



Rockets host Whitley in district showdown

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All county schools will get rewards

By: Richard Anderkin
Rockcastle County school students performed so well on the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System, or CATS test, last year that all five county schools qualified for monetary rewards.

Results from those tests were released last week by the State Department of Education.

According to Mrs. Claudina Cash, assessment coordinator for Rockcastle Schools, Rockcastle students scored better than the state average at every school and much better than the average score of the schools in their region.

The CATS test was given to fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students.

Students were tested in reading, math, science, social studies, arts and humanities, practical living and writing.

As a whole, the county's fourth and fifth graders scored a total academic index of 72.5 compared to an average of 70.4 a year ago.

Rockcastle students consistently did better than the other nineteen counties in their region of the state and they did better than the state average in every category, except one.

The only area where Rockcastle students scored lower than the state average was in reading at the Rockcastle High School.

Rockcastle's region is comprised of the counties of Clinton, Wayne, McCreary, Whitley, Bell, Harlan, Lincoln, Knox, Casey, Taylor, Adair, Garrard, Russell, Madison, Pulaski, Esch, Laurel, Clay and Jackson Counties.

Seventh and eighth graders scored a total of 57.3 compared to the region's 46.9 and the state's 49.6.

The best scores of the local grade schools were at Roundstone where the total academic index was 78.9. Brodhead students were a very close second with a score of 78.1 and Mt. Vernon Elementary students were third with a score of 67.5. Brodhead's scores actually fell a few tenths of a point from last year. Roundstone's were up 6.1 points and Mt. Vernon's were up 2.4.

District wide at the grade school level the best scores were recorded in reading and the poorest scores were in arts and humanities.

At the middle school students there also scored best in reading, but the lowest scores were in practical living.

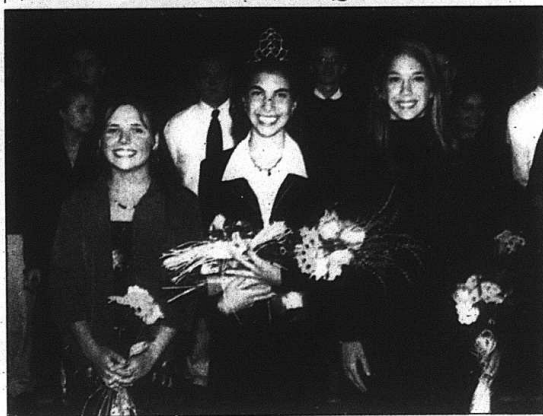
At RCHS the best scores were in social studies and the poorest were in practical living.

Mrs. Cash said that the state would take the results from the CATS test and the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills given to students each year and come up with a new baseline score for each school.

Mrs. Cash said that once the schools received their new baselines they will then be given an amount by

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Chelsen Stratton Crowned Queen at RCHS



Miss Chelsen Stratton, center, was crowned Rockcastle High School Homecoming Queen at half-time of football game Friday night. Runners-up were, left, Tammy Peyton and right, Tara Burton. Miss Stratton is the daughter of Philip and Serena Stratton of Wilde.

Murder case continues

Stewart indicted for assault

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Grand Jury handed down indictments against 22 people on Friday.

The most noted was an indictment against Davey Stewart, 32, of Orlando, who was indicted on a charged for first degree assault.

Stewart is accused of shooting

Sally Hoskins on August 10th in the Cove Branch area of the county. Police also say that Stewart is the prime suspect in the shooting death of Patty Clark, 25, of Conway, who was shot to death, also on August 10th.

Hoskins led police to Clark's body on August 24, two weeks after

Hoskins, Clark and Stewart had been together.

Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane said he presented the murder case against Stewart to the grand jury on Friday, but no indictment for murder was returned.

"I can't discuss what goes on in

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New DUI law has gone into effect in Kentucky

A tougher law with increased penalties for drunk driving in Kentucky took effect on Sunday.

"County attorneys across the state worked hard to get some of these

changes into the law," Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette said. "The new law closes some of the loopholes that existed previously," he said.

The most sweeping change was the reduction of the minimum blood-alcohol-content (BAC) for DUI offenses. Now, anyone driving with a BAC of 0.08 or more will be guilty of DUI, instead of the previous 0.10. "Most people have heard through the grapevine about the reduced BAC, but many people haven't heard about the other important aspects of the bill," Burdette said.

The new law creates a new sys-

tem of punishments that include aggravating factors, which can double jail times for DUI offenders.

Those factors include: refusing a breathalyzer test, transporting someone under the age of 12, driving at least 31 mph over the speed limit, driving in the wrong direction on a limited access highway, operating with a BAC of 0.18 or above or causing death or serious physical injury to someone while driving under the influence.

"In other words, if anyone is driving under the influence while also committing one of these other of-

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House burns

A vacant house at Pine Hill burnt down Saturday night.

Mt. Vernon firefighter Brian Hansel said that the dwelling was owned by Mrs. Doris Settles of Mt. Vernon and did not have any electricity.

Hansel said the structure was heavily involved in the upstairs area when firefighters arrived.

Hansel said he did not know what caused the fire because the house had no electricity.

Mrs. Settles said there was no insurance on the house.

Mt. Vernon and Livingston firefighters responded.

They are a part of Americana, no doubt. The Statlers-Harold Reid, Don Reid, Phil Baisley and Jimmy Fortune, have long been popular and are

one of the most awarded groups in country music. Now Renfro Valley audiences can see them for four great performances in October.

The Statlers have provided their fans with the best in country music for over three decades. During their stellar career, the Statlers have won hundreds of awards, have sold mil-

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Statlers in Renfro Valley

State releases final route of new Hwy. 150

By: Richard Anderkin

It is final. The new route for Hwy. 150 from Crab Orchard to Hwy. 461 in Mt. Vernon has been released.

Officials with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in Somerset announced this week that plan B had been determined to be the best and most feasible route for the new four lane highway.

Plan B was selected from four plans which had been designed and it was the plan that state officials said would probably be selected at a public hearing in Brodhead last October.

Design Engineer Paul Francis said Tuesday night that there may become slight changes to the plan, but they would be only minor and would not change the route in a drastic way.

Francis said that after an environmental impact study was completed the state decided on the route, although some residents strongly voiced their opposition.

"When you are building a new road there is absolutely no way to make everybody happy," said Francis.

The project is slated for two phases. Phase one will be the construction of the road from Crab Orchard to just west of Brodhead where the road will head south. Phase two will be from there to 461.

Some money for the new road from Crab Orchard to Mt. Vernon was included in the state's six year road plan, approved by the Kentucky General Assembly this Spring.

There is a \$1 million for design work on the road in the year 2001, from Brodhead to Mt. Vernon.

Another \$8.3 million is included for right-of-way acquisition in 2003, but no money was included for construction.

A total of \$19.5 million for Hwy. 150 from Crab Orchard to Brodhead was included in the six year plan with design work beginning on that project in 2001.

Right-of-way acquisition will begin on that portion of Hwy. 150 in 2002 at a cost of \$7.2 million and construction is slated to begin in 2005. Francis said he wasn't sure when right-of-way acquisition between Brodhead and Mt. Vernon will begin, but it will likely be in the summer of 2003.

Francis said that phase one will begin in October of 2002 and phase two is slated to begin in October of 2003.

Francis said that the chosen route, skirts the south city limits of Crab Orchard, crosses Hwy. 39, and bypasses Hawkins curve.

The road then parallels the existing 150 to Brodhead, after it crosses back to the northside of the existing road at the intersection of the Copper Creek road.

From Copper Creek road, the new route stays on the north side of the existing road, through Gum Sulphur and then crosses back to the south side at Lonnie Brummett's farm.

The new road goes south of Piney Grove Cemetery, the Rockcastle Fair-

grounds and Castle Village Apartments.

When the road comes out of Brodhead, it heads back to the existing road near the Payne curve and slightly crosses the road again to the north, through the Cass bottoms.

Before the new road intersects with Hwy. 70, it crosses back to the south and takes the Western Water building and Adams Feed and Supply.

From there the new road extends to the south even farther, going behind Houston Point Estates, across Painter Hill and south of Cedar Rapids Country Club.

The new road will then head to the north as it begins its path back to the old road, where it will cross to the north at Tod Durham's property, before it intersects with Hwy. 461 by-pass.

Francis said the road would actually tie back in at the same place on 461, but at a different angle and would have to be rebuilt to accommodate four lanes.

Francis said that major change from last October affects the residents of Green Acres Subdivision at Mareburg. The initial route was going to take fifty feet from the back yards of the residents on the northside of the subdivision, but Francis said the road had been moved 50 feet to the north to keep that from happening.

No cemeteries or church buildings will be taken by the new stretch of road, which is approximately 13.5 miles from Crab Orchard to Hwy. 461.

When the state begins buying right-of-ways, they will buy enough for a four lane road, but the initial construction project will be just two lanes, according to Francis.

Francis said that residents are

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Festivals set for this weekend

The annual Bitterroot Festival will held in Mt. Vernon this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Appalachian Harvest Festival will also be held in Renfro Valley, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Also on those three days, the first Annual Ancestors Appreciation Festival will be held at Brush Arbor in Hummel.

The Rocket can be found in this week's edition of the Mount Vernon Signal



Ms. Kaye Rader, center, was the lucky winner of the Gatlinburg trip given away by the Bank of Mt. Vernon at their 100th birthday party on Monday. 400 people attended the celebration, which was held on the lawn at the new bank on Hwy. 461. At left is Carol Bryant and at right is Jenny Bray, employees of the Bank of Mt. Vernon.



Above, the bold line is the chosen route for the new Hwy. 150.