



Brodhead Fire Department and Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue responded to a house fire last Friday on Maple Street in Brodhead. Authorities say the abandoned house was owned by Brodhead Baptist Church, who was in the process of demolishing the house. Officials believe workers were burning debris next to the house when it caught fire. No one was injured in the fire.

RCIDA gives White House Clinic approval to buy land in RBPS

By: Perlina Anderkin

Following a lengthy discussion at Monday's regular meeting of the Rockcastle County Industrial Authority, member Corey Craig made a motion to sell White House Clinic acreage in Rockcastle Business Park South, subject to several items to be approved by the authority that differentiate from the existing covenant.

In a recent e-mail to Holly Hopkins, Executive Director of the RCIDA, White House offered to purchase 2.6 acres for \$65,000 (\$25,000 an acre). White House's new building will face Hwy. 150, with their business sign facing Progress Drive.

The business sign was one of the variances asked for since White House wants to construct a sign similar to those at their other sites which would be more prominent than those identifying other businesses in the park. Another variance White House is seeking involves approval for a 75' easement from the road as opposed to the usual 100' easement.

Because of water lines transversing the property, Stephanie Moore, Chief Executive Officer for White House Clinics, said that siting opportunities for the new building on the property would be limited and additional footage from the smaller easement might be needed. Purchase of the property also depends on satisfactory core drilling results from the area and assurance by RCIDA of a plan to remove the guardrail adjacent to the site.

Craig said in his opinion the lesser easement and the variance on the sign "would not be an issue" for him but would have to be submitted to the RCIDA for approval.

A motion to get the property surveyed was also approved.

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Fletcher resigns as Police Chief

By: Doug Ponder

Mt. Vernon Police Chief Kevin Fletcher recently resigned his position to accept a full-time job as a funeral director at Marvin Owens Home for Funerals in Brodhead.

Fletcher said he handed in his resignation to Mayor Mike Bryant on December 26th and that his last day on the job will be this Friday.

Fletcher said he resigned due to the high level of stress associated with his job as police chief. He also said that he wanted to pursue another career in the funeral industry.

"I have always loved the funeral business and I have always maintained my funeral director's license while being police chief," Fletcher said. "I finally decided that it

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Fiscal Court raises maximum salaries for county clerk; increases sheriff's supplement

County Clerk Danetta Allen presented her 2013 budget to the fiscal court Tuesday along with her request to set the maximum

salaries for deputies at \$200,000. The \$200,000 is an increase of \$20,000 over last year's amount and the second year in a row that

Allen has made the request of the court.

By law, the court has the authority to set the salary limit for Allen's office but Allen has the authority to distribute the funds in any way she sees fit among her employees.

In 2012, Allen only spent \$156,900 of the \$180,000 allocated but she told the court that the remaining \$13,000 was not enough to add an additional employee and to allow her to "negotiate" with employees for ad-

ditional work.

When Allen made the same request in 2012, she was told that her maximum allowance would be set at \$180,000 but if she felt the need to hire another employee, she only had to come before the court and ask for an amendment to the maximum allowance. The same solution was offered this year but Allen told the court, "I like to know I have the money for sure and not play with money that is actually not guaranteed."

The clerk said that a new program her office will be administering will require that one employee be sent

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Haling arrested again for manufacturing meth

By: Doug Ponder

An Orlando man was arrested Sunday night for manufacturing methamphetamine, after police responded to a complaint on Maple Grove Road in Brush Creek.

Arrested at the scene was Henry Rufus Haling, 23, of Orlando.

According to the Rockcastle County Sheriff's

Department, Deputies Joe Rush and Ronnie Bradley responded to the residence after receiving information that Haling was manufac-

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Local health dept. cutting hours

By: Doug Ponder

A Local health department is reducing its hours as a result of budget cuts.

Cumberland Valley District Health Department in Mt. Vernon will be cutting approximately four hours off their week starting on January 31st.

The new hours will be 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday instead of the present 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Interim Director Lynette Renner said the cuts are a result of low state and federal funding.

Smith arrested for underage relationship

By: Doug Ponder

A Renfro Valley entertainer was arrested for rape and incest Sunday morning, after police responded to a complaint about an underage relationship.

Arrested was Herman Douglas Smith, 37, of Mt. Vernon.

According to State Police reports, dispatchers from KSP Post 11 in London received an anonymous call about a sexual relationship between a 37-year-old male and a juvenile female.

During the investigation, officers discovered a Facebook message sent by a family member to Smith, stating that they knew about the sexual relationship and wanted to know why Smith was involved in the relationship.

After receiving the Facebook message, Smith

The budget cuts will also leave fourteen employees without a job throughout their service area. Although, Renner said no one will lose their job at the Mt. Vernon branch.

"I hate to see us have to cut jobs and hours in our organization," Renner said. "We consider it a tragedy as we believe every one of our staff plays a vital role in the community they serve."

However, Renner said that none of the programs they offer will be cut as a result of the lack of government funding.

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New Livingston commissioners sworn-in; Medley named Mayor

By: Perlina Anderkin

Four new city commissioners, all winning election as write-in candidates in the November General Election, were sworn into office last Wednesday night. The ceremony was conducted by County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis.

On Thursday night, a special called meeting was held to name Jason Medley, one of the commissioners sworn in, as mayor. Medley replaces David Blackburn, water superintendent for Livingston who was appointed as one

of the last actions by the outgoing commissioners at their December meeting.

Former mayor J.C. Griffin, who resigned at that meeting, told the commissioners that he had checked the legality of appointing Blackburn, his son-in-law, to the position and that there was no conflict with Blackburn's position as water superintendent for the city. However, local attorney Bill Gregory, who serves as counsel for Livingston as needed, said

the appointment was illegal in that the commissioners could not make the appointment in the same meeting at which they accepted Griffin's resignation.

The present commissioners now have 30 days from January 3rd, to appoint someone to fill Medley's seat. Their next regular meeting is Monday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Also at Thursday night's meeting, the commissioners

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County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis swore in the new commissioners for the City of Livingston last Wednesday night. All four won their seat by write-in vote in last November's General Election. Sworn in were, from left: Katha Carpenter, Jason Medley, Al Newcomb and Leroy Lamb. The commissioners met in special session the next night and Medley was chosen as Mayor to fill the term of Mayor J.C. Griffin who resigned at the December meeting. David Blackburn, water superintendent for Livingston, was chosen to replace Griffin at that meeting but the appointment was later declared illegal causing the position to once again be open.

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