

UNITE's 'Hope Wall,' education classroom unveiled

A sign along the Hal Rogers Parkway at Manchester welcomes visitors to "The City of Hope."

Last Friday, 10 years after the launch of Operation UNITE, elected officials and community volunteers gathered to celebrate two new reasons for Hope in the fight against drugs: a wall celebrating those who have overcome addiction and a state-of-the-art mobile education classroom that will be used in schools across southern and eastern Kentucky.

"It is time to start celebrating the lives that have been forever changed through your treatment and recovery efforts," Fifth District Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers told the nearly 250 people gathered for the announcement.

"In the midst of those cries for help we're beginning to hear more tears of joy and triumph," Rogers said, noting that for the first time in a decade Kentucky drug-related overdose deaths declined last year. "It is because of your efforts."

"Today we celebrate victories, celebrate recovery and celebrate hope," noted Clay County Pastor Doug Abner, whose efforts helped spark church involvement in the anti-drug fight a decade ago.

Members of the Chad's Hope Teen Challenge Recovery Center, a faith-based recovery program located northwest of town, unveiled the new UNITE "Hope Wall,"

which features photos and brief statements about the individuals' journeys to sobriety. Through "the word of their testimony," Rogers noted, maybe others will realize there is a way out of the shackles of addiction.

An example of a family's struggles was shared by long-time educators John and Nancy Hale of Rockcastle County. Their son – a model student and athlete – became addicted on medication that had been prescribed for an injury. Through many ups and downs he eventually turned his life around, recently graduated from law school and has gotten married.

"One of the things we've learned in the middle of the pain is that we are not alone," Nancy Hale said, referring to their steadfast faith throughout the years-long process. "We had to choose life" to make sure no other parent goes through what their family has endured.

Recovery is just a part of the picture.

"I think we all agree that the best way to save our children from suffering through the pains of withdrawal, relapses in recovery,

and the trials of drug addiction is through education," Rogers said, introducing UNITE's new "On The Move" mobile classroom.

This latest initiative – funded through a three-year competitive Rural Health Outreach grant awarded through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration – features an interactive drug prevention program tailored to elementary, middle and high school students. In addition, youth will participate in three interactive training modules that focus on the consequences of distraction and impairment from alcohol and other drugs.

"Education is vitally important, but the love of one person can make a huge difference," said Dr. Michael Benson, president of Eastern Kentucky University, who shared his own family's story of dealing with addiction.

"I'm proud to be associated with this cause," Benson said, pledging ECU's support. "We want to be a part. We want to bring the power of education to the fight against drugs."

The interior of the mobile classroom features colorful hand-painted murals. Rogers presented the artist, Rebecca Arvin of Rockcastle County, with a "Difference Maker" award for donating her time and talent to the project.

State Senate President Robert Stivers, whose 25th District covers seven Eastern Kentucky counties, credited Rogers for giving him "a lot of political courage" to take on the drug fight in Frankfort.

Kentucky is frequently taking the lead in efforts to prevent and curb the effects of substance abuse, noted Mike Barry, director of People Advancing Recovery (PAR) in Kentucky.

Speaking about the "joys of recovery," Barry emphasized that it is important to remove the stigma and discrimination of addiction and recovery.

Families "are afraid to reach out and ask for help (because of what others may think)," Barry commented, adding, "There is help. There is hope. And, there is healing."

"UNITE is now a national model thanks to each one of you," Rogers said. "It is the grassroots efforts and your individual courage of conviction that has helped save countless lives through the partnerships you have committed to the three branches of Operation UNITE – law enforcement, treatment and education."

Upcoming Mt. Vernon School Reunion to be held September 14th

The annual Mt. Vernon School Reunion will be held September 14th at Rockcastle Middle School.

If you were a student or staff member of Mt. Vernon elementary or high school any time between 1914 and 1972, you are encouraged to attend the reunion. You do not have to be a graduate. Each year some people travel great distances to get reacquainted with old friends and classmates. They would love to see you there.

If you are not on the mailing list, please contact Brenda Hayes (606-256-0982) e-mail: bahayes@windstream.net or Berniece McHargue (606-256-5740) e-mail: bmchargue@hughes.net or Bennie Chaney (859-224-4248) email: b.chaney08@insightbb.com to be added and to make your reservations.

Registration is at 4:30 and dinner is at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$15 for pre-registration or \$20 at the door. Look for us on Facebook @ Mt. Vernon High School Reunion.

Our invitations are not being received in a timely manner, so please send the name of each person attending with your check for \$15.00 per person to: MVHS Association, P.O. Box 396, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456. The class of 1963 is the 50 year class.



Superintendents, school board members, state and elected officials joined Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers and his wife, Cynthia, to cut the ribbon for Operation UNITE's new "On The Move" mobile education classroom on Friday, August 16, in Manchester. Standing next to Mrs. Rogers is Eastern Kentucky University President Dr. Michael Benson. UNITE President Dan Smoot is second from left and John Hale, of Mt. Vernon, is shown at left.

Battling for Richmond again this weekend

By David Owens

The annual Battle of Richmond Civil War Re-enactment will take place August 24-25, 2013. The original battle of August 29-30, 1862 was the second largest Civil War Battle in Kentucky. It was also the most decisive and complete Confederate victory of the entire campaign.

The brave boys in blue and gray will clash at Battlefield Park near Richmond, this weekend. See Infantry soldiers standing side by side in formation lift their rifled muskets to their shoulders. A Rebel Commander yells "Fire!" Puffs of smoke drift up from their musket barrels. Across the pasture at Pleasant View Farm, scores of blue clad soldiers fall to the ground, while their fellow soldiers return fire. Along the flanks of the infantry formations, cavalry troopers ride back and forth, probing for weaknesses in the enemy formations. Meanwhile at the rear, cannons belch fire. The echoes can be heard for miles.

This is a fun event for the whole family that is very educational and only cost \$5.00 for parking. BORA (Battle of Richmond Association) invites you to come

Lunch n' Learn event scheduled for August 29th in Brodhead

Rockcastle Regional Hospital & Respiratory Care Center will sponsor a Lunch and Learn Thursday, August 29 at Brodhead Baptist Church with Brittany Perkins-Saylor, MPAS, PA-C.

The event starts at 12 noon and the topic of discussion is "What is Celiac Disease?" Brittany will explain a gluten-free diet and other digestive diseases.

A healthy lunch will be provided for those who sign up. This event will be similar to "Dinner with a Doctor" events hosted by Rockcastle Regional Hospital previously.

Please register by August 26. For more information, contact Arielle Estes at a.estes@rhrcc.org or 256-7880.

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share the fun and fellowship at the Battle of Richmond Reenactment. The event will feature living history exhibits, period music, and sutlers (merchants) as well as the re-created battle event. More information is available by calling 859.248.1974 or 859-62-0013.

The Battle of Richmond re-enactment has established a strong tradition as one of the best Living History Events in Kentucky in recent years as evident from the numbers of re-enactors and spectators that attend the event.

Directions: Take 1-75 Exit 83, Turn east on Duncannon Lane, Go 3.6 miles to stop light, turn right. Battle of Richmond Visitors Center is on the left in the 421-U.S. 25 split. Battlefield Park at Pleasant View is about 2 miles South on Hwy 421 (1546 Battlefield Memorial Hwy).

Battle of Richmond 2013

Schedule of Events

- On Saturday and Sunday the camp opens at 10 a.m. with battles at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

- Cavalry event at 10:15 each day.

- Ladies' Sanitary Fair open from 10-4, Sat and Sun.; Ladies' Social at 11 Sat.

- Ladies should be in period attire.

- Artists, craftsmen, sutlers and food vendors open from 10-4. Sat. and Sun.

- Saturday evening meal for re-enactors and sutlers at 5:30.

- Band presentation and dance at 6 p.m. Saturday.

- Night firing of cannon at approximately 9 p.m. Sat.

- Confederate and Union camps are open after 10:30 each day until noon and from 3-4 p.m. Saturday.

- Battle of Richmond Mercantile open in main house from 10-4 Sat. and Sun.

Brief Battle Description:

In Maj. Gen. Kirby Smith's 1862 Confederate offensive into Kentucky, Brig. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne led the advance with Col. John S. Scott's cavalry out in front. The Rebel cavalry, while moving north from Big Hill on the road to Richmond, Kentucky, on August 29, encountered Union troopers and began skirmishing. After noon, Union artillery and infantry joined the fray, forcing the Confederate cavalry to retreat to Big Hill. At that time, Brig. Gen. Mahlon D. Manson, who commanded Union forces in the area, ordered a brigade to march to Rogersville, toward the Rebels. Fighting for the day stopped after pursuing Union forces briefly skirmished with Cleburne's men in late afternoon. That night, Manson informed his superior, Maj. Gen. William Nelson, of his situation, and he ordered another brigade to be ready to march in support, when required. Kirby

Smith ordered Cleburne to attack in the morning and promised to hurry reinforcements (Churchill's division). Cleburne started early, marching north, passed through Kinston, dispersed Union skirmishers, and approached Manson's battle line near Zion Church. As the day progressed, additional troops joined both sides. Following an artillery duel, the battle began, and after a concerted Rebel attack on the Union right, the Yankees gave way. Retreating into Rogersville, the Yankees made another futile stand at their old bivouac. By now, Smith and Nelson had arrived and taken command of their respective armies. Nelson rallied some troops in the cemetery outside Richmond, but they were routed. Nelson and some men escaped but the Rebels captured approximately 4,000 Yankees. The way north was open.

Result(s): Confederate victory

Livingston School Reunion scheduled for October 12th

The Livingston School Reunion will return to Livingston this year on October 12th.

Although the Preston Parrett Gym is closed portions of the main school building are open and will be used for some of the activities.

The welcome reception and registration will open at 2 PM in the Trail Town Visitor Center at the entrance to the school. There will not be a sit down dinner, instead at 4 PM the Livingston Fire Department will be serving food and beverages for purchase at the new Fire Department building. At 6 PM the formal evening program will begin with the induction of the 2013 Livingston School Hall of Fame hon-

oree, recognition of the graduates of 1953, 1963, and the Junior class of 1972 who became the first class to graduate from the RCHS in 1973. The evening activities will conclude with an open mike entertainment, Livingston School's Got Talent, featuring former Livingston students.

All former students at the grade or high school, teachers, staff and friends are encouraged to attend. Pre-registration will be open until October 1, 2013. Reunion Planning Committee members are Aletha Bryant, Rose Brown, Barbara Castleberry, Barbara Fain, Larry Hammond, Patsy McFalls, Gary Mink, Hazel Parker, Teresa Parrett, and Doris Thompson.

