

Our Readers Write

Impressed with Rockcastle Regional...

Dear Editor,

Although our home in Rockcastle is much closer to London's hospital, I know exactly why my mother insisted upon me taking her to Rockcastle Regional. Instead of writing directly to the Rockcastle Hospital, I think it is good to let everyone know how impressed our family is of our local hospital.

Our Mother had a very unexpected visit and two-day stay there this week. Everyone - the cooks in the cafeteria, janitors, nurses, doctors, aides, assistants, and all staff in the hospital and ER - made us feel as if we were being treated by extended family members showing us great hospitality when we just dropped by unexpectedly. I also know why so many of my friends in Laurel County are so high in Rockcastle Regional Hospital. They live up to their mission statement and treat everyone as family. And I greatly appreciated the warm blanket and pillows they brought me in the night as I tried to sleep on the chair in the patient room, trying to keep me as comfortable as possible.

There is no wonder why Rockcastle Regional Hospital wins so many awards and accolades from patients and visitors alike. It is very impressive.

Buzz Carloftis
County Judge-Executive

Back Porch appreciates business...

Dear Editor,

On behalf of everyone at Back Porch Smokehouse, would like to thank all of our loyal customers who dined with us on a regular basis while we had our restaurant in Renfro Valley.

As many of you already know, we have recently moved to a new location in

Berea and officially opened up for business last Friday. We would like to encourage everyone to come to our new restaurant and we look forward to seeing all of our regular customers again.

Once again, thank you for all your support throughout the years and we look forward to serving you in the future..

Steve Eversole and staff

Appreciate old photo of Livingston Blue Devils...

Dear Editor,

When my brother, Billy Gentry of Brodhead, sent me a copy of the December 20, 2012 *Signal*, I was surprised and pleased to see my photo with the 1951 Livingston Blue Devils. It brought back many memories to see all those team members and read about that championship game. I really enjoyed coaching basketball with that team!

My wife, Hannah, and I started our careers in education at Livingston and the students there have always held a special place in our hearts. We have kept in touch with many of them through the years. We enjoyed going to the Livingston reunions when we were able to get out and about.

Thank you for featuring this article and keeping the history of the community as an important part of the news.

Sincerely,
Lee Gentry
Richmond, Ky.

"Witch"

(Cont. from A2)

threats, and physical torments until he finally took to his bed. On December 19, 1820, while his son, John Jr., was caring for his father, he discovered the witch had gotten two of the three bottles of medicine in the

cupboard. The only bottle left was full of a dark unknown liquid. It was thrown in the fireplace and erupted in a blue blaze. The witch gloated, "It's useless for you to try to relieve Old Jack. I have got him this time; he will never get up from that bed again!" John Bell died the next day. The witch disrupted the funeral by singing crude drinking songs.

The witch also had other abilities. It once quoted two different sermons given verbatim at two separate churches at least twelve miles apart. Strange but true?

(The reference material referred to the witch as "it" instead of "she" or "her" and I did so as well)

Next week's series of the "Strange But True?" will continue with the antics of the Bell Witch's encounter with Andrew Jackson.

Source: Tennessee State Library and Archives-Tennessee Myths and Legends. (Remember, I'm always looking for a bit of Rockcastle history. If you have a story to tell, and all of us do, please contact me at therootsofrockcastle@windstream.net)

"Points East"

(Cont. from A2)

nounced it was time for the show to start, it was elbow room only.

Twenty year-old Sam Gleaves walked out front and center with his banjo, surrounded by Jordan Engle on an upright bass taller than he was, Cory Shenk with a flat-top guitar, and Ethan Hamblin with his arms crossed standing to one side and grinning as though he was going to pounce on something. Sam and Friends, it turns out, are all students at Berea College.

Thirty seconds later I knew that we were in for an evening of entertainment we'd never forget.

Suddenly I realized that the music of my youth, the timeless celebration of our culture, through tunes and verses, had found an incredibly strong new voice.

Before the evening was over, Sam had demonstrated an intimate, easy and comfortable proficiency with the

claw-hammer banjo, mountain fiddle, flat-top guitar and an amazing auto-harp that he, himself, had built from scratch. There was not a minute during the two-set performance that I didn't have shivers going up my arms and spine.

Sam's "mountain tenor" voice is sweet and pure and never seems strained. As Appalachian Author, Silas House, has already said, "To think that someone so young can understand the ancient tones of this music with such a deep and profound sense of honor makes me have a whole new kind of hope for the future. When Sam sings, we hear the generations before him: the joys, the sorrows, the strength and defeats. When Sam plays, we hear the land that has informed this music, the jagged, dark mountains, the meandering creeks, the even-rowed fields."

And I say, "Amen, Brother Silas. You've hit that nail most squarely on the head."

I'm out of space here in your paper, but let me encourage you to get on your computer some time soon and visit Sam Gleaves' website address at www.samgleaves.com

On the site you will find contact information, much more biographical background and be able to listen to samples of his music. You will also find out how to order his new CD entitled "A Little Time in the Wilderness" and, before you ask, the answer is no, you can't borrow mine.

Finally, please believe me, this column may be the first but is certainly not the last time you'll be hearing about Sam Gleaves.

"Memories"

(Cont. from A2)

him fire-building skills.

I still love to build camp fires in our woods on Furnace Mountain.

As a matter of fact, Kathy and I have two fire rings built out of stone in our yard. One of them is on the edge of the woods that we own next to our house. Throughout the year, we pick up sticks that have fallen off the trees in our yard and carefully fill the fire rings. We have approximately twelve very large oak, maple, and poplar trees that are strategically situated around our house so we have an ample supply of kindling. We love building a small fire in our yard so that we can take in the aroma and listen to the crackle of the wood burning. When it is really frigid, we take one of our blankets to cover our legs and sit very close to each other to ward off the cold air on our mountain top.

My wife and I were camping once on Laurel Lake, and I took a short walk into the woods, found a hollow log, and used Pop's instructions to lay a foundation of embers, placing the hollow log on top. As the fire began to blaze sparks, smoke and embers passed up through the hollow log and created a fireworks

show second to none. We both were spellbound for a long time, quietly watching the dazzling flames before us. It was still glowing the following morning.

The first time I lived in a house with an actual fireplace was when Kathy and I lived in Lexington in a townhouse. It was a small, wood-burning fireplace, but each winter we created as many fires as the weather would accommodate. There is just something special about watching a fire as it crackles and pops while consuming the logs. I have no idea how many nights I fell asleep just watching and smelling the fire.

We now have a small fireplace in our home where

we like to sit in the morning, drinking our coffee and Ale 8's while reading the morning paper. Our little house fills with warmth quickly. I am older now but I still love to watch the flames.

I am so glad that Pop taught me the simple things of life - such as the pleasure of sitting before a fire. It really doesn't matter if it is an open fire ring outside, a big Warm Morning Stove, or a fireplace inside our house, watching a fire is another one of my most favorite things to do.

(You can reach me at themtman@att.net or you can drop me a line at P.O. Box 927 Stanton, KY 40380. I appreciate your suggestions and comments.)

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FFA Chili Supper and Auction

The 2013 Rockcastle County FFA Chili Supper and Auction will be held Sat., Feb. 9th from 5:30 to 6:30 in the high school. Chili Supper tickets are \$5 per person. Silent bids for the auction items can be made via email until 6 p.m. and the live auction will begin at 6:30. Contact Sherri McKinney sherri.mckinney@rockcastle.kyschools.us for a list of auction items and to place silent bids. Please come out and support Rockcastle County FFA. All proceeds are used to support FFA students in their many activities.

Volunteers Needed

Help your community, join the Brodhead Fire Department. Applications available at www.brodheadfire.com or at Brodhead City Hall.

Bookmobile Schedule

Mon., Feb. 4th: Brodhead and Copper Creek. **Tues., Feb. 5th:** Green Hill, Fairview, Lambert Road, Sweetwater Road. **Wed., Feb. 6th:** Cave Valley Apartments and Brindle Ridge.

Conceal Carry Class

Conceal Carry Class, February 1st, Renfro Valley, Ky. For information call 606-256-3800.

Brodhead Alliance Committee

The BAC will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 7th at 6 p.m. at Brodhead City Hall. Please note the change in location. The public is welcome.

Foster/Adoptive Parents Needed

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will begin new classes for those interested in becoming foster/adoptive parents, on February 4th. For more information, please contact Brandy Baldwin at 606-287-7114.

Kiwanis Meeting Change

The Kiwanis Thursday luncheon meetings are held at the Tea Cup Cafe, Main St., Mt. Vernon.

VFW News

During the winter months, the post will be closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.

RCIDA Meeting

The Rockcastle County Industrial Authority Board meets the first Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. on the third floor (teleconference room) of the courthouse. The public is invited.

Brodhead Lodge Meeting

The Brodhead Masonic Lodge #556 meets every third Saturday at 7 p.m. on Main Street in Brodhead above Brodhead Pharmacy.

RCDB Meeting Notice

The Rockcastle County Development Board meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at noon at the Rockcastle County Courthouse 3rd floor Technology Center. The public is invited to attend.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon.

Kiwanis Club Meetings

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at noon at The Renfro Valley Lodge in Renfro Valley. Everyone welcome.

Historical Society Hours

The Rockcastle Historical Society is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RTEC garage building.

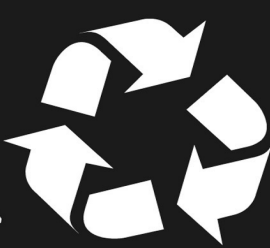
Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), Rockcastle Camp, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact David Owens at 606-256-9870.

American Legion Post 71

American Legion Post 71 meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. of each month at the Back Porch Restaurant in the Renfro Valley Village. Commander David Owens invites all Rockcastle veterans to join this organization that honors American soldiers, sailors and airmen.

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