

Mount Vernon Signal

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A large group of Rockcastle Countians met on the courthouse lawn last Thursday for the 62nd annual National Day of Prayer. The public attended the event to spend time in prayer for our government, military, churches, schools and families. Shown at right is guest speaker Kent Ostrander, Executive Director of the Family Foundation of Kentucky. Brother Luther Allen led the crowd in singing and special music was provided by Zack Rice from Cornith Baptist Church in London. Opening prayer was led by Senator Jared Carpenter and closing prayer by Brother Randy McPherson. Lunch was provided by the Kiwanis Club following the service.



RCIDA okays White House Clinic plans at Monday's meeting

Final plans for White House Clinic were presented to the Rockcastle County Industrial Authority board Monday and those plans were approved. The action clears the way for bids to be let for the 8,972 sq. ft. building in Rockcastle Business Park South and, a spokesman said Monday that construction would probably be complete in early 2014.

The clinic will offer a full range of medical services -- pharmacy, dental, a physician and nurse practitioner a mental health facility, etc. Client payments will be on a sliding scale based on income.

At the meeting, Holly Hopkins told the board that B&H Tool had decided to move their laser operation, presently located in Richmond, to their facility in Rockcastle Business Park South (RBPS) and would be constructing a new building behind their present one. Hopkins said it was not known at this time if there would be additional employees hired since it had not been determined by B&H how many employees from the Richmond location would transfer to the local site.

Hopkins also told the board that there was presently a hiring freeze in place at SourceHOV because the veterans administration was changing how they transmit information to the company for processing, causing a delay in production.

Construction of water and sewer lines for the new emergency services building was discussed with Hopkins informing the board that a grant would not be sought for the approximate \$75,000 project. Hopkins said that County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis has agreed to use county equipment and workers for the project and believes it can be done that way for "pennies on the dollars."

A draft budget for RCIDA for 2013-14 was presented to the board. The budget shows expected receipts of \$934,529 and appropriations of the same amount.

The largest items in receipts includes a transportation grant of \$418,140 which is still outstanding, approximately \$148,000 from county government and \$304,750 in lease payments from SourceHOV.

Appropriations include salaries of \$87,000 (including benefits), the transfer of the DOT grant funds (\$418,140) to the county when received and direct payment of all proceeds of the SourceHOV lease (\$304,750) to Community Trust Bank for repayment of the construction loan for the building.

Deadly bat disease found inside two caves in Rockcastle County

By: Doug Ponder

Forest biologists with the U.S Forest Service and Daniel Boone National Forest recently discovered a deadly bat disease inside two caves in Rockcastle County.

Tests taken this winter by biologists confirm that a deadly bat disease called the white-nose syndrome was found in bats at the Goochland Cave and Smokehole Cave near Livingston.

The tests were conducted inside 38 bat hibernation caves in the Daniel Boone National Forest this winter. Besides the two caves in Rockcastle County, white-nose syndrome was also found inside four other caves in Pulaski and Jackson County.

Biologist Sandi Kilpatrick said that white-nose syndrome is a white fungus that appears on the muzzle and other body parts of bats. She said the disease was first detected in New York in 2006 and that it has now spread across eastern United States and into the Daniel Boone National Forest.

"White-nose syndrome has spread rapidly across the United States as far west as Missouri and north as Canada," Kilpatrick said. "An estimated 5.7 to 6.7 million bats have died because of the disease. So it was upsetting to discover the disease has now made it to the Daniel Boone National Forest."

Kilpatrick said there is no evidence that white-nose syndrome can cause sickness in humans. However, she said

(Cont. to A10)

Livingston Founders Day Trail Festival is Friday and Saturday

The first annual Livingston Founders Day Trail Festival is this Friday and Saturday in downtown Livingston.

The festival and vendors will open both days at 5 p.m. Games, inflatables and hayrides will also be available for the kids throughout the festival.

Events will kick-off on Friday with an opening ceremony at the trailhead stage from 6 to 7 p.m. with speakers Billy Medley, Livingston Mayor Jason Medley, Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant, parade Grand Marshall Lucille Carloftis and County Judge Executive Buzz Carloftis. There will also be a Life Flight helicopter air display at 6:30 p.m.

There will be bluegrass and gospel music on all

Mt. Vernon man arrested for drug trafficking

By: Doug Ponder

A Mt. Vernon man was arrested for drug trafficking last Wednesday when a police officer made a traffic stop on MacKenzie Lane in Mt. Vernon after he allegedly ran the officer off the roadway.

Arrested at the scene was Robert Blake Lovell, 28, of Mt. Vernon.

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, Assistant Chief Barry Adams made the stop after meeting Lovell's vehicle in the middle of the road in a curve, causing Adams to have to pull his cruiser onto a curb off the roadway.

When Adams approached the vehicle, he noticed that Lovell appeared to be very nervous and that his hands were shaking.

(Cont. to A10)

three stages Friday night from 8 to 10 p.m. Sagegrass will perform on the Trailhead Stage, Dogwood Ridge on the David's Tire Bluegrass Stage and Hot Pursuit on the Climax Water Sound Stage.

Also, members of Livingston Fire and Rescue will be selling food during the week end. On Friday night, at the fire department, there will be a chicken and dumpling dinner, starting at 7 p.m. and, on Saturday,

Relay for Life is next Friday

The annual Cancer Survivor Dinner and Rockcastle County Relay for Life will be held next Friday, May 17th.

The Cancer Survivor dinner will be held at the Rockcastle County High School cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Food and entertainment will be provided by Roundstone Baptist Church.

Those planning to attend the dinner are asked to call

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Road work at intersection of Hwy 150 and 2108 coming to a close

Reconstruction of the Hwy 150 and Hwy 2108 intersection at Mareburg is coming to an end in the near future.

The road construction project included new turn lanes on Hwy 150 as well as the installation of caution lights to improve safety at the intersection. Repair work to the ditches at the intersection is also being conducted during the reconstruction project.

The \$730,000 project was awarded to Elmo Greer

(Cont. to A10)

hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. will be available, starting at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, the Wildcat Mountain Triathlon race will start at 8 a.m. with registration beginning at 7 a.m. A Lumberjack contest will start at 10 a.m.

Following the triathlon and lumberjack contest, a car show will take place at the David's Tire Bluegrass stage area from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Line-up for the parade

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Mt. Vernon man arrested for child abuse Friday

By: Doug Ponder

A Mt. Vernon man was arrested last Friday for child abuse after being accused by doctors and police of throwing a four-year-old's head against a wall.

Arrested was Nathaniel Dale Whitis, 25, of Mt. Vernon. According to the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Mike Peters responded to Dr. Callie Shaffer's office after receiving a physical abuse complaint involving a four-year-old boy.

Upon arrival, doctors told Peters that they observed a large bruise on the boy's forehead and also what appeared to be finger/hand prints around his neck. Doctors said they also discovered several broken veins in both of the boy's eyes, which is usually the result of someone being grabbed by the neck and choked.

During examination, doctors also told Peters they discovered several other bruises on the boy's face, neck, behind both ears, right thigh and left hip. Doctors said these injuries are also the result of squeezing of the neck and

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Brindle Ridge Fire Department and Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue responded to a trailer fire Wednesday morning on Grace Loop Road in Roundstone. Authorities say the trailer was abandoned and no one was inside at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

Of Special Note Inside

- Viewpoints Pg. A2
- Sports Pg. A8 & 9
- Obituaries Pg. A3
- Courthouse News Pg. B2
- Church News Pg. A6
- Classifieds Pgs. B5-7

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