



Girls' issue to Clay
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Students miss sixth day

Wednesday, Rockcastle County students missed their sixth day of the year because of snow.

According to Mrs. Rose Brown, local director of student services for the Rockcastle County school system, students are now scheduled to go to school through Tuesday, May 28th.

That is providing the school's calendar committee and the local school board approves.

Mrs. Brown said that school may be dismissed on Saturday, May 25th if no more days are missed, but that the ultimate decision will be left up to the calendar committee and the board.

The next scheduled break in the school system is Spring Break, which is scheduled for April 1-5.

Last year, school was dismissed 12 days because of bad weather.

As of press time on Wednesday, no announcement had been made as to whether there would be school on Thursday (today).

The recorded low for the month was Wednesday morning when the mercury dropped to 13, according to local weatherman Bud Cox.

The high temperature in February was recorded on Monday when the temperature reached 65.

The low for the winter has been ten degrees on January 2nd and the high has been 76 on January 31st.

Charter Rep to be here

Charter Communications General Manager David Hudson is scheduled to be at Monday night's Mt. Vernon City Council meeting.

Hudson said he would try to have more answers about the cable company's problems and remedies than he had at February's meeting.

Blood Drive

Donating blood is safe, simple and saves lives. Rockcastle County Donor Group and Central Kentucky Blood Center are urging all healthy (Cont. to A-8)

Needed mortgage loans available for low income

The USDA Rural Development office, formerly the Farmers Home Administration, announces funds are available for low income Rockcastle County applicants wishing to become homeowners through its Single Family Direct Loan Program.

According to Ken Arterburn, Rural Development Manager for this area, "Advantages to the homebuyer include: (a) No required down payment, (b) Loans may include closing cost, (c) 100% financing, (d) Adjusted income limits for family of four up to \$26,700, (e) Loans may be for purchase of new construction, existing housing or new manufactured housing, (f) Maximum loan of \$86,317."

These funds are available to individuals or families including minorities, females and persons with disabilities. For more information, interested applicants may call the local office serving Rockcastle County at 859-624-1662 ext. 4.



Jamie Wheat, Teddy Stallworth and Josh Ott, drum line players, were among members of the Rockcastle County High School Pep Band who have attended both games of the 49th District Tournament in Manchester this week. Members of the pep band will be on hand Thursday, as the Rockets face Clay County in the boys finals. The 13th Region Tournament will begin on Monday at RCHS.



The Rockcastle County High School cheerleaders recently won the 13th Region Boys Varsity KAPOs competition at Whitley County. They won in the 2.5 minute division. Members of the squad are pictured above, front row from left: Heaven Spoonamore, Kacey Scoggin, Jessica Jones, coach Misty Barker, Emily Wright and Tara Barnett. Second row from left: Kayla Bryant, Brittany Asher, Casey Taylor, Amber Thacker and Amanda Wright. Back row from left: Jamie Ornela, Jennifer Mullins and Brittany Offutt. They will compete in state competition on Saturday, March 16th at ECU.

On Thursday night

Rockets will play in 49th district final

The Rockcastle County High School boys' varsity basketball team has already established the best win-loss record in the 30 year history of the school, with a 22-6 regular season mark.

On Monday, they took a step toward being the first boys team to ever win the 49th district title.

The Rockets defeated Oneida, 70-61 to advance to the district final.

They will face Clay County on Clay's home floor, after Clay County defeated Jackson County 72-66 in the first game Monday night.

The final score of the game was not indicative of the closeness of the

game. The Rockets were behind as many as ten points in the first period, which ended with Rockcastle behind 17-10.

The Rockets used a 21 point second quarter to take a three point lead.

Rockcastle then outscored the Mountaineers three points in the third quarter and three points fourth quarter.

Senior Andrew Hammond, who has played extremely well in the second half of the season, had 22 points and 14 rebounds.

Freshman Aaron Cash had 13 points, four assists and two steals.

Junior Austin Miller, who gave the Rockets a much needed spark off the bench in the first half when he hit a couple of three point shots, had 11 points on the night.

Junior Aaron Anderkirk also had 11 points in the contest. He had a team high seven assists and he grabbed seven rebounds and had two steals.

Junior Jason Reynolds had nine points, three rebounds, two blocks and one steal.

Junior Stephen Boreing and Sophomore Devin Taylor both played, but did not score.

"We played hard, we made some mistakes early, but Oneida had a lot better team than their record. (13-16) reflected," said head Coach Clayton Cash.

"In the past few years we have played well against Clay at Clay and I am hoping for another good effort on Thursday night," Cash said.

Clay County is 15-12 on the season and the Rockets are, of course, 22-6. They have defeated Clay County both times they have played them this season.

Game time in Manchester is 7 p.m. Thursday night.

Besides Rockcastle and Clay, Middlesboro, Bell County, Cawood and Evans have all qualified for the 13th region tournament, which will be held for the first time ever at Rockcastle County High School beginning on Monday night.

It is very likely that Corbin will also advance to the regional tournament. The other team from the 50th District will be the Lynn Camp or Whitley County.

Huge event will be held in Lexington

Hall of Fame Celebration set for Thursday

By: Richard Anderkirk

The complex for the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley is almost finished.

In conjunction with its opening, the inaugural Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Induction Celebration will be held on Thursday night at Marrio's Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington.

Kentucky Governor Paul Patton is among the guests who are scheduled to attend.

State Representative Danny Ford of Mt. Vernon, who has been largely responsible for the funding of Hall of Fame said that Thursday night's Celebration is a culmination of a lot of hard work.

"This is something many people have dedicated a lot of time to and something the state of Kentucky can be proud of," Ford said.

Renfro Valley founder John Lair is one of the twelve inaugural inductees into the Kentucky Hall of Fame and Museum, which is scheduled to open this Spring.

The other inductees are: Rosemary Clooney, jazz singer and actress, who began her career at age 13 on Cincinnati radio, going on to star in her own television series in 1956, *The Rosemary Clooney Show*.

Everly Brothers, Don and Phil Everly began performing at ages 8 and 6. The duo hit the Top 10 on the singles chart 15 times and sold more than 35 million records. Their first hit was *Bye Bye Love*.

Clyde Julian "Red" Foley Foley, a gospel and country artist, headlined at the Grand Ole Opry in the late 1940's. His 1951 recording of *Peace in the Valley* was the first gospel album to sell a million copies. He died in 1968.



"Red" Foley

Jean Ritchie. Her album *Jean Ritchie Singing Traditional Songs of Her Kentucky Mountain Family* was the first folk album released on the Electra recording label.

Merle Travis. Travis co-wrote Capitol's first million dollar seller, *Smoke, Smoke, Smoke That Cigarette*. He also appeared in the film *Honkytonk Man*. He died in 1983.

Loretta Lynn. Lynn is acclaimed for the song and biography of the same name, *Coal Miner's Daughter*. In 1972, she was the first woman to become the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year. Lynn has performed in Renfro Valley for several years.

Louis Marshall "Grandpa" Jones. Grandpa Jones was a radio pioneer and became a Grand Ole Opry regular in 1946. He also was a regular on the television show *Hee-Haw*. He died in 1998.

Bradley Kincaid. Kincaid, a folk singer, became a regular on the Grand Ole Opry and toured with Grandpa Jones. His best known recordings include *Barbara Allen* and *The Fatal Darts' Day*. He died in 1989.

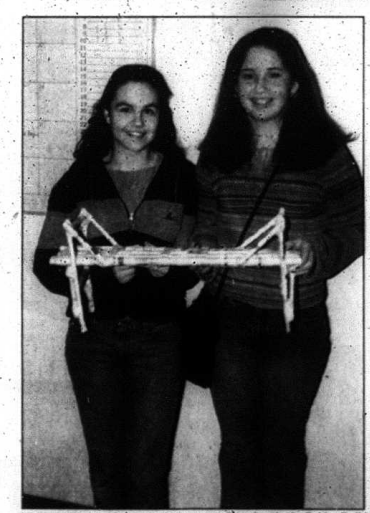
The Osborne Brothers. Bobby and Sonny Osborne invented the "High Lard Trio" style of bluegrass music. They performed at the Grand Ole Opry from 1944 to 1947.

The Hall of Fame is scheduled to open this Spring. The complex is located adjacent to the Renfro Valley Entertainment facility on the former Lair property.

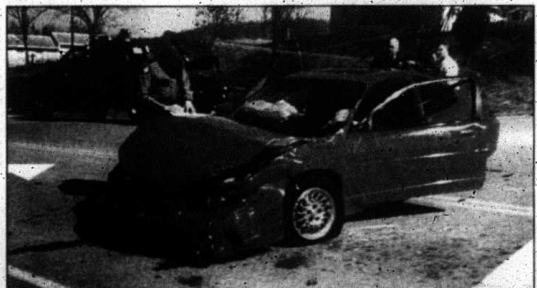
Rockcastle native John Lair founded the Renfro Valley Barn Dance in 1939.



John Lair



Nikki Mullins and Stephanie Proctor won first place in the Bridge Building Contest for UK's Engineering Day which was held February 28th. These freshmen prepared for this contest during Rockcastle County High School's after school program sponsored by Innovative ESS and 21st Century Community Learning Center.



Several people, including a couple from Ohio, escaped serious injury in yet another wreck in the Hwy. 461 bypass in Mt. Vernon Saturday morning. Above, KSP officer Coby Smith takes down information concerning the three car pile-up.