



Many local veterans from across Rockcastle County enjoyed the free breakfast and the celebration later at the annual RCMS Veteran's Day celebration held last Friday.

Local Veterans met with eruption of cheers at RCMS annual celebration

By: Mike French
Editor

When big acts in Rockcastle County perform, they are greeted with applause. When a mayor or judge is introduced, they are met with applause. But when veterans entered the Rockcastle County Middle School gymnasium last Friday, for the annual Veterans' Day Celebration, they were met with over four minutes of a standing ovation with cheering, whistling, yelling and

many teary cheeks from every member of the student body, faculty and staff.

The gym was filled with cheers and whistles as members of each branch of military service walked or were wheeled into the room where an adoring crowd awaited their presence.

The event began with a complimentary breakfast for all veterans and guests in the cafeteria at the school, which was filled with those who have served their country in the military. Representatives from several wars were among the large crowd of veterans, as school staff and other volunteers served each veteran. The walls of the cafeteria were covered with signs and posters made by students, honoring veterans from each war.

Free new large-print Bibles, supplied by the

(See "Vets" on A5)

Republicans dominate election in Rockcastle County

Beshear wins re-election

By: Mike French
Editor

In 2011, Steve Beshear was only the second Kentucky governor in history to win consecutive terms. Last week, his son, incumbent Andy Beshear (D), became the third.

For the second time, Andy Beshear has won a close election. This time, by narrowly beating his opponent Daniel Cameron.

In fact, Cameron won in nearly 90 of the 120 counties in Kentucky but Beshear won the popular vote with about 50,000 to spare. Beshear garnered 52% of the total vote statewide. Cameron won handily in Rockcastle County as well as neighboring Pulaski, Laurel,

Garrard and Jackson counties.

Overall, election turnout statewide was reported at slightly over 38% of the 3.5 million registered voters, while Rockcastle County's turn-

out was reported at slightly over 34%.

In Rockcastle County 4,328 votes were cast. Of those, 3,345 came on Tuesday, November 7th, election day. There are 12,478 registered voters

in the county. Of those, 9,793 are registered as Republican while 1,895 are registered Democrats.

In Rockcastle County, Beshear received 1,244 votes while Cameron received 3,029. Well over

2,000 voters cast their ballot for the straight Republican ticket.

In all races concerning Rockcastle County, except the Governor's race, Republican candi-

(See "Elect" on A5)

Elf Program brings a bright Christmas morning for many who may need help

By: Mike French
Editor

Children around the country will go to bed on Christmas Eve night hoping to see a surprise wrapped in a shiny bow under their tree on Christmas morning. Many of those children in Rockcastle County will wake to find nothing un-

der their tree. "But, there are a lot of Angels in our county," said Angela King, Family Resource Coordinator at Brodhead Elementary School. "A lot of families and a lot of children will have a much better Christmas, thanks to the amount of Angels we have here."

King calls it the "Elf

Program" and every school in Rockcastle County has one. Each school has its own coordinator in the Family Resource Center and King leads the program in Brodhead. "We have so many who help with the program and it takes a lot of organization. But we have done this for many

years in our county, and we will keep it up for many more."

Each year, before Christmas, anyone willing to donate money or gifts to help those who would otherwise have no Christmas celebration, can contact their school's Family Resource Center

(See "Elf" on A5)

Officials warn residents to use caution while burning

By: Mike French
Editor

The near-drought conditions in the late summer and early fall of this year has caused fire departments across the state to deal with increased calls for service involving forest or field fires.

Several Kentucky counties are experiencing forest fires and upgrading the current burn restrictions to burn bans. While no burn ban has been issued for Rockcastle County, one recent fire in the county destroyed a storage shed, spread to a

field and then moved quickly towards a local apartment building. Quick action by local firefighters stopped the blaze before it reached the structure.

In late October two local field fires destroyed over an acre each and just last week the Climax Fire Department, with mutual aid from Livingston Fire and Rescue volunteers, was called to a woods fire on New Hope Tower Road that burned over 25 acres. Other field fires have been reported in the county over the past few

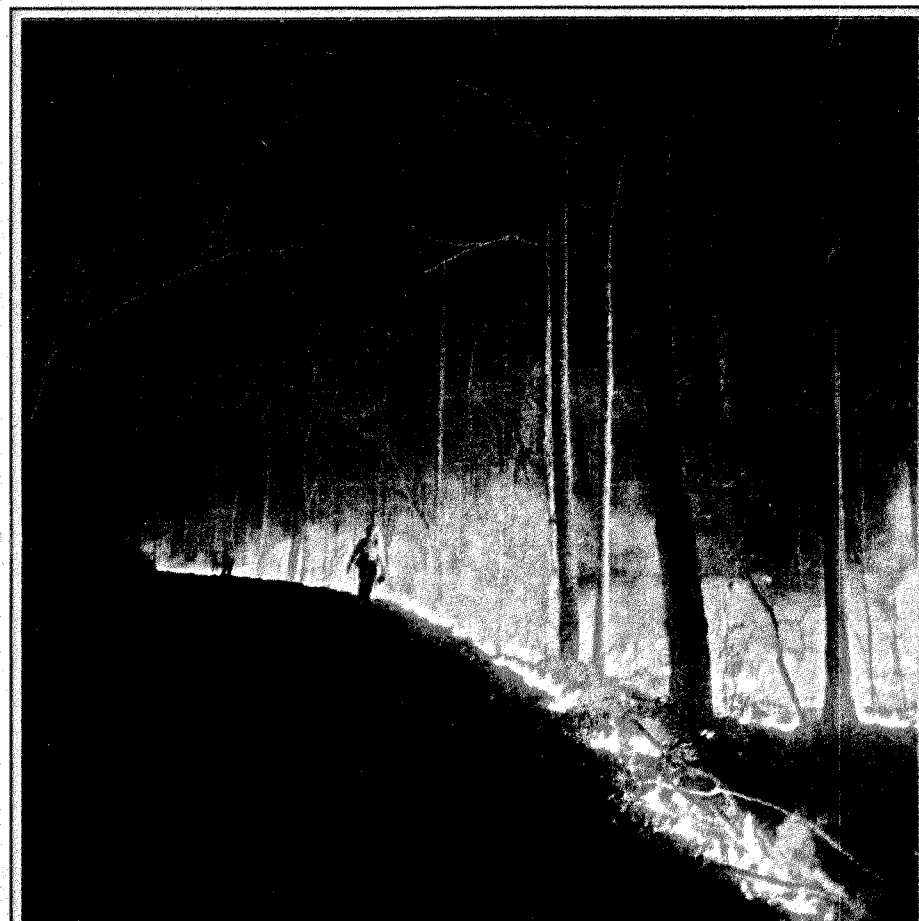
weeks as well.

Some rain fell in the area on Saturday but of-

ficials at local fire departments say the brush and undergrowth is drying out

very quickly due to continual winds and warmer

(See "Burn" on A5)



Shown above members of the Climax Volunteer Fire department work a 25+ acre fire on New Hope Tower Road last week. Several fires have been reported recently due to near-drought conditions, according to local firefighters. Fire Hazard season lasts in Kentucky until December 15. Several counties in the state currently have burn bans in effect but local officials have not issues such a condition in Rockcastle since conditions are not as bad locally as some counties are experiencing, officials say. However, local residents are urged to take extra caution since undergrowth and brush is currently extremely dry and winds spread fires rapidly.

Notice from the Rockcastle County Clerk

A copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at the Rockcastle County Clerk's office and is available for public inspection during normal business hours. Any citizen who wishes may obtain, from the county clerk's office, a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for his/her personal use.

Those who wish to obtain a copy for personal use will be charged for duplication costs at a rate that shall not exceed twenty five cents (\$0.25) per page.

Copies of the financial statement, prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220, is available to the public at no cost at the business address of the officer responsible for preparation of the statement. Rockcastle County Clerk • 205 East Main Street • Box 6, Mount Vernon, KY 40456 • (606)-256-2831 • Danetta Ford Allen, Clerk

Children's tree decoration

The Livingston Children's Tree Decorating ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, November 18 at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Christmas Yard Sale

Don't forget the Christmas Yard Sale planned in Livingston in the old gymnasium, scheduled for December 2.

Thanksgiving dinner

The annual Livingston Thanksgiving Dinner event is scheduled for Sunday, November 19 at the old school cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend the event and those who can are asked to bring a covered dish.

Mount Vernon

The Mount Vernon City Council's regular monthly meeting is scheduled for tonight, Thursday, November 16 at 6 o'clock at city hall. The public is invited to attend.

Of Special Note Inside

- Viewpoints Pg. A2
- Obituaries Pg. A4
- Sports Pg. A6&7

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ramblings...

by: perlina m. anderkin

As I have said *ad nauseum*, I really hate winter. However, there has been less to hate for the last few years. Snow has been in short supply and the temperatures have been pretty temperate most of the time.

I have heard/read two different forecasts, one that we will have a slightly warmer and drier winter than normal, because of El Nino and, then, a few days later read that we would have more snow than usual because of, you guessed it, El Nino.

For me, anything more than an inch or two of snow on Christmas Eve is a bad winter, but I guess I'll just have to wait and see.

In other news, this from a college campus, a chaplain at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, historically affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, wants to hold an unsanctioned BDSM (an acronym for bondage, discipline (or domination), sadism and masochism) workshop for students.

However, alumni were reportedly whipped into a frenzy over the event, which was to be hosted by school chaplain Beatrix Weil. Weil posted a message inviting students to attend a seminar titled, "BDSM 101." "Chaplain Beatrix will host a local dominatrix to share wisdom on how to safely, sanely, and consensually learn about bondage, discipline/domination, sadism/submission and masochism," the announcement read. There will be an opportunity to ask questions anonymously."

Just when you think that liberals have reached

rock bottom on what is considered appropriate for public consumption, they surprise you again.

There are rumblings that some high-profile donors may withhold donations, a move that has taken hold at a number of Ivy League schools in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Israel.

I have no idea what the eventual outcome of the Israel/Gaza conflict will be except that I am satisfied that Israel will prevail. It will be harder for them than usual since the entire middle east, including Iran and Russia are also aligned against them but *don't ever bet against Israel*.

If I were about 50 years younger, and the political climate was what it is now, I think I would seriously consider uprooting my family to move to another country, such as Spain, Poland or El Salvador. Why these? I have been reading about the huge marches being held in Spain and Poland against the insertion of socialists into their government and Poland has been adamant in protecting their borders against illegal immigration -- they are simply not allowing it. Gee, imagine that. And, the El Salvador thing comes from the recent election of Conservative President Nayib Bukele who has warned that "The demise of the USA has to come from within. No external enemy can cause so much damage as an internal operation." Bukele went on to say "I am from a third world country and I see cities in the US where I wouldn't want to live now. When you see cities in the US eroding so

fast, this has to be by design."

I find it telling that the President of El Salvador has more insight into what is wrong in this country than our own administration. But it is evident that the Biden regime has every intention of destroying this country, as we have always known it, and that they may be able to accomplish it before this term is up. If not, it will be completely accomplished, without a doubt, if Democrats win another term.

I have often wondered why there are not mass demonstration by patriots like there are by tens of thousands of the Socialists that have suddenly spawned in our country. I have to think that the vast majority of patriots are too busy trying to make a living for their family, in spite of the roadblocks (horrific inflation mainly) that have been thrown in our way in the last three years. Besides, we don't have a sugar daddy like billionaire George Soros to finance the downfall of this nation, which he, so obviously, hates.

One demonstration was scheduled for DC on Tuesday of this week on the National Mall. It was called "March for Israel" and was being promoted on X by actor Patricia Heaton of "Raymond," you know that freak of nature -- a conservative Hollywood star.

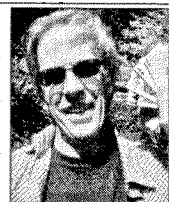
I would have loved to be able to attend but it's one of those situations of "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

I had thought that perhaps, Robert Kennedy, Jr. might be a good alternative to a Biden presidency. However, that idea soon went away

(Continued on A-3)

Aces Over

By: Mike French



To me, veterans are a little different than most people. I have such massive respect and honor for every veteran. But having never been in any sort of military branch, I don't understand a lot of it.

My dad, grandpa and all my uncles were veterans. I was always so interested in their life experience while in the military, but getting them to talk about it in detail was like pulling teeth. I don't know if they avoid bragging on themselves, or if they have been warned by generals to never speak of it, or if it just hurts too much to talk about. I have always wondered which it is. Perhaps a combination of the three.

I tried so hard to get my dad to tell me stories of his front line battles in Korea. He lost his brother on the same battlefields and they were amazingly close. They played in a bluegrass band together before Korea came along. He never played outside our home again.

He would sometimes answer my questions but would never volunteer any additional information. But even his answers were somewhat guarded. I knew my dad very well and I knew when he was leaving part of the story out. My uncles were exactly the same. I could get them to answer me, but that's all. Just a "yes" or "no" was about it. If I asked them about some other part of their life, they would answer and then begin a detailed story that was fascinating and entertaining. But when I asked about their military service, I only got either a "yes" or "no."

Also, as a student of

human nature, and being vulnerable to conspiracy theories, I get the impression by watching old veterans meeting on the street, that they have some sort of secret between them. They always look each other in the eye and shake hands and seem to be conveying something without words. It is fascinating to watch and it never fails. When two old veterans part, there is an extra glance...a slight facial expression that I am sure is saying something that no one else can understand.

Now my question is, does it take that type of personality to be a soldier? OR does that type of personality develop because they were soldiers? One can almost sense when they are talking to a veteran. There is a different sort of attitude.

I guess I will never know.

I know the idea is unfathomable to me. I can't even imagine in my wildest dreams spending a January at home watching television with a bowl of popcorn and a cold drink, and spending February 4,000 miles from home in a muddy, cold foxhole watching the blood of my friends drain from their body. That is an unimaginable scenario to me. But it was very real for many so I can see why such a thing would make someone a little different.

The most I ever got out of my dad about his experience, didn't even have anything to do with his battles. He and his brother had big plans in the world of music. I

couldn't get him to talk about his brother but once he told me that watching his son (me) on television programs like *Hee Haw* and *The Grand Old Opry*, made him feel like he and his brother "made it after all. It's the same blood."

One time I asked dad what he was thinking while bullets were flying over his head and he was covered in mud and knew he would never see his brother again. He said "I was thinking about driving down old Kirby Knob Road with the radio playing and the heater blowing on my feet." That was the longest sentence I ever got out of him on that subject.

I have made up my mind that veterans are a special breed. If they were before they went, or whether being there made them that way, I may never know. What they are saying with their body language and quiet looks when they meet, I may never understand.

But as I age into my latter years, I have decided that I probably don't want to know. Maybe I know enough. I know they are patriots. I know they love God, family and country. I know they made it possible for me to write this column in a free country. I know they gave away their youth so that mine was peaceful. I know they stood tall when others would have turned away. I know we all owe them more than we can ever repay.

I suppose that is about all I need to know.

Dear veterans, Thank you!

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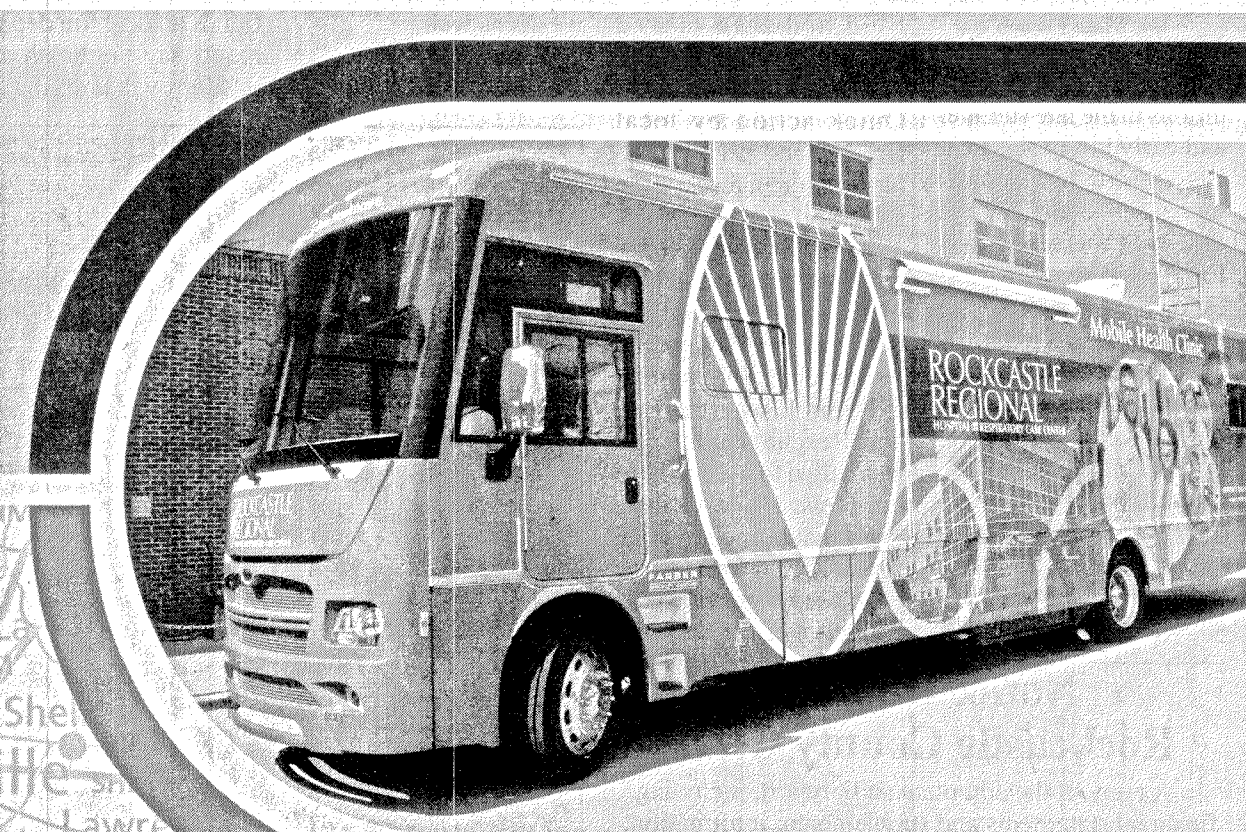
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Gather up all of your prescription and over-the-counter medications and bring them in for a free pharmacist review.

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Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps
Apples, Flowering
Crabs, Fruiting Crabs

Landscaping has included the genus 'Malus' for a long period of time. Sometimes it has been apples for fresh eating and winter keeping, sometimes fruiting crabapples that look lovely as a tree but have small apples that may also be useful for jelly or juice or for appearance hanging into winter, and sometimes it's just flowering that folks want from their crabapple trees. Even most flowering crabs also offer lovely foliage, fall colors, tiny fruits for wildlife and flowers for the pollinators.

There are quite a number of reasons people may choose an apple tree of one sort or another for their yard.

First, the pretty blooms in spring, perhaps colorful spring or fall foliage colorations, and perhaps the little red, orange or yellow decorative fruits hanging on after leaves are gone are reasons to choose a crabapple for one's yard. After all, hawthorns are commonly grown for these reasons in landscapes, so why not one of the dozens of flowering apple options.

Second, a fruiting crab; that is, a pretty flowering crabapple that also has fruits big enough to be useful for things like jelly, cider or taking a bite. And, since there's not even a complete consensus on what constitutes a crab versus a apple, some trees that have pretty flowers may actually have large fruits and some crabapples may

not have attractive blooms. Size of the fruits is sometimes the dividing line; under around two inches diameter and the apple is often referred to as a crab.

Then, the third reason to plant an apple is for useful fruit for eating, for pies, for keeping into the winter months, for juice or cider, and even to feed livestock or wildlife.

Many new varieties keep coming, so it takes a bit of study on the matter to make appropriate choices for your needs. Common cultivars for pretty pink or red blooms in springtime include the varieties Robinson, Profusion, Prariefire, Royal Raindrops, etc. Others prefer a white bloom from Sargeant or Golden Hornet or Snowdrift. Fruiting crabapples can range from Dolgo or Kerr to the red-fleshed Bakran or Niedzwetzkyana.

Then there are the 8,000 or more possible varieties of apples one could choose to grow for fruits. Many of the fruiting trees also look attractive in bloom, in fruit, in fall and winter even.

The concept of an orchard comes to mind when speaking of apple trees. But, our parents or grandparents may have grown them in the backyard, or even at the corner of the front porch. And I've spotted quite a few apple trees with fruit hanging on them located along city streets between the street and the sidewalk. (I'm guessing the passers-by are getting more of the harvest than the homeowner in that arrangement.)

Some apple trees keep attractive leaves all

summer, but it's also a fact that some get scab, cedar rust, scale and various other afflictions that make them unattractive as a front yard tree. So, for the best landscaping options, look for resistant varieties. Red Delicious, Northwest Greening, Arkansas Black, Liberty, Enterprise, Wolf River and Niedzwetzkyana are some you may have heard of that generally still look good with nice foliage most of the year. (Of course, insects can eat on the most disease-resistant of trees and still make them look sad, so there is always the caterpillars and grasshoppers and so forth that can turn the most pristine of trees into a ragged looking tree.)

Apple trees are in the rose family. Pretty flowers, useful fruits, but not the thorns. A useful website is pomiferous.com--where you can type in the name of an apple and quickly get an idea if it has the traits you are looking for in an apple to plant at your

place.

Fall is a perfect time to plant trees, but there's generally a better selection available at garden centers or by mailorder in the spring. Either way, if you have some rare or unique variety you'd like to plant, best get your request in early and not be late and miss out for at least another season.

One concluding thought is, if you or a neighbor or a family member has a special apple tree but you cannot find one like it for sale, or don't know what name to look for, there's the possibility of collecting a piece of this year's wood from the tree during the winter and grafting it in spring to start a new tree at your place like the favorite one you admire.

Apples can be lovely in a landscape, just choose wisely, based on the traits important to your situation.

The author is a landscaper. Contact: (606) 416-3911 or rockcastles.net



ramblings

(Continued from A2)

when I heard him say Monday that climate deniers should be jailed. So, it's now a no go for Bobby, Jr.

Meanwhile Creepy Joe seems to have changed his mind as to the greatest ultimate threat to humanity being white supremacists, it is now climate change. Of course, there will soon be the charge that white supremacists are the main cause for climate change so...

Eight House Republicans voted Monday with Democrats to table Marjorie Taylor Greene's attempt to impeach Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. Mayorkas keeps insisting in hearings that our border is secure and the main problem we are having to deal with is the "mess left by the last administration." He should be impeached for being a liar let alone an incompetent horrible defender of our country's borders.

Something to think about: Dayquil,

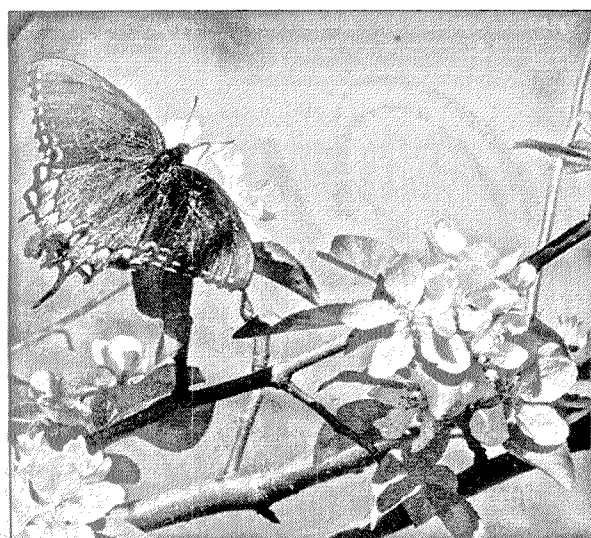
Mucinex, Sudafed, Theraflu and many other OTC meds are reportedly being pulled off shelves. Might be a good idea to try to stock up while you can.

A new Oregon law removes reading, writing and math requirements to help "students of color." If I were a POC, I would be highly insulted, but that's just me.

The coordinated invasion of the US continues. The Biden administration has deployed heavy equipment to lift razor wire for the waves of illegals that are continuing at record levels.

And, the old saying, "Don't mess with Texas," might have outlived its usefulness since pro-Hamas supporters took over the streets in Austin, the capitol city of Texas, waving their Palestine flags, and signs calling for a ceasefire.

There's more but if I listed everything I disagree with Democrats about, there wouldn't be room for anything else in the paper. See you next week, I hope.



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Rockcastle County Bookmobile Schedule
Monday, November 20th: Calloway, Red Hill and Livingston. Tuesday, November 21st: Maple Grove and Climax.

Health Dept. Thanksgiving Hours
The Rockcastle County Health Department will be closed Wednesday, November 22 through Sunday, November 26th, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The department will reopen Monday, November 27th at 8 a.m.

Remembrance Tree Ceremony
The 30th annual Remembrance Tree Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 2 p.m. at ECU's Perkins Building, 4436 Kit Carson Drive in Richmond. Anyone who misses a loved one during the holidays is welcome to participate. To learn more, request an ornament, or submit a photograph, visit hospicecareplus.org or the Hospice Care Plus Facebook event page. For questions, contact Hospice Care Plus at (859) 986-1500 or hospice@hospicecp.org

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, Katheryn 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: Katheryn 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.

Take Action

What is the Safe Haven Law?

KRS 405.075 states that a newborn infant can legally be placed in a device designed to permit a parent to anonymously surrender their baby with the intent for an emergency medical services provider to remove the newborn take custody.

The nearest Safe Haven Box to Mt. Vernon, KY is in Mt. Washington, 97 miles away.

- There are currently 136 SHBB
- 16 of those boxes are located in KY
- The first baby was placed in a KY SHBB on 2/10/2023, less than 2 mths after installation

For more information, or to make a donation contact
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Obituaries

Marie Ruppe

Marie Shepherd Ruppe, 89, of Livingston, went home to be with Jesus on Friday, November 10, 2023 at Rockcastle Health & Rehabilitation Center in Brodhead. She was born at Crooked Creek in Rockcastle County on October 16, 1934, the daughter of John D. and Cora Browning Shepherd.



Marie had been a member of Red Hill Baptist Church for 73 years. She loved her church family and enjoyed old-fashioned preaching and singing. She was caretaker of Red Hill Cemetery for 18 years. She loved to mow and take care of people. Her love was deep for Red Hill.

Left to celebrate her life are: her daughter, Libbie Clark and husband Leamon of Red Hill; two grandchildren, Chris Kirby and wife Ashley of Somerset, and Beth Engle and husband Jon of Cocoran, MN; three great grandchildren, James Kirby of Twin Falls, ID, and Aiden and Emma of Cocoran, MN; and one great great granddaughter, Isabelle Kirby of Twin Falls, ID. She loved all kids, adopted all, and wanted them all to call her "Nanny". In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by: her husband, John Robert Ruppe; four brothers, Dewey, Gilbert, John D., Jr., and Milford; and five sisters, Geneve, Alve, Anna, Lina, and Ella.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 12, 2023 at Red Hill Baptist Church by Bro. Bill Hammond, pastor of Roundstone Baptist Church, and Bro. Luke Day, pastor of Greenland Baptist Church of Corbin. Music was provided by Janet Vaughn and Steve and Chrissy Mink. Burial was in Red Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Junior Allen, Wayne Carpenter, Raymond Clark, Jeff Cromer, Steve Howard, and Tim Kelley. Duane Allen was an honorary pallbearer.

Arrangements were by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

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

Jack Raines

Thurman Crit "Jack" Raines, 91, of Mt. Vernon, husband of Evelene Raines, died Friday, November 10, 2023.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 1 p.m. at Dowell and Martin Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Cresthaven Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be after 11 a.m. Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Hospice Care Plus.

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

James "Jim" Len Morris

James "Jim" Len Morris, 75, died peacefully Sunday, November 5, 2023.

Jim is survived by: his wife, Dolores Reppert Morris; siblings, Rodger Morris and Lisa Hounshell; children, Aimee Tackett, Kim Button, and Zack Morris; bonus children, Rebecca Toy, Michael Albright, and Jessica Leith; and grandchildren, Madeline Toy, Ansley Toy, Avery Toy, Cooper Leith, Tate Button, Garrett Button, Marissa Button, and Skylar Morris. He is preceded in death by his parents, Linzie Morris and Hazel Burdette, and his sister, Billie Sharon Hiers.

He was born April 6, 1948 in Richmond, Indiana. He graduated from Centerville High School in 1966 and later enlisted as a Marine. Jim valiantly served his country in Vietnam, earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Medal for distinguishing himself by heroic service.

Upon his return, Jim attended Eastern Kentucky University. He settled in Lexington and after exploring career options, Jim found his career calling in truck driving. After almost 30 years behind the wheel, Jim retired in 2005 from Averitt Express to enjoy spending more time with his wife, volunteering at church, mowing his lawn, and watching his beloved westerns.

Jim was a member of Maretburg Baptist Church. He'd previously served as a trustee at First Baptist Church and was active in AWANA.

While Jim was known to be a dedicated employee, hardworking, and loyal, his greatest impact was made through his loving contributions to his family. They remember him as a man of high standards with moral integrity, strong but humble, giving without reservation, faithful and loving with an always-positive perspective on life. When greeted by others and asked how he was doing, Jim was known for his cheerful disposition and honest response, "I'm fantastic."

A Celebration of Life was held Friday, November 10, 2023 at Maretburg Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon. Burial followed at Green Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers included: Zack Morris, Michael Albright, Tate Button, Garrett Button, CJ Tackett, and Skylar Morris. Honorary pallbearers included: Rodger Morris, Paul Blevins, David Toy, and Kevin Button.

The family would like to thank all friends, family, caregivers, and members of the church community for their faithful support.



James Dewey Wynn

James Dewey Wynn, 43, of Brodhead, died Monday, November 6, 2023, at his residence. He was born May 29, 1980, in Somerset, the son of James Robert and Vivian Robbins Barton. He was a self-employed Handy Man who was a Seventh Day Adventist, who enjoyed being outdoors, and tinkering with cars/truck.

Those left to celebrate his life are: his mother, Vivian Robbins Barton; his son, Gabriel Wynn; his brother, Brandon Wynn; as well as a host of nieces/nephews, friends and neighbors.

Funeral services were held Thursday, November 9, 2023 at Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals with Bro. Bill Davis and Brandon Wynn officiating. Burial was in High Dry Cemetery.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com



Edward Mullins

Edward Mullins, 81, of Richmond, IN, passed into Jesus' arms surrounded by his family on Saturday, November 11, 2023 after a brave battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Ed was born August 16, 1942, to William and Emma Jane Mullins in Rockcastle County. After graduating from Livingston High School, Ed moved to Richmond, IN where he met the love of his life, his "Georgie Girl", Georgia Johnson. They recently celebrated 60 years, having been married July 4, 1963. They were blessed with two daughters, Lori L. (Brad) Lambright of Centerville, IN and April E. (Matthew) Branstetter of Wheeling, West Virginia.

Ed was a member of the Masonic Lodge (Williamsburg), Wayne County Conservation Club, Williamsburg Lions Club, and he was a Kentucky Colonel. He was a member of Freedom Missionary Baptist Church.

Ed was co-owner of Westside Service for 30 years where he became friends with all he met. Ed's nickname was "Moon Mullins" and he was previously employed by Eaton Gear, Kemper Cabinets, Overhead Door, and Haughton Elevator. He was an avid collector of clocks and loved vintage cars. He could build, create, and fix just about anything.

He was Pappaw to Hunter Lambright, Arielle (Chris) Williams, Tom Branstetter, Kara (Andrew) Schroeder, Ashleigh (Eric) Davis, Emma Lambright, and Wade Lambright and honorary grandchild Paighton Morken. He was Big Pappaw to Blakelynn, Kyra, Nicholas, and Finley Branstetter, Gentry Williams, Zoey and Corie Schroeder, and Vivian Davis.

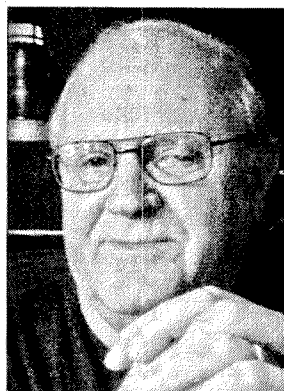
Ed is survived by his twin sister Evelyn Fouch and sister Virginia (Bice) Owens. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Katherine Gadd, Emma Jane Owens, Lillian Thomas, Henry, Jack, Granville, David, Matt, and Wayne Mullins.

Pallbearers are: Hunter and Wade Lambright, Tom Branstetter, Eric Davis, Chris Williams, and Andrew Schroeder and honorary pallbearer Gentry Williams.

Services will be 1 p.m. Thursday, November 16, 2023 at Stegall-Berheide-Orr Funeral Home with Matthew Branstetter and Brad Lambright officiating. Burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Friends may call Thursday, November 16, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Stegall Berheide Orr Funeral Home.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.stegallberheideorr.com



Glen Faulkner

Lowell Glen Faulkner, 88, of Cumberland, KY, father of Annette Beardsley, died Sunday, November 12, 2023 in Somerset.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at Dowell & Martin Funeral Home. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery.

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

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

Cards of Thanks

Marie Ruppe

Thanks to everyone who was involved a month before the passing of Marie Ruppe.

Bro. Bill Hammonds and Roundstone Baptist Church who arranged to have church at her home. The family wants to say thank you for putting joy and a smile on her face to get to have church one more time.

Thanks to Jeff Cromer for use of the tent, Buddy and Janice Mullins and Kristie and Steve Mink and Jeff Cromer for the beautiful songs and Bro. Bill for the message. She talked about it every day until passing.

Thanks to Hospice for the love and compassion they showed her and the family. She had an awesome team.

We would also like to thank Dowell & Martin for the wonderful job they did and the love they showed the family and Sparks Flowers for the beautiful casket spray. The special singers that sang her songs, Janet and Tyler Vaughn and Kristie, Steve and Lonnie Mink. The beautiful words by Bro. Luke Day and Bro. Bill Hammonds, Red Hill Church for all they did for her funeral, the men she wanted to carry her, Wayne Carpenter, Raymond Clark, Jeff Cromer Jr. Allen, Tim Kelley and Steve Howard and honorary pallbearer, Duane Allen. Also thanks to everyone for all the texts, phone calls, gifts, food and prayers.

God Bless you all, Marie Ruppe Family



Let the Bible Speak

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

Services at Macedonia Baptist

Macedonia Baptist Church, located at 6567 Scaffold Cane Road, will be holding Sunday morning services on November 19. The services will begin at 11 a.m. with Bro. Danny Robbins preaching.

Macedonia Baptist held a re-opening on October 1st, after being closed for two years.

We invite everyone to join us at Macedonia. For more information, contact Bro. Randy McPherson at 606-308-2579.

Pastor Appreciation

Sand Hill Baptist Church would like to express

our appreciation for the 24 years of dedication of our Pastor, Bro. Tommy Miller and his wife, Sharon. We love you both so very much and thank you for everything you do. May God continue to bless you and bless our church.



For Rent

2 bedroom trailer
\$500 month plus deposit.
No pets.
859-358-3560

SUNDAY WORSHIP-SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM, SUNDAY SERVICE 11 AM, SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE & MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

YOUTH GROUP 6:00 PM-WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE & K-5TH GRADE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 7PM

Bro. Richie Smith, Pastor • Bro. Josh Haines, Youth/Family Minister



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160 WEST MAIN STREET
MOUNT VERNON, KY

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Email: fcclovegodlovepeople@gmail.com

"Burn"

(Continued from front) temperatures early this week.

Kentucky Fire Hazard Season is in effect currently and lasts until December 15. If conditions continue to worsen, the governor may issue a statewide burn ban, already in effect in nearly 20 counties. The county judge/executive may also issue a burn ban locally, if he chooses. Such burn bans when instituted are enforceable by the local police departments.

During Fire Hazard Season, it is illegal to burn between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. within 150 feet of brush or forest except when the ground is covered in snow.

A burn ban, when issued, includes much more restrictions including making campfires, warming fires, pit cooking, charcoal grilling, and even welding, in some cases, illegal.

The nearly 20 counties in Kentucky already under a burn ban, according to news reports, does not include Rockcastle County.

According to local fire department officials, all fires must be attended until entirely extinguished and all residents are urged to take extreme caution until further notice.

Anyone seeking more information may contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

"Vets"

(Continued from front) VFW, were available for any veteran who wanted a copy.

After the meal, all the veterans were escorted into the gymnasium where the filled bleachers erupted with cheers.

The RCMS Choir performed songs from each branch of the military and ended the performance with the National Anthem.

Dignitaries from the Rockcastle County School Board and RCMS faculty addressed the crowd and honored the many veterans.

RCHS senior Kelsey Coy was then brought on stage and honored with a certificate of appreciation for all her help in putting the program together. While receiving her certificate, Kelsey heard her brother, Kaleb Coy, being introduced to the crowd. Kaleb serves in the United States Marines and organizers of the event planned the surprise appearance for Kelsey. Kelsey then turned to see her brother standing behind her and leapt into his arms with lengthy cheers and applause following from the crowd.

Officials then recognized local veterans and those who helped make the program possible. Air Force veteran Kathy Bobo, was also recognized for her efforts supporting veterans in the area. Bobo was the driving force behind the new Veterans Memorial Park at Lake Linville, among other accomplishments.

Eventually the students made their way back to class while the veterans remained for a while to visit and share stories.

The event ended in fond farewells as older veterans saluted each other and some hugged as they left the school on their way home.

It was an event filled

with emotion, pride and appreciation. Officials later called the celebration a triumphant success and more memories were made for each Rockcastle County veteran.

Plans are already underway for the 2024 event.

"Elect"

(Continued from front) dates won their race statewide.

Michael Adams (R) won the race for Secretary of State against Charles Wheatley (D) with 60% of the vote.

Russell Coleman (R) won his bid for Attorney General over Pamela Stevenson 58% to 42%.

Johnathan Shell (R) won the office of Commissioner of Agriculture over Sierra Enlow (D) by a huge margin with over 83% of the vote.

Allison Ball (R) won her race for Auditor Of Public Accounts over Kimberly Reeder (D) by a huge margin with over 85% of the votes.

Mark Metcalf (R) won his race in a landslide victory for Kentucky State Treasurer against Michael Bowman (D), receiving 91% of the vote.

The 2024 Primary Election is planned for May 21, 2024.

"Elf"

(Continued from front)

to find out the details of how they can help. For those willing to help, there are very few rules. Donors get to decide how they want to help. "People can pick out a child and then go shopping just for that child's Christmas" (The center provides sizes and a wish list), they can pick out a family and shop for all of them or they can give money and our shoppers will shop for the child or the family. They can also just donate toys or Christmas dinners or most, anyway they want to help, we make it happen," said King.

About the only rule concerns timing. "We ask that anyone willing to help these children or families have a good Christmas, get their donation to their school resource center by December 4," she said. And there is a good reason for that deadline. "Many parents like to have time to come and pick up all the toys and clothes and foods in time to take it home and sneak it under the tree," said King. "Some kids will never know the gifts came from the Elf Program."

Regardless of how the donor wishes to handle donations, organizers will see to it that each child or family gets their gifts in time for Christmas.

If you know a family in need, you may contact the resource center also.

Again in 2023, many children who would have done without, will wake up to presents under their tree on Christmas morning thanks to the Elf Program.

Anyone willing to give or wishing to participate in the program, should contact your school's resource center immediately.

Proverbs 19:17 (KJV) "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

New Beginnings Grand Opening



New Beginnings Real Estate held their second location Grand Opening ceremony last week at 20 Lovell Street in Mount Vernon. The event included many local residents and dignitaries for the ribbon cutting ceremony. You may reach the new business by calling 606-386-9701, Sherry Lynn Bussell, Realtor,

• Office of the Sheriff of Rockcastle County •

Pursuant to KY statute KRS 91A.040 the KY State Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the 2022 Sheriff Fee Account for the Rockcastle County Sheriff.

The auditor's opinion letter will be published by Auditor of Public Accounts on November 16, 2023 in the *Mount Vernon Signal*, shown below.


A copy of the complete audit report, including statements and supplemental information, is on file at the Sheriff's office and is available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Any citizen may obtain from the Sheriff a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for their personal use.

Any citizen requesting a personal copy of the audit report will be charged duplication cost at a rate of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page.

A copy of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KY KRS 424.220 is available to the public at no cost at the Office of Auditor of Public Accounts, 209 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

/s/ Shannon Franklin,
Sheriff of Rockcastle County



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Howell Holbrook, Jr., Rockcastle County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Shannon Franklin, Rockcastle County Sheriff
Members of the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court
Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions
We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Rockcastle County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting
In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Rockcastle County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2022, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Rockcastle County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2022, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Rockcastle County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Rockcastle County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

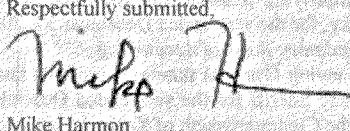
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rockcastle County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Rockcastle County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards
In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 25, 2023, on our consideration of the Rockcastle County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Rockcastle County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report finding:
2022-001 The Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties
Respectfully submitted,


Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

July 25, 2023
State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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SPORTS

Rockets defeat Lawrence Co.; advance to region finals

History was made, and a ticket was punched to the third round of the KHSAA Class 3A playoffs for the Rockcastle County Rockets football team, who downed a scrappy Lawrence County squad 31-28, Friday night in front of a raucous crowd.

Rockcastle County (11-1) will play in the third round/region finals of the playoffs for the first time since 2006 and the matchup with a talented Lexington Catholic bunch will also be the first time since 2002 that the Rockets have hosted a third-round game.

With a 28-8 lead entering the fourth quarter, the Rockets had to survive a valiant comeback effort by the Bulldogs (8-4) to pull out the victory.

“Well, I never actually felt comfortable with the lead,” stated Rockcastle head coach Chris Larkey about the 28-8 lead. “We had some kids get hurt and were out during the game at that point and Lawrence scored at 11:49 and first play of the fourth quarter and then onside kicked and got it and scored in less than a minute to make it a very close game. So, then it’s 28-22 with 11:08 left in the game. If we get the onside kick, it’s not that close. That’s how important special teams are. It was great for these kids to win this huge playoff game at home in front of our awesome county and fans. It means a lot for these fans and for our county.”

Special team play was important from the opening kickoff as Rockcastle won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball first. Sophomore Isaiah Jackson fielded the squib kick 63 yards and followed his blockers to ad-

vance the ball inside the Lawrence County 10-yard line.

After advancing the ball to the 1-yard line, senior quarterback Tucker Warren plunged his way into the end zone on fourth down to give Rockcastle County a 7-0 lead just 1:16 into the contest.

“Well, we had it scouted to where they would kick it and if we ever get the choice to get the ball first, we do,” Coach Larkey mentioned about Jackson’s return. “The kick return by Isaiah was huge as it gave us momentum and no pressure for the rest of the game. Anytime you take the ball and score first, you get a lot of momentum and take some pressure off everyone from players to coaches. It makes life easier if you score first.

Neither team could muster much offense the rest of the first quarter, and it wasn’t until midway through the second stanza that the Rockets would extend their lead to 14-0 when Warren connected for the first of two long touchdown passes to senior receiver Caleb Moore.

With just a single defensive back in coverage, Moore needed just one move to race past the defender and Warren laid out a beautifully timed pass to Moore in stride from 68-yards out.

The 68-yard touchdown pass was the second touchdown pass from that distance from Warren to Moore this season as the two hooked up for a long touchdown pass against Bell County earlier this season.

Lawrence County, which was known for a staunch running attack that rushed for about 204

yards per game entering the contest, was shut down on the ground throughout the night and had to go through the air to start moving the ball.

The Bulldogs were finally able to crack the scoreboard with a few minutes before halftime on a touchdown and subsequent 2-point conversion to cut the Rockcastle lead down to 14-8.

The Rockets responded a few plays later when Warren appeared to be flushed toward the sideline but made a move to get by a defender and waltz into the end zone from 9-yards out with 1:10 before the halftime break.

Warren’s rushing touchdown 16th of the season and he would eventually eclipse the 1,000-yard rushing barrier as well as the 2,000-yard passing mark for the season in the same game.

“Tucker has become a very good player, and it is the first time he has played defense since he was in eighth grade,” added Coach Larkey about Warren so rarely comes off the field and added multiple key stops on defense including eight tackles and an interception. “He is very good on defense and has helped make our team what it is today. I’m not sure if we have ever had a quarterback with those stats. Obviously, it’s hard to do what he has done, but he has been blessed with some really good wide receivers and running backs to help take some pres-

sure off and the offensive line has done a great job thus far for blocking.”

The second half started with a defensive stop by the Rockets and on the first play on offense, Warren once again saw Moore in single coverage and floated a well-time ball deep into Lawrence County territory that Moore caught in stride on his way to a 58-yard touchdown to a 28-8 lead.

“Caleb is having a heck of a year,” Coach Larkey mentioned of Moore, who now has 953 receiving yards this season on 45 receptions. “He is phenomenal to watch and makes so many good plays at the right time. I think Lawrence County figured out he was pretty darn good. Caleb has made a huge impact on our team since he moved to wide receiver and displayed how good he is at that position. Really though, Caleb can do about anything.”

One player that did all he could throughout the game was Christian Larkey, who made numerous outstanding plays on defense and added an extra weapon on offense despite suffering a foot injury against Knox Central earlier in the season and having seen limited reps since then.

The younger Larkey had two catches for 26 yards on offense, but it was his gritty and determined play on defense that was key in helping limit Lawrence County to just eight points through the first three quarters.

“The kid shouldn’t be able to play, but he will himself to play anyway,” Coach Larkey added of his son Christian, who had four tackles and several pass breakups on defense. “He knows he is very limited on what he can do right now until he has surgery, but he plays his role as a leader and doing the little things on both sides of the ball. We just have to be in a spot where he doesn’t have to run long routes or things like that. He is the toughest kid I have ever coached.”

The Bulldogs displayed a toughness in the fourth quarter that hadn’t been there for most of the game when they cut their deficit down to 28-14 on their third play from scrimmage in the fourth quarter.

After a successful onside kick and a pass interference on the Rockets, Lawrence County scored three plays later to make it a one-score game at 28-22.

Then the Bulldogs began to be a bit overzealous on defense and were hit with a pair of personal foul penalties on the ensuing drive to put the Rockets into scoring position.

Despite not being able to punch the ball into the end zone, the Rockets knew they could count on their talented junior kicker Benjamin Brenda, who has been lights out on field goals and extra points this season.

Brenda stepped up when his team needed

him the most and booted a 32-yard field goal with 9:01 left in the game. His fifth field goal of the season gave Rockcastle a 2-score lead at 31-22.

“We won the special teams game again,” mentioned Coach Larkey. “The only time this year we didn’t was at Paris, and we lost. Man, what a clutch kick by Benjamin Brenda to put us up by nine late in the game. A 32-yard field goal was a big-time play and hats off to our snapper Isaiah Phelps, the holder Carter Powell and our offensive line that held them off. I don’t know if Lawrence thought we would fake or kick, but man what a huge kick to get us up by two scores. Our kick return team did great as did our kickoff and punt teams. We just got out of position on an onside kick but were able to get the last one to help win the game.”

Offensive output was minimal for both teams over the next four series as the Rockcastle defense forced back-to-back turnover on downs while Lawrence County forced the Rockets to punt twice.

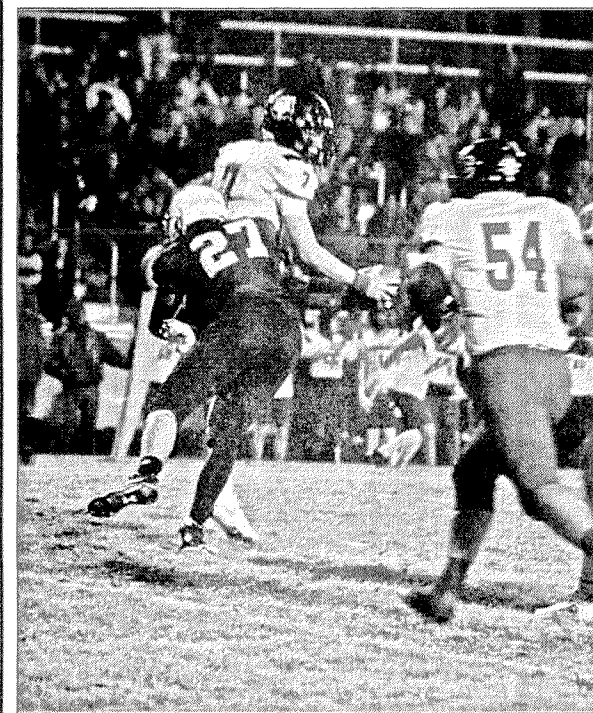
It was after the second punt that Lawrence County was able to get into the end zone to cut the Rockcastle lead down to 31-28, but a missed extra point kick would muzzle the Bulldogs’ chances of winning on a last-season field goal.

Rockcastle was forced to punt for the third time in the fourth quarter and

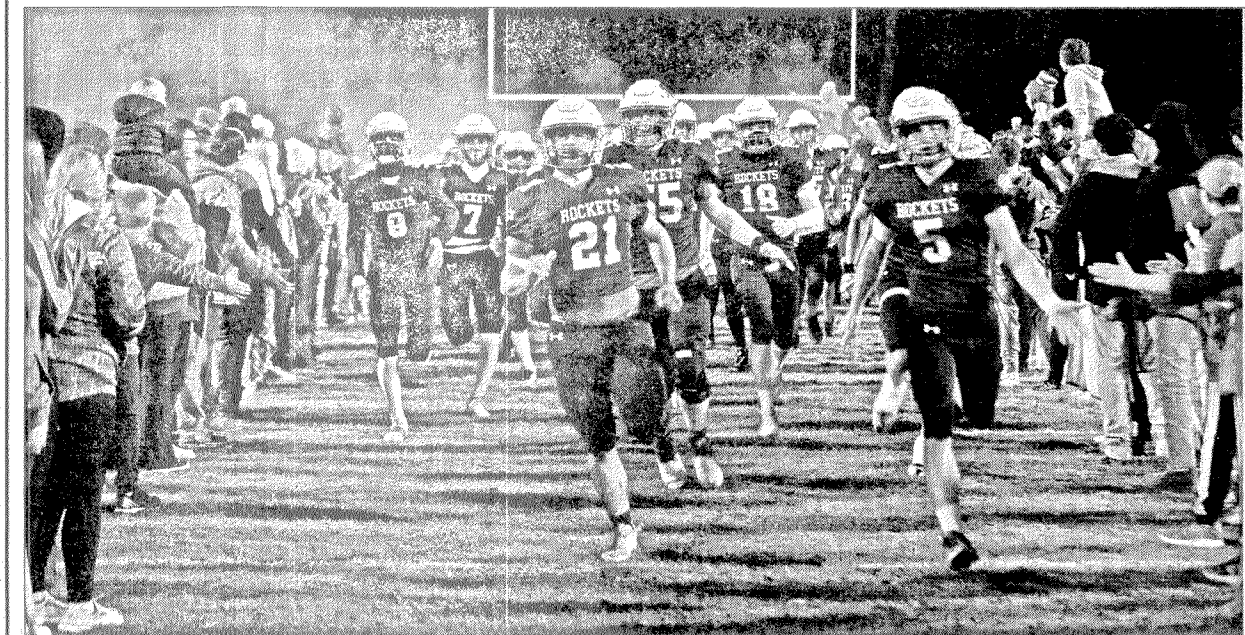
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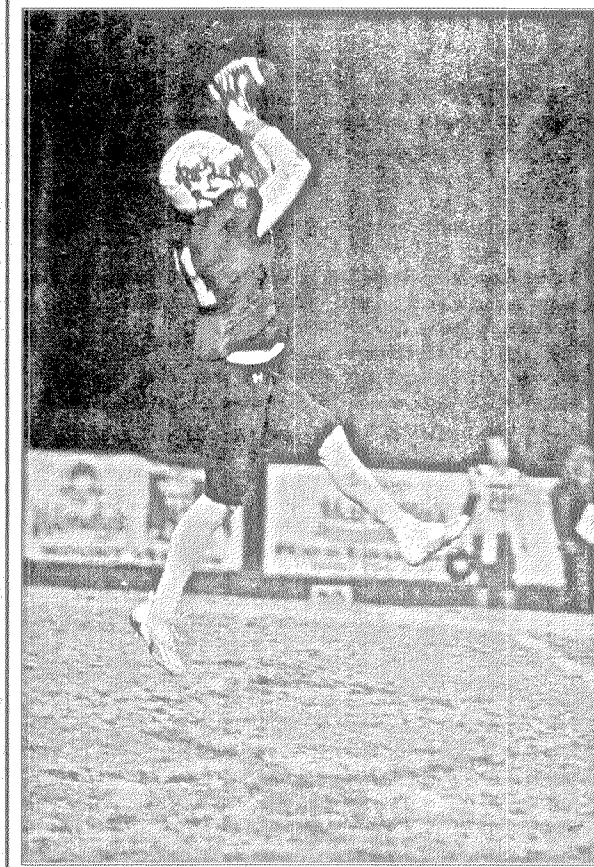
Caden Lovell makes a tackle during the Rockets’ 31-28 win over Lawrence County Friday night. The Rockets now host Lexington Catholic this Friday at 7:30 p.m.



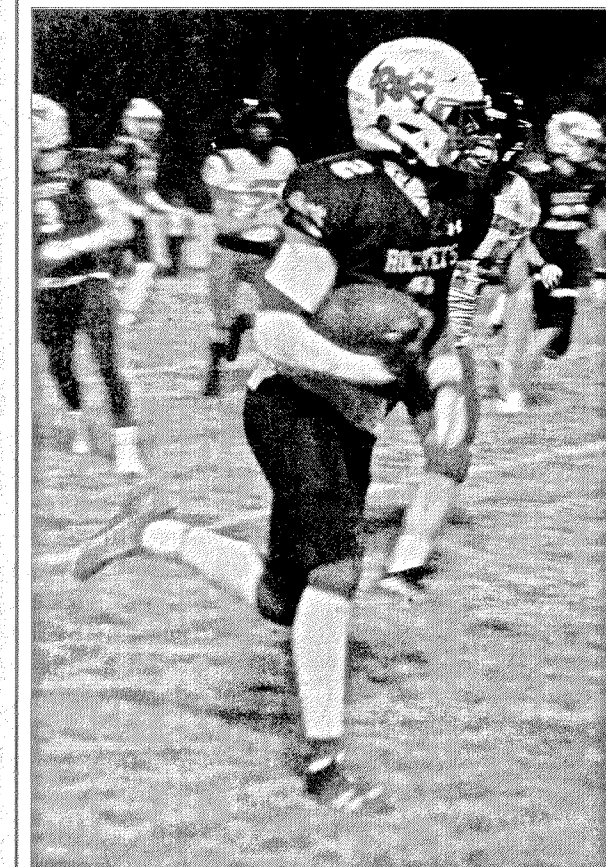
Jaydon Bowles picks up the Rockets’ lone quarterback sack on this play during the Rockets’ second round playoff win Friday night.



Anthony Goodin and Carter Powell lead the Rockets through Friday night’s spirit line before the Rockets playoff game against Lawrence County. The Rockets came out on top 31-28 and will host Lexington Catholic this Friday night in the region finals.



Christian Larkey goes up high for a reception during the Rockets’ win over Lawrence County Friday night. Larkey had two receptions for 26 yards.



Isaiah Jackson returned the opening kickoff 63 yards to set up the Rockets’ first score of the game Friday night.

“Rockets”

(Cont. from pg. A6)

the Bulldogs would take their final attempts at winning with less than a minute to go.

An incomplete pass was followed by a 22-yard completion down to the Rockcastle 35-yard line with just seconds to go.

Back-to-back-to-back incompletions were highlighted by the defensive play of the night when Moore punched the ball away from a Lawrence County receiver in the end zone, when it appeared that the catch was all but a sure thing.

Moore's deflection left Lawrence County with a fourth-down play with a mere 0:00.4 left on the clock and a valiant push up the middle by the Rockcastle defensive line flushed the Bulldogs' quarterback out of the pocket and not get his feet set where he had to dump off the ball to a running back that was only able to gain 12 yards as time expired.

The Herculean effort that the Rockets defensive unit put forth in stopping the run and causing confusion in the backfield helped secure the victory and another home playoff game.

“Lawrence is a running team and very fast and physical,” said Coach Larkey. “Our grass field was to our advantage as we shut them down on the run. When a team is used to playing on turf all the time and then goes to grass, it slows them down and messes them up psychologically. Lawrence was the most physical team we have played this year and are very good. Coach Martin and the defensive coaches prepared our kids so hard and had so many great practices last week and had them laser focused. Again, Lawrence complained about slipping on the grass and it was in their head all night and it took away from their offense and gave us a huge advantage.”

Offensively for the game, Warren was 12-for-20 through the air for 217 yards and two touchdowns while also adding 65 yards on 23 carries and another touchdown.

Senior fullback Anthony Goodwin, who is also playing through pain, bruised his way to 38 rushing yards on six carries while Moore added two carries for 14 yards.

Moore and Jackson each added five receptions on the game with Moore totaling 158 yards to Jackson's 33.

On the defensive front, the Rockets were once again led by freshman linebacker Hunter Pingleton who totaled 14 tackles (eight solo and six assisted) to go along with two tackles for loss.

Warren added eight tackles and an interception while Jackson chipped in seven tackles with three huge tackles for loss.

Powell earned six tackles and two tackles for loss while Larkey and Connor Wright tacked on four tackles apiece.

Goodin, Moore, Heath Barnes, Colin Hamilton, Jaydon Bowles and Creed Gabbard had three tackles each with Moore collecting and interception and Bowles coming up big with two tackles, for loss and the team's only quarterback sack of the night.

Freshmen Blake Mullins and Caden Lowell chipped in a pair of tackles each to round out the defensive statistics.

With the KHSAA going to the RPI to seed the third-round matchups and Bell County earning a 24-22 win at Belfry, East Carter downing Lloyd Memorial 20-6 and LexCath trouncing Russell Independent 48-0, Bell County earned the top seed and will host East Carter.

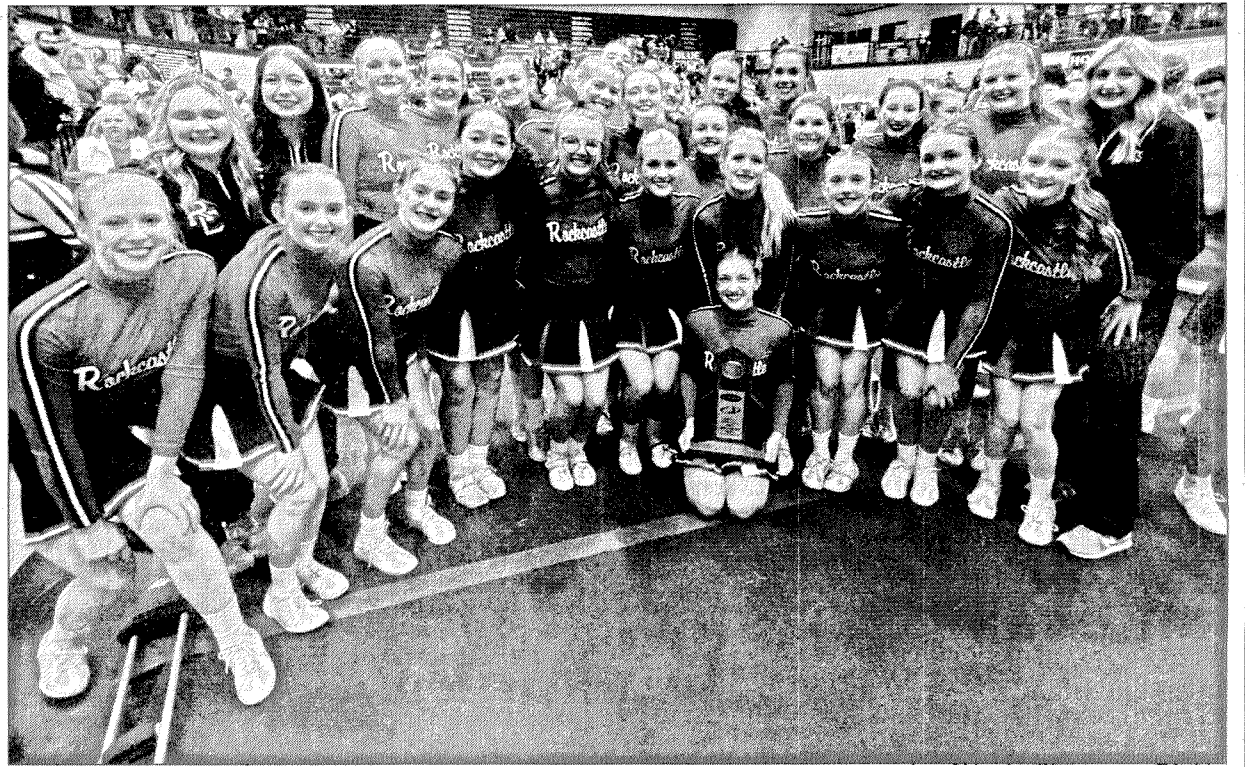
Rockcastle drew the tougher matchup of the higher RPI seeds in the eastern half of the 3A bracket with a matchup looming against a LexCath squad that has faced one of the state's best non-district schedules that included matchups against Lexington Christian, Highlands, Corbin, Boyle County and Scott County.

The battle-tested Knights will come to Rockcastle County for a playoff game for the first time since the 1990s.

“We have played them at home before in the 90s in the playoffs and lost,” Coach Larkey had to say about his team's upcoming opponent. “What can we expect from a team that can basically get any kid they want from Lexington and create an all-star team? Well, you're going to get one of the best, if not the best team, in 3A. When you play private schools that is what you get, an all-star team of the best in the area. There is a reason no Lexington public school will play them because of how they get kids. It's really unfair for a small rural county school to play a team like this, but it is what it is, and we will go play and give it our best. Lexington Catholic has a superb quarterback in Jackson Wasik, and really good wide receivers who are as fast as we are. Our kids won't back down and will play with all they have.”

Fans are encouraged to pack the stands and root on their Rockets. Sassy Sister Design Co. will have numerous types of noise makers and pom poms for fans to use to make noise and cheer the Rockets. Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m.

RCHS Cheerleading advances to KHSAA State Cheerleading Championship




The RCCHS Cheerleading team were regional runner-up in the KHSAA Region 11 & 12 Cheerleading competition this past Saturday. The competition took place at Montgomery County High School. The team placed second out of nine teams with a score of 93.1 in the Large Varsity Game Day Division. The team will advance to the KHSAA State Cheerleading Championship on Friday, 12/8 at George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester. The team is coached by Joanie Lake and Viena Anderson. Members of the team are shown above, front row from left: Marley Gibson, Bailey Terry, Lexi Burkhart, Morgan Hocker, Allie Cable, Maggie Reynolds, Raychel Carpenter, Brook Hebson, Makena Weaver, Emma Hensley and Brooke Dunn. Back row from left: Sidney Doan, Keathlee Justice, Chelsea Cox, Chloe Taylor, Ashleigh Abney, Kameryn Medley, Kathryn Coffey, Alivia Shepherd, Ally Hayes, Brianna Hensley, Lila Holt, Bevin Baker, Victoria Dykes, Jenna Eaton and Kovey Payne. Not pictured: Kayden Collins.

RCMS Cheer takes regional runner-up



The RCMS Cheerleading team were regional runner-up in the KAPO Region 12 Cheerleading Competition Monday night. The competition took place at Pulaski County High School. The team is coached by Joanie Lake and Sierra Hansel. Members of the team are shown above, front row from left: Carabella Mink, Peyton Carter, Bailey Baker, Alyssa McKinney, Brooklyn Carpenter, Madi Hasty, Ava Deatherage, Samantha Benge, Courtney Bohn, coach Joanie Lake. Back row from left: coach Sierra Hansel, Brooklyn Hebson, Arden Carrera, Jaleyn Hager, Bella Cox, Abby Northern, Bevin Baker, Jayla Coleman, Emma King, Jayden Campbell, Alia Hensley, Molly Willis and Lakota Wilder.



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The Five Acts of Worship!

We are told throughout the old and new testaments that God is to be worshipped. I am amazed when I talk to people, who profess Christianity and I ask where do you go to Church? Often, they say I don't think you have to go to Church to be saved. Let me just say this, Christians that think this are saying, worshipping God is not important. It should never be a question of have too but rather that I want to worship God. In Psalms 122:1 it says, I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of Lord. Psalms 29:2, Give the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. John 4:23-24, But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. VS 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Ephesians 5:19 tells us, Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to Lord; VS 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are edified and built up spiritually when we blend our voices to praise the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, Pray without ceasing. VS 18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Ephesians 4:11-12, And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some; evangelists; and some pastors, and teachers: VS 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Acts 20:7, And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the next day, he continued his speech until midnight. 1 Corinthians 16:2, Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

The five acts of worship!

1) Singing 2) Praying 3) Preaching 4) The taking of the communion. 5) Giving a portion of that which God has blessed us with

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 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

The Judgment

(Acts 24:25) And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. This judgment will affect every person who has ever lived, beginning with Adam, and ending with the last person born upon the face of this earth. (Acts 17:31) Because He hath appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He raised Him from the dead.

It will be for each individual. (Rom. 14:12) So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. One day it will be us and God, and we will give an account according to God's word. (Jno. 12:48) He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

It will also be according to man's works. (Rev. 20:12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Do our works compliment the words of God, "by doing what His words teaches?"

God's judgment will be complete, including: thoughts (Prov. 23:7) words (Matt. 12:36,37) and deeds (Rom. 2:6) and what he has failed to do (Jas. 4:17) Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. We must take the judgment of God seriously, because once it is done it will be final and complete. There will be no appeals: the sentence will be for ever and ever without end. (Matt. 25:31-46) **THAT DAY IS COMING**

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We have videos to watch on our YouTube channel Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ Mt Vernon Kentucky. We assemble for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M., and Wednesday evening at 7:00 P. M. We offer free Bible correspondence course. If you would like to contact someone from the church you can call or text this number 606-224-1480.

REMEMBER GOD LOVES YOU

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

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Mamaw's Kitchen

By Regina Poynter Hoskins

CHARRO BEANS

6 ounces bacon, chopped
8 ounces Mexican chorizo or hot dogs, chopped
1/2 cup chopped white onion
1 to 2 green chili peppers seeded, finely chopped
8 ounces cored and chopped ripe tomatoes
5 cups cooked pinto beans or canned beans
1 cup water
Salt, to taste

Cook bacon in large skillet over medium-high heat until it is lightly browned and starting to crisp, 3 to 4 minutes. Add chorizo and cook, using a wooden spoon or spatula to break chorizo into smaller pieces; cook for 4 to 5 minutes until brown and crisp. Add onion and chilies mix well, and cook until they soften, 2 to 3 minutes. Add tomatoes and continue cooking for 4 to 5 minutes more, stirring occasionally, until they are thoroughly softened. Add beans and water, stir well, reduce heat to medium. Cook until the beans are moist but not very soupy, 8 to 10 minutes. Taste; salt if necessary.

BAKED CHILES RELLENOS

1 large can roasted and peeled chilies (8 to 10 chilies)
1/2 pound Monterey cheese cut into 1-inch strips
1 cup grated Cheddar cheese
3 eggs
1/4 cup flour
3/4 cup milk
Salt, pepper, and hot pepper sauce

Preheat oven to 350°. Cut green chilies in half, seed, leaving a few seeds for extra flavor. Spread chilies on paper towel and pat dry. Put a strip of Monterey Jack cheese in each chili. Lay them side by side in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Beat eggs with flour until smooth. Add milk, seasonings, and pepper sauce. Carefully pour egg mixture over chilies. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes or until knife inserted in custard comes out clean.

ENCHILADA CASSEROLE

1 can cheddar cheese soup
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 small can chopped green chilies
1 onion, chopped
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
3/4 soup can of milk
1 pound ground beef
10 to 12 soft corn tortillas

las

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix soups, chilies, onion, cheese, and milk in saucepan. Heat. In a skillet, brown ground beef until no pink remains. Layer half of tortillas in 9 x 13 baking dish. Layer ground beef and cheese sauce. Top with other half of tortillas and layer again. Top with shredded cheese. Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes. Let sit for 15 minutes after removing from oven. Serve with your favorite salsa.

RCMS Honor Roll...

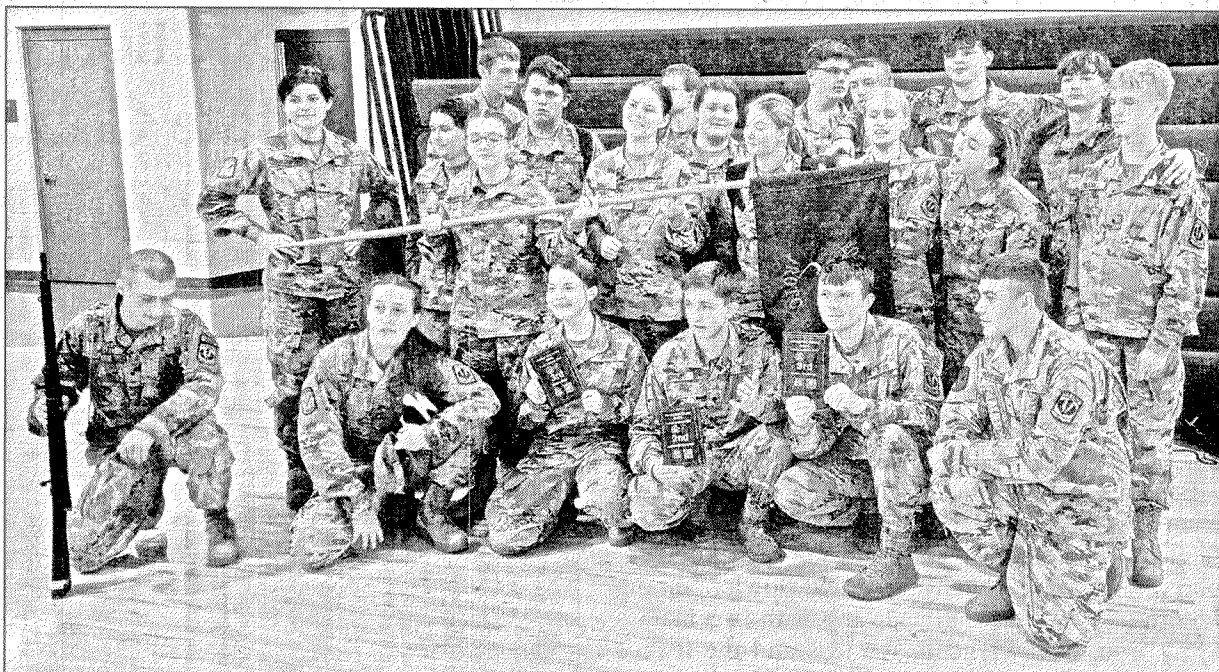
Enterprisers - Kaylea Abrams, Kyleigh Abrams, Sadie Adams, Gus Akin, Torrie Anglin, Aniya Barnett, Noah Barricks-Ketchum, Chloe Barron, Xian Berger, Jacob Bolin, Lillian Bowman, Casen Burdett, David Burgess, Aaliyah Caldwell, Jayden Caldwell, Kynlee Calico, Parker Cash, Makenzie Clark, Ava Craig, Reed Day, Noah Denny, Brycen Dollins, Jordan Elder, Eliza Evans, Kerri Fox, Emily Frazier, London Freson, Eli Graves, Kassidy Graves, Jaylen Hager, Keileigh Hall, Taylin Hembree, Brykee Hiatt, Bryce Hunt, Astrid Isaacs, Kaydence Johnson, Hazelyn Jones, Hailey Kirby, Cecila Krebs, Kaleb Lamb, Madden Leger, Bryson Maggard, Bella McClure, Londyn McHone, Devin Means, Bryson Miller, Ember Miracle, Lexi Morgan, Ayden Nolan, Atlee Northern, Lauren Overbay, Gracie Parker, Hunter Patterson, Chase Prewitt, Katie Renner, Kaylee Robinson, Kynlee Robinson, Logan Rogers, Mia Scalf, William Schulz, Vivie Short, Brylee Silcox, Raidyn Singleton, Lilah Sizemore-Rankin, Eli Spurlock, Wesley Thompson, Nathaniel Vandusen, Christian Willis, Brooklyn Wren, Chloe Wren.

Voyagers - Layla Armstrong, Lilyanna Asher, Kaden Baker, Paisley Bishop, Xzavier Bond, Trapper Bray, Parker Burdette, Nick Cain, Sydney Carpenter, Arden Carrera, Layla Childress, Mya Didelot, Allison Gadd, Avery Gatliff, Christian Ginter, Ryli Harris, Eli Hayes, Kennedy Hopkins, Kadan Jackson, Jada James, Colten Johnson, Sophia Johnson, Henry Joyner, Milanah Keathley, Jase Lear, Jace

Lutes, Desmond Martin, Ryan Martin, Conner McClure, Maleigha McFerron, Titus McGuire, Makenna McNally, Carabella Mink, Lacey Mize, Chloe Mullins, Abigail M. Northern, Abigail I. Northern, Braxton Owens, Hanna Parsons, Landon Ray, Allen Reed, Jasper Reynolds, Theo Riggs, Beckham Smith, Michael Sowards, Chloe Ward, Molly Willis, Aubree Winkler

Adventurers - Bailey Baker, Darius Bubulici, Eyan Bussell, Khloe Bussell, Sawyer Cash, Hagyn Coleman, Wyatt Craig, Jaxon Cromer, Arianna French, Josie Hall, Grace Lambert, Emmett Lutes, Laurel Lyone, Khloe McFerron, Mason McKee, Corinne Messinger, Lucas Millett, Carson Neeley, Hunter Newcomb, Serenity Owens, Isaiah Powell, Lacey Prewitt, Abigail Ramey, Savannah Rice, Zayden Riddle, Josiah Rodriguez, Patience Rohrer, Zayeon Scalf, Caleb Smith, Chrislynn Sprinkles, Kylie Sturgill, Sophia Thornton, Sydney Tracy, Kevin Valle, Braxton Winkler, Parker Wooten.

Shooting Stars - Levi Adams, Landon Alexander, Cayson Bell, Mary Blackburn, Grayson Bowles, Dillion Bradley, Madison Bradley, Mackie Brock, Robert Carosello, Kaleigh Carpenter, Ashtin Carter, David Chasteen, Jaxon Childress, Kimberly Childress, Jaydon Clemmons, Gabriella Collins, Jaydon Convery, Mary Cope, Bella Cox, Harrison Craig, Aiden Daugherty, Brynna Davis, James Dobbs, Rebecca Dodson, Jacob Dykes, Jamie Fleming, Rayleigh Hancock, Madison Hasty, Lucas Hayes, Colson Hensley, Amaya Hess, Dakota Higgins, David Huff, Jackson Isaacs, Jace Johnson,



On October 30th, Rockcastle JROTC went to Montgomery County and competed in a Raider, Drill, Color Guard and Infantry Drill Regulation (IDR). The Mighty Rocket Battalion placed second in academics, third in track and field, and third in Raider Challenge.

Emma King, Trevor King, Josiah Lankford, Bennett Lear, Sophia Lewis, Olivia Linville, Albert Martin, Maycee McIntosh, Hailey Mize, Kaydence Morgan, Randall Z. Mullins, Zeik Mullins, Graven Northern, Sophiea Owens, Hinal Patel, Addie Payne, James Perkins, Lila Rigsby, Lily Robbins, Kendall Santo, Jasmyn Savage, Coleson Shepherd, Sophie Singleton, Chandler Spires, Xavier Stallsworth, Vanessa Steiner, Lexie Stevens, Macensie Strunk, Bailey Tompkins, Alyssa Wagers, Evelyn Warrick.

Challengers - Maddy Alexander, Kyley Ashcraft, Davin Barnes, Autumn Bengel, Rayne Bennett-Couch, Tatum Bishop, Zane Bullock, Makayla Burke, Lexi Burkhart, Adeline Bussell, Payton Carter, Clay Cash, Kortney Coy, Sarah Davis, Noah Dulaney, Jazzline Durham, Jaxon Ennis, Conner Ford, Allie Frazier, Katelyn Hagen,

Sydney Hall, Brooklyn Hebson, Emma Hensley, Lauren Hensley, Morgan Hocker, Haley Hopkins, Lily Howard, Leland Hughes, Braydon Isaacs, G Isaacs, Hailee Jordan, Leah Kirby, Camden Larkey, Zakkary Lawrence, Travenna Neal, Leah Permenter, Jalie Peterson, Alexis Ramsey, Keegan Riddle, Grace Lofton-Ringrose, Kiyler Mahaffey, Drake Martin, Matthew Moore, Bobby Noble, Jessa Pennington, Ethan Phillips, Gabe Ray, Jasper Rogers, Kambri Saylor, Clara Shaffer, Sophia Smalling, Allyson Taylor, Mollie Taylor, Brayden Thacker, Hailey Thomas, Brook Thompson, Abby Todd, Alexander Vandusen, Marley Wallin, Ethan Whitaker, Lakota Wilder, Ella Williams, Taylor Wilson.

Comets - Aaliyah Abney, Katie Adams, Derrick Arthur, Bevin Baker, Nelson Baker, Aidan Bard, Albert Barricks-Ketchum,

Samantha Benge, Shaun Boyd, Chloe Burke, Abby Bussell, Jacob Camel, Lilly Cameron, Caylee Cash, Jacob Catron, James Coldiron, Trey Cole, Trey Cundiff, Jaden Davidson, Alyrica Dillingham, Jacob Dobbs, Drew Dyehouse, Sam Elam, Ethan Fields, Brady Gibson, Alexis Gilbert, Madison Grant, Evan Hayes, Lacey Hayes, Marrick Hester, Azzy Howard, Avery Ingram, Taylor Jones, Aidann Lear, Brian Lovell, Jackson Martin-Rose, Amber McClure, Jaycee McIntosh, Harley McKinney, Leighton McKinney, Landon Napier, Landon Navarre, Landen Paquette, Madelynn Parsons, Mason Payne, Sophia Pendrey, Zoe Phelps, Cal Rader, Courtlyn Rice, Beatrice Robinson, Chase Sandusky, Kinley Shearer, Landyn Shepherd, Bella Smith, Cate Snyder, Baylee Taylor, Caleb Thomas, Katie Valle, Bailey Vanwinkle, Mia Waldron, Makenna Weaver, Abigail Wilson.

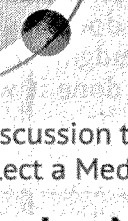


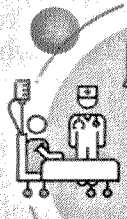
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Medicare Education Panel

Join us for a panel discussion to answer your questions on how to navigate and select a Medicare plan that is right for you.

Thursday, November 16
6:00 pm

Rockcastle County Middle School
945 W Main St • Mt Vernon, KY 40456

To RSVP for the event, please contact
Chelsey Dillingham at 606-256-7767
or c.dillingham@rcc.org. If you have specific questions you would like answered during the panel, please notify us of those when you RSVP.



Veteran's Day in Rockcastle County

DAR honors Vietnam War-era Veterans

Rockcastle Chapter NSDAR hosted a luncheon to honor and thank all Veterans of the county who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of where they were stationed. DAR partnered with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration to reach the nearly 7 million Veterans and their families living in the United States. The goal is to reach as many Veterans as possible and their families to thank and honor them for their service and sacrifice and to give them their long awaited public welcome home. This partnership commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and extends from Memorial Day 2012 though Veterans Day 2025.

Chapter Regent, Karen Adams made opening remarks and welcomed the Veterans and family members in attendance. Chaplain Natalie Taylor led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Regent and Veteran, Kathy Bobo. The Americans Creed was led by Chapter Registrar, Debra Brown.

Guest speaker, Captain Roger Coldiron, U.S. Navy Retired, spoke on his time in service and as commanding officer on the USS Stump (DD-978). Guests were pro-

vided with a catered lunch consisting of ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and cake for dessert. Members of Rockcastle Chapter served the meal to Veterans and their families.

Following the meal, a recognition ceremony was performed by the chapter regent, vice regent and chaplain. Vice Regent, Kathy Bobo read the names of 70 Veterans and Chapter Regent Karen Adams presented each Veteran or their family member with a certificate of appreciation and pin. Each Veteran or surviving family member was presented a King James Bible by Chaplain Natalie Taylor. Regent Adams gave closing remarks and stated "One of the most painful chapters in our history was how we treated our troops who served in Vietnam, and we are here today to try to right the wrong of not so long ago. On behalf of a grateful nation, welcome home!". The program concluded with the closing prayer led by Chaplain Taylor.

Rockcastle Chapter NSDAR would like to thank the organizations that helped sponsor this event: Citizens Bank; Community Trust Bank; Ford Brothers; Teresa Jackson, State Farm Insurance; Debra J. Brown; First Baptist Church; and Armed Forces Ministry.



Vietnam-era Veterans Honored

Rockcastle Chapter NSDAR hosted a luncheon to honor and thank all Veterans of the county who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of where they were stationed. DAR partnered with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration to reach the nearly 7 million Veterans and their families living in the United States. Pictured above are Veterans and family members in attendance. Pictured at right, guest speaker Captain Roger Coldiron, US Navy Retired, spoke on his time in service and as commanding officer on the USS Stump (DD-978).



WWII veteran returns to Brush Creek area

Editor's note:

We received a copy of this story as it ran in the Signal years ago from Beatrice Baker Hensley Robinson (sister of Lee Duncan) recently in the mail. In honor of Veteran's Day and the celebration held at the Rockcastle County Middle School last Friday, we have republished the story here.

Lee Duncan, WWII veteran, and long time resident of Brush Creek, died on January 4, 2002 and was buried near his retirement home in Port Saint Lucie, Florida to be close to his family (two daughters, Linda Meyer and Sandra Blair, and a son, Barry Duncan) who lived nearby.

Over the years, however, the family moved away and Doris Duncan, his wife and longtime Mount Vernon resident, moved back to Kentucky.

The family decided that it was time to bring dad back home, not only to be close to his beloved wife and family, but to return to his roots, back to the hills of Brush Creek.

Under the excellent care of Dowell and Martin Funeral Home, Lee Duncan was transported and laid to his final rest on August 14, 2009 in beautiful Briarfield Cemetery. Twenty four family members and relatives gathered on August 30 to honor Duncan's memory at the Brush Creek Holiness Church, thanks

to the kindness of Pastor McGuire.

After Pastor McGuire said a few words, different family members told stories about Lee, their fond and often humorous memories of him. It was clear that he had made quite a positive impact on those around him with his kindness as well as the way that he lived his life.

The family then gathered at Bea Hensley's home, Lee's sister whom he cherished, for a delightful evening of reminiscing and great country food.

One of the stories often told about Lee highlighted his first-hand look at history. Lee joined the U.S. Army at the ripe old age of 15. Almost one year later, he was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed on December 7, 1941, and witnessed the carnage of sinking ships and the loss of life.

His frightened mother, Hazel Baker, immediately wrote the commander of the base informing him that Lee was not yet of age and he was honorably discharged. Less than one year later, he reenlisted in the Marines and was quickly off to the South Pacific.

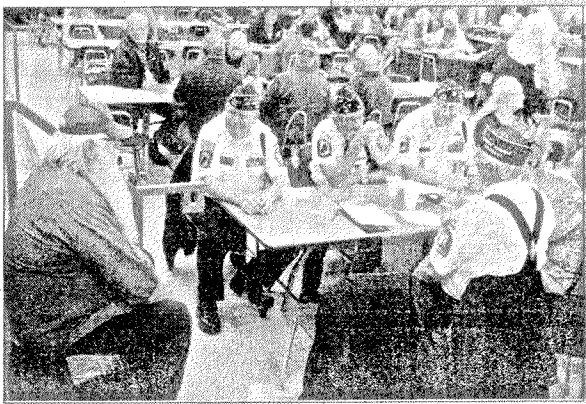
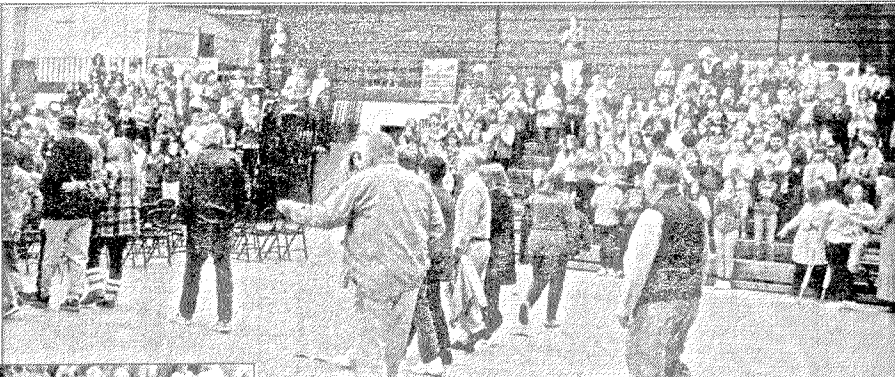
Subsequently, he fought on Saipan during the bloody Banzai Charge, and was on Iwo Jima when the raising of the American flag was captured as a forever symbol of our freedom.

He is now home with family and friends, where he belongs.



Veterans Day Poster Contest winners. Contest sponsored by the Rockcastle DAR. Pictured: Kynlee Calico, Daniel Jackson, Londyn McHone, Wesley Thompson, Laurel Lyons, Regent Karen Adams holding Lily Robbins poster, Hailey Mize, Chaplain Natalie Taylor holding Abigail Miller's poster, Landon Navarre, Grace Lofton-Ringrose, and Eveee Warrick. Not pictured: Andrew Ordonez.

RCMS Veterans Day celebration



Rockcastle Historical Haven

Presented by
Rockcastle Historical
Society

By: Markita Proctor

A Few Good Men of Rockcastle County

One of my favorite movies is A Few Good Men starring Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, and Jack Nicholson. My favorite line from the movie is not "you can't handle the truth." Instead, my favorite line is given by Demi Moore in response to Kevin Pollak's character Lt. Sam Weinberg.

"Why do you like them so much?" Weinberg asked.

Her response has always stood out to me as poignant and significant. "...because they stand on a wall and say nothing is gonna hurt you tonight. Not on my watch."

On November 11, 2023, we celebrated another Veteran's Day here in Rockcastle County, Kentucky. We celebrated those men and women who volunteered their lives to do just that, they stand on a wall, a ship, a border, wherever they are sent to stand and protect us, to protect freedom. They do all they can to ensure that nothing will hurt us tonight or any night. Not on their watch.

Many Rockcastle Countians have stood watch in every American War. Each soldier has a story, they lived their lives and many died for their country. Here, I will try to honor a few of these stories.

Nicholas Houk fought in the Revolutionary War. According to reports on Ancestry.com and Findagrave.com Nicholas Houk was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania in 1740. "Nicholas moved to North Carolina where he married Sarah Mauser

in Lincoln County, 1772. Nicholas and Sarah had been married 4 or 5 years and had two children (Rebecca and Fredrick) before Nicholas was drafted into the Army of the United States in Polk County, North Carolina. The Houks came to Kentucky and first lived in what was then Washington County, where they lived on a farm of 100 acres that was purchased in 1814. They sold their land in Washington County to Thomas Christian for \$30 and moved to Rockcastle County, January 23, 1819. Nicholas and Sarah had eight children altogether, but now only five can be confirmed."

Ransom Coffey served in the 49th Kentucky Infantry Regiment. The Regiment was organized at Camp Nelson and were under the command of Colonel John G. Eve. The men fought at the battles of Barbourville, Camp Wildcat, Ivy Mountain, Rowlett's Station, Sacramento, Middle Creek, Lucas Bend, Mill Springs, Richmond, Munfordville, Augusta, Perryville, New Haven, Somerset, Tebb's Bend, Lebanon, Cumberland Gap, Paducah, Salyersville, Mount Sterling, and Cynthiana. Ransom lived to the ripe old age of 80 and is buried in the Merritt Cemetery in Wildie, Kentucky.

Sgt. Samuel Smith. Was an African American Union soldier. His picture is among the collections of the Library of Congress. Sgt. Smith and his wife Mollie and their

daughters Mary and Maggie. Smith is believed to have lived most of his life in Rockcastle County, in Mt. Vernon. The family appear in several of the Rockcastle County census records and both Samuel and Mollie are buried at the Walker Newcomb Cemetery in Mt. Vernon. According to The USCT Chronicle, a blog that tells African American Civil War Stories of Soldiers, Civilians, Contrabands, First Days of Freedom, and the Events that led to Freedom, "Sergeant Samuel Smith enlisted in the 119th US Colored Infantry in Camp Nelson Kentucky." Samuel and Mary had four children, Johnnie, Maggie, Mary, and Samie.

Orville Lee Mink lived in Ottawa, near Brodhead, Kentucky. He was ordered to report for duty on October 4, 1917, when he was 21 years old. Private Mink was a part of the 1st Division, 16th Infantry Regiment. Private Orville L. Mink was killed in the line of duty on October 11, 1918. He is buried or memorialized in Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France. He was awarded the Purple Heart. Information taken from the website: Honorstates.org

Hiatt Crawford--Our Soldier Boy
The Mt. Vernon Signal published an article on October 18, 1918: "Hiatt Crawford was the first of our town boys to be brought home in his casket, wearing the uniform of his country. His death touched the depths of this community's emotions. The whole community honored, respected and loved this soldier boy. They shared with the family their pride in him. He belonged to the highest type of young American manhood..."

Raymond E. Bullock served as a Private in the Army, 4th Infantry Division, 22nd Infantry Regiment. He was the son of Edd and Maude Bullock of Orlando, in Rockcastle County.

Private Raymond E. Bullock was killed in action in Normandy, France. He is buried or memorialized in Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

David M. Smith: Private First Class, U.S. Army Company E, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division. "Pfc. Smith, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action. Pfc. Smith was a gunner in the mortar section of Company E, emplaced in rugged mountainous terrain and under attack by a numerically superior hostile force. Bitter fighting ensued and the enemy overran forward elements, infiltrated the perimeter, and rendered friendly positions untenable. The mortar section was ordered to withdraw, but the enemy had encircled and closed in on the position. Observing a grenade lobbed at his emplacement, Pfc. Smith shouted a warning to his comrades and, fully aware of the odds against him, flung himself upon it and smothered the explosion with his body. Although mortally wounded in this display of valor, his intrepid act saved 5 men from death

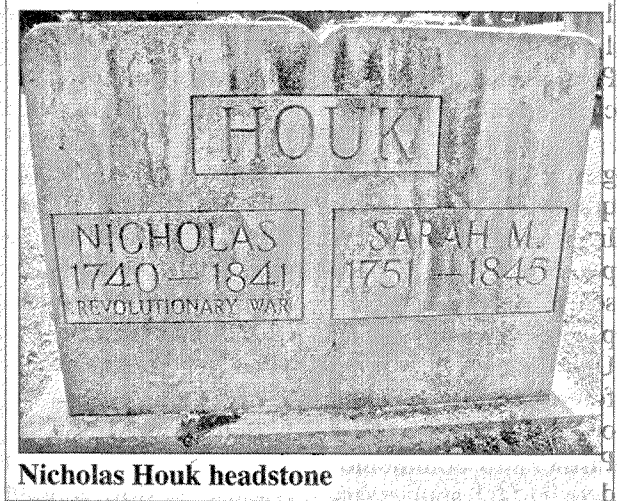
or serious injury. Pfc. Smith's inspirational conduct and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory on himself and are in keeping with the noble traditions of the infantry of the U.S. Army." (genealogytrails.com Cathy Schultz from history.army.mil, U.S. Army Center of Military History)

David Chaney, 20 killed in Vietnam (Mt. Vernon, Signal Sept. 10, 1970)

Pfc. David Glenn Chaney, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Chaney of Bloss, was killed August 31, in Vietnam when an Army vehicle on which he was a crew

member, was struck by mortar fire...he graduated from Brodhead High School in 1968 and was inducted into the Armed Services in September 1969 and had spent seven months in Vietnam. He was a member of the Blue Springs Church of Christ..." Private David Glenn Chaney is honored on Panel 7W, Line 26 of the Wall.

Rockcastle County has given many sons and daughters to serve this country, to take up arms, to stand on a wall and say, "Nothing is gonna hurt you tonight. Not on my watch." To all the veterans of Rockcastle County. I salute you.



Nicholas Houk headstone



Samuel Smith family

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT FSA ID WORKSHOP

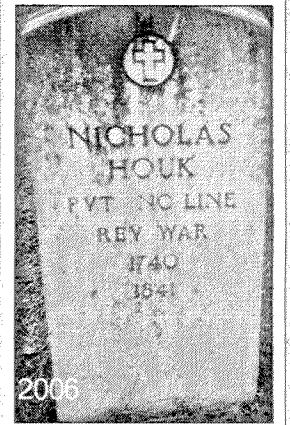
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16TH
5:00-7:00

BAKED POTATO & NACHO BAR

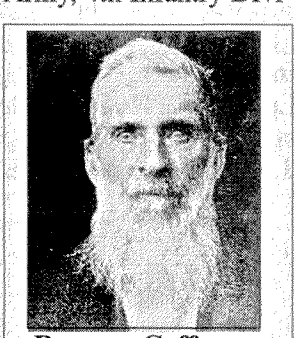
EVENT DETAILS

Come to RCHS anytime between 5:00-7:00 to get help creating your Parent FSA ID for the upcoming FAFSA. Food will be provided as well.

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT KAYLA BRYANT
KAYLA.BRYANT@ROCKCASTLE.KYSCHOOLS.US



David Chaney



Ransom Coffey



Raymond Bullock

Sassy Sister Design Co.

BLACK Friday Sale

NOVEMBER 24TH
9AM - 6PM
180 RICHMOND ST.
MOUNT VERNON, KY

Sassy Sister Design Co.

SHOP SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

November 25th
9am-5pm
180 Richmond Street in Mount Vernon

ROCKCASTLE RIVER TRADING CO

EST. 1955

This Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Jon Carlottis will be signing copies of his new 316 page book featuring 24 of his gardens in Kentucky showing before and after the magic touch.

Rockcastle River Open House MENU

PICK TWO PICNIC BOX

Half Sandwich	Salad
Chicken Salad on Croissant	Mixed Greens Salad
Roast Turkey on Ciabatta	Strawberry Pecan Salad
Rachet on Rye	Fall Harvest Salad
Soup	
Roasted Red Pepper with tomato + smoked gouda	
Cream of Potato	

DESSERTS

Warm Pastry Trio
Carrot Cake

BEVERAGES

Assorted Beverages
*Mimosas with asti champagne
*Warm Mulled Wine

Friday + Saturday
November 17 + 18
Rockcastle River Trading Company

THE KITCHEN

The kitchen by Brandon will have lunches available

Remembrance Tree Ceremony set for December 3rd

Hospice Care Plus, Rockcastle County's provider of hospice care, is hosting the 30th annual Remembrance Tree Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. at ECU's Perkins Building, 4436 Kit Carson Drive in Richmond.

Mamaw's Kitchen

By Regina Poynter Hoskins

CRESCENT TURKEY POT PIE
1 bag (16 oz) frozen mixed peas and carrots
2 cups cubed cooked turkey or chicken
2 cans (10 3/4 ounces each) condensed cream of chicken soup
1/2 cup milk
1 can (8 ounce) Pillsbury™ refrigerated crescent rolls

Preheat oven to 350°. grease or spray 13 x 9 (3-quart) glass baking dish. In large bowl, mix frozen peas and carrots, turkey, soups, and milk. Pour into prepared dish. Unroll dough. Press perforations to seal. Place over chicken mixture. Press outside edges of dough to edges of baking dish. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until top is golden brown.

TURKEY CASSEROLE
1 cup diced celery
5 tablespoons butter
1 onion, chopped
1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 can (10.75 ounce) cream of mushroom soup
1 can (10.75 ounce) milk
1 (6 ounce) can mushrooms
3 cups diced cooked turkey
1 (4 ounce) jar chopped pimiento peppers
1/2 cup slivered almonds salt to taste
1 cup soft breadcrumbs
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Preheat the oven to 375°. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil; cook celery at a boil until tender, 5 to 10 minutes; drain. Heat butter in a skillet over medium heat; cook and stir onion and bell pepper in the melted butter until softened, 5 to 10 minutes. Whisk flour into the onion mixture until the butter and flour form a paste. Add mushroom soup, milk, and mushrooms; cook, stirring occasionally, until mixture is smooth, 5 to 10 minutes. Mix turkey, celery, pimiento peppers, almonds, and salt into mushroom soup mixture; cook and stir until heated through, about 5 minutes. Pour mixture into a 2-quart casserole dish; top with breadcrumbs and Cheddar cheese. Bake in the preheated oven until casserole is bubbling and cheese is melted, 30 to 40 minutes.

CRANBERRY SALAD
1 bag fresh or frozen cranberries
2 medium oranges
1/2 to 3/4 cup white sugar
Wash and sort cranberries. Using a food processor or chopper, coarsely chop cranberries. Peel one orange. Chop both oranges—one with the peeling and one without. Add sugar to taste and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes until sugar dissolves.

the community a chance to remember loved ones during the holiday season by placing a personalized memorial ornament on a Remembrance Tree.

"Holidays can be hard for people who've lost

loved ones, even when those losses aren't recent," said Abby Embry, grief support coordinator at Hospice Care Plus. "At a time of year when their absence is felt so strongly, the Remembrance Tree Ceremony

is a way to acknowledge that absence and honor their loved one's memory."

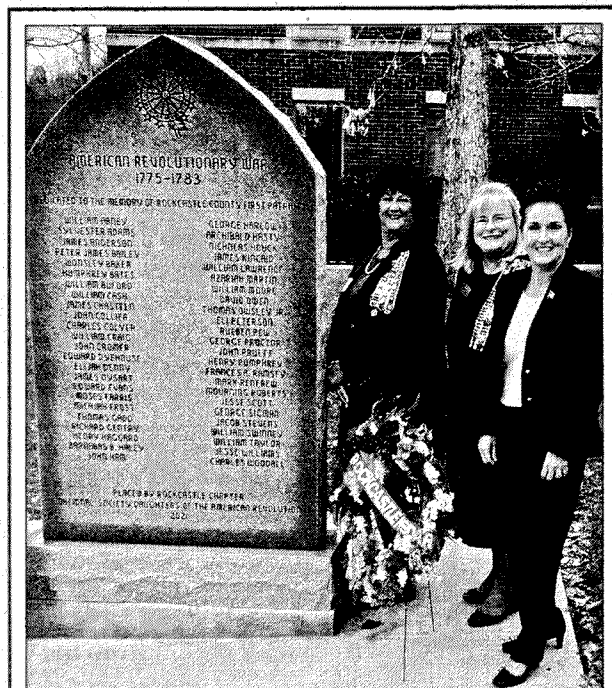
After an opening reflection and holiday music performed by local musicians, the ceremony continues with the reading of memorial names. Guests place their memorial ornament on a Remembrance Tree when they hear their loved one's name. If the person who requested the memorial ornament is unable to attend, a Hospice Care Plus staff member will place it on the tree for them.

This year's event will feature Berea's much-loved Union Church Handbell Ensemble, a memorial photo slideshow (optional), and light refreshments after the ceremony.


Anyone who misses a loved one during the holidays is welcome to participate. There is no

fee for ornaments, but a donation—of any size—is encouraged. To learn more, request an ornament, or submit a photograph, visit hospicecareplus.org or the Hospice Care Plus Facebook event page. For questions, contact Hospice Care Plus at (859) 986-1500 or hospice@hospicecp.org.

Hospice Care Plus is Rockcastle County's provider of hospice, palliative, and grief support care. The organization also serves Estill, Jackson, Lee, Madison and Owsley counties and owns and operates the Compassionate Care Center in Richmond. Relying on contributions from individuals and groups, all care is provided regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. To learn more, donate, or explore career and volunteer opportunities, visit hospicecareplus.org or call 859-986-1500.



Rockcastle DAR placed a wreath at Patriot Monument at the courthouse to honor the county's first Veterans. Pictured from left are: Debra Brown, Karen Adams and Natalie Taylor.



KING'S EYE CARE

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

—Optometrists—

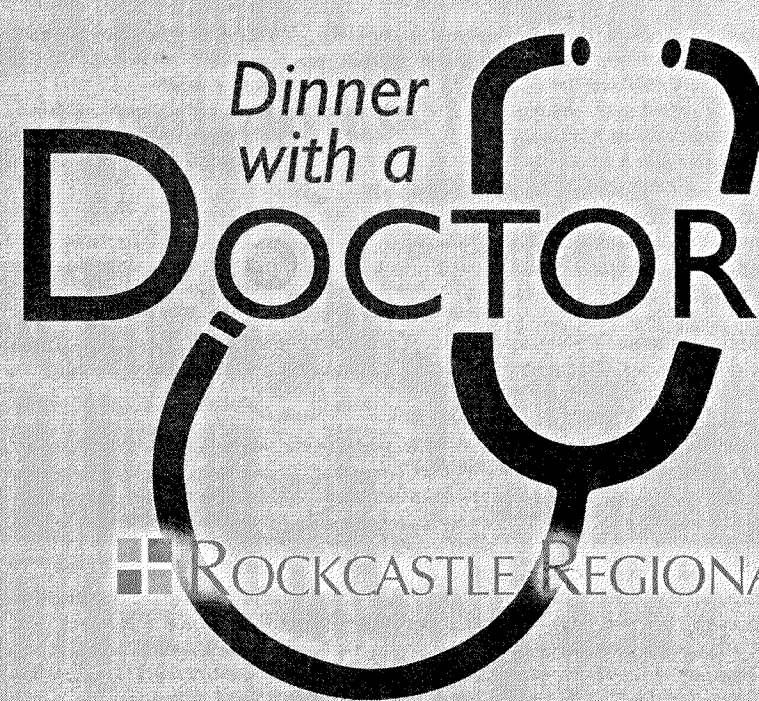
854 Ridgewood Dr. • Berea, KY 40403
www.eyedoctorberea.net
859-986-7027

The Friday Night Gospel Singing Proudly Presents!




"The Praise Singers"
17th

Free Admission
November 17th at 6pm.
9174 Main Street Livingston KY



Dinner with a **DOCTOR**




Vicki Chapman, APRN
Rockcastle Family Wellness

ROCKCASTLE REGIONAL


Diabetes Awareness & Management

Join us
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
5:30 p.m. • Brodhead Baptist Church
360 Silver St, Brodhead, KY

To sign up, please call Chelsea Dillingham at (606) 256-7767 by Wednesday, Nov. 15.



ROCKCASTLE REGIONAL
HOSPITAL • RESPIRATORY CARE CENTER



ROCKCASTLE FAMILY WELLNESS

The Center for Rural Development explains the broadband expansion initiative

Ten years ago, The Center for Rural Development became the launching pad for broadband expansion in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Now, more households, businesses, and communities than ever before will have improved access to broadband – thanks to a major broadband expansion initiative.

Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development, announced a \$30.7 million project that will expand broadband access to approximately 33,000 households across 16 counties and 196 communities in Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

The project, funded by federal and matching funds, will improve internet infrastructure in Bath, Bell, Boyd, Carter, Garrard, Knox, Laurel, Letcher, Lincoln, Martin, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, and Whitley counties.

The announcement was made on Monday, Nov. 13, at the London Community Center in London, KY, before local and area judges and mayors, fiber boards, state legislators, community leaders, and invited guests.

“Broadband is our modern-day highway, and once complete, this project will encompass 124-miles of fiber, which I like to call the Super I-Way,” said U.S. Congressman Harold “Hal”

Rogers (KY-05). “We are part of an exciting time for our region, paving this new information highway that will benefit future generations.”

The broadband expansion project will include:

- 33 publicly and commercially available CenterLinks Access Nodes (CANs), used to expand the KY Wired statewide middle-mile to create a local-middle mile infrastructure

- 15 wireless towers within the 16 counties as well as 40 additional towers deployed outside the scope of the grant funding

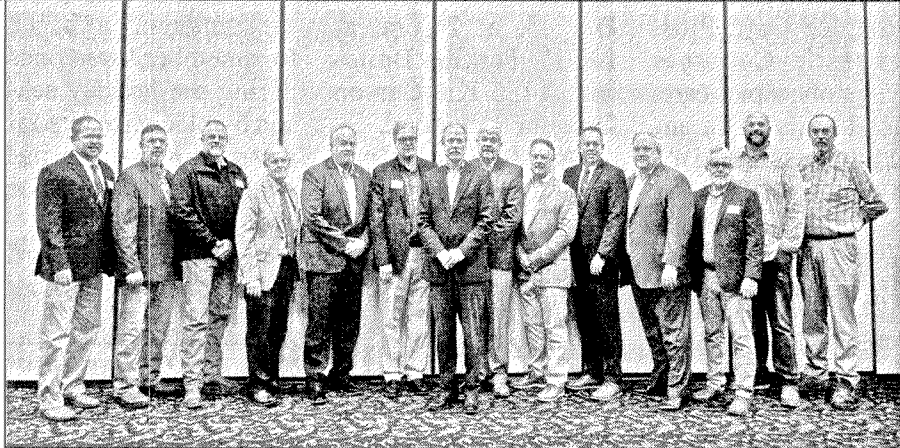
- Construction of 124 miles of fiber (100 miles for CANs and 24 miles to bring towers on-net)

- Unlimited bandwidth between network nodes, allowing for any subscribed bandwidth out to end-users

“In today’s digital age, reliable internet is not just a luxury, but a necessity,” said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development. “With this project, we’re taking a monumental step towards bridging the digital divide in rural Kentucky. This is a testament to our commitment to empowering and enriching our communities.”

For more information, please contact The Center for Rural Development at 606-677-6000 or visit www.centertech.com.

Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development, met with local and area judges and mayors, fiber boards, state legislators, community leaders, and invited guests on Monday, Nov. 13, at London Community Center in London, KY, to discuss a broadband initiative that will expand broadband access to approximately 33,000 households across 16 counties and 196 communities in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. From left are Judge-Executive J. Woods Adams III, Lincoln County; Mayor Todd DePriest of Jenkins; Judge-Executive Terry Adams, Letcher County; Judge-Executive Howell Holbrook Jr, Rockcastle County; State Rep. Tom O’Dell Smith; Cloyd Bumgardner, Pulaski County Judge/Administrative Assistant; Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development; Judge-Executive Harry Clark, Rowan County; Judge-Executive Mike Mitchell, Knox County; Brad Kilbey, CEO of Accelecom; State Sen. Robert Stivers; TJ Scott, Vice President of Operations, Broadline; Jeremy Holbrook, Boyd County Commissioner, and Judge-Executive Pat White Jr. of Whitley County.



• Rockcastle County Clerk Notice •

A copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at the County Clerk's office and is available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Any citizen who wishes may obtain from the County Clerk's office a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for his/her personal use. Those who wish to obtain a copy for personal use will be charged for duplication costs at a rate that shall not exceed twenty five cents (\$0.25) per page.

Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 is available to the public at no cost at the business address of the officer responsible for preparation of the statement.

Rockcastle County Clerk • 205 East Main Street • Box 6
Mount Vernon, KY 40456 • (606)-256-2831 • Danetta Ford Allen, Clerk

Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps
Fall Tree Planting is Preferred

Experts in landscaping will recommend planting trees in the fall of the year. Let us examine some of the reasons why this is so.

Spring planted trees have to hit the ground running, supplying nutrition to growing leaves from whatever has been stored in the roots the previous year. Fall planted trees can still have root growth in unfrozen soil and not need to expend energy and sugars for photosynthesis until months later.

Summer heat is more stressful than winter cold to a newly planted tree. Spring soil is cold, but fall soil is warm while the air is cold—roots grow in unfrozen soil well into the fall, sometimes all winter. That tree planted in the fall is more ready to start leafing out when winter is over and it's roots are ready for the task.

Rain, snow, dew, fog all provide moisture in winter, and there is little loss of moisture from deciduous trees in winter. So, manual watering, except perhaps at planting time, is unnecessary. (For evergreen trees and shrubs, winter irrigation or watering is often still a necessity as evergreens do keep losing moisture to transpiration from the green leaves or needles.)

Autumn planted trees have fewer insects and diseases to deal with versus spring plantings. Yes, voles, rabbits, deer, and poor drainage are still potential problems to the fall planted tree.

If you know what trees you wish to plant, where you wish to plant them, and can find suitable trees for your project—then fall planting is the recommended way to go except in northern climates. There may be a scarcity of selection in the fall as many a garden center has been picked through and the new shipments often don't

arrive until late winter. This could force postponement of fall plantings. This can sometimes be offset by going to online/mailorder vendors and finding things for fall planting. (Be aware listed prices do not include tax and shipping, so often the plants shipped from online end up costing double the amount you see in the ads.) Sometimes bargains and closeouts can be found at the big box stores as they try to clear out their inventory before getting in their evergreen trees in November, and that would be incentive to get onto your plantings this fall.

As we already mentioned, soil is warmer in fall than spring. Even if you have to rake back a little snow, there is no reason not to be planting if the ground isn't frozen. And, by adding a good layer of mulch to the ground (but not touching the trunk of your new tree) you keep the soil warm even longer into the winter season.

Additional considerations would be you have the time in fall. Too, often fall plantings don't have to be staked to keep them straight, since there are no heavy leaves and branches to blow over in a strong wind. By the time the tree is leafed out and strong windstorms arrive, your new tree has grown roots into the ground that make it harder to uproot or blow it around. Unstaked trees, if you can keep them upright, perform better in the long run than do staked trees.

Finally, if you're hiring it done, landscape crews will be covered up in spring, but in autumn often have some openings in their schedules. Pretty “Indian Summer” weather is the best of all times for planting most trees. The author is a landscaper. Website: rockcastles.net Email: rockcastles@gmail.com



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Howell Holbrook, Jr., Rockcastle County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Danetta Ford Allen, Rockcastle County Clerk
Members of the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court
Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the County Clerk of Rockcastle County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Rockcastle County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2022, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Rockcastle County Clerk, as of December 31, 2022, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Rockcastle County Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Rockcastle County Clerk on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rockcastle County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Rockcastle County Clerk's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 27, 2023, on our consideration of the Rockcastle County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Rockcastle County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report finding:

2022-001: The Rockcastle County Clerk's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Receipts, Disbursements, And Reconciliations

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

July 27, 2023
State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs, and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912
AUDITOR.KY.GOV
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KENTUCKY RELATING
TO THE ELIMINATION OF BLIGHTED AND DETERIORATED PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, the Mount Vernon City Council desires to enact an ordinance to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city by eliminating the blight and deterioration of neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, the Mount Vernon City Council desires to create a Vacant Property Review Board to certify property as blighted or deteriorated, and to establish an ordinance related thereto;

WHEREAS, the Mount Vernon City Council desires to enact an ordinance authorizing the City of Mount Vernon to exercise the power of eminent domain over aforementioned blighted or deteriorated property;

WHEREAS, KRS 99.705-730 authorizes a City to enact such an Ordinance to address such properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Mount Vernon City Council as follows:

Section

1. 152.01 Declarations
2. 152.02 Definitions
3. 152.03 Vacant Property Review Board
4. 152.04 Procedures
5. 152.05 Eminent Domain Proceedings
6. 152.06 Use of the property by the City of Mount Vernon

SECTION 152.01 DECLARATIONS.

It is hereby declared:

(A) It is the policy of the city to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city by eliminating the blight and deterioration of neighborhoods through the elimination of blighted and deteriorated properties within these neighborhoods.

(B) The elimination of such blight and deterioration and the preparation of such properties for sale or lease, for development, or for redevelopment constitute a public use and purpose for which public money may be expended and private property acquired and these are governmental functions in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city.

(C) The necessity in the public interest for the provisions enacted herein is hereby declared to be a legislative determination.

SECTION 152.02 DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this chapter the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

“BLIGHTED OR DETERIORATED PROPERTY” means a vacant structure or vacant or unimproved lot or parcel of ground in a predominantly built-up neighborhood which:

- (1) Is because of physical condition or use regarded as a public nuisance at common law;
- (2) Is considered an attractive nuisance to children by reason of structures and appurtenances therein or thereon, including but not limited to abandoned wells, shafts, basements, excavations, or the unsafe condition of any structures or fences thereon;
- (3) Is dilapidated, unsanitary, unsafe, vermin infested, or is lacking in the facilities and equipment required by the city’s housing or maintenance codes, has been designated by the Building Inspector as being unfit for human habitation;
- (4) Is a fire hazard or is otherwise dangerous to the safety of persons or property;
- (5) Has had the utilities, plumbing, heating, sewerage, or other facilities disconnected therefrom, destroyed, removed, or rendered ineffective so that the property is unfit for its intended use;
- (6) Has by reason of neglect or lack of maintenance become a place for the accumulation of trash and debris, or a haven for rodents or other vermin; or
- (7) Has not been rehabilitated within the time constraints placed upon the owner by the appropriate code enforcement agency.

“REDEVELOPMENT” means the planning or replanning, design or redesign, acquisition, clearance, development, or disposal of a property in the preparation of such property for residential and related uses, as may be appropriate or necessary.

“RESIDENTIAL AND RELATED USE” means residential property for sale or rental and related uses, including but not limited to, park and recreation areas, neighborhood community service, and neighborhood parking lots.

“VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD” means the Board established by this chapter to review vacant properties and to make a written determination of blight and deterioration.

SECTION 152.03 VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD

(A) There is hereby established and created a Vacant Property Review Board (the Board) for the City of Mount Vernon. The Board shall be composed of the Code Enforcement Board.

(B) The Board shall conduct its business at meetings scheduled and held in conformity with the requirements of the Kentucky Open Meetings Act. Meetings shall be called by the Mayor when and as necessary to consider properties alleged by the Building Inspector to be blighted or deteriorated within the meaning of this chapter.

SECTION 152.04 PROCEDURES.

(A) When the Code Enforcement Officer considers any property within the city to be blighted or deteriorated, they shall give to the owner of the property a Notice and Order setting forth the conditions of the property which are in violation of local codes or law and a time period by which to correct and abate such conditions. Such Notice and Order shall further state that the property is deemed to be blighted or deteriorated within the meaning of this chapter and that the failure to make correction and abatement within the time period set forth will result in the referral of the matter to the Vacant Property Review Board for further proceedings in conformity with this chapter.

(B) If the conditions set forth in the Code Enforcement Officer’s Notice and Order are not in full corrected and abated within the time period therein set forth, the Inspector shall:

- (1) Contact the Vacant Property Review Board for the purpose of that body’s consideration of whether the property is blighted or deteriorated. The Mayor shall notify the owner of the time, date, and location of the meeting and shall advise the City Clerk of the meeting so as to permit the Clerk to make due advertisement of the meeting as may be required by applicable law.
- (2) If after consideration of the evidence presented before it at such meeting the Board shall, by a preponderance of the evidence, find that the property is vacant and blighted or deteriorated within the meaning of this chapter, the Board shall notify the owner of the property or a designated agent that a determination of blight or deterioration has been made and that failure to eliminate the conditions causing same shall render the property subject to condemnation by the city. Such notice shall describe the conditions that render the property blighted or deteriorated and shall demand correction and abatement of the conditions within 90 days of the receipt of such notice. An extension of the 90-day period may be granted by the Board if it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board that such period is insufficient to correct the conditions cited in the notice.

(3) If the correction and abatement in full shall not have been effected within such period of time as the Board shall have determined as above set forth, the Board shall certify to the Mount Vernon City Council that the property is blighted or deteriorated. Such certification shall further set forth the Board’s determination that:

(a) The owner of the property or designated agent has been sent a Notice and Order by the Building Inspector to eliminate the conditions which are in violation of local codes or law within a time certain; that such Notice and Order further set forth that the property is deemed to be

blighted or deteriorated within the meaning of this chapter; and, that the failure to make correction and abatement would result in the matter being referred to the Vacant Property Review Board for further proceedings in conformity with this chapter;

(b) The conditions set forth in the Notice and Order were not corrected and abated within the time period therein set forth;

(c) The property is vacant;

(d) The Board has notified the property owner or designated agent that the property has been determined to be blighted or deteriorated and the time period for correction of such condition granted by the Board has expired and the property owner or agent has failed to comply with the notice; and

(e) all laws concerning the vacant board have been followed

(4) The certification and findings required by this section shall be in writing signed by the chairperson of the Board and included in the Board’s report to the City Council.

(E) Notice which may be, or is required to be, given under the terms of this chapter shall be in writing and sent via first class mail, sufficient postage prepaid, and certified, return receipt requested, and a copy of any such notice shall further be posted in a conspicuous place on the property affected. Unless the owner of the property in question shall have notified the Building Inspector otherwise, the identity of the owner and the owner’s mailing address shall be conclusively presumed to be as appear as such in the records maintained in the office of the Rockcastle County Property Valuation Administrator. Notice given in accordance with the foregoing shall be deemed effective on the date of receipt; provided, however, that same shall conclusively be deemed to have been received not later than the fifth business day following the date when same was delivered to the post office.

SECTION 152.05 EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS.

(A) The City Council may institute eminent domain proceedings in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 416 against any property, and may through such proceedings acquire any property which has been certified as blighted or deteriorated by the Board if it finds:

(1) That the property has deteriorated to such an extent as to constitute a serious and growing menace to the public health, safety, and welfare;

1. (2) That such property is likely to continue to deteriorate unless corrected;
2. (3) That the continued deterioration of such property may contribute to the

blighting or deterioration of the area immediately surrounding the property; and

(4) That the owner of such property has failed to correct the deterioration of the property.

(B) The findings required as above set forth shall be included in any Order of the

Council authorizing the institution of eminent domain proceedings.

SECTION 152.06 USE OF THE PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON.

The city, following its acquisition by eminent domain of a blighted or deteriorated property in accordance with the foregoing provisions, shall have the power to hold, clear, manage, or dispose of the property so acquired for residential and related use.

SECTION 152.07 ABANDONED URBAN PROPERTIES CLASSIFIED AS REAL PROPERTY.

Abandoned urban property is established as a separate classification of real property for the purpose of ad valorem taxation. As used in this section, “abandoned urban property” as defined in Section A or Section B below shall mean:

(A) Any vacant structure or vacant or unimproved lot or parcel of ground in the city that has been vacant or unimproved for a period of at least one (1) year and which:

- (1) Because it is dilapidated, unsanitary, unsafe, vermin infested, or otherwise dangerous to the safety of persons, it is unfit for its intended use; or
- (2) By reason of neglect or lack of maintenance has become a place for the accumulation of trash and debris, or has become infested with rodents or other vermin; or
- (3) Has been tax delinquent for a period of at least three (3) years.

(B) Any property in the city that has been identified as “blighted” or “deteriorated” as defined in Section 152.02 and certified as such by the Vacant Property Review Board.

SECTION 152.08 RATE OF TAXATION FOR ABANDONED URBAN PROPERTIES.

The rate of taxation levied upon abandoned urban properties is \$3.00 on each \$100.00 of assessed value.

SECTION 152.09 CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY AS ABANDONED URBAN PROPERTY; RIGHT TO APPEAL.

(A) The Vacant Property Review Board shall each year determine which properties in Mount Vernon are abandoned urban properties and shall prepare and furnish a list of abandoned and urban properties located in the city to the City Clerk prior to January 1 of each year.

(B) Except as otherwise provided herein, a property classified by the city as abandoned urban property as of January 1 shall be taxed as abandoned urban property for such tax year. If the

owner repairs, rehabilitates, or otherwise returns the property to productive use so that the property is no longer abandoned urban property, the owner shall notify the Vacant Property Review Board, which shall, if it finds the property is no longer abandoned urban property, notify the City Clerk to strike the property from the list of abandoned urban properties as of the succeeding January 1.

(C) No later than March 1 of each year, the City Clerk shall mail, by first-class mail, to the owner(s) of each abandoned urban property, as those name(s) are listed in the records of the Vacant Property Review Board, a notice that this property has been classified as abandoned urban property.

(D) The owner of any abandoned urban property who believes that their property has been incorrectly classified may appeal such classification to the city’s Vacant Property Review Board. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall be made no later than April 1 of that year. The city shall afford the owner the opportunity for a hearing. If the Vacant Property Review Board finds that the property was incorrectly classified as abandoned urban property, it shall cause the property to be removed from the list of properties so classified.

INTRODUCED and given a first reading at a meeting of the Mount Vernon City Council on the 1st day of August 2023, and fully adopted after the second reading at a meeting of said Council held on the 1st day of October 2023.

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

TIM ROBERTS, MAYOR



ATTEST: CRYSTAL RUSH, CITY CLERK



DATE OF FIRST READING

08/17/2023

DATE OF SECOND READING

10/19/2023

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

Four Bedroom Brick with wood heat, garage and carport, water furnished. 3 miles from Mt. Vernon on 461. Reference required. \$600 month/\$300 deposit. Call 1-606-308-3997. 40x2p

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

Looking to Buy 1 to 2 acres in county. Preferably in Mount Vernon area. Call 606-308-1910. 37x4

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

Posted

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.

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 trespassing at 180 Richards Lane, Orlando, property of Randall and Tammi Bond. Violators will be prosecuted. 38x3

Posted: Absolutely no hunting or trespassing on land belonging to John V. Gadd on Cemetery Road, Mt. Vernon, Ky. Violators will be prosecuted. 40x2p

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 L.J.L. 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. (12/22/23pd)

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted

Machinist/CNC Operator. B&H Tool Works of Rockcastle, 83 Henderson Drive, Mount Vernon, Ky. 2nd shift, \$15-\$20 hourly. Experience a plus, will train. 606-256-4878. Apply in person. 40x1

Miscellaneous For Sale

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

Notices

Notice is hereby given that Angela Nicole Foster, 104 Peach Tree Lane, Brodhead, Ky. 40409 has been appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Teddy Earl Roberts, deceased, on the 8th day of November 2023. Any person having claims against said estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Angela Nicole Foster or to Hon. John D. Ford, P.O. Box 247, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456 on or before May 8, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. 40x3

Notice is hereby given that Ruth Ann Sturm 8769 North Wilderness Rd., Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 has been ap-

pointed Administratrix of the estate of Dale Allen Sturm, deceased, on the 1st day of November 2023. Any person having claims against said estate shall present them according to law, to the said Ruth Ann Sturm or to Hon. James L. Cox, PO Box 1555, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 on or before May 2, 2023. 39x3

Notice is hereby given that Stacie F. Thacker, 86 Salem Lane, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 and Joseph A. Ferguson, 125 Oak Meadow Drive, Berea, KY 40403 has been appointed Co-Executor of the estate of James C. Taulbee, on the 6th day of November 2023. Any person having claims against said estate shall present them according to law, to the said Stacie F. Thacker and Joseph A. Ferguson or to Hon. William A. Leger, PO Box 1250, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 on or before May 9, 2024. 39x3

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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.



Suicide Warning Signs for Adults



Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased, and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change.

- Talking about or making plans for suicide.
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

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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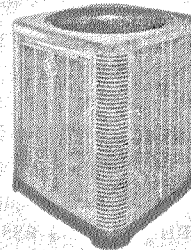
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Former Operation UNITE President and CEO Nancy Hale, Rockcastle County Attorney Jeremy Rowe, Ky. State Senator Brandon Storm, Volunteers of America President and CEO Jennifer Hancock, VOA Senior Director of Rural Addiction Services Stephanie Hoskins, Recovery Ready Communities Community Engagement Liaison Sue Fox, and Family Court Judge Marcus Vanover are shown leading a recent town hall meeting at RCMS to inform local citizens about VOA and their goals.

VOA Town Hall held last week in Rockcastle County

New location coming to Rockcastle

Last week, Kentucky Senator Brandon Storm, who has filed for re-election in 2024 for re-election as state senator from the 21st district, hosted a town hall with Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOA) at Rockcastle County Middle School. The meeting helped inform interested members of the community about the new VOA programs that will be coming to the area.

Senator Storm was joined by VOA President and CEO Jennifer Hancock and members of her staff, as well as local leaders, who provided first-hand testimonials regarding the effectiveness of the organizations programs and their impact on communities.

Among those participating in the discussion were former Operation UNITE President and CEO Nancy Hale, Rockcastle County Attorney Jeremy Rowe, and Family Court Judge

Marcus Vanover. "It was wonderful to see so many people attend this event to learn more about VOA and the recovery ecosystem we hope to build in Rockcastle County," said Jennifer Hancock. "I want to thank Senator Storm and Rockcastle County Middle School for hosting this event and we cannot wait to partner with local leaders to address issues of substance use disorder and ensure that this community is healthy and thriving."

Funded by multiple state and federal grants, VOA will operate a new Recovery Community Center, a Family Recovery Court program and a Recovery Reintegration program in Rockcastle County. These new recovery programs will provide support for individuals in the community who struggle with substance use disorder or are in recovery. The office is expected to locate on Main

Street in Mount Vernon.

VOA's Recovery Community Center is where people in recovery can meet, gather, and engage socially. It allows individuals to strengthen their sobriety in a safe, supportive environment. The Family Recovery Court program helps families involved with the child welfare system and struggle with substance use disorder achieve family reunification and long-term sobriety.

The Recovery Reintegration program is designed to support gainful employment, and the development of employable skills, and provide wrap-around support for unemployed or underemployed individuals in recovery. Program staff provide workforce case management, including career planning, needs assessments, job/training placement, and referrals.

For more information on VOA's services, please visit www.voamid.org.

RCIDA holds special meeting last week to discuss progress

By: Mike French
Editor

Members of the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority held a special called meeting last week, since the regular monthly meeting had been postponed. The meeting was held at Citizen Bank's conference room in order to avoid possible election equipment that was still set up.

Board members approved the monthly financial reports which showed a total RCIDA balance as of October 31, 2023 of \$782,267, including the revolving loan fund and the City of Mount Vernon's CBDG.

Members also asked Executive Director Jeff VanHook how the Farmer's Market building had been doing. Chairman Corey Craig asked if "everything is still going well and is the cleaning and maintenance staying up to date." VanHook reported the facility has been as successful as expected. "We could probably lease it out three times every day," he said. "We couldn't even have this meeting there because it was rented. The county is doing a great job at cleaning but it is about due for a deep clean."

VanHook also said the facility is showing a profit. "Last year we showed about \$5,000 left, after all maintenance and cleaning and expenses," he said. "This was a very needed facility."

Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., who was also present at the special meeting, said he has had some inquiries concerning signage.

"A few people have asked me where the Farmer's Market is. It needs a nice, neat sign that is visible from Richmond Street," he said. VanHook said he is already working on the matter but the signage in question is going to cost around \$20,000 and he is currently seeking grant funds to help with the cost.

The Farmer's Market Fund had an ending balance on June 30, 2023 of well over \$42,000 but VanHook said there is no reason to spend the entire \$20,000 if a grant would pay a portion of the expense. "We should know something pretty soon on that subject," VanHook said.

VanHook also informed the board that some tables may be needed soon. "They get damaged fairly easy setting them up and taking them down that many times per week," he said.

In other action, VanHook said the Delta Gas project is currently moving forward as expected. He also told the board he is dealing with RFIs, (Requests for Information) from potential

site selectors who are seeking a site to locate a business, on a regular basis.

VanHook also provided his monthly Executive Director's Report which showed that the three-county effort, to establish the Regional Industrial Park and park committee, is going well and moving forward. The report also lists conversations between VanHook and legislative leaders in the House and Senate in Frankfort to promote the county and potential economic development.

The report also mentioned details concerning many other projects including water, sewer, gas, highways, exit 62 widening, and the 461 project. Members agreed that bigger water and sewer plants for Mt. Vernon will be required once a growth point is reached in the county.

The board then entered closed session to discuss personnel.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 at the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

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SUGAR'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

MAJOR GAINS

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SUGAR'S PUZZLE PAGE

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Associated with the Holidays

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- LENT
- FOOD
- SWIMMING
- CHRISTMAS
- BASEBALL
- BURGERS
- RIDES
- FAMILIES
- LABORDAY
- PARK
- HALLOWEEN
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- CHILDREN
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- 1) Weapon swung by a gaucho
- 5) Strictly verboten
- 10) Tango requirement
- 13) Lean against
- 14) Pungent bulb
- 15) Hold spellbound
- 16) Frank Sinatra war flick
- 19) Private eye
- 20) Fencing blades
- 21) Lubricated
- 22) Escorted
- 24) Stairmaster surface
- 25) Broken to the saddle
- 26) "The Importance of Earnest"
- 28) That's partner
- 30) Creep, crab-style
- 31) Automaker's concern, briefly
- 34) What a clue provides
- 38) Dodgers great ___ Wee Reese
- 39) Composer Carmichael
- 40) In ___ of (rather than)
- 41) Plum puckered out?
- 42) Mineral springs
- 44) None-of-the-above choice
- 46) Summer beverage
- 49) Some singing groups
- 50) Type of flare or power
- 52) Kernel source
- 53) Part of a big Thanksgiving Day dinner
- 56) Kind of list
- 57) Get ready to drive, in golf
- 58) Party platter preparer
- 59) Dir. from Denver to Chicago
- 60) Molecular components
- 61) Some works by Keats

DOWN

- 1) Zulu language group
- 2) Double-reeded woodwinds
- 3) Noon, for many
- 4) Picked out
- 5) Picked locks?
- 6) Added to the pot
- 7) Quick snack
- 8) Partners of sahs
- 9) Indivisible
- 10) Syllables sung while skipping
- 11) Took her hand in marriage
- 12) Newspaper piece
- 15) "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard
- 17) Road shoulder
- 18) Wild Man isle
- 23) Simplicity
- 24) Arcade foul
- 26) Spree
- 27) Pushing the envelope
- 28) 1/6 fl. oz.
- 29) Farmer's tool
- 30) City of central China (var.)
- 31) Wet
- 32) "The Tell-Tale Heart" teller
- 33) Lion's quarry
- 35) Separate wheat from chaff
- 36) Happy or 11th
- 37) Quite pleased
- 41) Prefix for "graphic"
- 42) Naughty kids
- 43) Long-term do
- 44) Wrinkle-resistant synthetic fiber
- 45) Sao Paulo has one
- 46) Pelvic bone
- 47) Apollo 11 lander
- 48) Upbeat, in music
- 49) Thames gallery
- 50) Leave text as is!
- 51) Lickable cookie
- 54) Flight deck guess
- 55) Words that end bachelorhood