

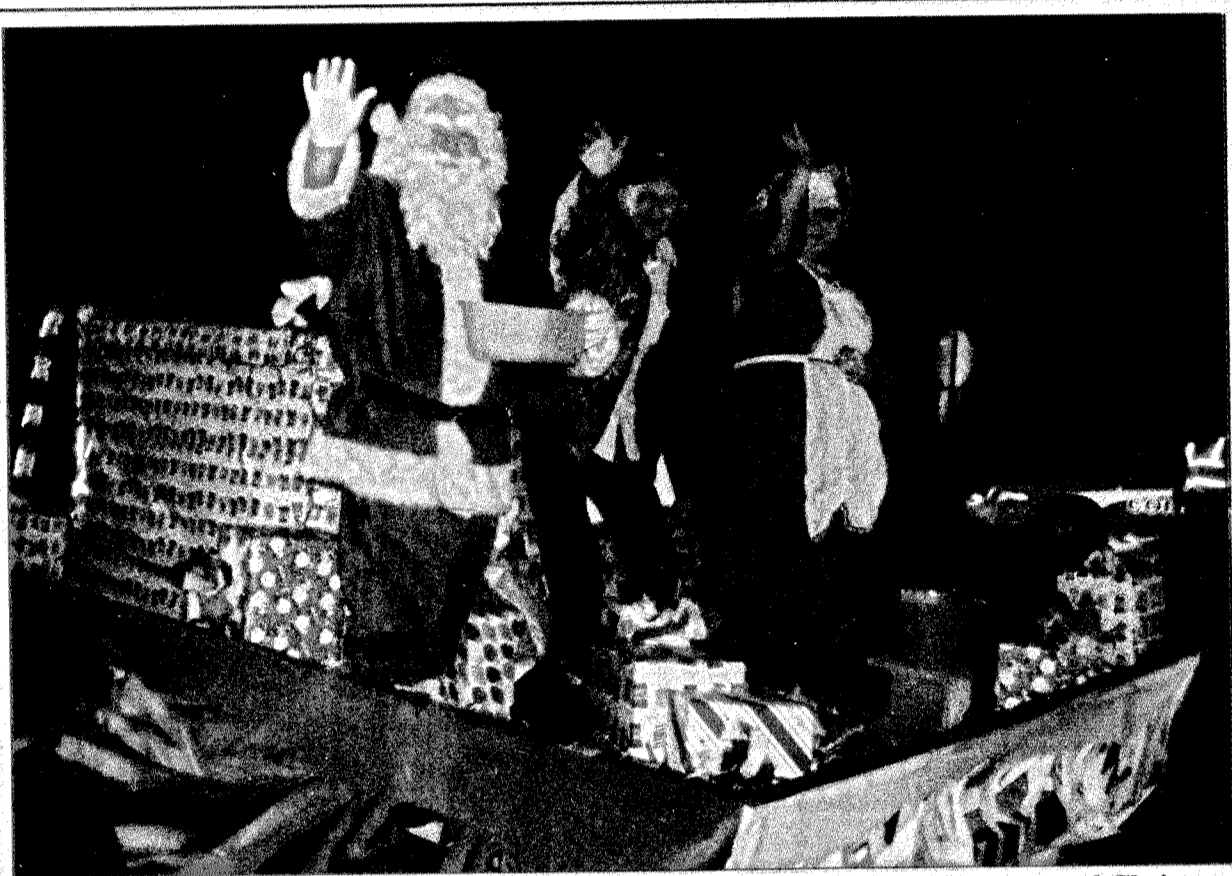
Merry Christmas
from our families to
yours

Mount Vernon Journal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244 Volume 135 • Number 47 • 50 per copy Thursday, December 23, 2021



Santa and Mrs Claus were joined by Livingston Mayor Dwane King during the annual Christmas parade last Saturday. Though the temperature was in the low 30s, and a mist of rain was falling, a large crowd turned out to catch treats from the float and join Santa for hot chocolate in the Livingston School Gymnasium after the parade.

Mount Vernon City Council — New water basin needing one final document to begin

By: Mike French
Editor

The Mount Vernon City Council held their final regular monthly meeting of 2021 by Zoom last week. Mayor Mike

Bryant said department reports and monthly financial reports are available for anyone who would like to see them at City Hall and will be made available for council members immediately.

The meeting began with a question concerning the planned water treatment in Mount Vernon. The project to

(See "Basin" on A6)

Six local Indictments returned

A Rockcastle County Grand Jury returned six indictments Monday, December 20th.

Those indicted, and their offense/s were:

Derrick R. Mullins, 39,

(See "Indict" on A6)

COVID decrease

Rockcastle County is still barely inside the red zone this week, with an incident rating of 25. In the past seven days, there have been 18 confirmed new cases and 11 probable new cases in the county, according to the Cumberland Valley District Health Department. There was one death, a 76 year old male, attributed to COVID-related illness. The latest numbers at the state COVID website, list 44 covid-related deaths in the county.

Chapin to pay remaining \$1.8 million to county

By: Mike French
Editor

Members of the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court heard good news

and better news about the new Chapin factory that located in Rockcastle County last year. But there is a twist to the story.

The building, known formerly as Mt. Vernon Plastics and the Eagle Mfg. Building, had been a sore spot for the county for several years after attempts to lease or sell the building backfired drastically on the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority. One company that had agreed to purchase the property left under extremely negative circumstances. A lawsuit is pending and, according to officials,

criminal charges are still possible.

Another multimillion dollar business in Mount Vernon has met with

harsh criticism for not meeting originally promised job creations and for

(See "Chapin" on A7)

May Primary candidates filed

By: Mike French
Editor

The Kentucky May Primary elections will be Tuesday, May 17. The deadline to file for office is January 7 at 4 p.m.

Rockcastle County PVA Janet Vaughn, who

has been in office since 2014, is not planning to file for re-election. Several other incumbents have said they have not made a final decision as yet.

Those who have cur-
(See "Elect" on A6)

Students catching up after COVID

By: Mike French
Editor

According to Brodhead Elementary School Principal, Sandy McClure, students at BES

are scoring much higher in reading and math than they were at the beginning of the school year.

McClure spoke at the
(See "School" on A6)

First responders don't close for Christmas Day

Givers never stop giving

By: Mike French
Editor

Sitting alone, in a dark and quiet kitchen, eating the last bite of turkey. You have missed the day of joy and laughter and the smiles of your own children as they opened gifts. You are a first responder and you had to do your job. During the Christmas

holiday, Americans plan their time away from work. Most schedule events with family and friends and look forward to time with their loved ones. Typically, a turkey dinner and presents await those, who have left the worries of their job behind, to join their family and friends in fellowship. But not everyone will

be at the Christmas dinner this week. First responders are never "off

duty." Sheriff Shannon Franklin says such duties

during the holidays can be a struggle. "Though first responders accept the fact

that they may be required to work on Christmas
(See "First" on A6)

Child of first responder — An empty seat at Christmas dinner

Editor's note:

This article was submitted by the child of a local first responder. Since the writer says this is the typical experience of most children of those who serve as EMS, firefighters, police or other first responders, the name of the writer is unimportant so

we will respect the writer's request to omit their name.

Some of my most cherished memories took place at the dinner table, surrounded by my family during the holiday season.

Organized chaos
(See "Table" on A7)



The Mount Vernon Fire Department responded to this house fire on West Main Street Monday morning but the fire was detected before the home was destroyed, officials say. Damage inside was extensive in some areas. The cause of the blaze is unknown at this time. No injuries were reported. The wreath on the fire truck demonstrates the need for first responders to remain on duty during holiday seasons.

Of Special Note Inside

- Viewpoints Pg. A2
- Obituaries Pg. A5
- Sports Pgs. A8&9

Contact us at: mvsignal@windstream.net
Deadline submission is 4:00 p.m. Monday

- Parades See Inside
- Classifieds Pgs. B9&10

Deadline is Monday at 4 p.m.

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ramblings...

by: perlina m. anderkin

Christmas is always a nostalgic time for me. I enjoyed it thoroughly when my children were small and even into their teen years it was always a fulfilling season for me. Now, since I'm old, I

still take great pleasure in watching my grand and great grandchildren enjoy the season but there is a sadness because the loss of those not with us is especially

(Continued on A4)

The home of Shannon and Charon Burton in Rainbow Ridge Subdivision is one of the many houses beautifully decorated in Rockcastle County this Christmas season.

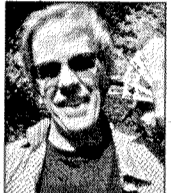
Hamilton Christmas House

As some may know and some not, Hamilton Christmas House was not lit up this year with its annual beautiful lights. Sam and Dana Hamilton's home is viewed annually by passerbyers, both local and from afar. This year, construction with weather delays caused them to make the decision to wait until next year to once again awe spectators with Christmas lights.

Sam did say next year will be bigger and better. And for those who have seen it in the past, know that will be "something to see" as they say.

Aces Over

By: Mike French



Well, I didn't care who knew about it. I was going to do it anyway. And I did.

Last night, around 10 o'clock, my better half sound asleep, all alone in my house, *How the*

Grinch Stole Christmas came on my television.

I immediately thought about all the years I had had to wait 365 days for the show to come on since there was

(Continued on A4)

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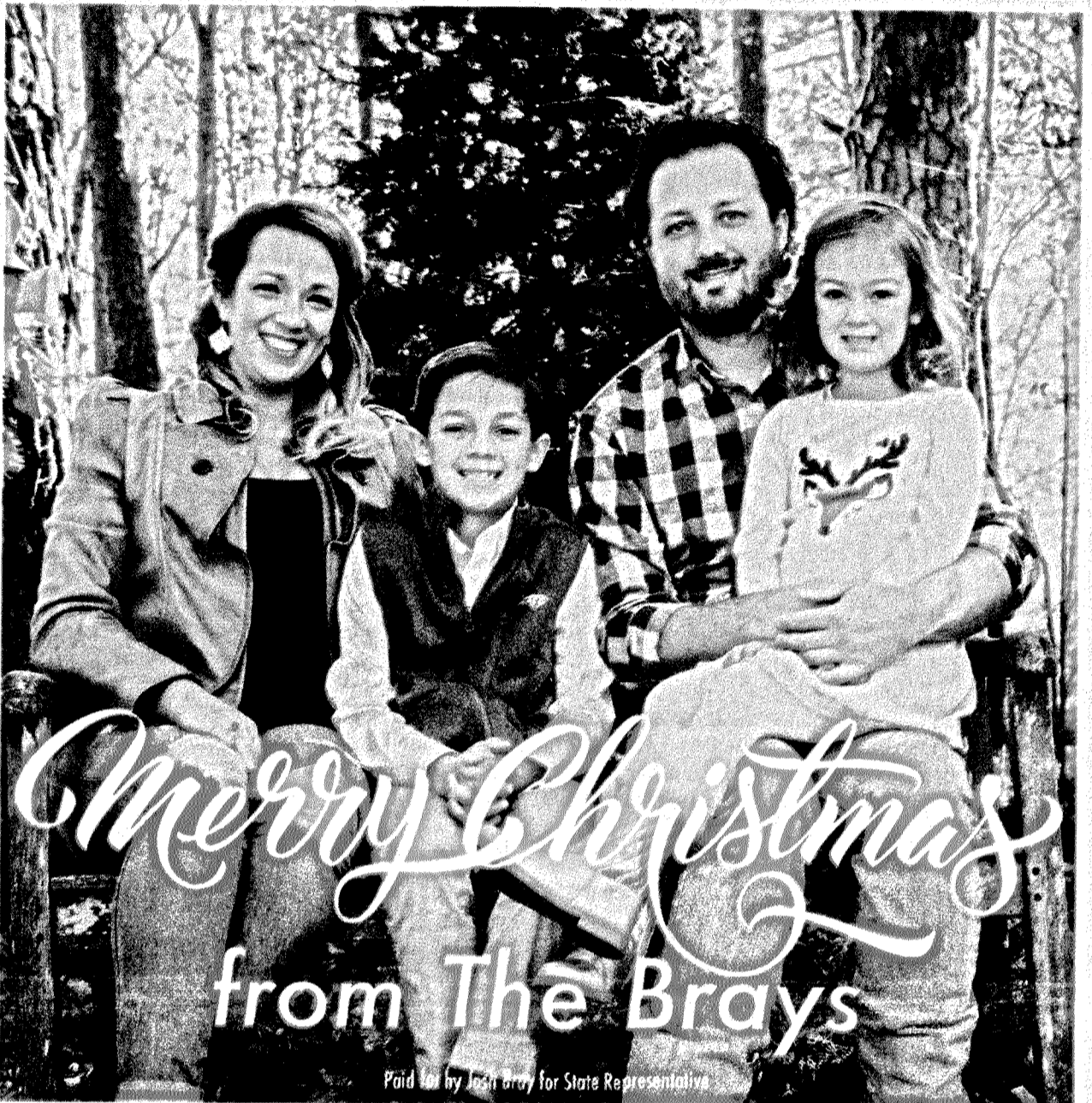
Mike French, Editor

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Merry CHRISTMAS

and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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ramblings

(Continued from A2)

poignant during this time. It's still very enjoyable to have all the family here during the holidays, even if it is for only a short time. I feel like a Mafia Don sometimes, in old movies, with my "family is everything" attitude but it is the truth and it seems to be the truth for my children for which I am very thankful.

I do reflect often on the problems of our world today. I know that there are many different views than mine of the way things are going in our country but I am entitled to my view and it's a sad one.

Regardless, you readers are going to be treated to what my view of a better world would be in 2022, if the following changes were made in the social fabric of our culture and from our present administration's agenda, in no particular order of importance:

If schools, and other amateur/professional sporting events, would establish a separate division for transgender women to participate among themselves so that women's sports would not be destroyed;

If our country would once again become energy independent, as we were under "orange man bad" (President Trump), so that countries from which we are once again importing oil would not have this to use as leverage against us, not to mention the trillions of dollars we would save from importing foreign oil;

If greedy corporations (I know, I sound like a Democrat), would bring their factories home, instead of paying slave wages (to sometimes actual slaves) in foreign countries, thereby making us vulnerable to the present supply crisis;

If the present administration would quit flogging a dead horse (the Coronavirus for their own devious purposes, whatever they are), and let our lives return to normal;

If we could be assured that the 2022 mid-term election would be safe from corruption, something no one will ever convince me the 2020 election was;

If the government would be just as concerned with the record number of deaths in 2021 from suicides and drug overdoses as they are with keeping the fear mongering of the Coronavirus going. The new Omicron variant, that citizens are being warned, by main stream media, will cause a "Viral Blizzard" this winter resulting in serious illness and death (per our resident president) for the unvaccinated, has thus far taken one life, a Texas man with many underlying health issues. Omicron looks to be about 40 times less lethal than earlier strains of COVID, which itself was non-fatal in well over 99 percent of cases;

If the nation's Department of Justice would not spend their resources in a private investigation for our current Resident President of the theft? of his daughter's dairy;

If our Resident President would adhere to our Constitution and protect our borders, instead of permitting the illegal entry of two million, or so, into our country. They are not given a Covid test or

vaccine. I personally don't care whether they are tested or vaccinated, but I would appreciate not being blamed every time a vaccinated person contracts C-19 because I am, gasp, "unvaccinated;"

If the federal government would quit trying to "federalize" our elections which is patently unconstitutional and the issue should be a no-brainer if it ever comes before the Supreme Court. However, that is not as assured as one would like to think it is, with a supposedly 6-3 edge on the court for conservatives, since two of the three newest appointees have made several disappointing votes to date (Kavanaugh and Barrett) and of course John Roberts is as wishy-washy as they come, but then he was a George W. Bush appointee, and

If climate change hustlers would pay attention to the fact that China's greenhouse gas emissions exceed the rest of the developed world (combined), yet western energy constantly gets blamed. Has anyone ever brought to the attention of the electric car warriors that they have to be recharged (frequently) at recharging stations powered by fossil fuels and the vast majority of the middle class cannot afford them anyway, even with the federal government's tax subsidy. Therefore, if you think about it, rich people are being subsidized by the government to buy their socially-correct cars.

There's more on my wish list but I am on deadline and only have time (as I begin my 67th year working at the *Signal*) before Paige yells at me, to wish all our readers a **Very Merry Christmas and the happiest and most prosperous New Year.**

Aces

(Continued from A2)

no such thing as VCRs or DVRs, or even cable tv. It came on when it came on and if you weren't there, you just missed it.

What a joyous day it was when it was coming on. It was usually a Friday and I spent my entire day at school thinking about the Grinch that night. I couldn't wait. It was such a treat.

Presents were home under our tree that my father and I had cut down and I could smell the cedar as soon as I walked in the house from school. I would watch the clock as though it was a movie that I couldn't drag myself away from.

Finally, it was time. I sat on the floor in front of our Warm Morning heater with a warm, fuzzy blanket around me and enjoyed the hot chocolate and popcorn.

The warm air blew from underneath the stove onto my legs and mom and dad sat on the couch behind me as the Whos in Whoville began to sing. Life was perfect.

So, when it came on my television last night, sure enough, I made a quick cup of hot chocolate and microwave popcorn and wrapped myself in my warmest blanket.

My memory had played a few little tricks

on me and some stuff seemed different than I recalled. But most of it was exactly as I remembered.

I took a 10-second video of the screen and sent it to mom in the rehab center and to my twins who are 22 and daughter who is 34. "Look" I typed. "It's the Grinch."

Later in the night, they each texted back one at a time. "Yeah. cool." and then "neat." and then "yep."

That's it? No nostalgic texts about the good old days or remembering their childhood? No comments about their memories of youth or missing their dad or the wonder of Christmas. Just "yep."

I guess it is true. Yesterday is gone and no one seems to even think about it much anymore.

Christmas used to be a magical time. Everything that happened in and around Christmas was special, different and memorable.

No one got presents just anytime they wanted. No one could watch the Grinch whenever they got around to it. No one had big, huge meals for no reason.

If there was something we wanted, "wait till Christmas." The music was special, the decorations were special, the food was special. Christmas Day was unique and everything about it was a memorable event.

Any more, all the Christmas shows can be watched anytime, anywhere. The music is on my phone any hour of the day. If a child needs or wants something, they get it -- right then. All year round. The holiday is not what it used to be. It is not a day that only happens once a year anymore. Christmas is everyday now.

I will always remember the "old Christmas." The one when we prayed for snow, listened for hoof beats on the roof and waited for special things.

Sure my feet were killing me and my back was sore and I was very worried about how mom's medical bills will get paid. But for 30 minutes last night, I was back home again. I watched as the Grinch's heart grew three times that day. And I still felt glad that the Whos down in Whoville got all their gifts back.

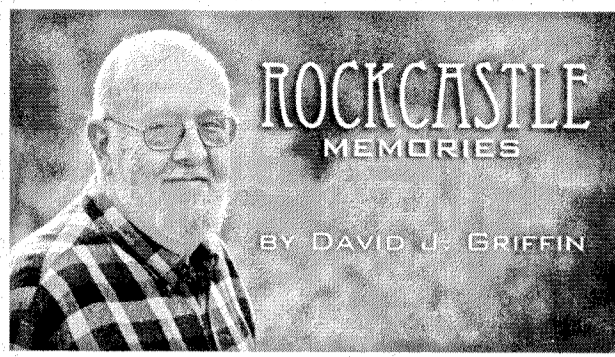
I guess I learned something last night. Apparently one of the greatest gifts a person can have is a memory. As long as I remember those cold days in front of that cedar tree and warm stove with mom and dad sitting close by, that is still a blessing that some don't have I suppose.

It is a gift that can't grow old or become rusty or faded. It is there all my own and no one can bill me for it or sue me to take it from me. No judge, no politician, no policeman, no politically correct group or government agency can remove it.

Maybe the best gift is one that can never be taken away. Maybe the best gift is one that doesn't cost a dime and was never earned.

Then again, a gift like that is the whole reason for Christmas isn't it.

Merry Christmas



Trending in Urban Landscaping

The cold or the gloomy day is a good one for some introspection. And for writing a landscaping column about trending topics and designs. Things that are likely to be popular next year. Briefly, we will mention a couple dozen items and styles that appear to be on designers, landscapers, and homeowners minds as we pause and spend some of the long hours of dark dreaming of things to do when it's warm outside again and another growing season rolls around. Many of these mentions may get a whole article devoted to them in the coming year.

Simple and layered. Usually low maintenance, but some actually love the tending of their gardens.

Asymetry. The pair of shade trees, one in either side of the lawn that is divided by a straight path to the street or the mailbox is stuffy and dated. A big tree on one side, and a grouping of three shrubs or a bunch of flowers or clumps of grass on the other side of a curved walk is so much more chic.

Divide and conquer! Carve the outdoor spaces into segments. Outdoor rooms can be for recreation or for the quiet zen experience. Different "rooms" for different folks. And different occasions.

Transition from inside to outside is not real clear. Blurring that distinction is trendy.

Add water! Waterfeatures are making a comeback. Remains to be seen if they become as popular as fifteen to twenty years ago. Fire is also in demand, and lighting.

Add "wow" to your place! Graceful sweeping lines, focal points, garden structures, and hidden rooms that open into that

lush get-a-way place without leaving the security and serenity of your own yard.

Green walls, living walls. Living rooftops. Container gardens on what was a concrete patio or walk.

Multi-functioning areas, small gardens, including real veggie and fruit gardens. Urban gardening is a "growing" trend! Pergolas and huts are still in style. Succession gardening is in vogue.

Natural materials are replacing plastics and fake stone. Gravel and stone or woodchip paths are replacing concrete ones. And paving materials that don't cause flooding runoff in heavy rains are gaining in

popularity. And something called "wilding" is increasingly popular.

Black is a color trend, weathered steel is too. Gazing balls are "last century". Grasses are replacing both lawns and perennial and shrub beds.

Sunken gardens. Sunken patios. (The elevated deck; not so much.) Private spots is the point.

Pay attention to the look from above! The view from second or higher floors of neighboring properties is a concern for having some privacy and as communities get more crowded this concern has grown. (Now you also have to be concerned with drone footage and satellite views!)

Even if you're not one to follow the latest craze, maybe you'll find it useful to know and anticipate things your neighbors may be doing in the coming seasons.

The author is a landscaper. Comments and suggestions welcome.

www.rockcastles.net

Letters to the Editor

Better resources for research on vaccines...

Dear Editor,

I would like to add my two cents in Letters to the Editor. A recent letter asked readers to research vaccines before getting one, which is a good thing. I'm not sure Clout, You Tube or duck duck go qualify as research material. I would suggest the National Institutes of Health or the CDC.

The book, written by Mr. Kennedy, is full of misinformation. The trials were funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which Dr. Fauci runs. They were conducted between 1985-2005 on HIV infected children. They died from their disease.

Larry Smith
256-4964

Thanks to these writers...


Dear Editor,

Perhaps 'tis the season, but I really enjoyed Mike French's 'Aces Over' column describing how the younger generation have missed out on some of the things we who are older remember so fondly - nickel candy bars, Coke (in green tinted glass) bottle deposits, five cent treats, penny Bazooka Joe bubble gum... Thanks to him for reminding me of those little pleasures.

And I always enjoy the warmth of Tonya Cook's TJ's Journal (a very good writer) along with David Griffin's very interesting recollections in Rockcastle Memories.

My thanks to each writer whose stories are calming and downright charming and enjoyable.

Buzz Carloftis
Livingston



May this new year
bring you abundant joy
and happiness

From
Mayor Walter Lee Cash
and all employees of the
City of Brodhead

The Mount Vernon Signal will not be published next week (Thursday, December 30) due to the holidays. The next issue will be Thursday, January 6, 2022.

Obituaries

Grover Thomas Payne, Jr.

Grover Thomas Payne, Jr., 88, of Mt. Vernon, died Friday, December 17, 2021 at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. He was born in Rockcastle County on February 22, 1933, the son of Grover Thomas, Sr. and Dollie Francis Owens Payne. A graduate of Mt. Vernon High School, he was a retired educator for Rockcastle County Schools, a member of Brodhead Baptist Church, and a US Army Veteran of the Korean War. He served as Principal for both Roundstone and Brodhead Elementary Schools. He loved all sports, but especially enjoyed golf and basketball.

He is survived by: his loving wife of 64 years, Kathryn McCall "Tincy" Payne; a son, Grover Thomas "Tommy" Payne, III and wife Misty; three daughters, Kimberly Payne Gray, Elizabeth Kaye Payne Harmon and husband Larry, and Kelly Susan Payne Pensol and husband David; a brother, Jackie L. Payne and wife Jenny; three sisters, Joyce Norton, Jeannie Singleton and husband Doug, and Sharon Poole; six grandchildren, Jacob Curtis Harmon and wife Rachael, Caleb McCall Harmon and wife Meredith, Luke Thomas Harmon, Andrew Harvey Pensol and wife Cali, Samuel David Pensol, and Mackenzie Elizabeth Payne; and four great grandchildren, Ace Asher Harmon, Cash Curtis Harmon, Andi Claire Pensol, and McCall Davis Harmon. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Rose Taylor, and an infant granddaughter, Elizabeth Kathryn Payne.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Brodhead Baptist Church by Bros. Larry Harmon and Ralph Baker. Burial was in Freedom Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Caleb Harmon, Jay Harmon, Luke Harmon, Mackenzie Payne, Andrew Pensol, and Sam Pensol.

Arrangements were by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

Donations are suggested to: Rockcastle County High School Youth Services Center at PO Box 1410, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

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

Albert York

Albert York, 64, of Mt. Vernon, died Friday, December 17, 2021 at his home. He was born in Rockcastle County on November 2, 1957, the son of George Christopher, Sr. and Ora L. Robinson York.

Albert was a Union College graduate and instructor where he taught history, as well as coached several sports of which his favorites were tennis and swimming. He was the President of the Republican Party at Berea College, where he served on the high council. He was the first person from Rockcastle County to swim and play tennis for a college, as well as the first of his family to graduate college with multiple honors. He was an avid collector of art and glassware and enjoyed fishing, music, PC gaming, and spending time with his family. He was baptized into the Baptist Faith as a member of Brindle Ridge Baptist Church and was a true believer in God.

He is survived by: four sisters, Viola Robinson, Joanna Smith, and Lucy Payne and husband Richard, all of Brodhead, and Eliza Jane York-Hansel and husband Chris of Mt. Vernon; two special nieces, Brooke York and Rachael Miller and husband William, both of Mt. Vernon; one special nephew, William Smith, Jr. of Mt. Vernon; a special great nephew, Ayden Courtney of Ohio; and a very special feline companion, Loki. Also surviving are a host of nieces and nephews, as well as friends that he considered family.

He was preceded in death by: three brothers and a sister, George Christopher York, Jr., John Henry York, Leroy York, and Mary Ida Taylor; as well as two nephews, Jerry Dean Morgan and Carl Lee York.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 20, 2021 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. George Renner and Katha Carpenter. Burial was in Saylor Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Ayden Courtney, Tom Darst, Casey Lynch, Eddie Morgan, Skylar Peckham, and Mike Renner.

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

Gary Vincent Fish

Gary Vincent Fish, 65, of Sharonville, OH, husband of Peggy Dillingham Fish, died Wednesday, December 15, 2021 in Hamilton County, OH.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at Dowell & Martin Funeral Home. Burial was in Scaffold Cane 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.

Kathy Ann Russell Hodge

Kathy Ann Russell Hodge, 70, of Sand Springs, died Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. She was born in Connersville, IN on May 17, 1951, the daughter of George W. and Nada Chasteen Russell.

Kathy was an avid collector of books. Reading, listening to worship music, and telling others of Jesus were her favorite pastimes. She loved canning, quilting, and her flower gardens.

Faith and family summed up Kathy's life. She was wholly dedicated to the Lord, loving God and serving others as the pastor's wife of the Tabernacle of Love. She was a giver to all in need and filled the role of surrogate mom to many through the years. She was a great supporter of local and global missions. She had a special burden for Israel, Bulgaria, Uganda, and Myanmar.

She is survived by: her beloved husband of 52 years, Clyde B. Hodge; a daughter, Clarissa Marie Hodge of Hamilton, OH; a son, Kevin Joseph Hodge and wife Donna of Shallotte, NC; her grandchildren and greatest joys and lights of her life, Dawson, Keagan, Jaden, Emerson, and Emma; a sister, Polly Gardiner of Mt. Vernon; a brother, Michael Russell and wife, Kathy of Wisconsin; a niece whom she loved as a daughter, Jeanette Gardiner; and her spiritually adopted children, Ott, Joseph, and Patience of Myanmar and Uganda. A host of other friends and loved ones also survives. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Nada Russell.

Graveside services were conducted Wednesday, December 22, 2021 in Chasteen-Cope Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

Donations are requested to the charity of one's choice.

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

Margy Helen Adams

Margy Helen (Helton) Adams, 81, of Brodhead, died Thursday, December 16, 2021, at Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mt. Vernon. She was born August 6, 1940, in Crab Orchard, to the late John and Fannie (Belcher) Helton. She was of the Church of God faith and enjoyed gardening, canning, and farming. She married Robert Lee "Bud" Adams, Jr. on August 19, 1958, and from that union came nine children, Anita, Barry, David, Rodney, Randall, Angela, Jason, John, and Allison.

Those left to celebrate her life are: her eight children, Barry Adams and wife Carrie of Brodhead, David Adams, Rodney Adams, and Randall "Tiny" Adams, all of Brodhead, Jason Adams and wife Josie of Mt. Vernon, John Adams and wife Jennifer of Brodhead, Angela McClure and husband Randy of Brodhead, and Allison Adams of Brodhead; seven grandchildren, Angel Barron, Christopher Winn, Sara Mullins, Emily Adams, Dylan Spence, Michael Perry, and Bailey Michelle Adams; and nine great grandchildren, Destiny Denny, Chelsea Mink, Ian Mullins, Eli Mullins, Evan Mullins, Kiley Winn, Easton Winn, Leland Perry, and Gannon Spence.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by: her husband of 44 years, Robert Lee "Bud" Adams, Jr.; one daughter, Anita P. Barron; one granddaughter, Jana Barron Robinson; and siblings, Lizzie Mae Helton, Fannie Saylor, Dorothy Lear, Lillie Saylor, Rosie (infant), Edgar Johnny, and Tom Helton.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 20, 2021 at Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals with Bro. Randal Adams officiating. Burial was in Crab Orchard Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Margy to the Gideons or the American Lung Association.

Condolences may be made at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com

Heidi Ann Miller

Heidi Ann Miller, 65, of Russell Springs, died Monday, December 13, 2021 at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. She was born in Hamilton, OH on December 18, 1955, the daughter of Joseph and Eva Ford Miller. She had been a homemaker and was of the Baptist Faith. She enjoyed doing word searches, listening to music, and spending time with her great grandbabies.

She is survived by: her daughter, Kim McClure and husband Mike of Mt. Vernon; her mother, Eva Miller of Russell Springs; grandchildren, Michael Bennett and Hannah Wilson and husband Mark; great grandchildren, Xavier Bennett, Kaydence Bennett, Uriah Bennett, and Ellie Wilson; a sister, Jenny Judd and Barry Janes of Columbia; and two step-brothers, Jeff Kerr and wife Lisa, and Michael Kerr. She was preceded in death by: her father, Joseph Miller; a sister, Pamela Starke; a brother, Daniel Miller; and a great grandson, Zechariah Bennett.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 17, 2021 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bros. Marcus Reppert and Eric Bullock. Burial was in High Dry Cemetery.

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

Robert Mitchell "Mickey" Shaffer

Robert Mitchell "Mickey" Shaffer, 65, of Mt. Vernon, died Thursday, December 16, 2021, at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. He was born July 16, 1956, in Berea, to the late Bobby Shafer and Pete and Willene Woodall Adams. He was of the Pentecostal faith, he enjoyed old cars, rabbit hunting, hanging out with his grandkids, watching UK basketball, and his dogs, especially Mazie.

Those left to celebrate his life are: his wife of 46 years, Rita Cash Shaffer; one son, Jonah Mikhael Shaffer and wife Callie of Mt. Vernon; four grandchildren, Silas Shaffer, Celia Shaffer, Clara Shaffer, and Corey Shaffer; one brother and best friend, Roger Shaffer of Brodhead; and two sisters, Kathy Shafer and DeAnna Adams, both of Brodhead.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Billy Joe Shafer and his dear uncle and aunt, Arnie and Jean Wilmott.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals with Bro. Roland Mullins officiating. Burial was in Piney Grove Cemetery.

Casketbearers were: Anthony Houk, Cade Prewitt, Cam Prewitt, Silas Shaffer, Corey Shaffer, Tommy Woodall, and Mark Spragens. Honorary casketbearer was Alex Spragens.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Mickey to the American Red Cross for the tornado victims of Western Kentucky.

Condolences may be made at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com

Raymond "Ray" Graves

Raymond "Ray" Graves, of Somerset, (formerly of Mount Vernon), father, farmer, brother and friend, died in hospice care Friday, December 17, 2021, after a chronic illness. He was 69 years old.

Ray was born September 28, 1952, to Leonard and LaVada Graves in Sand Springs. From a young age, he was fascinated by the sciences, and found particular interest in the separate areas of study in pathology and horticulture. After graduation at Mount Vernon High School, he was accepted at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington DC, prior to being drafted by the Army and serving honorably during an extended tour in Vietnam.

Ray was a naturalist and enjoyed a lifetime of farming. He was valued as a farmer who practiced organic farming and raising free range chickens before there was a name for this style of farming.

Ray is survived by: his daughter, Rochelle Graves-Shelton (Bill) of Gravel Switch; granddaughter, Stephanie Marx (Jacob) of Bowling Green; and brothers, Clinton (Lynn) and Dallas of Mount Vernon. He is preceded in death by: his parents; sisters, Lena and Vina Lou; and brothers, Stanley and Boyd.

At Ray's request, his body will be donated to the University of Tennessee for the advancement of science. A memorial service will be held and announced by the family at a later date.

In honor of Ray, please plant a fruit or nut tree in his memory or send a donation to the Parkinson's Foundation.

Jimmy Clark, Sr.

Jimmy Clark, Sr., 70, of Mt. Vernon, died Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at the VA Medical Center in Lexington. Jimmy was born December 28, 1950, in Dry Fork, to the late Roy Clark and the late Betty (Carpenter) Vaughn. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army, was a member of the Sunrise Baptist Church, was a carpenter and enjoyed traveling, riding 4-wheelers, woodworking, and music.

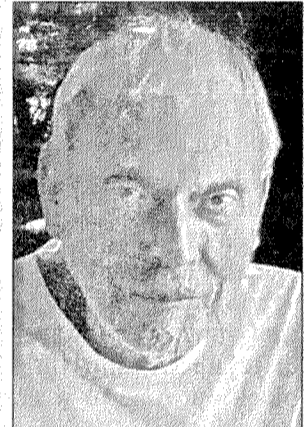
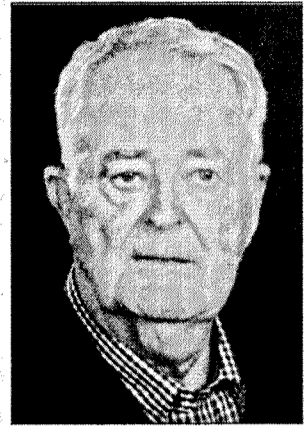
Those left to celebrate his life are: his two sons, Jimmy Clark, Jr. and wife Jessica of Brodhead and Michael Roy Clark and wife Stacey of Mt. Vernon; eight grandchildren, Dustin Jones, John Jones, Jamie Stewart, Brandon Jones, Donald Adams Jr., Dwayne Clark, Mackenzie Clark, and Rusty Clark; five great grandchildren, two brothers, Milton Clark and wife Joyce of Deputy, IN, and Dennis Clark and wife Darlene of McKee; and one sister, Sallie Martin and husband Tim of Mt. Vernon.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by: two daughters, Becky Hundley, and Patty Clark; and nine siblings, Russell Ford, Gertrude Smith, Coy Clemmons, Henry Clark, LeRoy Clark, Stanley Clark, JT Clark, Culen Clark, and Marie Bray.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 18, 2021, at Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals with Stanley Ford officiating. Burial was in Red Hill Cemetery.

Casketbearers were: Dwayne Clark, Jimmy Clark Jr., Milton Clark, Dennis Clark, Jamie Stewart, Michael Clark, Raymond Clark, and Leamon Clark. Final Military Honors were performed by Rockcastle County Honor Guard. The flag was presented to his son, Jimmy Clark, Jr.

Condolences may be made at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com



“Indict”

(Continued from front) of Old State Road, who was indicted for the offense of Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder - Domestic Violence.

His bond was set at \$100,000 cash/property (c/p);

David A. Robbins, 24, of Bowling Ridge Road, Brodhead was indicted for the offense of Flagrant Non-Support by failing to provide for minor child/children in the amount of \$4,328.76.

His bond was set at \$5,000 c/p;

Heather McClure, 40, of Lambert Road, was indicted for Theft by Unlawful Taking, in connection with a theft at the Brindle Ridge Fire Department of over \$1,000.

Her bond was set at \$5,000 c/p;

John M. Harding, 37, of Sour Wood Lane, Mt. Vernon was indicted for Wanton Endangerment, Fleeing or Evading Police, Operating a Motor Vehicle on Suspended or Revoked License and No/Expired Registration Plates.

His bond was set at \$10,000 c/p;

Joseph A. Dawson, 46, of Berea was indicted on three counts: Burglary, Unlawful Imprisonment and Terroristic Threatening.

His bond was set at \$10,000 c/p, and

Jason P. Northern, 43, of North Wilderness Road, Mt. Vernon was indicted for Robbery, Tampering With Physical Evidence and as a Persistent Felony Offender.

His bond was set at \$25,000 c/p.

“Elect”

(Continued from front) rately filed to run for office in the May, 2022 Primary, as of Monday, December 20 are:

County Attorney

Jeremy Rowe, (R)

County Judge/Executive

Howell H. Holbrook, Jr. (R)

Sheriff

L. Dale Miller (R)

Jailer

Nathan Carter (R)

PVA

Kathy Robinson (R)

Jamie Saylor (R)

County Clerk

Danetta Ford Allen (R)

County Coroner

Dawn R. Carpenter (R)

Doug Hughes (R)

Mount Vernon Mayor

Tim “Duck” Roberts

Clifford Lee Mullins

Brodhead Mayor

Jerry Adams

28th District Court Judge, 2nd division

John Adams

Eddy Montgomery

28th district Commonwealth Attorney

David Dalton

28th District Court Judge 1st division

B. J. Harvey

William Leger

28th District 2nd division Judge

Katherine Slone

28th Circuit Judge 1st division

Theresa Whittaker

Magistrates 1st district

Lee Earl Adams (R)

2nd district

William Sherman

Denny (R)

3rd district

Doug Prewitt (R)

4th district - Wendell

Shane Thacker (R)

5th district

Michael P. McGuire (R)

Constable Candidates 1st district

Rodney G. Adams (R)

2nd district

Steve Griffin (R)

Carlos McClure (R)

3rd district

Rick Brummett (R)
Joseph “Joe” Edwards (R)

4th district

Donnie Cope (R)

James Smith (R)

5th district

Eddie Gabbard (R)

Roger Dale Alcorn (R)

“School”

(Continued from front) regular monthly meeting of the Rockcastle County School Board last week to give good news to the board members. Larry Hammond, who recently resigned from the board, did not attend his final meeting. Matt Chaliff is expected to replace Hammond at the January meeting.

McClure explained the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Team to the board and the results of some of the accomplishments of that team.

According to McClure, interventions consist of many different techniques, including a 30-minute work session with identified needs. The team consists of a guidance counselor, social advocate, family resource worker, regular school teacher, special education teacher, an instructional assistant and the principal. McClure says the program has sought to make up losses in student learning and social skills due to the COVID restrictions. “Our goal here is to see that everyone is on the same page,” said McClure. “We involve all stakeholders and run a school wide matrix to find students with specific needs and then block out time to work individually.”

Apparently, the plan is working. “We compared student levels between the fall and now and our result have given us something to be proud of. We have reason to celebrate,” she said.

Those results show student progression at different levels of need. For example, in the fall of this school year. Of the 430 enrolled students, there were 28 identified to be three grade levels below expectations in reading. But now, only 14 students test at that level. Also 70 tested two grade levels below in the fall with only 35 now. At one grade level below were 189 students but now only 172. The program also helps those who were at or above their grade level, according to McClure. “In the fall, 50 students tested on their grade level while 78 are now on their grade level,” she said. “In the fall, 24 tested above their grade level while 62 test above their grade level now.”

This program has also addressed math scores. The same tests were applied in math at BES and similar results were reached. According to McClure, 319 students tested below their grade level in the fall in math at BES. But now only 236 test at the same level, with 83 students showing noticeably improved scores. In the fall, McClure said 35 students tested on or above their grade level while now 83 have reached those levels.

Now, McClure plans to use that data to “motivate and keep pushing and keep getting better,” she said. “A little praise and a little success like this can play a big part in even more progress.”

Superintendent Carrie Ballinger acknowledged

the increase saying “kudos to BES. The teachers and staff there have done wonderful work. Their dedication is extraordinary.”

After this report, the board recognized the RCHS Band and offered congratulations for their recent accomplishments and performances in parades and ceremonies. The board was then treated to a performance.

In other action, Finance Director Jenny Sweet told the board she expected to delve into the next fiscal budget at the January meeting and begin the process of designing a budget to present to the board.

Sweet also recommended the district accept the \$55,771 bid from their usual company, KEMI Insurance. The bid is nearly \$2,000 higher than last year and is about \$6,000 more than another bid for worker’s comp insurance in the district. However, Sweet said KEMI was able to use Rockcastle excellent injury and risk levels to keep the premium as low as possible. Otherwise it would have increased much more than the \$2,000. Sweet said the reason she recommend accepting the higher bid is due to a dividend check. “We will receive a dividend check for \$12,830 next year from KEMI from our 2018 year,” said Sweet. “If we change companies, we would not be eligible for that dividend check.” The board approved KEMI unanimously.

The board also discussed the 2022-23 school calendar and a preliminary calendar is expected to be presented at the January meeting.

The board also heard the Superintendent’s Personnel Action Report. It is as follows:

Full time classified employees

Crystal Hester, Volunteer assistant softball coach at RCHS; Jerrica Brummett, Gear Up college and career navigator at RCMS; Melinda Osborne, family resource coordinator at RES; Charles Delph, custodian at RES.

Resignations

Beverly Smith, bus monitor; Nan Shepherd, substitute teacher, Andrea Barber, teacher at RCMS, Scott Parkey, head football coach at RCHS; Sherrie Creech, teacher at BES.

Retirements

Keith Graves, teacher at RCHS.

Certified substitutes

April Harris, Kali Hasty, Peyton Bowman, Robert Kendall, Alexa Bussell, Dalton Durham, Brooklyn Clements, Zoe Burdette, Zachary Taylor, Lee Ellen Rogers, Crystal Rudd, Diedre Kendall, Riley Betsworth, Dawson Nicely, Emily Ponder, Jaylon Ponder, Katherine Coffey, Reese Sherrow, Danielle Clontz, Camden Mink, Jamison Roberts, Nathan Pruitt and Steven Nelson, all substitute teachers.

Classified substitutes

Amber Abrams, Kelsey Carlton and Nora Pullman, substitute instructional assistants; Samantha Bullock, substitute cook/baker.

“Basin”

(Continued from front)

remove the current taste and odor from the local water system has been one of the goals of the city for several decades. But, thanks to the efforts of Kentucky State Representative Josh Bray and

Mayor Bryant and the City Council, the project came within days of breaking ground last year until surprise red tape caused the new water basin project to stall.

According to Bray, who is also a contract consultant with the City of Mount Vernon, there is only one document left to be received before the project can move forward. “Believe it or not, Frankfort has signed off on the project, all the other entities have finally given their approval and all is a go except we must have a letter from the USDA before we are allowed to put the project out for bid,” he said. “Since the Biden administration has not yet appointed anyone as a state-wide director, we can’t seem to get that letter.”

Bray said Congressman Hal Rogers and Senator Mitch McConnell are working on the issue and attempting to get the required letter. Bray said as soon as the letter is received, he will inform the council that the project is ready to bid.

Mayor Bryant also informed the council that there had been some question about missing the November regular monthly meeting and if the city was meeting state requirements. However Mayor Bryant said a special called meeting to discuss the fire truck in November met those requirements. “We are all good on that issue,” he said.

Councilmember Jamie Bryant asked about finding the replacement for resigning council member Matt Chaliff. When Chaliff replaced the resigning Jackie Weaver earlier in 2021, there was some concern from some council members as well as from some citizens who had suggested the council took more than the required 30 days to appoint Chaliff. According to Kentucky Revised Statutes, an appointment must be made within 30 days or the Governor must appoint the new member. This happened in the City of Livingston just this year when they took more than 30 days to replace a resigning Commissioner.

However, Mayor Bryant said this too is no issue. “The 30 days begins on the day of the first meeting that the council member is absent,” he said. “So, if his resignation is effective on January 1, then the 30 days will begin the night of our January meeting (which is scheduled for January 20, 2022). We then have 30 days to appoint the new member. We are on course with this as well.”

Jerry Burke also spoke to the council asking approval to stop the Channel 3 broadcast on Spectrum Cable network of local churches. Burke said the broadcast began in 2006 with “DVD technology” which he says is now outdated. Burke said the new HD, digital broadcasting can not utilize the DVD technology that the city helped establish in 2006. The request was approved.

The council also gave “well wishes” to the mayor due to recent health issues that are considered “very serious,” according to Mayor Bryant. The mayor said he will be able to continue his duties as Mayor remotely from rehabilitation via text and phone calls. “The city shouldn’t miss anything and this

won’t slow anything down,” he said. “We truly have a very talented and dedicated staff here at City Hall and everything is taken care of.” Since the Mayor may be incapacitated, the January meeting will be another Zoom meeting, he said.

Mayor Bryant requested prayer for himself, his wife and the city. Bray then asked council members to pray for Janette Robinson, City Clerk, who is apparently experiencing life threatening health issues.

Having no further business, the council meeting was adjourned.

“First”

(Continued from front) mas or other holidays, we still struggle with having to leave family dinners or being absent all together,” he said. “We often settle for a plate of leftovers in a quiet house where everyone else has long since gone to sleep.”

Such events can cause heartache that is difficult to explain according to the sheriff. “Imagine not seeing the faces or hearing the voices of your children, spouses or parents, or just getting bits and pieces or your children’s or grandchildren’s first Christmas,” said Franklin. “Even harder may be missing what may be your last Christmas with a loved one. The truth is, most of us don’t think about first responders until we need them and that’s just human nature,” he said.

Still on Christmas morning, if you are out of your home, you will likely see a police cruiser or ambulance or fire truck.

Most first responders are willing to meet this requirement of their job even with minimum or no benefits or 401K and a lower hourly wage than many fast food workers, according to Franklin. Still, Franklin says that is part of the job. “First responders don’t typically complain about the demands of their job,” said Franklin. “That’s because as my cowboy hero says ‘you saddle that horse, you ride it’. We respect that.”

Fortunately the duties of first responders are eased locally due to the small town atmosphere. “The citizens and churches and businesses of Rockcastle County have an exceptional history of providing support and encouragement to our emergency services but, through this difficult time of a pandemic and additional stressors, extra encouragement is certainly appreciated.”

“There has certainly been many times that I have had to get up from the Christmas dinner table to answer a call,” said Brodhead assistant fire chief Brian Bullock. “It is hard sometimes to leave when you are with those you love the most and having that rare family time. But when the call comes, someone has to go.”

While most are home with family, first responders throughout the coun-

try will be on duty this Christmas Day and at New Year’s. In fact, during all holidays. “The fire department, EMS and hospitals can’t just close for the holidays,” said Bullock.

For those who have to make such a call to a first responder on a holiday, they are thankful that some are willing to give up their time to help others. “We are truly blessed that there are those who are willing to do whatever it takes, whenever it takes, to help those in distress,” said Bullock. “I know when that call comes in, that someone is in need of help. I am glad there are men and women who are willing to leave their family dinner table to help them.”

Brian Carter, Mount Vernon Police Chief, said he too is glad there are those willing to stay on the job during Christmas. “We do our best to schedule everyone some time off but the truth is, we still have to have officers on patrol and on duty,” Carter said. “We can’t just go home.”

However, Carter says his officers get what he calls “holiday time” to help make up for working on Christmas. “We give our officers a paid holiday off if they work through Christmas Day. And we try hard to work around people’s schedules when we can.”

Bullock agreed. “Some have to leave the area to be with family and we do our best to respect that,” he said. “Fortunately, there are some very dedicated fire fighters who are willing to be on call and on the job on Christmas Day. Without them, there would be a lot of heart breaking memories for some on that special day.”

As for the rest of us, it may not be Santa coming down your chimney on Christmas Eve night, but if we have a life threatening emergency, we are certainly glad to see a big red fire truck instead of a big red sleigh.

Is there any way citizens may help ease this sacrifice? Franklin says he hopes local residents will offer some extra prayer when they see lights or hear sirens this year. “Let your representative in local government know you support reasonable wages and benefit for first responders,” he said.

But most first responders rarely if ever consider doing anything else. It is part of their character. And most agree with Franklin’s final word on the subject.

“I believe the Good Book teaches the quality and quantity of love is measured by the sacrifices made for others. That puts first responders near the top of the list.”

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Mrs. Parsons' students give Christmas Piano Recital

Piano students of Mrs. Marsha Parsons gave their 2021 Christmas Piano Recital at Wildie Christian Church in Wildie on Saturday, December 18th. The students played a variety of piano pieces to a delighted audience of family and friends. Mrs. Parsons presented her students with trophies following the performances. The pianists are front from left: Monty Caldwell, Lilah Sizemore, Conrad Caldwell and Millie Caldwell. Second row from left: Cacee Hargis, Sophie Saylor, Anamarie Dickert, Chloe Hargis, Zakk Lawrence and Kate Calico. Third row from left: Kiki Cope, Christian Hargis, Walter Stratton, Thomas Eaton, Miles Stratton and Mrs. Marsha Parsons (instructor).

"Table"

(Continued from front)

breaks loose while trying to prepare the food, set the table, and get everyone in the right place at the right time. But a sigh of relief comes when, finally, everyone makes their way to the table. The table is a sad sight for some as you realize there is one less place setting than there was the year before.

For some, the table represents peace and joy that their hectic lives have deprived them of in recent months. For the family of a first responder, the table is a little different.

There is a chair and a place setting set for the one person that you hope will be there. The empty chair at the head of our dinner table means more than any other chair. That chair is reserved for the one who woke up, put their boots on, and chose to serve others—even on the holidays.

The holiday season is well-known for bringing families together. People travel from far and wide,

and they drop everything to be with the ones they love. It just so happens that my Dad's family extends to the entire county, rather than just our humble home. Because of his love and his service, there are Christmases and Thanksgivings where Dad isn't at our table but, instead, he is out in the community helping someone set their table.

He might be working an accident where a family was just trying to get to Christmas dinner across town. He might be going to a house to break up a dispute between parents so a small child can finally have some peace in a home that is always ridden with turmoil. Dad may not always be at our table on the holidays, but we know he is somewhere helping another family prepare their table.

Is it difficult not having a member of your family there for the holidays? Oh yes. Is it strange to be listening to what is dispatched over the radio instead of listening to what is going on in "A Christ-

mas Story" on TV? Oh yes. But in the history of the world, there has never been a moment where someone somewhere didn't need help. You and I have been in those situations before where you are sitting and waiting for a first responder to come help because you have reached your limit of what you can do to help in a situation.

I am proud to say that my Dad is one of the people who shows up to help when someone needs it. Watching him leave and waiting for him to return never gets any easier, but knowing that he is out in the community that I love, and helping people be with the ones they love, gives me joy and a peace of mind. So, even if there are parts of this holiday season that I don't get to share with my Dad, I hope that he is bringing peace and joy to you in your time of need. Christmas is all about giving, and it is my honor and privilege to give the services of my Dad to you.

Merry Christmas

"Chapin"

(Continued from front) requests for loan interest extensions.

Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., said the county is still actively pursuing a lawsuit against Eagle Manufacturing.

So, when Chapin Manufacturing company asked to postpone one of the two \$900,000 payments to RCIDA, for the old Eagle Building, hesitation was understandable. But according to members of the RCIDA board, there are two big differences between this request and past requests to postpone a payment. One, Chapin is a national, successful company with an impeccable reputation, and two, Jeff VanHook and Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook are facilitating the deal.

Chapin originally paid \$800,000 down and agreed to pay two payments of \$900,000 for the building for a total of \$2.6 million. The first of the two \$900,000 payments will be due in January of 2022 and the second in January of 2023. However, Chapin is not finished growing in Mount Vernon.

According to VanHook, the company has asked to postpone the January 2022 payment until March of 2022 so that they can use those funds to expand and add yet another 100 local jobs to the Mount Vernon workforce. In exchange for that postponement, the company has agreed to pay the full remaining \$1.8 million by March of 2022.

"We will have payment in full nearly a year early and putting the first payment off until March was part of the agreement to create the additional 100 jobs for our community," said VanHook. "Not only will the county have access to the money much earlier than agreed, but also the additional jobs will greatly boost the local economy."

The court agreed unanimously to support the postponement and ac-

cept the full payment in March. "This will pay off the building with a little left over to put into other projects," said Holbrook. "This will improve our bonding ability and help us in many different ways to be able to pay that building off nearly a year early."

The county will not be able to pay the entire building off immediately, according to Holbrook, due to early payoff penalties. However, Holbrook believes those penalties vanish at some point in the loan period and the building can hopefully be paid off sometime in 2022. "We are looking into ways to avoid an early pay off penalty. Then we will have the building paid off and have a little extra," said Holbrook.

In other action, Treasurer Joe Clontz told the court the county needs to relocate some funds available. The county was granted over \$3 million, as part of the American Recovery Act, some of which has already been received, but the fiscal court must wait on specific regulations before the money can be spent. "That money needs to be in an interest bearing account until we can use it," said Clontz. "We are allowed to draw interest on that money and we could gain funds if it were drawing interest right now." The court agreed, on a motion by Magistrate Shannon Bishop, to shop around for the best interest rate available and relocate the funds until they can be used.

Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., said there has been some information released concerning how the money can be spent but not enough to actually use the funds as yet. "We know it can be used for water or sewer lines and broadband projects already," he said. "But it may be allowed for many other projects as well. Even projects we already have underway. We need to wait for the final version of the guidelines before we spend that money."

Clontz agreed saying counties that spend the money incorrectly will be responsible for paying the funds back to the federal government.

The court also heard a report concerning the Livingston Gymnasium which showed a return in lease money of \$1,239 for the month. Officials say the increase, above the average monthly return, is due to a yard sale event organized by manager Jason Medley. "Unfortunately the propane gas there alone is costing us \$1,500 per month," said Holbrook.

The court also agreed to donate \$500 for the Livingston Christmas program after a request from Livingston Mayor Dwane King, and agreed to a 2% pay increase for new hires within the county. Holbrook said this will not effect current employee salaries and will only apply to new hires.

The court was also presented with the 2022 Sheriff's Department budget. The budget shows a decrease of \$4,124 in payroll. According to the new budget, all other areas of the budget remain the same as 2021.

The \$4,124 difference is shown through an increase in the Sheriff's salary of \$4,440, an increase in deputy's salaries of \$820 and a decrease of \$9,384 in clerk and bailiff salaries. The budget was accepted for review. Holbrook said a vote will be held later on approving the budget.

At the end of the meeting Clontz requested a transfer of \$315,000 from the occupational tax fund to the general fund and then \$15,000 from the general fund to the 911 fund and \$200,000 to the jail fund from the general fund.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11 at 4 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

Lt. Governor brings KYTC check to Rockcastle County

By: Mike French
Editor

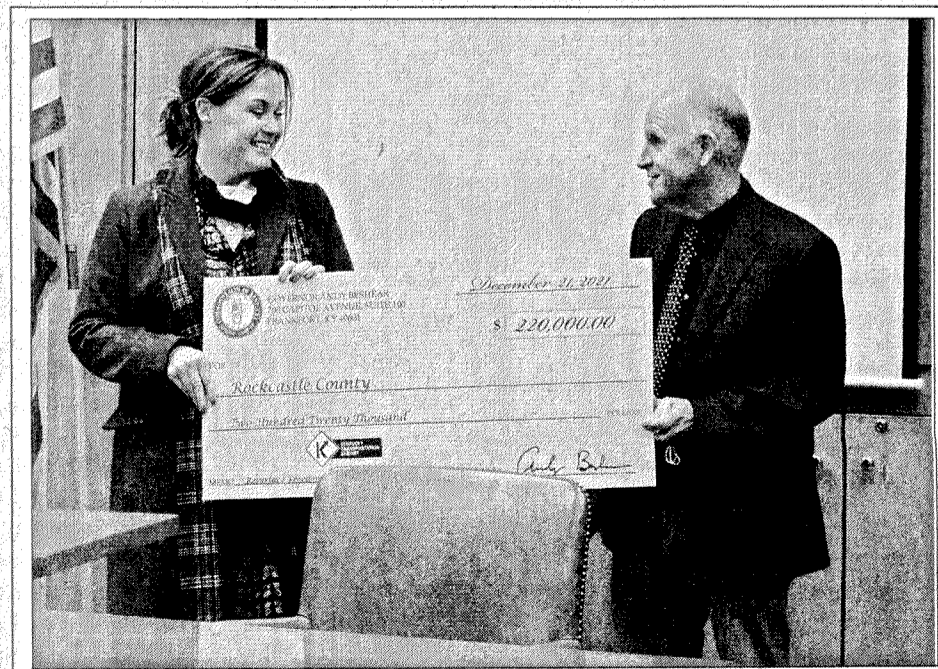
One of three road repair requests from the Rockcastle County fiscal court and Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook was granted by the governor's office recently. Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman came to the Rockcastle County

courthouse Tuesday to award that check to the county.

The \$220,000 grant was approved through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet several months ago after a request to repair the most dangerous area of Freedom School Road, according to Holbrook.

The money is part of a state wide program to re-

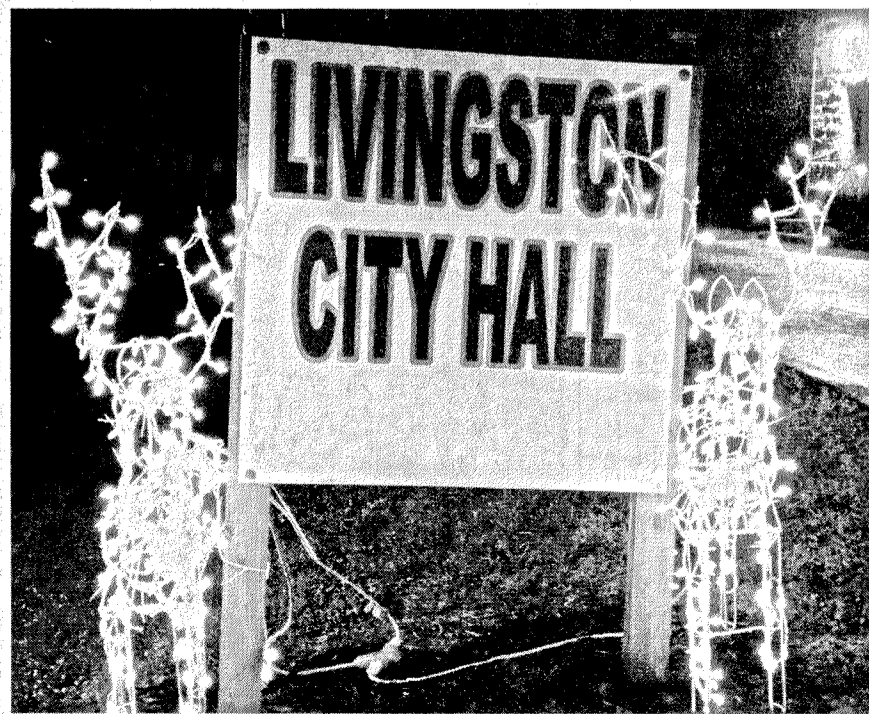
pair damaged roadways and Holbrook said the funds will be of a great benefit to Rockcastle County. "That is a particularly dangerous spot on Freedom School Road," said Holbrook. "There is a hump in a curve where there has been some slippage and we are glad to be able to begin those repairs as soon as possible."



Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman delivered a check for \$220,000 to Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook for needed repairs on Freedom School Road.

Wishing all the residents of Livingston and Rockcastle County a happy and peaceful holiday

Mayor Dwane King
and employees of the
City of Livingston



The Mount Vernon Signal office will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 23 until Monday, January 3, 2022.

SPORTS

Rockets lose to Rebels; beat Rebels handily

The Rockcastle County Rockets had both good and bad luck with teams nicknamed Rebels last week, losing to the Boyle County Rebels last Tuesday night 65-50 and defeating district foe Casey County Rebels 70-53 Friday night.

Against Boyle County, the Rockets were led in scoring by Daniel Mullins with 18 points and he also went four for five from the free throw line; Drew Hopkins got the only three point baskets for the Rockets (2) and had 13 points; Reese Coguer scored seven points and Matthew Chasteen and Jake Sanders, six each.

Sanders took rebounding honors with four, followed by Hopkins and Coguer with three each, Chasteen, Kaden Kidwell and Skyler Durham all pulled down two each and Broedy Dunaway got one.

Friday night, the Rockets hosted the Casey County Rebels, in a doubleheader district match up with the Lady Rockets, and came away with an easy 70-53 win.

The score was tied at five all in the first quarter when the Rockets went on a 12-2 run to take a 17-7 lead and finished the quarter up 22-11. Drew Hopkins got four three point baskets in the first quarter.

The Rockets ran up a 45-22 halftime lead behind four more three point baskets from Hopkins, along with a two, for 26 first half points for the senior.

The Rebels cut into the Rockets lead in the third quarter, outscoring the Rockets 17-10 and finishing the quarter on an 8-2 run.

The Rockets came back to take the fourth quarter 15-14 for the 70-53 win.

Hopkins took scoring honors for the game with 28 and grabbed four rebounds; Mullins, Sanders and Chasteen had 11 points each; Coguer five and Dunaway and Kidwell got two each.

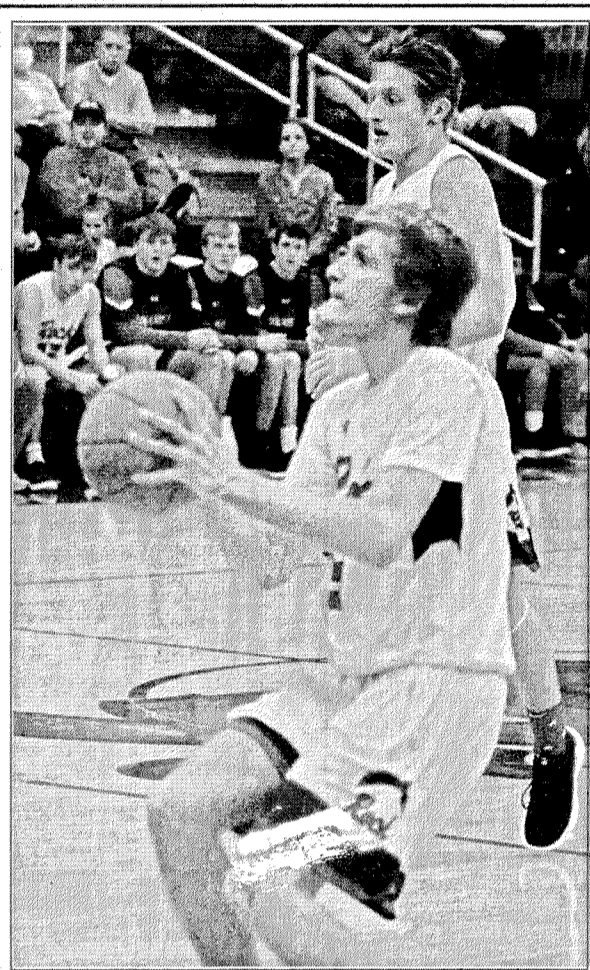
Hopkins nabbed four steals and a block in the game, along with four rebounds. Coguer got five steals and Chasteen took rebounding honors with five.

The Rockets made 16 of 20 free throws with Sanders knocking down 5 of 7, Mullins was 5 of 6, Chasteen was 3 for 3 and Coguer got 3 of 4 for 80% free throw shooting as a team.

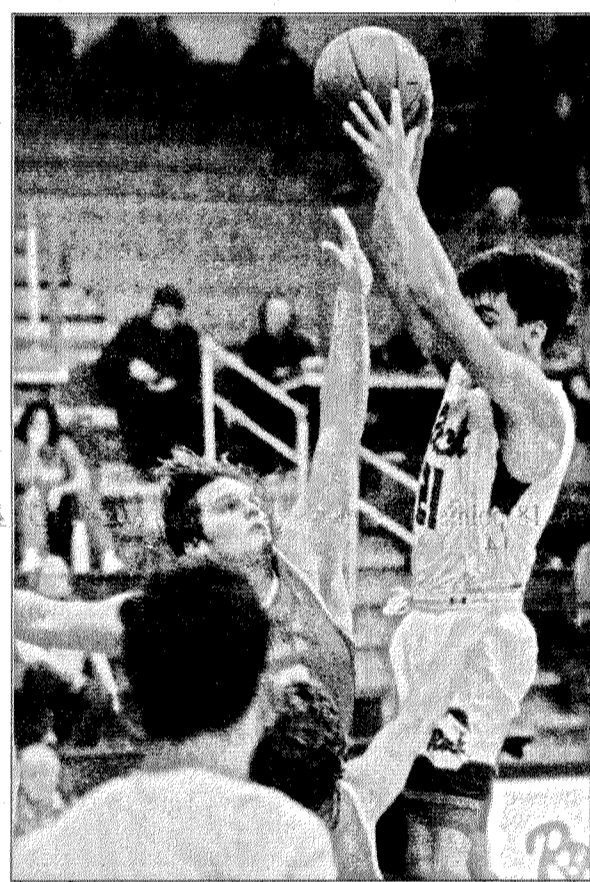
Saturday, the Rockets traveled to Rowan County to play West Carter in the Kentucky Bank Challenge, and won 75-54.

The Rockets dominated throughout the

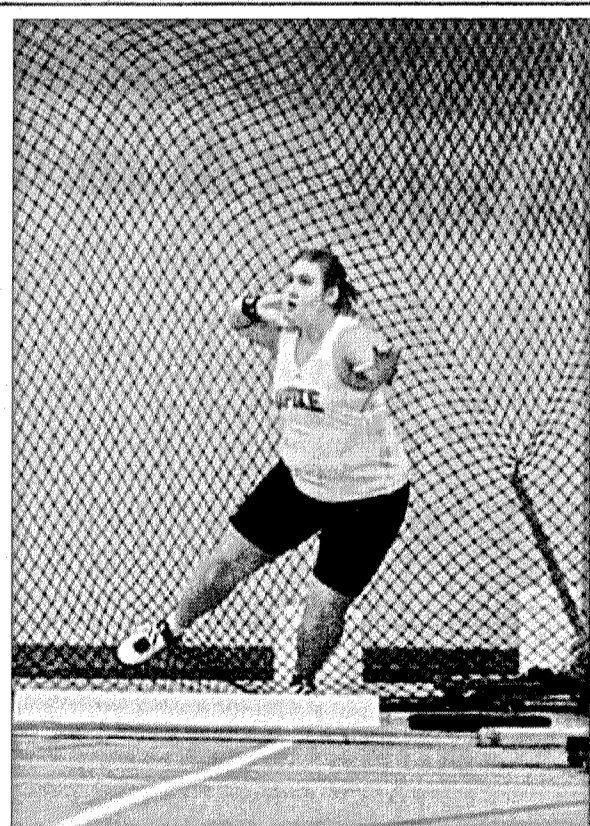
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Senior Drew Hopkins stops to pop one of his eight three point baskets against Casey County Friday night. The Rockets won 70-53 behind Hopkins' 26.



Senior Daniel Mullins grabs a rebound in the Rockets' 70-53 win over Casey County last Friday night.



Valerie Kendrick ranked #4 in the U.S.

At the Marietta First Glimpse Meet in Ohio, University of Pikeville freshman and former RCHS state champion and all-time great thrower, Valerie Kendrick, won gold in her first-ever collegiate shot put competition recently with an awesome new all-time personal best throw of 42'7.5". She broke the school record in the event and just missed qualifying for nationals by only 1 centimeter. Her incredible throw ranks her 4th in the U.S. in the NAIA national rankings. She also placed 7th in the weight throw competition with an exceptional throw of 34'10.25". Valerie followed that great first meet performance with an impressive second consecutive collegiate win in shot put recently at the Horace Turner Open at Wabash College in Indiana. She had another outstanding performance, winning gold with an exceptional throw of 40'3.5".

Lady Rockets lose to Boyle and Casey

The Lady Rockets hosted the Boyle County Rebels, last Tuesday night, and lost a close one 43-38. They then played the Casey County Lady Rebels on Friday night and lost 52-41.

Tuesday night, against Boyle Co., the Lady Rockets were down 17-15 at the first quarter stop and 27-23 at the half. The third quarter was unproductive for both teams with Rockcastle scoring four points and Boyle three. The Lady Rockets managed 11 points in the fourth quarter but Boyle County put in 13 for the final 43-38.

Talynne Shearer took scoring honors with 12, along with rebounding honors at 8; Keelee King got 10 points; Karlee Smith and Calliegh Burdette each scored six points and Haven King and Taylor King were credited with two points each.

The Rockets hit 11 of 14 free throws but Shearer had the only three point basket in the game. Meanwhile, Boyle County went 14 of 19 from the free throw line and canned three three point baskets.

Friday night, the Lady Rockets hosted district rival Casey County, in a doubleheader with the Rockets, and came away their third loss of the season 52-41.

The Lady Rockets were down 17-13 at the first quarter stop, 29-28 at the half and 38-33 at the end of the third quarter but things just got worse for the Rockets in the fourth. With the Rockets down five at 42-37, Casey went on a 10 to 4 run to finish the game, including hitting six of nine free throws

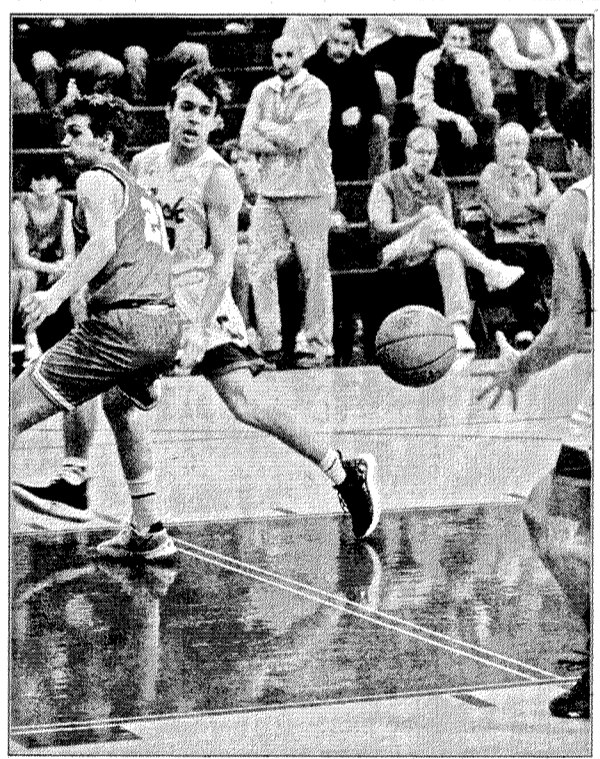
Casey outrebounded the Rockets 32-29 and had 16 turnovers to the Rockets 13.

Shearer got a double double in the game, scoring 13 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Keelee King, who picked up her second foul at the 4:32 mark of the first quarter, hit three three point baskets for nine points; Karlee Smith got seven; Haven King four; Camryn Cash and Calliegh Burdette, three each and Taylor King scored two points.

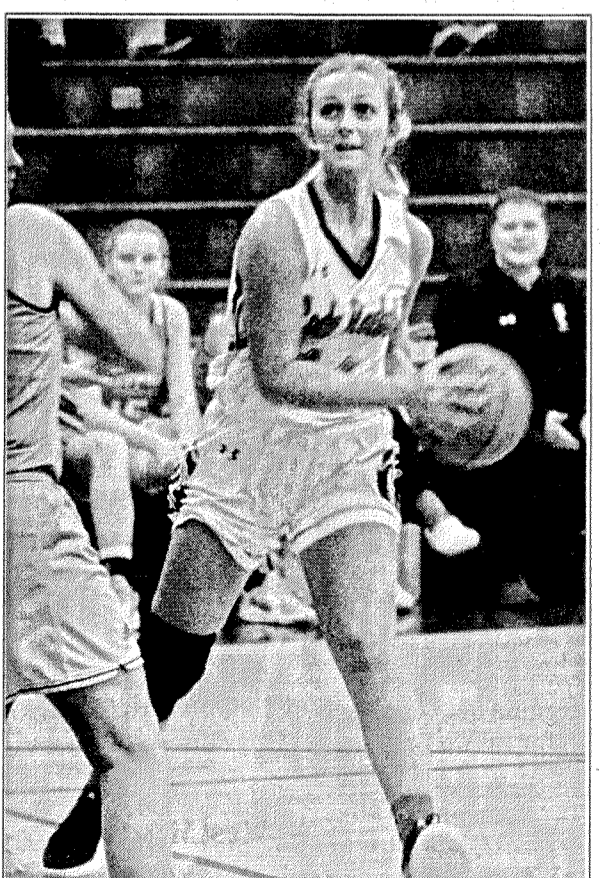
Casey shot 44% for the game, hitting 17 of 39 field goals to the Rockets 30% on 14 of 47 field goals. Both teams shot poorly from three point range with Casey hitting one of 10 and the Rockets 3 of 14, all by Keelee King.

Casey also dominated at the free throw line, hitting 17 of 21 for 80% to the Rockets 8 of 13 for 61% (stats courtesy of

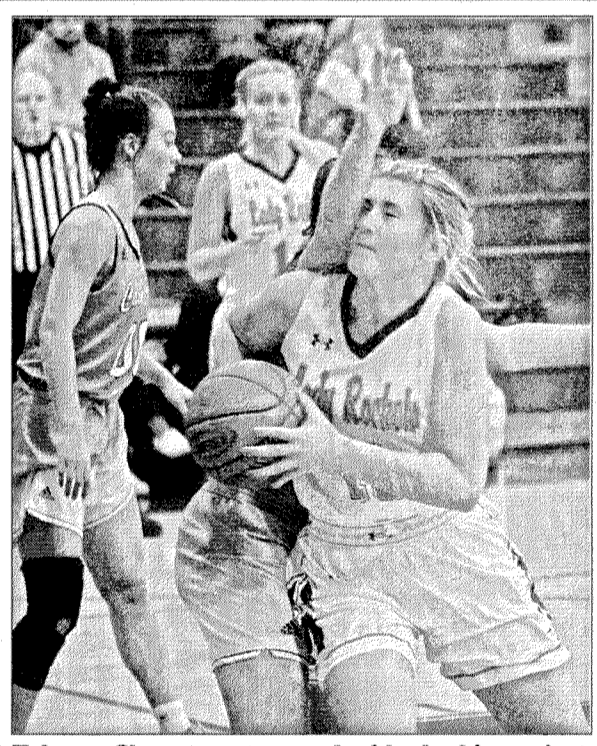
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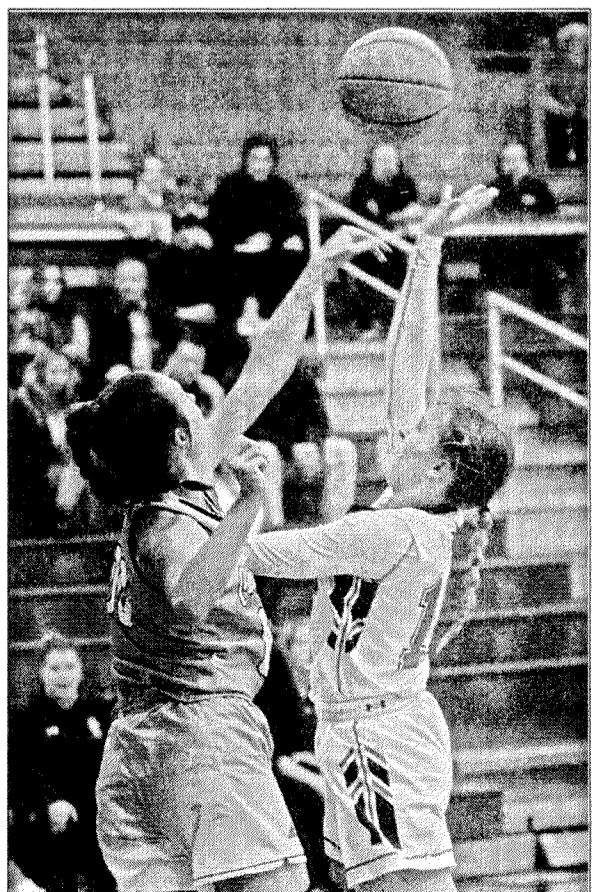
Senior Reese Coguer makes a pass to teammate Daniel Mullins in the Rockets' 70-53 win over Casey County last Friday night.



Keelee King takes the ball to the hole in the Lady Rockets' loss to Casey County Friday night.

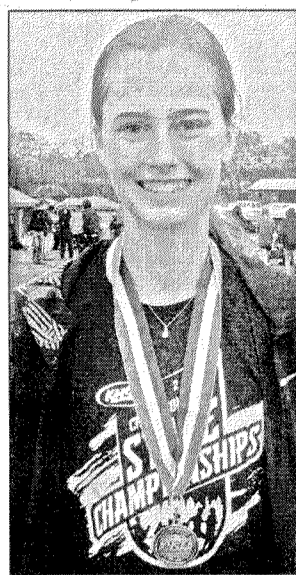


Talynne Shearer put up a double double against Casey County Friday night but it was not enough as the Lady Rockets' fell 52-41.



Camryn Cash puts up a jump shot in the Lady Rockets' loss to Casey County Friday night.

RCMS sophomore all-state cross-country runner Lexi Dotson was named to the Kentucky All-Area 8 High School Girls' Team recently for her outstanding performance this cross-country season. Area 8 includes 19 counties in Kentucky and is one of 9 areas grouped together by their geographical location including the following counties: Rockcastle, Pulaski, Laurel, Lincoln, Casey, Jackson, Russell, Wayne, Owsley, Clay, Knox, Bell, McCreary, Whitley, Taylor, Green, Adair, Cumberland, and Clinton. Lexi was one of only 11 high school girls awarded this honor in Area 8, as voted on by the area's coaches.



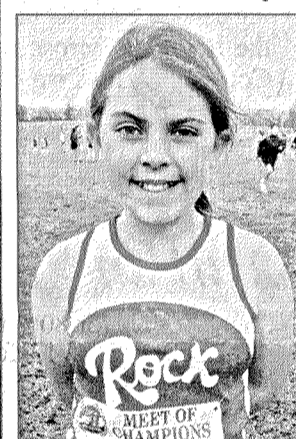
one of only 11 high school girls awarded this honor in Area 8, as voted on by the area's coaches.

RCMS seventh grader Maliyah Swinney was named to the Kentucky All-Area 8 Middle School Girls' Team recently for her outstanding performance this cross-country season. Area 8 includes 19 counties in Kentucky and is one of 9 areas grouped together by their geographical location including the following counties: Rockcastle, Pulaski, Laurel, Lincoln, Casey, Jackson, Russell, Wayne, Owsley, Clay, Knox, Bell, McCreary, Whitley, Taylor, Green, Adair, Cumberland, and Clinton. Maliyah was one of only 11 middle school girls awarded this honor in Area 8, as voted on by the area's coaches.



one of only 11 middle school girls awarded this honor in Area 8, as voted on by the area's coaches.

Rockcastle fifth grader Aria French was named to the Kentucky All-Area 8 Elementary School Girls' Team recently for her outstanding performance this cross-country season. Area 8 includes 19 counties in Kentucky and is one of 9 areas grouped together by their geographical location including the following counties: Rockcastle, Pulaski, Laurel, Lincoln, Casey, Jackson, Russell, Wayne, Owsley, Clay, Knox, Bell, McCreary, Whitley, Taylor, Green, Adair, Cumberland, and Clinton. Aria was one of only 11 elementary school girls awarded this honor in Area 8, as voted on by the area's coaches.



one of only 11 elementary school girls awarded this honor in Area 8, as voted on by the area's coaches.

“Rockets”

(Cont. from A8)

game, shooting 46% in total field goals, hitting 9 of 21 three point baskets and 6 of 9 free throws.

Mullins led the way in scoring with 23 points, including five three point baskets and going 4/5 from the free throw line; Hopkins got 18 points, including three three point baskets; Durham and Sanders each scored seven points; Kidwell and Coguer got six points each and Dunaway and Chasteen each scored four points.

Sanders pulled down nine rebounds; Chasteen got six; Kidwell five; Hopkins and Mullins four each; Coguer three; Walker Craig and Durham, two each and Landon Dillingham and Dunaway grabbed one apiece.

The Rockets played Cooper in the Legacy Nissan Dribble Drive Challenge at South Laurel on Tuesday night (after press time).

They start the new year off traveling to Somerset on Tuesday, January 4th for a district rematch with the Briar Jumpers, along with the Lady Rockets.

“Rockets”

(Cont. from A8)

Eddie Hammond).

The Lady Rockets participated in the Jack Burford Chevy Christmas Classic, held at Madison Central in Richmond on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The Rockets defeated Middlesboro 71-49 on Saturday. (Scoring info/stats not available).

On Sunday, the Lady Rockets took the measure of Knott Co. Central 60-56 behind 18 points by Keelee King, 14 by Talyne Shearer and 10 from Calliegh Burdette. Haven King and Addison McClure put in seven points each and Taylor King and Karlee Smith each scored two points.

Shearer hit the boards hard for seven rebounds, Burdette pulled down six, Haven King and Karlee Smith each came up with four, Keelee King got three, Savannah Santo two and Camryn Cash and Taylor King, one each.

Monday, the Lady Rockets lost 51-42 to the Lafayette Lady Generals.

Keelee King scored 13 points; McClure 11; Shearer 10; Burdette and Smith,

three each and Taylor King two. King and McClure each hit three three point baskets in the game with Smith adding one.

Keelee King got rebounding honors with 7, followed closely by Shearer with 6. Addison McClure pulled down four, Camryn Cash 3, Calliegh Burdette 2 and Taylor King, Karlee Smith and Haven King one each.

Tuesday, December 28th

through Thursday, December 30th, the Lady Rockets will be at South Warren to participate in the First Bank Holiday Bash where they will play Owensboro on Tuesday, Marshall County and Oldham County on Wednesday and a team to be announced on Thursday.

They will play their first game of 2022 in a doubleheader with the Rockets at Somerset on Tuesday, January 4th.



Mayor Mike Bryant and the City of Mt. Vernon held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Mt. Vernon's newest business, Sassy Sister Design Co. Sisters Tiffany and Kylee Fain's new store is located on Richmond Street across from Bishop's Tire. Taking part in the ceremony are their parents, Garry and Robyn Fain and grandmother, Donna Stayton.



WISHING YOU A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS
AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

JUDGE KATIE & KEVIN SLONE
AND TYLER WOOD

Merry
CHRISTMAS

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and

Sparks Flowers & More

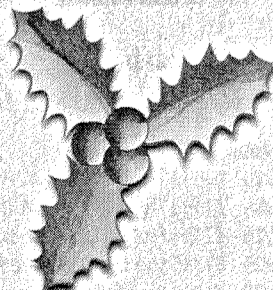


Roy and Pamela Martin
Steve Martin

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like to wish you
and yours a very
blessed Christmas
and thank you for
your continued
trust and
confidence.

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Merry
Christmas

We'd like to send our
greetings for a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all our
neighbors and friends!



Lone Star Farm & Home

Hwy. 150 between Mt Vernon & Brodhead

606-256-0234

Frankfort Update

**By: Josh Bray
State Representative**
As I write this, Christmas is less than 5 days away. My kids are getting excited about the prospects of a visit from Old Saint Nick and I'm looking forward to spending some downtime with my family. Unfortunately, there are thousands of Kentuckians whose Christmas isn't as bright because a series of tornadoes swept through the Commonwealth.

This past Tuesday, I went with a group of guys to Western Kentucky with our chainsaws to help clear debris. Over the two days, I observed more devastation than I ever thought possible, yet witnessed more humanity than words can express.

While working, we spoke with homeowners, local business owners, and other affected individuals. I do not have the words to explain what these people are experiencing. Pictures do not adequately depict the sheer devastation of life and property our neighbors have endured.

The most important thing I can say is that we must help these people. Not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something. And that is what I encourage

each of us to do. Whether it be sending supplies, making financial donations, providing logistical support to workers on the ground, or keeping these people in our daily prayers.

One of the survivors said, "In a month, please don't forget us." We've seen it with natural disasters before, donations flood an affected area, and then in a week or two, the next news story takes the focus away. This is something these people are going to be dealing with in the months, even years, to come.

The sheer devastation that has occurred in western Kentucky is, possibly, the worst our state has seen. However, the care and concern for our neighbors that I observed in its aftermath, has been a restoration of my faith in humanity. It made me proud to be a Kentuckian.

Losses like this would never be easy, but the fact that this is happening just days before Christmas, makes it even more painful. Instead of gathering with family, many will be mourning lost folks. It is during this time when Kentuckians find the strength to hold up their fellow man. In Galatians, the apostle Paul calls on us to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." After all, we were never meant to do life alone. We need the love

and care of others as much as we are needed by others.

I believe we are seeing this now in the thousands of toys collected to make Christmas happen for children who have lost everything. We see it in the hundreds of first responders, utility workers, and emergency management personnel who traveled to the area within hours of the storms. It is clear in the hospitality and housing offered by nonprofits, neighboring communities, and even our Kentucky State Parks. It is also obvious in the millions of dollars donated to local and state-wide funds. I personally saw it in the face of a Tennessee man who drove his grill and a truckload of food to Mayfield to feed anyone who was hungry. When asked, he said, "I figured I would do what I could do." Ultimately, we see the best in people when we are in the midst of the worst. There will be more needs as the search and recovery phase evolves into a commitment to rebuild. We will meet those needs, we will rise by lifting others. In the meantime, this year the message of Christmas reminds us that even the most difficult circumstances can lead to the greatest gift known to man.

I hope you will not hesitate to reach out to me to share your thoughts on the issues coming before us in Frankfort. As always, I can be reached at home anytime or through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via e-mail at josh.bray@lrc.ky.gov. You can also keep track of interim committee meetings and prefiled legislation through the Kentucky Legislature Home Page at www.legislature.ky.gov.



June Whittler and Edwina Anglin, members of Rockcastle Chapter NSDAR, delivered donated needed items to Ashlee's House Homeless Shelter. Pictured are: DAR member June Whittler; Leslie Faulkner, Co. Coordinator for Rockcastle County; Natasha Hubbard-Manager for donations; and DAR member Edwina Anglin.

Legislative Update

**By Jared Carpenter
State Senator**
**WE ARE ONE
KENTUCKY FAMILY
THIS CHRISTMAS**

In light of the tragic af-

ter m a t h
f r o m t h e
s e v e r e
w e a t h e r
t h a t s w e p t
a c r o s s t h e
C o m m o n -
w e a l t h l a s t
w e e k e n d ,
i n s t e a d o f
d e l i v e r i n g
s e a s o n ' s
g r e e t i n g s
a n d w i s h i n g
y o u a n d y o u r
f a m i l y a M e r r y
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t o n e . I p r a y t h a t
y o u r C h r i s t m a s
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s e a s o n . H o w e v e r ,
a s w e a l l k n o w ,
m a n y o f o u r f e l l o w
K e n t u c k i a n s a r e
f a c i n g u n i m a g i n a b l e
p a i n , g r i e f , a n d
l o s s .

For many, the seasonal festivities that make Christmas so joyful will not be their experience this year. The days, weeks, and months ahead will prove difficult in ways most can never imagine. That is why we must unite as one Ken-

tucky, and work together to bring hope, love, and peace to those who lost so much in a matter of hours. For a great example of our state's united response, look to the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund which has received millions in contributions to help Kentuckians impacted by severe weather. All donations to the fund are tax-deductible.

Coming off the heels of the pandemic, many who have been personally impacted are understandably facing challenging times. There is much we can do as a community to ease the pain of the losses suffered. Lend a helping hand at your local shelter or supply distribution

center. Consider donating to Toys for Tots to provide Christmas to a child who has been forever affected by this tragedy. Donate blood if you are able and lift your neighbors in prayer.

The devastation experienced in our communities impacted by this natural disaster will weigh heavily on all of us this holiday season. Let us be grateful for the blessings in our lives, including those who are there for us in moments of need — be it family, friends, neighbors, or strangers offering a helping hand. We cannot undo the tragedies across the Commonwealth; we can choose to be a positive force for recovery as a united Kentucky.

No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 23rd - January 2nd



Avery Anderkin was selected to participate in the Jr. All-American Baseball Games at the Minnesota Twins Spring Training Facility in Fort Myers, FL over the Thanksgiving weekend. Avery received honors of being named the Top Defender as well as being named to the All-Tournament Team for his 9/10 year old division. He plays for Southeastern Cal Ripken League in Lexington. He is the grandson of the late Richard Anderkin of Mt. Vernon and Cindy McCullough of Berea, and the great grandson of Perlina Anderkin of Mt. Vernon, and Christine Taylor, of Quail.

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The Birth of Jesus

We find the birth of our Lord and our Savior had been prophesied, many hundred years ago by Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom.

Isaiah prophesied of the names our Lord would be called, Wonderful in that he was conceived by a virgin. Matthew 1:23 The virgin shall be with child and they shall call his name Immanuel, meaning God with us. How wonderful it is to have the Son of God with us to live among us as John declares in John 1:1 In the beginning, was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

Isaiah 28:29 Speaks of Jesus being wonderful in his counsel, and excellent in his working. Jesus came to show us how we must live to be pleasing in the eyes of the Father. He is our Guide, Teacher, Counselor, our Intercessor, our Helper in time of trouble. What a blessing Isaiah declares Jesus to be at all times.

What a blessing it was when Jesus came into this world, He brought peace to those who would receive it. Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. This promise of peace was not made to the world, it was made only to the children of God. We find in John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Putting our trust in the Lord, while we wait for the blessed hope, gives us peace knowing, that our Lord is the Almighty God. Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and that glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

There stands One who has come to deliver us, forgive us and save us. He is the bread of life. He is the light of the world. He is the reason for our rejoicing, Not just this season. But every day we live, he should be the reason we rejoice, and we have peace in our hearts.

Remember that peace that Jesus gives, is a peace that passes all understanding. Let us share that peace with those that we love, our friends, our neighbors, anybody that will listen.

Thank you for reading this message, I pray God keeps you safe and your holidays are happy.

(It is a shame, a change in the weather is talked about more than our risen Savior.)

You can call us at these numbers: If you would like to talk to someone from the Church.

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

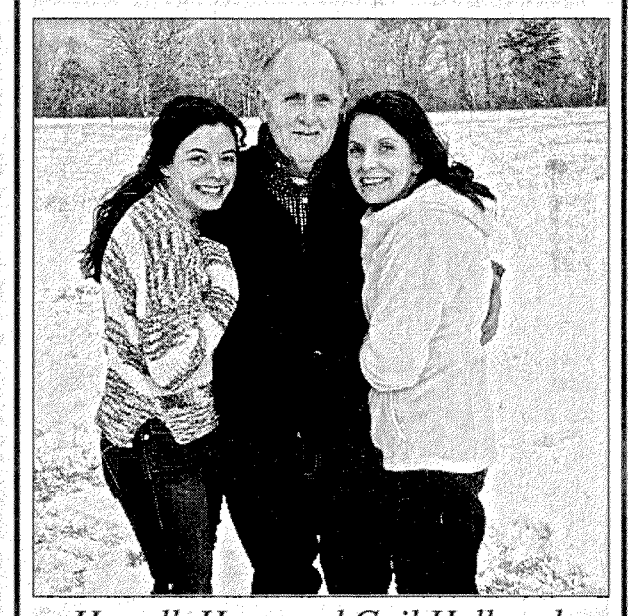
• **Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ** •

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

May your heart and home be filled with peace, hope, and love this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

HOWELL HOLBROOK
JR.
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE



Howell, Hope and Gail Holbrook



Paul, Natalie and Rayleigh Holbrook

Let The Bible Speak

with Brother Brett Hickey
Fox Channel 56 Sunday mornings 6:30 a.m.

January 2022 Schedule

1/2 - #1337 Turning Father's Hearts... (Malachi 4:4-6)
1/9 - #1333 The Just Shall Live By Faith (Habakkuk 2:4)
1/16 - #1334 Save by Faith Alone?
1/23 - #1335 Live Like You Were Dying...
1/30 - #1338 For Christ sent me not to baptize...

The Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ invites you to their worship services at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings.

You may also stream us live on Facebook:
Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ
Contact: Bro. Ova Baker 606-878-8104 or Bro. Dale McNew 859-582-4021

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year



Front row from left: Anne Weber, Shirley Cummins and Lois Hayes.
Back row from left: Freda Parsons, Heidi Parman, Jaime Martin,
Randy Lewis and Sheila Stallsworth.



From left: Dale Shelton, Darlene Harris, Stella Newcomb,
Angie Mullins, Chris Meece and Mat Getsi.



Front row from left: Jake Kerr, Becky Bullock and Mike Dixon.
Back row from left: Tammy Colbaugh, Shonda Singleton,
Jamie Stanley and Tonya Chasteen.



Peggy Dickerson and Donna Milburn.



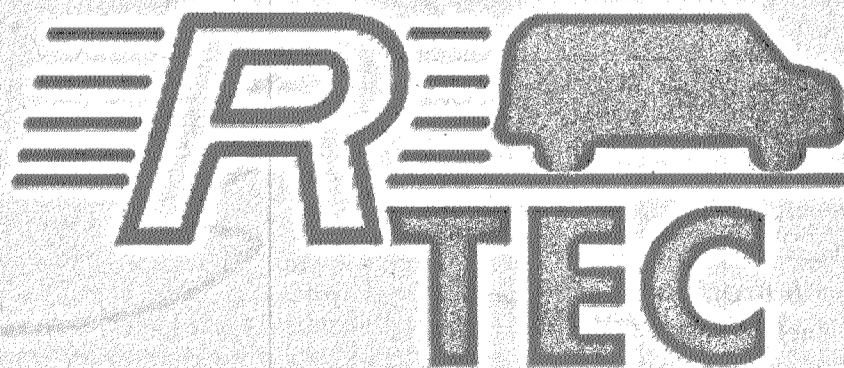
Front row from left: Michelle Robinson, Abram Taylor
and Leslie Burdette.
Second row from left: Mike Dixon, Jennifer Northern, Bridget Clark,
Stacey Clark, Karen Carillo, Shondale Philbeck and Lorrie Santo.



From left: Eddie Hayes, Randy Renner, James Morgan, Chris Hansel
and Paul Northern.



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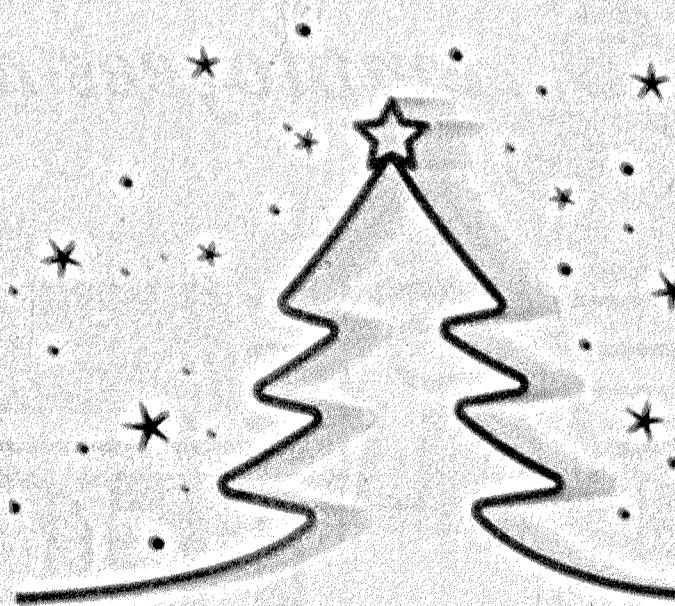
Dr. Irwin Douglas, MD

Shannah Click, APRN

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

& A HAPPY NEW YEAR

We appreciate each and everyone of you

Advanced Family Medical Clinic

50 Lovell Court • Mount Vernon, KY
(behind First Christian Church)

FREE COVID TESTING (606) 392-2060

Mount Vernon Signal

Second Section

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Scenes from 2021 Livingston Christmas Parade



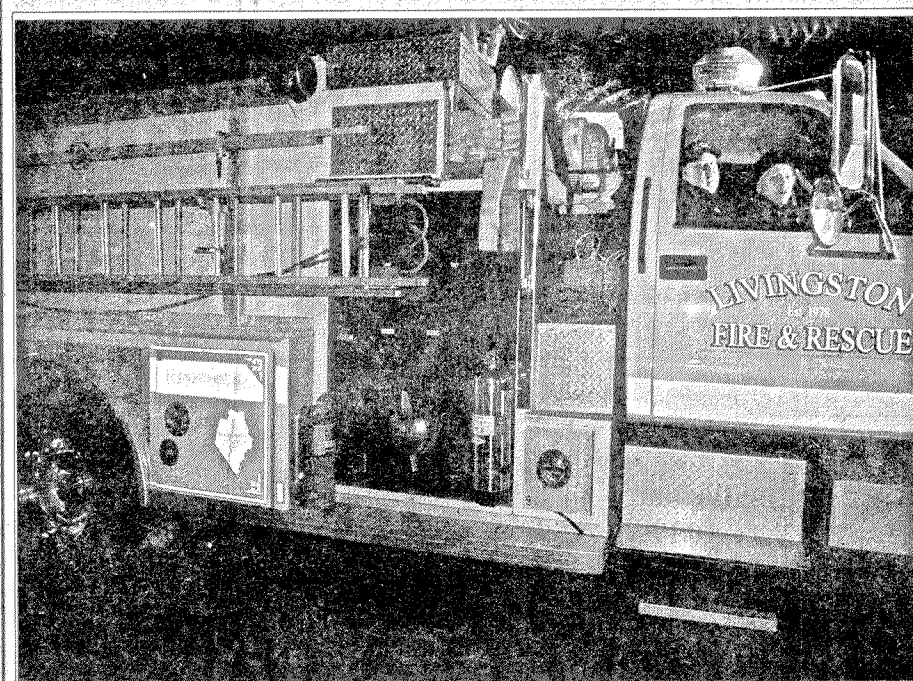
Several floats eased down Main Street in Livingston tossing candy and treats to those enjoying the festivities during the Christmas parade.



The Livingston School Gymnasium was filled with families enjoying cookies and hot chocolate while Santa greeted children.



LVFD Chief Jeff Carpenter braved the cold weather and misting rain during the annual Livingston Christmas parade last Saturday evening.



Livingston Volunteer Fire Department tossed condy and treats to those lining the streets during the Livingston Christmas parade last week.

From Our Family to Yours

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



Citizens Bank

Mount Vernon
256-2500

Brodhead
758-8212

Somerset
451-2274

McKee
287-8390



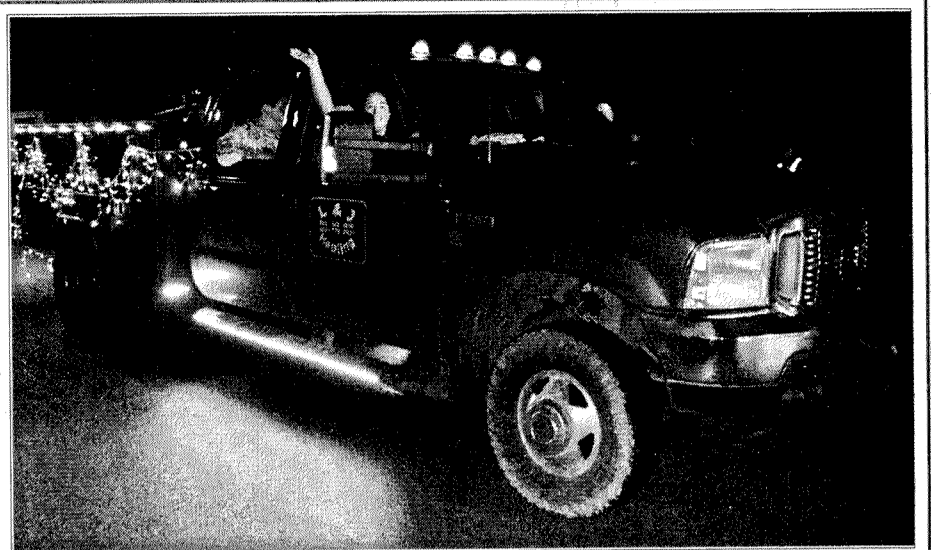
www.citizensbankrb.com

citizensbankrb.mobi





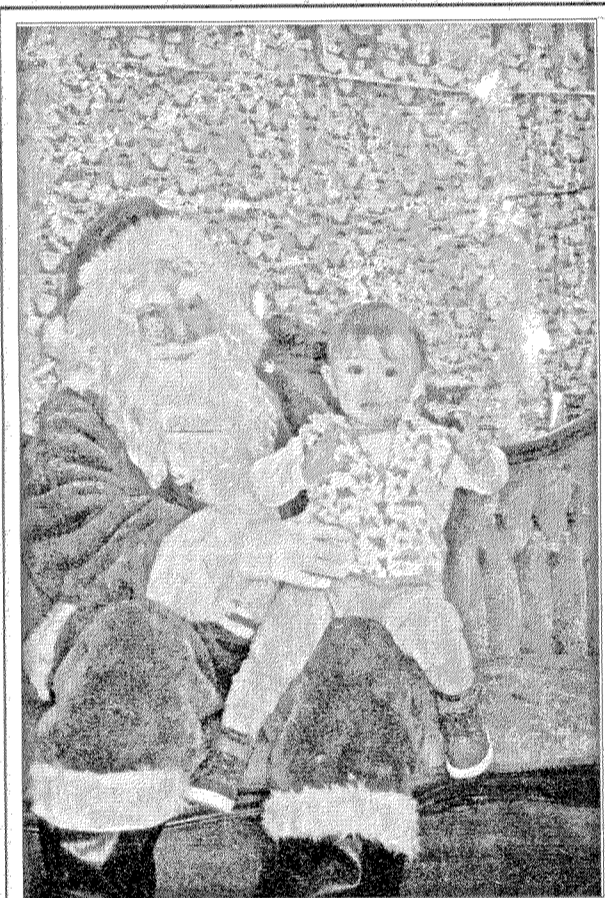
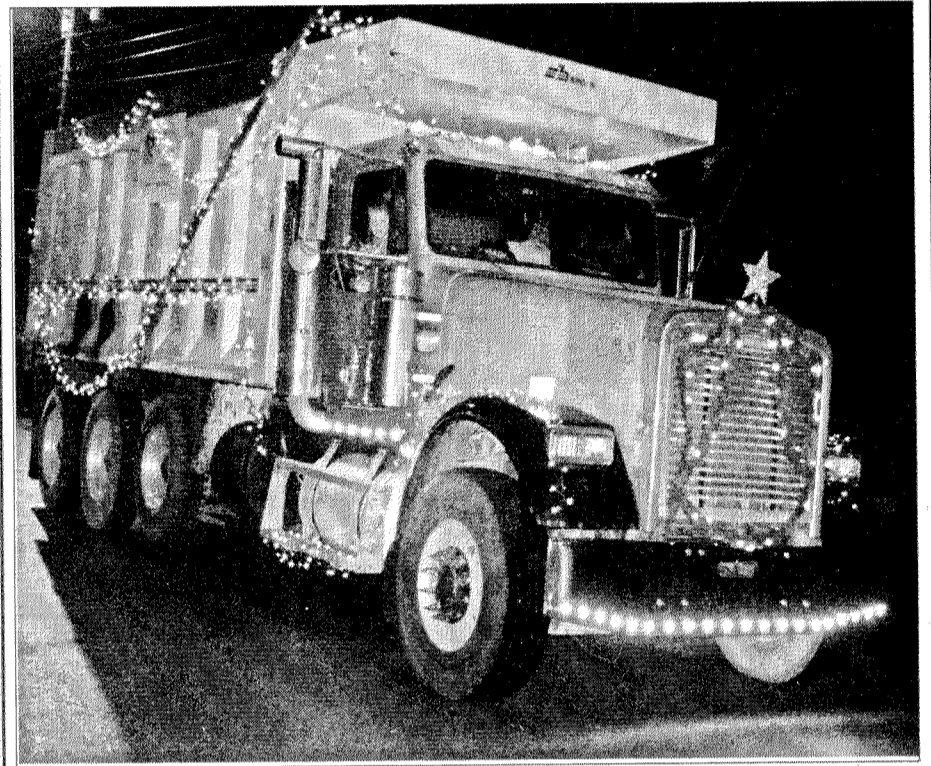
Mount Vernon Fire & Rescue rode down Main Street in Livingston tossing goodies to the children during the Livingston Christmas parade last week.



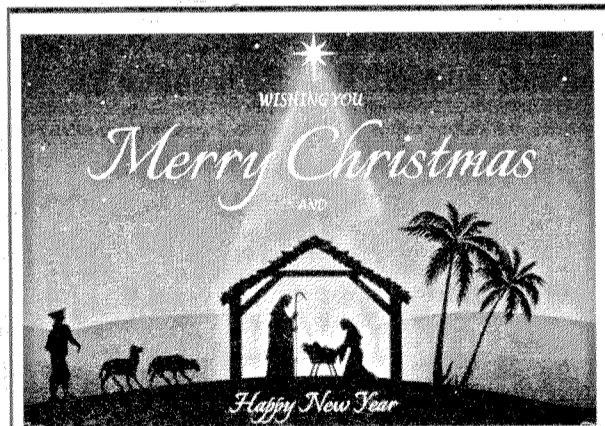
L&J Hauling delighted the crowd with their well-decorated vehicles in the annual Livingston Christmas parade.



Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department had sirens running as they rode down Main Street in Livingston during Saturday's annual Christmas parade.



Santa greeted dozens of children in the Livingston Gymnasium after the annual Christmas parade. This youngster seemed both joyous and slightly concerned as Santa spoke about his reindeer.



As we celebrate the birth of our precious Savior, my family and I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Kathy Robinson
for
PVA

Republican
Candidate



Paid for by Kathy Robinson

Merry Christmas

Thank you for placing your confidence in our family for over 100 years.



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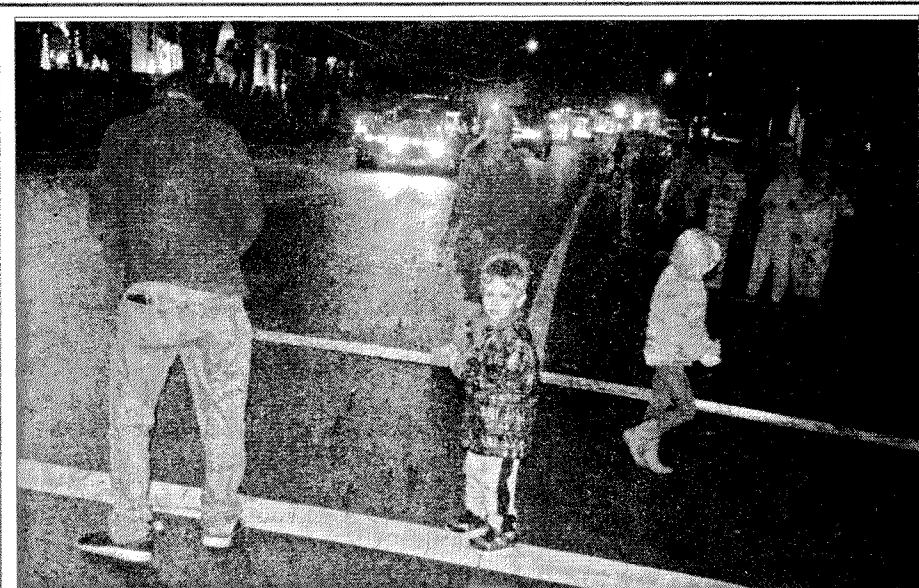
Locally
256-2345
or toll-free
1-888-825-2345



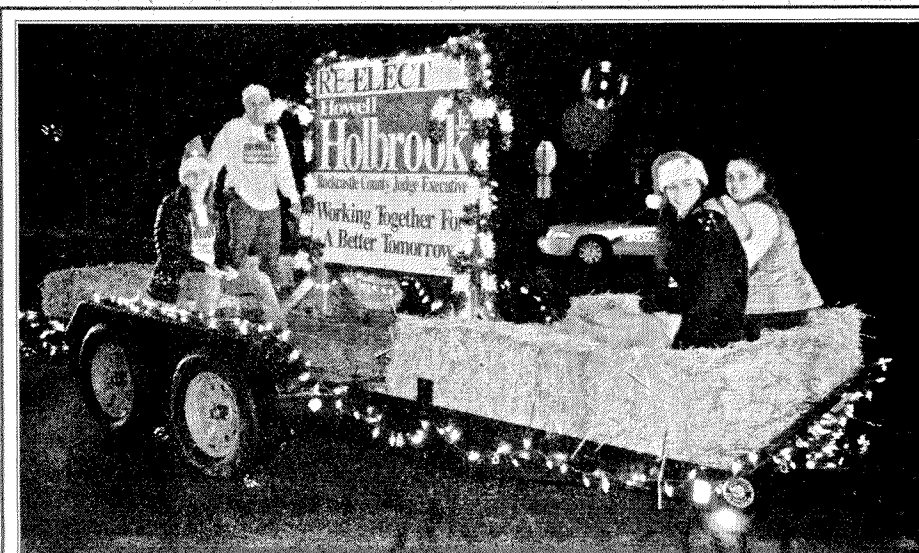
Dawn Carpenter, candidate for Rockcastle County Coroner braved the cold in the Livingston Christmas Parade.



One of the most decorated vehicles in the annual Livingston Christmas parade brought cheers from the crowd lining Main Street Saturday night.. Bystanders nearby were not certain who was driving the truck but young and old alike enjoyed watching the truck which seemed similar to Santa's sleigh.



Young and old alike grabbed candy off Main Street as every participant in the Livingston Christmas parade tossed treats to those lining Main Street last week.



Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. took part in every Christmas parade in the county. Shown here, Holbrook tossed candy to the waiting crowd in the annual Livingston Christmas parade.

Christmas Blessings

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas and thank you for the privilege of serving the citizens of Rockcastle County



Shannon, Jill, Maggie & Valerie Franklin

Shannon Franklin
Rockcastle Sheriff

No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 23rd - January 2nd



May the spirit fill your hearts this Christmas.

from

County Clerk Danetta Ford Allen

and staff

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:00, lunch from 12:00 - 12:30 daily

Saturday hours: Open 3rd Saturday each month 8:30 - 12:00

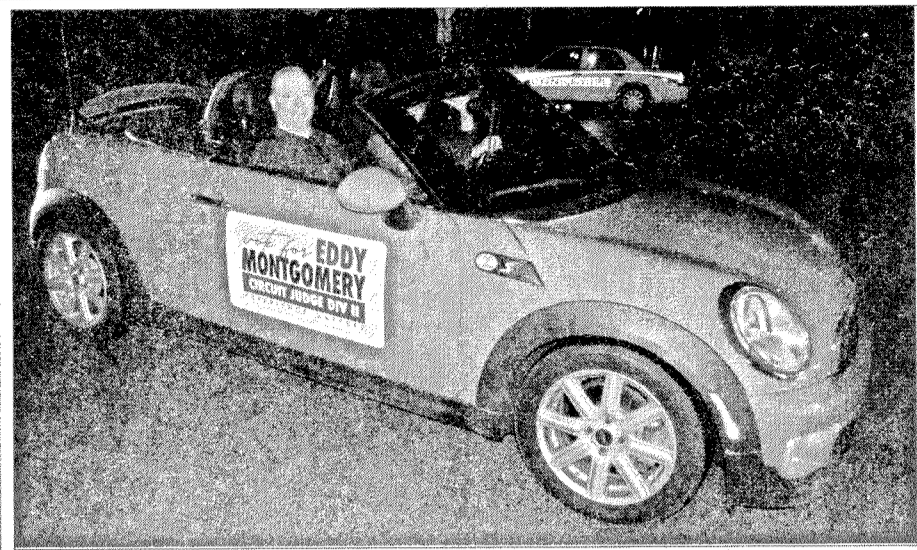
Closed: Christmas: December 23 - 25 & New Year/AVIS Updates December 30, 2021 - January 1, 2022

Pay by phone at 606-256-2831 using debit or credit card • Pay online at drive.ky.gov

Elections:

Deadline for party change must be filed by December 31, 2021. You may do so in office during business hours or online at elect.ky.gov

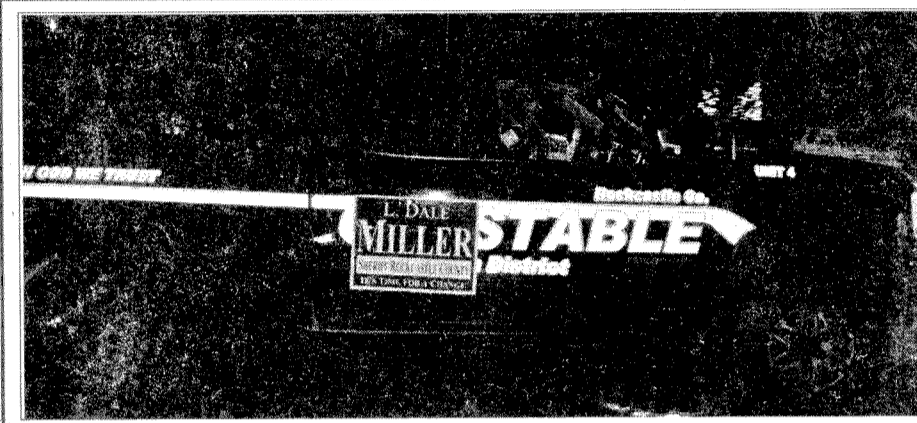
Deadline to file for candidacy is January 7, 2021 at 4 p.m. Resources can be found at elect.ky.gov and kref.ky.gov



Eddy Montgomery, candidate for Circuit Judge Division II wasn't concerned about the cold temperatures as he rode with the top down in the annual Livingston Christmas parade.



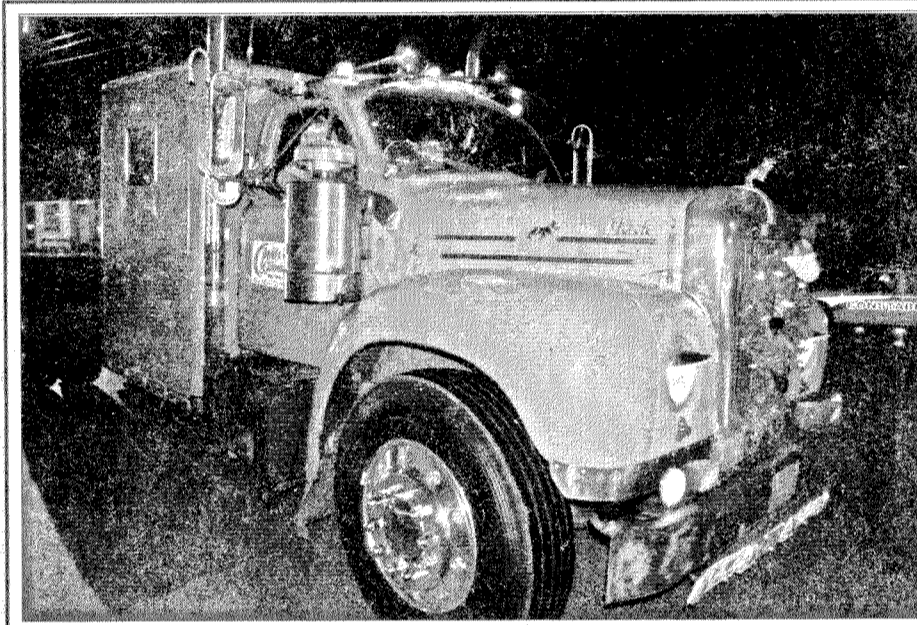
BJ Hardy, District Judge candidate tossed candy and treats to those along the streets of Livingston during the annual Christmas parade.



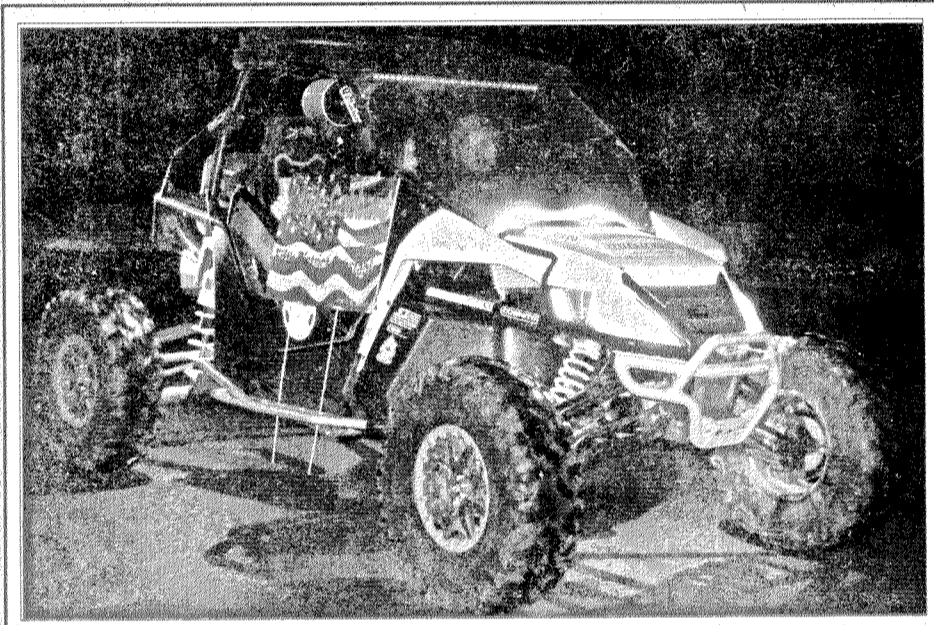
L. Dale Miller, candidate for Rockcastle County Sheriff, had several vehicles in the Livingston Christmas parade as well as all other county parades.



The Rockcastle Recycling Center float drew applause as it passed by-standers in the annual Livingston Christmas parade last week.



David's Tire Center rode in a decorated truck during the Livingston Christmas parade last Saturday.

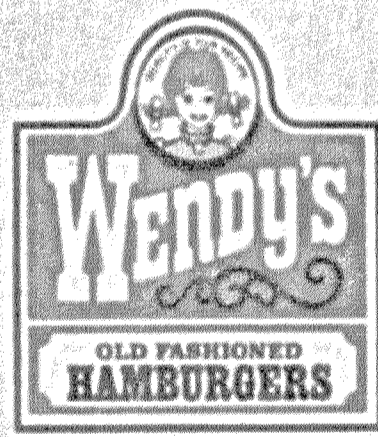


Eddie Gabbard, Fifth District Constable rode a side-by-side down Main Street in the annual Livingston Christmas parade last week.

Signal office will be closed December 23rd - January 2nd

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!

*From Chris Settles and
all the employees at*



US 25 North • Mt. Vernon • 256-5611 or 256-0818

Closing at 9 p.m. Christmas Eve • Closed Christmas Day

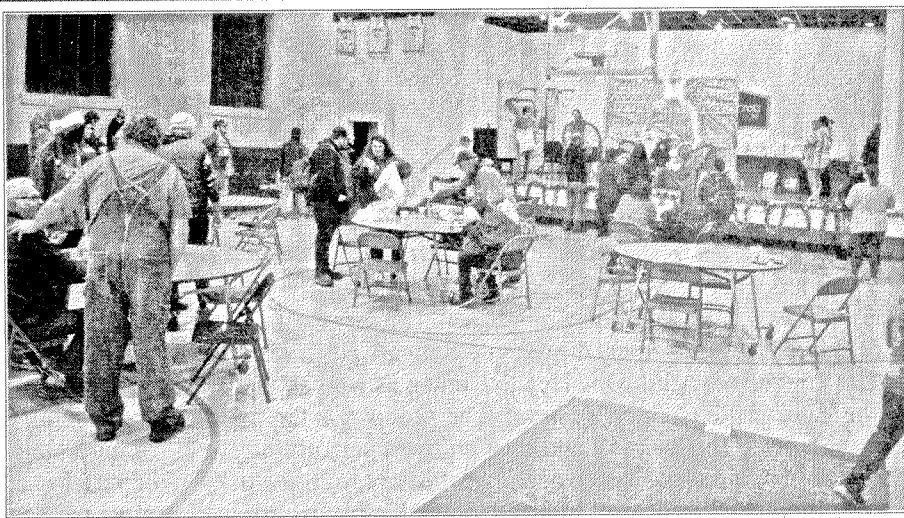




Rockcastle County Sheriff Shannon Franklin led the annual Livingston Christmas parade last weekend.



Everyone entering the Livingston School Gymnasium after the annual Christmas parade was greeted with cookies and hot chocolate.



The Livingston School Gymnasium was busy throughout the night after the Livingston Christmas parade last Saturday. Children had the chance to meet Santa and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate after the cold parade.

*No paper next week!
Signal office will be closed
December 23rd - January 2nd
Merry Christmas!*

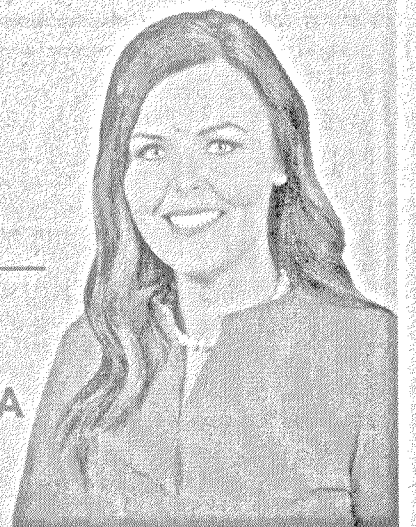
Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." - Mother Teresa

JAMIE SAYLOR

Republican Candidate
for Rockcastle County PVA

PAID FOR BY JAMIE SAYLOR



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Holiday Hours

Closing at 2:30 Christmas Eve

Closed Dec. 27th

Open Dec. 28th - 30th 8 am to 2:30 pm

Closed Dec 31st

Back to regular hours Jan. 3, 2022

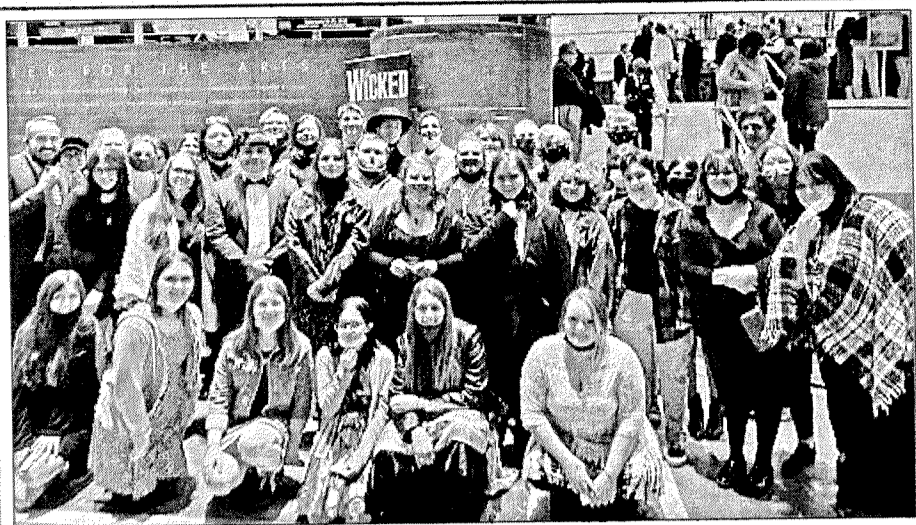
Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

EST Tool & Machine, Inc.

Wishing you the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years!

From **WILLIAM LEGER**
Candidate for **DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**
28th District Division 1

Paid for by William Leger



Music Department attends Broadway Show

On Thursday December 2nd, members of the RCHS Music Department traveled to Arnoff Theatre in downtown Cincinnati to see Broadway Across America's production of the hit musical Wicked, the musical story of what happened before Dorothy arrived in the land of Oz. The group had prime viewing seats in the balcony of the arena to take in all the spectacular visual and musical elements of the show and had the chance to hear one of the finest off-Broadway casts the program has to offer.

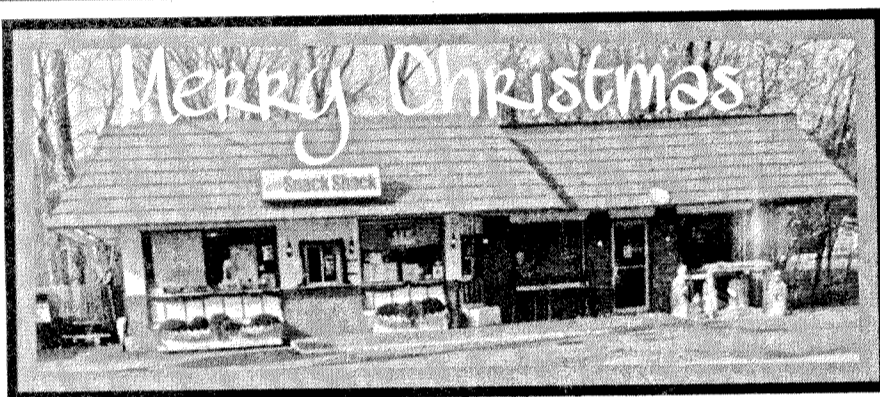
Pictured are band and choir members, front row: Alivea Russell, Kendra Barnes, Bailey Adams, Trinity Smith, Emili Wright, and Kilee Carpenter. Second row: Greg Daugherty - Band Director, Jaylynn Albright, Brooklynn Carter, Robert Rhodus, Allison Dunn, Julian Isaacs, Dillon Pickle, Sierra Akemon, Ethan Amburgey, Haylee Miller, and Hannah Atkinson. Third row: Cassandra Smith - Percussion Instructor, Lacie Laws, Alivia Permenter, Anna McCoy, Ellie Robinson, Daniel Krebs, Zaydan Barnett, Alex Burke, Kayman Baldwin, Ethan Cromer, Nicholas Deborde, Kory Thompkins, Emily Sturgill, Aaliyah Woodall, Isaiah Harper, Ezekiel Graves, Wyatt Martin, Loareta Krebs, Jaden VanWinkle, Levi Lovell, and Gracie Burdette.



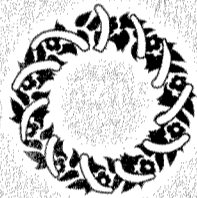
RCHS Brass Choir spreads Holiday Cheer to local facilities

Members of the RCHS Brass Choir spent their first official day of Christmas break sharing Christmas music with residents of the Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center, the Wayne Stewart Healthcare Center, Rockcastle Senior Citizens & Adult Day Health Center, as well as long term care residents of the Rockcastle County Hospital. The group was the premiere performance for residents at the hospital and they enjoyed performing for all of their audiences once again since last year they could not tour due to Covid restrictions.

Members pictured are: Junior Daniel Krebs, trombone; Junior Zaydan Barnett, tuba; Sophomore Loareta Krebs, trumpet; Sophomore Marcos Benge, Baritone; Freshman Dillon Pickle, trumpet; Senior Kayman Baldwin, trombone; Freshman Lacie Laws, trombone; and Senior Drum Major Allison Dunn on French Horn.



from the folks at
Snack Shack



Glenda McFerron - Owner
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Contact Rockcastle Skills U-Adult Education 606-256-2001

From: GED Testing Service

Merry Christmas

May peace and joy come to you during this holy season



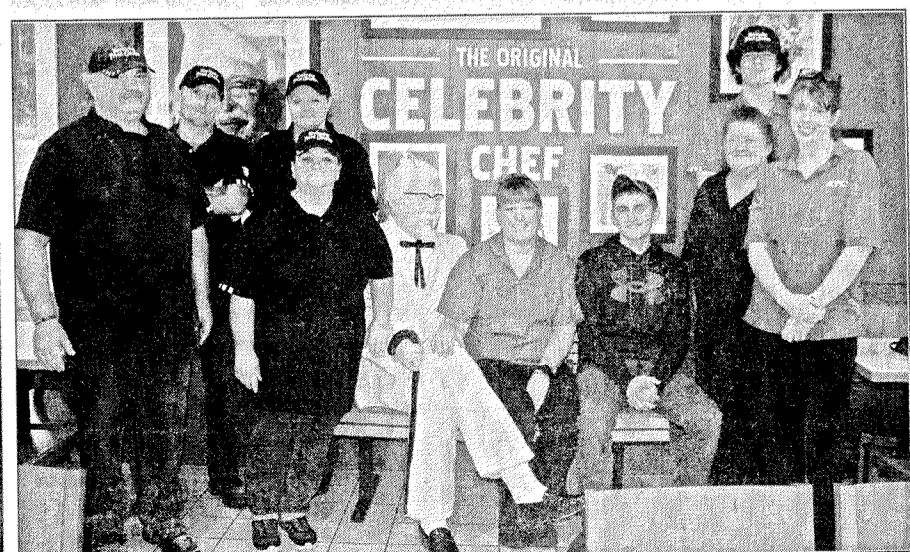
Kristi Phillips
Daniella Graves, Stacie Thacker, Lori Blanton

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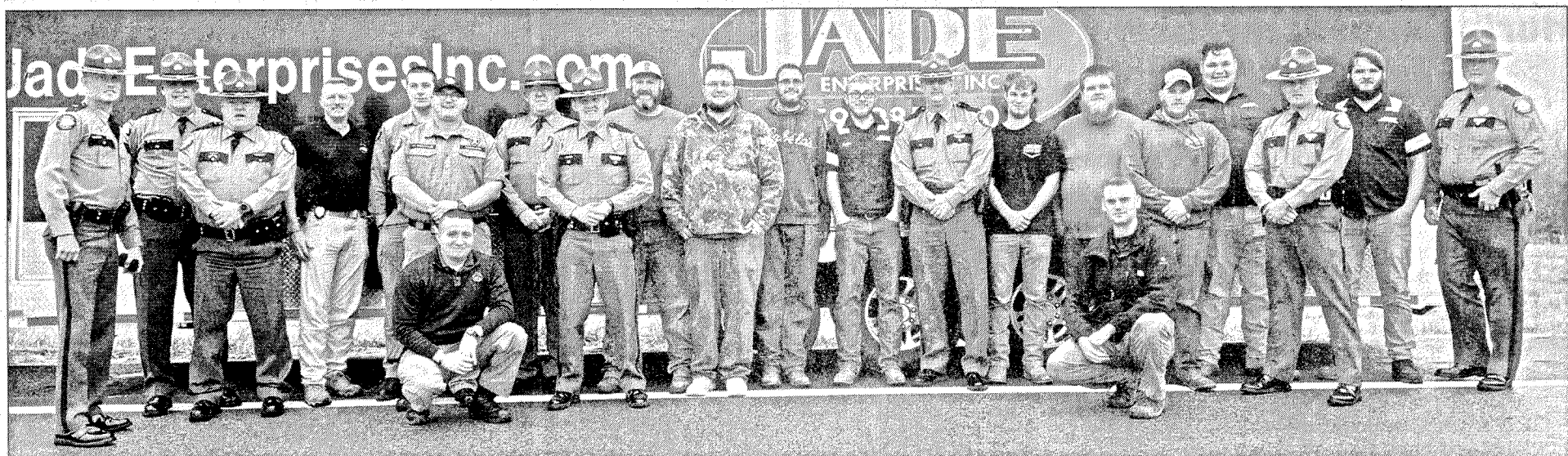
GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

May you and your loved ones enjoy all the splendor of this very special time of year.
It's been a pleasure serving you.

From all of us at



KFC closing Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. • Closed Christmas Day
Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day



KSP joins forces to aid those in Western Kentucky

On December 16th, Kentucky State Police made the trip to Madisonville, Dawson Springs and Mayfield to deliver supplies to the tornado victims.

Spearheaded by Scottie Pennington, Ryan Loudermilk, Adam Hensley, Ben Graves and Ben Allen, troopers from Post 11 London, Post 13 Hazard, Post 10 Harlan, DESI East and Jade Enterprises of Berea joined forces to gather supplies throughout the communities in their respective Post districts.

These items included water, cleaning supplies, clothing, heaters, kero-

sene, monetary donations, toys and various other items. 10 total Troopers and 10 Jade employees made the trip to communities throughout Western Kentucky who were devastated by the tornadoes in the early morning hours of December 12th. KSP would like to thank Jade Enterprises for transporting all the donated items for us.

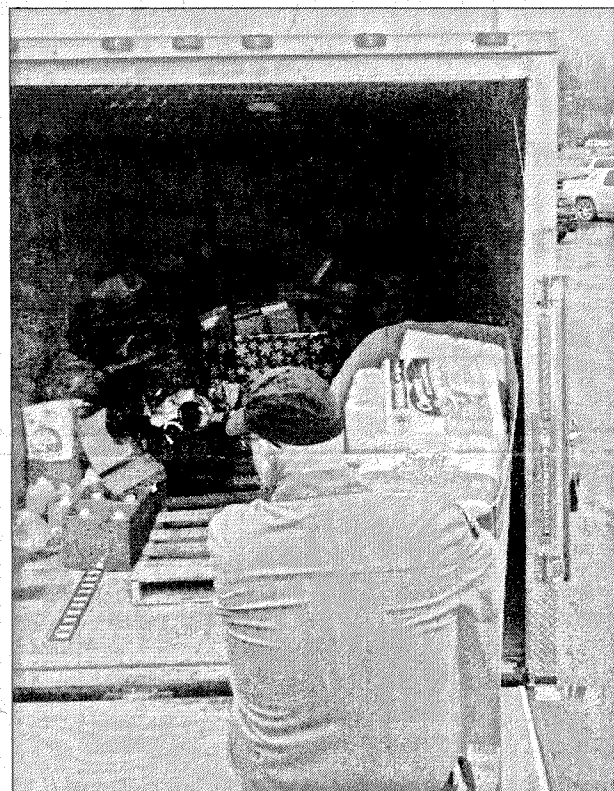
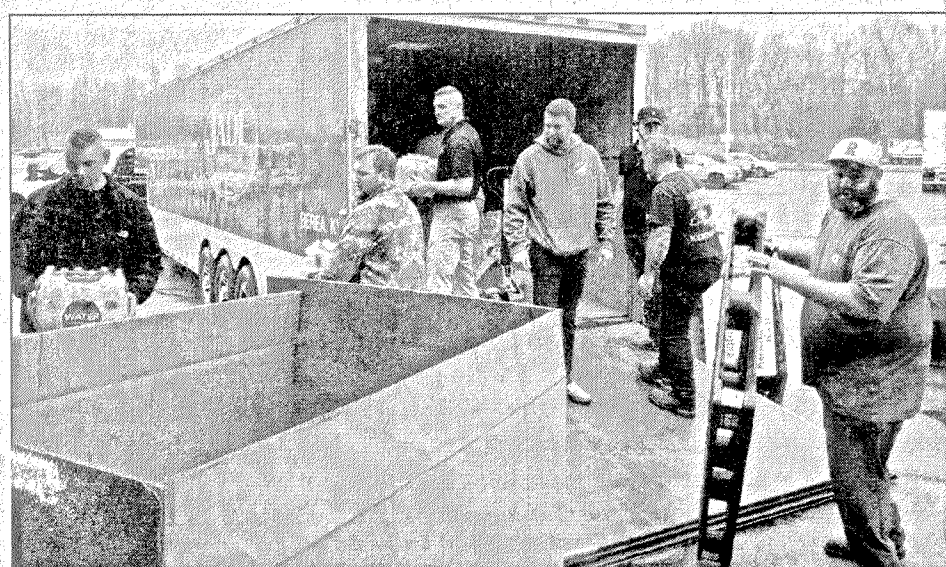
KSP will never be able to thank all the businesses and people that brought us supplies, toys or monetary donations, thank you all so much.

It is going to take a lot of time and many people to rebuild these commu-

nities. However, what the troopers saw on Thursday was people working together to clean their communities and start back over.

Kentucky people are strong and our brothers and sisters from the West will bounce back from this disaster. Kentucky State Police asks the public to please keep the families of the Western KY affected by this storm in your thoughts and prayers.

Above, Troopers from Post 11 London, Post 13 Hazard, Post 10 Harland, DESI East and Jade Enterprises of Berea gathered and transported supplies to Madisonville, Dawson Springs and Mayfield after the devastating tornadoes on December 12th. 10 total Troopers and 10 Jade employees made the trip.



Scottie Pennington loads supplies onto a trailer donated by Jade Enterprises of Berea.

Mamaw's Kitchen

By Regina Poynter Hoskins

SLICE AND BAKE FRUITCAKE COOKIES

This recipe comes from a friend of mine from Brodhead High School. I graduated with one of her brothers. Thank you, Phyllis Shivel. She writes "Regina, I use 1 cup of the mixed fruit, which usually has cherries in it. After I roll dough in a log, I roll one log in green sugar and one in red and chill. I put 1/2 of red or green cherry on top. (Red cherry with red sugared roll, green with green.)"

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 and 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup each red and green candied cherries, chopped

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour and baking soda. Gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Fold in raisins and cherries. Shape dough into two 2-inch thick logs. Wrap each in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until firm. Preheat oven to 350°. Cut logs into 1/4 -inch

slices. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.

FLORIDA WHITE FRUIT CAKE

1 pound candied pineapple
1 pound candied cherries
4 cups chopped pecans
2 cups flour
1/2 pound butter
1 cup sugar
5 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons lemon flavoring
2 tablespoons vanilla
2 tablespoons almond flavoring

I like to line the tube pan with brown paper and grease with Crisco®. This keeps the cake from getting dry and makes it come out of pan easier. Using a sharp knife, chop fruit and put in large mixing bowl with the pecans. Add flour to fruit and nuts; try to coat each piece of fruit with the flour. Mix until each piece stays separate. In another mixing bowl cream butter, sugar, and beaten eggs. Add flavorings. Combine with fruit, nuts, and flour mixture. Stir until mixed. Pour into prepared pan. Place in cold oven and bake at 225° for about two hours. Cool on rack before removing from pan.



Wishing you a Happy Holiday and a joyful New Year

Best wishes from your friends at

Rockcastle

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Executive Director Jeff Vanhook, Tommy Harold Mink, Chairman Corey Craig, David Lynn King, Donna Hopkins and Roland Mullins.

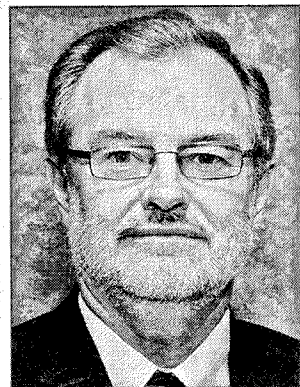
Looking forward to continued progress in Rockcastle County

Farm Bureau recognized during annual meeting

Rockcastle County Farm Bureau was recognized during the 102nd Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) annual meeting in Louisville for its outstanding membership and program achievement in 2021. The award honors county Farm Bureau offices that meet the company's profitability requirements and whose insurance policy growth meets or exceeds its annual growth goal.

Terry Lawson, President of Rockcastle County Farm Bureau, was acknowledged as the award recipient by Mark Haney, President of Kentucky Farm Bureau, John Sparrow, Executive

Vice President and CEO of KFB Insurance, and Drew Graham, Executive Vice President of the KFB Federation, during the organization's awards program on December 3.



Terry Lawson

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

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Rockcastle County Bookmobile Schedule
Monday, Dec. 27th: Spiro, Level Green, Willailla, KY 3245 and Bryant Ridge. **Tuesday, Dec. 28th:** Ottava and Bee Lick.

Health Department Holiday Hours

The Rockcastle County Health Department will close at 1:30 p.m. on December 22nd for the Christmas Holiday and will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 27th. We will be closed, beginning at 1:30 p.m., on December 29th for the New Year's Holiday and will reopen at 8 a.m. on January 3, 2022. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

Retired Teachers Assn. Notice

The Rockcastle County Retired Teacher Assn. will NOT meet again until February 16, 2022.

Kiwanis Club

The Rockcastle County Kiwanis Club meets each Thursday at noon at Limestone Grille. Kiwanis is a service organization working to improve the lives of children. The public is invited.

Celebrate Sobriety Service

CrossPoint Church of God will host a monthly Celebrate Sobriety Service on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. We are located at 211 Industrial Park Road (across from the high school) in Mt. Vernon, KY. Call 859-582-2553 with any questions.

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 members, those qualified to be members and family members. The post is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to close. The 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, the post hosts a Vet Help group for those veterans who are struggling. 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 William B.J. Thomason at 859-358-2882, Post Commander Glenda Botellos at 606-386-9360 or Service Office Micah Shuler 859-358-6606.

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 Don Gabbard at 859-200-2204 or Chaplain B.J. Thomason at 859-358-2882.

Recovery Meetings

Monday-Celebrate Recovery-Brodhead: Community Outreach Center, Monday, 6 p.m. 36 Castle Village Dr., Brodhead, Ky. Contact: Nathan 859-230-9590/Kathryn 606-308-3099 or Tammy 606-308-1614.

Tuesday-Celebrate Recovery-Mt. Vernon - Northside Baptist Church, 777 Faith Mountain Rd., Mt. Vernon, Ky. Contact: J.R. 859-314-7828. •••Please call 256-5577 by 4 p.m. if you need a ride in the church van.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 8 p.m. Community Outreach Center, 36 Castle Village Dr., Brodhead, Ky. Contact: 859-308-8900

Wednesday-Celebrate Recovery-Mt. Vernon. Crosspoint Church of God, 211 Industrial Park Rd., Mt. Vernon. Contact: John Burton 606-308-8226, Frankie Woodall 606-308-2382 or Joanie Woodall 606-308-3190.

Thursday-Celebrate Recovery-Step Studies - Women Only. Community Outreach Center, 36 Castle Village Dr., Brodhead, Thursday, 6 p.m. Contact: Kathryn, 606-308-3099 or Tammy 606-308-1614.

Thursday-Alcohol Anonymous, 8 p.m. Community Outreach Center, 35 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.

Saturday - Crystal Meth Anonymous: Saturday, 5 p.m. Community Outreach Center, 36 Village Dr., Brodhead, Ky. Contact: Jason DeBord 606-386-0646 or Rob Sandusky 606-386-3907.

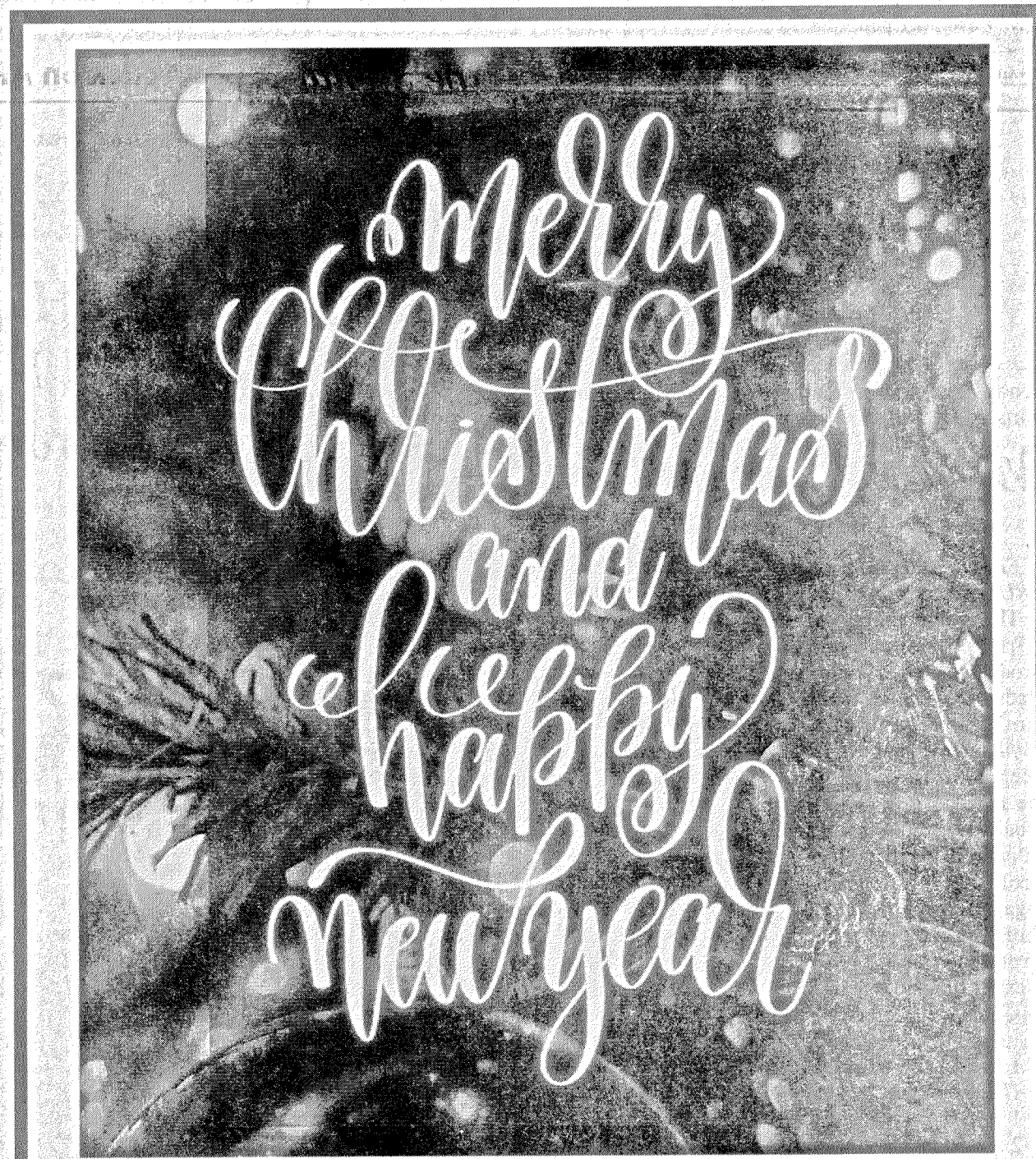
Sunday - Celebrate Recovery Step Studies-COED, 6 p.m. Northside Baptist Church, 777 Faith Mountain Rd., Mt. Vernon, Ky. Contact: Jason DeBord 606-386-0646 or J.R. Cornelius 859-314-7828 Saturday. Leaders: John Burton 606-308-8226, Joanie Mink 606-308-3190.

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.



Merry Christmas from the City of Mt. Vernon



May you and your family enjoy the many blessings that give true meaning to the holiday season.

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