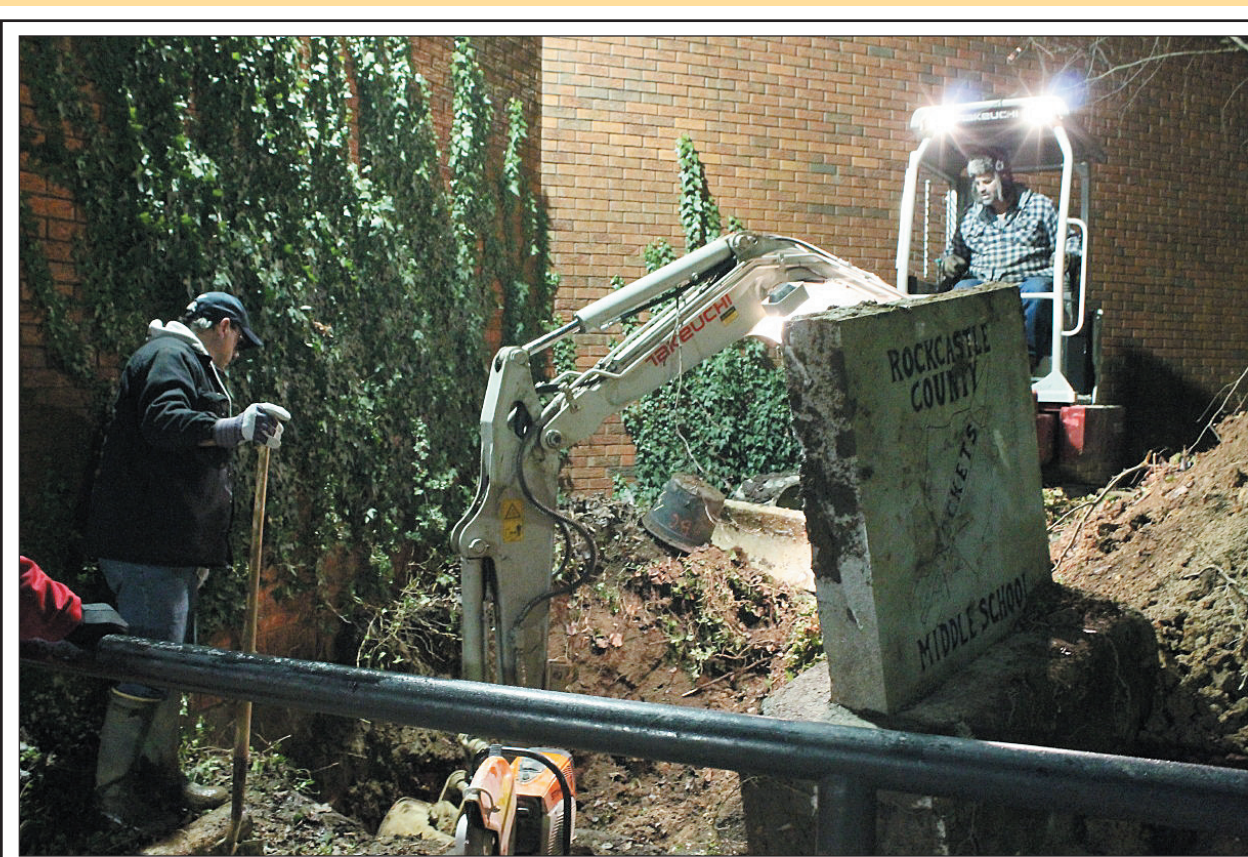




Contracting crews were busy this past week working to repair a water main break at the Rockcastle County Middle School that happened around 4 p.m. last Wednesday. All Rockcastle County Schools were dismissed last Thursday and Friday as crews worked to repair the break. School officials believe the break was caused by the settling of the building's foundation. No flooding damage was reported and the break was fixed last Saturday, allowing Rockcastle County students to return to class on Monday.

RCMS water main break closes Rockcastle schools for two days

By: Doug Ponder
Rockcastle County students and faculty received an extra two days off last week as a result of a water main break at the middle school last Wednesday afternoon.

All Rockcastle County Schools were dismissed last Thursday and Friday as crews worked to repair the break.

According to Transportation and Facilities Director Chris Cornelius, the water main break happened around 4 p.m. in the lobby of the middle school.

"RCMS faculty noticed the water seeping through the tiles and walls of the lobby after school," Cornelius said. "Maintenance crews were able to turn the water off before it caused any flooding damage."

Cornelius said one of the

main three inch lines, underneath the floor of the middle school lobby, burst causing the water to seep through the tiles and out of the lobby walls. He said they believe the water main break was the result of natural causes.

"We believe it was caused by the settling of the middle school building's foundation," Cornelius said. "The building is forty-one years old, so things like that will happen from time to time."

Cornelius said that RCMS janitors immediately mopped up the water on the lobby floor and wiped down all the walls that were affected by the leak. He said their quick response time help prevent any further damage to the walls and floor.

Cornelius went on to say that contractors were able to reroute a new three inch

water line through the ceiling above the lobby. He said they disconnected the broken underground water line in the flower garden in the front of the middle school. After disconnecting the line, contractors ran a separate line under the building and through the ceiling before rejoining the new line at the end of the old line that was not broken.

"We were fortunate that we could run the new line through the ceiling," Cornelius said. "This saved

us a lot of time and hassle since contractors didn't have to dig up the lobby floor."

Superintendent David Pensol said contractors told him last Wednesday night that the project would take approximately two days to complete. However, the project was completed on Saturday as the ice storm delayed the contracting crews.

On Wednesday night,

(Cont. to pg. 11)

Renfro Valley holding open auditions next week

Renfro Valley entertainment Center will hold their annual open auditions at the New Barn Theatre next Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Male and female singers, musicians and comedians are encouraged to come out and audition for their chance to perform on Renfro Valley shows during the 2013 season.

Auditions are open to the public and there is no application fee. The door charge for the auditions is \$5, which applies to both contestants and audience members. Walk-in applications will begin next Tuesday at 4 p.m. and candidates will perform in the order their application is received.

Singer open audition rules and guidelines are: you must be at least sixteen years or older; must perform one song

(Cont. to pg. 9)

Yates named UNITE Treatment Director

Operation UNITE is has announced that Rockcastle County resident Amy Yates has been named its new Treatment Director.

"Amy brings a strong background to the UNITE team," said Karen Kelly, director of UNITE. "Her skills, enthusiasm and deeply-felt concern to help others made her a perfect candidate for this very demanding position."

Yates will oversee UNITE's four-person Treatment Team, which provides assistance to individuals seeking help with a substance abuse addiction-related issue.

Those services include:

- Responding to requests made through the toll-free Treatment Referral Line (1-866-908-6483). Currently the team fields approximately 1,200 calls per month.

- Administering the UNITE Treatment Voucher Program. Low-income residents residing in the Fifth Congressional District who suffer from substance abuse issues can receive financial assistance to obtain short-term and long-term residential treatment.

- Contracting with and monitoring residential treatment facilities to ensure quality treatment for a substance abuse

(Cont. to pg. 11)

Comer to promote farm plate in Rockcastle Co.

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer will visit Rockcastle County on Thursday to encourage local residents to make a voluntary \$10 donation when they renew their farm license plates.

Comer is scheduled to visit the Rockcastle County Extension Office in Mt. Vernon from 4:15 to 5 p.m.

The donation will be split evenly among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA and Kentucky Proud. Comer is traveling to county clerk and extension offices throughout the state to promote the voluntary donation.

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Mt. Vernon to proceed with needed sewer plant repair

The Mt. Vernon City Council voted Monday night to proceed with the installation of a new meter to record the intake of raw wastewater into the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The plant currently only measures the treated output.

The cost to the city is expected to be around \$37,000 and was necessitated by a Notice of Violation issued in September of 2011 by the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water. The city has until December of 2013 to begin the project but decided to proceed immediately, following a presentation by Vernon Shanklin, senior project engineer with Kenvirons.

Shanklin said the information provided by the needed equipment would show the Division of Water that the plant, which has a

372,000 gallon daily capacity, was not taking in more raw wastewater than it could treat. City Superintendent Dennis McClure told the council that he did not expect any problem with the intake/outgo equation saying that he expected it to "be pretty close."

The city budgeted

(Cont. to pg. 9)

Council will advertise for police chief position

Mayor Mike Bryant told the council Monday night that he had decided to go with the application process over the appointment process to fill the vacant position of Mt. Vernon Police

(Cont. to pg. 9)

Weekend ice storm causes havoc on Rockcastle roads

By: Doug Ponder

A major ice storm moved across the state this past week, covering Rockcastle County roadways with approximately a half-inch of ice.

The storm started last Friday morning around 8 o'clock as freezing rain and sleet poured down causing problems on the roadways for many travelers in the county. The ice also remained on the roads after refreezing late Friday night and early Saturday morning.

Rockcastle County Sheriff Mike Peters said they were dispatched out to their first wreck around 8:30 Friday morning when a tractor trailer rolled over an embankment on southbound I-75 at the 70 mile marker.

"When I came into work early Friday morning, the roads were clear and it was only misting rain," Peters said. "But when I walked out of the office and got into my vehicle to head to the tractor trailer accident, my cruiser already had a thin sheet of ice on it and the roads were also beginning to get extremely slick. I barely made it to the wreck myself."

After responding to the tractor trailer accident, Peters said that he and his deputies worked six other accidents along I-75 within a few hours. He said they had to shut down I-75 in both directions between mile marker 68 and

(Cont. to pg. 9)



A major ice storm moved across the state last Friday covering Rockcastle County roadways with approximately a half-inch of ice. Shown above is the first accident reported during the ice storm as a tractor trailer rolled over an embankment on southbound I-75 at the 70 mile marker. Rockcastle County emergency personnel also responded to multiple other wrecks throughout the county during the ice storm last Friday and Saturday when the ice that fell Friday had melted and refroze. Authorities say that no serious injuries or fatalities were reported in any of the accidents during the storm.

Of Special Note Inside

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