

# Mount Vernon Signal

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Rockcastle County Relay for Life held their annual event at the RCMS track last Friday. The Rockcastle Relay teams raised a total of \$37,712.96 which surpassed their original goal of \$35,000. The event featured a cancer survivor dinner at the RCHS cafeteria followed by a cancer survivors ceremony and live auction at the RCMS track. Shown above is cancer survivor Williametta French running through the "spirit line."

## Water taste, odor discussed at Mt. Vernon council meeting

Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant told the city council, at their regular meeting Monday night, that the current taste and odor of the city's water had led to calls by customers to the EPA, TV Channel 36 and a petition on facebook.

Bryant said he tried to use the interview with 36 to educate those unhappy with the water quality. "We want people informed about what the problem is and what we are trying to do about it."

The mayor explained that the lake has over 5,000 different types of algae in it, mostly caused by farm animals and birds. However, he also said that representatives of the Division of Water and Rural Water were here last week to taste test the supply. The representative of the Division of

(Cont. to A9)

## Relay exceeds overall goal

By: Doug Ponder

Rockcastle County Relay for Life exceeded their fundraising goal for the American Cancer Society at their event last Friday night.

The Rockcastle Relay team raised a total of \$37,712.96 which surpassed their original goal of \$35,000.

The event featured a cancer survivor dinner at the RCHS cafeteria followed by an open cancer survivor ceremony and live auction at the RCMS track.

Sixty-three cancer survivors attended the dinner and the ceremony. The Relay team also sold 18 torches for the "Torch of Hope" which honors those whose lives were affected by cancer. The team also sold 250 luminaries this

(Cont. to A9)

## School board focuses on drop-outs at meeting

At the recent regular meeting of the Rockcastle County Board of Education, much time was devoted to the board's work in reducing the number of student drop-outs.

### Brodhead Dix River Festival begins Thursday

The annual Dix River Festival is this Thursday, Friday and Saturday on Main Street in Brodhead.

The event will begin on Thursday at 7 p.m. with musical performances by Country music duo Jake Vanover and Jordon Leigh followed by a performance from the Tony Mills Band at 8 p.m.

On Friday, Ruby Powell and friends will perform at 5 p.m. followed by "Bike

(Cont. to A9)

Director of Pupil Personnel Becky Isaacs told the board that Senate Bill 97 provided that changing the drop-out age from 16 to 18 will be left up to local school boards. However, if 55% of local boards (96 districts) choose to change the age to 18, then the remaining districts must adopt the age 18 requirement within four years.

The state will provide a

### Brodhead Hustle is this Saturday

The fourth Annual Brodhead Hustle is this Saturday at the Brodhead Elementary School at 8:30 a.m.

The race will begin and end at the school. It will also

(Cont. to A9)

\$10,000 grant to the first 57 districts who raise the age requirement to 18. Supt. David Pensol told the board in his opening remarks that the district should not let the \$10,000 grant influence their action. "We need to be thoughtful about what we promote and not let the \$10,000 influence us." Board member Angela Mink commented that "the state wants the local board to be the bad guys."

Isaacs gave the board some stats on drop-out rates in the local system. She said that in the school year 2010-11, there were 24 less students at the end of that class's senior year than started as freshmen. The number was 26 in the 2011-12 school year. "Those numbers are so disturbing to me and this is an issue we have to address," Isaacs said.

In the current school year, that number has dropped to 13 and Isaacs attributed the reduction to the school coming up with a plan and getting students "to trust us." Isaacs said that students don't always realize that plans can be re-worked and she also noted that much of the work (to retain students until graduation) needs to be done at

the freshman level.

Pensol told the board that the GED grant had been a "tremendous asset" to Rockcastle County. Isaacs agreed, saying that, in one instance, a student who had dropped-out had completed their GED and the high school staff had taken them to Somerset Community College and helped them

(Cont. to A9)

### Grand Jury indicts six

Indictments were returned against six people by a Rockcastle County Grand Jury on Friday, May 10th.

Roger "Crow" Mink, 53, of 65 Horse Shoe Bend Road, Mt. Vernon was indicted for trafficking in a controlled substance on August 10, 2012 and bribing a witness on Nov. 15, 2012.

Mink's bond was set at \$50,000 cash/property.

One man and two women were named in a joint indictment involving six different charges.

Cody Wayne Helton, 21, 232 Dripping Springs Road, Crab Orchard was indicted on charges of burglary and two counts of theft by un-

(Cont. to A9)

## Graduation is this Thursday at RCHS

The 41st graduating class at Rockcastle County High School will have their graduation ceremony this Thursday beginning at 6 p.m. in the Rockcastle County High School gymnasium.

Student Council Co-President Laiken Myrissa Coffey will give the opening remarks, followed by a welcoming speech from F.C.A President Samantha Erin Payne.

The Chamber Choir and the RCHS Band will provide special music and RCHS Principal Jennifer Mattingly will recognize students who received special awards and recognitions.

Valedictorian Hannah Renee Bullock and Salutatorian Logan Dwayne Durham will both speak after which Rockcastle County Schools Superintendent David Pensol will present diplomas to the graduates.

Student Council Co-Presidents Charity Brooke Adams and Samantha Erin

Payne will conduct the changing of tassels. Junior Marshalls will be Madisan Michelle Miller, Jarrod Scott Lake and Jacob Dean Taylor.



Valedictorian  
Hannah Bullock



Salutatorian  
Logan Dwayne Durham



Straight-line winds caused a tree to fall on one of Mt. Vernon's oldest restaurants Tuesday afternoon. Snack Shack owner Glenda Smith said her employees were working in the kitchen area around 5 p.m. when they heard a loud bang on the roof and noticed that leaves were suddenly covering the kitchen windows outside. Smith said the fallen tree only caused minor damage to the roof and no one was injured in the tree's fall. Snack Shack was closed for the remainder of the day on Tuesday but reopened on Wednesday morning.

## Of Special Note Inside

- Viewpoints ..... Pg. A2
- Obituaries ..... Pg. A3
- Church News ..... Pg. A10
- Sports ..... Pg. A6 & 7
- Courthouse News ..... Pg. B2
- Classifieds ..... Pgs. B5-7

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