

Happy Thanksgiving from our families to yours

Mount Vernon

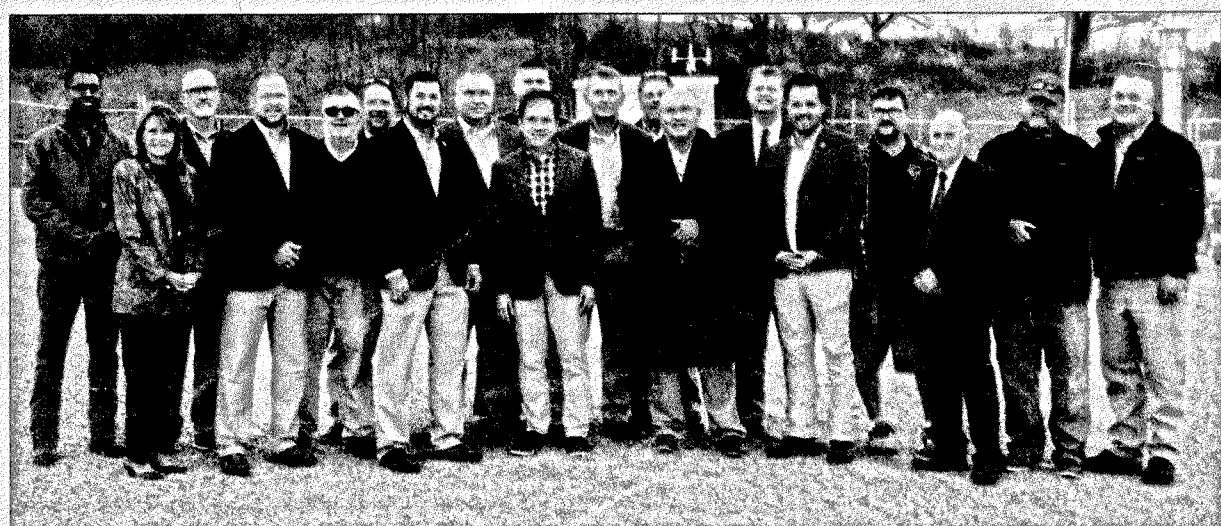
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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 • (606) 256-2244 Volume 137 • Number 41 50 per copy Thursday, November 23, 2023

Ribbon cutting ceremony held for natural gas to Rockcastle



Shown above are representatives of Lincoln County and Rockcastle County during the ribbon cutting ceremony this week to commemorate the new natural gas pipeline on its way to Rockcastle County. Local officials at the event include Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., Mount Vernon City Administrator Jim Bowman, Magistrate Lee Earl Adams, Mount Vernon Mayor Tim Roberts, RCIDA Executive Director Jeff VanHook, State Representative Josh Bray and representatives from Delta Gas.

By: Mike French
Editor

"We have dignitaries from the very top, including the head of the state Workforce Development program, state representatives, judges, magistrates, and much more. This is a big deal and it took a lot of people doing so many little things to add up to

this one big thing," said Jeff VanHook, Executive Director of the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority (RCIDA).

VanHook was talking about the ribbon-cutting ceremony planned which was held to recognize the natural gas line, which is on its way to Rockcastle County.

Some say having natural gas available in Rockcastle has been a goal of county officials for nearly 40 years. But it wasn't until VanHook became Executive Director of the RCIDA that such a development became possible. "Rockcastle has been pursuing getting natural gas for decades. Jeff's guidance and lead-

ership in putting together a regional partnership was a major factor in this project becoming a reality," said RCIDA Chairman Corey Craig.

Through complex negotiations with Lincoln County officials and Delta Natural Gas officials, as well as state

(See "Gas" on A5)

Woodrow Lamb takes Alford Plea Monday

By: Mike French
Editor

Woodrow Lamb, 46, of Mount Vernon, entered an Alford Plea last week, concerning incidents involving several charges including burglary, robbery and a shooting. Lamb was the subject of an eight-month long manhunt after being accused of several incidents in Rockcastle County in 2022.

A press release from the Commonwealth Attorney David Dalton's office said Lamb's plea means the defendant denies being guilty but admits there is sufficient evidence by which a jury could find him guilty.

According to Hurst and Hurst Law offices, an Alford Plea is similar to a defendant claiming to be "guilty but innocent." Judges are not required to accept an Alford plea and according to Hurst and Hurst, such a plea typi-

cally brings a lesser sentence since it saves the time and expense of a jury trial.

Lamb became a suspect after he was accused of five counts of first degree robbery, two counts of first degree burglary, one count of first degree assault, one count of second degree assault, and four counts of possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

The crime spree, which made statewide headlines, occurred in Rockcastle County beginning in January of 2022 and lasted eight months, during which time the Kentucky State Police issued a manhunt for Lamb.

Over the eight months, reports of more burglaries continued but the crimes allegedly occurred at the homes of suspected drug dealers, causing some to avoid calling the

(See "Lamb" on A5)

Paving projects at RCHS and MVES approved by board

By: Mike French
Editor

After the reading of team commitments and a silent prayer, members of the Rockcastle County School Board heard Superintendent Dr. Carrie Ballinger discuss the district's

"core values." Ballinger said the district is working to establish a set of core values that will be observed district wide. Those values include honesty, teamwork, responsibility, commitment and integrity.

Principals nominated one staff member from each school who represents such standards. Those nominated were then presented with a certificate of appreciation during last Tuesday's regular monthly meeting of the school board. Those honored were Erin Grace of RCHS, Angie King of BES, Chris Hendrickson of Rockcastle Academy, Kasandra Smith of RCMS, Melissa Fairchild of RES, Sherry Flara of MVES and Lance Baldwin from the central office. "These people embody the values of Rockcastle County Schools and have gone above and beyond every day," said Ballinger.

Board Chairman Angie Stallsworth Mink

agreed. "You were chosen by your principals. You obviously make a big difference. You each are making your environment a more beautiful and better place," she said.

The board also heard from Chris Phillips of DECCO Architecture concerning the two paving projects planned for the high school and Mount Vernon Elementary. Phillips explained that the plans involve adding more parking spaces and addressing the problem of cars parked along the highway during student

pickup.

Phillips said the plans are extremely under budget and so the firm has added a alternate plan to include more paving and handi-cap availability at each school. "Should the project come in under budget, we have this plan that we can add to the project. Officials

at the school say one expense will include repairing the soil where an old school was buried on the elementary school grounds. Apparently the material has decayed over several years and the ground has sunken. "We need to dig down and repair that

area," said Phillips.

The plans also call for a special crack-resistant concrete.

Facilities Director Trent Clark explained that there are two natural gas wells on the high school property that will have to be dealt with as well. "We recently discovered the wells are producing methane and we will be happy to be rid of those," he said. Clark said a federal grant has been awarded to remove the two wells.

Officials say they expect the work for the two projects, which are budgeted at \$818,295 and will be paid from an SFCC offer of Assistance through the State of Kentucky, will take about six weeks to complete. Plans suggest the work may begin in the summer of 2024.

Ballinger also discussed the KET offer of Assistance of \$27,118 which is granted each year to the district.

The board also discussed the idea of giving school seniors the Chromebook that they have used through the high school years. Brandon Reynolds, Director of Technology, told the board he would like the board's approval to give the Chromebooks to the students, when they graduate, since the devices are considered out-of-date after four years and have no warranty left. "We would provide a Chromebook to incom-

(See "School" on A5)

Engineer to recommend low bidder for new water project

By: Mike French
Editor

Vaughn Williams, CEO of Kenvirns Engineering firm, told Mount Vernon City Council members that he intends to recommend Sensabaugh Design and Construction for the new water basin project at the regular monthly meeting last week.

The project is expected to remove the bad taste and odor from the local Mount Vernon water supply.

Though Sensabaugh was the low bidder at \$3,015,226, this amount nearly \$2 million above the bid submitted five years ago and there was some hesitation among Williams and some council members. At this time, William said "I have never heard of this company. We mean no offense and it is in no way personal, but we have to do our due diligence and find out more about them be-

fore I can recommend them on a city project."

However, owners of the company later said they did indeed take such hesitation personal and suggested the city move ahead with the project and accept the low bid.

However, Williams told the council last week that he had researched the company and contacted their references. "They were okay," he said. "There will be a little bit of a learning curve with them since they apparently haven't done a water basin project. But as long as we have a field inspector on site, I feel confident in recommending them for the job."

Still, when council member Shelley Raines Lewis asked if she should make a motion to accept the bid, Williams suggested she wait until the next meeting. "I would wait until I give the mayor a formal recommendation."

(See "Water" on A5)

Isaiah House

New 60-bed, 28-day rehab center coming to Rockcastle County

By: Mike French
Editor

Rumors have circulated in Rockcastle County for several months, concerning a possible 28-day drug treatment facility locating in the county. The possibility had been mentioned at several fiscal court meetings and city council meetings over the past several months but no details had been announced locally.

However, the rumors ended last week when Jessica Renner appeared before the Mount Vernon City Council to confirm that a 60-bed, 50-employee, 28-day facility is coming to the county.

Isaiah House will be locating in the building where the old Tic Toc Preschool was located in the industrial park (on the right going toward Brodhead), according to Renner. Bowman invited Renner, after meeting her

at a recent Volunteers of America Town Hall meeting, to again discuss the facility.

Until Renner addressed the council, several council members and magistrates had expressed concern that such a facility may bring drug addicts to the area who would then be released into the community after 28 days. In fact, Bowman, and Mount Vernon Mayor

(See "Rehab" on A5)

Of Special Note Inside

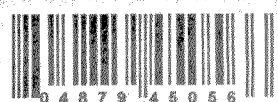
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ramblings...

by: perlina m. anderkin

We all have so much to be thankful for. When I sit and ponder (as you tend to do as you get older), I realize that I have been so blessed in life.

We had our Anderkin family Thanksgiving dinner Sunday, with around 30 present, and that was with Rick's daughter, Megan, and her family not being able to make it and we missed them terribly. Daughter Sara and her husband, Jason, hosted the gang and we really appreciated it.

At one point, the thought went through my mind that if we had a machine that measured noise levels on site, it would probably have exploded within 10 minutes. But that's a good thing. To me it means that we all are still interested enough in each other to want to know what is going on in each other's lives and what their views are on things important to all of us.

Life is busy -- well for some more than others. My main obligations these days consists of keeping myself, along with Jax and my red Tom Cat, fed and a path cleared through the house so that I can easily get from my bed to my favorite chair in my family room.

I can recall so clearly when my first five were all in school, at the same time, and our day started early (but actually behind to start with) and the hustle that ensued to get everyone where they were going occasionally even on time.

Sometimes I would think of the time coming when I could sleep later and how I would enjoy it -- spoiler, I didn't. I would love to have those days back but life moves forward and we don't realize at the time how blessed we are.

I am very concerned with the state of our nation and world now -- as I have been for several years. But this period in the history of our country seems to be the most fraught with the evil that is trying to overtake our world.

You open up X (Twitter) and there are tweets showing dance classes being held by drag queens (men dressed as women) teaching lewd dance movements to very young children and their parents applauding and encouraging them. State governments are punishing homeowners, who have had to defend their home against invaders with a gun, by jerking their gun permits (at least in Commiefornia). Israel is facing practically worldwide condemnation for retaliating against the terrorist group Hamas who went on a rampage into their country, killing over

1400 citizens, including babies and then beheading them, and raping women and teens. China's President Xi Xiiping visits San Francisco and suddenly 10s of thousands of the homeless disappear from their streets (with still no answer as to where they were disappeared to overnight) and the parade route was festooned with only the flag of Xiiping's People's Republic of China, even to an American soldier standing at attention holding a Chinese flag at the final destination of the route. Seriously, there wasn't an American flag in sight. Under pResident Biden's regime, over 9,000,000 invaders have entered our country (the vast majority of whom are military age men, including, at least, 30,000 from China) who are being given free housing, food, health insurance and a prepaid credit card. Fremont High School in Oakland, CA and officials in North And over, MA, have both decided to fly the Palestinian flag instead of the American flag -- at the school and on the town common. Why? What convoluted reasoning makes any sense for these actions? About as much sense as a former President of this country being indicted (for the first time in history) on 91 charges in four states, one of them Florida for having classified documents in his possession from his Presidency. Presidents are allowed to take classified documents with them when they leave office -- VICE PRESIDENTS are not. But, Joe Biden had hundreds of classified documents from his two terms as vice president under Obama, scattered between his garage and a closet at the University of Pennsylvania, and no charges are being considered against him. And, of course, hundreds of American political prisoners are being held in reportedly horrendous conditions in a DC Gulag without due process. Many since January of 2021.

It's an upside down world we live in and, if we, as a nation, survive the remainder of Biden's term we will be very, very lucky. If he is re-elected, or another Democrat elected (or installed) all bets are off as to our survival as a nation and, as Christians, we should all pray continuously for the Second Coming of Jesus.

One point of light in our world, an Obama appointed federal judge ruled against voting machines in Georgia. It is being reported that U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg issued a 135-page ruling last Friday in the long running lawsuit seeking to rid Georgia of

(Continued on A-3)

Aces Over

By: Mike French



When I did something wrong, I got corrected. Sometimes I got a stern talking to. Sometimes I got sent to my room, grounded. Sometimes I got a free butt tanning without the sunshine.

In every case, I learned the lesson and never strayed from it. Parents two generations ago kept their word and were trustworthy. When I was told of a punishment that was coming, it came. I knew my mom or dad didn't lie to me.

I see a generation of entitled beggars coming our way, simply because many parents are too lazy or too busy trying to be a best friend to their children instead of actually parenting them.

It would have been much easier for mom and dad to cancel my grounded status. They wouldn't have to stay in the house and watch me and make sure I obeyed them. They could stop having to deal with it and just send me outside to play before my "grounded" time was up if they had wanted to. But, to them, it was more important to teach their child that there are consequences to actions than to be a momentary hero and not have to worry about it. They refused to take the easy way out.

The results of that kind of parenting meant I grew up with respect for authority. Hence, I have never been tazed, never put in prison and never had to tell a cop "I can't breathe."

My parents had some hard times but they never split up. For over 50 years they went through everything together, including sickness and health but stuck it out. They argued but they never broke their vows to their spouse, and to God, just because one was bored.

I think what I got from that kind of raising was a strong work ethic and an ability to never give up. In my life I was never turned down for a job that I went after. Not because I was good. I wasn't. But I was clean and respectful and left the blue Krylon paint to the house-

hold items and out of my hair. I also never put holes in my nose to stick a ring through like our hog had.

Of course my parents weren't perfect but I mention these things because it is the way most all parents raised kids back in the day. Kids weren't the boss, the parents were.

To me, letting a child have no rules to live by and no chores to earn a work ethic or self respect and never suffering consequences for their actions, is child abuse. If a child is never told "no," to me that is child abuse. Children don't know right from wrong yet. It is a parent's job to teach them that. They do that with the word "no." A child doesn't know common respect or decency until an adult teaches them about it.

I can't count the times I have seen parents tell their child they were going to punish them if they did something again, only

(Continued on A-3)

Rockcastle Historical Haven

Presented by
Rockcastle Historical
Society

By: Markita Proctor

The 2023 Football Rockets had an amazing season and should hold their heads up high as an amazing group of athletes that will long be remembered.

Let's step back in time to 1963. Now, to some 1963 may seem like just yesterday, but believe it or not it was 60 years ago. 1963 was a year full of excitement for Rockcastle County. The number one song of 1963 was Surfin' USA by the Beach Boys. Patrons of the Valley Drive-In could see Elizabeth Taylor in Cleopatra. There were good times and bad, it was the year that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, it was the year that the first woman, Soviet cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, to travel to space, and it was the year that The Mt. Vernon Red Devils foot-

ball team had a perfect winning season!

The Team consisted of Coach Larry Travis, Assistant Coach Wayne Berry, players: Bobby Hayes, Nicky Williams, Shannon Hellard, Charles Machal, Douglas Rickies, Larry Towery, A.B. Thompson, Jimmy Kendrick, Bill Price, Ronnie Reppert, Jimmie Whitaker, Jerry Hines, Charles Norton, Tommy Hodges, Joe Mullins, George Griffith, Jerry Makin, James Davis, Jerry Hodges, Earl Price, Tommy Moore, and Donald Nelson.

October 17, 1963, was the last game of the season and the win against the Camp Dick Robinson team secured their perfect season. According to the October 24th, 1963 publication of the Mount Vernon Signal, the 1963 season was the team's

that would be on hand for Thanksgiving. Some would be there only for the meal, others would be staying for a few days. As I look back, most all of those people are now dead and gone, even Mom and Grandma. The holidays are always such a bittersweet time of the year. Although we are here in the present, there is a part of us that remembers the old days and have a longing in our hearts for old familiar places and faces

I always would follow Mom and Grandma around and watch carefully as they would work and especially as they cooked. Before I was no more than ten or twelve, I could cook anything they did. Grandma never used a recipe and I don't, either. It is all still right there in my mind.

Thanksgiving will be here in a day or so and I've come to the age that I will be going to my family's homes for dinner. I don't have to cook or clean any more, although I wish I did. I'll be seeing my niece, my great-s and great-great, nieces and nephews. It sounds like I'm getting pretty old... it is no wonder that I'm in such a shape.

first 11-man football season.

The game did not start out as promising as I many hoped, neither did team scored in the first quarter, but as reported in the Signal, "...Camp Dick Robinson took advantage of a penalty and a block kicked to score six points. The extra point was missed. Half time score: Camp Dick Robinson 6-0". It seemed as if MVHS was going to let their winning season slip away.

But Coach Larry Travis must have given quite the inspiring speech in the locker room because Shannon Hellard was able to score two touchdowns. "Bobby Hayes scored both extra points by way of a quarterback sneak," the Signal reported.

Graduating seniors

(Continued on A-3)

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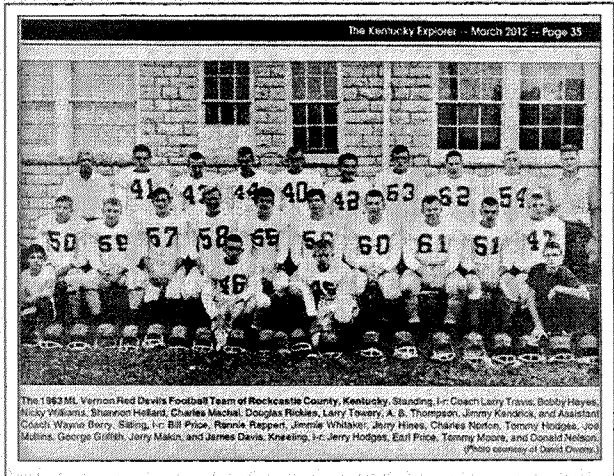
Haven

(Continued from A2)

that year were Bobby Hayes, Tommy Hodges, Jerry Makin, Bill Price, Jerry Hines, Hannon Hellard, Douglas Rickels, Charles Machel, Nicky Williams, and Larry Towery.

The team did not go to the playoffs that year because they were ineligible due to playing only three games against regional teams.

Someone somewhere once said, "In the south, there is spring, summer, winter, and football." Well, here in Kentucky, we have summer, winter, football, and basketball! From the grassy fields of old Mt. Vernon High School to the sacred ground of Rocket Field, we love our boys of fall.



Mamaw's Kitchen

Regina Poynter Hoskins

HOT DOG SAUCE IN CROCKPOT

2 pounds ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 and 1/2 cups ketchup
1/4 cup white sugar
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/4 cup prepared yellow mustard
3/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
3/4 teaspoon salt

Place the ground beef and onion in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring to crumble, until beef is browned. Drain. Transfer the beef and onion to a slow cooker and stir in the ketchup, sugar, vinegar, and mustard. Season with Worcestershire sauce and salt. Cover and simmer on Low setting for 2 to 4 hours before serving.

HOT DOG CHILI

1 pound lean ground beef (90% lean)
1 cup beef stock
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon celery salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon pepper

In a large Dutch oven or large pan, cook beef until no longer pink, breaking

into crumbles. Stir in remaining ingredients; bring to a boil. Lower heat to medium and cook, uncovered, 20 to 25 minutes or until thickened, stirring occasionally.

CONEY ISLAND DOG

1 pound ground beef
3 tablespoons chili powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon seasoned salt
2 big squirts of ketchup
1 regular squirt of mustard
2 onions chopped very fine

1 pound package hot dogs
Hot dog buns

Brown ground beef with some water till well done. Drain off water, fat, and drippings. Add remaining ingredients except for hot dog and buns. Cook on low heat till thickened, add water if too thick. Adjust the chili powder according to the spiciness you like. Cook hot dogs by the method of your choice (grill, fry, boil, broil). Place into a bun and cover with Coney Island sauce.

MAMAW'S COLESLAW DOGS

After adding the Coney Island sauce, cover all with coleslaw and chopped onions. I usually put some mustard on them also.

ramblings

(Continued from A2)

its electronic voting machines in favor of hand-marked paper ballots. The lawsuit argued that the machine's cybersecurity flaws violate the constitutional rights of voters to cast their votes and have those votes accurately counted. If we are not more vigilant in 2024's Presidential election, it will be the same story as in 2020, when 17,327 dead people voted in Michigan, and another Democrat will be installed.

The newly-released videos of the January 6th protest in DC are very telling as to how the protest was taken over by undercover FBI agents and BLM and Anti-Fa members who infiltrated those there to protest certification of a fraudulent

election.

It has also been discovered that the infamous J6 Committee destroyed mountains of evidence from that day (no surprise actually). I am ashamed that this country has not been demonstrating daily in DC against the illegal imprisonment of these Americans but since I wouldn't last demonstrating for 15 minutes so I guess I should hush about it.

I actually consider myself one of the lucky ones, because I will not have to face, too long, the consequences of Democrats destroying our country. I hate it for my children and grandchildren but maybe, at some point, there will be a realization of what is going on by a majority of our citizens and things will get better. One can only pray.

Aces

(Continued from A2)

to watch the child do it again and the parent roll their eyes. "I can't do anything with him." Yeah, right. They meant they are too lazy and self-oriented to do anything with him. Their own appearance and their own comfort level and their own freedom to not have to deal with a problem is more important to them than teaching their own child the lessons in life that they should have.

A parent must teach right from wrong.

When I was punished for doing wrong, I didn't develop poor-little-me phobias. I didn't become depressed and useless. When I didn't pay attention and failed a test, it wasn't called attention deficit disorder. It was called "not paying attention." My parents never assumed I was too stupid to learn something and then drugged me up to chemically calm me down. I was calmed with a belt, and it worked every time.

The America that existed when the government had nothing to do with raising your child, produced a generation of hard working, Christian, ethical, moral citizens

who knew right from wrong and were not afraid to say it for fear of public condemnation, from those who claim to be tolerant.

Men and women were productive members of society and families stuck together through thick and thin. Children were disciplined by parents and taught right from wrong. If a child was "difficult" or "strong willed" he or she was made "undifficult" and their will was not household authority.

Somehow, in society's desire to be more compassionate than intelligent, we lost our way. We started calling beasts of the field "our babies" and disrupting human evolution and progress for some slimy salamander. We stopped teaching our children and started acting like their playmate instead of their parent. The natural progression of such an attitude created this society that treats criminal thugs like heroes and victims like they are an inconvenience for the judicial system.

To make America Great Again, we would have to go back to American traditional belief systems. And that ain't going to happen.

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

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Rockcastle County Bookmobile Schedule

Monday, November 27th: Spiro, Level Green, Willailla, KY 3245, Bryant Ridge. **Tuesday, November 28th:** Ottawa and Bee Lick. **Wednesday, November 29th:** Senior Citizens Center/Adult Day Health, Wayne Stewart Center.

2023 CAIP Approval Letter Correction

I ant to apologize to all the producers who received their approval letters for CAIP in the mail. There was a mistake found in the letter. The deadline on your letter says July 1, 2023 and it should be July 1, 2024. If you have any questions about the letter, please let us know and I would be happy to answer or find the answer for you. *Thank you from the Rockcastle Co. Conservation District.*

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.

KPR Meeting November 28th

The Cumberland Valley Chapter of the Kentucky Public Retirees (KPR) will meet Tuesday, November 28th at David's Steak House in Corbin. Mealtime will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting to follow. Guest speakers will be Brian Towles, Medicare Specialist for Division of Retiree Health for KPPA and Tracy Garrison, Humana Representative. Retirees (and spouses) receiving retirement benefits from KERS, CERS or SPRS are welcome to attend. Membership information will be available at the meeting or on the website (kentuckypublicretirees.org). For more information, call 606-260-0490.

Remembrance Tree Ceremony

The 30th annual Remembrance Tree Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 2 p.m. at EKV'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, Kathryn Pope 606-308-3099.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit Santa Claus and enjoy the Hamilton Christmas House decorations...



Santa Claus will be at the Hamilton Christmas House display from 6 p.m. to ? on Friday, December 1st and Friday, December 8th.

Come and enjoy the beautiful decorations and lights, located in Houston Point Subdivision on Cedar Rapids Rd. There will be a mailbox on the porch for kids to mail their Santa letters any night for direct transport to the North Pole.

And, some of Santa's friends may also show up.

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Obituaries

Lloyd Cain

Lloyd Lee Cain, 88, of Mt. Vernon, died Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at Berea Health & Rehabilitation Center. He was born in Wildie on May 26, 1935, the son of Robert and Minnie Thacker Cain.



A graduate of Brodhead High School and the University of Kentucky, Mr. Cain served in the US Army prior to beginning an education career as a vocational agriculture teacher in Jackson County. He later became the agriculture teacher at Mt.

Vernon High School where he taught and farmed until the formation of the Harry Sparks Vocational School, where he served as its first principal until his retirement in 1989.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon and had been active in several county organizations including the local Draft Board, County Extension Board and Council, Area Development Board, and Rockcastle County Improvement Council. He had been a Soil Conservation Board member, served on the Kentucky Commission for Agriculture in Rockcastle County, and served two terms on the Mt. Vernon City Council. He later became a real estate agent and certified appraiser for Prudential Don Foster Realtors and continued to farm in his retirement.

Mr. Cain leaves behind: his loving wife, Betty Jean Carter Cain; children: Dr. Lee (Marcia) Cain of Mt. Vernon, and Tina (Jerry) Hasty of Brodhead; three grandchildren, Garrett Hasty, Rachel Cain, and Aidan Cain; and two sisters, Lou Crawford and Jean Kidwell. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 20, 2023 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. Dennis Wilder, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon. Interment was in Berea Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Aidan Cain, Rachel Cain, Garrett Hasty, Jerry Hasty, Tommy Harold Mink, and Keith Smith. Honorary pallbearers were: Randal Adams, Phil Mallicoat, Tom Mills, Buford Parkerson, and Leonard Wilder.

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

Dorothy Lovell

Dorothy Reva Owens Lovell, 94, of Mt. Vernon, widow of Sherman Lovell, died Saturday, November 18, 2023.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at Dowell & Martin Funeral Home. Burial was in Cresthaven Memorial 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.

Ruby Lee Rader

Ruby Lee Rader, 89, of Cartersville, Georgia, died November 16, 2023. She was born July 9, 1934, in Rockcastle, to the late Stanley Allen and the late Bertle Allen. She is also preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Earl Rader, and sister, Imojean Allen.

Ruby is survived by: her son, Harold Rader (Vicki); daughter, Evonda silvers (Arvis Messer); grandchildren, Kelly Rader (Tellus Demos), Hali Rader, Derek Rader, Felicia Liou (Wen), Michelle Hegerty (Matt), and Dustin Smith; great grandchildren, Kalin Liou, Henry Earl Demos, William Warmoth, Nora Jane Lacy, and Graham Hegerty; brother-in-law, Emanuel Rader; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ruby loved the Lord. She was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren were the light of her life. She was a Mamaw to anyone who met her. Ruby will be greatly missed, but we know she is in heaven dancing with Earl.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 21, 2023 in the Parnick Jennings Funeral Home chapel with Reverend David Baker and Reverend Roger Fisher officiating. Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29 at Georgia National Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers are: Jeff Sharpton, Jerry Knight, Johnny Hale, Marc Lockwood, Blake Lockwood, and George Robinson.



Jack Raines

Thurman Crit "Jack" Raines, 91, died Friday, November 10, 2023. He was born in Livingston on October 2, 1932, a son of the late Marion "Herbert" Raines and Mae Carpenter Raines. He was a proud

Veteran of the Korean War and a retired crane operator for Haydon Bridge Company. He attended Morning View Church. Jack was a hard-working, helpful man who was respected by many in his community. He always enjoyed working on construction and home improvement projects for his family, friends, and neighbors. He was a dedicated Dad and Papaw who loved spending time with his family. He was exceptionally proud of his children and grandchildren.

Those left to celebrate his life include: his wife of 67 years, Evelene Hammond Raines, and their four daughters, Shannon Gibson (Doyle), Renee Bullock (Tim), Lisa Raines, and Shelley Lewis (Jack); four grandchildren, Adam Bales, Jordan Bales, Ian Bullock (Kayla), and Hannah Bullock (Chad); and two great granddaughters, Halli Bales and Lillian Bullock. He was preceded in death by: his parents; two brothers, Floyd William Raines and Quillen C Raines; and a sister, Ruby Phillips.

Funeral services were conducted at Dowell and Martin Funeral Home on Saturday, November 18, 2023 with Bro. Bill Hammond officiating. Burial with Military Honors followed in Cresthaven Memorial Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Adam Bales, Jordan Bales, Ian Bullock, Doyle Gibson, Eddie Hammond, and Jeff Cromer. Honorary pallbearers were: Tim Bullock, Larry Hammond, Eddie Daugherty, and David Bales.

Obituary provided by the family.

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

Glen Faulkner

Lowell Glen Faulkner, 88, of Cumberland, KY, died Sunday, November 12, 2023 at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset. He was born in



Rockcastle County on October 15, 1935, the son of Isaac and Maggie French Faulkner. He was a retired heavy equipment operator for Mountain Aggregates, Inc. and a US Navy Veteran. He was a member of Cumberland Baptist Church of Cumberland and enjoyed fishing and ginseng hunting.

He is survived by: his daughter, Annette (Tim) Beardsley of Berea; two grandchildren, Grant (Alyssa) Thompson, and Jessica Thompson; four great grandchildren, Trenton, McKenzie, Sawyer, and Mason; three brothers, Audie (Barbara) Faulkner, Noah Faulkner, and Ed Faulkner; and a sister, Ruby McClure. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Marjorie Buchanan and Charlene Scott.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home chapel by Bro. Jim Miller, pastor of Livingston Pentecostal Church. Burial with military honors provided by the US Navy followed in Elmwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Tim Beardsley, Casey Faulkner, Stacy Faulkner, C.C. Ponder, Paul Thomason, and Grant Thompson.

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



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

Thankful for the Lord

By: Joanie and Frankie Woodall

Sometimes it can be tough to be thankful for the little things, especially in hard times. Once we begin counting our blessings, we discover we have plenty. It's simply the change in perspective from dwelling on what we lack to focusing on what we have.

Thankfulness is a concept that appears often in the Bible, the faithful are called upon to give thanks to God for everything. Not only to be thankful but to rejoice: "Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" (Psalms 95:2). "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (Colossians 4:2) "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (II Corinthians 9:11) "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received consecrated by the Word of God and prayer." (I Timothy 4:4-5). "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever." (Psalms 106:1)

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:28-29). "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise the fruit of lips that openly profess His name." (Hebrews 13:15). "Let us give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind." (Psalms 107:21). "I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him with thanksgiving." (Psalms 69:30). "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16). "Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people!" (I Chronicles 16:8). "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalms 34:8)

"I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart and I will glorify your name forever." (Psalms 86:12) "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in You. I will sing praise to Your name, O most high." (Psalms 9:1-2). "The Lord is my strength and my shield, in Him my heart rests and I am helped. My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him." (Psalms 28:7) "But I have trusted in our steadfast love, my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." (Psalms 95:2) "Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous and give thanks to His holy name!" (Psalms 97:12). "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name!" (Psalms 100:4)

We are so thankful to the Lord! we have so much to be thankful for... Most importantly for Jesus Christ and what He did on the Cross for us all! We thank the Lord for saving us, for never leaving us or giving up on us, for His grace, mercy and unconditional love. For dying for our sins, for our sobriety.

In February, I will have been sober for six years (Joanie) and Frankie for five years. It's nothing we've done, it's all the Lord. We can't do anything without Him. He gets all Praise and Glory!!

We are thankful for the chance to get to praise the Lord everyday. For our children/grandchildren He has given us. For each other, because we know God put us together and answered our prayers. I am so thankful that Frankie is the one he had for me.

He gave us a home, clothes, food, good health -- the list keeps going. We can never thank Him enough for everything!! So thankful He paid for our sins and I just want to remind everyone that sin is sin, no matter big or small, it doesn't matter who, it makes no difference in the Lord's eyes. We all sin and fall short. No one is perfect but the Lord!

We must repent daily and turn from sin, not do it knowing we are going to and not change. We must also forgive first of all ourselves and others if we want the Lord to forgive us. It may be hard for some, but if we call on the Lord and ask Him to help us, He will.

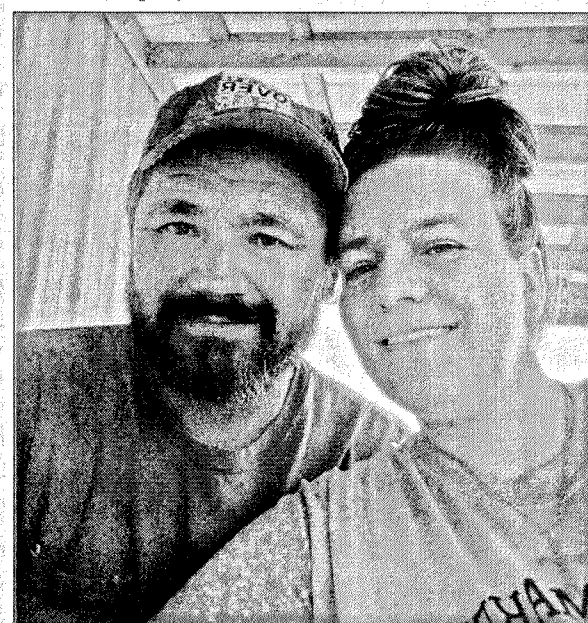
We all have made mistakes in life and made poor choices, but that is not who we are any longer. We are saved and forgiven. We have been born again in Christ, Praise God!!

We are also thankful for our family and our family in Christ, our true friends. And to everyone who allows us to do their tree work, we appreciate you all.

Again, there is so much to be thankful for, even the smallest things we take for granted. No matter what we face, turn to the Lord, He will get us through it. Keep Him first and above everything, always seek the Lord's guidance and keep that personal relationship with him! Focus on how to get closer to the Lord and to always hear Him. Trust me, we are working on this ourselves. We know we are not perfect and we need Him always! Also, remember to take time to read and study the Lord's Word in the Bible! God bless you all. We hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving. We love you all and, most importantly, so does the Lord!

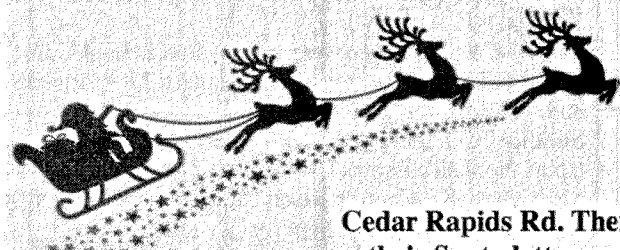
If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, today is the day. We are not promised tomorrow or the next minute. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in Him and he in God." (I John 4:15) Salvation is as simple as that. Confess and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He came to earth to live as man, died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day -- nothing else. God made salvation so easy for us to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. Isn't that amazing?

"Dear God, no matter what I may face or hear in this world, there is nothing that will convince me that You are not a Good Father. Thank You for giving up Your Son for me, Lord. I will believe in You and what Your Son Jesus Christ did for the rest of my life. I love you, Father, In Jesus name I pray, Amen!"



Frankie and Joanie Woodall

Visit Santa Claus and enjoy the Hamilton Christmas House decorations...



Santa Claus will be at the Hamilton Christmas House display from 6 p.m. to ? on Friday, December 1st and Friday, December 8th.

Come and enjoy the beautiful decorations and lights, located in Houston Point Subdivision on

Cedar Rapids Rd. There will be a mailbox on the porch for kids to mail their Santa letters any night for direct transport to the North Pole.

And, some of Santa's friends may also show up.

Gas

(Continued from front) police to report the crime, according to police reports at the time. .

More than one of the robberies involved a handgun but Lamb had been convicted over 20 years earlier in the shooting of a Mount Vernon police officer, making him ineligible to possess the weapon.

Lamb was listed as Armed and Dangerous during the eight-month manhunt until Trooper Ben Allen made the arrest near the Calloway area in September of 2022.

During the manhunt, Lamb's girlfriend and suspected accomplice was arrested.

Lamb entered the Alford plea on November 20. Dalton said he will recommend a 20-year sentence in prison for all the offenses.

"Mr. Lamb allegedly broke a lot of laws and he is going to jail for a very long time. Although he refuses to actually say he did it, the investigation by the Kentucky State Police shows otherwise. He will have a decade or two in prison to consider his choices going forward. I appreciate all the work by all of the agencies in this case," said Dalton.

The incident was investigated by Det. Ryan Loudermilk (KSP); Det. James Royal (KSP); Trooper Adam Hensley (KSP); and Det. Logan Gay (KSP); along with immense assistance from the Mt. Vernon PD (Dylan Hensley and Ryan Messenger).

Judge Montgomery set final sentencing for December 8, 2023.

Lamb

(Continued from front) officials in Frankfort, VanHook was able to help establish a gas supply in Lincoln County with the agreement that there would also be a gas tap available to bring natural gas to Rockcastle. "Yes Rockcastle did help Lincoln County to get a gas line. But that was the only way to get gas to Rockcastle County," said VanHook. "Never hesitate to help yourself because you are afraid it may help others also."

And, according to VanHook, and members of the RCIDA board, everything went according to plan. "It took a lot of 3 a.m. phone calls, a lot of trips to Frankfort, a lot of meetings with a lot of people and everyone working together with the same goals in mind. But the tap was successful and the natural gas line to Rockcastle County is being laid as we speak," he said. "Some of it is already in the ground."

After all the deals were made and grants were awarded, VanHook said the county's only real expense in getting the \$36.5 million project completed, was giving him a job. "The only thing the gas line will cost Rockcastle County is hiring me," he said.

According to RCIDA calculations, Lincoln County will spend \$125,000, there is a \$500,000 ARC Grant, Delta Natural Gas is investing \$15.5 million and the State of Kentucky has budgeted \$20 million for the project.

The ribbon cutting ceremony is planned to honor and commemorate the officials involved in making the multi-million dollar project a possibility. "The gas line is already being laid but this

ceremony will recognize the accomplishments of those who made it all possible, and there are a lot of people involved," said VanHook.

The ceremony was held November 20 in Stanford.

VanHook told the fiscal court last week that he expects the gas line to Rockcastle to be complete within 18 to 24 months. "Not only will local residents and businesses have a reliable, cheaper utility available, but this will eliminate a 30-year stumbling block we have had in getting new industry to locate in our county," he said.

Magistrate Mike McGuire said he was pleased with the progress. "It is amazing that this is finally coming," he said. An emotional VanHook told the court that Rockcastle is "on the edge of something really special here. We have an opportunity that is unprecedented thanks to everyone working together."

The court thanked VanHook for his efforts and expressed their gratitude for all who helped bring natural gas to the county.

School

(Continued from front) ing freshmen and then they could have that computer when they graduate," he said. Board members agreed the device would be handy for higher education or home use after graduation. The board will consider the proposal.

Reynolds said he will provide serial numbers and details on each laptop in question. I wouldn't want to have such a program without oversight just to avoid any potential questions later," he said.

In other action Ballinger discussed a five-year \$1.5 million grant from the Prichard Committee, Ballinger said one of the requirements of the grant is to create the position of District Coordinator. "I think this grant can make a real different in our district," she said. The superintendent said the goal of the grant is to make the high school and middle school a central hub for the entire community through special events and night and weekend activities.

Ballinger said she will advertise for the new position soon and is attending a meeting in December to learn how the \$1.5 million may be used.

Ballinger also discussed the formation of a group that will consider competency levels of students and detailed expectations from the district. "We expect our students to be effective communicators, resilient learners, responsible citizens, active collaborators and innovative learners upon graduation," she said. The program will focus on those goals and seek to reach them individually.

The board also heard the Superintendent's Personnel Action report for November. It read as follows.

Full time classified employees hired

Justin Rogers, eighth grade assistant football coach at RCMS; Cade Burdette, assistant boys basketball coach at RCMS; Matthew Burkhart, head football coach for 7th grade at RCMS; Juliann Kirby, head softball coach at MVES.

Resignation

Amanda Taylor, instructional assistant at RCMS; Callie Asher, itinerant speech pathologist; Crystal Brooks, substitute bus monitor; Jasmine Bowling, food service cook/baker at MVES; Katlin Thacker, teacher at RES and digital learning coach at RES; Tim McIntosh, assistant girl's basketball coach at RCMS; Kyle Childress, assistant baseball coach at RCMS; Crystal Rudd, substitute teacher.

Retirements

John Tyler, full time bus driver; Lonnie Hall, custodian at RCMS.

Certified substitutes hired

Cynthia Rogers, Julie Asher, Paula Davis and Lola Bauer, substitute teachers district wide.

Classified substitutes hired

Amanda Taylor, Darren Smith, Kasey Newcomb, Kelly McClure and Staci Leis, instructional assistants district wide.

Water

(Continued from front) mendation letter and I have a chance to talk with them to see if they will work with us on the time line."

Williams was referring to an age-old problem in such projects. The city doesn't have the money for the project (as they did five years ago). "I have to see if they are willing to extend the dates on their bids.

Such bids are binding for 90 days in Kentucky and 60 days have already passed. "While we are finding the funding from every possible source, I need to make sure they are willing to extend our time to begin the project without adjusting the bid for inflation," Williams said.

Williams said he will get back with the council once he has discussed the matter with Sensabough owners.

As for the funding, the city had already raised just over \$1 million since that was the original bid five years ago. But delays to the project caused the city to require a new bid. However, by 2023 what economists refer to as Bidenomics, and general inflation, had caused such costs to triple. Even the cost of fuel has more than doubled in the past three years.

Williams, and City Administrator Jim Bowman, say they are working on several sources of funding, including a Rural Development loan and a potential ARC grant, among

other loans and grants. However, no additional grants have been awarded and no loans have been acquired, as of yet, necessitating Williams asking Sensabough owners to extend their bid time, without adjusting costs to give the city more time to raise the funds.

In the meantime, Williams provided a detailed 21-page worksheet to the council showing potential water rate increases to help repay any loans taken to build the new basin. "If we work it right, the city will remain in the same financial shape and the rate increase will pay back the loans," he said. Dropping the rate increase once the loans are repaid was not discussed.

Williams and Bowman said such increases would be extremely minimal and in most cases may be under \$1 per thousand gallons.

The council agreed to continue seeking funding and to consider potential rate increases once such loans or grants are obtained and more details are confirmed.

Rehab

(Continued from front)

Tim Roberts, had been meeting with officials in other communities who had such a facility to avoid any of the potential problems that may arise from having such a facility in a county. However, Renner said that this is not the case and there is no need to be concerned.

Renner explained that she has other facilities including one in Somerset along with many locations for recovering addicts to go so that they are not simply "turned loose" in the community.

Renner said she also owns a motel and about 90 transports so that anyone released from the facility will have a safe place to go immediately. However, she also explained that she cannot force anyone to stay at the facility or go to a specific location.

"Most importantly, I know that I walked into Rockcastle County schools completely intoxicated more times than I can count and no one offered to help me," she said. "It is going on much more than any of you know. We have stores selling things to minors right here, right now and drugs are all around us. We are going to help those people. They will not go without a helping hand anymore."

Rockcastle County

School Board Chairman Angela Mink was present at the meeting to support Renner who said that Mink had "changed her life when she was in school in Rockcastle. Mink told several stories concerning the issue. "Recently, for example, we met a homeless man locally. We were able to get him something to eat. We couldn't get him in the facility, but he had food and he knows he can come to us and we care. That is the first step," she said.

Bowman thanked Renner for coming to the meeting. "Until now, the facility has all been hearsay and rumors," he said. "No one knew what was happening and there were some concerns about it. We thank you for coming to clarify this for us."

Renner continued to express her desire to help local troubled citizens. "I had no idea how many homeless people there are in Rockcastle County," she said.

Renner provided statistics that demonstrate property values rise dramatically where such facilities are located and crime drops in the same areas. Renner said the fa-

cility will be faith-based and will also deal with mental issues. She listed countless doctors, psychologists and social workers at the center's disposal and assured the council that she will never release an addict with no place to go. "Our main focus is spiritual. There is no chemical solution for a spiritual problem. But I will turn no one away regardless of insurance and if police bring someone to me at 3 a.m, I'm going to take them in. We are going to love these people."

The center will be affiliated with the new VOA (Volunteers of America) which will soon be located on Main Street in Mount Vernon in the former Clontz building.

Renner said the facility will employ about 50 people and will be available to anyone who needs help. "All these people really need to change their life is someone who cares and is willing to help," she said. "I love Rockcastle County and it is time I do what I am good at, right here."

Several council members expressed their appreciation for Renner's work.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is a day that families have gathered together for many years in our country, to give thanks and to count our blessings. President Abraham Lincoln changed Thanksgiving Day to the last Thursday in November, in 1863. Congress made Thanksgiving Day a legal holiday in 1941.

Since this is the time our country has set aside to give thanks, we want to consider the idea of being thankful. What trait is actually more beautiful than thankfulness? What is more vile than ingratitude? The apostle Paul places the unthankful in the class as the covetous, traitors, and blasphemers. (2 Tim.3:1-4) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, and it goes on and on. Did you notice the apostle put unthankful, with this list of ugly trait, how sad it is but it is true that this is the way that it is for many people in this great country of ours, they have lost their natural affection and love for God.

One of the saddest statements in the Bible is found in (Luke.17:17) Jesus says where is the nine? These ten came to Jesus with the dreaded disease of leprosy and begged Jesus for help. Master have mercy on us, they cried. Jesus cleaned the ten of their leprosy as they went on their way, only one went back and thanked Jesus for being healed. They readily accepted the fact that they were healed but didn't take time to say. Thank You. How sad but typical of this present generation.

God bestows so many blessings on us everyday that we could never thank Him enough, even if we stayed on our knees all the time. His gifts to mankind cannot be counted. All he asks, is that we be thankful? Let us look at a few verses: (Eph.5:20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Thes.5:17,18) Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (Col.3:15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which you are called in one body, and be ye thankful. Gratitude is a beautiful trait and one that every Christian should strive to obtain and practice every day.

Folks how long has it been since you went to the Lord in prayer simply to say, Thank You Lord, for your many blessings. Most of our prayers are requests for things we want but donot need. The apostle Paul tells us to give thanks always to God for all things. The apostle Paul thanked God for whatever state he was in, he found something to be thankful for, he thanked God when he was hungry, he thanked God when he was supplied with goods, when I suffer need, he was still thankful.

There is no better way to give thanks to God than to live a life that glorifies God. "Thanksgiving is thanksgiving." Heaven belongs to the grateful, and Hell belongs to the ungrateful. Let us come before God with thanksgiving.

Thank you so much for reading this article we have videos to watch on our You Tube channel Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ. The church assembles for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M and Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to contact someone from the church you can call or text this number 606-224-1480. We offer free Bible correspondence course.

REMEMBER GOD LOVES YOU

• Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ •

Sundays @ 10 a.m. & Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. • Everyone Welcome
Bro. Ova Baker 606-878-8104 • Bro. Dale McNew 859-582-4021

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

Praise the Lord, O My Soul!

Psalms 103:1- 5 David the Psalmist says, Bless the Lord O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all of His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, whosatisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

In this scripture, David is giving pure worship unto God. If you notice there is no mention of enemies, foes, or threats. There are no complaints; there no petitions, this is just pure worship of God. No clouds on the horizon. No notes of disappointment, no lines of sadness. It's all joyous, thankful, overflowing praise, rising from the hearts of those who have been given full and eternal salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:30 reads, But of him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto wisdom, and righteousness. And sanctification, and redemption VS 31 That according as it is written, He that glorified him glory in the Lord. Let us all Praise the Lord, with all our soul, just like the psalmist David.

Everyone Welcome

Robby Cable • 606-305-8452

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Providence
CHURCH of CHRIST

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

SPORTS

Rockets lose to Lex Cath in region finals

By Chad Hensley
An outstanding season came to an unfortunate end as the Rockcastle County Rockets were eliminated from the KHSAA Class 3A playoffs by a very talented Lexington Catholic squad by a final of 43-7. LexCath (9-4), who advances to take on defending Class 3A state champions Christian Academy of Louisville, got out to a 7-0 lead on its first series and never looked back. Rockcastle, which fell to 11-2 with the loss, scored its only touchdown on the game's final offensive play when senior quarterback Tucker Warren fittingly threw a touchdown pass to senior receiver Christian Larkey as the pair capped off a fantastic career together after having previously won a middle school state title together as eight

graders at North Laurel and came back together this season for one final swan song together. "We never really got anything going on offense and it's because we never had good field position and LexCath had a very good defense," Coach Larkey said reflecting on the season-ending loss. "They are by far the best team we have played this year and obviously why they are one of the highest ranked teams in the state of Kentucky this year. We didn't win the special teams battle and our starting punter was ruled out at game time, so we really had a new punter in, and we had some miscues and LexCath capitalized on it. We just were not able to overcome getting behind and never got into a good flow. We lost to a very good team." Stats for the game in-

clude Warren going 10-for-19 through the air for 75 yards, one touchdown and one interception. On the ground, Warren had 16 carries for 50 yards to go along with 18 yards on five carries from Carter Powell, nine yards on three carries from Larkey and five yards on three carries for Isaiah Jackson. The receiving corps was led by Caleb Moore with six catches for 48 yards while Larkey earned 11 yards and a touchdown on his only catch. Jackson collected nine yards on two receptions and Powell with seven yards on one catch. With the 48 yards receiving, Moore joined an elite club at Rockcastle County as one of just two receivers to ever eclipse the 1,000-yard club as he finished his senior season with 51 catches for 1,001 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Josh Hale holds the single-season record for receiving yardage with 1,305 in 2001. Defensively, the Rockets were led against LexCath by a pair of freshmen that had outstanding seasons in Hunter Pingleton and Blake Mullins, who each earned eight tackles. Pingleton recorded one sack against the Knights to tally six on the season, which was 0.5 sacks short of the team-best tally by Mullins with 6.5. Moore collected five tackles to go along with three each from Larkey, Jackson, Powell and Jaydon Bowles. Warren and Connor Wright recorded two tackles each while Jai Denny and Creed Gabbard earned one tackle each.

This is the point in the recap where we take a turn and look back on the 2023 season and reflect on just how successful of effort that the players and coaches had in resurrecting a program that just hadn't been itself since long-time head coach Tom Larkey led the program. Going into the season, many fans speculated on just how well the team would be coming off a 4-7 season in Coach Larkey's first season at the helm of his alma mater. What the fans didn't know is how well the players would buy into what the coaches were teaching them and coming together as brothers in battle. "Well, we started the season not really knowing what was going to happen and had no clue we would be so explosive on both sides of the ball," Coach Larkey commented. "As the season went on, we had kids get nagging injuries and injuries that were just too tough to get rid of and when you don't have a lot of depth that really hurts you the further you go into the playoffs. Our kids played tough all year and fought through the pain and played, which is what our football program is all about. It's so ironic that the last play of the season was a touchdown pass from Tucker to Christian since those two had played with each other since the third grade. A miracle that hap-

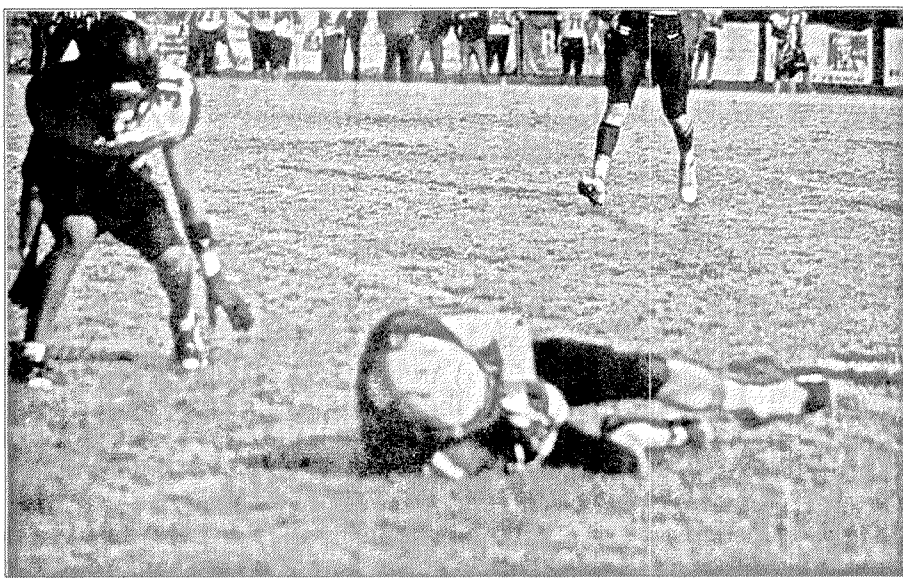
pened and perfect ending to an incredible year." As many Rocket fans have come to know, expectations for football in Rockcastle County are always high and Coach Larkey, as well as many others, would say that an 11-2 record overall including an undefeated district championship including a win at Bell County and a third-round playoff appearance would be enough to say the team had a successful season. "Our expectations are always high, and we want to win the district and region and go to state every year," add Coach Larkey. "I think our team

lived up to more than the expectations. People saw how much speed and desire our kids had and just how much fun football is to watch. We almost had a perfect regular season and come a hair close to playing in the state title game. We beat Bell County at Log Mountain and that is what really set our program on fire...getting that big time win at Bell. What win it was." At the conclusion of every Rockcastle football game, many parents and fans alike really pack the field to show the team support whether in vic-

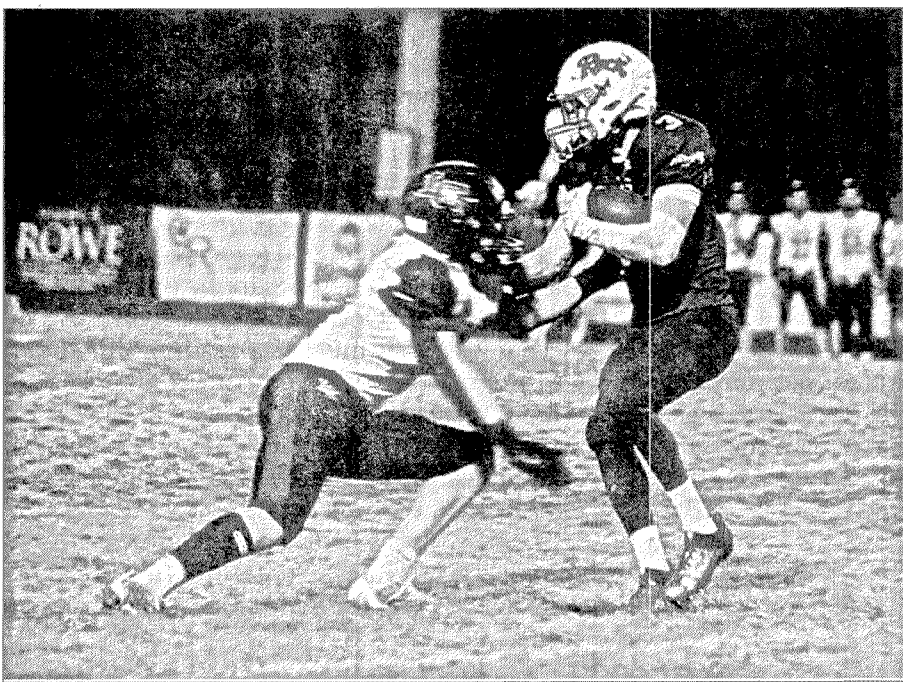
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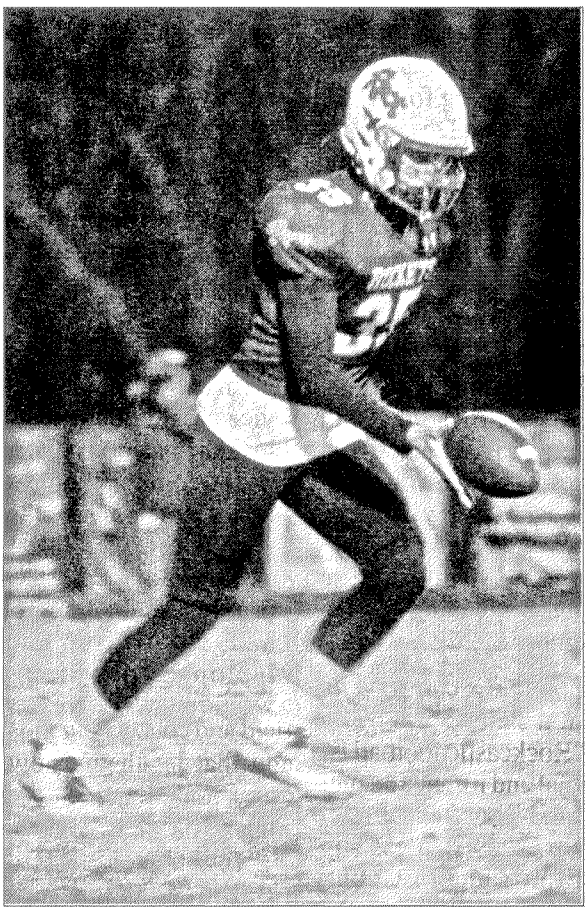
Tucker Warren rushes for yardage in the Rockets' loss to Lexington Catholic. Warren had 16 rushes for 50 yards and was 10 for 19 in passing for 75 yards.



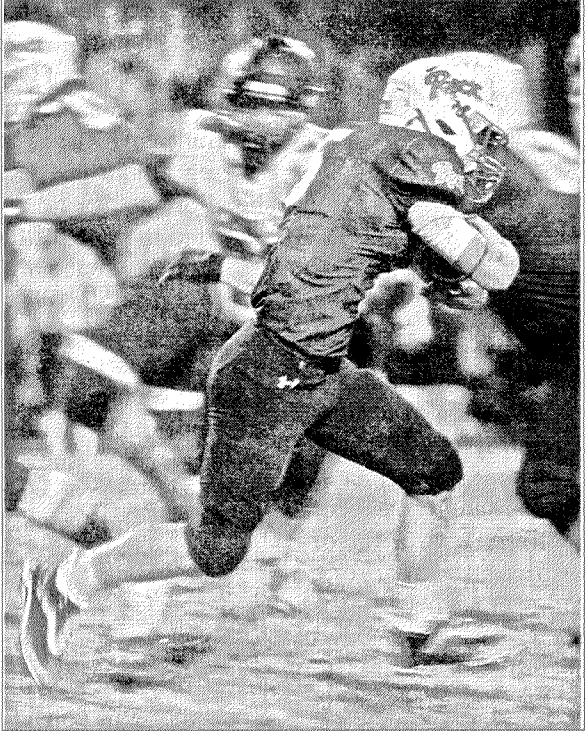
Christian Larkey in the endzone after scoring the Rockets' lone touchdown on a 11 yard pass from Tucker Warren.



Caleb Moore tries to go through a defender during the Rockets' loss to Lexington Catholic Friday night in the regional championship game. The Rockets finished their season 11-2 with a regional runner-up.



Broedy Dunaway prepares to punt during the Rockets' loss to Lexington Catholic Friday night.



Carter Powell pushes through the line during the Rockets' regional final loss to Lexington Catholic.



Hunter Pingleton and Blake Mullins make a tackle during the Rockets' regional final loss to Lexington Catholic Friday night. Pingleton and Mullins led the Rockets with eight tackles each.

Beshear, Kentucky State Police announce statewide food drive

Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky State Police (KSP) announced the annual statewide Cram the Cruiser food drive to help combat hunger in local communities. This initiative, hosted by all 16 KSP Posts, aims to collect essential food items to brighten the holiday season for those in need. Food collection will run from November 21 through December 4.

The holiday season is a when we recommit to helping our neighbors and giving back to our community, said Gov. Beshear. I encourage those Kentuckians who can, to spread holiday cheer to those in need by participating in our Cram the Cruiser food drive.

Troopers will be stationed at various grocery and retail stores across the state, ready to accept donations of non-perishable food items. These items included canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, chili or spaghetti sauce, brownie and cake mixes, coffee, water, powdered milk and juices. Food items may also be dropped off at local post locations.

A simultaneous statewide signature event is planned on Friday, December 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in each post area as the final push for the campaign. All food items collected stay in the communities where the contributions were made.

This event has a special place in our hearts. We are committed to serving the people of Kentucky in every way we can, said KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett, Jr.

With the holidays approaching, it becomes even more crucial to ensure that everyone has access to nutritious meals.

In 2022, KSP collected 218,362 pounds of food, with Post 16 collecting the most donations at 142,553 pounds.

To find specific locations and further details about the Cram the Cruiser holiday food drive, visit the KSP website.

Signal office will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving Have a happy and safe holiday

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Public Service Commission of Kentucky will hold a hearing beginning on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, for the purpose of cross-examination of witnesses in Case No. 2023-00191, which is the Electronic Application of Kentucky-American Water Company for an Adjustment of Rates, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Approval of Regulatory and Accounting Treatments, and Tariff Revisions. This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov. Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Rockcastle County Historical Society

Membership Application

Please print and mail completed form along with a check to:

Rockcastle County Historical Society
85 Spring Street
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456
Phone: 859-582-3625

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Check no: _____

*Type of Membership:

Active: _____ Associate: _____ Student: _____ Supportive: _____ Lifetime Member _____

- Active Membership: \$25/year – Individual interested in promoting the purposes of function of the Society, participates in meetings, projects and various committees.
- Associate Member: \$25/year – Individual wishes to be a member but cannot participate in Society.
- Student Member: \$5.00/year – Individual wishes to be a member and is enrolled in high school.
- Supportive: Individual interested in promoting the purpose and functions of the Society by donations.
- Lifetime Member: one time donation of \$1,000.00

Areas of Interest (optional)

History: _____ Genealogy: _____ Both: _____

List Rockcastle County families you are researching:

- _____
- _____
- _____

List any specific areas of historic interest (area of the county, specific time period, etc.)

- _____
- _____
- _____

*Items marked with asterisk are required entries.

Are you an expectant parent or parent of a newborn?

Do you have questions about having

...a healthy pregnancy?

"Are the feelings I'm having typical?"
"How is my baby developing each month?"
"What should I know before delivery?"

...a healthy baby?

"How do I know what my baby needs?"
"How do I help my baby feel secure and loved?"
"What should I expect as my child grows?"

...a healthy toddler?

"When should my child begin walking and talking?"
"How important is a dad's role in a child's development?"
"What is appropriate discipline?"

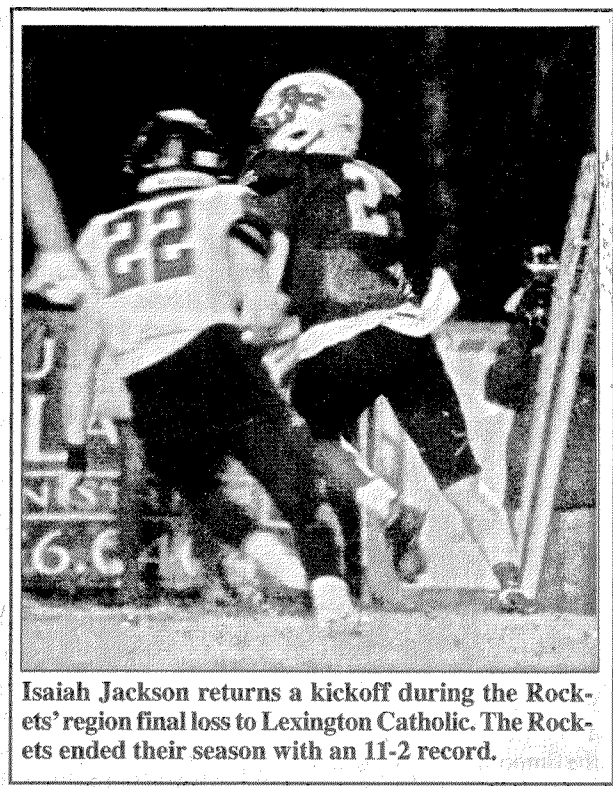
...a healthy family?

"How do I manage the stress of having more than one child to care for?"
"How do I discipline my older children without making them feel like I love the new baby more?"
"How do I balance everyone's needs?"

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions and would like more information, contact your local health department to learn more about HANDS.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
606-256-2242

Kentucky's HANDS
Every parent needs a second pair of HANDS



Isaiah Jackson returns a kickoff during the Rockets' region final loss to Lexington Catholic. The Rockets ended their season with an 11-2 record.

"Rockets"

(Cont. from A6)

tory or defeat so it should come to no surprise at the sheer number of people on the field that were there to console the players especially the seniors who put the Rockets jersey on for the last time as a football player.

"We have the greatest fan support around," stated Coach Larkey. "When we played Anderson County in our first game, we had more people than they did and our kids noticed. We had huge crowds for our home games and filled the stands and what we always consider a success is when people have to park at Save-A-Lot, and that happened every game. Just having the music, fireworks, smoke bombs, spirit line and after game huddles...I dare anyone to match that. That is Rockcastle football. The support after every away game is just what it's all about."

"Rockcastle football is special and its real special to me and my family. I went to school and played here, and this is the greatest county in Kentucky. I have helped coach most of the kids' parents, uncles, cousins, brothers, etc. Winning is what is expected here and that is important because we preach to these kids to win for our county, school and family. It has to be important to them to be proud of where they are from and what our county means to them. They realize our small county has pride and that's what makes it so important to win for me and the team. I actually get to wear red now. I never wore red from 2009 to 2021."

One such player that knows all too well about what it means to be a Rocket is Christian Larkey, who could be

Caleb is a great competitor and one of the most dynamic players we have had in a long time.

Tucker amassed over 10,000 yards in his career, threw for over 2,000 and ran for over 1,000 this year. He was a game changer and people saw just how good of a quarterback he was and so exciting to watch. Some say he is the best to ever play here. Just being in that conversation is something.

Christian Larkey is my favorite player and the heart and soul of our team. He proved he is one of the best to ever play here and can do anything. He played his final five games injured and played off pure pride and desire. Had he not gotten hurt, we may very well be playing for state title. He was my go-to guy for anything and everything and losing him hurts more than anything.

Anthony Goodin is another kid who played hurt most of career and was just a tough kid. He was so underestimated on how good he really was. He was a good leader and example of how to play.

Jayce Bowles played defensive line and was perhaps our meanest player and made life miserable for whoever was in front of him. He made a huge change this year.

Dallas Howard stepped into a role and performed very well and made perhaps the biggest improvement of any player.

Pacey Simpson would have been a starter if not for being ruled ineligible from transferring schools. He was an inspiration for our kids and led many practices for his teammates and learned how to coach.

Jacob Snyder made the biggest impact on the offensive line, with a big body and big heart. He worked as hard as anyone on the team and led by example.

Josaiyah McClure is the perfect example of a role player who was willing to do whatever was needed at any moment. Injuries hurt him this year but, as a true player, he decided to play through the pain. If we don't have kids like him, we don't have a team.

One last thing that this article will touch upon is reminding the seniors from this season to remember that even if they go on to college, a trade school or straight into the workforce, the memories of your time as a Rocket will never go away. You will come back for games many years down the road and see your teammates that you may lose touch with, but once you do see them, the many great memories you have experienced together will flood back like you were still playing the game that you love together once again.

"Football is the toughest sport there is," Coach Larkey summarized. "No other sport practices in the rain, snow, cold, heat and hitting as hard as you can and playing through pain and adversity. This sport is the ultimate team sport. You have to rely on so many other people to do their job. The adversity kids deal with, the time put into it, the injuries endured, the hard coaching and the grind all prepares them for what life throws at them. Playing at Rockcastle means everything to me and as I have said, we live in the greatest county in Kentucky. Rockcastle is hometown pride."

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.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes

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

For more information, or to make a donation contact
Makaela Brooke Abney
makaela.abney@rockcastle.kyschools.us

- 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

FECA



Shown above is one of several accidents Tuesday during the heavy rain that fell most of the day. This accident northbound on I-75 at exit 59 was reported as a fatality. Three other accidents at the same time involved reported injuries and a fifth accident apparently had no injuries. All five apparently happened within two to three hours Tuesday. No details were available at press time except that this fatality involved a tractor trailer.

Monetary donations needed

Kenna's Kitchen in 23rd year

Kenna's Kitchen, Mount Vernon's largest community Thanksgiving outreach endeavor, celebrates its 23rd year this upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The annual event, hosted by Mt. Vernon Elementary School staff and students, served over 1700 meals last year to members of our community that may not otherwise have a Thanksgiving meal.

Kenna's Kitchen has more than doubled the number of people served through its outreach, and the staff and students at MVES are asking the community for help in providing this great service. Each year, students at Mt. Vernon Elementary School donate the vegetable sides that are prepared. However, the donations that students and staff have given have not been enough to make the number of meals being requested and additional funding has been needed to meet the need. The Rockcastle County High School FCCLA has also helped, making all of the desserts for the meals.

Monetary donations from businesses, churches and individuals to help meet the cost of providing a Thanksgiving meal to those who may otherwise not have one can be mailed to Mt. Vernon Elementary School, C/O Regina Hull-Brown, PO Box 1530, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456. For more information on what the monetary donations are used for or if you wish to help on Tuesday, November 21st, you may contact Regina Hull-Brown at MVES between 8:00 am and 3 pm, at 256-5173 or 606-392-1876. Please consider donating to this very worthy cause by November 3rd, as MVES strives to help someone have a Thanksgiving meal.

Alpine currants make a pretty bush, but the fruit is not the best. Rather like burning bush euonymous in size. And the fruits are edible...as those I planted in winter 1998 at Steak & Shake Restaurant in Richmond, KY--let's just say I came back and 'grazed' on the fruits in subsequent years. Over time, they were replaced with other shrubbery and are not there now.

Gooseberries are immune, as are the red and white currants. And clove black currants and several newer European hybrid black ones are immune to the rust virus. Try planting the rust free plants as these won't harm the white pine trees. There are no restriction in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps
Currants & Gooseberries

(Find a spot in your yard for this easy care fruiting shrubbery)

Few homeowners are acquainted with the "Ribes" (RYE-bees) family of plants; gooseberries, currants and jostaberries. There are over 150 species in the world, including gooseberries and clove or buffalo currants, that are American natives. Some of the better hybrid cultivars are of European origin.

Currants and gooseberries, though native in America, were outlawed for about fifty years, owing to the importation of "white pine blister rust", an ailment much like "cedar apple rust", that damages white pine trees. The timber industry got the ribes plants banned. But, in the 1960's the national ban was dropped, and only a handful of states still have bans, and some only for black currants, and only in certain counties with large pine forests of 5-needle pines. Being a native plant, eradication never actually happened anyways. Gooseberries are immune, as are the red and white currants.

And clove black currants and several newer European hybrid black ones are immune to the rust virus. Try planting the rust free plants as these won't harm the white pine trees. There are no restriction in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Alpine currants make a pretty bush, but the fruit is not the best. Rather like burning bush euonymous in size. And the fruits are edible...as those I planted in winter 1998 at Steak & Shake Restaurant in Richmond, KY--let's just say I came back and 'grazed' on the fruits in subsequent years. Over time, they were replaced with other shrubbery and are not there now.

Red and white currants are self fertile (no bee polination required) and many of the black ones are also. White ones are the mildest flavored, the black ones have the strongest musky flavor. All are wonderful in jam and jelly, the whites best for eating off the vine. Most do not require pectin or surejell in making of jelly from currants. The bushes are three to six feet tall, can tolerate full sun but like a wee bit of shade in afternoons. Plantings on the north or east side of a house work well in the landscape, or on the north and east side of a thinly leaved tree such as honeylocust or ginkgo, and full sun locations are usually fine with some watering in drought periods.

Black currants are the hardiest, and they can handle all types of soil except too much lime and too much salt. All currants have fairly shallow roots, hence the poor performance in droughts. They are like blueberries in that regard. Titania is one of the newest rust immune cultivars.

Then there's gooseberries. A easy identifiable trait is they have small thorns, like briars. Some more than others. Pixwell and Poorman have fewer thorns. Hinomaki Red is covered in them. They grow most anywhere, including in the woods or full sun. Gooseberries are the best of the ribes for fresh eating straight from the vine. They can also be made into fruit pies, or blended with other berries.

Jostaberries are a cross between European currants and American gooseberries. I don't notice any advantage in that they greatly resemble a black currant in my opinion. Perhaps a little larger and sweeter fruit.

The author is a landscaper. Email: rockcastles@gmail.com (606) 416-3911

The Mount Vernon Signal office will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We Give Thanks...

In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
1 Thes. 5:18

We are "thankful" to all families who allowed us to be of service. May the season of bounty bring peace, hope, faith & love.

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Friday, November 24th
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Prices Good While Supplies Last

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For Men And Women
By Redwing, Muck, Twisted X, Hush Puppies, Wolverine, Skechers, Don Post & More

Award Winning Carhartt Store

Large Selection Of Toys To Choose From

Prices Good Thru Saturday

We Have The Largest Selection
Fall & Winter Wear
Carhartt, Wrangler, Ariat, Cinch, Izod, Etc.
Everything Is On Sale

Big Yard Sale!
Livingston Gym
December 2nd 8am
9174 Main st.

Fiber Broadband project coming to Rockcastle County soon

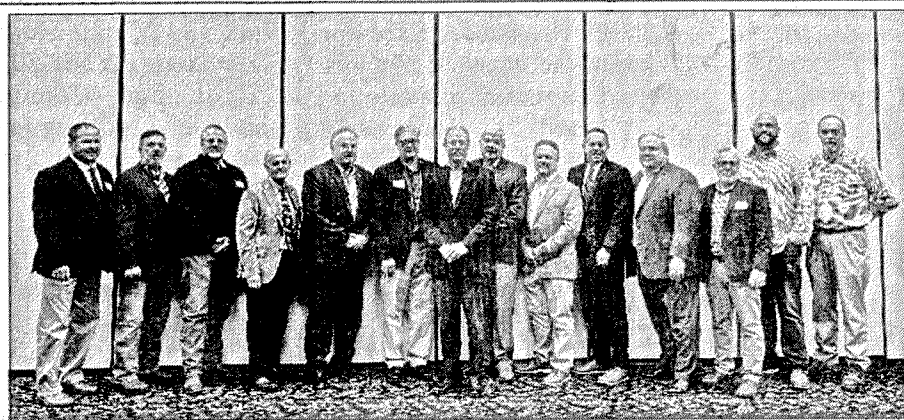
Ten years ago, The Center for Rural Development became the launching pad for broadband expansion in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Building the backbone of high-speed fiber in rural Kentucky is expensive and complex, but

thanks to continuous federal, state, and private investments over the last decade, we are finally able to reach more homes and communities than ever before.

Let's continue to work together, supporting and empowering each other,

to improve broadband access and connectivity in communities where fiber is needed the most. We are taking a monumental step toward bridging the digital divide in Southern and Eastern Kentucky in all of our broadband efforts.

For more information or questions about this project or future plans as they relate to your community and broadband networks, please contact Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development, at 606-677-6000 or email llawson@centertech.com.



After more than a decade of planning, over \$30 million in federal and matching dollars is secured to start building the local fiber broadband network across 16 counties including Bath, Bell, Boyd, Carter, Garrard, Knox, Laurel, Letcher, Lincoln, Martin, McCreary, Pulaski, Rowan, Russell, Whitley and Rockcastle counties. Shown above are dignitaries and officials involved who helped bring the local broadband to fruition. Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr, is shown fourth from the left.

Livingston police fighting drugs in town and county

By: Mike French
Editor

Livingston Police Chief Travis Davis has had a busy November, working to keep drugs off the streets of Livingston. "We may not get it all, but that does not mean I won't stop trying to get it all," he said.

On November 7th, Davis performed a traffic stop and, when asked about illegal substances, passenger Ashley West, 39, of Livingston, stated she may have rolling papers on her person, according to a uniform citation.

However, upon a search, the citation says Davis located a glass pipe, rolling papers, suspected marijuana, suspected methamphetamine and two packs of suboxone.

West was arrested and transported to the Rockcastle County Detention Center where she was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in proper container and possession of meth.

The driver of the vehicle was not detained.

On November 9, David was called to a possible domestic violence case on Briar Rose Road.

According to the uniform citation, Davis located a female and a juvenile, both with marks indicating injuries.

The citation says the female reported that Karl Pittman, 50, of Mount Vernon, had become violent with her causing a black eye and the juvenile reported that her scratches came when she tried to protect her mother from Pittman.

A neighbor apparently informed Davis of a white napkin that Pittman had been seen dropping out of his vehicle window. Upon

inspection, the napkin contained a yellowish substance (suspected heroin) and, Davis also found a ziplock baggie containing a white crystallized substance believed to be meth.

The citation says there was nearly an ounce of meth in the baggie.

Pittman was later located, with the assistance of District 2 Constable Steve Griffin, and the Mount Vernon Police Department.

Pittman was lodged in the detention center where he was charged with assault (domestic violence) with minor injury and trafficking in a controlled substance.

On November 18, while assisting the Mount Vernon Police Department in a traffic stop, Davis asked the passenger, Natasha Mason, 51, of Brodhead, if he could perform a search of her person. Upon consent, Davis reported locating a syringe and a blue pouch, 20 grams of a white substance believed to be meth, 3.8 grams of a tan substance believed to be heroin, half of a tablet believed to be Clonazepam, four tablets believed to be hydrocodone, two tablets believed to be oxycodone and three suboxone strips.

Mason was transported to the detention center where she was charged with trafficking in controlled substance (meth), trafficking in heroin, possession of hydrocodone, two counts of possession of controlled substance (unspecified), possession of drug paraphernalia and prescription not in a proper container.

Davis also performed an arrest in late October involving a charge of trafficking in meth.

"I will never stop doing what I can to get drugs off our streets," Davis said.

Fiscal Court refuses Livingston request for monthly support after three attempts

By: Mike French
Editor

Once again, the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has refused to provide the City of Livingston with an additional \$12,000 per year in security program support that had been paid to the city for several years, until April of this year.

The subject has been addressed several times, since the court originally stopped providing the funding after former Police Chief Mikie Ashurst stopped reporting for duty once Larry Davidson won the race for Mayor of Livingston.

Months later, then Mayor Duane King, repaid the fiscal court for the support it had provided to help pay the officer, for each of the months that no officer was on duty.

When Travis Davis was hired as the new police chief by newly elected mayor Davidson, Livingston officials asked the fiscal court to reinstate the security program support of \$1,000 per month. However, there was discussion of rumors and innuendos against Davis circulating in the county and magistrates expressed concern over such rumors. "I hope this court will not make the decision about supporting a police department based on undocumented rumors," said Davidson at the time of the first request. However, after a motion to provide the funds by Magistrate Shane Thacker and a second from Magistrate Mike McGuire, the controversial motion failed 3

to 2.

The rumors concerned Davis' alleged past behavior as chief of the Brodhead Police Department several years earlier. However, no charges were ever filed, and no formal complaints were made against Davidson. "I performed an extensive background check and dug deeply into his history, and there have never been any charges or even accusations filed anywhere against Travis Davis," said Davidson. "His record is spotless."

However, some magistrates agreed that "even the suggestion of such illegal actions" would affect Davis' ability to perform his duties. Magistrate William Denny said at that meeting, "I cannot in good conscience support a police department that the people may not trust," while Magistrates Lee Earl Adams and Doug Pruitt verbally agreed. McGuire said he "didn't really want to" second the motion but felt it was his place to do so since Livingston is in his district. Still, the motion failed.

The following month, Livingston City Clerk Samantha Smoker formally addressed the court once again seeking to have the funding reinstated. Smoker provided a letter of request listing Davis's accomplishments and duties. Once again Thacker made a motion to provide the support. However, the motion did not receive a second and no vote could be taken. County Attorney Jeremy Rowe had advised the court that any support to

the police department may render the county liable in the event of any law suits against that department.

In the November meeting last week, Davidson appeared once again seeking \$1,000 per month but called the funding "program support" instead of "security support."

The mayor said the funding would not be used to assist the Livingston Police Department but would be used for other needs, including building restoration, beautification, a community garden, revitalization, lighting, a camera system and many other projects. Davidson told the court that the Livingston police chief has made 305 runs in the past seven months and 99 of those were outside the city limits assisting other departments in the county. "One third of his runs are out of the city helping with the deputy shortage in the county," said Davidson. Sheriff Shannon Franklin confirmed that Davis is "good about helping other departments out when there is a need."

However, Davidson said the "program support" would not be used to support the police department and that he was pointing out the expense the city has in keeping up the department. "The department costs the city funds that we could be using for other things the city needs," he said. "We are asking the court to help Livingston with these other things. I will take care of the police department."

Once again Thacker made a motion to provide the support but clarified his motion. "This motion is not in favor of, or against any individual," Thacker said. "It is for the general needs in the City of Livingston."

Adams spoke up saying, "our attorney tells us that if we spend \$5 on gas and his (Davis's) actions cause a lawsuit, we are liable," he said. "The people voted me in to help the county avoid liability."

This question started a more heated conversation between Davidson and Adams. Davidson said the behavior of past Livingston Police Chiefs were much more questionable than Davis. "You want to talk about liability? This court has supported the department for years when it had police

chiefs that shouldn't have had access to a gun," he said. "We are all liabilities. Any one of us." Davidson said he feels some of the magistrates "want to see Livingston fail. I know you don't like Travis but this is not about him. It is about the City of Livingston." Adams said he did not say that he does not like Davis and pointed out that support for past chiefs in question came when he wasn't a magistrate. Davidson began listing what he called questionable activities of three past Livingston police officers.

Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. intervened to avoid escalation of the disagreement saying "Okay, let's move on. A motion is on the table. Is there a second?" After a short pause, no second was offered. "Without a second, the motion dies," said Holbrook.

Davidson made a statement to this reporter after the meeting. "It was made very clear to me tonight, when I asked for program support from the fiscal court for the betterment of Livingston, that Magistrate Lee Earl Adams has shot down or not voted on anything to support Livingston. As a matter of fact, he has no interest in Livingston because he has never listened to anything I have presented to the court." The statement went on to say "for the record Chief Davis has no record, charges or pending investigation and is an outstanding officer for Livingston and Rockcastle County. I thank Magistrates Thacker and McGuire for their endless support of Livingston and its citizens."

Adams said in a phone call that he is against the \$12,000 in support for several reasons. "First, our attorney advised us that we could be liable and it is my job to avoid such liability. Second we don't provide that support for Brodhead or Mount Vernon or anyone else for that matter, and if we start picking out one city to support, that will cause a lot of issues. I love Livingston but I can't support potential liability to the county."

Livingston City Commissioner Sandi Singleton agreed with Mayor Davidson. "Adams and Pruitt don't like Livingston or our police chief. But they won't stop us. We will find a way."

Court to sell 42 acres in Livingston

By: Mike French
Editor

Several years ago, the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court purchased slightly over 40 acres of land in the City of Livingston and officials, at the time, mentioned several potential uses of the land.

Past Livingston mayor Jason Medley did some development on the site and had plans for a campground and other outdoor activities, since Livingston is designated as a Trail Town.

Projects discussed for the land included a zip lines cabin rentals, trail heads, a welcome center and several other potential tourist attractions.

However, no plans by the city or the county came to fruition and funding was never acquired for possible projects.

Several months ago, the court voted to put the property up for sale. Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook received the results of a land survey ordered by the county and informed the court that there are 42 acres on the county-owned site, during last week's fiscal court meeting.

Several have asked the court to retain the property due to the potential uses of the site. Former Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis appeared

before the court asking that they table to idea of selling the property.

Also, Livingston Mayor Larry Davidson had asked the court to retain the property, suggesting that he and others could apply for grants to develop the land. Others had also asked the court to keep the property.

However, fiscal court officials say the majority of citizens and officials believe the property to be a liability more than a potential development. "It would be very difficult to oversee things going on at that property in Livingston from here," said Holbrook. "It could be more useful for

someone else and possibly bring business and more people and tax base to the area if someone develops the site."

Officials agreed the county could likely not afford to develop the land properly, or oversee the area once development was completed.

Holbrook ended the discussion saying the site may needs to be appraised and the county will likely put the property up for sale soon once the court decides on a fair price. "It will be tter for everyone involved if we go ahead and sell the property," Holbrook said last week.

News from the Rockcastle Courthouse



Marriage Licenses

Samantha Louise Bullock, 23, Brodhead, Vet Tech, to Ocean Blaine Rohrer, 19, Brodhead, Cashier. 9-25-23

Courtney Augustina Marie Puckett, 22, Livingston, unemployed, to Dylan James Michael Smith, 23, Mt. Vernon, unemployed. 9-29-23

Savanna Carol Sweet, 21, Mount Vernon, Administrator, to Christopher Gage Howell, 23, Mount Vernon, Electrician. 9-29-23

Victoria Marie Dungan, 20, Frankfort, unemployed, to Richard Sawyer Jacobs, 19, Orlando, Waffle House. 10-4-23

Olivia Marie Hering, 31, Danville, Rockcastle Regional, to Zachary Lee Lunsford, 27, Mount Vernon, SMS Tire Processing. 10-6-23

Vanessa Lea Parrigan, 59, Berea, disabled, to Jerry Wayne Merritt, 63, Berea, factory. 10-9-23

Tessa Kay Desarae Smith, 25, Mount Vernon, PCA, to Logan Roy Matthew Dees, 29, Mount Vernon, public works. 10-10-23

Krissy Marie Phillips, 45, Mount Vernon, Bucces, to James Weston Phillips, 47, Mount Vernon, retired. 10-20-23

Stephanie Lane, 23, Berea, Production Operator, to Donald Jacob Sparks, 24, Berea, Production Operator. 10-20-23

Kathrin Daley Sandlin, 33, Brodhead, Call Center, to Roy Bobby Evans, 41, Brodhead, Tire Technician. 11-3-23

Mary Irene Helton, 56, Richmond, disability, to Steven Allen Haling, 64, Mount Vernon, disability. 11-6-23

Stephanie Elaine Parrott, 55, London, Realtor, to Larry David Parrott, 59, London, Vehicle Acquisitions Manager. 11-17-23

Destiny Renee Peters, 24, Mount Vernon, CSR, to Jarod Clay Robinson, 25, Mount Vernon, Stone Mason. 11-18-23

Deeds Recorded

Brian and Angie Burdine, real property located on Gauley Rd., to Lester and Centena Carpenter. Tax \$16.

Phillips' Properties, LLC, real property located in Rockcastle County, to LCA Properties, LLC. Tax \$320.

Jeff and Brenda Cameron, real property located on Kentucky 1326, to Oscar Wayne Todd. Tax \$100.

Stanley Mack and Phyllis Partin, real property located on Sowder School Rd., to Tammy Johnson. Tax \$43.

Sarah E. Graves and Christopher Graves, real property located on Paul Street, to Evett A. Perkins. Tax \$93.

Christopher D. Mullins, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Kaylee B. Mize. Tax \$140.

Beverly Miller, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Jason and Marie

Daniels. Tax \$20.50

Tina Fender, Executor of the Estate of Virginia Lewis, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Chasteen Enterprises, Inc. Tax \$131.50.

Hershel Callahan and Myrtle Callahan, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Brent R. and Mary C. Callahan. Tax \$100.

William Anthony Smith, real property located in Negro Creek, to Jordan and Haley Briggs. Tax \$3.

Lena Tolson, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Jordan and Haley Briggs. Tax \$50.

Brandon and Morgan Nicely, real property located near the Rockcastle River, to Allen Enders. Tax \$2.

Russell and Laura Murphy, real property located in Negro Creek, to Dustin Cord and Kelly Kirby. Tax \$165.

The Estate of Judy Kidwell, real property located in Sunnyside Estates, to Justin and Tina Neal. Tax \$36.

Chris and Sarah Hendrickson, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Robert Anthony Carosello. Tax \$142.50

Johnny Dale and Kristin Poynter and Serra Gail Mills, real property located on Dailey Avenue, to Julian B. Figueroa. Tax \$28.

Clinton W. and Tonya M. Mansfield, real property located on Hummel Road, to Mandy Lee Van Andel. Tax \$238.

James and Margit A. McAuliffe, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Mary Carolyn Catalino. Tax \$43.

James and Ruth Bustle, real property located in Lamerio, to Brandon James and Ladonna Laree Childress. Tax \$20.

Bernice Smith, real property located on Dixie Highway, to Ricky and Doris Smith. Tax \$35.

Jonathan A. and Amy K. Burdette, real property located in Rolling Hills Subdivision, to Coralea Marcum. Tax \$275.

Libby Gibbs Burdette, real property located on Purr Rigsby Road, to Phillip and Angie Carpenter. Tax \$10.

Vivian L. and Michael D. Vanwinkle, real property located on Climax Road, to Gerard and Misty Lakes. Tax \$40.

Barbara Miller, real property located on Wallin and Tyree Streets, to Larry Bradley. Tax \$87.50

Joshua C. and Jessica L. Dollins, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Robert D. and Penny L. Cissell. Tax \$450.

Janice Wynn, and others, real property located in Copper Creek to David and Julia Pigg. Tax \$50.

The Estate of Carl Dean Singleton, real property located on Freedom Road, to Debbie Fisher. Tax \$131.

Susie Miller and Robert Miller, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Jason and Amy Deer. Tax \$18.

Douglas and Paula Abney, real property located in Lear Crest Subdivision, to Keaton and Juliann Renfro. Tax \$255.

Sharon Gail Jones, real property located in

Rockcastle County, to Mark and Minda Ruth Hochstetler. Tax \$32.50

Ryan and Connie Riddle, real property located on Tyree St., to Dexter Chandler. Tax \$41.

Ryan and Connie Riddle, real property located on Tyree St. to Phillips' Properties, LLC. Tax \$67.50

Madge Rowland, real property located on Disputanta Road, to Johnny Bussell. Tax \$70.

Rhonda Horton, real property located on Paul Street, to Cameron Properties, LLC. Tax \$10.

C. Douglas and Judy M. Brock, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Cameron Properties, LLC. Tax \$27.

C&C Investors, LLC, real property located in Lear Crest Subdivision, to Douglas Abney. Tax \$35.

Roger and Angela Alcorn, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Jeffrey Allen and Judith Roseline Barber. Tax \$185.

Kenneth R. Taylor, real property located in Lake View Estates Subdivision, to James Devin Mullins. Tax \$223.

Diedre Suzanne Norton and Wilburn Lee Norton, real property located on the waters of East Fork of Skeggs Creek, to Aaron Ryan Flemin and Jalyn Whitney Fleming. Tax \$141.

KBR Solutions Group LLC, real property located on Main Street, to Expansion Investments, LLC. Tax \$325.

Tony Mink, real property located on Lovell Court, to Tara Denny Kirby. Tax \$65.

Novera Decker, real property located on US Highway 150, to Tammy Johnson. Tax \$65.

Rhonda Smith, real property located on Poplar Street, to Merrie Wahl. Tax \$180.

Judy Mitchell, real property located in Rainbow Ridge Subdivision, to Allen and Puaolena Nguyen. Tax \$36.

David and Nancy Woodston, real property located in Rockcastle County, to BaD Property Holdings, LLC. Tax \$155.

Estate of Terea G. Bryant, real property located on KY 618, to Roger Isaacs. Tax \$18.

Charles Roger Rickels, real property located on Old Somerset Road, to Cameron Properties, LLC. Tax \$25.

Cecil and Judy King, real property located in Brodhead, to Regina Beth Ponder. Tax \$130.

Linda Clontz, real property located on Main Street, to Davis Family Properties, LLC. Tax \$90.

Patricia C. Gulley and Jerry M. Gulley, real property located on Highway 490, to Kaleen A. Luye and Dennis C. Winter. Tax \$190.

Jerry Warren Carter and Larry Dale Carter, trustees of the Carter Family Trust, to Larry and Linda Carter. Tax \$10.

Shawna G. Northern and Jason Northern, real property located in Minor Subdivision, to Miranda Sueann Gooch. Tax \$160.

Frederick W. Dobbs and Katherine L. Dobbs, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Charli L. Feltner Fox and

Phillip D. Fox. Tax \$80.

Conley and Jennifer Durham real property located in Rockcastle County, to Ethan and Melissa Eversole. Tax \$85.

Tammy Johnson, real property located in Rockcastle County, to Stanley Mack and Phyllis Partin. Tax \$39.

Jack and Dawn Stallsworth, real property located on U.S. Highway 25, to Timothy and Lisa Ashcraft. Tax \$200.

Alexandra Bishop and Bobby Dylan Bishop, real property located in Evergreen Estates, to Anthony Blake Ingram. Tax \$230.

Aaron and Laura Ridner, real property located on Gold Dust Dr., to Byron Scott Johnston. Tax \$300.

Special Properties Group, LLC, real property located in the City of Mount Vernon, to Madison Paige Wilson. Tax \$160.

Amberly Harrison and Robert Harrison, real property located on Sowder School Road, to Rodney Cameron. Tax \$15.

Rodney Cameron, real property located in C.L. Lefe Owens Subdivision, to Amerty Harrison and Robert Harrison. Tax \$15.

District Civil Suits

Penny Nicely vs. Alicia Nicely, forcible detainer complaint.

Capital One, N.A. vs. Lyndsay B. West, complaint.

Capital One, N.A. vs. Jeffery A. Clark, complaint.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Damon Collins, complaint.

Finwise Bank vs. Terry Cromer, complaint.

Onemain Financial Group, LLC vs. Lewis Smith, complaint.

Velocity Investments, LLC vs. Austin Raisor, complaint.

Discover Bank vs. Jason L. Proctor, complaint.

Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Crystal D. Coleman, complaint.

Castle Village Apartments vs. Amber Allen, forcible detainer complaint.

LVNV Funding LLC vs. Peggy Johnson, complaint.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Julian Q. Rada, complaint.

TD Bank USA N.A. as Successor in Interest vs. Stacy York, complaint.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Billie J. Kidwell, complaint.

Discover Bank vs. Chase R. Shepherd, complaint.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Brenda Bullen, complaint.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Brandy Snowden, complaint.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Charles Falin, complaint.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Eldon Roe, complaint.

Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Sharlet Davis, complaint.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Rhonda S. McFerron, complaint.

Circuit Civil Suits

Onemain Financial Group, LLC vs. Jonathan Arnold, complaint.

William Carpenter, et al vs. John Peterson, et al, complaint.

Discover Bank vs. Terrell Houk, complaint.

Brandy Long vs. Chad Long, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Raven Lee Cromer vs. Calvin Ray Cromer, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Discover Bank vs. Barbara Shepard, complaint.

Cortnie Rachelle Smith vs. Benjamin Martin Abney, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Barclays Bank Delaware vs. David M. Gardiner, complaint.

Kentucky Housing Corporation vs. Scott D. Owens, et al., foreclosure.

America's Car-Mart vs. Connie L. Baker, complaint.

Leslie Faulkner vs. Emmett Faulkner, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Stacy Leeann Kelley vs. Kenneth Preston Kelley, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Capital One, N.A. vs. Dennis R. Robinson, complaint.

America's Car-Mart,

Inc. vs. Elizabeth F. Allen, complaint.

Lisa Jane Norris vs. Michael Keith Norris, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Callie Jean Neal vs. Jerry Denton Neal, petition for dissolution of marriage.

John Kincaid, et al vs. SPJ Aviation, LLC, et al, complaint.

Discover Bank vs. Christopher Barnes, complaint.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. vs. Mary Elam, et al, complaint.

Cavalry SPV 1, LLC vs. Pamela S. Sturgill, complaint.

Central Bank & Trust Co. vs. Cameron M. Bullock, complaint.

Amy Bingham vs. Christophe Bingham, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Warren McDiddy vs. Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, complaint.

Jennifer Chadwell vs. Faith Healthcare, Inc., complaint.

Global Lending Services, LLC vs. Donnie Keef, complaint.

U.S. Bank National Association vs. Kirsty Beckett, et al, complaint.

First National Bank of Omaha vs. Guy L. Strausbaugh, complaint.

James Kirby vs. Rita Kay Kirby, petition for dissolution of marriage.

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Fiscal Court hears reports and handles monthly business

By: Mike French
Editor

Members of the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court held their regular monthly meeting last week with a full agenda.

Livingston Mayor Larry Davidson addressed the court again seeking \$1,000 per month in program support (see related story).

The court approved the Livingston Tourism report and was then addressed by Lynn Tatum who provided information about her countless projects and ideas for the community.

Tatum was asked to provide a report to the court explaining her duties. The report listed her duties to include project manager on several projects in the county, including as director of the Rockcastle County De-

velopment Board, office manager and treasurer for the Chamber of Commerce, Vitalize Mount Vernon Director, Director of the History Garden on Richmond Street, board member of Rockcastle Tourism and Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and board member of the Senior Citizens' Center. Tatum said she plans to seek a \$10,000 ARC grant to preserve local history and improve Elmwood Cemetery. She is also organizing the "Learn and Earn Series" for local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Tatum has been a vital part of improving Mount Vernon and countless projects in the county according to past Mt. Vernon mayor Mike Bryant. She is also partly responsible for designing and implementing

signage into Mount Vernon and played a major role in the new Veterans Memorial Park at Lake Linville.

Magistrate Lee Earl Adams asked Tatum if she would consider offering her expertise with the Depot Park in Brodhead. "There are some things in our park that need improving and we would appreciate your input on the matter," he said. Tatum said she will contact Brodhead officials to offer her help in the park immediately.

In other action, the court agreed to reimburse the Development Board \$1,140 and heard the RCIDA budget summary.

The court also approved \$798,000 towards Rockcastle, and part of Lincoln

County's, portion of the purchase of the new Regional Park in Rockcastle County. Rockcastle will be reimbursed \$264,000, by Lincoln County bringing Rockcastle's total investment to \$534,000. "At the end of the deal, all three counties will have \$534,000 each invested and Rockcastle County will have a \$1.6 million regional industrial park and the perks that come with it," said RCIDA Executive Director Jeff VanHook. A three-county board is being formed to oversee the park and all three will share in the profits and benefits earned through the park, according to VanHook.

Rockcastle County Sheriff Shannon Franklin presented the court with a check for \$7,730 in excess fees.

The court also ac-

cepted a Department of Agriculture 50/50 grant for \$1,024 for the spay and neuter program. The county will invest \$512 and the grant will match that amount. Holbrook said he expects the price to spay and neuter an animal will be about \$50 each.

The court also set the speed limit on Cove Branch Road to 20 mph and the limit on Carpenter Road at 15 mph.

The court also approved a budget amendment for the 23-24 budget to include the unbudgeted funds from the end of the past fiscal year. A total of \$1,066,666 of unused funds were added to the 23-24 budget. The amendment passed unanimously. Most of the funds involved were surplus funds carried over from the previous year's accounts, according to Holbrook.

Treasurer Vickie Miller read the monthly Treasurer's Report to the court. The ending balance at the end of October in the general fund was shown at \$2,246,924.48 while the road fund showed \$1,012,486.71. The detention center balance was \$871,513.11 and the economic assistance Fund was \$71,279.82. The occupational tax account showed \$575,249.37 and the economic development fund shows \$2,946,301.47.

Miller asked to transfer \$20,000 from the general fund to the 911 fund and \$25,000 from the general fund to the local Government Assistance (LGA) fund.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 at 4 p.m. in the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

City corrects issues with mailing of delinquent tax bills

By: Mike French
Editor

The Mount Vernon City Council held their regular monthly meeting last Thursday evening.

After approval of the previous meeting's minutes, City Clerk Crystal Rush explained to the council that delinquent tax bills have all been mailed to property owners. She said, this was the first time delinquent tax bills had been mailed since 2019. "We really didn't have any delinquent tax bills for the past five years," she said. "All of them had been overlooked for several years."

Rush said that since the loss of the late Janette Robinson, the previous city clerk, delinquent tax bills had "somehow been overlooked" and were never mailed. "There are probably a lot of upset

people right now," she said.

City Administrator Jim Bowman agreed that it may be a hardship on some city residents but he felt there was no choice. "What are we supposed to do, just ignore collecting city taxes?" he asked. "We had no choice except to mail them once we discovered we had overlooked them."

Once the error was detected, city staff, including Rush and Bowman, went through all the delinquent tax bills using addresses provided by the property value administrator's office and mailed them to the property owners. "Almost the entire council chambers was covered in delinquent tax bills as we sorted through them," Rush said.

Rush and Bowman agree the problem has been corrected. "There was a learning curve here for us all," said Rush. "We have been involved with city hall for years but three of us are in brand new positions with completely different duties all of a sudden," she said. "We are doing our best to get everything in order and I think we are about to be lined out."

In other action, the council heard the City Administrator's report. Bowman's report covered Lake Linville and public works progress, and many other aspects of city government. He also informed the council that the Cove Branch Road water line is now complete, serving several more customers outside the city limits.

He also informed the

council that Lake Linville is "lower than I think I have ever seen it. We really need some rain."

The council also heard department reports. The All American Club reported picking up 10 bags of trash and one needle. The club also sent two citations for illegal dumping.

The Mount Vernon Police Department reported 33 citations and 33 arrests in October. There were also 17 warrants served and 14 drug charges.

The Mount Vernon Fire Department reported 43 runs in October using 14,000 gallons of water.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 21 at 6 p.m. in city hall. The public is invited.

Rockcastle County Tourism wins award for excellence

Rockcastle County Tourism has received a Traverse Award for Excellence in Kentucky Tourism from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association. The award was presented during the 2023 Kentucky Travel Industry Annual Conference held November 8-10 at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green.

Rockcastle County Tourism received an Award of Distinction - Division B Traverse for the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Fly Swatter in the Specialty Item Category. It would be the best overall in Division B, competing against same

size tourism commissions. According to Jessica Blankenship, Executive Director, "this was a surprise to receive an Award of Distinction from a simple idea of a guitar shaped fly swatter. They have been a hit in the gift shop, as well as trade shows, to show that Rockcastle County is the Music Capital of Kentucky."

Kentucky travel and tourism businesses and marketing organizations vie for Traverse Awards in 11 categories. A panel of out-of-state tourism industry experts judge the Traverse Awards. Award criteria include

concept, creativity, results and impact. A total of 199 entries were submitted from throughout Kentucky for the 2023 competition.

According to KTIA president & CEO Hank Phillips, "With nearly 200 entries and based on the judges' comments about the across the board high quality of the entries, the 2023 Traverse competition was as close as it was intense. The larger picture of the awards is how they reflect the results-oriented talent and creativity that exists throughout Kentucky's tourism industry. That talent and creativity last year attracted over 75 million Kentucky visitors bringing with them the many

benefits tourism provides to the people of the Commonwealth."

The Kentucky Travel Industry Association represents and serves all segments of Kentucky's tourism industry, which despite the pandemic's severe impact, contributed \$12.9 billion to Kentucky's economy in 2022. The nearly 1000-member association engages in advocacy and provides its members with education, information and business development opportunities. The association also works to inform the public of the enormous economic, employment and tax revenue contributions tourism makes to the people of Kentucky.

Commonwealth of Kentucky Rockcastle Circuit Court Division II

Civil Action No. 20-CI-00232

Mid South Capital Partners, LP Plaintiff

v.

Courtney Hensley, Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Rockcastle, CMH of KY, Inc. d/b/a Crossland Homes, Central Financial Services, Inc., Credit Acceptance Corporation, Kentucky Department of Revenue, Division of Collections, unknown spouse of, if any, Courtney Hensley (Zachary King), CMH Homes, Inc., A Tennessee Corporation, f/k/a CMH of KY Inc. Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a judgment and order of sale entered in this action on October 13, 2023 for satisfying the judgment entered in favor of the plaintiff against the defendants in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY ONE DOLLARS AND 33/100 (\$4,221.33) plus interest, costs and attorney fees. I will offer at public auction the hereinafter described real property in Rockcastle County, Kentucky.

At the Courthouse on East Main Street
Mt. Vernon, Kentucky
on Thursday, November 30, 2023
Beginning at the Hour of 10:15 a.m.

Said real property being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an IPC set in the East right of way of an unnamed county road (D.B. 165, page 15), said IPC bears North 35 degrees 14' 47" West 151.06 feet from the junction of the East right of way of the unnamed county road with the North right of way of Cove Branch Road; thence with the East right of way of said County road; North 35 degrees 14' 47" West 59.43 feet to an IPC; North 24 degrees 34' 39" West 27.74 feet to an iron pin; North 25 degrees 40' 40" East 45.61 feet to an iron pin; North 10 degrees 34' 52" East 50.15 feet to an iron pin, also corner to Joseph Denny (D.B. 111, page 239); thence leaving the East right of way and running with Joseph Denny; North 52 degrees 02' 00" East 247.13 feet to an iron pin; thence leaving Joseph Denny and severing the land of the grantor two new courses; South 26 degrees 48' 40" West 221.79 feet to an IPC; South 33 degrees 23' 09" West 141.62 feet to the BEGINNING.

Address: 46 Rigsby Road
Map ID: 059-00-045.12

Being the same property conveyed to Courtney Hensley, from Richard Hensley, single, and Judy Mink, single, by Deed dated August 18, 2018, and recorded in Deed Book 265, Page 685, in the office of the Rockcastle County Clerk's Office.

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

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

John D. Ford
Master Commissioner
Rockcastle Circuit Court

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.



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

Two bedroom trailer for rent, \$500 month plus deposit. No pets. 859-358-3560. 41x2

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

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

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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. 40(23)x25

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 Kincaid Ridge Road. 39x24

Posted: Absolutely no hunting or trespassing on farm 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 Burkhart on Cove Branch, Livingston, Mt. Vernon. Anyone entering the property must be with Orville Burkhart. 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 Bengé 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 appointed 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

Notice is hereby given that Paul Pearson, 2528 S. Tree Tower Road, Sand Gap, KY 40481 and Lydia Vincent, 360 Kings Trace Drive, Berea, KY 40403 have been appointed Co-Executors of the Estate of Bernice Adams, deceased, on the 15th day of November 2023. Any person having claims against said estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Paul Pearson & Lydia Vincent or to Hon. John D. Ford, P.O. Box 247, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456 on or before May 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. 41x3

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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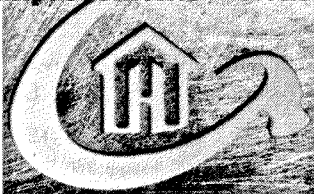
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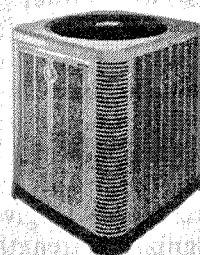
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For statewide migration to improved system

Avoid County Clerk offices for motor vehicles in early January of 2024

Online vehicle registration will be unavailable starting Dec. 28; car owners due to renew registrations this year are encouraged to do so early

A major step forward in modernizing the states vehicle information database is approaching as transportation officials migrate to a new, customer-centric system. All County Clerk offices will temporarily pause in-person and online motor and vessel-related services in early January to accommodate the transition. The suspension of services starts Jan. 1, 2024, lasts between 4 to 10 business days and may cause longer wait times when services resume in January.

The following services will be unavailable during the migration: vehicle and boat registration renewals, vehicle and boat titling and transfers, disabled parking permit issuance and license plate issuance. Vehicle owners due to renew in December are encouraged to do so early before holiday closures.

This launch represents the culmination of years of behind-the-scenes work to modernize our robust system to better serve Kentuckians, said Department of Vehicle Regulation Commissioner Matt Cole. KAVIS will streamline processes, improve customer service and enhance overall efficiency.

Administered by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), the states 40-year-old legacy system AVIS (Automated Vehicle Information System) will sunset this year, and the seventh and final module of the new KAVIS (Kentucky Automated Vehicle Information System) will be fully integrated by early January. The system upgrade is a part of KYTCs commitment to enhancing operational efficiencies within the Department of Vehicle Regulation, the Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing and County Clerks offices throughout the state.

Having served on the KAVIS Steering Committee for over eight years, I am excited about the scheduled implementation in early January, said Anderson County Clerk Jason Denny. Even though the County Clerks Motor Vehicle Departments will be closed for a short transition period, the positive improvements for our customers and staff will far outweigh the inconvenience this may cause.

A statewide break of services is necessary to allow for an optimal transfer of more than 350 million records. The move to KAVIS will not impact driver license issuance at Driver Licensing Regional Offices.

It was necessary to migrate this final phase of

KAVIS statewide at one time instead of in stages since vehicles are transferable between counties and running two different systems at the same time could impact data integrity, said KYTC Office of Information Technology Executive Director Heather Stout. We are committed to making the process as seamless as possible for all involved and have reduced the closure timeline to days versus weeks. We appreciate the publics understanding and patience as we replace a 45-year-old main-frame system with a modern and improved solution.

Migration Schedule:

- Online vehicle registration renewal - Unavailable starting Dec. 28, 2023. Online renewal will be restored the week of Jan. 8, 2024. Visit drive.ky.gov for updates.
- County Clerk Offices - Motor vehicle and vessel-related services will be unavailable as early as Friday, Dec. 29, 2023. All offices will

pause services starting Jan. 1, 2024, and gradually resume services the week of Jan. 8, 2024. Some offices will choose to close to the public during this time while others may be open to perform services not related to vehicles or boats. Check with your local county clerk office to learn their plans.

KAVIS Project

The project to migrate to KAVIS kicked off in 2015. Since then, six module releases have been implemented, including a standardized point of sale system, disabled placard improvements, print on demand decals and new flat license plates. With KAVIS in place in early January, new special license plate designs will be available for request at County Clerk offices.

The move to digital plates has resulted in more reflective and readable plates, reduced storage requirements and increased on-demand printing capabilities, said

Stout. Once in place, well be able to continue a stream of new advance-

ments like offering more than 20 new specialty license plates to choose

from that promote non-profit organizations in Kentucky.



Congratulations to MVES Second Grade Poster Contest Winners! Recently MVES Second Grade students participated in a poster contest sponsored by Rockcastle County Solid Waste and Recycling. The winners' posters were made into a 2024 calendar. Pictured above are the winners along with their poster/calendar. Front row: Rylee Rogers, Paisley Kirby (representing Abigail Maxie, absent), Ryder Parker, Cambree McHargue, Makynlee Lakes, and Shandelle Stevens. Back row: Piper Durham, Ava Parker, Cannon Whittamore, Harper Jasper, Brittany Carpenter, Maddox Medley (representing Mattilynn Stanley), Kenley Doan, and Mr Blake McKinney, MVES second grade teacher and MVES Recycling Sponsor. (Special thank you to Mr James Renner for his support)

Legislative Update

By Brandon Storm
State Senator
Give thanks:
appreciated blessings,
family, friends and
community this
Thanksgiving

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving. And into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations. - Psalms 100:4-5

As we say goodbye to the 2023 interim, and the echoes of committee meetings gradually fade, we find ourselves on the brink of the holiday season. With the whirlwind of the election season now behind us, there's a collective sigh of relief—a moment to welcome the joy and festivity this time of year brings.

This season becomes especially meaningful as I'm home in our district, surrounded by family and loved ones, reconnecting with constituents. It's a time when the genuine spirit of community comes alive, and I'm thankful for the chance to share these moments with those who make our district feel like home.

Thanksgiving, rooted in the historic gathering of Pilgrims and Native Americans, remains a timeless reminder of gratitude, unity, and sharing. Let's not forget those in need in the spirit of Thanksgiving, especially as winter approaches. Consider extending support to local food banks or organizations dedicated to alleviating hunger. In our abundance of blessings, there's an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our brothers and sisters facing hardship.

During our celebrations, remember those in

the military, courageously serving our country. Many of them will spend the holidays away from their loved ones, and their sacrifices are a testament to our values.

As we gather for Thanksgiving meals, football cheers, or simple moments together, let's—at least briefly—set aside political differences. Reflect on the faith that sustains us this Thanksgiving, recognizing strength is rooted in humility. Regardless of political affiliation, we're all connected in our shared pursuit of a better future for our commonwealth.

Opt for local charm in your Christmas shopping this year. It's a meaningful investment in our communities. Local businesses are the backbone of our neighborhoods, reflecting each community's unique

identity. Choose to shop locally, supporting friends, family, and local economies. This small action has a significant impact, fostering economic resilience and nurturing our city's and town's distinctive character. Explore local gems for joyful holiday shopping and consider "Kentucky Proud" products as gifts under your Christmas tree this year.

Representing you in Frankfort is an honor that doesn't take a holiday break. Despite the festive season, the 2024 Regular Session is quickly approaching, and your thoughts, questions, and concerns remain invaluable. Don't hesitate to reach out to my office at Brandon.Storm@lrc.ky.gov.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed, happy, and safe Thanksgiving.

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Rockcastle Circuit Court • Division II
Civil Action No. 20-CI-00241

Mid South Capital Partners, LP Plaintiff
V.
Unknown Heirs, Legatees and Devisees of James Roberts, Unknown Heirs, Legatees and Devisees of Donna Lynn Roberts, Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Rockcastle, Unknown Spouses of the Unknown Heirs, Legatees and Devisees of Donna Lynn Roberts Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a judgment and order of sale entered in this action on October 13, 2023 for satisfying the judgment entered in favor of the plaintiff against the defendants in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN DOLLARS AND 70/100 (\$4,457.70) plus interest, costs and attorney fees. I will offer at public auction the hereinafter described real property in Rockcastle County, Kentucky.

At the Courthouse on East Main Street
Mt. Vernon, Kentucky
on Thursday, November 30, 2023
Beginning at the Hour of 10:00 a.m.

Beginning at a slick rock in the branch near Coal Mines; thence west with branch, Rome Graves line to a sugar tree; thence nearly South 200 feet to a stone in side of Old Coal Road; thence with said road nearly East to the beginning and supposed to contain one (1) acre and being a part of the P.M. Bullock land.
Address: Pokeberry Lane
Map ID: 036-00-028

Being the same property conveyed to James Roberts and wife, Donna Lynn Roberts, from Charles D. Marler and his wife, Freda Marler, by Deed dated February 18, 1997, and recorded in Deed Book 164, Page 587, in the office of the Rockcastle County Clerk. James Roberts passed away on May 15, 2003, no Will or Affidavit of Descent of record. Pursuant to survivorship clause in said Deed, fee simple title was vested in Donna Lynn Roberts. Donna Lynn Roberts passed away on July 15, 2012, no Will or Affidavit of Descent of record. Her remainder interest passed to the Unknown Heirs, Legatees and Devisees of Donna Lynn Roberts.

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

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

John D. Ford
Master Commissioner
Rockcastle Circuit Court

The Mount Vernon Signal office will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving

Visit Santa Claus and enjoy the Hamilton Christmas House decorations...

Santa Claus will be at the Hamilton Christmas House display from 6 p.m. to ? on Friday, December 1st and Friday, December 8th. Come and enjoy the beautiful decorations and lights, located in Houston Point Subdivision on Cedar Rapids Rd. There will be a mailbox on the porch for kids to mail their Santa letters any night for direct transport to the North Pole. And, some of Santa's friends may also show up.