

Mount Vernon Signal

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Brindle Ridge Volunteer Fire Department and Mt. Vernon Fire and Rescue responded to a trailer fire Tuesday morning on Crown Vetch Lane in Conway. Authorities say the home belonged to Jenny Vickers. The home was a total loss but no one was injured, including a pet hamster that firefighters were able to save.

Rainbow Ridge residents meet with fiscal court

20-25 residents of Rainbow Ridge Subdivision, near Mt. Vernon, met with the Rockcastle Fiscal Court Tuesday to ask for help with fixing their streets that are “almost impassable,” according to PVA Administrator Margaret Offutt, spokeswoman for the group.

Ms. Offutt noted that the county currently maintains a portion of the main road into the subdivision and this is the road that the residents were asking the county to extend maintenance of. Danny Offutt, also a resident of the subdivision, told the court that he had gotten an estimate for paving the 208 feet long, 18 feet wide section, of \$5,108. Ms. Offutt said this would help the residents since it was becoming almost “impossible for ambulances to get in and out.”

County Judge Executive

Buzz Carloftius told the residents “I truly understand” their plight but state and county laws come into play.

County Attorney Billy Reynolds, who had only a short time to research the question, said that, according to a county ordinance for accepting roads into the county road system, there must be 50% occupancy of the platted lots, the road(s) must be up to standards and then must be deeded to the county. A public hearing must also be held and 50% of the property owners must agree in writing to accept maintenance.

Reynolds also noted that, according to the ordinance, the subdivision’s developer, the late Clarence Carter, should have posted a \$20,000 bond to ensure that

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School Board discusses ways to help students become more college ready

By: Doug Ponder

Many items were discussed during the monthly school board meeting Tuesday night that dealt with how the Rockcastle County

Board of Education can help students become more college ready.

Superintendent David Pensol said they are creating a Rockcastle County

College Center in January to help Rockcastle County people who are looking to go to college or who are currently in college.

“We want a center that helps Rockcastle County people with ACT issues, college enrollment, financial aid issues, registration, etc.” Pensol said. “We want to make sure all Rockcastle County people have all the help they need while they are looking to go to college and while they are in college.”

Pensol said he has met with several other school district officials about establishing a college center and he said everything is still in the early planning stages. He said plans are to located the center in three vacant rooms at the Rockcastle Adult Education Center near the middle school. He said equipment already in those rooms will be utilized but additional equipment might have to be purchased after the center is established.

Pensol also told the board that Program Assistant Mary Ann Childress will be the college center’s coordinator and there won’t be an increase in her salary with her additional role. He said they are planning on having the college center open two days a week after school hours but he said they will be flexible to try and meet the parents’ and students’ time frames.

“Childress is excited about it. She has already hit

the ground running and contacted several different colleges nearby about coming to the center,” Pensol said. “We would eventually like for colleges to send their representatives over to more thoroughly explain the application process, financial aid process, how to transfer credits, etc.”

Pensol went on to say that he has also been working with high school officials about the possibility of offering more dual credit classes and regular college classes in the future to students while they are still in high school.

“We want to make all options we can available for every student who wants to earn college credit while still in high school. We are hoping to accomplish this at the college center in the future,” Pensol said. “We also want to do everything we can to make sure the students who feel overwhelmed about the application process, or their first semester, has all the help and encouragement they need available to them.”

Board member Angie Stallsworth said she already thought the high school guidance counselors helped students with ACT registration, application questions, etc. High School Principal Jennifer Mattingly said that the guidance counselors will still help students as well.

“The college center will

(Cont. to A9)

GRW presents water rate study to Brodhead City Council

By: Doug Ponder

Representatives from GRW Engineering firm in Lexington presented their water utility rate study to the Brodhead Council during their monthly meeting Monday night.

The City of Brodhead received the grant in 2012 for the purpose of evaluating current and projected water utility financial conditions, as well as the sufficiency of existing rates and charges. The firm also made recommendations for rate adjustments as well.

GRW employee Laura Gilkerson presented the rate study to the council. Gilkerson said the city currently has 538 water customers and three master meters that supply an average of 8,000,000 gallons per year to Western Rockcastle Water Association. She also noted that the City of Brodhead had annual water purchases from the City of Mt. Vernon for the past three

years of 64,424,500 gallons in 2010, 60,281,200 in 2011 and 59,433,500 in 2012.

Gilkerson said that the anticipated revenues and expenses between 2011 through 2016 will cause the city to no longer have a positive operating balance unless they increase their rates.

Gilkerson went on to say if the city keeps the current rates, they will have an estimated net revenue of -\$21,426 in 2012, -\$14,914 in 2013, -\$14,014 in 2014, -\$17,184 in 2015, -\$20,150 in 2016 and -\$23,206 in 2017. She said these figures also includes projected operation and maintenance expenses of 3 percent each year and it also includes the 36% increase implemented by Mt. Vernon Waterworks in September 2012. She also said that a loan from Rural Development to construct a new storage tank in 2009

(Cont. to A9)

Healthy Joe Expo is next Thursday

The fifth annual Healthy Joe Expo men’s health fair will be held next Thursday at Rockcastle Regional Hospital at 5p.m. in the Wellness Center on the third floor.

The event will be Duck Dynasty-themed with Duck Commander duck calls as door prizes, plus the chance at extra door prizes for those who come wearing camouflage.

Event organizers say people might not know it’s health-related at first glance. They say it might look more like a hunting camp if attendees get into the spirit of the evening.

“This is an important event from the standpoint of health and awareness, but there’s no reason we can’t make it fun as well,” said organizer Dwain Harris.

Important health screenings such as blood pressure checks will be available and vouchers will be handed out for free cholesterol and blood sugar checks as well as PSA tests.

The PSA test measures

the blood level of PSA, a protein that is produced by the prostate gland. The higher a man’s PSA level, the more likely it is that he has prostate cancer. However, there are additional reasons for having an elevated PSA level, and some men who have prostate cancer do not have elevated PSA.

The evening will also feature a free meal and two short presentations, one by Dr. David Bullock and another by the Rockcastle Regional Hospital physical therapy department.

This year, though participants are of course free to come alone. However, organizers are encouraging everyone to bring a friend or family member.

“We’re understanding more and more that health decisions aren’t made in isolation,” Harris said. “Family or social networks have a big influence on our health and lifestyle decisions.”

(Cont. to A9)



Rockcastle County road and maintenance crews have begun construction on the widening of Flat Gap Road in northern Rockcastle. County Judge Executive Buzz Carloftis said they are widening the road two feet on both sides of the road where it is most needed. Carloftis said the project should be completely finished by the summer of 2014.

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