

Preston Parrett deserving of honor



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Anderkin
Editor
Mount Vernon
Signal

It was nice to see the very large crowd which attended the annual Livingston Homecoming this past weekend.

From all indications and estimates more people than ever before attended the three day event.

It was also very nice to see the capacity crowd at the old time's games on Saturday night.

Had it not been for the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court and State Representative Danny Ford's efforts, the game would have never been played.

After Livingston School was closed in 1994, many of our local hoodlums took great pleasure in destroying the school property, including the gymnasium.

It was almost in complete ruin, but that isn't the case any longer.

The county has used a state grant secured by Ford to put the gym back into condition. The gym is actually in better shape now than it was before the school was closed and the court and Ford should give themselves a pat on the back.

Because of the game and the remodeling of the gym, there were smiles, laughter and just good old socializing, once again.

A man who has touched so many Rockcastle County lives was also honored before the game.

The newly renovated gymnasium was named in honor of Livingston coach, Preston Parrett, who coached and taught at Livingston School for 33 years.

If you talk to any of Parrett's former players and/or students you know they all respect and admire him for his hard work and dedication to Livingston students, although he made his home in Brodhead all of those years.

From 1975 until 1987 Parrett coached the Rockcastle County High School Lady Rockets basketball team and he also coached the Livingston Eighth grade team.

After retiring from coaching and teaching in 1987, he coached the Livingston girls' team one more year.

In 1990 Parrett had triple by-pass

surgery but went back to work after that at RCHS as attendance officer. He is very deserving of Saturday night's honor.

Back to Ford. He probably didn't like my comments last week about State Senate President David Williams another Republican, but I'm sure he understood where I was coming from.

For 20 years Ford has worked with a Democrat Governor and most of the time with a Democrat House and Senate, but he still managed to get things done by his Republican district.

The simple reason, is the former Republican House leader knows the meaning of the word compromise and he knows that everyone must get along to a certain extent to get things done.

He is in a battle to retain his seat in the house and voters should remember that he is a well known, hard working, respected statesman, who has represented the 80th district well.

When we think of criminals, thieves, of our kind of murderers, most, rapists, kidnappers, drug dealers and so on.

But there is apparently another criminal element out there that many of us didn't realize existed.

The recent corporate scandals have hit many Americans hard.

Corporate scandals apparently caused by greed, have cost people their jobs, life savings, homes and peace of mind.

Many Kentuckians have also been affected by the executive greed and mismanagement. Case in point: the Kentucky Teachers Retirement Fund lost \$43 million in the WorldCom scandal alone.

The state says the retirement won't be affected, but it is hard to believe that it won't be affected in some way considering the amount of money the fund lost.

People who intentionally mislead employees and shareholders to line their own pockets should be treated as any common criminal.

The annual Cystic Fibrosis Bike-a-Thon is September 14th. We all know that CF is still a deadly disease but great strides have been made in recent years and researchers are still hoping to find a cure.

Help a very worthy cause if you can. For more information contact Donna Robbins at 256-2514 or 256-2654, Mrs. Clara Proctor at 758-8585 or Mrs. Louise Benge at 758-0206.

dren, but the methods that are often suggested are not enough.

Cutting off welfare payments after the first child is born won't stop Sarah from having babies. Sarah does not have babies because she wants more money. She has babies because she cannot stop the cycle of abuse that began when she was just a child.

Sarah's father began sexually abusing her when she was six. The abuse continued until Sarah became pregnant by her boyfriend, got married and left home. "Getting pregnant protected me from my father," Sarah said. "I didn't think about what I would do with a baby. I just wanted to stop the abuse."

Unfortunately for Sarah her husband

was no different than her father. He emotionally and occasionally physically abused her. He forced her to have sex whenever he wanted. "I didn't know I could say 'no,'" Sarah told me. Her father had taught her that her main function in life was to be a sexual object for a man. Sarah was just doing what she was taught. Therefore in the first two years of marriage Sarah had two babies.

After her divorce Sarah began dating almost immediately. "I need a man," Sarah claimed. She had sex with her boyfriend soon after they began dating and became pregnant almost immediately. "I thought he

loved me," Sarah said. "He promised he would take care of me and the kids, but when our son was born he disappeared."

Would cutting her welfare have stopped Sarah from having three children? I doubt it. Her sexual ac-

tivity came because she had been sexually abused not because of a quest for more funds. She tried and tried to find a man who would love her but the men she chose were just like Dad: they fathered her children and then abandoned or abused her.

Another suggested tactic to stop "Welfare Mothers" from having babies is to cut off all funds to them so that they have to return home to their parents who (theoretically) will help take care of them so we (the taxpayers) won't have to. What would happen to Sarah if she were forced to return home to her father? The abuse would probably start again. And what of her two little girls? What would her father do to them?

The reasons women have children are much more complicated than just financial. The reasons have to do with the environment in which they grew up and how they were treated. Just cutting off the funds won't stop the conception of more children. Programs to teach job skills and provide counseling for these women are what will make a difference.

Mount Vernon Signal

Publication Number 366-000
Periodical Postage Paid in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456
606-256-2244

Published every Thursday since November, 1887. Offices in the Mt. Vernon Signal Building on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456. Postmaster, send address changes to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456.

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In County - \$16.75 Yr. Out-of-County In State - \$21.75 Yr.
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Sexual Abuse Can Lead to Early Pregnancy

Sarah is twenty-four and has three children. She receives welfare, food stamps and an SSI check for her youngest who has several physical problems. Two of the children are by her first husband who was abusive to her. After her divorce she became

pregnant by her boyfriend who left soon afterward.

Though Sarah is fictitious her story is not. I think of Sarah and women like her when I hear the call to "stop women on welfare from having babies."

It is a good idea to help women in Sarah's situation have fewer chil-

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