

The Signal office
will be closed
Thursday
and Friday
for the
Thanksgiving
Holiday

Mount Vernon Signal

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Man dies in mobile home fire

A Boones Gap man died in a fire at his mobile home on Wednesday night.

Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell said that an autopsy revealed that Wilbur Brooks, 57, died from smoke inhalation.

According to Rockcastle's 911 Coordinator Tim Cameron, the fire was spotted around 8:30 p.m.

Brindle Ridge, Brodhead and Mt. Vernon firefighters responded, but the mobile home was heavily involved when they arrived.

Don Gabbard, with the Brindle Ridge Fire Department, said the mobile home had been on fire for quite a while before it was noticed.

Because of the heat, condition of the mobile home and darkness, firefighters were not able to locate Brooks' body until daylight on Thursday.

Brindle Ridge assistant chief Larry Mullins and Deputy Sheriff Ronnie Rourke found Brooks' badly burned body around 7:30 a.m.

Brooks lived alone in the mobile home, which was located on US 25 at the Madison and Rockcastle line.

Dowell said that an arson investigator with the State Fire Marshall office said the fire probably started from an overheated extension cord.

No foul play is expected. Brooks' body is at Dowell and Martin Funeral Home where arrangements are incomplete.

Christmas in the Valley

Travel back in time to a nostalgic country Christmas at Renfro Valley.

Experience the magic and all the wonders of the season with Ole Saint Nick and his workshop, clogging elves and strolling carollers.

Twinkling lights galore await visitors with one of the largest light displays in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Enjoy Christmas shopping with a country flair and a wonderful holiday meal at the historic Lodge Restaurant. Top off your evening with all the merriment of the holiday as you enjoy the sights, sounds and laughter of the original production of "Christmas In The Valley" show every Friday and Saturday night at the Renfro Valley Entertainment Complex.

The festivities began with Renfro Valley's annual tree lighting ceremony last Saturday.

Throughout the remainder of the Christmas In The Valley season, Santa's Workshop will be open on Fridays from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. On two Saturdays, December 2 and 9, Santa's Workshop will remain open until 9:00 p.m. Every Friday and Saturday will offer strolling carollers and clogging elves throughout the Village, and on Saturdays there will be special holiday music presented by a

Cont. to A-11



A ribbon cutting ceremony at Rockcastle's newest plant was held on Monday afternoon. Integrity Mold and Die has located in a new 24,000 square foot facility in the Rockcastle Industrial Park #1. Above, U.S. Congressman Harold Rogers, center, speaks to two of Integrity's owners Kyle Thompson and Rick McGraw, before the ceremony. At right, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation President Jerry Rickett, speaks to the crowd, about the enormous cooperation on the project. Photos By Richard Anderkin



Contract growing adds uncertainty for tobacco farmers

Prices slightly higher as market opens

Burley tobacco sales opened Monday across the state as growers faced uncertainty over what impact contract sales directly to cigarette manufacturers would have on the traditional warehouse auction system.

The immediate impact was evident as buyers at the opening sale in Danville purchased relatively little, although the warehouse itself to purchase baskets from favored customers in the hope of reselling it later.

Very little leaf went to the grow-manufacturer financed support price pool. It was feared that the warehouse purchases in the early sales could end up failing to bring the required penny more than the support price when it goes back to the floor and end up in the pool.

Burley brought as much as \$2.10 a pound with most falling in the \$1.92 to \$2.07 range at Danville.

At London Tobacco Warehouse the average auction price was a \$1.96, a pound.

London is also handling a large quantity of contract sale tobacco. A spokesperson there said she could not disclose the contract price, except to say that it was higher than the auction price of a \$1.96.

She also said that London Tobacco Warehouse was handling a much larger quantity of tobacco this year than in years past because of the contract sales.

Some tobacco experts say that large companies have bought 90 percent of their tobacco on contract this year.

Gloria Robbins, a specialist with the local Farm Service Agency, said that she did not think many Rockcastle farmers had sold their tobacco on contract, which in the end could be bad for them.

"Contract sales are also going to be hard on the tobacco support program," she said.

"Very little Rockcastle tobacco has been sold so far," she said.

Integrity Mold and Die locates in Rockcastle

A recent expansion and the announcement of an innovative training program will bring more high-skill jobs to Rockcastle County.

Several local, state and federal officials participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and training program announcement at Integrity Mold & Die Monday.

The new plant is located in the Rockcastle County Industrial Park #1.

Congressman Hal Rogers, Rep. Danny Ford, Judge-Executive Buzz Carlottis, Mayor Karen King and Rockcastle County Development Board Chairman John Clontz attended the ribbon cutting.

"I really appreciate the work and effort in making Integrity Mold and Die what it is. We have a model shop here and we plan to work hard and not let anyone down," said Kyle Thompson, president of Integrity Mold & Die. "I am glad to be back in Mt. Vernon."

Integrity Mold & Die recently moved from a 6,000 square foot building in Berea into a new \$1.1 million, 24,000 square foot facility in the local Industrial Park.

The expansion, along with \$1.7

million in new equipment, is expected to increase annual sales from \$2.4 million to \$4 million as well as boost employment from 28 people to 40 people.

A federal grant that will provide worker training also was announced. A \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will establish a tool-and-apprentice program at Integrity Mold & Die.

"The lack of trained machinists has been a limiting factor in the company's growth and must be addressed," said Wayne Stewart, KHC's chairman of the board and Rockcastle County resident. "This program is also good for the region. It will train people for high-skill jobs," he said.

Stewart and Rockcastle Development Board Executive Director Bige Towery, Jr., were very instrumental in bringing Integrity to Rockcastle County.

The expansion and training program are examples of the mission of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation - providing a higher quality of employment in rural areas that are

Cont. to A-11

J.D. Bussell hired as baseball coach

Rockcastle County High School has a new baseball coach.

J.D. Bussell, an assistant coach for last year's squad, was named coach on Tuesday by Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond.

Bussell will replace Ryan Riddle, who was fired by Hammond from his coaching position on November 3.

Hammond said he hired Bussell after a recommendation from RCHS Principal Ruth Allen.

Allen's recommendation came after a committee made up of teachers, coaches, administrators and parents conducted three interviews last week.

Cont. to A-11



J.D. Bussell was hired as baseball coach at RCHS on Tuesday.

Cont. to A-11

Rockets take region title with 7-6 victory

By: Richard Anderkin

For the first time in the history of football in Rockcastle County, ateam has won the regional championship. The Rockcastle County Rockets defeated Sheldon-Clark 7-6 on Friday

night to advance to the final four in the state in Class AAA.

The Rockets will host powerful Fort Thomas Highlands on Friday night.

The winner of that game will advance to Louisville for the state finals next week.

Friday night's win gave Rockcastle their 13th win of the season against no losses.

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Rockcastle County High School head football coach Tom Larkey addressed his team, former players, fans and parents after Friday night's Regional Championship game at Sheldon Clark. The Rockets won their first ever regional title and are now 13-0 on the season. The Rockets will host Fort Thomas Highlands on Friday night. Game time is 7:30. Highlands is the number one ranked team in the state and 17th in the nation.



Wilbur Brooks, 57, died in a mobile home fire at Boones Gap on Wednesday Night. The above mobile home was heavily damaged when fire fighters arrived on the scene.