



Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

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The 107th annual Little World's Fair will kick off on Thursday with the Dairy Show. The annual fair will run through Saturday, August 10th.

Local Fair starts Thursday (today)

The second oldest fair in the state of Kentucky will kick off on Thursday at the Rockcastle County Fairgrounds.

The 107th Little World's Fair and Rockcastle County Agricultural Fair will begin with the Dairy Show on Thursday night, (tonight) at 5:00 p.m. and end on Saturday night, August 10th with Mud Races as the main event at the Grand Stands.

The Midway will open each day at 6 p.m. except for Thursday when family day will be held starting at 12 noon.

A complete listing of each day's events appear in this week's newspaper on page A-6.

(Editor's Note: The following is a brief history of the Little World's Fair in Brodhead.)

One week out of each year, the Brodhead Fair is in full swing. This is a very exciting time for the young and the old. Some people come to the Fair for the entertainment and others to have reunions with old friends.

The original Fairground was located in Brodhead, just west of present day West Street on property currently owned by Mr. Cleston Saylor. It was later moved to the present location, which is a part of the old Martin farm. And is now the county fairgrounds.

The first Brodhead Fair Board was established in 1895. Shares were sold for about \$5.00 per share and the Fair was owned and operated by the stockholders. Mr. D.A. Robbins recalls that families of the stockholders received free passes and hence, his father, Frank Robbins, being a stockholder, he never had to miss a day. Little did he dream, in those days of his youth, that he would one day be a co-owner.

In later years the stockholders sold the Fair Company to Dr. M.M. Phillips and Mr. W.O. Yaden, who in turn sold to Millard Shafer. Millard Shafer sold it to D.A. Robbins and his brother-in-law, Clarence "Teddy" Frith, and after several years ownership, they sold it to the county. Rockcastle County now owns the Fairground property and each year at "Fair" time, leases the land and buildings to William Gentry and Frank Martin. They continue to have crowd-drawing exhibitions and carnivals in August of each year.

In earlier years, the Fair was more agriculturally oriented than it is today. In those days, it served as the Rockcastle County Agricultural Fair, although it was never so named. Farmers brought their cattle, hogs, chickens, sheep and farm produce for display and judging. Their wives and

daughters vied for ribbons and prizes for their cakes, candies, canned vegetables and fancy needlework.

The Flora Hall continues to be an important part of the Fair. The mule and pony races were replaced by more sophisticated horse shows. The Horse Shows drew participants from all areas of Kentucky and surrounding states and was the main attraction of the Fair for many years. The prohibitive expense of prizes forced the owners to drop the horse shows from the program. In recent years, the horse shows have been replaced with special events scheduled for each night of the Fair, usually a rodeo provides free entertainment on the late two nights of the Fair.

The Fair is now operated by Bill Gentry and Larry Doyle.

Young Republican Club being formed

A group of local young people are now reorganizing the Rockcastle Young Republican Club. The previous club had merged with the current Rockcastle Republican Party after receiving several state awards including, most notably, the Kentucky Young Republican Club of the Year Award in 1993.

(Cont. to A-12)

Mt. Vernon council passes budget for new fiscal year

By: Richard Anderkin
The Mt. Vernon City Council will have a budget for the coming year after all.

On Tuesday night, the council approved the second reading of the upcoming budget and it will become final after it is published in this week's Signal.

According to the budget figures being published this week the city's expenditures will exceed their revenue by almost \$326,000 in the next fiscal year.

According to the budget, every account will operate in a deficit except for the fire department budget which will receive \$5,000 and spend \$5,000.

According to Mayor Karen King the city will absorb the deficits with monies carried over from previous year revenues.

But in a nutshell the city will spend much, more than they expect to take in.

According to the budget passed on Tuesday night, the city expects revenues of \$2,073,000 and will expend \$2,399,000. That includes all accounts including the water and sewer funds.

The council did not vote to raise any type of tax or fees, and did not drop the city's family health insurance plan.

They did vote for a different health insurance plan for employees which will save the city \$13,000, according to Mayor King.

"I think all of our employees are happy with the new budget, they know we had to make some changes in their health insurance, but they still get to keep their family plan," she said.

But the council did renege on a promise to the Rockcastle County Development Board.

Two years ago the council voted to give the board \$25,000 to help the board operate. This year they cut their contribution to \$13,000.

The council also had promised

Constable pleads guilty Monday

Gregory F. Van Tienhoven, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Special Agent in Charge J. Stephen Tidwell, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Chief William Mink, Mt. Vernon Police Department, jointly announced that Thomas Franklin Bullen, 44, of Mt. Vernon, a Rockcastle County Constable, entered guilty pleas Monday to violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 853, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 924 (c), conspiring to possess with

(Cont. to A-12)

After sunset (about 10 p.m.) luminaries decorated with the names of those who have battled cancer will be lit and left glowing throughout the night to remind everyone of the incredible importance of their contributions. Please see the attached Luminary Order Form for more details on how you can help light up the track on August 2nd.

If you are a cancer survivor and

Opportunities abound for students at ECU

Crystal Jones, of Mt. Vernon, always figured that she'd be seeing her three-year-old daughter, Angel, off to school in the near future.

Not the other way around. "She sees me go to school everyday," said Jones, a junior social work major at Eastern Kentucky University's Tri-County Center in

the local fire department \$26,000 a year to be set aside for a new fire truck, but they cut that part of the budget to \$12,000.

"There simply is not enough revenue to operate on and I think without raising taxes we did the best we could," King said.

Two more arrested on drug charges

Two Rockcastle County men were arrested Monday night and charged with alleged drug crimes.

Leslie A. Bryant, 34, of Mt. Vernon was charged with manufacturing methamphetamine and cultivation of marijuana less than five

All six council members, Joe Mullins along with Wayne Bullock, Gene Cromer, Lonetta Daugherty, Clarice Kirby and Jackie Renner, voted for the budget on the first reading. Five of the six council members voted for the budget on the second reading. Mullins was absent.

plants. Ronnie C. Murry, 34, of Brodhead was also charged with possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and manufacturing methamphetamine.

According to Rockcastle County (Cont. to A-12)

Relay for Life Friday evening

The Rockcastle County Middle School football field and track will be "rockin'" on Friday night. "The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will begin at 7 p.m. with an opening ceremony and a survivor walk to begin the evening's activities."

Dorothy Cromer Teague, an 83-year-old Rockcastle County native and two-time cancer survivor, will be the speaker for the opening ceremony. Ms. Teague was diagnosed with throat cancer in 1967 and colon cancer in 1993.

There will be entertainment throughout the evening by the following performers: Josh Bray, Amber Thacker, The Bittersweet Cloggers, The Hunt Sisters (Carol and Casey Hunt) and The High Mountain Boys. A live auction will also be taking place during the evening.

Several of the participating relay teams will also have activities taking place at their campsites for adults and children who attend the event. Some of these activities will include a dunking booth, bowling, basketball shoot, ring toss and selling different types of food items.

After sunset (about 10 p.m.) luminaries decorated with the names of those who have battled cancer will be lit and left glowing throughout the night to remind everyone of the incredible importance of their contributions. Please see the attached Luminary Order Form for more details on how you can help light up the track on August 2nd.

If you are a cancer survivor and

plan on attending the event then please be at the football field and register a little before 7 p.m.

Relay teams need to have their campsites ready before 6:30 p.m. Each team also needs to bring one cake for a cakewalk and have a name for your team.

The next Relay for Life planning meeting will be Thursday, August 1st at 6:00 p.m. at the community room of the Cumberland Valley Home Health located in the Industrial Park. If you have any questions about this meeting please contact Kelly McClure at 256-4122, Danielle Smith at 256-3907, Tom and Darlene Larkey at 878-9412 or Cynthia Rogers at 679-3287.

Ms. Sparks is cancer survivor

73-year-old Ms. Eva Sparks, of Mt. Vernon, who many Rockcastle Countians know because of her dealings with the public for 48 years, is a cancer survivor.

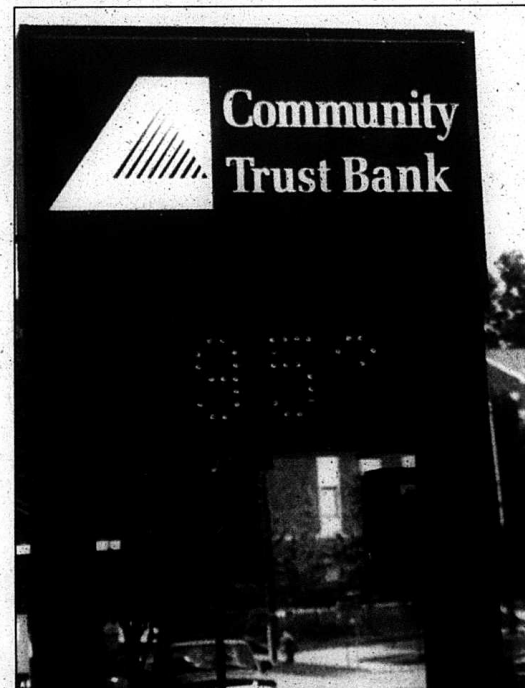
In 1989 she decided to quit smoking after her brother-in-law was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Four months later she went for a check-up and doctors told her she also had lung cancer.

"I was one of the lucky ones because doctors said that had I not of quit smoking the cancer in my lung would have spread faster than it did," she said.

Surgeons removed half of one of Ms. Sparks' lungs and she went

(Cont. to A-12)



It has been one hot and humid summer. The bank clock on Main Street in Mt. Vernon had the temperature recorded at 95 last week, although the official recorded high was 91 on July 5th. Rockcastle County weatherman Bud Cox said that the mercury reached at least 90 at the weather station just two days in July. However, only once was the high lower than 80 degrees during the month.



Mt. Vernon maintenance workers were busy this week fixing water lines and sewer lines in the city and out. The hot temperatures have made it difficult for people working outside, but when things tear up they must be fixed, according to the city's maintenance supervisor, Dennis McClure.