

Rockcastle County continues to succeed

The Rockcastle County Development Board is working to create a strategic plan for the community that will guide development while preserving local values and quality of life. As this work moves forward, much can be learned from the experiences of another community which has faced great challenges and achieved remarkable success.

In the 1930's, Tupelo was the county seat of the poorest county in Mississippi. Today, it is one of the most prosperous communities in the South. Tupelo's success derives from years of citizens involvement in economic development - a legacy that partially arose from tragedy when the town was virtually wiped out by a tornado in the mid-1930's.

How did local citizens guide the development plan that transformed this southern city? And how can Rockcastle County benefit from the lessons behind Tupelo's "rag-to-riches" story?

Over the past several years, many Rockcastle County organizations have been working on a range of community planning processes. The Rockcastle County Development Board was created to coordinate the county's homegrown efforts for economic and community development. The Board has begun working to draft a strategic plan to direct the growth and development of the county. As one of 33 economically distressed Kentucky counties, Rockcastle qualified for Appalachian Regional Commission funding to be

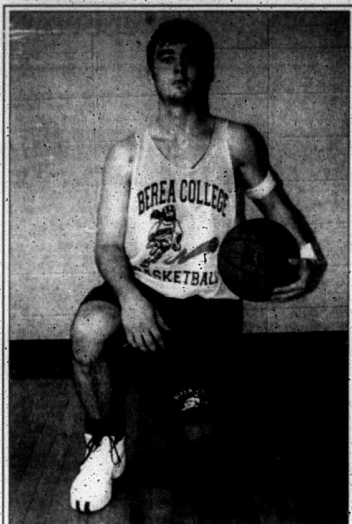
used for development of the professional, long-range plan.

Assisting with development of the plan is the Brushy Fork Institute, a leadership and community development program of Berea College. Brushy Fork Director Peter Hille shared the story of Tupelo, and Rockcastle leaders enthusiastically embraced the possibilities of learning from Tupelo's strategies. With community involvement at the foundation of the Development Board's long-term plan, board members would like to share the strategies from Tupelo with interested residents of Rockcastle County.

A reception will be held March 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rockcastle County High School for Rockcastle residents who want to learn more about the story of Tupelo, Mississippi. At 7:00 p.m., Dr. Vaughn Grisham, professor of Sociology at the University of Mississippi, will present his observations and recommendations based on

Tupelo's experience. Grisham has studied, documented and participated in the remarkable story of Tupelo's transformation and shared his observations with communities across the nation. These communities have used the story to help identify and build on their strengths to become stronger and more viable. The meeting on March 29 will be the first step on the path to Rockcastle County's own success story.

Learn more in next week's edition of the Signal.



Rockcastle County High School graduate Andrew Cash is a member of the Berea College 2000/2001 men's basketball team. Andrew is the son of Clayton and Debbie Cash of Rt. 1, Brookfield.

Big name acts headed to Renfro Valley for season

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center has announced another exciting schedule for the 63rd season. The friendly folks at Renfro Valley have been busy getting ready for company and the 2002 season.

"Everyone should visit Renfro Valley and experience all we have to offer," said General Manager, Connie Hunt-Peterson. "We have worked hard to bring entertainers to Renfro Valley that our guests have requested and the Renfro Valley shows featuring all of our entertainers are some of the best shows you'll see anywhere!"

Along with the world famous Barn Dance, Renfro Valley Jamboree, Gospel Jubilee and the nationally syndicated Renfro Valley Gathery, visitors to Renfro Valley will be thoroughly entertained.

Renfro Valley's 2002 concert schedule includes Charley Pride, Brad Paisley, Neal McCoy, Keith Urban, George Jones, Loretta Lynn and many more. For more information on Renfro Valley's concert schedule and reservations, call 800-765-7464 or 256-2638.

The March Bluegrass Bonanza stars bluegrass favorites Irl Tyrone Out with the Moron Brothers on March 16 and Dr. Ralph Stanley with John Cosby on March 23. The annual Old Joe Clark Bluegrass Festival will be held July 4, 5 & 6 and feature some of the top names in bluegrass music.

Renfro Valley has an excellent Gospel schedule for 2002. The Gospel concerts begin on March 30 with The McKameys. Other Gospel performers visiting Renfro Valley in 2002 will include The Inspirations, The Happy Goodmans, The Carolina Boys and many more. As always the popular Gospel Talent Search, All Night Gospel Sing and Gospel Music Celebration are a part of this year's events.

Arrested

A Mt. Vernon man was arrested Monday night after police say they found another illegal drug lab in the county.

Mt. Vernon police officers Barry Adams and Ed Robinson obtained a search warrant for the home of Jackie Allen, 24, of Quarry Street and apparently found equipment and items used in the manufacturing of Meth.

Allen was lodged in the Rockcastle Detention Center after his arrest.

Adams and Robinson were assisted by officers with the Rockcastle County Sheriff's office.

RCHS Baseball Team Yard Sale
(at the RCHS Bus Loop)
Sat., March 16th
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
All proceeds go to the Rockcastle County High School Baseball Team.

"Shots"

(Cont. from Front)

a house on Negro Creek Road around 1 a.m. Sunday morning.

Matthews declined to release any names, but said that six people were in the house at the time of the shooting. Matthews said that at least 13 shots were fired into the house and that no arrests have been made.

The 23-year-old was treated at Rockcastle Hospital and later transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center, where she underwent surgery.

Matthews said a bullet was taken out of the woman's chest and that she has since been released from the hospital. He said the investigation continues.

"Wreck"

(Cont. from Front)

side. The two deaths over the weekend bring the number of fatalities in the county so far this year to seven.

Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Joe Rush totaled his cruiser on the way to the wreck.

Rush was traveling north on U.S. 25 near Pine Hill when he too lost control on the slick road and hit a rock wall. Rush was not seriously injured.

"Arrested"

(Cont. from Front)

Drug Enforcement Special Investigations unit of the Kentucky State Police were called in on the case. Lakes said they came and cleaned up the meth lab.

Baker was released from the Lincoln County Regional Jail Monday, after posting a \$10,000 property bond. Todd remained behind bars, unable to post the bond.

In addition to Lakes, officers working on the drug bust and arrest

included Deputy Ronnie Smith, Deputy Bill Schnitzler and Kentucky State Police Troopers Clyde Bernath and Michael Ashley.

Lakes said the search warrant that officers went to serve on Saturday was obtained based on information gathered in an ongoing investigation.

"Rockets"

(Cont. from Front)

Rockcastle will also be at Wednesday's first round game when the Rockets take on Paducah Tilgham in the first game of the tournament.

About 30 minutes after tickets went on sale at the high school, they were gone and school officials had to pick up other tickets which were sold on Tuesday.

The state tournament is held at Rupp Arena in Lexington each year. School was called off Wednesday and Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond said that he would ask the Rockcastle County Board of Education to call off school on Friday, if the Rockets get past their first round game.

While it is the first time a boys' team from Rockcastle County High School has gone to the Sweet 16, it is not the first time a team from Rockcastle has played in the Sweet 16.

In 1953, the Mt. Vernon Red Devils represented the 12th region in the state tournament and of course in 1972, Brodhead was the champions of the 13th region.

In 1997, the Rocky Rockets captured the hearts of local basketball fans when they advanced to the Sweet 16.

Because of the Wednesday game the Signal is being printed a day early. We apologize for any inconvenience our early publication date may have caused.

There is also a special section inside this week's paper and there will be numerous other photos and other information about the state tournament.

This boys' team has won 25 games and lost seven this year.

That too is a record at RCHS.

Music Makers
111 Clay Drive
Berea, KY 40403
859-986-3616

Instructional Studios

Private Lessons
Piano • Guitar • Banjo • Mandolin • Fiddle
Voice • Drums

Instrument Rental Available

To the Voters of the 5th District

My name is George Renner and, as many of you know, I am a lifelong Rockcastle Co. resident. I am running for the office of **5th District Magistrate** in the hopes of making a positive change in the 5th District and Rockcastle County. As your magistrate, I intend to work closely with you judge and my fellow magistrates for a better future for our children.

I will be your voice in the Fiscal Court!
Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated!!

Paid for by George Renner

\$2.99* tuesdays

SUBWAY eat fresh.

1475 Richmond St. • Mt. Vernon, Ky.
Phone 606-256-1083

selected regular footlong subs (see store for details)

2001 Doctor's Associates Inc.

3 for \$9.99*

SUBWAY eat fresh.

Valid Only Sundays and Mondays

1475 Richmond St. • Mt. Vernon, Ky.
Phone 606-256-1083

*any 3 regular footlong subs for \$9.99

2001 Doctor's Associates Inc.

Elect Bill Hammons Rockcastle Sheriff

#1 on Ballot
#1 in Experience

Yes - I have 17+ years experience and received training as a trooper in Criminal and Accident Investigation

Yes - I was born in Rockcastle Co. to Lela Hysinger Hammons and after high school I joined USMC and was Honorably Discharged. I am married to Julie Ann Hammons and we live in the Otzawa Community and are raising our Grandson, Marty Hammons, age 10.

My wife and daughter Vickie work at the nursing home. Vickie is married to Michael (Murphy) Alcorn and they live in Rockcastle Co. I am a member of the Northside Baptist Church.

Yes - I will keep well trained working deputies and respond to your calls.

Yes - I appreciate all who gave of their time and effort in the last election and ask for your continued support. Your vote does make a difference. I ran second behind Sheriff Smith last election.

Member of the VFW Post #03634

Paid For by Bill Hammons