

Mount Vernon Signal

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Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - (606) 256-2244

Volume 127 • Number 22

.50 per copy

Thursday, May 16, 2013



The Rockcastle County High School gymnasium was filled for the announcement of the "I Am UNITE" scholarship program by Fifth District Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers, at right, last Thursday. Twenty high school seniors across the fifth congressional district will be awarded scholarships in similar ceremonies at their high schools. The five students from RCHS receiving scholarships were: Avery Bradshaw, Sean Watkins, Hannah Eaton, Samantha Smoker and Ashton Arvin. (See more photos from ceremony on pg. B1.)



Judge taken to task by magistrates over equipment purchases

What had been a routine Fiscal Court meeting Tuesday, turned testy at the end when Magistrate Bill McKinney questioned County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis about two equipment purchases he had made, without discussion with the magistrates. McKinney also asked for an apology for a derogatory name which Carloftis reportedly called the magistrates while at the road department.

"You didn't even consult with us on the purchase," McKinney said, "but you also called us a name in front of road department workers who we have to supervise."

Carloftis agreed that he should not have called the magistrates a name (imbeciles) but defended his purchase of a tractor and mower, for just over \$19,000, by saying that he had tried to talk to the magistrates about purchasing the needed equipment several times to no avail. "You turned away and wouldn't even discuss it," Carloftis said. "We have spent \$250,000 on parts alone over the last three years and nine months on 30 to 40 year old equipment. I'm not saying we need to buy new equipment but we at least need to be replacing the old equipment with used equipment that is only four to five years old."

(Cont. to A14)

Great Saltpetre Cave opened to the public this weekend

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy will hold an Open House at the "Great Saltpetre Cave" on Big Cave Road in Mt. Vernon this weekend.

The cave will be open to the public for guided tours on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to local Rockcastle County Historian David Owens, the cave has a long history and got its name from the large amounts of saltpetre that were mined out of it in the early 1800s.

The cave was first discovered and owned by Virginian Robert Baker in 1798. In 1799, Baker sold the cave to George Montgomery, who was the first person to start mining the cave for saltpetre.

The cave went through several more owners until Samuel Brown, a Lexington physician, heard about the saltpetre being mined out of the cave and decided to purchase it in 1802.

Brown made improvements to the mining process and was able to mine the saltpetre in larger amounts. Brown shipped the saltpetre to powder mills across the country where it was then mixed with sulfur and charcoal to produce gunpowder.

When the United States went to war with Great Britain during the War of 1812, the British Navy blockaded American ports which prevented the United States from trading with other countries. This caused a shortage of gunpowder which was needed by the United States military to fight the British in the war.

During the war of 1812, the Great Saltpetre Cave became an important source to the country as larger quantities of saltpetre were being extracted from the cave to be used for the war effort during the blockade. It was during this time that 60-70 employees were reported to have worked in the cave.

However after the war was over in 1815, the British blockade was removed and saltpetre was made available again from other countries.

This decreased the need for saltpetre from the Great Saltpetre Cave and it eventually became uneconomical to commercially mine the cave for saltpetre.

(Cont. to A13)

Road issues discussed at Brodhead council meeting Monday night

By: Doug Ponder

Many items were brought up at the monthly Brodhead council meeting Monday night, including road issues and blacktopping plans within city limits.

Water and Sewer Superintendent Roger Bray proposed a chart to the council

Brodhead Dix River Festival is next week

The annual Brodhead Dix River Festival will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 23-25 on Main Street.

The event will kick-off on Thursday at 7 p.m. with musical performances by Country music duo Jake Vanover and Jordon Leigh. The Tony Mills Band will perform at 8 p.m.

On Friday, Ruby Powell and Friends will perform at 5 p.m. followed by "Bike Nite" at Dari Delite at 6 p.m. Friday night's entertainment will also feature Old Town Project Bluegrass Band at 6 p.m. followed by The Medley Boys at 8 p.m.

A long list of events is scheduled for Saturday beginning with the Brodhead Hustle at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Kentucky Romp and Stomp Cloggers at 10 a.m.. This year's festival will also feature a Motorcycle Poker Run beginning at 11 a.m.

This year's parade is scheduled for 5 p.m. with line-up at 4 p.m. at Brodhead Elementary

(Cont. to A14)

Baccalaureate Services are this Sunday

Baccalaureate Services for the RCHS Class of 2013 will be held at Northside Baptist Church this Sunday at 2 p.m.

Graduation will be next Thursday in the high school gymnasium at 6 p.m.

that consisted of approximately 14,000 square feet of blacktop patching for several of the city's streets. Streets included in the chart were Church, Tyree, Albright, School, West, Wallin, Sigmon, Proffitt and Maple Streets.

The council approved Bray's chart and also agreed to open bids for the blacktop patching work this Friday at 2:30 p.m.

Bray also suggested the council look into getting signs from the Kentucky Department of Transportation to prohibit large tractor-trailer trucks from using West Street.

Cancer Survivor Dinner and Relay for Life is this Friday

The annual Cancer Survivor Dinner and Rockcastle County Relay for Life is this Friday.

The Cancer Survivor's dinner will be held at the Rockcastle County High School cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Food and entertainment will be provided by Roundstone Baptist Church.

Those planning to attend the dinner are asked to call Arielle Estes at 606-256-7880 or Melissa Brock at 606-256-7703 to register.

Following the dinner, the opening event will be at 7 p.m. when cancer survivors of all ages walk/run a lap around the RCMS track. A live auction will start at 8 p.m. with all the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

After the live auction, the Luminary Service and a Candlelight Vigil will be held at 10 p.m. Luminary Candles will outline the track and will be left burning throughout the night.

Rockcastle Regional Hospital and the American Cancer Society encourage everyone to come out and participate in raising money for cancer research and cancer patients.

Bray said tractor trailers that were delivering to Mark's Hardware and Dollar General were taking the shorter route by using West Street from Hwy 150 instead of turning onto South

Main Street or Brodhead Road. He said West Street was not designed for the use of tractor-trailers and Main Street and Brodhead road

(Cont. to A13)

Livingston commissioners approve first reading of five city ordinances

At Monday night's regular meeting of the Livingston City Commissioners, the first reading of five ordinances was held.

The ordinances cover: dog control; protection of the environment and landowners' property; a curfew for minors; routine sidewalk maintenance and a nuisance code.

The dog control ordinance says that dogs shall be confined on their owners' premises within an enclosure or firmly secured by a collar or chain, leash or other device. The ordinance also include a penalty for "frequent or habitual unprovoked howling, yelping or barking" which causes a nuisance. The ordinance provides that any dog found running at large within the city limits, shall be impounded by any dog warden in the county animal shelter for a period of seven days and destroyed if not claimed by owner or adopted. Vicious dogs, i.e., any dog owned or harbored primarily or in part for fighting or any dog which attacks a human or domestic animal without provocation, are also banned, unless kept securely confined indoors or in a se-

(Cont. to A13)



Lucille Carloftis and Archie Bales were the Grand Marshals last Saturday during the Founders Day Trail Festival in Livingston. The Festival celebrated the 131st anniversary of the City of Livingston.

Of Special Note Inside

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