



Her grandson has had nine birthdays and she has had only eleven. But she is still 35 years older than he is, Kim Childress, of Mt. Vernon, is one of only 200,000 in the United States that were born in a Leap Year on February 29th. She is married to Jessie Childress and they have two sons, Eric and Blake and a grandson, Brandon. Happy 11th birthday Kim!

Forestry assistance available

By Pete Rayburn
The Kentucky Division of Forestry offers various forestry services for woodland owners. As Service Forester for Rockcastle County, I want to encourage landowners to use the services we provide. At no cost to landowners, I will walk over their property and collect data for a Forest Stewardship Plan. This plan will make

suggestions to improve the health and growth of their forest stands. Cost sharing is available for some of these recommendations.

Thinning, cull removal and natural regeneration are common recommendations. We also recommend harvesting mature fully stocked stands with advance regeneration that will develop into the next canopy. For a modest fee of \$3.00 per thousand

board feet of timber marked, we will provide a list containing the total board footage marked, number of trees marked, and the number of acres marked for each species. This service is limited to 50 acres per year in order to serve as many as possible.

If landowners are interested in wildlife habitat improvement practices, a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife is also available to walk over your property, contribute information to the Forest Stewardship Plan, and a cost-share eligible practices.

For more information, contact Pete Rayburn in London at 864-9396 or visit the Rockcastle County FSA, Extension or NRCS offices for an application, and mail it to KDF (Kentucky Division of Forestry), PO Box 130, Pineville, KY 40799.

"Consolidation"

(Cont. from front)

passed the legislation giving incentives for counties to merge I was very disappointed," Carlolis said.

"Counties are already given authority to enter into agreements with other counties for improvement of services, but when the state is now

given the opportunity to provide up to \$5 million dollars to counties, I feel it is only the beginning of the end for counties that have developed individual communities," he said.

"I spoke out against county consolidation in a debate with Pulaski County's judge Darrell Beshears, on television. I believe local government is exactly what it means: Local. America is based on local citizens having access - direct access - to their government, and local government is what makes this possible," Carlolis said.

"When we create big local gov-



Rockcastle County weatherman Bud Cox, center, was honored Monday by the Jackson Weather Office for 25 years of service. At left is Dan Stamper, Data Acquisition Project Manager and at right is Jim Keeney, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist.

ernments, the citizen's voice will be lost. Certainly the big government proponents can argue that services will be better, but at what cost to individual access," Carlolis said.

"In my opinion, the cost will be too great. Big government will not reduce our costs of providing services. What it will do is create a big bureaucracy, separate the people from their local government officials, and be - ultimately - more expensive to operate," the Judge said.

"Local people will lose if this happens. I am often on the losing side, but I still firmly believe that I am nevertheless, on the right side because this is the way people's voices can be heard by their governments. It is the American way," Carlolis said.

Rep. Ford said that voluntary means exactly what it says. "No larger county will be able to simply annex another smaller county around them without the approval of citizens in both counties," he said.

For example, if Madison County decides it wants to merge with Rockcastle counties in both counties must have enough signatures to get it placed on the ballot.

If Rockcastle doesn't want to merge with Madison they simply would not get a petition passed, Ford said.

And if a petition was passed to have the matter placed on the ballot it would still take a majority vote in both counties and not an overall majority of the two counties.

"The voters in Rockcastle could kill the measure themselves," Ford said.

The legislature has set aside \$40 million dollars for the first ten counties wanting to merge.

The bill will likely sail through the Senate as well, where Sen. Albert Robinson, who represents Rockcastle headed the committee that came up with the legislation on the consolidation of counties. Robinson has also said that he supports the measure because it is voluntary.

Traffic school to be taught in Rockcastle

Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk Teresa Vanzant is pleased to announce that persons who now request state traffic school have the option of attending that program in Rockcastle County.

The state traffic school program began in 1980. It's used to educate the driving public and promote safe driving behavior. The court system can make a referral as a result of any moving violation other than one that requires a mandatory suspension.

Persons may also attend a stipulation of being placed on probation for the accumulation of 12 points against their driving privilege. In the past anyone requesting state traffic school from Rockcastle County had to attend the program in another county.

"Cox"

(Cont. from front)

city water plant in Mt. Vernon. For a brief period around 1960, the observing station moved to Renfro Valley, but observers there were soon unable to keep up with the demanding daily task. Buddy's father, William H. Cox, promptly stepped forward and the station was moved to the Cox Funeral Home and back to the city limits of Mt. Vernon where it remains today. Sadly, William Cox passed away in November of 1974 and Buddy knowing the value of the information his father provided, jumped right in without missing a beat.

The partnership that has bonded between Buddy and the National Weather Service is invaluable to say the least. Buddy's reports have assisted the Weather Service in times of flood and times of drought as well as record breaking heat spells and mid winter blizzards. Doing all of this in the spirit of service to his community and country, never once being compensated with anything other than the fulfillment that comes with a job well done.

Buddy is one of over 11,000 volunteer weather observers across the nation. Volunteer weather observer records not only form the backbone of our nation's climatological data, but are used in a variety of disciplines including architecture, agriculture,

commerce, engineering, aviation and litigation. Weather reports like those received from Buddy often serve as the trigger for the issuance of severe weather and river flood warnings by the local National Weather Service office.

The National Weather Service and especially the Jackson Office is honored to have worked with Buddy over the past 25 years. His dedication to this community speaks volumes for the quality of the people in and around the Mt. Vernon area of Rockcastle County.

"\$15,000"

(Cont. from front)

projects and borrow from other funds to pay for fuel for their buses, but in Rockcastle things will go on as planned, according to school systems financial officer Richard Bray.

Bray said Monday that the school system had spent \$15,000 more to date on fuel than a year ago and would likely run over the \$80,000 budgeted for fuel this year.

But Bray said that the general fund has an eight percent contingency fund included in it for such matters and that it would be no problem for the local system.

To date the school system has spent \$55,593, compared to this time last year when it was \$40,561.

"Outdoors"

(Cont. from A11)

Cumberland or some of the other big lakes to catch a big one. The state record was caught in our neighboring county, Laurel, on Woods Creek Lake by Dale Wilson on April 14, 1984. Dale's fish weighed 13 lbs., 10 oz. It seems every year around this time you will hear of a big Bass or two being caught at Lake Linville, Woods Creek, or in somebody's farm pond. So stop dreaming of catching that big Bass and get out there and give it a try!

Daily creel and minimum size limits for Largemouth Bass are a daily limit of six fish and minimum size of 12 inches. Be sure and check out your 2000 Kentucky Sport Fishing and Boating Guide before going out fishing so you will be in the know of current laws and regulations. You can pick up these guides at Mahaffey's Sporting Goods and other areas that sell hunting and fishing license in and around Mt. Vernon.

So remember get out and take your kids, the future outdoors men and women of Rockcastle County and enjoy God's great outdoors!

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