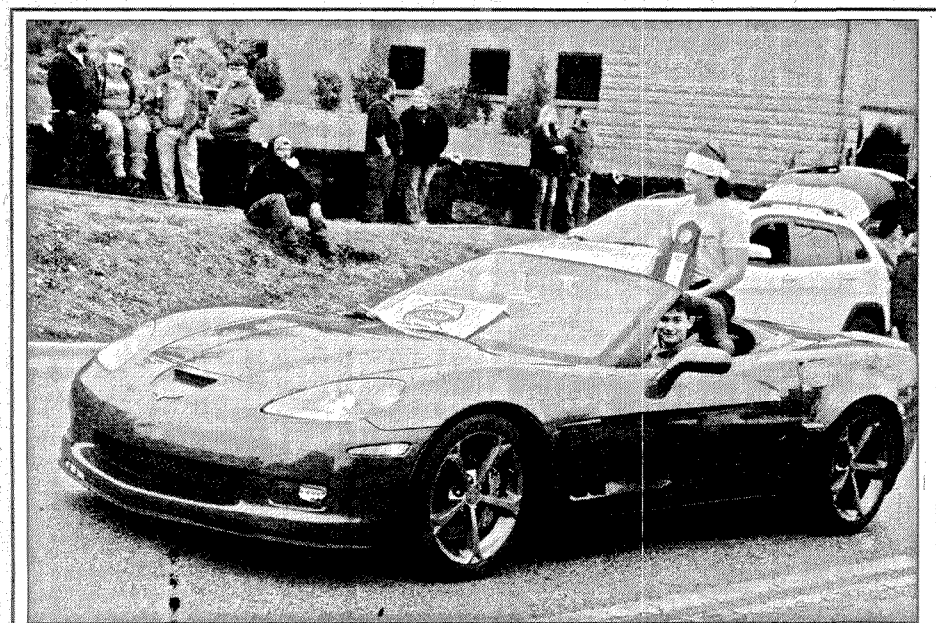
Highway 461 Bypass • Mt. Vernon
606-256-5141

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

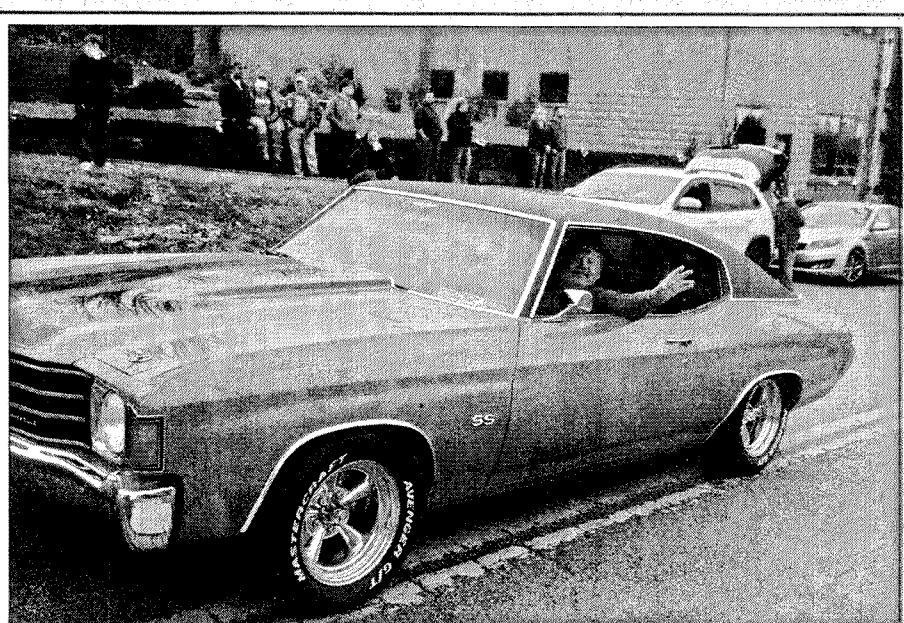


Member
FDIC

Closed
December 25th and
January 1st



More members of the RCHS Golf Team serving as Grand Marshal.



Carlos McClure drove his classic Chevelle Super Sport in the parade.



Many different types of fire vehicles were represented in the parade.



The RCHS Golf Team served as Grand Marshal for the Christmas Parade.



Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook Jr. and family members took part in Mount Vernon's Christmas parade.



Fire Departments were well represented during the Mount Vernon Parade.

Merry Christmas

from the Rockcastle County Chamber of Commerce

Ace Hardware
Berea Chamber
Bishop Tire

Cabin Connections
CASA of Southern KY
Chapin Manufacturing
Christian Appalachian
Project

Citizens Bank
Citizens Insurance
City of Livingston
City of Mt. Vernon

Community Trust Bank
Cox Funeral Home
Cumberland Workforce
Development

Danetta Allen
Daniel Boone Action Agency
Design & Service
EST Tool

Fireglow Forest Campground
Ford Brothers
Goff Excavating
Hospice Care Plus
Hotwire Productions

Hunt's Trucking
Jackson Energy
Kentucky American Water
Kentucky Farm Bureau
Kentucky Utilities

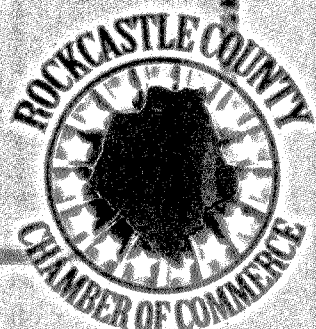
KFC of Mt. Vernon
King Bottling Co.
KOA Campground
Lifeline Rockcastle Home Health
Limestone Bar & Grille
Mahaffey Quick Lube
Michael Bryant

Mink Apartments
Mt. Vernon Marathon
Mt. Vernon Signal
Owens Funeral Home
Phillips' Properties

Plastisud
Renfro Valley Entertainment
Rockcastle Co. Board of Ed
Rockcastle Co. Circuit Clerk
Rockcastle Co. Development Board
Rockcastle Co. Fiscal Court
RCIDA

Rockcastle Co. Tourist Commission
Rockcastle Health & Rehabilitation
Rockcastle Outdoor Company
Rockcastle Regional Hospital
Rockcastle Riverside
Rockcastle Skills U
Rodeway Inn
RTEC

Smith Backhoe, LLC
Tamara Clontz, CPA
Valley View Apartments
Victory Counseling
Weichert Realty
Whitaker Bank
White House Clinics





Children lined Main street during the parade picking up candy that was tossed from parade entries.



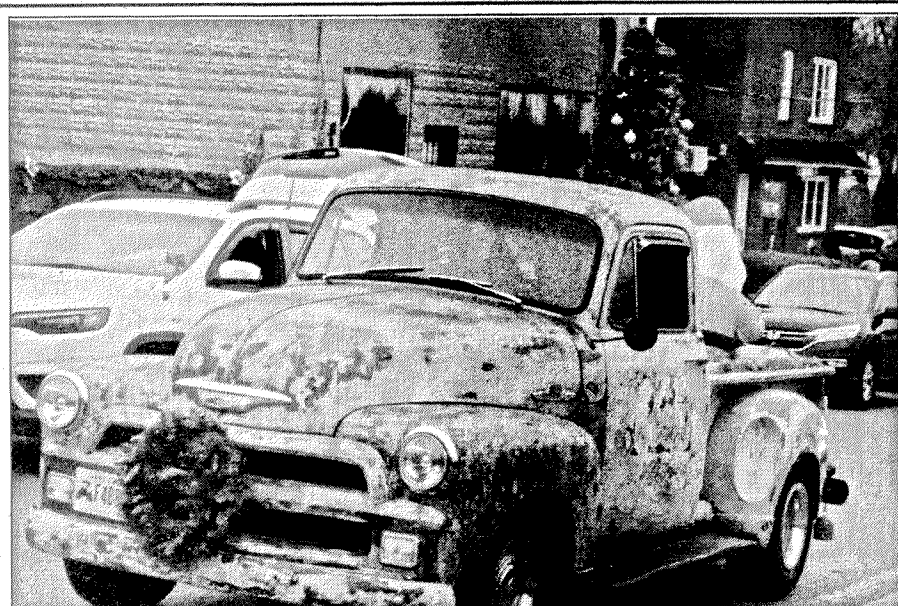
Fire trucks, tankers and ladder trucks filled Main Street during the parade.



Mount Vernon displayed several fire vehicles during the parade.



Candy was shared with the crowd from Howell Holbrook, Jr.'s float.



Brandon Gross took second place in the Other category with his entry.



All county fire departments took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.

A Hillbilly Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas
 And far from my home,
 A little bit scared as I traveled alone,
 I stopped to rest and rented a cabin,
 Late in the night, unsure what might happen.
 I settled in quick and went right to bed
 Happy at last to just lay down my head,
 When all of a sudden somewhere on the mountain,
 The Hillbillies began singing, dancing, shoutin'.
 The sound was like thunder, it woke the whole town,
 The Hillbillies were having a Christmas Ho-Down.
 Me in my cabin unable to sleep,
 Standing in nightshirt and only sock feet.
 No hope for rest I decided to go,
 So I dressed myself warmly, and walked out of my
 cabin
 And into the cold.
 Walking in the moonlight on a new fallen snow,
 Passing through the woods to a place I didn't know.
 I arrived at the cabin not sure of the time,
 It was a very big cabin much larger than mine.
 The inside was well lit and gave off a glow,
 That shone out the windows and on to the snow.
 Taking a breath, I knocked on the door,
 The host was a man I had never seen before.
 After looking me over, saying get on in here!
 Once inside I knew I had nothing to fear,
 Even hillbillies won't shoot you this time of the year.
 The festival inside was wonderful to see,
 The hillbillies were happy as happy could be.
 In the corner an old jug band was playing a song,
 In the center of the room a great dance going on.
 I was invited to dance, but danced very little,
 When I saw a great table just loaded with vittles.
 After filling my plate and a jar of country wine,
 I sat with the hillbillies and started to dine.
 After eating and dancing for most of the night,
 I realized these hillbillies are really all right.
 Growing tired and sleepy, and ready to go,
 I thanked my new friends as I walked out the door.
 As I headed toward my cabin the stars as my light,
 I was filled with new hope on this wonderful night.
 Arriving back home and warm in my cabin,
 I pondered this night, and all that had happened.
 Lying in bed, I thought of this place,
 My heart filled with joy and warmth of God's grace.
 So for all of earth's people, and all of life's faces,
 And for those far from home, staying in strange
 places,
 I prayed to our Lord on this most Holy of Nights,
 Take care and watch over us and help us do right.
 Merry Christmas, God Bless...and to all a Good Night!!
 L.H. Bennett

No paper next week!
 Signal office
 will be closed
 Dec. 21st - Jan. 1st

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from your friends at the

Rockcastle County P.V.A. Office



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

Third Floor Courthouse • Telephone 256-4194

Closed December 25th & 26th
 December 29th & January 1st



Fire and rescue vehicles filled the parade in Mount Vernon.



Police departments across the county took part in the Mount Vernon parade.



Climax Vol. Fire Department's float in Mount Vernon's parade.



Many children had the chance to ride in the parade in Mount Vernon.



Climax was one of the county fire departments that displayed their fire vehicles during the Mount Vernon parade.



Parade entries tossed candy and treats to those watching along Main Street.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Rockcastle County Clerk
Danetta.Allen@ky.gov



STATEWIDE MOTOR VEHICLE SYSTEM LAUNCHES IN JANUARY 2024

MT. VERNON, KY (DECEMBER 7, 2023): A transition to modernize and improve the statewide computer system which processes all motor vehicle transactions in County Clerk's offices will begin after the close of business on Friday, December 29, 2023. AVIS, the system currently used, is a DOS based system created in the late 70s. "As you can imagine, the old system is dying. We are looking forward to this new technology and a customer-based system that KAVIS will provide," Danetta Ford Allen, County Clerk.

Customers who need to renew vehicle tags in December or customers who have not renewed your tags from any previous month for 2023, please make time to complete your transactions prior to 4PM on December 29, 2023. Unfortunately, customers who renew in January 2024, cannot do so in December because the 2024 tax rates and assessments will not be input until after the close of business on December 29, 2023.

Customers can renew by phone with a debit/credit card at 606-256-2831, or in-person until December 29, 2023. Any mail received in the office by December 29, 2023, and in proper order to complete the transaction, will be completed in the 2023 year. The www.drive.ky.gov web renewals process for 2023 will be operational through December 27, 2023 and will be restored the week of January 8, 2024.

At the close of business on December 29, 2023, AVIS data will be transferred to the new KAVIS system. This transition is expected to take 7 - 9 full days. KAVIS will go live after the data successfully transfers, with more counties onboarding each day until the entire state is utilizing the new system. Rockcastle County Clerk's motor vehicle department will make every attempt to open as soon as possible. We will begin onboarding December 8, 2023 alongside the first wave of counties to test the system. We will gradually work toward a full open the week of December 8th-12th, 2023.

"Our goal every day is to serve our county to the best of our ability. While we realize the closure of our motor vehicle department will impact our citizens, we are hopeful that the new system will help us be more efficient in the future. With any new system there will be hiccups, but we are working hard to be trained and ready to serve you," Danetta Ford Allen, Rockcastle County Clerk.

Visit our website at www.RockcastleCountyClerk.com or our Facebook Page "Rockcastle County Clerk's Office" for updated details as they become available.

Rockcastle County Clerk's Office Hours of Operation December 2023- January 2024	
December 7-8 M-F: 8:00AM - 4:00PM Lunch Break (DAILY): 12:00PM - 12:30PM	Week of December 25-December 29 CLOSED December 25, Christmas Open December 26-December 29: 8:00AM - 4:00PM Lunch Break (DAILY): 12:00PM - 12:30PM
Week of December 11-December 16 M-F: 8:00AM - 4:00PM Lunch Break (DAILY): 12:00PM - 12:30PM Saturday 8:30AM - 12PM	Week of January 1-January 5 CLOSED January 1, New Year January 2-5: 8:00AM - 4:00PM Lunch Break (DAILY): 12:00PM - 12:30PM
Week of December 18-December 22 M-F: 8:00AM - 4:00PM Lunch Break (DAILY): 12:00PM - 12:30PM	Motor Vehicle Department CLOSED Recording and Elections ONLY
** Thursday, December 21st: CLOSED 12:00PM-1:00PM, Courthouse Christmas Luncheon	Week of January 8-January 12 M-F: 8:00AM - 4:00PM Lunch Break (DAILY): 12:00PM - 12:30PM
	Motor Vehicle Department - Gradual Opening Recording and Elections - Open



from
County Clerk
Danetta Ford-Allen
and staff



RCCHS students in the Paint the Plow Program had their paintings on full display during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Local EMS workers rode down Main Street in the Mount Vernon parade with lights flashing.



Rockcastle County Wrecker services displayed their heavy equipment during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Jade Towing and Recovery took part in Mount Vernon's Christmas parade.



Golf carts carried local residents down Main Street during the Mount Vernon parade.



Golf carts were a popular ride down Main Street during the Christmas parade.



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

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

Limestone Grille & Bar

606.256.0131
606.256.0132

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Located at Exit 62

606-256-0131

Free Delivery to all Rockcastle County

Merry Christmas

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



Seated: Isaac Day and Mary Jo Hunt

Back row from left: Doug Clements, Logan McClure, Rick Lynch, Matthew Bustle, Shelly Clements, Larry Bengel, Katie Clements and Dawn Myers.

Not pictured: David Collins and Melannie Gadd

Merry Christmas from the staff at

Collins Respiratory Care

Owners: David Collins & Shelly Clements

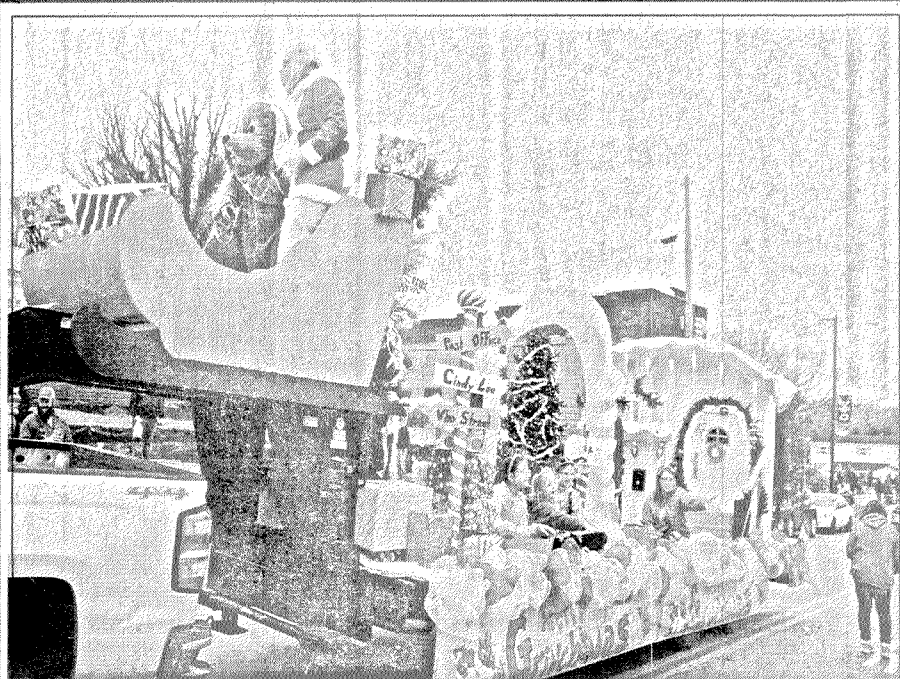
Main St. • Brodhead • 606-758-9333



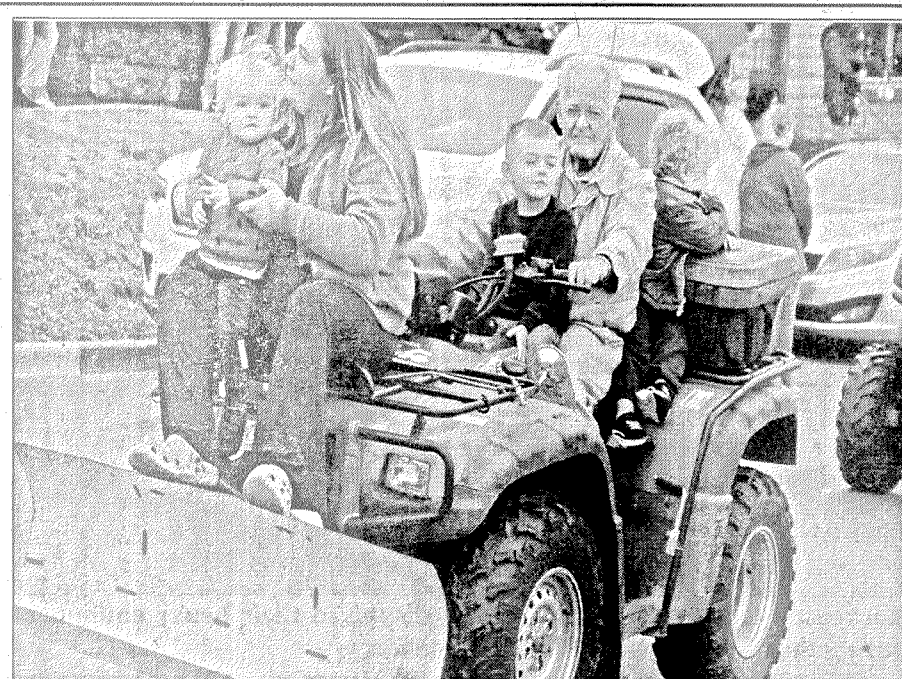
Several parade entries chose side-by-sides to ride down Main Street in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



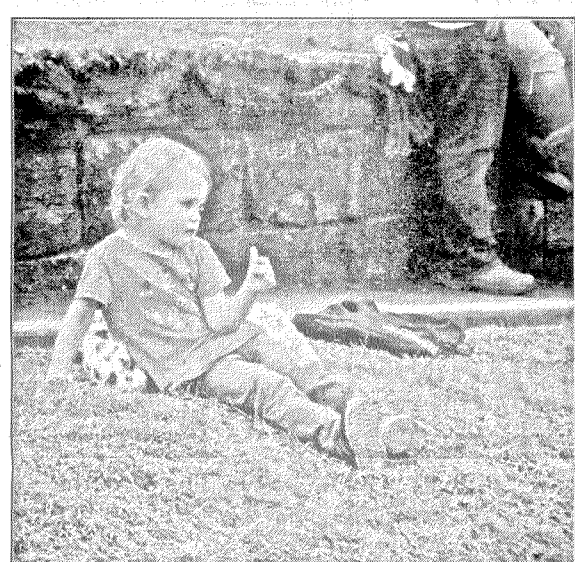
This Jeep was well decorated for the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Mount Vernon Paw Spa took first place in the business category during Mount Vernon's Christmas parade.



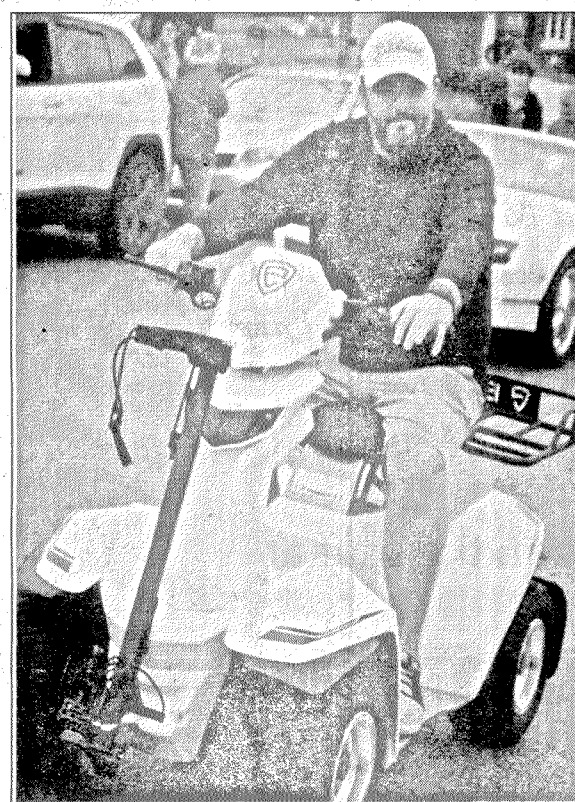
Four wheelers were a popular way to ride down Main Street during the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



One of those waiting for the parade had her seat and her popcorn ready to go.



More members of the RCHS Golf Team serving as Grand Marshal including coach Zach Gentry.



No paper next week!

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

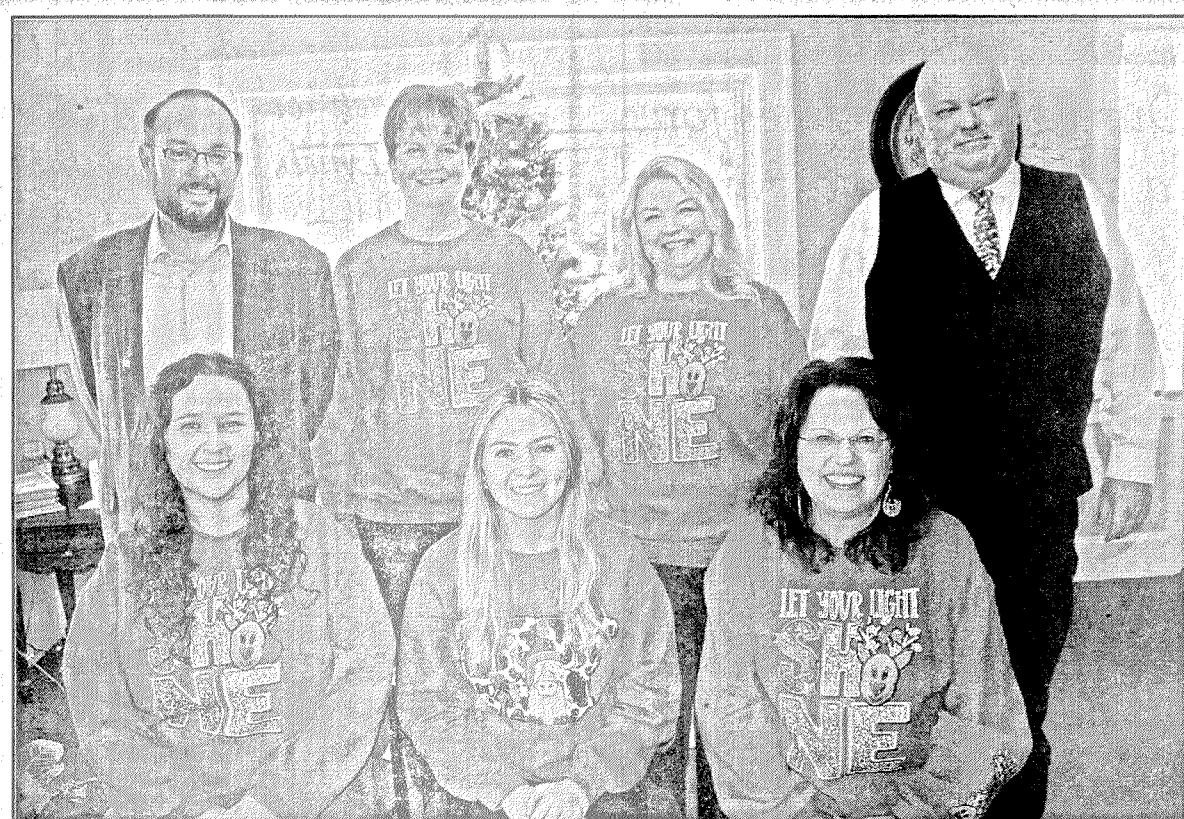
Merry
Christmas

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

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

Rockcastle County Attorney

Jeremy Rowe
& staff



Front row from left: Meredith Gross, Abby Burdette and Kathy Burgin.
Back row from left: Jeremy Rowe, Julie Adams, Tanya Cromer and William Leger.

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



The RCHS Band led the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



The Grinch and youngsters rode down Main Street in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Santa and Mrs. Claus (Spender Benge and Dr. Carrie Ballinger) were visited by countless children in the courthouse lawn after the Christmas parade in Mount Vernon.



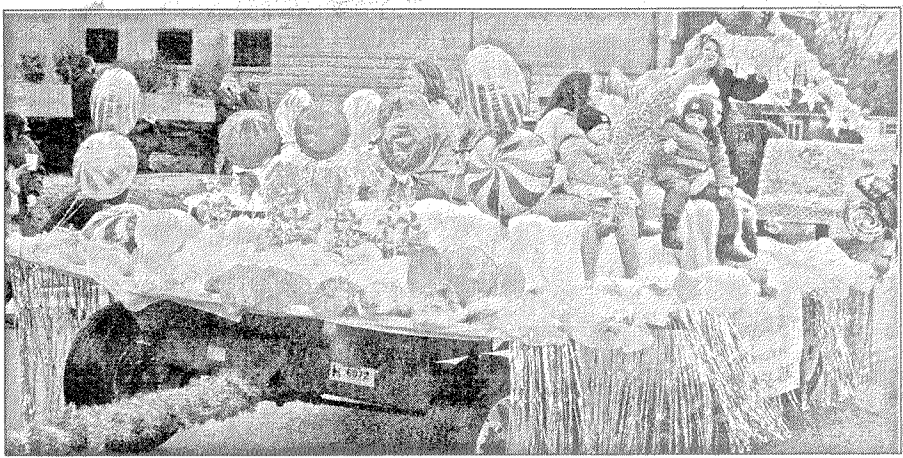
The Rockcastle County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution were well represented during the parade in Mount Vernon.



Jason Medley entertained the crowd in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade from The Nail Salon's float.



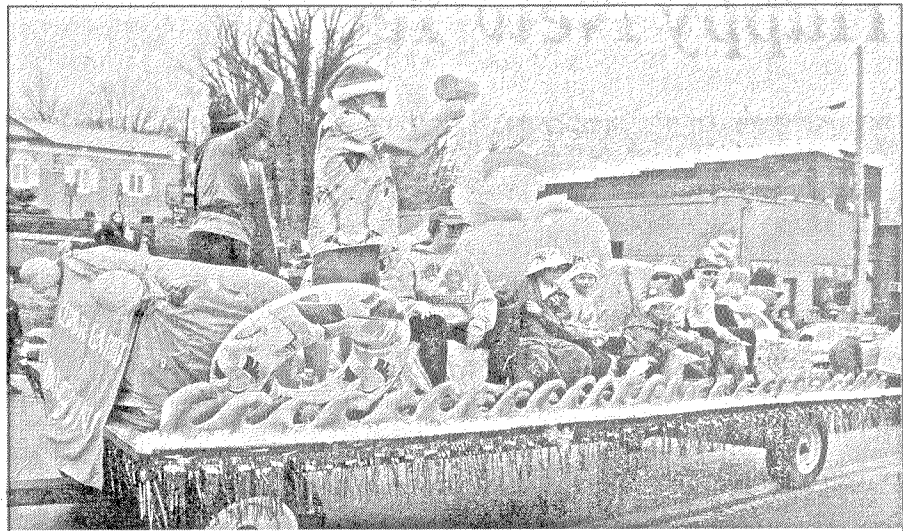
Bible Baptist Church Shine Kids' float, "Go Tell It On The Mountain", took second place in the church category.



Touch of Class Hair Design took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Rockcastle County Health Department's float, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" took second place in the business/non-profit category.



Cedar Rapids swim team's float, "All I Want For Christmas Is A Real Good Tan", took first place in the Other category.



Woodmen Life Tree Farm took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas Parade.



Members of the Maple Grove Baptist Church's Youth Ministry team took part in the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Tic Toc Christian Preschool took first place in the School category during Mount Vernon's Christmas parade.

Merry Christmas from the Mount Vernon Signal



Characters like the Grinch showed up in several places throughout the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



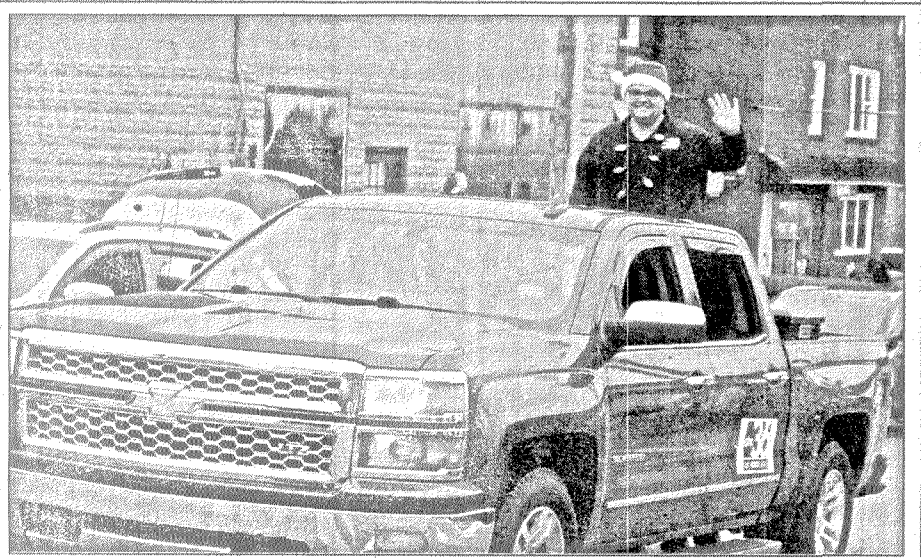
Hickory Grove Church's float, "Joy to the World", took first place in the church category during Mount Vernon's Christmas parade.



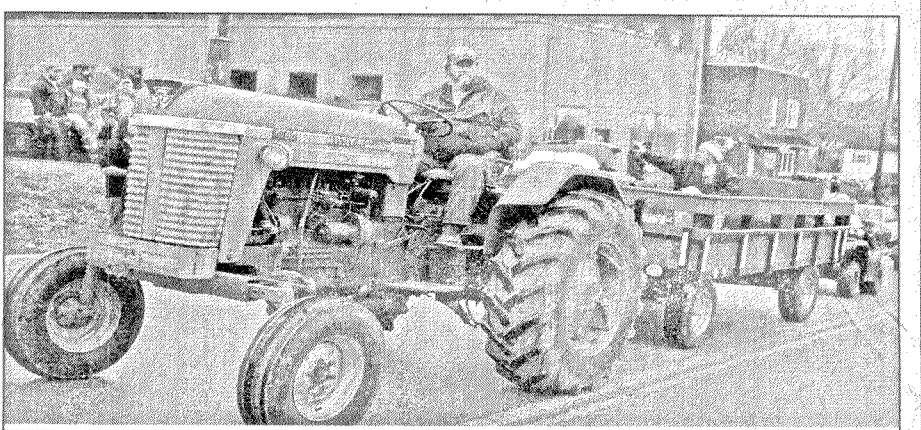
A Veterans Honor Guard van brought cheers as it moved along the Mount Vernon Christmas parade.



Miss Rockcastle 2023 Lila Holt was driven through the parade by 1972 Miss Rockcastle Judy King.



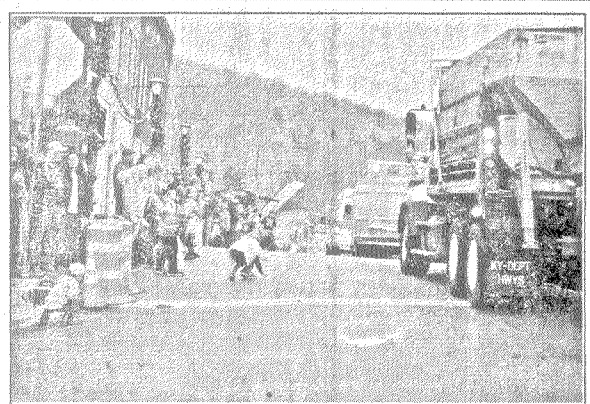
Rockcastle County's Jordan Smith waved at the crowd representing WTVQ Channel 36 weather crews.



Classic tractors rolled down Main Street in Mount Vernon during the parade.



Mount Vernon city council members Lonetta Daugherty and Gertha Mink took part in Mount Vernon's Christmas parade.



Children darted from the crowd picking up candy and treats tossed from parade entries.



Rockcastle County Recycling Center had a well decorated float in the Mount Vernon parade.

The Mount Vernon Signal office will be closed from December 22 to January 1 in observance of the holidays. No paper December 28th

MERRY Christmas

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Front: Tammy Miller and Michelle Bullock. Second row from left: Matthew Silcox, Billy Wayne Bryant, Jeff Cromer and Danny Ford.

Not pictured: Sam Ford, Jeff Burdette, Jerry Ham, Paul Playforth, Logan Kirby, Seth Hembree, Darrell Tate, Jim Dause, Johnny Alcorn, Ben Allen, Danetta Allen, Roy Adams, Harold Bustle, Shelly Mullins, Tanner Noel, Becky McNabb and Heather Miller.



Brothers, Inc.
Auctioneers
Selling the County



Ford Brothers

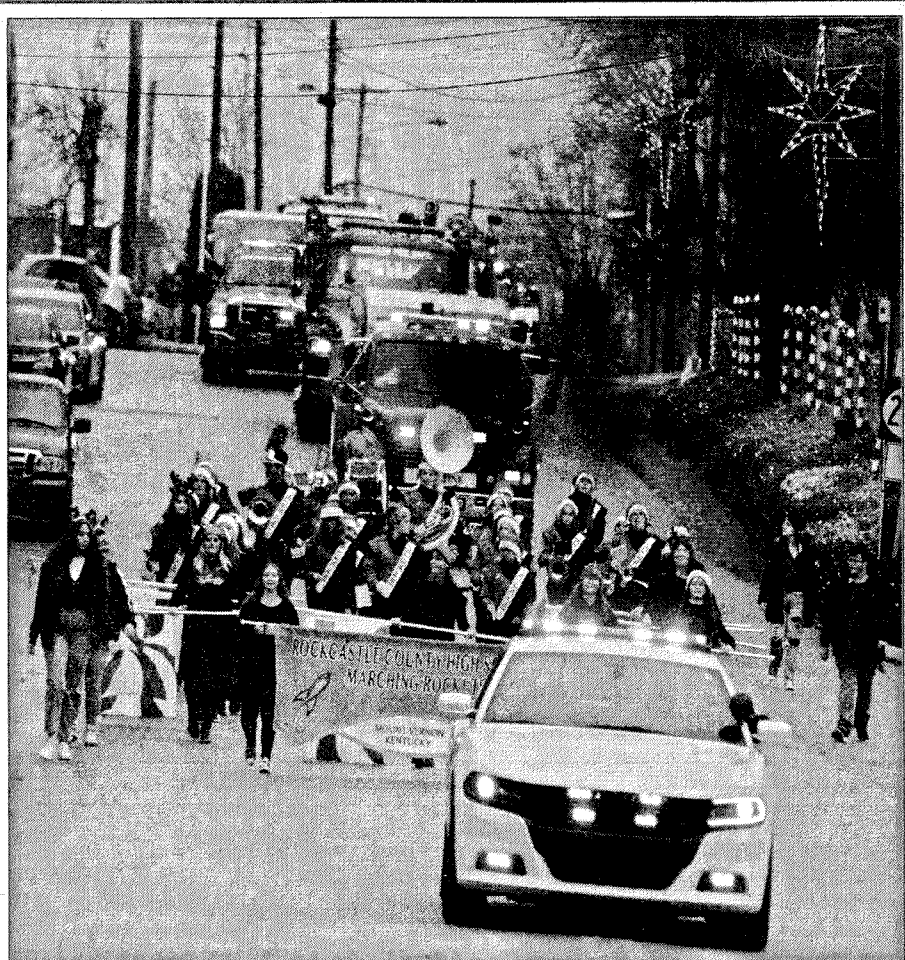
606-256-4545 • Mount Vernon • 1-800-435-5454

Mount Vernon Signal

Fourth Section

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Scenes from 2023 Brodhead Christmas Parade



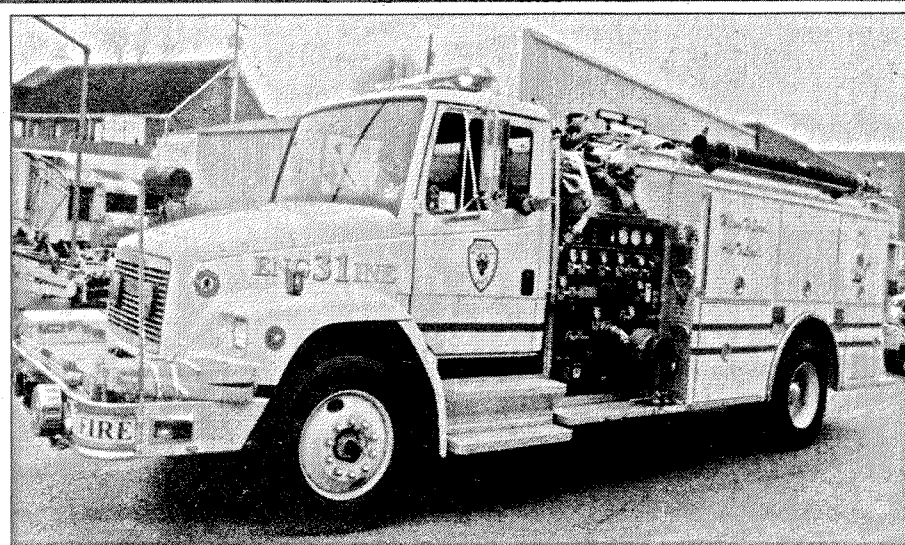
The Brodhead Christmas parade brought cheers from the onlookers as it started down Main Street



The Brodhead Police cruiser was a popular part of the Brodhead Christmas parade as it started off the ceremony.



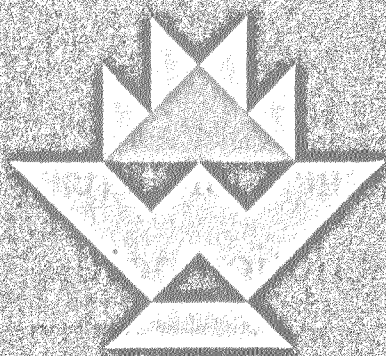
The RCHS Marching Rockets Color Guard led the Brodhead Christmas parade behind the police cruiser to begin the festivities.



Fire trucks were a popular scene in the Brodhead E.J. Taylor Memorial Christmas Parade.



Trucks from the Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department brought lights and sirens to the Brodhead Christmas parade.



WHITAKER BANK
UNIQUELY KENTUCKY

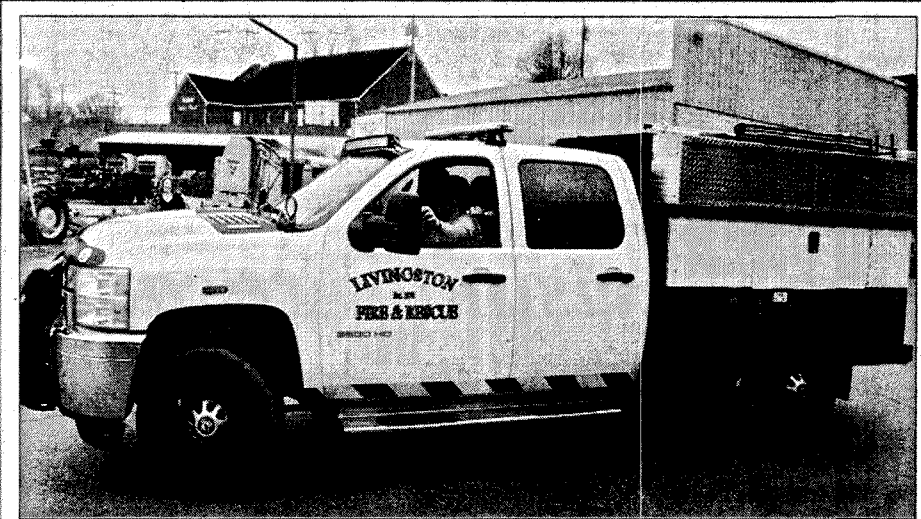
The magic of Christmas never ends, and its
greatest of gifts are family and friends.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

859.986.6860
www.whitakerbank.com



MEMBER
FDIC



Livingston Fire and Rescue took part in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Members of the Brodhead Fire Department were at the front of the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Several vehicles from the Livingston Fire and Rescue squads filled Main Street during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Several Brodhead Fire Department vehicles were on display during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



The Mount Vernon Fire Department rolled down Main Street in Brodhead during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



RGHS students taking part in the Paint a Plow program, provided parade onlookers with a view of their latest work.

Merry Christmas

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



Front row from left: JJ Carpenter, Amy Renner, Howard Saylor, Lillie Foster and Hope Bishop.
Back row: Sheena Pittman, Judy Neal, Angie Day and Matt Burkhart.
Not pictured: David Collins - owner, Michelle Coffey, Kim Kidwell and Kenny Adams.

Closed December 25th & 26th and January 1, 2024

• Brodhead Pharmacy •

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



Commissioner Harold Taylor took part in Brodhead's Christmas parade.



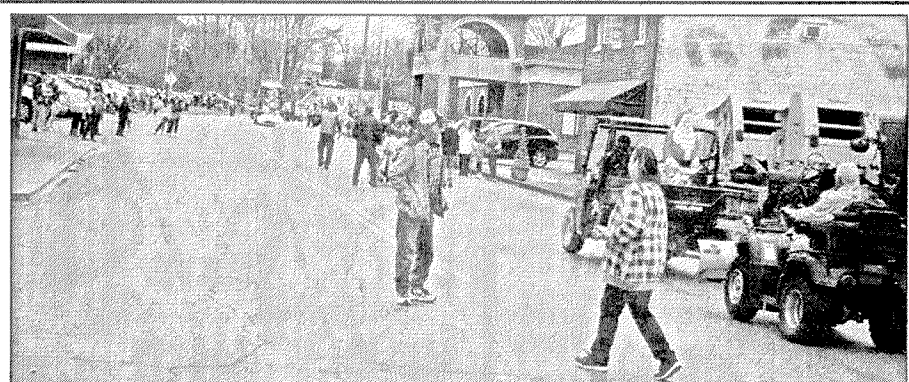
Brodhead Mayor Jerry Adams waved to the crowd during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



This Pontiac GTO was one of the favorites during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Floats were well decorated during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



A large crowd turned out for the Brodhead Christmas parade as young and old alike gathered the candy and treats tossed from parade entries.



Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. gave Santa a ride during the Brodhead Christmas parade with the popular bubble machine.



The Brindle Ridge Fire Department took part in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



The Brindle Ridge tanker rolled down Main Street in Brodhead during the Christmas parade.

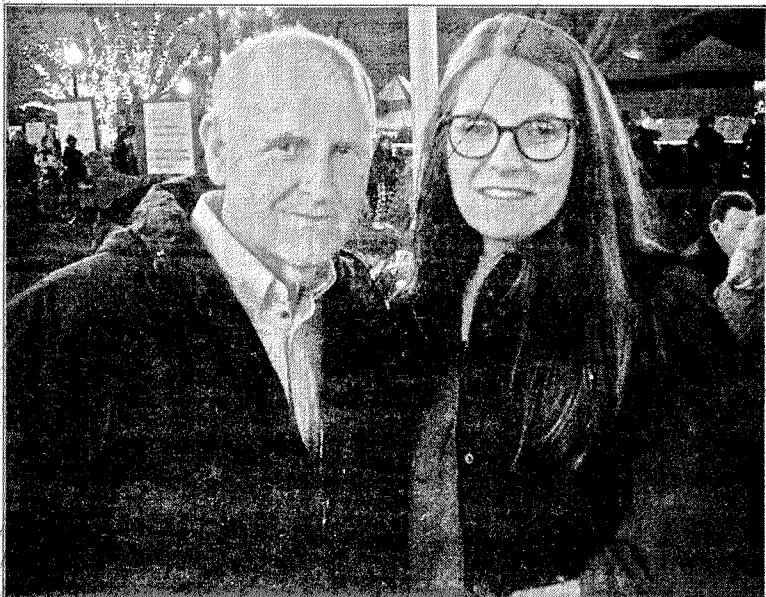
Merry Christmas

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



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

May your heart and home be filled with peace, hope, and love this Christmas season.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Howell and Gail Holbrook

HOWELL HOLBROOK Jr.
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE



Frankie and Joanie Woodall drove their 1956 Chevrolet in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



The Grinch waved to the crowd during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Jordan Smith representing WTVQ Channel 36 weather, waved to the crowd during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Members of the Hickory Grove Church took part in Brodhead's annual Christmas parade.



The Rockcastle County Recycling Center was well represented during the Brodhead Christmas parade.



The Rockcastle County Honor Guard rode down Main Street in the Brodhead parade.



Classic tractors were cheered by onlookers in the Brodhead Christmas parade.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Celebrating Over
50 Years in Business!

*Thank you to all our
loyal customers!*



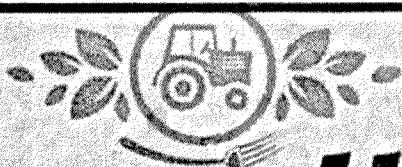
Central Body Service

Mt. Vernon • 606-256-4210

MERRY CHRISTMAS

It's Been Our Pleasure Serving You!

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



Marcella's

FARM TO FORK

(606) 256-2000

216 CEDAR RAPIDS RD. MT. VERNON, KY



Side-by-sides were a popular means of transportation during the brodhead Christmas parade.



This side-by-side driver waved at the crowd at the Brodhead Christmas parade.



The Joenbergs and the Saylor took part in Brodhead's Christmas parade.



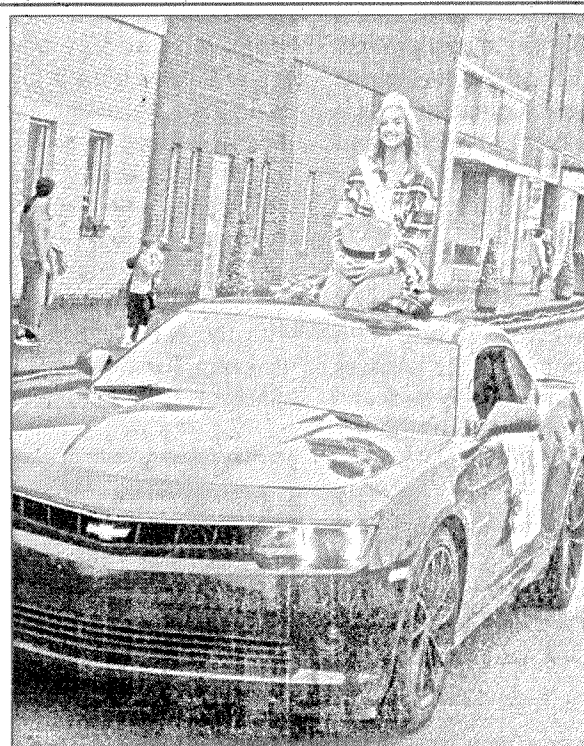
Golf carts were a popular way to travel in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



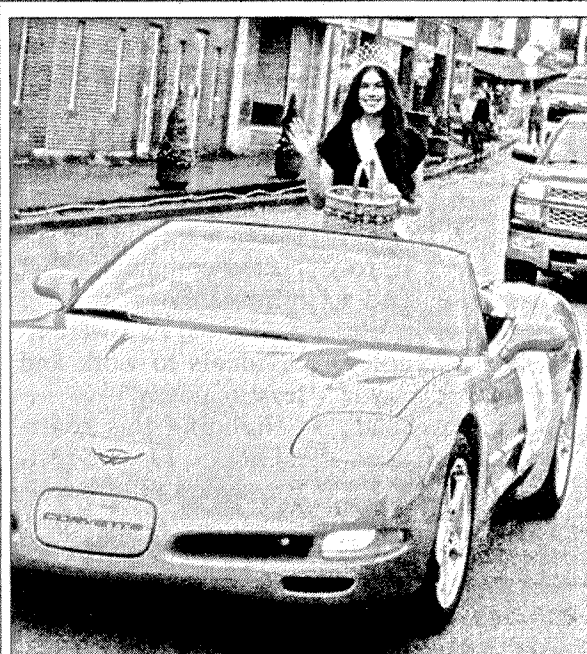
Motorcycles rode along Main Street in Brodhead during the Christmas parade.



Beckett, Bowen and Piper Saylor get a horsedrawn cart ride in the Brodhead Christmas parade.



Miss Little World's Fair Allison Burnett waved to the crowd as she rode down Main Street in Brodhead during the Christmas parade.



Lila Holt, 2023 Miss Rockcastle County, was driven through the Brodhead Christmas parade by Judy King, 1972 Miss Rockcastle County.



Adults took pictures of the little ones who enjoyed the Brodhead fall displays on Main Street during the Christmas parade.

No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 21st - January 1st



**Have a
 Happy and Healthy
 Holiday!**

We're dispensing our best wishes and they include a large measure of thanks to our loyal customers.

We truly appreciate your trust in us.

ROCKCASTLE
 PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY

Newcomb Avenue • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-4613

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 EYE CARE

Dr. Sarah King
Dr. Kevin Skidmore
Dr. Ashley Lane
Dr. Gary King
Dr. Taylor Waggoner
 —Optometrists—

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859-986-7027

Broadline announces expansion of broadband access for all Rockcastle County residents

Broadline, a local broadband service provider, has announced a transformative expansion to increase internet accessibility in Rockcastle County and across Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

This initiative emerges from a strategic partnership with The Center for Rural Development, backed by a \$10 million portion of a broader \$30 million grant initiative. This project embodies Broadline's commitment to connecting unserved or underserved communities, impacting approximately 33,000 homes with cutting-edge broadband services.

Kerry Bowlin, President of Broadline, asserts, "This initiative represents a pivotal moment for rural Kentucky. Our efforts will not only connect homes but will also

foster a thriving, connected community that stimulates economic growth and empowers individuals to work and learn remotely."

Echoing this sentiment, TJ Scott, Broadline's VP of Operations, highlights the broader implications of the initiative: "By enabling access to reliable broadband, we are unlocking a world of opportunities for Southern Kentucky, fundamentally changing the way people live and work."

The endeavor will leverage the latest in fixed wireless technology, including 5G LTE, to provide at least 25Mbps down/3Mbps up internet speeds. Broadline's network design strategically utilizes licensed CBRS and EBS Spectrum to deliver a high-performance wireless experience

across nine critical counties.

"We have all now seen how important reliable internet is almost every aspect of our lives," said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development. "With this expansion, we are taking a monumental step towards bridging the digital divide in rural Kentucky. This is a further testament to our commitment to empowering and enriching our communities."

Broadline prioritizes a collaborative approach, actively engaging with the communities it serves to tailor the broadband rollout to their unique needs. The project kick-off is scheduled for early 2024, with the first sites going live in Pulaski County.

Partnerships with key organizations like the The

Center for Rural Development, the Commonwealth of KY and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) underscore the collaborative nature of the project, ensuring a comprehensive approach to rural development.

With this expansion, Broadline not only addresses the current digital divide but also sets the stage for ongoing growth and development in digital literacy and broadband access across rural Kentucky. The company is also ready to engage with the NTIA's BEAD program for future enhancements and connec-

tivity improvements.

The anticipated economic and social impact of the initiative is significant, promoting rural development and potentially reversing the urban migration trend by making remote lifestyles more feasible.

Broadline is prepared to tackle the inherent challenges of the project, drawing on its expertise in fixed wireless installations and robust spec-

trum access to serve previously hard-to-reach areas.

Residents eager to experience the Broadline difference can explore their service options by visiting the company's website at www.Broadline.com. The 'Check Availability' feature provides quick insights, and for personalized queries, the 'Contact Us' form ensures a swift and responsive answer.

There will be no
Mount Vernon Signal
next week.

DAR Classroom project



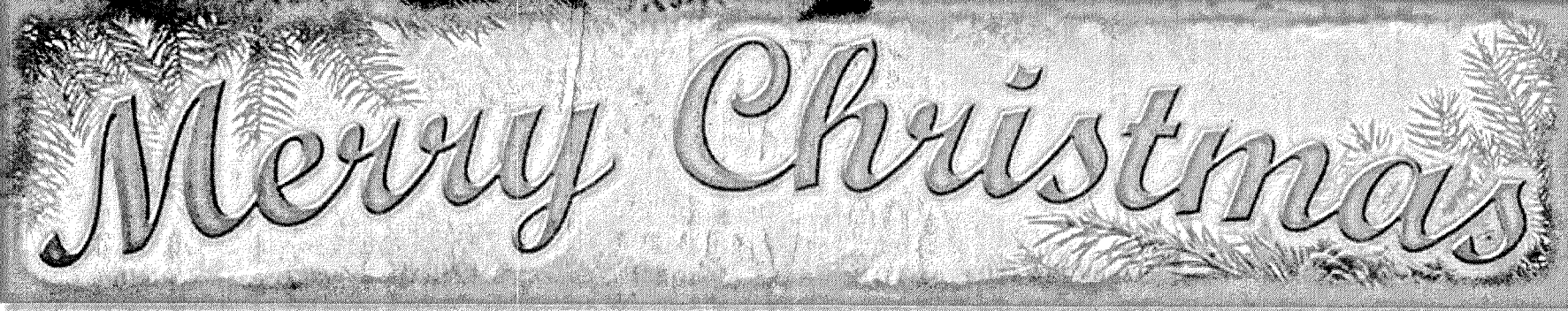
RCCHS Art Teacher Courtney Baktis and her students are the recipient of the DAR Community Classroom project sponsored by the Rockcastle Chapter NSDAR Inc. Ms. Baktis and her students received supplies for their upcoming art projects.



Merry Christmas

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

JUDGE KATIE & KEVIN SLONE
AND TYLER WOOD




from

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr.

and the

Rockcastle County Fiscal Court

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



From left: Magistrates Shane Thacker, Lee Earl Adams, William Denny, Mike McGuire and Doug Prewitt,
Judge-Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., Vicky Miller and County Attorney Jeremy Rowe.

Kentucky receives grant to help reduce collisions with wildlife

Kentucky is one of 17 states to receive a new federal grant aimed at making roadways safer for people and wildlife. The \$1.2 million award will fund a wildlife-vehicle collision reduction plan and a pilot study in central Kentucky to identify links between crashes and environmental factors.

The Wildlife Crossings Program competitive grant was issued to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and is the product of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that pumped new funding to states for infrastructure projects that improve safety and quality of life.

This funding will help us identify ways we can make our roadways safer for our families, said Gov. Andy Beshear. The ultimate goal is to protect travelers and to protect Kentucky wildlife.

KYTC submitted the grant, in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, to develop Kentucky's first Wildlife-Vehicle Collision (WVC) Reduction Plan to identify crash factors and potential solutions to reduce collisions. As part of the plan, a pilot corridor study will be completed to evaluate U.S. 60 and Interstate 64 segments between Louis-

ville and Frankfort. KYTC will collect wildlife and roadway data to identify key areas where road expansions and high traffic volumes intersect with wildlife habitats and migration routes. The U.S. 60/I-64 corridor was selected as a focus area due to a high number of annual deer crashes.

Were excited to build upon our existing efforts to improve highway safety and prevent crashes with wildlife, said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. With these funds, we'll be able to take a deep dive into data to make informed conclusions and develop a collaborative system to report and identify priority corridors.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to partner with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on their proposal to study wildlife vehicle collisions in Kentucky, said Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commissioner Rich Storm. Encounters with deer and other wildlife occur frequently along the I-64 corridor between Louisville and Frankfort making this an excellent focal point for this project. Wildlife vehicle collisions, particularly those involving deer, pose a significant risk to Kentucky motorists. We applaud the Transportation Cabinet for taking the initiative to reduce these wildlife ve-

hicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity in Kentucky.

Last year in Kentucky, there were approximately 3,000 reported deer collisions statewide.

In addition to issuing annual Antler Alerts every fall to warn drivers of the likelihood of encountering deer on the move, KYTC's other measures to enhance road safety and reduce the likelihood of deer collisions include more than 1,000 deer crossing signs along select state-maintained routes. The state has also adopted a reduced mowing schedule that not only helps nurture critical roadside pollinator plots across Kentucky, but the less frequent mowing can also minimize the abundance of freshly cut grass along the interstate, which is a common attractant for deer.

We care about those riding on four wheels or trotting on four legs as part of our mission to maintain a safe and environmentally sound transportation system, said KYTC State Highway Engineer James Ballinger. Completing this study will give us a great baseline to build from and to help guide future decision making.

The study and plan are expected to begin in the summer of 2024.

Senator Storm recognized for completing Henry Toll Fellowship Program

Earlier this year, the Council of State Governments (CSG) named 45 outstanding leaders to its July 2023 Henry Toll Fellowship Program. State Sen. Brandon Storm, R-London, was the lone Kentuckian selected by the program's alums to participate after being nominated by his peers. He joined other highly esteemed individuals from around the country.

Storm attended the program's intensive six-day, five-night leadership boot camp in August. This event is held annually at CSG's national office in Lexington, Kentucky, which houses CSG's projects, publications, and special initiatives. These programs foster collaboration and community between elected and appointed officials from across the country and the six U.S. territories. The program's sessions stimulate personal assessment and growth while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities.

Storm and his fellow participants attended an official graduation ceremony on Thursday during the 2023 CSG National Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

"It's such an honor to be alongside fellow graduates and know I am a Henry Toll Fellow," Storm said. "All of us put a lot of hours into earning this achievement, and truly, I am grateful for the opportunity my peers granted me. I feel like I've gathered a wealth of experience from the fellowship. I'm dedicated to putting it to good use for the benefit of the 21st Senate District."

As a graduate, Storm joins a prestigious alum list of graduate classes dating back to 1986.

The Toll Fellowship Program, named for CSG founder Henry Wolcott Toll, is one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials. Each year, Toll Fellows brings 48 of the nation's top officials from all three branches of state government.

Founded in 1933, CSG is the nation's largest nonpartisan organization serving all three branches of state elected and appointed officials. The mission of CSG is to champion excellence in state government.

There will be no December 28 issue of the *Mount Vernon Signal*. Our offices will be closed from December 21st through January 1st



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

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

Rockcastle County Recycling Center open for recycling drop-offs

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

The following items may be recycled:

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

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

Recycling Drop-Off Trailers are available for use at:

Brodhead (behind City Hall)
Conway (by Brindle Ridge Volunteer Fire Dept.)
Livingston (between Liv. Fire Dept. & City Hall)
Pongo (by Pongo Volunteer Fire Dept.)
Climax (by Climax Volunteer Fire Dept.)

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

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



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



From our homes to yours



Danny — Rita

Brodhead Farm Equipment

Danny and Betty Jo McKinney, owners

"Downtown Brodhead" • 758-9532

Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps
Enclosing Spaces –
Creating Intimacy

Intimacy seems to be more and more crowded out of modern lives. Our homes have so many gadgets, our lives so many electronic devices; how and where does one find solitude or intimate moments out of the sight of others? I hope to supply a few answers to this common situation.

A sprawling lawn has it's appeal; however, a modern spacious home and big lawn is not what most people knowledgeable on the subject would call an intimate setting. A nice home scrounged up on a small city lot where you look out your window into your neighbor's living room offers little opportunity for any outdoor private spots.

Sitting in front of the TV, computer or smart device is stealing moments alone on the porch, the times better spent on a lovely bench, or strolling a wooded path from ourselves or our loved ones.

The lack of a secluded spot for personal meditation or private time with those we care about is something we need to remedy if we wish to retain our sanity in an insane world.

Frayed spirits after a long day at work, and perhaps an arduous commute in traffic, beg for secluded moments. We need time to declutter and refresh our mental state. Couples need such opportunities to nurture relationships. Quality time with family and friends can be redeemed if we are willing to exert a little effort. For many, creative landscaping and alterations the an existing yard are the enablers to solving this all-too-common inability to find private time.

We have sufficiently identified a situation pleading for a solution I'd like for us to consider a few of these added elements for our yards. Trees, shrubs, hedges, fences, structures, raised or sunken spots, raised planted beds, water features, potted plants and yard art, benches and boulders Intelligent layout of a few changes to our homes can create an area for a private moment from time to tim.

Greenery veritably lowers stress (and blood

pressure), and the sounds of water or musical sounds of the wind can help with creativity and concentration. Incorporating some of these elements can be a huge step in the direction of additional peace, and opportunities for the intimate moments with our Creator, our spouse, etc.

Outdoor structures of many types and functions can help in building private spots. Back in the "dark ages" when there were no street or security lights illuminating the world, darkness gave privacy. In more graphic terms, before there were back seats of cars—there were barn lofts and 'out behind the barn'. I don't mean to get too graphic for a general reading audience, so let's just say a small building or a bench hidden behind a clump of bushes can assist in creating a get-away spot in our own yard.

Considered careful plantings of trees can function to frame or showcase a home or a view. Or, they can hide and obstruct a view. (And that view might be of you in fact.) Taken to an extreme, large evergreens can hide someone under their branches from spies in the skies, or anyone else nosing in your business.

Some homeowners hide the front of the home from street view with large trees and a winding driveway so they're not visible from the street. Cuts down on salesmen and trick-or-treaters for sure!

Berms and other artificial movement of the soil are frequently used by golf courses, gated communities, for privacy and for noise control. At the moment I'm imagining a sunken firepit and seating for a couple obstructed by a horseshoe shaped berm that is thickly planted in small trees or flowers would make an ideal spot for intimacy.

Huge planters of greenery that can be rolled around a patio could be used to provide temporary screening from something or someone nearby.

What can you think of to help you find more private moments? To make your home, yard, gardens feel more like paradise?

The author is a landscaper.
Call (606) 416-3911 or visit:
www.rockcastles.ne

Rogers votes for National Plan to End Parkinson's Act

U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-05) voted for the National Plan to End Parkinson's Act, H.R. 2365, to help prevent, diagnose, treat and cure the disease that plagues millions of Americans.

According to the National Institutes of Health, Parkinson's disease is the second-most common neurodegenerative disorder in the United States, following Alzheimer's disease. Approximately 500,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but considering the lack of awareness and diagnoses, some experts estimate that as many as one million Americans may have the disorder.

"More awareness, research and therapy is needed for Parkinson's Disease across the country, and especially in rural areas like Eastern Kentucky. The greatest success comes from planning your work and working your plan, and this bill puts a plan in motion to help diagnose and treat the disease that impacts more than half a million people every year," said Congressman Rogers. "In Eastern Kentucky, the non-

profit group Parkinson's In Motion, is actively working to raise awareness, build family support, and connect patients to a variety of resources such as exercise and cognitive therapies. I applaud their local efforts and I hope this bill will pave the path forward nation-wide."

The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to coordinate federal efforts and carry out a national project, including a review, assessment, plan, and strategy to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's Disease and related neurodegenerative Parkinsonisms.

This bill would also require HHS to establish an advisory council, comprised of federal and non-federal expert stakeholders, to evaluate current efforts, issue recommendations and implementation steps, and evaluate the national plan and strategy related to Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's In Motion, a nonprofit organization in Laurel County, was launched by former Kentucky Administrative Law Judge Janie Rice Williams who was recently diagnosed with

Parkinson's Disease. She applauded Congressman Rogers' support of the National Plan to End Parkinson's Act and is hopeful for the impact it could have in Eastern Kentucky.

"This national plan is desperately needed as more people across the country are faced with Parkinson's, the fastest growing neurological condition on the planet. This disease not only impacts the patient, but the whole family. While we find a cure, our mission helps those who otherwise face this degenerative condition alone. We provide resources to strengthen body, mind and community," said Williams. "I'm thankful for the support we have received in Eastern Kentucky, but more re-

sources are needed to help connect individuals to information and therapy options, especially in rural areas. That's why I'm working hard in Eastern Kentucky to let families know that they don't have to face this journey alone. I appreciate Congressman Rogers for voting for this important bill to help people here at home and across the country."

The bipartisan bill passed the House on Thursday and now moves on to the Senate for consideration.

For more information about Congressman Rogers' work in Washington and at home in Kentucky, visit halrogers.house.gov and follow him on social media.

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SUGAR'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

ABANDONED									
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LIEN WIDELY									
SEQUENCE AREA									
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R	O	S	S		E	K	E	D	

M E R R Y

Christmas!

from

Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk

Eliza Jane York-Hansel

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

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



Front: Sam Alcorn and Sandra Hamm.
Back row from left: Renita Blanton, Brittney Mullins, Stephanie Allen, Eliza Jane York-Hansel, Kim Denny, Marcia Olinger and Brenda Miller.
Not pictured: Priscilla Napier

Closed December 25th & 26th - December 29th & January 1st

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

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.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE