

Health Department offers new programs and services

Food Handler Classes
Food Handler Classes will be held once a week at the Rockcastle County Health Department. Beginning immediately, classes will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. Classes will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. Each class will consist of an educational video, discussion and an exam.

A passing score of seventy percent is required to obtain the Food Handler's Card. Cost is \$3.00 per person. Classes are held at the environmental office.

Anyone needing to obtain or renew a Food Handler's Card should call the health department to pre-register for a class. All food service establishments and employees are reminded that obtaining a Food Handler's Card is required prior to starting work in a food service establishment.

Rat Bait Available
Rat bait is available at the health department. Persons in need of rat

bait may pick some up from the environmental office from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday while supplies last.

The use of rat bait can be part of an effective rodent prevention program. However, prevention and elimination of rodent breeding and living areas should be the first priority. Avoid disposing of garbage or storing animal feeds on the ground may help to prevent rodent infestations.

PRIDE Loan Applications
Loan applications for the PRIDE program to install septic systems are also available. Anyone with a failing septic system or a "straight line" type system may be eligible for the low interest loans administered by the Cumberland Valley ADD District office in London.

Should anyone have any questions on the above mentioned programs and services offered by the Rockcastle County Health Department, please contact Clara Patton, Environmentalist, at 256-2242. Best time to call is between 8:00-9:00 a.m., Monday through Friday.

2000, a good year for local poet

Although it is only January 2000, it is proving to be a great year for writer William Jerry Ayers.

Epic publishing company has just published a 326 page hard back book of poetry called, "Doctor Leads Selection of Popular Recitations."

On page 130 you will find the William Jerry Ayers poem, "Poor Husband When Wife's Away."

Mr. Ayers is very proud of this book which will soon be sold in all the major book stores around the country.

The main reason he is so proud of the book is the fact that he is in it with great poets like Edgar Allan Poe, Sir Walter Scott, Robert X Leeds, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Elizabeth Barrett

Browning, Longfellow, Kipling and many more.

His poem will be in the book with poems like, "Paul Revere's Ride," "The Raven," "Casey At The Bat," "Gunga Din," "The Face On The Bar Room Floor," "Annabel Lee" and other famous poems.

Also Jerry Ayers, has just had another one of his songs published which could be recorded later on this year.

Quill Books, is publishing a book of poems called "Silent Serenade," Jerry's poem, "And We're Snowbound" will be in it.

And there is a chance that his book, "I Collect Weird Legends" will be published in 2000.

American Cancer Society announces new program for Rockcastle

The American Cancer Society announces a new program to the Rockcastle County Community, "Reach to Recovery" is a volunteer visitation program that helps breast cancer patients meet the emotional, physical and cosmetic needs related to her disease and its treatment. The program is one woman reaching out to share experiences and give support to another in a time of need.

The "Reach to Recovery" volunteer visitor is carefully chosen and trained by the American Cancer Society. The visitor provides information and practical tips, but makes

no personal medical comparisons and never gives medical advice. The visitor might meet the patient in the hospital, clinic or in the patient's home. "Reach to Recovery" also provides information and support for the loved ones of breast cancer patients. There is never a charge for the service.

Volunteers for the patient services program have been recruited in Rockcastle County and will be available in the community February 1.

For more information contact the American Cancer Society, 1-800-ACS-2345 or on the Internet www.cancer.org.

Ronald McDonald challenges kids to build strong character in "On the Inside"

Ronald McDonald will be performing his new school show, "On the Inside" at Mt. Vernon Elementary on Friday, February 11th at 9:30 and 1:00. The new presentation is designed to teach kids about building good character.

Developed with the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a national

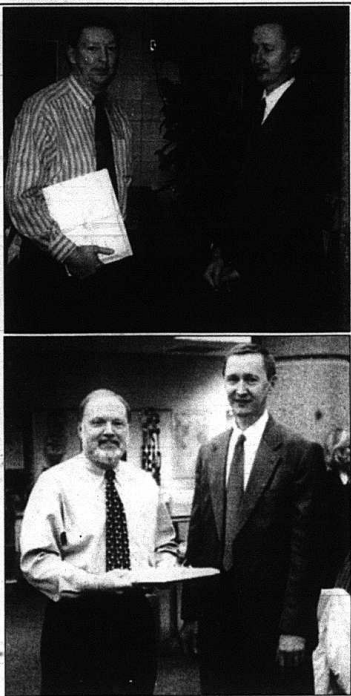
ally-recognized leader in character education, the show reinforces it's that "on the inside" qualities like trustworthiness, respect, responsibility and fairness that really count. Ronald McDonald makes this message meaningful to children with interactive skills, magic tricks, music and of course, lots of laughter.

KMHI accepting applications for six \$1,000 scholarship awards

The Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute (KMHI) is currently accepting applications for six \$1,000 scholarship awards. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 8, 2000, and winners will be announced May 5, 2000. Eligible graduating high school seniors or GED recipients must currently reside in manufactured/mobile homes in Kentucky and have the desire to further their education at a university, college, technical or vocational school. To get an application students should contact their local KMHI Member Retail Sales Center or Community or call Betty Whitaker at (502)223-0490.

Since 1997 KMHI has awarded fifteen \$1,000 Scholarships to deserving students. Members of the Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute feel pleased that they can help make continuing education possible for young people living in manufactured homes in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute is an industry trade association that represents retail dealers, manufacturers, service/supply companies, and community operators involved in the manufactured housing industry and doing business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For the KMHI retail sales center or community nearest you call (502)223-0490.



The Rockcastle County Safety Committee honored two retiring members at its January 13, 2000 meeting. Top picture, top picture, and Mike Bryant, bottom picture, have been devoted members of the Safety Committee since its inception in July of 1998, when the Rockcastle County Board of Education held a Parent Forum to discuss concerns regarding school safety. Mr. VanWinkle and Mr. Bryant have been instrumental in developing the current Safe Schools Plan for Rockcastle County. Mr. VanWinkle is retiring as Food Service/Facilities Director for the Rockcastle County Schools. Mr. Bryant is retiring as Family Services Office Supervisor for the Cabinet for Families and Children.

Larry Hammond, Superintendent of Rockcastle County Schools, presented both men with plaques of appreciation for their dedication and hard work. Mr. VanWinkle and Mr. Bryant are also members of the Rockcastle County Crisis Team. We applaud their efforts in making our schools safer.

Governor's Kentucky Technical College Scholarship program

Attention Rockcastle County graduating seniors and GED recipients: You are eligible to apply for the Governor's Kentucky Technical College Scholarship.

The Governor's Kentucky Technical College Scholarship is an award given by the Governor to provide assistance for selected Kentucky high school seniors and GED recipients to enter a continue in post-secondary technical education in the Kentucky Technical College Branch of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Somerset Technical College is one of the 15 technical colleges affiliated with this scholarship program. Local GED recipients and high school seniors can qualify.

The scholarship, which carries an estimated value of \$2,600.00 each, are awarded based on academic achievement, character excellence and career potential. The full scholarship applies to diploma or degree programs. They cover tuition and fees, equipment such as tools, books, supplies, personal safety equipment and uniforms.

The Governor's Kentucky Technical College Scholarship provides a great opportunity for deserving students to continue their education," said Dr. Keith W. Bird, chancellor of technical colleges in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

"A student who receives a two-year degree will earn, on average, a half-million dollars more in his or her lifetime than a high school dropout. As Governor Patton says, "Education Pays." Bird said, "And while some students will go to work immediately after receiving an associate degree or diploma, we encourage our students to continue their education even further."

The Governor's Technical College Scholarship Program will provide two new scholarships per year at Somerset Technical College. The Governor's Kentucky Technical College Scholarship is an individual scholarship covering the entire duration of the student's program, and is automatically renewable in the second year to complete the diploma or degree program.

An application packet will be available at each local high school or at Somerset Technical College's Student Services Department.

To be eligible the applicant for the

Governor's Kentucky Technical College Scholarship must fulfill the following:

Academic Achievement - have a 3.0 cumulative GPA from the ninth, tenth, eleventh and first-half of twelfth grades. The student must submit one writing entry. (Note: KERA writing entries required of Public School applicants).

Character Excellence - provide at least four character reference letters from individuals not related to the applicant; two must be from teachers and two from non-school personnel.

Career Potential - submit a maximum two-page, typed, double spaced statement including the applicant's occupational objective, chosen field of study, high school curriculum and any other appropriate information such as community service.

The candidate must be a Kentucky resident attending a Kentucky high school.

The candidate must be an applicant to be a full-time student in a degree or diploma level program at a technical college and have completed all admission requirements for the program to which they are applying. The student is to complete the scholarship packet and have the high school counselor certify the accuracy of the information.

The candidate is responsible for submitting the scholarship application packet, postmarked no later than March 1, 2000, to Dr. Carol Ann VanHook, College Director, Som-

erset Technical College, 230 Airport Road, Somerset, KY 42501.

The candidate must be available for a personal interview at the Selection and Review Committee should request one.

Scholarship awards will be an-

nounced by Dr. Carol Ann VanHook, College Director.

For more information contact Student Services Department of Somerset Technical College at (606)877-4049, Kay Spillman, counselor.

Y2?

By Linda L. Boone, Member of Mt. Vernon Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Boone and I were just discussing this morning how fast the time has gone since we arrived back in Mt. Vernon in late December, January 2000 is already history! It seems like yesterday we were looking at all the possible problems the year 2000 might have in store, and many Americans watched with anticipation as the new year arrived.

Was the Y2K bug a real threat or simply a lot of hype? I like what our pastor, Carl Dennis, told people in the months preceding the new year as they expressed their concerns about preparing for possible shortages and shut-downs in services. He told them to prepare as if they were getting ready for a possible storm. Wise advice. After all, God gave us common sense and surely expects us to use it. With great relief the new year came in without any of the anticipated problems and I'm sure none of those extra supplies went to waste.

The Bible speaks of ten bridesmaids who went to meet the bridegroom. Five were wise and brought oil for their lamps and five did not. The groom was delayed, so all the bridesmaids slept. When the groom arrived the five wise bridesmaids trimmed their lamps and went out to meet him. Those who had no oil asked to borrow, but the wise sent them away to purchase oil of their

own. While they were gone, the wise bridesmaids went in with the groom to the wedding banquet and the door was closed. When the other five returned and asked the Lord to let them in He replied that He knew them not! What a grave warning this scripture brings us, for none of us knows the hour when the Lord will return to take His Bride (the true believers and followers of Christ) to His eternal banquet.

I sit and think of the millions and perhaps billions all over the world who took time to prepare for Y2K and wonder how many of those who did have given thought to preparing for eternity. We have such advanced technology today that we can give warnings of approaching hurricanes, tornadoes and all kinds of natural disasters. The Bible says that no man knows the day and time when our Lord will return.

This we do know—we all have a date with death. We can't know the day and the hour, but we can know today, right this very moment, where our final destination will be. Are you prepared for eternity? The time may come without any warning. Why not ask Jesus today to forgive you of your sins and ask Him into your heart to be Lord of your life? Y2K disasters were a "possibility." "Death is a certainty." For the Christian trusting in the Lord, however, it is viewed with joyful anticipation of an eternity with the one who loves us so much that He gave His life for us!

EKU postsecondary partnership Job Bank serves everyone

Students and alumni at more than a dozen postsecondary educational institutions in central and southeast Kentucky, including the Cumberland Valley Technical College branch in Mt. Vernon, and regional employers will benefit from an innovative on-line job posting service.

Working in cooperation with public and private colleges and universities throughout the region, Eastern Kentucky University's Division of Career Services has launched the Eastern Kentucky Postsecondary Partnership Job Bank.

By posting their job openings and career opportunities to the Job Bank's web site www.jobbank.eku.edu, employers are now able to recruit 23 sites at once. The site also gives candidates at all the partner schools on-line access to the postings, which include all pertinent details and contact information.

"We wanted to use our technology to better serve employers and students in our region," said Art Harvey, director of ECU's Division of Career Services. "This free service will provide employers with an easy way to inform students and alumni from partner institutions of their opportunities."

"This is an excellent example of how Kentucky's post-secondary institutions can work together to better serve our region."

Job Bank partners are: Berea College, Central Kentucky Technical College-Danville, Centre College, Cumberland College, Cumberland Valley Technical College (branches at Pineville, Harlan, Mt. Vernon, and Middlesboro), ECU Division of Cooperative Education, ECU's extended campus centers, Hazard Community College, Hazard Technical College-London, Somerset Community College, Somerset Community College-Laurer County Campus, Somerset Community College-McCray County Campus, Somerset Technical College, Southeast Community College-Cumberland, Southeast

Community College-Middlesboro, Southeast Community College-Wartburg, and Union College.

"The beauty of this Job Bank is that it ties four-year colleges and universities, community colleges and technical colleges and industries

together," said Ron McCowan, director of placement at Laurel Technical College. "The bottom line is that we're all here to help our students advance their business and industry careers. This is just another way to bridge the gap."

All employers in the region are urged to list their full-time, part-time, cooperative education, internship and summer positions on the web site, by e-mail (listsjob@eku.edu) or by more traditional methods: mail, telephone and fax.

The Federal Correctional Institution - Manchester is one large regional employer that plans to take advantage of the service.

This will help us get our job openings out to a wide range of people," said Warden George Snyder. "We're always after the best candidate we can get."

Some are surprised to learn of the many different types of positions available at the correctional facility, which employs 340 and houses about 1,450 inmates.

"We hire from a variety of backgrounds," Snyder said. "Any job you can find in a typical city, we're likely to have here. The more information we can get out, the better off we are."

When visitors access the web site, they can log in as an employer or student to post or read job openings. "We're trying to make it so easy that every employer will want to use the service," said Laura Melius, associate director of the ECU Division of Career Services. "So far, it has been very well received."

For more information, visit the web site or call ECU's Division of Career Services at 606-622-1568.

State Auto offers people age 50 and over extra-value coverages!



State Auto's new Prime of Life Plan gives qualifying auto and homeowners insurance customers, our "Prime of Life" expanded coverages and substantial premium discounts! Plus, when you're on vacation, your Prime of Life Plan provides protection when you're driving a rented vehicle, no need to buy additional collision coverage ever again! And, no deductibles apply! Now that's a friend you can depend on! Call your State Auto agent today for more information.

Singleton Insurance Agency
Dionie Singleton, Agent
2110 E. Main St. • Mt. Vernon
606-256-2611

NOTICE

A meeting will be held Monday, February 21, 2000 at 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon City Hall to have the second reading of Ordinance #1-2000 Occupational/Net Profit Tax

An application packet will be available at each local high school or at Somerset Technical College's Student Services Department. To be eligible the applicant for the