

Mount Vernon Signal

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Santa Claus (Shawn Pollock) and Mrs. Claus (Helen Polluck) made an appearance last Saturday during the annual Christmas parade in Livingston. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus met with children at the Livingston Fire Department where they gave them their Christmas wish lists. A large crowd also came to the Christmas Tree Lighting at Memorial Park. The City of Mt. Vernon will hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony this Friday at 6 p.m. and the parade is Saturday at 2 p.m. with line-up beginning at 1 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School. The City of Brodhead's Christmas parade is this Saturday at 6 p.m. with line-up starting at 5:30 p.m. at Brodhead Elementary School. See more photos from Livingston Christmas Parade in our Christmas issue, December 19th.



Local organization spreads joy with Christmas story and gifts

By: Doug Ponder
A local organization is showing their holiday spirit by reading the Christmas story at community events and giving Christmas gifts to children in the county.

Members of the Rockcastle Association of Kentucky Baptists Community Mission Team read the Christmas Story of the birth of Jesus Christ to children during the Livingston

Christmas festivities last weekend. After reading the Christmas story, community mission team members gave shoeboxes to the children that included toys, school supplies, hygiene items and various other gifts.

The shoebox gifts were a part of Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child which is a program that has been providing shoebox gifts to needy children in the world since 1990.

RAKB Community

Allen will not seek re-election

Incumbent 5th District Ralph Allen has announced that he will not seek re-election for a fourth term.

Allen, a resident of Burr, told the *Signal* Monday that, "Since my district was extended, I don't feel I have the time to adequately represent all my new constituents. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve the people of the 5th District and will assist whoever is elected to fill the position."

Allen won re-election in 2010 over challengers Michael McGuire and Tommy Miller. McGuire has already filed as a candidate for the seat in next year's election.

Mission Team Leader Katheryn Pope said she came up with the idea to participate in Operation Christmas Child in the winter of 2011 while she was talking with a Mt. Vernon business owner.

"Two years ago I was talking to Mary Mathis and we were discussing Samaritan's Purse and their Operation Christmas Child program," Pope said. "We both said that we should do something like that here in our county. I had already felt the prodding in my heart to start one so a bunch of us got together and decided to do it."

Pope said Mathis made the first monetary donation to their "Love in a Box" program and in the following weeks they received several more donations.

"After getting all the donations from people, churches and organizations across the country, we went shopping and filled over 300 shoeboxes for children during the 2011 Christmas season," Pope said. "The program has continued to grow since then. Love in a Box is a reflection of the perfect gift of love which is Jesus Christ and that is why we always present the Christmas story of Christ's birth to the children before we give away the shoe boxes."

(Cont. to A8)

Craig resigns RCIDA seat; SourceHOV needs more workers

At Monday's regular meeting of the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority, the resignation of member Gatliff Craig was tendered.

Mr. Craig, who is battling some health issues, noted in his letter of resignation to County Judge/Executive Buzz Carloftis and Robert Lawson, chairman of the board, "I have served nearly 28 years and have enjoyed our association and the accomplishments that we have realized. Thank you for leading and helping us to reach out and bring to reality those things that for so long seemed impossible."

Board member Corey Craig noted that Mr. Craig had spent his life trying to "give back" and to "improve the community, not only locally but regionally."

Executive Director Holly Hopkins told the board that SourceHOV needed at least an additional 250 employees to bring them to the 480 needed to fulfill their contract with the Veterans Administration. Hopkins said present employees have been working overtime for

"months on end." The jobs pay from \$12.50 to \$14.50 per hour and, if interested, you must apply online at www.sourcehov.net.

Hopkins also told the board that the state had disallowed all but \$65,000 of the reimbursement submitted for the DOT grant for Industrial Park South. Hopkins said they allowed the excavation of dirt purchased from the White House Clinic site to dress the roadway. An extension of the remaining approximately \$140,000 has been applied for, Hopkins said.

Plans for The Food Hub in Brodhead are progressing, the executive director reported, with the opening date still scheduled for the Spring of 2014.

Hopkins also reported that construction of the White House Clinic is on schedule but a firm opening date has not been set.

The board also discussed the planned sign for the original Rockcastle County Industrial Park. Hopkins said that estimates and designs had been obtained but that bids would have to be let for construction of the sign since the cost will exceed \$20,000.

More Christmas festivities planned for this weekend

Mt. Vernon, Brodhead and the Quail community have big plans to celebrate the holiday season this weekend with Christmas parades, tree lightings and Christmas meals.

In Mt. Vernon: The annual tree lighting ceremony in Triangle Park is this Friday at 6 p.m. The ceremony is sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Kiwanis Club. There will also be free coffee and hot chocolate at the event.

Due to expected inclement weather, the city changed the parade from Friday night to this Saturday at 2 p.m. with line-up starting at 1 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School. This year's parade theme is "Winter Wonderland" and awards will be presented to

the first, second and third place floats.

Following the parade, children will be able to visit Santa Claus at the former Tea Cup Café on Main Street.

In Brodhead: The Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department will be having their annual Christmas breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. at the BVFD firehouse. The cost is \$7 a plate and includes country ham, sausage or bacon, eggs, biscuits and gravy, fried potatoes, fried apples and a drink.

The "Dreams of Christmas" themed parade is this Saturday at 6 p.m. with line-up starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Brodhead El-

(Cont. to A8)

Suits filed over 2011 delinquent taxes

34 suits were filed last week in Rockcastle District Court, seeking to collect past due 2011 property taxes.

The suits were filed by County Attorney Billy Reynolds on behalf of the state finance and administration cabinet.

The number of suits filed is less than half of the 72 suits that were filed in 2011 to collect the 2010 delinquent property taxes. The tax bills are what remains of the 2011 bills that were due beginning November 1, 2012. Many unpaid tax bills were purchased by companies who can collect them, after adding on costly fees and interest, under a law enacted several years ago by the state legislature.

The total amount of taxes due in the suits is \$4,752.665 and the bills range from \$26.61 to \$532.41.

According to the county attorney's office, the procedure now is that property owners will have 20 days to file an answer (refuting the claim of taxes due). If an answer is not filed, then a default judgement will be sought and suit could be filed in circuit court, asking that the property be sold to satisfy the lien.

Several suits have been filed in circuit court, by the companies who purchased unpaid tax bills over the years, to sell the properties, on which taxes have not been paid, at a Commissioner's Sale.

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