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Dix River Bridge abruptly closed in Brodhead

By: Doug Ponder

The Dix River Bridge in Brodhead was permanently shutdown last Friday by engineers and bridge inspectors with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

According to Somerset KTC Information Officer Amber Hale, inspectors originally came to Brodhead to perform a routine inspection on the Dix River Bridge last Thursday. She said the KTC performs routine inspections in two year intervals on every KTC maintained bridge in the state.

Hale said problems with every bridge are documented and entered into a database. Bridges noted by inspectors for needing replaced or repair work are documented and scheduled within the database as well.

During the last routine inspection in 2011, Hale said the Dix River Bridge was noted as needing to be replaced and bids were scheduled to be let in May of 2014. She said inspectors knew during the last inspection that center box beam was deteriorating but they believed it wasn't deteriorating at a pace that was considered unsafe for drivers.

However, during last Thursday's routine inspection, inspectors realized the bridge's center box beam was deteriorating at a more rapid pace than what they had originally anticipated. Hale said the inspectors covered the visually small hole at the top of the bridge with a large metal sheet and notified KTC engineers in Frankfort.

When KTC engineers arrived last Friday morning, they surveyed the bridge and determined that the center box beam had severely decayed and the bridge posed an immediate threat to drivers. She said engineers asserted that if the bridge was left open it could collapse at any given time.

Hale went on to say a detour route was set up along Hwy 1326 (Old Brodhead Road.) Although no official state detour route was set up along Chestnut Grove Road, drivers have also started to use the road as a detour in traveling to Brodhead.

From the intersection of Hwy 1505 and Sycamore Street across the Dix River

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Second readings debated heavily at Brodhead Council meeting

By: Doug Ponder

The second reading of two proposed ordinances caused heavy discussions and heated debates at the monthly Brodhead council meeting Monday night.

Councilman Mark Buras had the second reading of the amended ordinance for the city's current delinquent taxes. In his proposed ordinance, he said all city taxes that have not been set up on a payment schedule before April 2014 will be published in the local paper, according to state law. The proposed ordinance also read that all delinquent city taxes that have not been put on a regular payment schedule will be subject to sell of tax liens on June 1, 2014.

Councilman Keith Graves made a motion to approve the ordinance as written. However, no one seconded the motion.

Buras reminded the council that the proposed ordinance was open to discus-

sion and said that it was the law for the city to collect taxes.

"It's the law that the people pay city taxes and it's the law the city collects them," Buras said. "The ordinance is lenient to people who don't have a lot of money and they can be put on a payment schedule."

Graves agreed with Buras and said he made the motion simply because he thought it was the law anyway.

Councilman Ronnie Cash said he is not in favor of the ordinance because there are a lot of people struggling financially and he believed other ways were available to them before publishing their names in the local newspaper.

"I agree people should pay their taxes but I don't agree on publicizing their names in the paper. I think there are other ways we can

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13 file for '14 county election

Thirteen Rockcastle countians have already thrown their hat in the ring for the 2014 county elections.

Eight of those filing their candidacy papers are incumbents.

Those filing for re-election, include: James Miller (R), Jailer; Gary Burdette (R), 4th District Magistrate; Billy Reynolds (R), Rockcastle County Attorney; Michael E. Peters (R), Rockcastle County Sheriff; Danetta Allen (R), County Clerk; William Denny (R), 2nd District Magistrate and Delno McClure (R), 2nd District Constable. Mike Bryant has also filed for re-election as Mt. Vernon Mayor, a non-partisan office, which does not have a primary.

Besides the incumbents, Carlos McClure (R), who ran for Jailer four years ago, will try again and Rick Brummett

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The Dix River Bridge in Brodhead was permanently shutdown last Friday by engineers and bridge inspectors with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Inspectors performed a routine bridge inspection on Thursday and realized the center box beam was deteriorating at a more rapid pace than what they had originally anticipated. Inspectors covered the small hole along the center line with a large metal plate until KTC engineers could inspect the bridge last Friday morning. When KTC engineers arrived, they surveyed the bridge and determined that the center box beam had severely decayed and the bridge posed an immediate threat to drivers. Engineers asserted that if the bridge was left open it could collapse at any given time. Shown above is a picture underneath the bridge that shows exposed rebar drooping from the center of the bridge like tree vines.



Fiscal Court discusses Brodhead bridge; gives funds to Space2Create

As the first item of business at Tuesday's regular meeting of the Rockcastle Fiscal Court, County Judge/

Executive Buzz Carloftis gave magistrates an overview of the closing of the Dix River Bridge at

Brodhead.

Carloftis said the bridge had been closed last Friday, with no warning, and state engineers said that it was "too dangerous" to allow even one lane traffic while being repaired. The state had planned to let bids for a new bridge in May of 2014, Carloftis said, but had moved that letting up to January of 2014.

The judge told the court that he and Brodhead Mayor Walter Lee Cash were in Frankfort Tuesday and met

with the Commissioner of Highways and the chief district engineer for the Somerset Dept. of Highways office.

Carloftis said there were two options for temporarily routing traffic into and out of Brodhead. One of them is using a gravel lane on property belonging to the late Jerry Smith's daughter, Amy Holcamp, who lives in the northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area. The road is presently used by emergency services personnel, to gain access to the Sycamore St. area, who have a key to unlock a gate across the road.

Carloftis said he declared an emergency last Friday and ordered the county road department to gravel the lane. If a temporary easement is granted by Holcamp, Carloftis said the state would widen the road to two lanes and black-top it. However, Holcamp told Carloftis that she had concerns about liability issues and hadn't made a final decision. The roadway would be returned to Holcamp after the new bridge is built.

The other option is construction of a culvert crossing below the present bridge. Landowners on either side of the stream would have to sign a con-

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School Board adopts two resolutions

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle County School Board adopted two resolutions and also agreed to purchase five new school buses at Tuesday night's

regular meeting.

Superintendent David Pensol presented the first resolution, which consists of a finance adequate study that will be conducted by the Council for Better Education. He said the organization is doing the study to present to state legislators to show that school districts are not adequately funded by the state.

"The argument is that school districts are not adequately funded by the state government," Pensol said. "This study gives the legislators something on paper to actually show in the house and senate."

Pensol said the total projected cost of the study is \$130,000 and the cost will be divided between each school district that participates in the study. He said the amount they are ex-

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Mt. Vernon man killed in construction accident

By: Doug Ponder

A Mt. Vernon man was killed in a construction accident last Wednesday morning after falling off a building at the Montgomery County Airport in Mount Sterling.

According to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, Wendell Williams, 73, of Mt. Vernon lost his footing and fell more than 25 feet off an administration building at the airport. Williams was a subcontractor with Nu-Way roofing in Richmond and he

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Local man killed in house fire

By: Doug Ponder

A local man was killed in a house fire around 11 o'clock last Friday night on Chestnut Grove Road in Brodhead.

According to state police reports, Walter Wagers, 72, of Brodhead was in his home when neighbors reportedly heard an explosion and saw that his house was fully engulfed in flames. Neighbors called

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