

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244

Volume 127 • Number 24

.50 per copy

Thursday, May 30, 2013



The 41st graduating class at Rockcastle County High School held their graduation ceremony last Thursday in the RCHS gymnasium. Shown above are the graduates throwing their caps after the changing of tassels. Shown at right is the RCHS Band which provided special music during the ceremony. The RCHS Chamber Choir also sang the National Anthem before the ceremony.



RCIDA passes amended budget for 2013-2014

At a special called meeting of the Rockcastle County Industrial Authority last Thursday, the main item of discussion was on amending the IDA's budge for fiscal year 2013-14.

The IDA had submitted their budget to the fiscal court at their regular meeting in May and changes were made by the court. They included eliminating \$63,870 from the group's reserve for transfer, which would lessen the court expected contribution of \$148,000; \$12,708 listed in appropriations for retirement benefits for Executive Director Holly Hopkins since this expense is paid through the fiscal court's general fund and lowering the allocation for travel and training by \$1,000 to \$3,500.

Three magistrates: Bill McKinney, Ralph Allen and Lee Earl Adams, along with County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis and County Treasurer Joe Clontz were all present at the called meeting. McKinney had brought up the reduction in the travel and training account at the fiscal court meeting, saying he didn't feel all the trips made by Hopkins during the year were "beneficial to RCIDA."

RCIDA board member Corey Craig made an impassioned plea for leaving the travel and training budget at

(Cont. to pg. A10)

RCHS student helps Oklahoma tornado victims by collecting school supplies

By: Doug Ponder

An RCHS senior is collecting school supplies for elementary school students who were affected by the recent Moore, Oklahoma EF5 tornado.

Kelsey Mattingly, 17, of Mt. Vernon said she was devastated after hearing about the destruction of the two elementary schools in Moore as a result of the tornado and that she wanted to help those affected.

"I know that for the children affected, their summer break from school isn't going to be such a fun time since this terrible thing happened," Mattingly said. "I immediately thought that it's going to be very easy for those kids to delve into negative practices and I found myself wanting to help them out in some way."

After discussions with family and friends on what she could do to help, Mattingly said they came up with the idea to collect at least 200 backpacks filled with supplies and send them to affected students. She said that she wants to provide a "little something" to the students to let them know that someone cares about them and wants to help them in their time of need.

"I wanted to send them something that would possibly keep their heads held high even though they are struggling with a lot right now," Mattingly said. "Not only could they use these things at school but they could also use them over the summer for entertainment if their family lost everything in the tornado. They could use them to draw, write and read or anything that would keep them from being bored."

Mattingly is coordinating her backpack drive through her non-profit organization "Room 4 Me" which she founded last July. Her organization's goal is to give elementary school children hope for a better future and ensure that they are all given the opportunity to be successful in life.

"It's always been my goal in life to help others who cannot help themselves," Mattingly said. "Elementary school children are more impressionable than other students so that is why the organization is focused on them in particular."

Mattingly said she eventually decided to follow through on her dream of creating the organization after working at a little league basketball game during the winter where she overheard some other people saying that certain kids wouldn't be successful because of their negative home life and families.

"I was talking with another worker about one of the kids

(Cont. to pg. A10)

Livingston completes final assessment of becoming a Trail Town with trial run

By: Doug Ponder

The City of Livingston completed their final assessment to become a Trail Town last weekend.

Livingston was opened up for the final "trial-run phase" of the Trail Town application process last Saturday and Sunday as tourists came for horseback riding, canoeing, tubing, kayaking, hiking, and bicycling.

By completing the final trial-run phase, Livingston is now in the home stretch of becoming the second town in Kentucky, behind Dawson Springs, to be a part of the Trail Town program.

The Trail Town program was created as a designation and assistance program by the Kentucky Office of Ad-

venture Tourism for towns along the Sheltoewe Trace and Daniel Boone National Forest. The program was

created to increase tourism and economic development for each town in the area.

The trial-run phase was

implemented by the Adventure Tourism Office to make sure everything works as planned as far as the design of the trails, directions, maps, designated visitor center and amenities which include food, lodging, entertainment, sidewalks, parking, etc.

As part of the trial run phase, tourists were required to fill out a survey on how well they got around on the trails and in town. Any problems experienced during the trial-run are to be identified and fixed before Livingston is granted certification from the Adventure Tourism Office as an official Trail Town.

Once the certification process is officially completed, Livingston will be identified on state maps and

(Cont. to pg. A7)

Film shoot held at Brush Arbor Cabins

By: Doug Ponder

An independent film production company held a film shoot last Saturday at the Brush Arbor Cabins at Hummel.

Showhouse Productions of Jackson, Kentucky used the cabins to film part of their latest documentary "Bad Tom." The documentary portrays the life and hanging of one of Kentucky's notorious outlaws Thomas "Bad Tom" Smith.

Smith was born in 1859 in Knott County. He is noted for becoming involved in the infamous French-Eversole feud in Hazard during the 1890s. During the feud, Smith sided with Fulton French and was said to be responsible for the murders of numerous Eversole supporters.

Throughout his career, Smith escaped prosecution for the murders by threatening or killing witnesses to his crimes. However, he was eventually arrested and convicted for the murder of Dr. Robert Raider in 1895.

While in jail for the murder of Dr. Raider, Smith confessed to the murders of seven people including Raider. Smith requested to be baptized while in jail and was baptized in the Ken-

tucky River near Jackson before being hanged in front of 4,000 to 5,000 people.

"Bad Tom" Director and President of Showhouse Productions Charles Shouse said he chose Brush Arbor Cabins as a place to shoot parts of the documentary because of the primitive cabins that were available.

"Brush Arbor Cabins had post Civil War buildings which fit the time period of Hazard during the French-Eversole feud," Shouse

(Cont. to pg. A10)

Boil Water Advisory issued for Sand Hill

Eastern Rockcastle Water Association has issued a boil water advisory for customers in the Sand Hill area until further notice.

ERWA President George Shackleford, who assumed that position following the resignation of Michael McGuire in April, said the advisory was issued after a motor quit on a pump on Sand Hill Monday morning. He said they have already ordered another motor for the pump and are hoping to

(Cont. to pg. A10)



Brodhead Baptist Church had a float in the Dix River Festival parade last Saturday promoting their upcoming Bible School themed Colossal Coaster World.

Of Special Note Inside

- Viewpoints Pg. A2
- Obituaries Pg. A3
- Church News Pg. A10
- Sports Pg. A8 & 9
- Courthouse News Pg. B2
- Classifieds Pgs. B5-7

Contact us at: mvsignal@windstream.net
Deadline submission is Noon Tuesday

Call
606-256-2244 for
Advertising &
Subscriptions

