



Members of the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame board and other local officials were all smiles Friday, as Kentucky Governor Paul Patton and State Representative Danny Ford presented them with a check for \$1.5 million. Construction on the Hall of Fame, which will be located at Renfro Valley, will likely begin in January.

"KHIC"

(Cont. from front)

economic opportunities, and we must pursue those opportunities together. KHIC is proud to have been a partner in our region's economic development efforts for 32 years. In 2000, we invested more than \$4.5 million and secured another \$14.2 million for projects in our service area of Bell, Clay, Clinton, Harlan, Jackson, McCreary, Rockcastle, Wayne and Whitley counties. This financial assistance has helped 56 area businesses create more than 235 new jobs.

One example of successful cooperation in Rockcastle County is Integrity Mold and Die. IMD moved into a new \$1.1 million, 24,000-square-foot facility in the Rockcastle County Industrial Park. The expansion is expected to boost employment from 26 people to 40 people. Partners, which helped fund this expansion include: Citizens Bank of Brookhead, The Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, The City of Mt. Vernon, Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corp., Jackson Energy Cooperative, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, East Kentucky Corporation, Mountain Economic Development Fund and National Cooperative Bank.

Here are only a handful of the successes we have worked with local counties, cities, community leaders and area banks to promote economic success in the region:

- Cumberland Gap Provision expanded its Bell County plant to create at least 75 additional jobs.

- Te-Syle, Clay County's largest private employer, worked its way out of bankruptcy. L...ness is now booming for the 148 co-employee manufacturing company.

- Outdoor Venture Cooperation moved to a new facility in McCreary County. Owner J.C. Egnow has created 1,000 jobs in the area through OVC and various other companies. KHIC has worked with Egnow ever since he brought one of the first manufacturing plants to McCreary County in 1972.

- Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries created 30 new jobs for people with disabilities in new Corbin. The company also announced the opening of a new facility in Harlan County that will employ 150 people to make chemical protection suits as part of a \$13 million, 15-year contract with the U.S. Department of Defense.

- The Empowerment Zone helped bring more than 3,200 jobs to Clinton, Wayne and Jackson counties as well as \$175 million in investments in the last six years.

- Kentucky Highlands entered a partnership with two federal institutions that will help create more jobs and homegrown businesses during the next five years.

- Horizon Health provided much needed adult care centers to Bell, Clinton, Harlan and Wayne counties.

- Kentucky Highlands also helped finance an expansion at Wisdom Deck in Clinton County, which will improve tourism and the quality of life for residents.

In addition, we are conducting economic development summits in our service area. Summits in Bell, Clay, Harlan and Whitley counties have focused on helping business owners obtain financial and technical assistance, attracting tourism and promoting cooperative efforts to recruit jobs. Meetings will be scheduled in McCreary and Rockcastle counties in the coming year. We need your participation to help make the sessions an effective tool for our communities.

KHIC also is working with Eastern Kentucky University to sponsor a business plan competition, which will provide financial and technical assistance to winning participants who are willing to start a business in the Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone. Entries are due January 15.

Another program that will begin next year is "Tuesday Evening with an Entrepreneur." Along with the Center for Rural Development, KHIC is sponsoring roundtable discussions and presentations with successful entrepreneurs, who will share their business philosophies on a number of subjects. The first session will be held February 6.

Again and again, it can be demonstrated that success happens when elected officials, community and busi-

ness leaders, financial institutions and economic development groups work together. Kentucky Highlands is proud to be a part of this progress.

Jerry Rickett is president of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, which has helped create more than 9,000 jobs in its service area of Bell, Clay, Clinton, Harlan, Jackson, McCreary, Rockcastle, Wayne and Whitley counties.



Governor Paul Patton, far right, and State Representative Danny Ford, hold a symbolic check for \$75,000, which was presented to local firefighters to be split between the county's five departments. The money came from the state's last budget appropriations.

"Money"

(Cont. from front)

in Woodford County. Carlotis and magistrate John Holbrook recently toured the facility at Midway.

The Governor also brought an additional \$25,000 for the new Technology Center at the Rockcastle Courthouse.

The center is expected to open in January and will be staffed by a full-time teacher from the Rockcastle Board of Education.

Much of the facility is being

funded through the Center for Rural Development in Somerset and will have internet access, video conferencing, personal computer use among other things.

The Governor also brought \$75,000, which will be split between five of the county's fire departments.

The ceremony was held in the community room of Citizens Bank in Mt. Vernon.

Patton's local liaison Lee Keene coordinated the event.

The Bank of Mt. Vernon wishes everyone a



We hope that you enjoy a safe holiday and that 2001 is full of prosperity and success.

At The Bank of Mt. Vernon, we are honored to have served all of our customers for over a century. We face 2001 with excitement, and promise to provide the same excellence in products and services as we have in the past.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

I read in a newspaper clip last week, from the Lexington Herald Leader, a short letter to the editor. In talking about abortion, the writer laments the "stream of letters from the anti-abortion crowd equating abortion with murder." The fellow writes,

"The only part of the Bible that deals directly with harming a fetus is Exodus 21:22. The Bible states that causing the end of a pregnancy is punishable by a fine to the pregnant woman's husband." He went on to say, "Obviously, God considers the termination of a pregnancy to be nothing more than a misdemeanor." He concludes by saying, "Calling abortion murder is blasphemy." Let's examine these points carefully.

First, let's look at Exodus 21:22-25, "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow, she shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and she shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning

for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." Notice that this text speaks about hurting a pregnant woman, the causes the child to be born. It says that if "no mischief follow," the person would indeed be "fined." So I guess you could call it a "misdemeanor." But if "any mischief follow," now we have a different story!

The scriptures say to "give life for life." The person causing the baby to die, would have to give his or her life as punishment. If say, the baby's arm was deformed from the injury, the perpetrator's arm would have to be given as punishment for the wrong done. If say, the baby's eye was put out, then the perpetrator's eye would have to be given as punishment for the wrong done. This sounds like what God counted harm to an innocent baby, just like harm to other innocent people to be "felony" crimes, with the appropriate punishment there into.

No, it is not blasphemy to call abortion murder, the truth of the matter is, to call abortion a "misdemeanor." Now this is blasphemy!

Danny McKibben
Mt. Vernon, KY

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