

Vicki Kidd, Renfro Valley CEO, resigns

By: Doug Ponder
Renfro Valley Entertainment Center CEO Vicki Kidd recently resigned her position to accept a full-time job as a funeral director at the McCreary County Funeral Home in McCreary County.

Kidd said she handed in her resignation on January 4th and that her last day on the job will be January 31st. In February, former Vice President of Operations Doris Sanders will become the interim CEO.

Kidd said she resigned because her parents are in poor health and her mother requested her assistance with their family's funeral home business.

"She called me and said she needed me to come home," Kidd said. "She said she needed me to come back and help her. I simply couldn't tell my own mother no."

While recalling some of her greatest accomplishments as CEO, Kidd said she is the proudest of the "Malt Shop Memories" show that took people back in time as entertainers performed hits from the 1950s and 1960s.

"In 2012, I went to Rockcastle County Basic Arts Coordinator Allen Pensol and asked him for help on a 50s themed show," Kidd said. "He helped us in putting together a masterpiece. We couldn't have been more pleased with the results and people loved it!"

Kidd said she is also proud of their "Renfro Valley Auditions" that they started in 2012 to help them

(Cont. to pg. A7)



As can be seen from the above photo, the state's salt stockpile is in good shape. The lack of snow has also been good for the county's finances again this year. Information from the County Judge/Executive's office said Wednesday that the county spent \$15,795 for salt from December, 2011 through February of 2012 and had not had to buy any since.

Rockcastle County Schools spared after large insurance trust dissolves

By: Doug Ponder
Rockcastle County and numerous other Kentucky public school districts are learning that they will be splitting an unexpected \$50 to \$60 million bill after a popular insurance trust recently announced its dis-

bandment.

Kentucky School Boards Insurance Trust (KSBIT) announced last week that they will be ceasing their operations due to a prolonged deficit.

KSBIT was created in 1978 to provide coverage under self-insured pools, which allowed school districts to combine their resources and share the risk. The trust went on to become one of the leading insurance trusts in the state that provided low cost insurance to the state's school districts for items such as property, liability and workers compensation insurance.

KSBIT will cease operations on June 30th and they will be assessing current and former members who were in the insurance program between 1990 and 2011.

According to Supt. David Pensol, the exact amount owed by each school district is not yet known because payments

are based on a complicated formula that considers each district's past claims and number of years they participated in the program. Each school district will get to choose if they want to pay their bill in a lump sum or on a twenty year payment plan.

Currently, it's estimated that 70 school districts have insurance with KSBIT. However, all 174 school districts have been involved with the group since its founding. Since all districts have participated at some time, all of them will have to make payments.

Many school districts are already estimating how much they will have to pay after the disbandment of KSBIT. The Fayette County School Board estimated that their liability would be as much as \$2 million and the Garrard County School Board believes their monetary assessment could be

(Cont. to pg. A7)

Mt. Vernon native pursues career in stand-up comedy

By: Doug Ponder
A former Mt. Vernon man is hoping to become a well-known stand-up comedian in the near future.

Aaron Drew Davidson, 23, of Cincinnati, Ohio has recently performed stand-up comedy routines at numerous prominent comedy clubs such as the Go Bananas Comedy Club in Cincinnati, Funny Bone Comedy Club in Newport and Comedy Off Broadway in Lexington.

Comedic superstars such as Drew Carey, Dave Chappelle, Ellen DeGeneres, Jerry Seinfeld, and Tim Allen have also performed at one of the three comedy clubs.

Davidson said that he has always enjoyed making people laugh and that it was one of his favorite hobbies while growing up.

"Making people laugh has always been my favorite thing to do and comedy has always been a secret passion of mine," Davidson said. "I have always been interested in comedy and always tried to surround myself with funny people throughout my life."

While attending high school at RCHS, Davidson said that his interest in comedy increased when Mrs. Jennifer Mattingly, his sophomore English teacher at the time, had the students study a unit on comedy.

"I didn't know you could actually study how to make people laugh and what was funny," Davidson said. "After that unit, I started reading articles on the incongruity theory of comedy and furthering my knowledge of true comedic things."

Davidson said that the first time he performed a comedy routine in front of a crowd was in high school at RCHS. He recalled an assembly in the gym where all the students had gathered to watch a juggler perform. However, Davidson said the juggler was running late and former RCHS Principal John Hale asked him if he had any jokes he could use to stall the crowd until the juggler arrived.

Davison, the son of MVES principal Leon Davidson and Janice Davidson, a teacher at Roundstone Elementary, said he accepted Principal Hale's proposition and told him that he had some *Reader's Digest* jokes in his wallet that he was going to try on some of his friends.

"The jokes I read weren't that funny and I looked at the crowd and said those were lousy," Davidson said.

(Cont. to pg. A7)

In 2013

Ambulance Service looks to make major improvements

By: Doug Ponder
The Rockcastle County Ambulance Service is looking forward to making some major improvements in 2013 by installing Advanced Life Support equipment on ambulances and also hiring multiple paramedics.

Ambulance Service Board Chairman David Pensol said the ambulance service plans on making the changes within the next few months.

As of right now, Pensol said all ambulance personnel are able to provide basic life support to ill or injured patients by performing basic and intermediate health procedures. He said that their BLS ambulances are currently staffed with two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

However, Pensol said that ALS ambulances can provide transport to patients who need a higher level of care than the services provided by the BLS ambulances. He said ALS ambulances have advanced airway equipment, advanced cardiac life support equipment, IV care and cardiac monitors.

Pensol also said that the ALS ambulances are staffed with at least one paramedic on board at all times. He said paramedics are required to have more training hours than EMTs and that they can provide a higher level of healthcare to the general public while they are in the

ambulance.

"Having a paramedic in an ambulance will make a huge difference as they are the only professionals who can perform advanced life support techniques," Pensol said. "They can start IVs, administer more medications and perform more advanced health procedures on the patients before they even arrive at the emergency room."

Pensol went on to say that they are still in the process of ordering some of the

(Cont. to pg. A7)

School board seat remains vacant since November

By: Doug Ponder
A vacancy, created by the resignation of School Board Chairman Martin Vanzant in November, remains open.

According to Superintendent David Pensol, under a state statute, the Kentucky Commissioner of Education has the responsibility of appointing someone to fill the vacancy within a 90 day period for a deadline of February 12th.

Pensol said the local board was required to advertise for qualified applicants to fill the vacant position.

(Cont. to pg. A7)

Snowball Express is Sunday at Brodhead

This first event of the 2013 County-wide Stride run/walk series is the Snowball Express 2-miler this Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Brodhead Elementary School.

Most small communities have at least one run/walk event in a year. Some have more, maybe three or four at most. In 2013, for the second year in a row, Rockcastle County will have 12, one in each month

of the year. Organizers at Rockcastle Regional Hospital, which created and sponsors the series, hopes to build on 2012's total participation of 1,770.

Studies show that Kentuckians (and Rockcastle Countians) do not get enough exercise, and experts have long known that exercise is essential to good health. The County-wide

(Cont. to pg. A7)



Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department and Rockcastle County EMS responded to a single car accident last Thursday morning on Hwy 1505 in Brodhead. Authorities say Brandi Thomas, 32, of Brodhead was traveling south toward Brodhead on Hwy 1505 when she lost control of her vehicle and ran off the road before colliding with an electric pole. Thomas and her two children Hailey, 5 and Lily, 2 were transported from the scene to Rockcastle Regional Hospital where they were treated for non-life threatening injuries and released.