

Mount Vernon Signal

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Rockcastle EMS achieves Advanced Life Support ranking

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle County Ambulance Service recently upgraded to Advanced Life Support (ALS) system on one of their ambulances and hired multiple paramedics for their staff.

Ambulance Service Board Chairman David Pensol said the ambulance service plans on installing ALS systems on more of their ambulances in the future.

Pensol said the other five ambulances still provide basic life support (BLS) to ill or injured patients by performing basic and intermediate health procedures. He said their five BLS ambulances are each staffed with two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs.)

However, the chairman said the new ALS ambulance can provide transport to patients who need a higher level of care than the service provided by the BLS ambulances. He said their new ALS ambulance has advanced airway equipment, advanced cardiac life support equipment and cardiac monitors.

Pensol also said that the ALS ambulance is staffed with at least one paramedic on board at all times. He said paramedics are required to have more training hours than EMTs. "Having a paramedic in an ambulance makes a huge difference as they are the only professionals who can perform advanced life support techniques," Pensol said. "They can perform more advanced health procedures on patients before they even arrive at the emergency room."

Pensol estimated that staffing the paramedics on their ambulance service cost about \$170,000 to \$180,000 more a year. He said they have currently hired six part-time paramedics to work rotating shifts on the ALS ambulance.

With the new ALS ambulance and the hiring of paramedics, Pensol said, "Our main goal is to always make an effort to improve the level of care we provide to our service area. Having an ALS ambulance and paramedics has helped us move toward the main goal we have here at the ambulance service."

Severe storms cause damage in Rockcastle

By: Doug Ponder

A fast-moving storm system moved across the state last Saturday afternoon, wreaking havoc throughout the county.

CSEPP Director Hal Holbrook said the storm, which only lasted about an hour, uprooted trees, downed utility lines and caused structural damage in several different areas across the county. He also said many Rockcastle Countians were without power for a short time after the storm.

Holbrook said the Sand Springs Road and Pongo communities were the hardest hit. He said Rockcastle 911 received several calls of trees down near Buffalo Baptist Church on Sand Springs Road. The high winds also ripped off the panels of a barn in the same area.

Several members of Pongo Volunteer Fire Department and Buffalo Baptist Church spent hours removing trees from the road-

ways and residential yards in their area. Kentucky State Highway and Rockcastle County Highway workers were busy removing fallen trees off the roadways throughout the county as well.

Holbrook went on to say that there were also reports of trees across the roadways on South Wilderness Road, Turner Mountain Road and Big Cave Road. He said the

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KBC hosts two separate blood drives next week

The Kentucky Blood Center is hosting two separate blood drives in Rockcastle County next week.

Those wishing to donate can do so at the Rockcastle Health and Rehabilitation Center in Brodhead Monday, July 22nd from 2:30 to 6 p.m. or at First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon next

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A quick-moving storm system blew across the state last Saturday afternoon causing uprooted trees, downed utility lines and structure damage in several different areas of the county. Shown above is a downed tree next to the Pine Hill Holiness Church parking lot in Mt. Vernon. Shown at right is a snapped utility pole that caused power lines to temporarily stretch across Pine Hill Road until electric crews could remove the lines and make the repairs. Service was restored in that area approximately 1:30 Sunday morning.



Mt. Vernon Council discusses city parks

It was a light agenda for Monday night's regular meeting of the Mt. Vernon City Council. The only item under new business was Resolution #2013-3 giving the fire department approval to submit an application for a grant from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security.

Fire Chief David Bales told the council that the grant application will be for \$19,800 and will be used for turn-out gear. The council gave Bales approval to make the grant application.

Mayor Mike Bryant brought the council up to date on the water tank project. He said beginning construction was "right around the corner," since the city has purchased the

needed property for one of the tank sites.

He also discussed proposed annexation of some businesses in the county, in an effort to make the city's boundary lines more even. Bryant said that discussions had been held with Hansen Aggregate who were "supportive of what we are trying to do." Under annexation laws, businesses can be annexed without their approval while industries must consent. Bryant said Hansen had earlier signed an annexation agreement but wanted to look at it again.

If industries want to contest annexation, then the city would have to include a certain number of residences and the matter would have to be placed on a ballot if a

certain percentage of residents protested the annexation.

Bryant also brought the council up-to-date on two

new city parks in progress.

Bryant said the skateboard park, behind the city park in

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Local church reaches out to people through Celebrate Recovery

By: Doug Ponder

Northside Baptist Church recently started a Celebrate Recovery program to help Rockcastle Countians with life's hurts, habits and hang-ups.

The Celebrate Recovery program was created in 1990 by national evangelists and authors John Baker and Rick Warren. The program is similar to Alcoholics Anonymous but Baker and Warren created Celebrate Recovery because they wanted a more Christ-based program that refers to God as a "higher power."

The Northside Celebrate Recovery program meets every Tuesday at Northside Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon at 6:30 p.m. The program includes a meal, praise and wor-

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Rockcastle River Day will be this Saturday

This Saturday will be a day of fun including free

Performance at Community Garden is today at 12:30

The Appalachian Science in the Public Interest will be holding a performance this Thursday (today) at 12:30 p.m. at the Community Garden on Richmond Street in Mt. Vernon.

The Community Garden performance will feature local comedian Drew Davidson and well-known storyteller Octavia Sexton.

The event will coincide with the Farmer's Market which is located next to the Community Garden.

Everyone is invited to attend the free event. For more information visit www.facebook.com/performanceatthecommunitygarden.

food, live music and a bonfire on the Rockcastle River, sponsored by the City of Livingston.

Mayor Jason Medley said the fun will begin at 2 p.m. when free food will be provided. At 4 p.m. the Wacky Boat Race will begin and at 6 p.m. the Duck Race will be held. Live Music, featuring local pickers and singers, will be provided and a bonfire for roasting marshmallows will follow.

Medley said The Country Peddler will provide inner tubes for children to play on in the river and that air boat rides will be available.

The events will be held at the ford of the river, just past the water plant.

For more information, call Livingston City Hall at 453-2061.



A Pirate Ship play center was recently installed at the newest city park at Lake Linville. The park is adjacent to the ball field and also contains two shelters, picnic tables and swings.

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