

Mount Vernon Signal

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Everything is going as planned for the construction of the new Rockcastle Family Wellness building at Rockcastle Regional Hospital. The new \$3.2 million building will be located on High Street behind the Medical Arts building and will serve as offices for Doctors David Bullock, Kevin Rowe, Karen Saylor and a host of other nurse practitioners and physicians assistants. The building is scheduled to be completed in December of this year.

10 positions will be lost

Pensol tells board that staffing will have to be cut back for 2014

At Monday night's meeting of the Rockcastle Board of Education, Superintendent David Pensol told the board that because of bud-

get constraints, 10 teaching positions would be eliminated beginning with the 2014 school year.

Pensol said the school

district was spending 85% of the budget for staff and this figure needed to be 75%. Working toward that goal, four positions at the high school, two and the middle school and Mt. Vernon Elementary and one each at Roundstone Elementary and Brodhead Elementary will be eliminated, beginning with the 2014 school year. This will involve the student/teacher ratio being raised to 22 to 1, instead of the present 20 to 1. However, Pensol said an official recommendation would be made to the board at the April meeting.

The superintendent said the cutbacks were based on enrollment figures at each school and the cutback of SEEK (Student Excellence in Education in Kentucky) funding by the state.

"We are in good financial condition but have to make sure we stay that way," Pensol said. "We need to balance our budget." Pensol also said that he hoped that with retirements and by shifting personnel any layoffs would be minimal. "We are trying to be very considerate and thoughtful about people," he said.

Pensol also told the board that the health department was having to cut back their funding of school nurses and that the nurse at Roundstone School, who is leaving for another position, would not be replaced.

He said that health assistants, who can render first aid, give meds, etc., would again be utilized as the health department pulled

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Drew Davidson featured in family comedy show next Friday

By: Doug Ponder

Local stand-up comedian Drew Davidson will be the featured entertainer for the Rockcastle Regional Hospital's family comedy show.

The show will be held at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School Friday, May 22 at 6 p.m.

Davidson is a 2007 RCHS graduate and a 2011 Northern Kentucky University graduate with a bachelor's degree in acting performance. He has re-

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Hospice gets \$10,000 donation

Fiscal Court approves donation to Livingston Trail Town project

In an effort to help Livingston become perhaps the first Trail Town in Kentucky, the Rockcastle Fiscal Court approved matching funds for a grant the city will seek to erect an in-town campground, containing a restroom facility. The action came at the regular monthly meeting of the court Tuesday.

Livingston Mayor Jason Medley asked the court for \$20,500 to match \$20,500 provided by the grant and the funds will be used for a 12x18 building containing a men's and women's restroom; three interpretive panels and frames; four litter receptacles and liners; three 6' benches; two 6' bike racks; a 4x4 sign with trail map, rules and points of interest; 5,000 horse trails brochures and 5,000 multi-use trails brochures. The restroom facility will in-

clude enough space to add a simple shower area in the future, Medley said.

These amenities will be erected on a county-owned site, behind the former school.

Medley told the court that the city presently has a small trailhead on the east side of US Highway 25 which consists of a limited number of parking space, a small building and signage noting the trails in the area. However, the property is located on state right-of-way and the city is limited to non-permanent structures. Medley said the city is also in negotiations with heirs of the Rice family to try and obtain property for a primitive camping site adjacent to the county-owned property.

On completion, the

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State gives Court recommendations for Rural Road program

William Lucas, Section Supervisor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet presented the Rockcastle Fiscal Court with the cabinet's recommendations for road improvements under the 2013-2104 Rural Secondary Road Program at Tuesday's meeting of the court.

Rockcastle County's allocation for the period is \$1,596,290 for their total of 152.632 miles in the program. Lucas said routine maintenance costs will use \$798,000 of that amount and an additional \$367,713 has been allocated as county flex funds, leaving \$426,715 to be spend on the following improvement projects:

Resurface KY 1249 (Sand Springs Road) from the pavement joint at milepost 7.200 and extending 2.600 miles to the pavement joint at milepost 9.800.

Resurface KY 2549 (White Rock Road) from the pavement joint at mile-

post 1.660 and extending 0.950 miles to the intersection with US 150 at milepost 2.610.

Resurface KY 3274 (Chestnut Level Road) from the pavement joint at mile-

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Allen pays court \$88,228 in excess fees for 2012

County Clerk Danetta Allen was a bright spot for magistrates in Tuesday's regular meeting. She presented the court with a check for \$88,228 in excess fees for 2012, no doubt a record for her office.

The presentation had a ripple effect in that, near the end of the meeting when the court normally has to transfer money from the occupational tax fund into the general fund and jail fund to meet obligations, no transfer had to be made this month.

Brodhead announces two new appointments to city positions

By: Doug Ponder

The Brodhead City Council announced two new appointments to positions at their monthly council meeting Monday night.

The Council voted unanimously to appoint and swear-in Mark Buras of Brodhead to fill former councilman Vernon (Mush) Cash's seat. Buras is a member of the Brodhead Fire Department and is also the Brodhead PRIDE Coordinator.

The council also voted unanimously to create a new city program entitled "Brodhead Downtown" and appoint former Brodhead Alliance Committee president Jane McClure as the program's manager.

Buras was appointed to the council after former councilman Cash officially resigned by turning in his written resignation to City Clerk Becky Bussell on February 11th.

Indictments returned

Eight indictments were handed down last Friday by a Rockcastle County Grand Jury.

Indicted were:

Richard N. Bishop, 44, of Chestnut Grove, Mt. Vernon and Gary L. Hasty, 51 of Popular St., Mt. Vernon, were named in a joint indictment. Bishop was indicted for receiving stolen property and tampering with physical evidence. Hasty was indicted for receiving stolen property.

Both men's bond was set at \$20,000 cash/property.

Herman Doug Smith, 38, of Maret Cemetery Road, Mt. Vernon, was indicted on two counts, rape, third degree and incest and his bond was set at \$50,000 cash/property.

Brian D. Hatcher, 29 of

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Police charge woman with shoplifting at Rite Aid

By: Doug Ponder

A Richmond woman was arrested for shoplifting and drug possession Tuesday night after police responded to a shoplifting complaint at Rite Aid in Mt. Vernon.

Arrested at the scene was Cristen Michelle Smith, 33, of Richmond.

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, Rockcastle 911 received a call from a

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Patient Safety Workshop is next Monday

Rockcastle Regional Hospital will host a patient safety workshop at the hospital's wellness center building next Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Karen Saylor will be the guest speaker at the workshop. Saylor will provide patients with the information they need to care for themselves at home, following a hospital stay, and how they can prevent readmission to the hospital.

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Melanie Lyons, left, finance officer for Rockcastle Schools, administered the oath of office to Carrie Ballinger at Tuesday night's regular meeting of the board. Mrs. Ballinger, a teacher at Kingston Elementary School in Madison County, was selected by the Commissioner of Education to fill the unexpired four-year term of Martin Vanzant who resigned in November of 2012. Mrs. Ballinger, who is married to James Ballinger, lives in the Three Links section of the county. She has three sons in the local school system and her daughter attends Kingston Elementary.

Of Special Note Inside

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