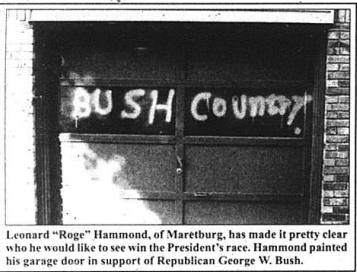




Mrs. Willetta Owens, of Mt. Vernon, had a black Woolly Worm at the Bittersweet Festival in Mt. Vernon on Saturday. She said the darkness of the Woolly Worm meant a bad winter ahead for Rockcastle Countians.



Leonard "Roge" Hammond, of Maysburg, has made it pretty clear who he would like to see win the President's race. Hammond painted his garage door in support of Republican George W. Bush.



Kim McFerron, of the Livingston Homemakers Club, presents Livingston Senior Citizens Center's site manager Edna Cameron with a microwave. The center and staff would like to thank the Livingston Homemakers for the microwave they donated.

### Gospel Music Celebration Oct. 19-21

Prepare to experience three days of outstanding gospel music at Renfro Valley during our third annual "Gospel Music Celebration," featuring four distinguished gospel groups. First to appear, on Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m., in the New Barn Theatre are Jeff and Sherri Easter. Throughout the history of Southern Gospel music, never has there been a pair of artists more authentic than this gracious, high-energy husband and wife team. With numerous "Top 20" songs and awards to their credit, Jeff and Sherri Easter have received wide professional acclaim. Jeff and Sherri may be best known for their toe-tapping, soul-stirring, spirit-filled songs, but at the heart of their music is a message of faith.

On Friday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. in the Old Barn Theatre, the Perrys share their wonderful musical talent. With over 25 years in Southern Gospel music, "The Perrys" are one of the top requested groups in the Gospel Music Industry.

Saturday, October 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the New Barn Theater, guests can hear The Florida Boys, pioneers in the Southern Gospel world. Talents, persistence, dedication and just plain stubbornness to keep singing until the Lord tells you to stop—that's what The Florida Boys have been doing for almost 50 years.

Also on Saturday, October 21 in the Old Barn Theater at 7:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., "The Bishops will sing out in joyous celebration. Their "front porch singing" has become somewhat of a trademark for The Bishops, who literally grew up spending their early evenings sitting on the front porch and singing. The Bishops have been nominated for numerous awards and had several #1 hits.

Ticket prices are \$13.00 and \$11 plus tax and handling. To obtain information and reservations for Renfro Valley's Gospel Music Celebration and all other Renfro Valley shows, concerts, special events and festivals, call 800-765-7464 or 606-256-2638, or visit our website [renfrovalley.com](http://renfrovalley.com).

(Voters) for having the audacity to disagree" with the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

Particularly, the young lawyers of the Commonwealth's Attorney's office seem to be concerned that the final sentencing imposed on the Court (Voters) is different from the sentence imposed by twelve citizens of Rockcastle County who served on the jury.

Specifically, the Commonwealth's Attorney's office criticizes that the Court's (Voters) has substituted its judgment for those twelve citizens."

The new found reverence of the Commonwealth Attorney's office for the wisdom of Rockcastle County juries is apparently reserved for times when they agree with the jury's verdict, and is a far cry from the more often heard content expressed for Rockcastle County by the lawyers of the Commonwealth's Attorney's office.

This Court (Voters) needs no reminder from the Commonwealth's Attorney's office about the role of jurors in fixing sentences in criminal cases nor about sending the wrong message to the people of Rockcastle County. The undersigned (Voters) has served people in Rockcastle County since 1975, when Mr. Montgomery was in grade school and Mr. Dalton and Mr. Brown were toddlers. The Court (Voters) served 3 1/2 years as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in

Rockcastle County, 5 years as a district judge and almost 17 years as a circuit judge and has been elected to judicial office in Rockcastle County five times, four of which were without even token opposition.

The duty imposed upon the Court (Voters) by the citizens of Rockcastle County, as well as the citizens of Pulaski County and Lincoln County, requires it to exercise independent judgment. The citizens of Rockcastle County expect the Court (Voters) to exercise its independent judgment, including the duties placed upon the Court (Voters), which authorizes the Court (Voters) to modify a sentence fixed by a jury. Here, however, the Court did not exercise that authority, rather it imposed the sentence that the jury fixed for each offense. The Commonwealth's irritation arises from the fact that the Court (Voters) ordered the sentence to be served concurrently rather than consecutively. Kentucky law requires that when multiple sentences are involved, the jury shall recommend whether the sentences shall be served concurrently or consecutively. In this case the jury recommended that the sentences be served consecutively. The Court (Voters) is not bound by the jury's recommendation in that regard, and when imposing a final sentence is required to exercise its sound judgment in such matters.

The attorney for the Commonwealth expressed in their motion their belief "that violent criminals should be held accountable for their actions, and not given second, third and fourth chances to commit more crimes anywhere - especially in Rockcastle County." In practice, it seems their belief applies only to criminal defendants who have jury trials since such jury is not always evident in their plea bargaining.

But being "held accountable" is a vague enough expression that it could apply to practically any disposition in a criminal case. Why this belief is applicable "especially in Rockcastle County," remains a mystery."

However, after all the allegations, motions and orders, Jones remains in jail, serving the remainder of a nine-month sentence in District Court.

After Jones was found guilty in Circuit Court in May, District Judge Michael Henry revoked his probation in a District Court case first.

That case stems from August 21, 1998 incident, in which Jones was shooting at a house occupied by three children and two adults, one of which was his ex-wife.

The Court (Voters) wrote in his order that he could not set aside the District Court sentence, because it was a different case in a different court.

Jones could be released on the appeal bond; after he serves the rest of his District Court sentence.

successful partnerships being formed between state and local governments to return our downtowns to vibrant, healthy centers of activity," said Patton. "Through this redevelopment of affordable housing, retail and business centers and cultural opportunities in the heart of our cities, future generations will reap the benefits of this initiative to restore our heritage."

Representing Mt. Vernon at the League of Cities Convention was Biggs W. Towery, Jr., Chairman of the Renaissance Kentucky Application Committee and Executive Director of the Rockcastle County Development Board.

### Controversy (Cont. from front)

not be given second, third and fourth chances to commit more crimes anywhere - especially in Rockcastle County," the Commonwealth's motion read.

Last Friday, Judge Jones issued an order concerning the Commonwealth's motion for reconsideration of the appeal bond for Benji Jones.

And it is probably unlike any other order he has ever issued in a case.

The order clearly shows the unhappiness of the Circuit Judge with the wording of the Commonwealth's motion.

Voters denied the motion and called it insulting and said that he would not tolerate such motions from the Commonwealth Attorney's office.

Voters wrote: "None of the reason offered by the Commonwealth for denying bond on appeal involve matters that have arisen since Jones' original incarceration or matters which require the presentation of witnesses. At the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, the court (Judge Voters) told counsel that it would take the matter under advisement and suggested to the attorney for Jones that he submit a written motion and a tendered order to the Court (Voters) as a reminder to the Court (Voters) that the matter was under consideration. No further hearings were contemplated or required by law," the order reads.

The motion of the Commonwealth appears to be more of a publicly seeking device instead of a responsible motion. It appears to be an effort of the Acting Commonwealth's Attorney, Eddy Montgomery, the Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Christopher Brown and the Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, David Dalton, to chastise the Court

(Voters) for having the audacity to disagree" with the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

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### Everett C. Brown Award

The Everett C. Brown Award was established by the family of Everett C. Brown, as a memorial to his life's achievements.

The family wishes to recognize outstanding service, leadership and commitment by community leaders in his memory.

Began in 1978, in memory of Everett C. Brown, who lived in Rockcastle County as a child, Mr. Brown was known as a strong and fair birthplace throughout his life and upon his death the Brown Family established the award.

The award is presented by the Kiwanis Club of Rockcastle County and has been managed by them for several years. The recipient receives a \$50.00 savings bond from the Brown Family and the Kiwanis Club purchases a plaque which shows he understood his addition, recipients name is engraved on a permanent Everett C. Brown Award plaque displayed at Rockcastle County Courthouse.

### Bussell (Cont. from front)

40 years; was a former part-owner of the Little World's Fair in Brodhead. He retired in 1997 from the Rockcastle County School system having driven a school bus for 55 years. He was of the Protestant faith.

Mr. Bussell is survived by his wife of 53 years, Wilene Yados Bussell; one son, Bryan Bussell of Brodhead; one daughter, Kathy Dyhouse and husband, Kenneth of Brodhead; four grandchildren, Heather and Bryanna Bussell and John and Mark Dyhouse; two step-children, Donna Rice of Monticello and Peggy Daniels of Destin, Florida. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Corrine Bussell Hurt and one brother, Charles Bussell.

Visitation for Mr. Bussell will be Thursday, October 12, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals in Brodhead.

Services will be held in Brodhead, Ky., at 2:00 p.m. at the funeral home chapel with Bro. Mark Whicker and Bro. Buford Parkerson officiating. Burial will be in the Piney Grove Cemetery.

### Award (Cont. from front)

service to his community by the numerous boards and committees he has served.

Among his many awards and honors are: National recipient of the Multi-Unit Food Service operators-award; Man of the year award, The Gold Plaque Award, Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1978, The Transylvania Medal for outstanding service, The Spirit of Life award in 1979.

## Burley co-op to sell 50-60 million pounds of pool crop

The Lexington based Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association announced last week its decision to sell between 50 and 60 million pounds of processed, stored tobacco from its burley pool stocks.

"This is good news for tobacco farmers," Rod Kuegel, president of the Burley Co-op, stated.

"The Co-op represents tobacco growers and quota holders in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and West Virginia. Its 30-member board of directors voted to join Tennessee counterpart Burley Stabilization Corporation, which intends to sell nine million pounds."

An open bid process which closed September 12 determined what would be sold. The co-op received bids from 10 companies and leaf dealers for all crop years (1994-1997-99). However the 1999 crop, damaged by drought, received only two bids at a 40 cents per pound average.

"This is the same tobacco we have under loan from the farmer for \$2 a pound," Danny McKinney, Burley Co-op CEO and Rockcastle resident, said. "It seems clear that even the companies declare the 1999 crop a disaster."

McKinney went on to say that "solving the problem with the '99 crop" was among the co-op's top priorities.

"We intend to stay focused on selling pool stocks, while not adversely affecting the no-net-fee," McKinney said.

Co-op officials hope the move will prevent a cut in basic quota for 2001, but that is not guaranteed. Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith issued a press release praising the decision to sell off the excess burley, saying it was the "best news" tobacco farmers have heard in a while.

"This news, coupled with the overall high quality of the 2000 crop, will give tobacco growing families a reason to smile for a change," Smith stated.

The funding was obtained by Rogers, who served as a member of the joint House-Senate committee that wrote the final version of the legislation. Rogers is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee.

### Program (Cont. from front)

ignated tiers-bronze, silver and gold - according to the program's criteria met upon application. Mt. Vernon is a bronze community. The program encourages communities to reach the highest level possible by awarding funds to those in the silver and gold levels. Opportunities for bronze and silver communities to advance are offered periodically.

Mt. Vernon is considered to be a Phase I Community. This means the community has expressed an interest in downtown revitalization and the community leaders have demonstrated a commitment to downtown revitalization. The community is clearly at the beginning phase of the local revitalization effort and must meet all eligibility criteria identified for Phase I designated. A Phase I community must progress to the Phase II level within a two-year period from the date of designation announcement.

The Renaissance committee's top five priorities are downtown Mt. Vernon/Renaissance area beautification; preservation of the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Renaissance area; promote the economic development of downtown Mt. Vernon; explore the potential purchase, restoration and use of the St. Clair Building at the corner of Main and Richmond Streets and the promotion of tourism for the Renaissance area.

"The concept of Renaissance Kentucky is working because of the

### Road Funding (Cont. from front)

by Rogers to improve a section of U.S. 25 which leads to the site of the County Music Hall of Fame in Rockcastle County. The money will allow for a section of the highway to be expanded into three lanes of traffic. This week, the House of Representatives is expected to give its final approval to the bill which also includes \$478 million for Kentucky's highways and \$22.9 million for targeted highway and airport projects within Rogers's 5th Congressional District.

"The Congress has agreed to provide federal funding to this important project in Rockcastle County," Rogers said today. "The County Music Hall of Fame fits into our new tourism plan for the region and the work to improve it for the tourists who come to visit us must begin right now. Our goal is to provide new opportunities for this region. A sustained federal investment in our region's transportation network and infrastructure is a critical part of our

campaign to promote new business, improve tourism and create new jobs. I fought to provide that investment in this year's bill and worked to include a number of other transportation projects vital to our region."

The measure includes \$5 million for continued development of a section of Interstate 66 between Senatobia and London. Rogers obtained an additional \$1 million to complete safety improvements underway on a stretch of the Daniel Boone Parkway in Leslie County. \$3 million has also been provided in the bill for rural bus and bus facility needs in southern and eastern Kentucky. Another \$900,000 has been included in the design of park preservation work at the Cumberland Gap Tunnel Park in Bell County and \$100,000 to complete a 6-mile section of the Rails-to-Trails project of the Lake Cumberland Trail Foundation in Pulaski County.

Rogers also successfully included a technical correction in the transportation appropriations bill allowing the State of Kentucky to receive special funds for states that adopt a 0.8 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) standard for DUI (driving under the influence) laws. The bill releases \$2,492,121 in federal incentive funding to the state.

An administrative error in the Kentucky law made the state technically ineligible for the funding.