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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 116 • Number 31 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, May 16, 2002

President declares County eligible for federal help

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis announced Wednesday that Rockcastle County had been declared a disaster area by President George W. Bush.

Carloftis said that personnel with the Federal Emergency Management Agency were in Rockcastle County last week surveying damage from storms May 1st and 2nd.

Carloftis said that both public and private assistance was available. Local residents with damage also may be eligible for grants from the federal government.

"Citizens must first apply for the low interest loans that are available and then the government will determine if the applicant is eligible for a grant," Carloftis said.

Residents who need assistance should call (800)621-3362. Those calling should have their social security number, address, telephone number, insurance information and the household's gross income.

Some areas of the county were hit by softball size hail and the Blue Springs area received three inches of rain in a two hour period, during the storms.

Brodhead council upset with former officer's actions

The Brodhead City Council and Mayor Walter Cash are none too happy with a former police officer.

Former officer William H. Harris, Jr., was hired in June 2001 and resigned on May 1st.

The problem is that Harris signed a contract to work for the city for three years after he completed his required training at Eastern Kentucky University. Harris apparently gave the city and Chief Joe Bussell no advance warning of his resignation.

Bussell told the council on Monday night that Harris had gone to work for the city of Livingston, but that he had been in Brodhead with police officers since his departure.

"We don't want him down here harrassing our citizens," said Mayor Walter Cash.

The council instructed City Attorney John Ford to begin the process of collecting what the city is owed from Harris.

Ford said that if Harris was not willing to live up to his signed contract he would file suit within the next ten days.

Chief Bussell presented a letter to the council that Harris, 24, who is orginally from Laurel County, wrote to him when he was seeking the job on the police force.

Part of the letter read, "All I can do is promise you and Brodhead I'll give you several good years of my life."

The council also decided not to hire anyone to replace Harris at the current time.

Applications for absentee ballots due by May 21st

Applications for paper absentee ballots for the May Primary election must be received in Rockcastle County Clerk Norma Houk's office by May 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Paper absentee ballots are for those persons who are disabled or for college students living outside of the county or for those on military duty, according to Mrs. Houk.

These applications can be made by phone, fax, mail or in person and can be requested by the voter or a spouse, parent or child of the voter.

Absentee voting for voters who will be absent from the county on election day but are not allowed to vote by paper absentee ballots will be conducted in the county clerk's office now through Friday May 24th.

The hours for voting will be Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. till 12 noon, according to Mrs. Houk.

Police make arrests after location of another meth lab

Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Joe Rush and Kentucky State Trooper Jason McCowan arrested three Rockcastle County people on Sunday, after they located yet another illegal drug lab.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette, who also responded to the scene, said that Debbie Hellard, 38, Donald Hellard, 44, and Jeff Mullins, 33, were arrested Sunday afternoon and charged with manufacturing methamphetamine and possession of meth.

Burdette said that Rush had gone to Hellard's mobile home in Calloway Sunday afternoon to serve outstanding warrants when he realized that there was a working meth lab inside the trailer on Sand Hill Hollow Road.

Burdette went to the scene and wrote search warrants, which were executed by police resulting in the arrests.

Donald Hellard was apparently renting the mobile home to Mullins. All three are currently being held in the Rockcastle County Detention Center under a $50,000 cash bond.

Baccalaureate set for Sunday, 2:30

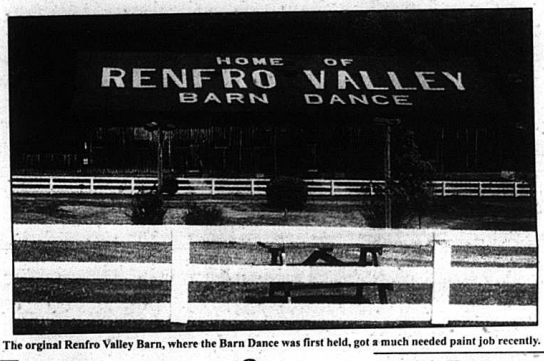
Baccalaureate services for one of the largest ever graduating classes at Rockcastle County High School will Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Chad Burdette, Pastor of the Northside Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, will deliver the message. Services will be held in the new barn theatre at the Renfro Valley Entertainment complex.

Governor, other dignitaries will attend

Hall of Fame to open Friday

The Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum will officially open on Friday with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. The Hall of Fame and Museum are located at Renfro Valley.



The orginal Renfro Valley Barn, where the Barn Dance was first held, got a much needed paint job recently.

The Grand Opening Celebration of the new Kentucky Music Hall of Fame & Museum is scheduled for May 17 and 18.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place Friday, May 17 at 4 p.m. at the new museum just past the Renfro Valley Entertainment Center on U.S. 25.

Kentucky Governor Paul Patton and First Lady Judi Patton are scheduled to be on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mrs. Patton is the honorary cochair of the new hall of fame along with Loretta Lynn.

Scheduled to M.C. the ceremony is comedian Carl Hurley, who is a member of the museum's advisory board. Also scheduled to be on hand are numerous public officials who were important to the development of the project including Congressman Hal Rogers and Rep. Danny Ford.

Legendary entertainer Boots Randolph is scheduled to appear Friday and Congressman Rogers, Kentucky Congressman Ron Lewis and Minnesota Congressman Colin Peterson will sing on the Renfro Valley stage.

Following the ribbon cutting, the museum will be open for free tours, and performing Bluegrass music before and after the ceremony will be the popular group Eastbound, according to Museum Coordinator Terry Anderson.

Also scheduled for Grand Opening Weekend is a "Family Fun Day & Main Street Fair" on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. Admission to the new museum will be half price ($2.50 for adults, $1.75 for children under 12).

The Main Street Fair on Saturday will take place on Renfro Valley's Main Street with all kinds of music and entertainment on the street corners, from bluegrass to gospel to clogging and more outdoor fun for the whole family. And, there's a whole schedule of Renfro Valley Shows on Saturday afternoon and evening including headliner Keith Urban.

Insurance for county increases

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 are costing the entire country and the Rockcastle Fiscal Court is no exception.

Tuesday during their regular monthly meeting the court approved next year's insurance coverage with the Kentucky Association of Counties, (KACO) which will cost them $65, 394, an increase of twenty-five percent from last year.

KACO Representative Larry Denny told the court that the $13,024 increase in premium was a direct result of the terrorist attacks on 9-11.

(Cont. to A-10)

Local meeting for Relay for Life set

Steven Lane Ponder, son of Steve and Jill Ponder of Scaffold Cane, was recently invited to exhibit his Tennessee Walking Horse "Jackson" at a Relay for Life Horse Show in Prestonsburg. Lane, now eight, was diagnosed with a malignant sacral teratoma in April 1999 at the age of four and had recurrence in the spring of 2000.

Today, the Roundstone Elementary second grader is cancer free but continues to have regular checkups. "The support and prayers from the beginning was phenomenal," said his mother, Jill Stevens Ponder. "Lane would like to encourage everyone to become a part of Rockcastle County Relay for Life which is now being organized," she said.

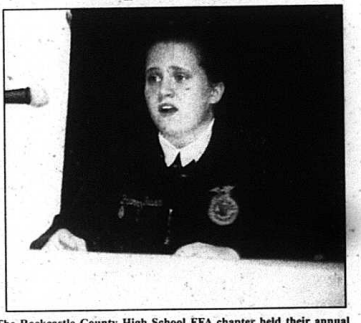
Cancer has touched many lives in this county and will unfortunately touch more until a cure is found. The money that is raised for the American Cancer Society is crucial and there are new developments and treatments available frequently. "When Lane had recurrence there was a new medication that had not be available just the previous year when he underwent chemotherapy," his mom said. "When you see a cancer survivor it gives everyone hope," she continued.

"People are surviving from cancer more and more, but cancer is a formidable opponent and the work that you do actually can make a difference," she said. "We hope people in Rockcastle County will join us to try and make a difference," she added.

The next meeting for Relay for

(Cont. to A-10)

FFA Banquet held



The Rockcastle County High School FFA chapter held their annual awards banquet last week and junior Bryanna Bussell was installed as the new president of the chapter, succeeding Brad Bussell. Pictures from the awards banquet will appear in next week's paper.

Lane Ponder, son of Steve and Jill Ponder exhibited his Tennessee Walking Horse, "Jackson", at a Relay for Life Horse Show in Prestonsburg recently. Lane is a cancer survivor.