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Mount Vernon Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244 Volume 136 • Number 47 .50 per copy Thursday, January 5, 2023

Winter storm causes record calls

By: Mike French
Editor

A winter storm moved into Rockcastle County last week, causing troubles for citizens, first responders and businesses throughout the county for several days.

Friday, December 23, temperatures were in the mid-50s and skies were clear. By Saturday, 24 hours later, temperatures were in the single digits and snow and ice covered the state.

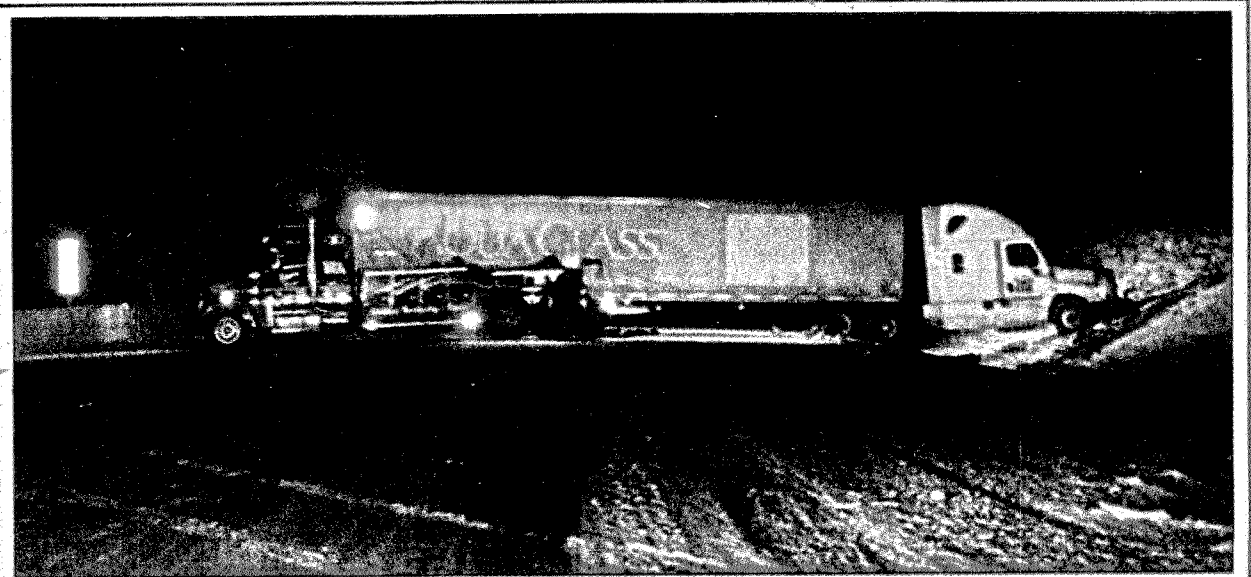
The Mount Vernon Fire Department alone responded to over 17 calls for service and five separate accidents in the first few hours of the storm while all other fire departments, and EMS personnel, were called to acci-

dents and homes across the county. Fire departments were so busy that departments across the county began to move crews to other stations to cover more calls and issued warnings that response times could be delayed.

Accidents were reported on I-75 at many different mile markers and homes in the area began to lose utility service.

LG&E and KU issued warnings for all residents to lower their thermostat and asked that citizens use draft stoppers at doors and windows and leave lights off when possible. Reports indicate about 41,000 homes in Ken-

(See "Year" on A5)



Shown above is one of the many accidents on December 24, 2022, that caused lane closures on I-75 nearly ten times over three days. The Mount Vernon Fire Department reported record calls over the Christmas weekend with 17 accident calls within a few hours. Temperatures remained too low for salt to be effective for several days and utilities were disrupted in 41,000 homes in Kentucky and many in Rockcastle County. Water lines were reported frozen throughout the weekend until temperatures rose again. Water lines and utilities were restored by the following week. Officials say salt supplies are still in good condition.

Local cities ready to move ahead in 2023

By: Mike French
Editor

With the change in administrations across the country in January, many local residents are getting used to new mayors, a new magis-

trate, new city council members and city commissioners.

The City of Mount Vernon now has three new council members in Lonetta Daugherty, Gertha Mink and

Michael VanWinkle. All three were write-in candidates who filed after the deadline to be on the ballot. Since there were not enough candidates on the ballot to fill the six seats available, the write-in candidates were elected.

Newly-elected Mayor Tim "Duck" Roberts was sworn in and worked closely with former Mayor Mike Bryant to prepare for his tenure.

Roberts has attended many meetings and been involved in several community events since winning the election.

The new council and new mayor's first public regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19 at 6 p.m. in City Hall.

In Brodhead, newly elected City Commissioner Bryanna Mullins joins three incumbent commissioners and newly-elected Mayor Jerry Adams. The new

commissioner and new mayor's first regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at Brodhead City Hall.

Some of the biggest changes have come in the City of Livingston as the new mayor and new city commissioners

(See "Ready" on A5)

Bryant chairs his final city council meeting as mayor

— City gives to Grateful Bread

By: Mike French
Editor

Four members (just enough for a quorum) of the Mount Vernon City Council attended the special called meeting on Thursday, December 22. However, all the newly elected council members and newly-elected Mayor Tim Roberts were present.

Each new council member, Gertha Mink, Lonetta Daugherty and Michael VanWinkle were sworn in, along with incumbent council members Wayne Bullock, Shelly Raines Lewis and

Jim Bowman. The new council took office on

(See "Council" on A7)

Cost of new Middle School project to rise

By: Mike French
Editor

The new \$34 million Rockcastle County Middle School project, is going to cost considerably more than \$34 mil-

lion. How much more, no one knows yet.

It was not easy to get the funding for the Rockcastle County Middle School project. It

(See "School" on A5)

All employees rehired Fiscal court adds new meeting to monthly schedule

By: Mike French
Editor

Newly-elected Magistrate Lee Earl Adams joined the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court for the first meeting of 2023 Monday morning, January 2nd. The courthouse was closed in observance of the holiday, but magistrates and Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr., held the special meeting to take care of pressing business.

The court voted to re-

hire all county employees. This action must be done each year for employees to remain eligible for insurance and benefits and is the first action of the fiscal court each year. The vote was unanimous.

Holbrook also suggested a work session meeting each month the day before the regular monthly meeting. "Up until now, we have had to give the magistrates a packet of information

(See "Court" on A7)

Kiwanis/Chamber hold annual community meeting

By: Mike French
Editor

The annual joint meeting of the Rockcastle Chamber of Commerce and the Rockcastle County Kiwanis Club was held Wednesday, December 21 at the Limestone Grill in Mount Vernon.

The meeting included

dignitaries from across the county as well as Kentucky State Representative Josh Bray and State Senator Brandon Storm. The annual event provides local dignitaries the opportunity to speak with their community leaders as well as hear from state spokesmen on issues that concern the county.

After a call to order

and short introductions by Kiwanis Community Service Chairperson Gertha Mink, Kiwanis President Chelsea Dillingham thanked the large crowd for their attendance and their interest in their community.

Chamber of Commerce President Steve McKinney welcomed the crowd and Rockcastle

County Judge/Executive Hal Holbrook, Jr. gave the opening prayer. Circuit Court Clerk Eliza York-Hansel, Kiwanis VP, presented individual awards to community members and introduced some of those present to the crowd.

Each of Rockcastle County's three new mayors introduced them-

selves, beginning with Livingston's new Mayor Larry Davidson who said he intends to "carry on the good work that was started by past mayor Jason Medley." Davidson mentioned some of the projects and accomplishments by Medley and said he hopes to keep the City of Livingston mov-

(See "Kiwanis" on A5)

Year in review

January through June

There were many changes and many things that stayed the same in 2022 in Rockcastle County. The following is a recap of some of the top headlines from the first

six months of the year. The second half of the year's headlines will be in the next issue of the Signal on January 12.

January
Rockcastle Countians

saw many different weather patterns in January of 2022 with rain, snow and ice each covering the ground. In the first week of January, the City of Brodhead experienced

flooding and the following week the county was covered in snow, which caused closures across Rockcastle. The first meeting of the Brodhead City Commission, two weeks later, was held in damaged spaces after the flooding.

Also in the first week of

2022, Alexander Helton, of Flat Gap, was found dead after he apparently shot his wife Callie Helton and then turned the gun on himself.

The Rockcastle County School Board reinstated a mask mandate but only

(See "Year" on A5)

COVID Report

According to the Cumberland Valley District Health Department there have been 20 new cases of COVID reported in Rockcastle County in the past 14 days.

Brodhead meeting

The Brodhead City Commission regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at city hall.

This is the first meeting with newly-elected Mayor Jerry Adams and the new Commissioners. The public is invited to attend.

Livingston meeting

The Livingston City Commission regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 6 p.m. in City Hall. This is the first meeting with newly-elected Mayor Larry Davidson and the new Commissioners. The public is invited to attend.

Fiscal Court

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10.

School Board

The regular monthly meeting of the Rockcastle County School Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, at 6 p.m.. The public is invited to attend.

Of Special Note Inside

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ramblings...

by: perlina m. anderkin

Welcome to 2023, dear readers, and here's hoping for a less turbulent year than those past, dating from 2019, at least.

As usual, California will lead the way this year for controversial actions.

One of the most controversial is surely the Physician Information Bill. It goes into effect there and prevents doctors from sharing the risks associated with mRNA experimental "vaccines." In other words, doctors could have their medical licenses revoked for telling the truth.

This is particularly revolting in light of the fact that the CDC recently quietly confirmed at least 118,000 children and young adults have "died suddenly" in the USA since the roll-out of the COVID vaccines. Also, the WHO has endorsed a list of potential serious adverse effects of the mRNA jab. Anything and everything that can go wrong with the heart is on that list, including heart attacks, pericarditis and arrhythmias.

Did you realize that the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) is primarily funded by the pharmaceutical industry, along with the WHO (World Health Organization) and the FDA (Federal Drug Administration), not to mention a great deal of the main stream media. Nothing to see here, folks, move along.

One of the most telling problems with mandating the non-vaccine vaccine was the list of employers NOT requiring their employees to get vaccinated. These included: the White House, congress and staff, the supreme court, NIH (National Institutes of Health), FDA, CDC, WHO, Moderna, Pfizer BioNTech, the U.S. Postal Service,

COVID test/lab industries, and all illegal immigrant invaders.

I'm sure you are all tired of my continual harping on this disservice to humankind but I just cannot get over how many let themselves be frightened enough to line up for an experimental shot for a virus with a high 90% recovery rate even for the most vulnerable (old people like me). Yes, we supposedly lost over a million people in this country to this virus but I will go to my grave believing that if doctors had been allowed to prescribe Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine that number would have been reduced drastically (it would also have helped the numbers if the counting of these deaths had only included those dying FROM instead of WITH Covid 19).

It's also worth repeating that the World Health Organization initially told the public that 3.4% of people that got Covid19 would die. Well, a new study just reported that the median fatality rate for people under 60 was actually 0.035%, meaning WHO was only off by 99%.

Also, with a double-mask requirement at one point and even a 'vaccine' mandate to go indoors in public, Peru masked and vaxxed harder than almost any country in the world. Yet, they currently have the most Covid deaths per million of any nation. What does that tell you?

However, African countries, who have the lowest (1%) vaccine rate in the world, also have the lowest Covid infection rate in the world. Maybe it has something to do with their ongoing fight against Malaria which calls for frequent doses of Hydroxychloroquine?

That's it. Not another word from me except to say, DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH and understand that our government just might have an ulterior motive for their actions that are not in the best interests of its citizens.

One more recent controversial move by state governments. This one from New York, who recently became the 6th US state to legalize natural organic reduction, popularly known as human composting, as a method of burial.

Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the legislation. Washington was the first state to legalize human composting in 2019, followed by Colorado, Oregon, Vermont and California.

The process involves the body of the deceased being placed into a reusable vessel, along with plant material such as wood chips, alfalfa and straw. The organic mix creates the perfect habitat for naturally occurring microbes to do their work, quickly and efficiently breaking down the body in about a month's time. The end result is a cubic yard stack of nutrient-dense soil amendment, the equivalent of about 36 bags of soil that can be used to plant trees or enrich conservation land, forests or gardens.

Oh, well, at least it would save a lot of time and money decorating graves on Memorial Day and descendants could occasionally just pat a tree that "Granny" fertilized or simply enjoy those green beans from the garden that "Granny" helped grow.

And we all owe a collective "Greta Thunberg" "How Dare You," to our great Senate Leader from Kentucky Mitch McConnell, who voted with Democrats 56% of the time, and 17 other Republican RINOs who helped Democrats pass their \$1.7 trillion funding bill through September of next year. Mitch has made it quite clear that, in his opinion, "Ukraine is our number one priority" and the bill followed through with that, giving Ukraine another \$45 billion for total funding thus far of over \$110 billion.

The dastardly bill also contains \$410 million for border security for Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Oman; \$200 million for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund; \$60 million for Pacific Coastal Salmon recovery; \$7.5 million to study "the domestic radicalization phenomenon;" \$5 million to study the impacts of culverts, roads and bridges on salmon populations; \$3.6 million for a Michelle Obama Trail; \$3 million for a LGBTQ Museum in New York and \$3 million for bee-friendly highways.

There's also a 4.6% pay raise for Congress; over \$1.5 billion for customs and border protection's "border management" efforts on the condition that the funds can't be used for border security but instead will be used entirely on processing illegal aliens as quickly as possible and transporting them to already overwhelmed communities.

Our other Senator Rand Paul recently pointed out, in his annual Festivus Report, that more than \$31.5 million in Covid 19 relief funds were used to purchase

luxury cars, the National Institutes of Health spent over \$3 million to watch hamsters fight on steroids and over \$1 million for mice to binge drink, that the National Science Foundation (NSF) spends \$675,000 to compare ant and human brain development and that the same NSF spent \$118,000 for a study on whether the Marvel movie Villain Thanos could actually snap his fingers while wearing the infinity Gauntlet (can't wait for the results of that study - big eye roll).

If you are not disgusted by the totally improper use of our hard earned taxpayer \$\$ then we are in big trouble as a country.

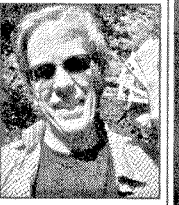
Oh, and by the way, don't forget that by 2026 a "kill switch" will be mandatory on all new vehicles thereby allowing some government bureaucrat to stop your car from running if, in their opinion, you have offended the government in some manner. This was part of the \$1.7 trillion infrastructure bill passed in August of 2021.

Here's hoping that the House will at least address stopping the hiring of 87,000 additional IRS agents and maybe even start the ball rolling on getting the J6 prisoners released after two years in a DC Gulag. During the two years these people have been held, mainly for trespassing, there have been six suicides because of the horrific conditions under which American citizens are being held without due process.

And, on the topic of the 87,000 IRS agents, the Biden administration has not been able to fill all the positions so the plan now is to hire foreign subcontractors!

Aces Over

By: Mike French



My New Year's Resolution this year is similar to previous years, since I have never lived up to it before anyway. I try every year, but life gets in the way and I end up in a hurry every year and my own little resolution goes by the wayside.

No one else does that, right? Everyone keeps their New Year's resolution perfectly every year, right? If that were the case, I am betting we would have a lot of millionaires around us every day.

So, I have decided that I shall not make a New Year's Resolution until I have kept the previous one. When I keep this one, I'll move on.

Once again, I am going to try to listen more to people's stories. Everyone has a story and life is

just too busy to sit and listen to it anymore. But I am going to try harder.

This past weekend, Dora and I were in Cracker Barrel in London and we were given a table beside a friend of mine from Livingston.

We began to chat and, though I have known this man for about eight years, I really had no idea about his life story.

I have come to the conclusion that every person above 40 has an amazing, very personal, specific story, that is unlike every other person's on earth.

I am convinced that every person we pass on the street, everyone we

(Continued on A3)

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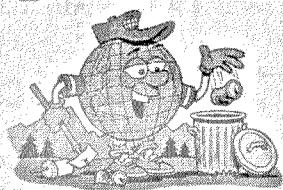
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Attention Non-Profit Groups or Organizations



The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court in conjunction with the Kentucky Division of Waste Management is pleased to announce

Rockcastle County Solid Waste
\$100.00 Per Mile
Roadside Litter Clean-Up
Program!

Non-profits such as Churches, School Groups, Clubs, Fire Departments or other organizations which have a state tax-exempt ID number on file, may now raise needed funds to help their respective organization or group by cleaning up roadside trash, while also helping to

Keep The Rock Clean!

The Rockcastle County Solid Waste office will assign qualifying groups or organizations a road and/or section of road to be cleaned up, while funding remains available.

Contact the Rockcastle Solid Waste Office at
606-256-1902 for further details

AVOID DANGERS AFTER A STORM

STAY SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. Keep a distance of 50 feet, as the ground around the downed power lines may be energized. Assume ALL downed power lines are live.
- If you see someone in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, DO NOT touch him/her. You could become energized as well. Call 911 for assistance.
- Don't step in water near downed lines.
- NEVER attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it using an object such as a broom or stick.
- NEVER drive over a downed power line.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line while you're in the vehicle, stay inside the car. Call 911 or honk your horn to get help, but tell those rendering aid to stay away from the vehicle.
- If you must exit the vehicle for life-threatening reasons - jump out and away from it, making sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle away with your feet touching until you reach a safe distance. NEVER attempt to get back into a vehicle that is in contact with a power line.



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Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps
Trickles or Roars?

The sounds water makes is universally loved. People flock to the ocean for the waves. Others seek out mountain waterfalls. So many of our parks include a water feature, and for good reason, as it draws in viewers that find it attractive. Something primal, something romantic, something calming and reassuring is found in the sounds associated with moving water.

Popularity of waterfalls and streams, ponds and fountains, does ebb and flow as well. But, mostly I think it's not that the trickles or roars ever become unpopular; rather, it's distractions during elections or during recessions that dampens demand for water features periodically. The craving for the lovely sounds or a roaring ocean or river do not

change much over time. The peaceful trickle beside the patio is still calming in challenging times.

Adding waterfalls to your yard can give you that look, that sound, that ambience of a waterfall. Then there's no need to visit the wilderness when you can have the sights and sounds created as part of your landscape.

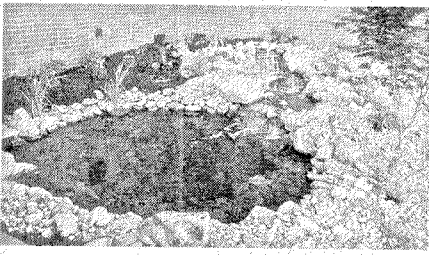
The well built, landscape that includes a waterfall does produce the feeling of living in a paradise.

In addition to nicer views, relaxing sounds, a water feature is good for the birds and other wildlife.

I see people buying big sacks of bird seed, but they don't seem to think

about the birds need for a drink or for a bath. Any yard having a good spot for the feathered guests to drink and bathe is a winner.

Ponds allow the homeowner to have fish, perhaps frogs or turtles. But not all water features have ponds associated with them. There's a pondless waterfall. There's the



trickling or squirting statue or fountain. I've

even seen a firepit and a waterfall constructed as a single feature beside a patio or seating spot.

Quite frequently a corporation will have a lake

and fountain, or some manner of waterfall near the front of it's headquarters. Many an up-scale community builder or homeowner association will place an impressive waterfall at the entry of their development. Even retention ponds often have a floating fountain anymore in the nicer parts of a community.

But, the average person doesn't have to have a huge feature in order to enjoy the atmosphere that musical waterfalls produce. The self-built feature can be quite nice. Advances in the equipment for mechanical as well as biological filtration have made building and keeping a waterfall and pond working properly much less troublesome than 30 years ago.

(Just be aware some pond books still give instructions on doing it the old ways that so often result in green ponds and lots of upkeep.)

Not every home that has a dog or a barbecue

grill is going to have a trickling or roaring spot in the yard. But those that do typically get a lot of pleasure from it.

The author is a landscaper. Contact Max: (606) 416-3911 or via rockcastles.net

Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2022 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

Proof of death documentation

Copy of grower's contracts

Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered ex-

pected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2023.

For more information, contact the Rockcastle County USDA Service Center at 606-256-2525 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Committee Meeting Date: January 4, 2023 8:30 A.M. at the Mount Vernon USDA Service Center.

Important program dates and interest rates

Farm Operating Loans-Direct = 5.125%

Farm Ownership Loans-Direct = 5.000%

Limited Resource Loans = 5.000%

Farm Ownership Loans-Direct Down Payment = 1.500%

Emergency Loans = 3.750%

Farm Storage Loans = 3 yrs. = 4.375% 5 yrs. = 4.125%, 7 yrs. = 4.125%

10 yrs. = 4.000%, 12 yrs. = 4.125%

Commodity Loans = 5.625%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Aces

(Continued from A2)

sit beside in a restaurant, every person who checks us out at the Dollar Store, and every inmate, politician and stranger all have amazing life stories. Things that we would never suspect are right there in their memory.

My pal turned and we chatted for about 15 to 20 minutes and though I see him ever month, I had no idea what his life had been like. Clyde Carpenter has been a City Commissioner in Livingston for quite some time and only last month resigned his office.

But he began to tell me about short sections of his life and as I suspected, it is filled with amazing stories.

Clyde was born and raised in Livingston and, as a young man he was jerked out of his home and sent on a train that began his trip by boat to Germany.

He expressed to me the horror he felt, alone on that long train ride, with every moment taking him farther from the only home he knew. Looking around him, there was no familiar face and he didn't know what to expect. He was frightened, as anyone would be.

Once at his destination, he didn't know there was an East and a West Germany. He told me he thought every German was the enemy and when he heard a German speak, he didn't know if he was safe or about to be shot. He was given no information about what to do or where to go and he ended up in a barracks alone with no idea what he was supposed to do next. He

must have been terrified and he admits that he was.

It was in Germany that he met a beautiful and graceful young lady, also a member of the armed services, one night and the very next morning he asked her to be his wife. She said "yes."

All these years later, she was still sitting by his side, chatting with a friend, at Cracker Barrel.

See what I mean? Here is a friend and business associate that I speak with every month yet I had no idea about the amazing times he has experienced. And that was just one, short 15-minute conversation. Imagine how many more there must be.

I greatly enjoyed our chat and he gave me permission to write what he had said. This is exactly what I plan to do much more often in 2023. I run so hard every day, that I am usually in a big hurry. I refuse to be late for anything and because of that phobia of mine, I rush away when people would likely tell me a very interesting story.

I could learn so much more about life if I just stop to hear some of the stories that people have to tell.

So, that is my goal once again. To stop and listen. Even if I am in a hurry, I hope to be able to hear more life stories in 2023.

It is my advice to everyone. Stop and listen for a moment. Take that extra few minutes. It can amaze you what you may learn.

May 2023 be filled with only good stories for each of you.

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

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Rockcastle County Bookmobile Schedule
Monday, Jan. 9th: Child Development, Seek 'n Learn, Lisa's Little People and Tic Toc Preschool. Tuesday, Jan. 10th: Scaffold Cane, Clear Creek, Wildie.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

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

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 military service members and their families. The post is currently open by appointment only. If you would like to rent our event hall for special occasions, please call the number below. Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of every month at 5 p.m. Those wishing to contact the VFW for help, information or any need, please contact Post Commander Michael Parsons 859-358-6546 and/or District Commander William B.J. Thomason at 606-392-1207.

Mt. Vernon Lions Club

The Mt. Vernon Lions Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Limestone Grille.

American Legion Post News

The David M. Smith American Legion meets at Limestone Grille the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. If you wish to eat before the meeting, arrive at 5 p.m. For more info, call Commander Kathy Bobo at 606-308-1208 or Chaplain B.J. Thomason at 859-358-2882.

DAR Meetings

The Rockcastle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution meets the first Monday of each month, September-May at 6 p.m. at First Christian Church in Mt. Vernon. All prospective members are welcome to attend.

Rockcastle UNITE Coalition

The Rockcastle County UNITE Coalition meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at noon at Marcella's Farm to Fork Restaurant to plan activities. Please join us each month.

Celebrate Recovery/AA/NA

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

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

Wednesday-Celebrate Recovery-Mt. Vernon: Crosspoint Church of God, 211 Industrial Park Rd., Mt. Vernon. Wednesday, 6 p.m. 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 Pope, 606-308-3099.

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

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

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

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Rockcastle County Meeting/Forum 1 Advertisement

Rockcastle County School District's Local Planning Committee will be holding a Public Meeting and Public Forum on January 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rockcastle Teaching and Learning Center Board Room.

The meeting will initiate the District Facility Planning process and review a Kentucky Department of Education overview of the process. Members of the public are welcome to attend and/or address the Local Planning Committee.

Rockcastle Teaching and Learning Center
250 Richmond Street
Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456

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Obituaries

Patricia Ann Fletcher

Patricia Ann (Hayes) Fletcher, 51, of Mt. Vernon, died Monday, December 26, 2022, at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. Patty was born February 16, 1971, in Hamilton, OH, a daughter of the late Michael Hayes and Joyce Hubbard. She was a devoted member of the Fountain of Life United Pentecostal Church. She took pride in taking care of others and worked as a caretaker at Oakwood Residential Facility. In her free time, she loved listening to music and singing.

Those left to celebrate her life are: her husband, Steven Fletcher; her children, Matthew Fletcher of Stanford, and Abigail Fletcher of Mt. Vernon; as well as a host of many friends and neighbors.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Sylvia Bullen, and a brother, Michael Hayes, Jr.

A memorial service was held at Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals on Monday, January 2, 2023 with James Blanton and JB Alexander officiating.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com

Martha Jane Ferguson

Martha Jane Ferguson, 98, of Westfield, died Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Jane was born January 1, 1924 in Brodhead, to the late Theodore and Mary Harper.

Jane first saw her husband, Gale, who was in the Army, at a soda fountain in Cincinnati, OH and later found herself seated with him on a bus home to Maryland. Their marriage afforded Jane the opportunity to travel extensively, including Maryland, Germany, Japan, Hawaii, Kansas and Massachusetts. She especially enjoyed living in Japan and Hawaii as a military wife. Gale retired with the rank of Master Sergeant.

Jane worked in the commissary at Fort Devens, MA and was a personal shopper at the Post Exchange in Fort Shafter, HI. Most recently, she was a greeter at Meijer in Fishers.

Jane was preceded in death by her husband, Gale Ferguson. She is survived by her daughter, Sandy Ferguson and step-sons, William Edward Ferguson and Gale Ferguson, Jr.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 30, 2022 at Lakes Funeral Home and Crematory in Berea.

Jean Stephens

Delora Jean Stephens, 91, of Mt. Vernon, died Saturday, December 17, 2022 at the Terrace Nursing & Rehabilitation Facility in Berea. She was born in

Rockcastle County on March 11, 1931, the daughter of Cecil and Dona Lovell Shepherd. She had been a clerk for Renfro Valley Entertainment Center and was a member of Faith Chapel Pentecostal Church. She enjoyed gospel music, listening to WRVK, watching Westerns, birds, horses, gardening, and shopping.

She is survived by: her sister, Joyce Wilder; and her caregivers, her niece, Stacy Spoonamore and her sons, Austin and Andrew Spoonamore. Several nieces and nephews also survive. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by: her first husband, Bentley Rowe; her precious son, Jerry Dale Rowe; her husband, Edd Stephens; two brothers, Dearl and Earl Shepherd; and a sister, Nina Norene Shepherd.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at the Dowell & Martin Funeral Home Chapel by Bros. Ronnie Spoonamore and Jack Carpenter. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery.

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

David Cole

David "Mountain Man" Cole, 58, of Orlando, died Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at his home. He was born in Lexington on August 8, 1964, to Clemon Dee and Dorothy Newman Cole. He was a musician who loved playing and listening to music as well as woodworking and building things. If he didn't know how to do something, he worked until he figured it out. He was truly a "Jack of All Trades".

He is survived by: his loving wife of 32 years, Lucy Smith Cole; his children, Dalton Cole of Irvine and Angel Smith of Mt. Vernon; his grandchildren, Astra, Braeden, Drexel, and Raylin; and three sisters, Letha Tipton, Bessie Tipton, and Heather Cole, all of Irvine. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clemon Dee and Dorothy Cole.

The family of Mr. Cole chose cremation with no services at this time.

Arrangements are by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

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

Doris Felts

Doris Felts, 69, of Mt. Vernon, died Monday, December 26, 2022 at her home. She was born October 29, 1953 in Indianapolis, IN, the daughter of the late Dan and Dorothy Maddox Fry. She was a housewife, enjoyed scratch off lottery tickets, crossword puzzles, coloring, playing Nintendo, watching hallmark and lifetime channels, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors are: her husband of 53 years, James Felts; one son, James R. Felts III and Lindsey and former wife Crystal Bannon Felts; two daughters, Melissa Felts and Brian, and Jennifer Felts Renfro and Ryan; four brothers, Donald "Joe", Dwayne, Darrel, and Douglas Fry; nine grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and one on the way; and many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by: three brothers, Danny, David, and Dennis Fry; and two sisters, Debbie Fry Atkins, and Doreen Fry Collins.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 30, 2022 at Cox Funeral Home with Bro. Tim Hounshell officiating. Burial was in Pine Hill Cemetery.

View the complete obituary, sign the guest registry, or send condolences to the family online at www.coxfuneralhomeky.com

Paul "Junie" Renner, Jr.

Paul "Junie" Renner, Jr., 69, of Sand Springs, died peacefully at his home Sunday, December 25, 2022. He was born in Marler Hollow in Rockcastle County,

on January 16, 1953, the son of Edith Marler. He had been a farmer and was a retired bus driver for the Rockcastle County School System, as well as a member of Sand Springs Baptist Church.

He is survived by: two children, Paul (Becky) Renner and Verlenna "Sissy" (Jeff) Miller, both of Mt. Vernon; five grandchildren, Samantha (Justin) Miller, Tiffany (Zack) Dunham, Tina (Bradley) Miller, and Nikki (Chase) Renner, all of Mt. Vernon, and Jordall (Kathas) Renner of Harrodsburg; five great grandchildren, Lilly Welch, Ryan Miller, Caelynn Edington, and Colton Edington, all of Mt. Vernon, and Braxton Renner of Harrodsburg; a sister, Margaret Barnett; and four half-brothers, Chad Payne, Jessie Payne, James Renner, and Paul Renner. He was preceded in death by: his wife of 42 years, Glenna Evans Renner; his mother, Edith Marler; a brother, Dennis Marler; and a sister, Margie Kirby.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 29, 2022 at Sand Springs Baptist Church by Bro. Eugene Gentry. Burial was in Sand Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Zack Durham, Chase Edington, Bradley Hyde, Jeff Miller, Chad Payne, Jordan Renner, and Justin Welch.

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

KDA's annual poster, essay contest announced

Kentucky students are invited to enter the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) annual Poster and Essay Contest, Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles has announced.

The theme of the 2023 contest is "Kentucky Agriculture is Everywhere," encouraging contestants to illustrate in words or pictures how agriculture impacts their everyday world.

"Agriculture is everywhere. It's in the things we eat, the things we wear, the places we live," Commissioner Quarles said. "Emphasizing the importance agriculture plays in our everyday lives reveals its importance in all we do and have. This year's contest allows students to give that knowledge greater thought."

Students in grades K-12 may submit a poster, an essay of 500 words or less, or a digital entry, which may be photos or original digital artwork. Each entry must include the actual written theme and be postmarked by Friday, March 3, 2023.

Winners will be notified by Friday, April 14, 2023. Winners in the poster and essay competitions will be selected in each grade. One statewide winner will be selected for digital artwork. Each winner will receive a \$100 award from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and will be recognized at the 2023 Poster and Essay Contest Awards Ceremony next year. Winning entries will be displayed in Commissioner Quarles' Frankfort office and at the 2023 Kentucky State Fair in August in Louisville.

For more information, including complete contest rules and an entry form, go to <https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/poster-essay-contest.html> or contact Elizabeth Gordon, director of the KDA's Education and Outreach Division, at Elizabeth.Gordon@ky.gov or (502) 782-4125.

Joyce W. (York) Shafer

Joyce W. (York) Shafer, 72, of Crab Orchard, died Sunday, January 1, 2023 at Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mt. Vernon. She was the wife of Thomas Edward Shafer, whom she married April 18, 1969. Joyce was born in Burkesville on August 7, 1950. She was a daughter of the late Ernest and Gladys (Johnson) York. She had worked as a cook for the former Dix River Country Club Restaurant and also the former C&W Restaurant in Stanford. She had attended Piney Grove Church of Christ. Joyce was known to spoil her family whenever possible and was the best mom, wife, sister and friend.

Survivors include: husband, Thomas "Eddie" Shafer of Crab Orchard; daughter, Samantha Jane Shafer of Crab Orchard; son, Johnny Thomas Shafer of Crab Orchard; daughter, Amanda May Shafer of Crab Orchard; brother, Marris York of Burkesville; sisters, Helen Hart and Linda Brown, both of Indianapolis, IN, Earlene York Tuggle of Stanford, and Lesa Marie Adams of Crab Orchard; 10 grandchildren, Dalton Blake Dillingham, Tommy Shafer, Caleb "Dew" Dillingham, Kayla Abney, Skylar Dillingham, Hunter Shafer, Taylor McGuire, Sebastian McGuire and Lauren Pruitt; and several great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a grandson, Chase Dillingham and brothers, David and Denny York.

Pallbearers include: Johnny Thomas, Tommy and Hunter Shafer, Dalton and Caleb Dillingham, and Sebastian McGuire. Honorary pallbearers: Mark and Jerry Singleton.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, January 6, 2023 at McKnight Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Ralph Baker officiating. Burial will be in Piney Grove Cemetery. Visitation is after 6 p.m. Thursday, January 5th at McKnight Funeral Home

Doris Lunce

Doris Jean Lunce, 67, of Lexington, died Tuesday, December 27, 2022. She was born in Augusta, GA on July 1, 1955, the daughter of Earl and Christine Coffey Anglin. She had been a homemaker and was of the Apostolic Faith.

She is survived by: her sons, Michael Shawn Lunce and wife Julie of Irvine, and George J. Lunce and wife Amy of Louisville; three grandchildren, Emma Jean Lunce, Stacey Jade Lunce, and Ashley Madden; a brother, Bobby Nicholas of Berea; and two sisters, Edith Faye Powell and husband Clyde, and Barbara Wheeler, both of Berea. She was preceded in death by: her husband, George Lunce; her parents, Earl Anglin and Christine Anglin Nicholas; and a brother, Billy Anglin.

Graveside services will be conducted Friday, January 6, 2023 at 1 p.m. in Rimmel Cemetery by Bro. Stevie Robinson.

Arrangements are by Dowell & Martin Funeral Home.

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

Please call change of addresses to 606-256-2244

Calling Evil Good

IT WAS THE PROPHET ISAIAH WHO SAID, (Isa. 5:20) Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Even in the church today we have some who profess they see nothing wrong with social drinking, gambling, sex outside the marriage, abortion, and many other sins, they seem to feel today those things are okay.

BECAUSE OF THIS SINFUL WORLD, it makes it more difficult for the church to remain sound. I am convinced, that Hollywood, has probably done more harm to society, than any other organization, that there is in this world. It continues to demoralize America and modernize the church, more than anyone thing since the day of Pentecost.

IT SEEMS EVEN IN THE CHURCH WE ARE QUICKLY LOSING OUR SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT. Have we reached the point in our life that we can no longer distinguish between good and evil, truth and error? Have we lost the courage to rise and condemn the sins of the wicked generation? Are we condoning darkness for light, and that which is bitter for sweet, when we no longer cry out against the sins of this corrupt society? Are we not told in, (Proverbs 17:15) He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemns the just, is an abomination to the Lord? It seems in society today that is what is going on, the innocent are guilty and the guilty are innocent. It is high time we wake up and stand up for what is right, and be different than this world. (2Cor. 6:17-18) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

THE WAY WE BECOME DIFFERENT IS SUBMIT TO THE GOSPEL CALL: By believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (John 8:24) By repenting or changing, turn from sin, (Lk. 13:3). A confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, (Matt. 10:32). Then we must be baptized, (Acts 22:16).

When we do this the blood of Christ washes away our sins and makes us white as snow. Won't you follow Jesus today?

Thank you for reading this article. We have videos to watch on our YouTube website. Chestnut Ridge Church of Christ. We want to know what you think your suggestion is important to us. Whether you agree or disagree. You can contact me at: 606-224-1480 or you can email me at ovabaker@windstream.net.

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

“Year”

(Continued from front)

for 10 days as COVID numbers ramped back up slightly. In the last part of January, COVID was discovered inside the local jail and new protocol began to avoid more spread.

Also in January, local police arrested Brett Whittaker who had previously been pardoned by Governor Matt Bevin on charges related to DUI wanton murder. Whittaker faced several charges and was lodged in the local detention center.

February

In February, the search began for Woodrow Lamb, 44, of Mount Vernon, after he was accused of robbing and shooting a local man. Lamb led police on an eight-month chase and was accused of several other burglaries while on the run.

The owners of the Microfoodery plant announced the sale of the property and the \$1.45 million loans from the city and county were repaid in full, according to RCIDA Executive Director Jeff VanHook.

Assistant Mount Vernon Police Chief Joe Rush withdrew from his race for Rockcastle County Sheriff in February. Rush was later named MVPD Chief of Police after Chief Brian Carter requested being moved to Assistant Chief.

Parents attended the February school board meeting asking that the school drop the mask mandate. The board complied with the request.

Forest fires burned over 60 acres in February in Rockcastle County.

Donnie Lamb, 57, was arrested and charged with the shooting of 74-year-old George Davis. Meanwhile, two juveniles were arrested and charged with arson after being caught starting fires in Rockcastle County.

In February, George Henshaw II received a sentence of 25 years in prison for shooting his stepmother in November of 2020.

March

In March, RCHS's own Lexi Dotson won the 800-meter state title and was ranked 18th in the nation.

Forest fires were a problem in March as local firefighters fought several fires throughout the county.

It was in March that four spelunkers became lost inside a cave at Mullins Station. The cavers were located after four days trapped in the cave. They were dehydrated but uninjured.

The Fiscal Court agreed to set aside \$25,000 to upgrade the Brodhead ballfields only to discover inflation had raised the price to well over \$100,000 by the time estimates were received. The project is currently on hold.

The Farmers Market project was completed in March as dignitaries visited the building on Richmond Street and proclaimed the project one of the finest Farmers Markets in the state.

Crystal Rush became the new Mount Vernon City Clerk in March, after an illness caused the resignation of Jeanette Robinson.

After a month-long search, authorities found Tom Clark deceased. Clark had been reported missing from the Livingston area and his

body was later discovered in a creek in Irvine, according to reports.

WW II Veterans were honored by the local chapter of the DAR in March.

Also in March, Exela announced as many as 400 new job openings due to their local growth and expansion.

April

In April, a \$40 million project passed the legislature and would be addressed by the Governor's office for a gas line tap in Lincoln County that will eventually come to Rockcastle County. In November the gas line reached its first customer in Lincoln County.

The Tobacco Barn was robbed at gunpoint in April. The suspect was later arrested. No injuries were reported in the robbery.

The City of Brodhead passed a dog ordinance in April. The ordinance gives policemen the authority to shoot or kill any unleashed dog that is threatening the safety of a person.

It was in April that the Rockcastle County School Board approved the new \$34 million middle school project. The price tag has risen since the original estimates but the final total cost is currently unknown.

State Representative Josh Bray secured \$60 million in state funding for several Rockcastle County projects in April, including funds for the middle school project.

Fires in abandoned buildings caused the Mount Vernon City Council to pursue new ordinances that would give the city more authority over abandoned buildings. Several months later, the ordinance passed giving the city authority to fine owners or close abandoned buildings if deemed a health risk.

In the last week of April MVES students celebrated Earth Day in the new History Garden on Richmond Street.

A Mount Vernon woman was arrested, after her son called 911 out of fear that she might harm children in her home. Police arrested Casey Ballinger, 33, of Mount Vernon who was charged with possession of drugs and endangering the welfare of a minor.

May

The Grand Opening ceremony for the new Farmers Market building was held in May as dignitaries complimented officials over the new facility. One of the first events at the new facility included the Republican Party's "Lincoln Day Banquet" that same month.

As usual, first responders spent a large part of the month dealing with accidents on I-75 in Rockcastle County as over 20 accidents were reported in one weekend in May.

The National Day of Prayer was observed in Rockcastle County in May bringing a large crowd to the courthouse lawn for the observance.

There was a primary election held in May as local residents chose their candidates for the upcoming general elections with incumbents making a strong showing in the primary.

The first estimate of \$34 million was announced for the new middle school building

project. It was later discovered that \$34 million would be insufficient to complete the project. An effort to find additional funding began and is still underway.

In May, four businesses were burglarized in Mount Vernon, culminating in two arrests.

June

Memorial Day was observed in Rockcastle County as a large crowd formed on the courthouse lawn to honor local heroes.

A massive fire destroyed an apartment and office building in Brodhead in June. The fire brought firefighters from six departments who eventually defeated the blaze. The cause of the fire was suspicious, according to officials, but an arrest was not made in direct connection with the fire.

Fireworks came early as officials in the City of Livingston, and some residents, held loud arguments during City Commission meeting in June. Disagreements over several issues brought heated discussions and the Rockcastle County Attorney's office began an investigation into several allegations of misconduct and terroristic threatening. Some residents asked the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court to take action against Police Chief Mikie Ashurst. No action has been taken and no charges were filed.

Mount Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant told the city council the city is in need of a new sewer plant in the near future. Most council members agreed but the subject has not yet been placed on the agenda.

The Climax Volunteer Fire Department received the Robert E. Browning Jr. Award for Excellence for their outstanding efforts over the year.

The school board got their first architectural renderings of the new middle school plans which are still underway at this time.

See the next issue of the *Signal* for the Year in Review from July to December.

“Storm”

(Continued from front) tucky were without power through most of the weekend and emergency personnel were called to countless special needs issues during the storm.

Members of the Brodhead Fire Department transported one resident to the hospital where she gave birth moments later and many others called for help with temporary heat or medicine. Warming centers were created at most local fire departments and Pongo firefighters delivered over 40 meals through Kenna's Kitchen.

Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. said the county has a strong supply of salt but salt doesn't work in temperatures near zero, which included most of Christmas weekend. The extra cold temperatures caused some difficulty with the salt trucks, such as not starting due to the cold temperatures, but road crews continued to battle the snow and ice throughout the county.

All Rockcastle County fire departments set records for the number of calls for help in 2021 and then broke those records in 2022, af-

ter the last two weeks of December saw a record number of calls in a month for some departments.

A large part of the City of Livingston had no water service through part of the Christmas weekend and countless homes reported frozen water lines throughout the county. Crews worked to repair broken water lines and restore electrical service to homes across Rockcastle and the City of Livingston into last week.

The weather warmed dramatically from a reported low of 4 degrees the week of Christmas to a reported high of 57 degrees last week. However, first responders continued to answer calls as an accident on I-75 Friday night once again slowed traffic for several hours, including the Livingston Fire Department volunteers being called to an overturned vehicle but the driver and owner were not found.

At press time Tuesday, most homes have had utility services restored.

“Kiwanis”

(Continued from front) ing forward and growing with the county.

Tim "Duck" Roberts, the newly-elected mayor of Mount Vernon, said that he has been working closely with past Mayor Mike Bryant every weekday and hopes to continue the development and growth that Bryant has provided through strong leadership. Bryant confirmed that Roberts is learning fast and listening to all those who are willing to assist in the transition.

New Brodhead Mayor Jerry Adams said he hopes to continue the work of Mayor Walter Cash, during his 24 year tenure in office, and he appreciates the support from Brodhead residents and friends.

Cash was also recognized for his service over the years. Cash was also feted at a farewell party after his final City Commission meeting in December and at a ceremony on December 31 at which he was presented with a key to the City of Brodhead.

Rep. Bray addressed the crowd about several projects that he has been working on since his first term as 71st District State Representative.

Bray mentioned the gas line project that is expected to bring natural gas to Rockcastle County and the battle he, Storm and others fought to provide state funding for the project. He discussed the US-421 widening project and said he hopes that project will be underway soon. Bray also addressed the \$10 million he was able to obtain through equalization funding and the additional \$4 million through legislation for the new Rockcastle County Middle School project.

However, recent inflation numbers, combined with heating and air conditioning improvements, modifications to the road and the gymnasium, have caused the cost of the project to rise significantly though a final cost is not yet known, Bray says he is working to find more funds so that when the new estimated costs are received the project may not be delayed.

Bray also addressed his focus as the new Vice Chair of the Local Government Committee in

Frankfort, which includes taking some of the responsibility of maintaining jails "off the backs of county budgets."

Bray said he will also work on the state's welfare system. "We know how important the welfare system is for those who need it. But there needs to be a lot more focus on getting people off the system and transitioned back into the workforce," said Bray. "I graduated with people whose goal in to live off the system. The idea of working isn't part of their plans and that has to change."

Storm then addressed the crowd, discussing the US-461 project and the 150,000 plus citizens that he serves as state senator.

Storm spoke about interstate exits in Mount Vernon and airports in Madison and Laurel Counties that serve Rockcastle, and his intention to focus on improving those areas of service.

After the meal, door prizes were handed out and the crowd was able to mingle to discuss countless local projects.

“Ready”

(Continued from front)

took office on January 1. Newly-elected Mayor Larry Davidson was sworn in and took office on January 1. But two long time commissioners, who were re-elected and were the two top vote-getters, Clyde Carpenter and Leroy Lamb, both resigned before being sworn in.

Mayor Davidson said he has some names in mind to fill the two empty seats and he hopes some local citizens will attend the January 9 meeting and show an interest in the office. "I hope we can take care of that at the January meeting," he said. "Anyone interested in becoming a city commissioner should attend the meeting and let us know."

The other two commissioners who were elected last November are Sandi Singleton and Troy Goforth.

Also in Livingston, the city attorney, the only city police officer, the city clerk and the water superintendent also resigned their positions.

But Davidson is already working to fill those positions as well. In fact, he said city officials are currently vetting names of potential police officers. "We are not in a big hurry because we want to find the best choice for Livingston police officer. We have several people that we are considering..." he said.

Davidson said Rural Water, Inc. is in control of the water situation. "Rural Water is a state entity and they are taking care of our water situation for the time being," he said.

As for Livingston City Clerk, Davidson said Samantha Lunsford has been named to the position and will take over on January 17.

The new mayor and commissioners will hold their first regular meeting on Monday, January 9 at City Hall.

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court remains the same in 2023, except for new Magistrate Lee Earl Adams, a former magistrate, who was elected to replace Shannon Bishop who chose not to run or reelection.

The first regular meeting of the fiscal court is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10 at 4 p.m.

“School”

(Continued from front)

took countless financial moves from the local district, taking advantage of many revenue sources and State Representative Josh Bray still had to come up with \$14 million in legislation and equalization funding to move the project forward.

After months of meetings, budget alterations, trips to Frankfort and continued efforts by Superintendent Carrie Ballinger and many others, the \$34 million project was finally approved and Deco Architectural Services was hired to begin the project.

Countless meetings to work out design and function were held between each department of the local district and the architectural firm and several presentations were given, during public school board meetings, showing the design plans.

However, shortly after the election of the Joe Biden administration, inflation became rampant, gas prices spiked, material costs soared, and construction prices rose across the country.

"We were able to secure a total of \$14 million in funding for the new \$34 million middle school project," said Kentucky State Representative Josh Bray. "But now, that is simply not enough. We are going to have to find more funding somewhere."

After discovering that due to inflation, the project estimates were about to rise dramatically, Superintendent Ballinger immediately began trying to figure out exactly how much more the project would cost. Some changes were made to the project itself, due to safety requirements and other design issues. The present road to the new school had to be altered, the auxiliary gymnasium had to be redesigned and the heating and air conditioning system had to be updated from the original plans causing the cost of the project to rise significantly, according to Ballinger and Bray.

Ballinger recently met with officials to determine a new cost estimate but once again was unable to discover the new price tag for the project. "It is too early for us to know exactly how much the costs will increase," said Ballinger. "We are working closely with our financial advisors and the legislature to determine the most financially responsible way to move forward," she said.

How much of the additional cost will be due to inflation and how much will be due to modifications to the original plans is not known at this time, according to Ballinger. "We have made modifications to the HAVC systems and modifications to the road and the auxiliary gym," she said. "We are waiting on the new cost estimates but it will be more than originally planned."

Ballinger said school districts are also working together to find accurate cost estimates. "There are 20 other districts that are in the process of new construction and we are working closely with them to see what this inflation is doing to costs."

Bray and Ballinger say they are "working hard to find out" what the total estimated cost of the project will be and will keep everyone informed

SPORTS

Rockets win Twin Lakes Holiday Classic

The Rockets had a good time; at the Twin Lakes Holiday Classic held in Clinton County December 19-21, winning all four of their games, including the championship game 57-48 over Morgan County.

The Rockets started off with a 70-54 win over Glasgow with freshman Walker Craig being named Player of the Game with his team best 22 points and eight rebounds.

The Rockets hit 15 of 17 free throws, with Connor Hunt going 6/6 and Trenton Wilson 5/6. They went five for 15 from three point range.

Besides Walker's 22, Broedy Dunaway got 12 points; Connor Hunt 10; Trenton Wilson eight; Jace Rogers seven; Maddox Parsons six and Kaden Kidwell five.

Their next game was a nail-biter with the Rockets hanging on to take a 62-61 win over host Clinton County.

Freshman guard Maddox Parsons was named Player of the Game with his 16 team high points, 12 of them coming from three point range. Trenton Wilson was the only other Rocket in double figures with 11, including three three point goals; Rogers, Skyler Durham and Craig got seven points each;

Hunt and Kidwell five each and Dunaway four.

Kidwell and Wilson tied for rebounding honors with four each; Durham and Rogers snagged three each; Hunt pulled down two and Walker and Parsons got one each.

The Rockets next faced off with a Monterey, TN team and won 75-63.

In this game, Skyler Durham's 16 points, 12 from three point range, earned him Player of the Game honors. Wilson was next with 13, including three three point baskets; Craig got 12 points; Parsons nine; Hunt and Rogers seven each; Dunaway six and Kidwell five.

The Rockets only got to the free throw line six times but they made the most of them, hitting five.

Walker pulled down 11 rebounds for his team; Kidwell got eight; Durham seven; Hunt four; Wilson and Dunaway three each; Parsons two and Rogers one for a total of 39 rebounds.

In the championship game, the Rockets triumphed over Morgan Co. 57-48.

Jace Rogers, led his team in scoring with 14 points and was named Player of the Game.

Craig also scored 14 points and, along with Kidwell, added eight rebounds. Besides those 16 rebounds, Durham got five; Rogers and Wilson four each; Hunt and Parsons three each and Dunaway two for a total of 37 rebounds.

Besides Rogers' and Craig's 14 points each, Dunaway scored seven; Durham and Kidwell got six each and Parsons and Wilson each scored five points.

The Rockets shot 78.3% in free throws, going 18/23 but only hit 5/

22 three point shots.

At the Ellis Trucking Christmas Classic in Mercer County December 28-30, the Rockets went one for three, defeating Washington Co. 66-56 in the first game and losing to Central Hardin and Danville in the next two games.

In the Washington County game, three Rockets were in double figures, led by Walker Craig with 16 points, Skyler Durham got 15 and Jace Rogers 14. Broedy Dunaway contributed nine points,

Maddox Parsons eight and Kaden Kidwell four.

Craig also led the scoring in the Central Hardin game, in which the Rockets were soundly defeated 81-51.

Craig's 16 points was followed by Parsons with 11, Conner Hunt, with seven, Trent Wilson got six, Rogers and Durham, five each and Dunaway one.

The final game of that tourney saw the Rockets lose to Danville 57-39.

There were no Rockets in double figures. Durham led the scoring

with nine points. Hunt got eight, Parsons seven, Craig six, Kidwell and Dunaway four each and Wilson one.

The Rockets were scheduled to play a district doubleheader with the Lady Rockets at RCHS Tuesday night, January 3rd, then travel to Pulaski Co. on Friday night for another doubleheader district matchup with the Lady Rockets. They will then host Adair county next Saturday, the 7th and travel to Anderson County next Tuesday night, January 10th.



Lady Rockets do well in holiday tourneys

Adams Buick Holiday Hoop Fest Madison Central

The Lady Rockets came out on top in the Adams Buick Holiday Hoop Fest, held at Madison Central December 22 and 23rd.

The Rockets defeated

Graves County, in the opening game, 69 to 64 in overtime, behind 21 points by junior Talyne Shearer, which included going 9/12 from the charity stripe. They followed that up with a resounding victory over South Oldham 62-33.

In the Graves County game, the Lady Rockets had to make up ground after getting outscored 16-7 by Graves County in the first quarter. However, they came back strong in the second quarter, scoring 27 points to Graves' 13 to take a halftime lead

of 34-29.

Graves County staged something of a comeback in the third quarter, outscoring the Rockets 17 to 11 to take a 46-45 lead. The Rockets made that one point up in the fourth to tie the score at 58-58 at the end of regulation. In the overtime portion, the Rockets hit 9/13 free throws and one field goal to outscore Graves County 11-6 and take the 69-64 win.

Freshman Taylor King came off the bench to be the second leading scorer for her team with 17 points, including one three point basket and hitting five of six free throws in OT. Senior Karlee Smith was the other Lady Rocket in double figures, getting 11 points, which included two three point baskets. Keelee King hit two threes; Markley Richards got five points, including the other three point basket, and Haven King scored four points.

Shearer was also the leading rebounder for her team, pulling down nine; Macy Spivey got four; Karlee Smith three, Taylor King, Haven King and Camryn Cash got two each and Keelee King, Markley Richards and Savannah Santo were credited with one each.

In the second game, the Rockets easily took the measure of South Oldham, winning 62-33 with Shearer once again leading the scoring for her team with 16 points.

Besides Shearer's 16, Keelee King was credited with 14 points, which in-

cluded all four of the Rockets three point baskets. Macy Spivey scored 10 points; Haven King six; Karlee Smith, Ella McKinney and Taylor King scored four points each and Savannah Santo and Camryn Cash got two points each.

The Rockets went 6/10 at the free throw line.

Spivey and Haven King tied for rebounding honors with eight each; Shearer got five; Keelee King, Karlee Smith and Brylee Mullins pulled down three each; Taylor King and Savannah Santo were credited with two each and Ella McKinney got one.

In the first game of the First Bank Holiday Bash at South Warren, the Lady Rockets jumped out to an early 23-16 first quarter lead, were ahead 33-23 at the half, led 46-34 at the end of the third quarter and ended with a 57-48 victory over host South Warren.

Shearer led the scoring with 19 points; Camryn Cash got 12; Keelee King and Taylor King scored seven points each; Karlee Smith got six; Haven King four and Macy Spivey two points.

The Rockets hit 11 of 20 free throws and made four three point baskets.

Shearer took rebounding honors with 10; Camryn Cash got four; Taylor King, Haven King and Keelee King pulled down two each and Savannah Santo and Karlee Smith each got one.

In the second game, the Lady Rockets had to come back from a 26-21

halftime deficit to Bardstown but comeback they did, outscoring Bardstown 34-20 in the second half, 16 from the free throw line, for the 55-46 win.

Shearer was the only Lady Rocket in double figures with 26 points; Taylor King got eight points, all at the free throw line and all in the fourth quarter; Karlee Smith scored seven points, all in the fourth quarter; Camryn Cash got five points, including her team's only three point basket; Keelee King scored four points; Haven King three and Savannah Santo two.

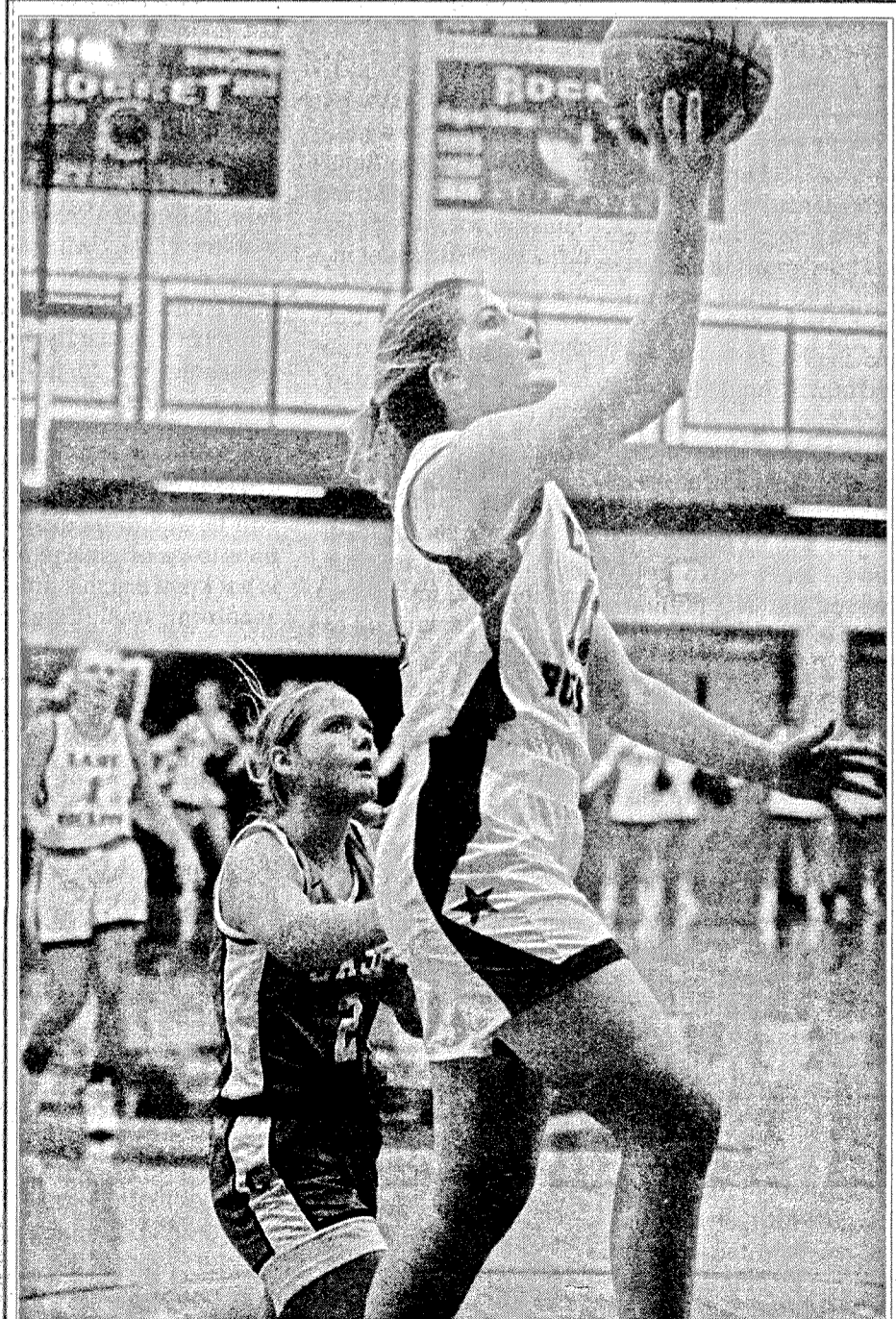
The Lady Rockets hit 18/25 free throws and pulled down 33 rebounds with Shearer getting nine; Taylor King eight; Keelee King seven; Karlee Smith three; Savannah Santo and Camryn Cash two each and Macy Spivey and Haven King one each.

The Lady Rockets next easily defeated Faidale 77-12. It was no contest at all but allowed Coach Chrysti Noble to clear her bench and 14 Lady Rockets to get into the scoring column.

The Rockets took the first quarter 36-5; were up 48-7 at the half; 62-7 at the third quarter stop and, with the starters getting to rest the entire fourth quarter, the Rockets still took it 15-5.

Camryn Cash led the scoring with 16; Shearer got 13; Haven King 12; Brylee Mullins seven;

(Cont. to A10)



Talyne Shearer led the Lady Rockets over the holiday break with the Rockets winning five of six games played.

“Court”

(Continued from front)

and then table the subject until the next month so that the magistrates would have time to look at all the information,” said Holbrook. “This way, we can provide each magistrate with information and then they can vote on the issue the next day in the regular monthly meeting. This will speed up our process a lot.”

The regular monthly meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. The work session will now be held at 4 p.m. on the Monday before the regular monthly meeting.

“By law, we would not be allowed to take action or vote on any issue in the work session,” said Holbrook. “We can just go over the numbers or the information and give the magistrates time to process the information before they are asked to vote on it.”

The additional monthly meeting is expected to greatly improve efficiency in the fiscal court’s actions and help to eliminate some special called meetings at the last minute.

The motion to accept the monthly workshop meeting was made by Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

In other action, the court dealt with the Fiscal Court Magisterial committees. Some of the committees included Shannon Bishop but Bishop did not run for re-election. Bishop was replaced on each committee by Adams.

Members of the Finance Committee are now Shane Thacker, Mike McGuire and Adams. Members of the Jail Committee are Adams, McGuire and William Denny. Members of the Infrastructure Committee are Doug Prewitt, Denny and McGuire. Members of the Tourism Committee are Denny, McGuire and Thacker. Members of the Jobs Development Committee are Prewitt, Denny and Adams. Members of the Personnel Committee are Denny, McGuire and Prewitt.

The court also approved the fourth quarter financial reports. The reports were apparently approved at the December meeting but the minutes did not reflect that action so the motion was made to approve them in the special called meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10 at 4 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

“Council”

(Continued from front)

January 1, 2023.
After the swearing-in ceremony by Mayor Mike Bryant, he addressed the council, saying “I am humbled by the chance I was given to serve as mayor for the past 12 years. There have been some challenges but overall I have greatly enjoyed my three terms. Carol and I love our city and we will be around, just call and we will be close.” The mayor also mentioned that he is considering writing a book, including his personal life story. “Several have asked me to write a book and I am considering it.”

he said.

Newly-elected Mayor Tim Roberts was sworn in the previous week by Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr.

Mayor Bryant also mentioned the upcoming need in the city for a new water and sewer plant that has been mentioned over the past several monthly meetings. “This is something that will have to be dealt with very soon,” he said. “With the economic development that we are expecting, our current plant simply will not be enough. I would advise everyone to be thinking seriously on the matter.”

Outgoing Councilman Clifford Mullins, asked the council to partner with the Grateful Bread organization through CAP (Christian Appalachian Project) and “commit to providing \$200 per month perpetually.” After some discussion, a motion was made to proceed with the monthly donation. City Attorney Bobby Amburgey investigated the legalities involved and found that such a partnership meets all state regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial consultant Josh Bray presented the financial statement to the council, which was approved. He also asked that the council adopt a resolution with newly-elected Mayor Tim Roberts name so that a new fire truck can be paid for. “The council already voted to get the new fire truck but the pay schedules for the truck will lap over into the new mayor’s term. The current paperwork specifically gives Mayor Bryant authority to sign the check for the remaining amount of the truck after the grant is applied but that will not be paid until after January 1st. I would feel better if we have documents saying ‘Mayor’ instead of ‘Mayor Bryant,’” said Bray. The motion passed unanimously.

Under new business, council member Shelly Lewis asked that discussion about recent vote to provide program support to the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority (RCIDA) be addressed by the council. Recent changes have fallen under close scrutiny by Lewis and Rockcastle County Magistrate Mike McGuire.

The Executive Director position was recently taken over by the RCIDA board and Executive Director Jeff VanHook was given a 47% pay increase. However, Lewis said she has been researching the subject and wanted to postpone discussion of the action, taken at the November meeting, until the January meeting. Lewis and McGuire have been outspoken opponents of the raise. “I will not drop this issue. I simply need more information before I move forward,” said Lewis. The issue was tabled.

Though this was a special called meeting, local resident Doug Bullock addressed the council concerning flooding near his home on Liberty Road in Mount Vernon. Public Works Superintendent Frank Baker agreed to visit the area and determine the causes of the issues.

Councilman Bowman asked about the progress of the newly created building maintenance board. At Bowman’s request in mid-2022, an

update to the nuisance ordinance was created to give the city the authority to force property owners to clean up or ensure the safety of properties throughout the city. A board was created to oversee the building maintenance ordinance.

The issue started after transient residents started several fires in local abandoned buildings and complaints had been made throughout the city about dilapidated, abandoned structures in mid 2022. However, no further action has taken place publicly since the ordinance amendment passed. “I was just wondering how that is coming along,” said Bowman. “Are our abandoned buildings safer now? Have we con-

tacted any owners to have the properties closed off or updated or protected?”

Mayor Bryant said he had appointed the three members required to the board, but that two of those have since left the position and no meetings have been held.

Amburgey pointed out that the board is not required to meet or be involved in any issues unless a citation or other action is taken against a property owner and that the property owner asked for a hearing concerning the issue.

He agreed the board needs to be in place for such issues but there has been no need as of yet. Mayor Bryant agreed to begin considering other members for the board.

In other action, the council passed a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign all paperwork associated with the City of Mount Vernon, regarding the \$322,688 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the city.

Bray said specific use of the funds will be decided after the final budget can determine how much the city lost due to COVID.

In other action, the All American Club reported trash picked up in the city as well as donations from Cox Funeral Home and Sam Ford. Coordinator Wayne Bullock reported the club found 18 used needles this month alone.

Police Chief Joe Rush reported his department

received 460 calls for service in November. There were 21 arrests and 11 drug charges.

Fire Chief David Bales reported his department made 62 runs in November and used 11,700 gallons of water. Last year, the department reach an all time high number of runs with 634 but this year will break that record, according to Bales. “As of December 1 we already had 630 this year,” he said. “We will definitely beat last year’s record in number of runs.”

The first regular meeting of 2023 new Mount Vernon City Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 19 at 6 p.m. at city hall. The public is invited to attend.

Officials sworn in

Mount Vernon City Council and Mayor



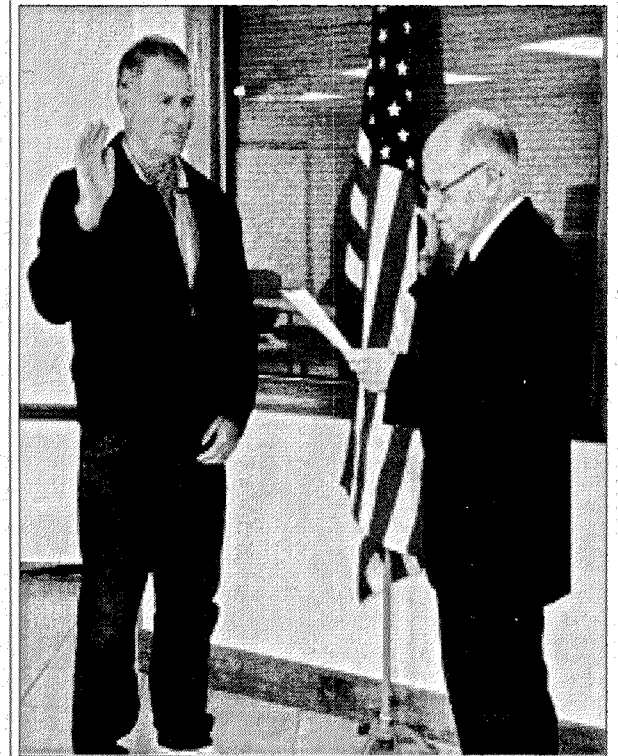
Three new members of the Mount Vernon City Council were sworn into office before the last meeting on December 22. All members of the upcoming council were present including the incumbent members who won their re-election bid. Shown above from left is the newly elected Mayor of Mount Vernon, Tim “Duck” Roberts, newly elected council member Gertha Mink, returning council member Jim Bowman, newly elected council member Lanetta Daugherty, returning council member Shelly Lewis Raines, newly elected council member Michael VanWinkle, returning council member Wayne Bullock and exiting Mayor Mike Bryant.

Judge/Executive



Judge Marcus Vanover swore Rockcastle County Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook into office

Magistrate



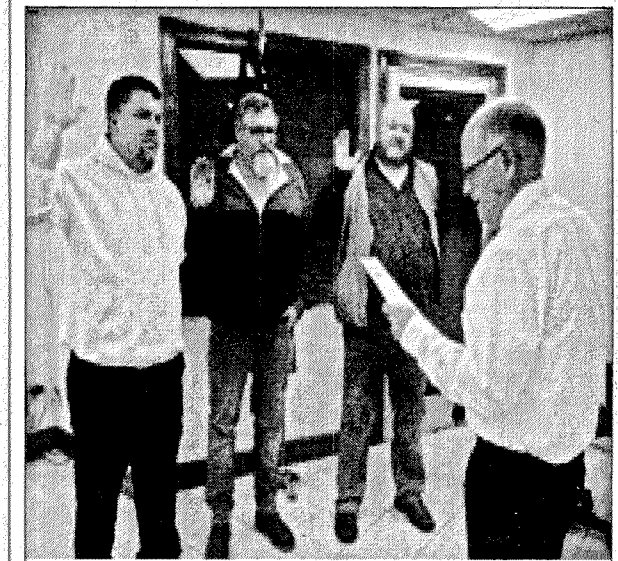
Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook swore Doug Prewitt into office as Magistrate.

Magistrate



Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook, Jr. swore Magistrate Mike McGuire into office.

Magistrates



Judge/Executive Howell Holbrook swore Shane Thacker, William Denny and Lee Earl Adams into office as Rockcastle County Magistrates.

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Posted

Posted: No trespassing on property owned by Shannon Hellard on Cove Branch Road in Rockcastle County. All violators will be prosecuted. 2/16/23

Posted: No trespassing on land belonging to Farmer Waddle and Clista Spivey, located at 2615 and 2621 South Upper River Rod. 15(22)x51

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on property belonging to Brian and Angela Burdine and located at 428 Black Bear Lick Lane, Livingston. Violators will be prosecuted. 47xntf

Posted: Absolutely no trespassing on land belonging to LJL Honeycomb LLC for any reason. Formerly known as Christ Outreach for the Blind. Violators will be prosecuted. (9/23)

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on farms, belonging to Gary and Peggy Roberts, on KY 2245. Violators will be prosecuted. (12/22/23pd)

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on land belonging to Orville and Bernice Burkhart on Cove Branch, Livingston, Mt. Vernon. Violators will be prosecuted. 35(21)x50p

Posted: No hunting or trespassing on land belonging to Glen Roberts at 560 Dix River Branch Road, Brodhead. Violators will be prosecuted. 35xntf

Posted: No trespassing on Crawford Place - Old Brodhead Road. Danny Smith. 47tn

Posted: Property belonging to Don and Kitty Reese on Smallwood Road at Roundstone. All trespassers will be prosecuted. 49xntf

Posted: No hunting, trespassing or ATVs on land belonging to Jason and Sara Coguer at

Roundstone. Not responsible for accidents.

Posted: No trespassing, hunting or fishing on land belonging to Rachel Denney on Hwy. 3245 (former Reggie Bengé property).

Posted: No trespassing on property known as C.B. Owens Farm across from Fairgrounds in Brodhead. Violators will be prosecuted. 25tn

Miscellaneous For Sale

Cresthaven Cemetery Plots. Contact Billy Dowell, 606-308-1058. 39xntf

Notices

Notice is hereby given that Mitzi Kirby, 504 Bright Shade Lane, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456 has been appointed Administratrix, with will annexed, of the Estate of James R. Douglas Kirby, deceased, on the 6th day of December 2022. Any person having claims against said Estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Mitzi Kirby or Hon. James Nicholas O'Toole, Smith, O'Toole & Brooke, 3080 Harrodsburg Dr., Suite 101, Lexington, KY 40503 on or before June 7, 2023 at 11 a.m. 45x3

Notice is hereby given that Abigail Nicole Durham, 2078 Little Clear Creek Road, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456 has been appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Susan Lynn Clark, deceased, on the 14th day of December 2022. Any person having claims against said Estate shall present them, according to law, to the said Abigail Nicole Durham or Hon. Chadwick B. Hammonds, 133 Plaza Drive, Suite 2, Berea, KY 40403 on or before June 14, 2023 at 11 a.m. 46x3

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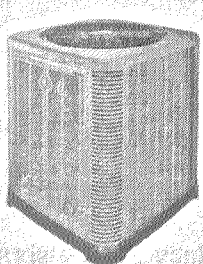
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Mamaw's Kitchen

By Regina Poynter Hoskins



The day after we fixed pinto beans was always "chili day" even in the summertime. That was a wonderful way to use any leftover beans we may have had. Most of the kids and adults liked pasta in their chili, but I never did. Mum and Mamaw had to make two batches of chili—one with and one without pasta.

JUDY'S CHILI
1 pound ground beef
1 onion, chopped
1/4 cup tomato catsup
2 cups water
1 can (8 ounce) tomato sauce
1 T chili powder
2 cups cooked pinto beans
A couple handfuls of

macaroni Or spaghetti, uncooked
Salt to taste
Brown ground beef and onion in skillet. Add to a large pot along with rest of ingredients. Let come to boil, reduce heat and gently simmer for 30 minutes or so.

REGINA'S CHILI
I liked the chili Judy, Mum, and Mamaw fixed while I was growing up, but these days I prefer my chili thicker than what we made then. Use more chili powder if you like it spicier. (Any brand of chili powder will work, but I prefer Mexene®. That is the one I always remember Mum using.)

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 onion, chopped
1 pound lean ground beef
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 can (8 ounce) tomato sauce
1 can (14 ounce) petite or regular diced tomatoes
1/4 cup water
2 cups leftover cooked pinto or kidney beans (or one 14 ounce can of beans)
Add oil to large pan with a lid. Let oil heat on medium-high and add chopped onions. Cook for about two minutes. Crumble ground beef over onions. Using a wooden spoon, break ground beef up into very small pieces. Cook until beef is no longer pink. Stir in chili powder. Add tomato sauce and canned tomatoes. Put 1/4 cup water in tomato sauce can and swirl to get out all of tomato sauce. Add to pan. Stir to mix everything. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for an hour. Add beans and cook on medium another 10 to 30 minutes.

Lady Rockets

(Cont. from pg. 6)

IMacy Spivey six; Ella McKinney and Karlee Smith four each; Kiley Dunaway three and Kelsey Rowe, Keelee King, Taylor King, Savannah Santo, Markley Richards and Abby DeLeon two each.

Strangely enough, the Lady Rockets were 0-5 in three point baskets but hit 7/12 free throws.

Savannah Santo took rebounding honors with nine; Brylee Mullins got six; Taylor King and Haven King pulled down five each; Dunaway and Shearer accounted for three each; Rowe and Karlee Smith each got two and Spivey and DeLeon were credited with one each.

In the Championship game, the Rockets fell to Taylor County 54-45.

Shearer was the only Lady Rocket in double figures with 15; Keelee King and Camryn Cash got nine points each; Macy Spivey and Karlee Smith scored four each and Haven King and Savannah Santo got two points each.

Keelee King got three three point field goals and Cash got one. Shearer pulled down a team high 11 rebounds, Cash got three, Haven King and Karlee Smith got two each and Spivey, Keelee King and Santo were credited with one each.

The Lady Rockets and Rockets were scheduled to host Somerset Tuesday night, January 3rd in their second district game of the year. They will play Conner in the Penn Station shootout at Franklin County on Sat., January 7th. Both the Rockets and Lady Rockets will travel to Pulaski County Friday night, January 6th for another district match-up and the Lady Rockets will play at Clay County, Tuesday, January 10th.

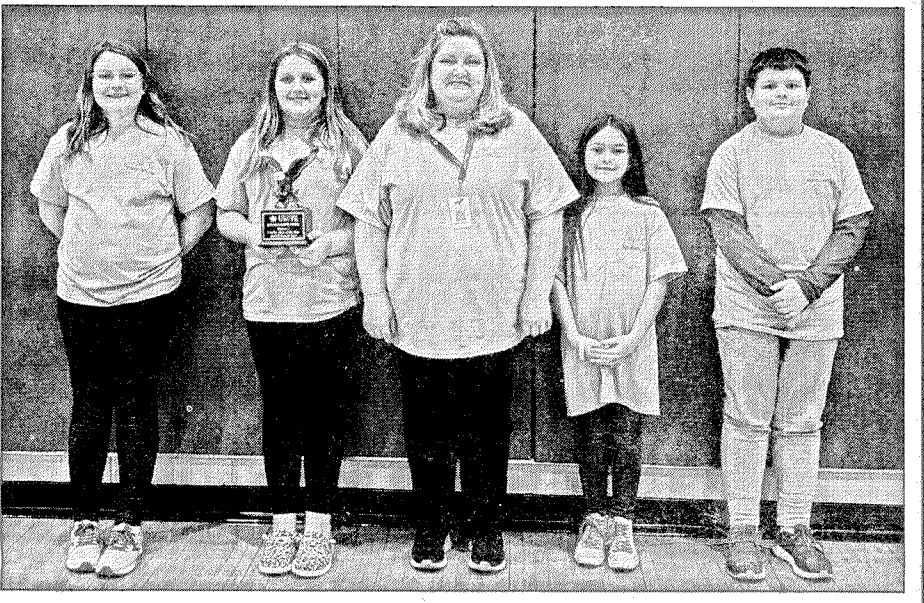


RES recognized as Region 4 UNITE Club of the Year

On Dec. 16th, Operation UNITE recognized Roundstone Elementary with Region 4 UNITE Club of the Year Award for the 2021/2022 School Year. Roundstone was recognized for their works in the community such as doing a donation drive for the Brodhead Nursing Home, helping out with Give Hope, and sending letters to veterans.

Pictured above: Mrs. Karen Barron, Hannah Gadd-Operation UNITE KORE Billing Specialist, Nancy Hale-Operation UNITE President, Jaylee Howard, VivieAnn Short, Katherine Burkhart-Operation UNITE Coalition Coordinator, Kinzie Lohrey, Silas Burdette, and John Hale-Operation UNITE Chair.

Pictured below are 2022/2023 UNITE Club Officers: Historian-VivieAnn Short, Treasurer-Jaylee Howard, Club Sponsor-Mrs. Karen Barron, Secretary-Kinzie Lohrey, and Captain-Silas Burdette.



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Naturally, everyone likes to win and rightfully so, that's what makes it a competition. You can often learn more when you lose than when you win. In other words, it isn't the team with the most points on the scoreboard that is always the winner, in the eyes of God.

Our young folks are often pressured by the world into thinking if you don't win then you aren't nothing.

I recently saw outstanding Christ-like characteristics from a couple of our young men at church as I watched them compete. The first young man was in an archery competition, in which he was teamed up with another young man that had to wear leg braces due to a handicap. This little fellow was very humble for obvious reasons. He kept telling his partner, which was from a different school, how good that he was and didn't give himself much credit. So this young man from our church started telling this fellow with the low self-esteem what he might do to help improve his shooting. He went on to tell him that every point he made could be the winning points that his team needed to win. It is also worth noticing that the little boy kept telling his new friend how thirsty he was, so at the end of the tournament, the little boy from our church, asked his dad to go get the little boy with the handicap something to drink. The happiness in the little boy's eyes just to get a drink, was priceless. The act of compassion our little guy from church showed on those who were less fortunate, was of far greater value than those who won the archery competition. The first lesson we should learn from this story is to have compassion on others.

Second lesson to be learned from another young man from our church, is that coming from a young basketball player. Not long ago, I had the pleasure of watching him play and believe that I saw the game as God would see it. It was a tough game when Rockcastle played Boyle County at Boyle County. This young man goes to our church and I was amazed at the self-discipline that he possessed. The game was not going good for Rockcastle and this young man showed exemplary respect to the other team and to the officials even when trailing behind. This young man showed patience with his teammates and the game. He never gave up and gave it all he had until the end of the game. This my friends says volumes about his attitude and his character. You cannot be a loser if you master these Christian characteristics.

Granted, we all like to win but in the end, God will determine who the real winners are.

Do you ever think about the way God sees the game?

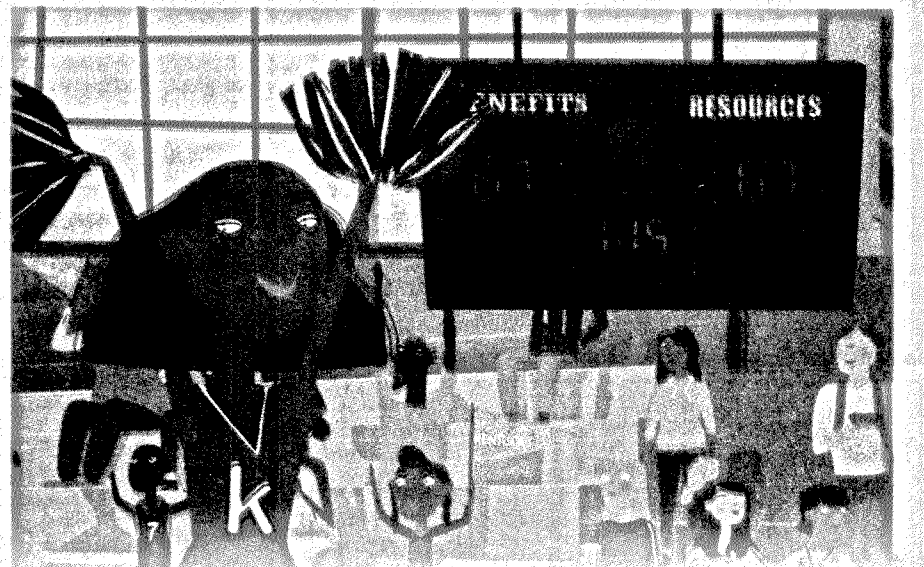
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