



**Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department responded to a trailer fire last Friday on West Street near the Dollar General store in Mt. Vernon. Authorities say the trailer belonged to Dale and Joyce Lark of Brodhead. The trailer was a total loss and no one was injured during the fire. The cause of the fire remains unknown.**

## “Accident”

(Cont. from front)

at the time of the accident. Benien and Howell were both wearing their seatbelts at the time of the accident. The accident is still under investigation by the Kentucky State Police and no drugs or alcohol are suspected at this time. Barnett was a retired RCHS health teacher and a former Assistant Coach of the Rockcastle County Rockets football team. He was remembered at RCHS during a dedication ceremony Tuesday morning where students and faculty celebrated his life and had a moment of silence in his memory. Moments of silence were also observed during the middle school boys’ basketball games Tuesday night. Barnett’s memory was also honored on Wednesday during the Kentucky General Assembly in Frankfort as State Senator Jeff Carpenter introduced a resolution to pay tribute to Barnett on the Senate floor. According to Carpenter, the Kentucky Senate adjourned Wednesday in honor and memory of Barnett. “Many of Rick Barnett’s friends and former students

have talked with me about the tremendous impact he made on Rockcastle County,” Carpenter said. “His students will tell you that he taught them crucial life lessons and it’s clear that his legacy will be lasting through those lessons he instilled in thousands of young people.” Cox Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements and a complete obituary can be found on pg. A3.

## “RCIDA”

(Cont. from front)

ing. RCIDA member Corey Craig asked about the survey and Hopkins told the board that Kentucky Surveys had been delayed due to inclement weather. Craig then told Moore and Morgan that until there is a survey that there is nothing the board can do because if they don’t know if the blueprints could work until they had a survey of the land. “To me it all depends on how quick the survey gets done,” Craig said. “Then let their architect look at it and make sure what they got is actually going to match up on that plot of land. At that point it would be a matter of us just blessing it at a

meeting.” Craig suggested that the board call a special meeting to evaluate the survey of the White House Clinic plot once it is completed. Hopkins also said that the new CSEPP building project was put on hold because of the bids for the Powell County CSEPP building being almost 25% higher than the original estimates. Lawson asked if there was a timeframe for the CSEPP building project and Hopkins said nothing will move forward until they bid out the Powell County CSEPP building. Carloftis told the board that the delay in the CSEPP building project was just typical “government delays” and that they are one of the few counties receiving funding for a new 911 center. “When you think about it there is only 17 counties out of approximately 3,000 counties in the United States receiving this,” Carloftis said. “We are fortunate to be one of the 17 to be getting a new 911 center so we can’t be too pushy.” In the next item of business, Hopkins informed the board about a year-long grant from the Center for Economic Development,

Entrepreneurship and technology at ECU. Hopkins said she had been contacted by CEDET Executive Director Ian Mooers about conducting some small business training starting in July and ending in June 2014. Under the terms of the grant, CEDET would supply one of their staff members to Rockcastle County for one year to provide business training for individuals or existing business owners. They would also offer an eight week entrepreneur training program to help local entrepreneurs develop a business plan and teach them how to prepare materials for business loans. The series of workshops would be open to existing business owners and any other community members. Hopkins told the board that the grant will be no cost to them and that the only involvement she would be required to have is helping them choose guest speakers for the classes. “I think we should always take an opportunity like this that would help benefit Rockcastle County while they put up the funds and provide the staffing,” Hopkins said. “It’s not really for people who are going into business but for

people who are already in business and looking for advice and guidance.” The board agreed to allow Hopkins to pursue CEDET’s year-long small business training grant at no cost to the RCIDA.

## “Schools”

(Cont. from front)

Superintendent David Pensol said that Rockcastle County Schools is currently on schedule for the number of days they have been dismissed due to inclement weather or other emergencies. “We have missed four total days this year and we only missed two total days last year, which was one of the fewest amount of days we had missed in years” Pensol said. “We have had good luck these past two school years due to the mild winters we have been having.” Pensol said that they will not consider scheduling any “make-up” days during school holidays unless school is dismissed for at least ten days by the last Monday in February. “Our school calendar will remain the same every year unless we miss more than ten days before President’s Day or the last Monday in February,” Pensol said. “We developed this system a few years ago and it has worked really well for us since its creation.” Pensol said this new scheduling system has been a huge success as it is not complicated or confusing for everyone to understand. “With this system people know they will have President’s Day and Spring Break every year unless school is dismissed for at least ten days,” Pensol said. “This also helps the school administration as we don’t have to go back and forth with the school board in order to reschedule make-up days.” The next holiday for Rockcastle County Schools will be President’s Day on February 18th. Spring Break is currently schedule

for April 1st through 5th. The last day of school was originally scheduled for May 10th. However, it’s now scheduled for May 16th in order to make up for the four missed school days. “Barnett” (Cont. from front) was going to place all the materials for a meth lab on her porch, in an attempt to frame her for manufacturing meth. Once Deputy Sheriff Matt Bryant arrived at the scene, he discovered that Barnett had left his cell phone at the residence. However, Barnett was nowhere to be found. Bryant also knew that Barnett had been a suspect in some of the recent thefts throughout Rockcastle County. When he showed the homeowner a picture of Barnett on the Rockcastle County Detention Center’s jail tracker website, she immediately identified him as the male who broke into her home and assaulted her. The homeowner was diagnosed with an A-C joint sprain and a rib contusion as a result of Barnett’s physical attacks. After a warrant was issued for Barnett’s arrest, Bryant received information that Barnett was staying at a residence on Poplar Street in Mt. Vernon. When Bryant arrived at the residence, he asked Barnett about his involvement in the home invasion on Freedom School Road and he said that he was there that night but that he didn’t steal anything from the home. Bryant arrested Barnett at the scene and also found a ceramic plate containing suspected meth, a small bag of suspected meth and other various items associated with meth on Barnett at the time of his arrest. Barnett was charged with robbery first degree, possession of a controlled substance first degree and drug paraphernalia. He remains lodged in the Rockcastle County Detention Center on a \$25,000 cash/property bond.

# F.Y.I. Series... from Rockcastle Health & Rehabilitation

At Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center we take pride in our wonderful Rehab department! We have a recently renovated 1,200 square foot therapy gym and a team of nine dedicated full-time therapists. We offer speech, occupational and physical therapies seven days a week.



Members of our Rehab department are shown above, front row from left: Renee Pirtle, OTR; Misty Blaylock, SLP; Joann McCowan, SLP; Jane Riddle, RSM, OTR; and Carolyn Combs, PT. Back row from left: Jeremy Cook, PTA; Debra England-Hall, PTA; Ashley Mize, OTR; and Erin King, OTR.



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