

Our Readers Write

Law makers raising the debt ceiling...

Dear Editor,

Our law makers insist that raising the debt "ceiling" is simply so we can pay the "obligations already incurred" - Let me take a stab at explaining this to them...

Let's say I give my child \$10 a week allowance. He wants a new bike that costs \$100 so I agree that his allowance will be used toward this "loan" if I pay for the bike. His "obligation" is \$10 each week for 10 weeks to be put in a jar on his dresser.

Now, Try to Follow this Mr. Congressman - I AM GIVING THIS CHILD THE \$10/wk. ALLOWANCE. But instead of putting his money in the jar, the "CHILD" takes his allowance and spends his \$10/wk. on ice cream, candy, pop and gum at the corner market, plus he runs a tab for an additional \$10/wk. for 10 weeks. Now the 10 weeks have passed and the "obligation" is due. He marches in and demands that I increase his allowance to \$20/wk. He says he needs more so he can pay his bike debt and also his "treats" tab.

When I finally come to myself, take his allowance away, and send him to his room (without a video game or cell phone) - he cries and stomps and says I just don't understand that he is simply asking for money to pay the debt I had already agreed to when I bought the bike.

Allison Reynolds

Excellent article on Eight Gables...

Dear Editor,

That was an excellent article in the *Mt. Vernon Signal* concerning the Eight Gable Hotel as well as all the other photographs including the train turntable at Livingston and the passenger trains no.21,22, 23, and 24.

When I was growing up at Brodhead, I, as well as several other boys would

run down and carry box lunches on the passenger train at noon. Each boy would carry 5 box lunches which included coffee, pie, and a good lunch at a total cost of 0.75 cents per lunch. We would get 15 cents for selling the lunches and spend the 15 cents in the pinball machines before returning to school.

The three restaurants at Brodhead were Mrs. Murphies, Mrs Friths, and Mrs. Clarks. In the evenings we would carry in coal for the different restaurants and likewise spend our money on pinball machines. Each one of these restaurants kept hogs on their back lots where the hogs could get partially into the water. Made some very good spots for catching fish.

Back then the old steam engines would stop and take on water at Brodhead and the old pumphouse still exists where it pumped water out of the river up into the water towers. Lord we had a good time growing up in the small communities like Brodhead.

Keep up your good work!

Jim Cass
London, KY

Enjoyed reading Eight Gables article...

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading your article on the Eight Gables in Livingston. I wasn't familiar with that area. I am from a railroad family. I lived my childhood at Wildie just north of Livingston. My Uncle John French ran the pump house that put water into water tanks. Many trains stopped there. We had other relatives and friends employed by then L&N R.R. Company. My Dad worked 35 years for the bridge department. Earlier 5 years on a section gang that was hard labor at that time. My Uncle J.A. White was a signal man. I give him and his job credit for my survival. Oh! I failed to men-

tion I am a depression baby, born 1932. Proud to be 80 this year. I think I was about 2 years old when I had diptheria. My Uncle and Aunt provided my medicine, money was so scarce those days. My parents lived at Hurrrican Hollow in Rockcastle County. Back to my version of Wildie. Passenger trains we had were #18 morning, #30 around noon, #32 in evening. Going north. South bound were #29 at noon and #17 at somwwhere between 11-12 p.m. at night.

My husband J.T. Poff worked as a brakeman starting in 1955 to 1988. L&N at the beginning then Seaboard Coastline then CSX. When I was a child at Wildie we rode train #30 to Berea and walked from the depot to town, shopped for Mom and rode #29 home. We had about one hour to do our shopping and get back to the depot. I wondered if the trains in your article #22 & 24 and #21 and 23 came from Louisville to Livingston. Mine ran from Cincinnati to Corbin. I and my family are left alone without our railroad only wonderful memories of railroad and trains.

Sarah Poff
Berea, KY

“Roots”

(Cont. from A2)

George Washington before he was buried elsewhere.

Some of the national disasters that D.C has foretold were the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, and John Kennedy; the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan, the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the 1929 Stock Market crash, and of course was spotted the night of September 10, 2001-the night before the 9-11 tragedy.

has left his own mark on the Capitol Building. In the Capitol Rotunda, on the floor near the old entrance to the Senate Hall set in that stone floor is a set of cat footprints said to have been made by D.C, the phantom

demon cat of Washington.

January 20, 2013 was the swearing in of President Obama. One has to wonder if a security guard or caretaker in Washington has seen “D.C.”? Strange But True?

Sources:
"slightlywarped.com
Wikipedia.org
Paranormala.com
Unexplainable.net
(Remember, I'm always looking for a bit of Rockcastle history. If you have a story to tell, and all of us do, please contact me at therootsofrocksatle@windstream.net)

“Memories”

(Cont. from A2)

that day. You never saw two boys so excited. Then my mother gave us an assignment.

It was about one hundred yards from my house to my grandparents' house, and Bee suggested that we shovel a path to their house. It took us the entire morning to carve a path to Pop's house. When we finally made it, we walked into Mommie Katie's kitchen to find that she had two large mugs of hot chocolate waiting for us. I do believe that might have been the best hot chocolate that I have ever had. Because the roads were in such poor condition for driving, Charles' parents agreed to let him spend another night with me.

There is another snow day that I will never forget when several of my friends and I staged one of the most aggressive snow ball fights ever. Kenneth Hansel, Billy Ramsey, Earl Benton Cromer, Paul Hansel, Glenn Cromer, and I were in my yard. We divided into two teams, and each team was determined to be declared the champion snow ball fighters of the neighborhood. That was the most memorable snow ball fight I have ever witnessed. After about an hour of rock 'em and sock 'em, Mommie Katie decided that we all needed to warm up a bit. It was a notion that we would not challenge because it meant that we were to enjoy hot chocolate in her kitchen. We were so cold, wet, and exhausted that we dropped to the floor and watched television in the living room until we dried out and truly warmed up.

When I first started to drive, I owned a '58 Chevy and, for some reason, I loved to drive my car in the snow. There was one Saturday evening when it had been snowing all day long, and I drove my Chevy down to Mt. Vernon to see if any of my friends had also made it out to town. To my surprise, I was the only teenager on the streets that night. I finally went to some of my friends' homes and managed to convince their parents that we were going to the Dinner Bell Restaurant for burgers and fries. The group that I assembled included: Marty Sowder, Lloyd Fain, Dorcus Woodall, Paul Daily, Patsy Cummins, Bud Cox, and Howard Coffey. We spent several hours watching the snow pile higher and higher on the roads. Eventually, we

all decided to pile into my car and drive around town. One of our adventures was to drive out to the high school parking lot and do “doughnuts” as my car spun around and around. I can still hear those girls screaming as we created circles in the snow.

I cannot remember a single night when snow in the Pine Grove section of Rockcastle County prevented me from driving my automobile. I loved to drive in the snow, and I believe I was pretty good at maneuvering my vehicle when the roads were snow covered. Since my car was a standard shift, I was able to take it almost anywhere I wanted to go.

One night, Bud Cox and I decided to see if we could go all over the county on snow-covered roads. We made it to Mary Ellen Hansel's house (way on the other side of Renfro Valley), the water reservoir, Brodhead, and even up on Chicken Ranch Hill. Not one time did we get stuck and have to turn around. I even let Bud drive part of the time. Because of his training as an ambulance driver, I was comfortable with him behind the wheel of my car. We were extremely proud of our driving skills.

When I was still teach-

ing, I really loved snow days. One of my friends and a co-teacher, Larry Jefferson, and I spent many snow days riding around in one of my SUV's. One could say that I have many frosty recollections.

Even as a senior citizen, I still love it when huge snows have covered the area where I live. I have a sign above my back door that says, “Let It Snow – Let It Snow – Let It Snow.” That sign is there all year around. But I will admit that I'm not so anxious anymore to hit the roads in the snow. Don't get me wrong, I am still, in my humble opinion, an excellent driver in inclement weather.

However, these days I usually find myself quite content to keep my snow adventures close to home. And I don't need to gather up a bunch of people in order to enjoy a beautiful snowfall – my faithful companion, Shiloh, and I do just fine.

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Mt. Vernon Council Meeting Date Changed

Due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday falling on January 21st (regular meeting date), the Mt. Vernon City Council will instead meet Monday, January 28th at 7 p.m.

Volunteers Needed at BVFD

Help your community, join the Brodhead Fire Department. Applications available at www.brodheadfire.com or at Brodhead City Hall.

Bookmobile Schedule

Mon., Jan. 28th: Scaffold Cane, Disputanta, Clear Creek and Wildie. **Tues., Jan. 29th:** Pongo, Ky. 3245 and Bryant Ridge. **Wed., Jan. 30th:** Seek 'n Learn and Wayne Stewart Center.

Brodhead Alliance Committee

The BAC will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 7th at 6 p.m. at Brodhead City Hall. Please note the change in location. The public is welcome.

Foster/Adoptive Parents Needed

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will begin new classes for those interested in becoming foster/adoptive parents, on February 4th. For more information, please contact Brandy Baldwin at 606-287-7114.

Tenth Annual Books for Bikes

Registration for the Tenth Annual Books for Bikes began January 7th and will continue through January 31st at the Rockcastle County Public Library in Mt. Vernon.

Conceal Carry Class

Concealed Carry Class, February 1st, Renfro Valley, Ky. For information call 606-256-3800.

Kiwanis Meeting Change

The Kiwanis Thursday luncheon meetings are held at the Tea Cup Cafe, Main St., Mt. Vernon.

VFW News

During the winter months, the post will be closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.

Brodhead Lodge Meeting

The Brodhead Masonic Lodge #556 meets every third Saturday at 7 p.m. on Main Street in Brodhead above Brodhead Pharmacy.

RCDB Meeting Notice

The Rockcastle County Development Board meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at noon at the Rockcastle County Courthouse 3rd floor Technology Center. The public is invited to attend.

RCIDA Meeting

The Rockcastle County Industrial Authority Board meets the first Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. on the third floor (teleconference room) of the courthouse. The public is invited.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon.

Kiwanis Club Meetings

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at noon at The Renfro Valley Lodge in Renfro Valley. Everyone welcome.

Historical Society Hours

The Rockcastle Historical Society is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RTEC garage building.

Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), Rockcastle Camp, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact David Owens at 606-256-9870.

American Legion Post 71

American Legion Post 71 meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. of each month at the Back Porch Restaurant in the Renfro Valley Village. Commander David Owens invites all Rockcastle veterans to join this organization that honors American soldiers, sailors and airmen.

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