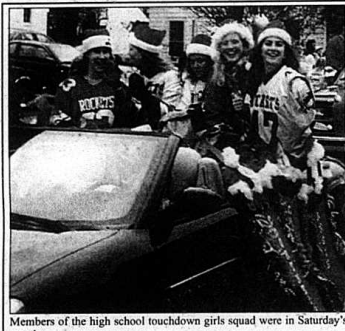




Gary Jr. and Hannah Prewitt got a ride in Saturday's parade from dad Gary, who was driving a Town and Country Chevrolet wrecker.



These two were all smiles on Saturday.



Members of the high school touchdown girls squad were in Saturday's parade.



Members of Rockcastle County High School's JROTC Color Guard participated in the parade.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

The Rockcastle County High School basketball program boys and girls would like to say thank you to the following businesses and people for their support during Rocket Madness.

Community Trust Bank, Citizens Bank, Rockcastle Tip Off Club, Lady Rockets Booster Club, Lady Rockets Sporting Goods, Celena's Hair Salon, Godfather's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, FoodWorld, Peg's Food Mart, Pepsi, Mahaffey's Quik Lube, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Rockcastle County High School Youth Services and John Ford, Attorney-at-Law.

Thank you,

RCHS Basketball Program

Dear Editor,

Mayor Karen King and Phyllis Deatherage, Parade Director would like to thank all parade participants for an exceptional Christmas parade this year. The initial parade date was December 8th, and was rescheduled for December 15th due to rain. We were expecting less attendance because of this. A special thanks to the community churches for their participation and beautiful floats, and all participants for their efforts and hard work. The VFW, The Rockcastle County School system staff, John Hale, JROTC (2001 State Championship Rifle Team), Greg Daugherty and the RCHS Band (with their new uniforms looking exceptional), Coach Tom Larkey, Tony Saylort and coaching staff, The Rockets Football team (2001 Runners-Up in State 3A Football), Misty Barker and RCHS Cheerleaders, Sharon Thacker a RCHS cheerleader, Roy Reynolds and the FFA Club, Darlene Larkey and the Quarterback Club, Dr. Scafe and the RCHS Art Dept., Dale Winstead, John D. Bullen, Teresa Vinzant and staff, Darrell Doan and family, Howard Saylor and the Saylor

family, Norma Houk and staff, the Mt. Vernon City Police Dept. and the City Water Dept. employees, City Office Employees, the Mt. Vernon, Brindle Ridge, Livingston and Brodhead Fire Dept., the Rockcastle Ambulance Service, Maple Grove, Northside, Faith Harvest and Fairview Church members, the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, Gertha Mink and Gary Mink Builders, Pam Chaliff-Rockcastle County Bookmobile, RTEC, Matthew Doan, Mike Leger & family, Darrell Allen and son, the 1-75 Speedway, four wheelers and horse riders, Donna Hopkins and the Rockcastle Vo-Tech, Ronnie Lashbrook/Clown & helpers, Town & Country Wrecker, Central Wrecker, Sheila Cromer and Justin, Jeff Durham and Computerate staff, Andy Barnett and friends, David Bishop, Ben Hunsucker, Mr. Billy Hiatt, Teresa Russell, Ray and Sherry Hensley, Frank Baker and son, Rick Anderson and The Mt. Vernon Signal, Larry Burdette and WRVK and Santa Claus.

If anyone is excluded from this thank you list it is unintentional and we apologize. Each and every participant was appreciated, and it took effort from everyone to make this a great parade.

Please send any comments or suggestions to: Phyllis Deatherage, PO Box 1465, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456 or call (606)256-3437.

Thanks again!

Phyllis Deatherage
Mt. Vernon, KY

Dear Editor,

As we start another year of this uncertain new millennium, it's easy to feel worried, scared and pessimistic. But instead I feel a great sense of hope. Why? Because I know and trust the spirit of ordinary Americans. We here in this country don't like to be told we "can't." When life

pushes us down, we push back and raise ourselves up. I can think of no better example of that than the Muscular Dystrophy Association's 2002 National Goodwill Ambassador, Mattie Stepanek.

Mattie's body is severely weakened by a neuromuscular disease, but his spirit is extraordinarily strong. He's written two books of inspirational poetry which have spent weeks on the best-seller lists. Mattie would compel our hearts under any circumstances, but at this time of national crisis his message of peace and love has special resonance. He helps us realize the potential of every human being to give something of precious value to others.

It's imperative that we keep pushing back against the neuromuscular diseases that would rob us of people like Mattie. And during this holiday season, it's also important to heed the Mattie's life philosophy: "Remember to play after every storm."

Americans will weather this storm as we've weathered all others: By giving generously of ourselves, by fighting oppression in all its forms - and by pushing back against those forces that tell us we "can't."

May God bless all of us with a wonderful new year.

Jerry Lewis
National Chairman
Muscular Dystrophy Association

a load of thanks

It's time to deliver our message of goodwill and gratitude to the many kind folks who have visited us this year. Have a very merry season!

B&M Liquidators

Hwy. 150 • Between Mt. Vernon & Brodhead
256-0234

Open December 23rd 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Open Christmas Eve
9 a.m. to Noon

In This Season of Giving...

We'd like to give you our heartfelt thanks. Merry Christmas!

from
Danny and Gaylen Settles
and all the employees at



First row from left: Juanita Stewart, JoAnn Robbins, Carol Johnson, Dion Howard, Jennifer McGuire, Crystal Mills and Barbara Hicks. Back row from left: Ernie Cromer, Lindsey Bell, Christ Bradley, Jamie Settles, Michelle Swinney, James Brown, James Hicks, Santa Claus, Cassidy Ramsey, Gaylen Settles and Danny Settles.

Wendy's will close at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and close Christmas Day. Open New Years Eve and open at 9 a.m. New Years Day.

No paper next week

Due to the Christmas holiday falling the way it has this year, for only the second time in 35 years, there will be no *Mt. Vernon Signal* next week.

Our next issue of publication will be on January 3, 2002. The *Signal* office will be closed Friday, December 21st through Friday, December 28th.