

Our Readers Write

May these pictures serve as reminders...

Dear Editor,
In your December 20 edition you published two pictures of the Mt. Vernon High School basketball teams from the 1939-40 season and from the 1940-41 season. These pictures were of particular interest to me because my Mother graduated from MVHS in 1940, she was Lucille Dowell.

I grew up hearing stories from my Mother about the boys in the pictures. She talked about two in particular, Jim Cox and Curtis Harmon. Both of these young men died in World War II. As I looked at the pictures I was amazed at their youth.

Jim Cox was John Cox's brother. Most of us know that John ran Cox Hardware for many years. Jim Cox was also the uncle to John's son, "Jim" who taught school for a long time in Rockcastle and upon retiring from teaching also ran the hardware store.

Curtis Harmon was the brother to Harry Harmon and Ruby Stewart.

When my Mother spoke of these boys, and that's what she called them, she always spoke with reverence. Even as a little boy I knew they held a special place in her heart.

I know there are others in the pictures who also served. In fact, I remember hearing some of the names from both my Mother and Dad, but Jim Cox and Curtis Harmon stand out for me.

As I studied the pictures I discovered that I had a connection to two other men in the pictures Opp Bussell,

Jr. is in both pictures. He was my seventh and eighth grade teacher at Roundstone Elementary. Mr. Bill Landrum was the coach in the 1939-40 picture. He was the assistant principal at MVHS while I was a student there, he also taught me algebra. Since Mr. Landrum was not married when the war began, he was drafted into the Army. He was in his mid thirties.

Thanks for printing these pictures. May they serve as reminders of the sacrifices these young men, as well as thousands of others gave so we may live free.

John Hess Parsons

Thank you...

Dear Editor,

The Mount Vernon Lions Club would like to thank everyone who donated to the Shop With A Cop/Lion program this season.

Because of your donations, we were able to provide 19 children with a Christmas and a meal afterwards at McDonald's.

Mike Debord, President
Mt. Vernon Lions Club

Grateful for help...

The following letter was recently received at David's Tire Center.

Dear David, Josh and all,

I am forever grateful for all the help getting my RV back on the road. I'm very happy to be here in Florida, safe and sound. Because of everything you did when I was there in Kentucky, I will always feel blessed. You all went out of your way to make sure I was taken care of.

My RV has been running without any other issues

since I left your garage. Your genuine warmth and hospitality made me feel very comfortable. I don't know how this trip would have been if I had not found David, Josh and the wonderful staff there at David's Tire Center.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Pratt
Orlando, Florida

"Court"

(Cont. from front)

for official training and that employee will have to train the other five employees, including herself, one hour a day each for a period of time and this will take away from the employees available to help the public. Allen also reminded the court that there will be a lot of work associated with rearranging precincts because of redistricting of magisterial districts, whenever the legislature gets around to doing their share of the job. She also said that she would like to give raises, based on performance, out of the extra allowance.

County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis noted that there was quite a difference in salary for employees in Allen's office and other county offices. "It's not your fault, it happened before you came but some of your employees make \$18 an hour while a 911 employee makes \$10 an hour, in a sometimes life and death job and heavy equipment operators for the road department don't make that much." He went on to say, "it makes it hard on the magistrates."

However, Allen's request was approved, along with her budget for 2013 which shows expected revenues of \$2,310,239.43 and expenditures of \$2,255,303.46 with

excess fees estimated at \$54,935.97.

The estimated excess fees expected for 2012 are \$88,958, up from the \$72,329.68 originally estimated.

The sheriff's budget took much longer, with Dale McNew, finance officer for the department making his case for more financial help from the county.

In 2012, the county provided \$229,261 in financial help, including funds for matching social security and medicare, retirement, health insurance, unemployment insurance, general liability insurance, printing costs, worker's compensation, audits, bonds, postage, baliff's pay, gas, purchase of vehicles, repayment of a loan and a payroll advance.

McNew said that 2013 would be particularly hard for Sheriff Mike Peters since forfeiture funds that he had used for gas expenses were depleted and that would add, at least, an additional \$46,000 in expenses to the 2013 budget.

McNew presented the court with several options showing various levels of aid from the county, ranging from \$2,250 a month to \$9,347. The lower aid options presented all entailed the sheriff having to lay off additional employees, after having already recently laid off two deputies in an attempt to cut expenses.

County Attorney Billy Reynolds spoke up in defense of Peters request, telling the court that he would hate to see law enforcement "go backwards instead of forwards. Mike puts in a super amount of hours and it's easy to budget cut until you personally need someone."

Carloftis countered that "not a person on this court wants to cut law enforcement. We would like to increase our help but we must be sure we are getting as much bang for our buck as we can."

The court first addressed the sheriff's maximum salaries request for deputies by setting it at \$225,000 (it was \$255,000 in 2012) and Carloftis made a motion to set the aid at \$2,250 a month, the same as in 2012, but that motion failed. Carloftis then made a motion to adopt another option which provides an additional \$5,375, besides the \$2,250, a month for a total supplement of almost \$240,000 yearly. McNew told the court that this amount would allow Peters to keep his staff at the present level.

In other action, the court approved a one-year extension of the Rocket Docket contract with the Commonwealth Attorney's office at a cost of \$15,000 a year;

- approved \$5,000 for the Pongo Fire Department to upgrade their mini-pumper, used to fight brush fires, to an eight year newer model, and

- approved an offer of \$30,000 for the Livingston Fire Department to make for a 1992 pumper, with 21,000 miles on it, to replace a 1984 Ford model with over 100,000 miles on it and which needs a lot of work. Members of the Livingston

Fire Department, who were at the meeting, said they would be able to cover the \$1,600 cost of getting the pumper from New York to Livingston.

- Carloftis told the court that the new fire department at Livingston is 90% complete.

"RCIDA"

(Cont. from front)

by the IDA.

Executive Director Holly Hopkins told members of the Industrial Authority that she had read where Magistrate Bill McKinney noted that only 14% of her travel and training budget remained but, Hopkins said, this was an incorrect figure. She told members that a bill from the Brushy Fork Institute for \$850, had been paid from this allotment when it had, in past years, been paid by the fiscal court. With this amount added back to the travel and training allotment, Hopkins said there would be enough funds to cover her attending the KY United Marketing Trip scheduled for May 26-28 in Austin and Houston, Texas. At their regular meeting on Tuesday, the court approved reimbursing IDA for the Brushy Fork Institute charge.

"Meth"

(Cont. from front)

turing meth at the house. Officers also had other active warrants for Haling's arrest.

Once officers arrived at the residence, they arrested Haling on charges in connection with the active warrants. Officers also found a small bag of marijuana on Haling at the time of his arrest.

Inside a crawl space under the house, officers found a blue duffle bag containing a plastic bag of ammonia nitrate, two 18-ounce bottles of Drano crystals, a gallon can of Coleman fuel and various other items used to manufacture meth. Haling told officers that he was going to use the items in the duffle bag to make a one-step meth lab.

Haling had been previously arrested for manufacturing meth by police during a meth lab bust on September 11th at the same residence on Maple Grove Road.

Haling was charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and a probation violation. He remains lodged in the Rockcastle County Detention Center on a \$25,000 cash/property bond.

"Resigns"

(Cont. from front)

would be better for me if I resigned as police chief and became a full time funeral director instead."

Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant said that he was shocked when Fletcher handed in his resignation and that he hates to lose him as the city's police chief.

"He did an excellent job in the short time he was in the position," Bryant said. "I tried to persuade him to stay and I hate to lose him. But I still respect his decision for what he thinks is right for him and his family."

Bryant said that as of right now, there is no specific time frame on when the council will hire a new police chief. However, he said they have started the search and are currently taking applications at Mt. Vernon City Hall.

"Possession"

(Cont. from front)

was also separately charged with possession of a controlled substance, third degree.

Both Gadd and Reed were lodged in the Rockcastle County Detention Center. They were later released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

"Livingston"

(Cont. from front)

approved the appointment of Carl Swanigan as Police Chief for the city. Swanigan will serve without pay, but his gas and equipment expenses will be paid for.

Swanigan, who held the same position under Griffin's administration, told the commissioners that he did require autonomy to do the job properly. "I'm a great believer in warnings," Swanigan told the council, "I only wrote five tickets in all the months I was here." However, the former police officer also said that some people "drive through town like its a race track and I have to watch out for the safety of children and seniors, particularly."

Swanigan said he hoped to continue to build the police department because if the commissioners expected the town to grow it needed security.

A computer for the cruiser was one of Swanigan's requests to the council, possibly through a grant, a monitor/printer for his office, which will be located right now in the old brick firehouse. The office will be moved to the new fire house upon its completion. He also requested a list of the city's ordinances.

Swanigan told the commissioners that he thought he could get one or two volunteers, who are certified, to help him.

Medley and Commissioner Al Newcomb voiced their support of Swanigan with Newcomb saying Swanigan's conduct was "always professional" and added that he did not foresee any complaints. Medley said that the commissioners had not had time to look into the city's finances but "we want you to have everything you need to make this position work for you."

"Hours"

(Cont. from front)

"All of our services are still going to be provided just the same as always," Renner said. "We're still assuring the health of the public we serve."

Renner said she hopes the reduced hours and layoffs will only be temporary as they are hopeful that lawmakers will react on the legislation soon.

"I have spent a lot of time contacting and encouraging everyone else to contact their representatives, both federal and state," Renner said. "We are all hopeful that the layoffs and reduced hours will only be temporary."

"Arrested"

(Cont. from front)

replied back to the family member and admitted to the sexual relationship between him and the juvenile.

Once officers arrived at Smith's residence, they apprehended Smith. Smith told officers that he and the juvenile had sex at his house on two different occasions in 2012. The juvenile, who is related to Smith, also admitted to the relationship.

Smith was charged with incest and rape, third degree. He was lodged in the Rockcastle County Detention Center and later released on a \$10,000 cash/property bond.



Plan your next family reunion, wedding reception, meeting, etc. at the

Lair House

located in historic Renfro Valley

Call

606-256-1000 • 877-356-3263

for information & reservations

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
Owned and Operated by the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame

AUTO ; HOME ; LIFE ; BUSINESS ; A MEMBER SERVICE ; KYFB.COM

Accidents happen close to home. Shouldn't that be where your insurance is?



No matter where you live in Kentucky, there's a Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance agent nearby committed to taking care of your insurance needs.

Marlene Lawson, Agency Mgr.
Shelly Mullins, Agent
US Hwy. 25 S • Mt. Vernon
606-256-2050



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

BIG ON COMMITMENT.®

**STRUGGLING
WITH ADDICTION?**

Toll-free Treatment Help Line

1-866-90-UNITE

*Take control of your life
TODAY!*