

## “Mask”

(Continued from front)  
indoors in all classrooms,” Ballinger said

However, this public health recommendation has met with great disagreement among many parents and students alike. Some officials agree there is also some evidence that masks may cause some health risks to younger students both physically and mentally.

So, Ballinger, and the board, have agreed to a compromise. “In following this guidance, Rockcastle County Schools highly recommends that all students and staff wear a mask indoors,” said Ballinger. **“However, parents and/or guardians of students and staff members have the choice of deciding whether to mask or not mask while in schools buildings and on school grounds.** This choice is available regardless of vaccination status.”

However, the CDC and other health entities do not give the school board the ability to allow such a choice on public transportation. **Masks are required on all school buses at all times for anyone two and older,** according to CDC requirements.

The district will observe COVID-19 safeguards throughout the district. This year, however, there will only be a three-foot distance requirement instead of the six that was required last year.

There are also some instances where the distancing requirement may be waived, depending on the size of a classroom or circumstances involved in each situation, according to Ballinger.

The district will continue contact tracing but those who are vaccinated will not be required to quarantine unless symptoms appear, Ballinger said.

The local district is currently installing a new bipolar ionization system which is expected to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and improve overall air quality, the superintendent added.

According to the return to school plan, visitors will be limited this year and officials say buildings will only be open to essential personnel and to direct access providers/vendors.

However, in order to provide the mask choice to parents and guardians, the district asks for help that is essential to keeping COVID at a minimum. “Parents are requested to screen students before allowing them to leave for school and/or get on the bus,” said Ballinger. “It is essential that parents understand the necessity of screening students for COVID symptoms before allowing them to attend school.”

The first day of school for students will be Wednesday, August 25 and students will attend all day.

There are some other changes to the local district calendar, causing many parents to express agreement.

NTI Non Traditional Instruction (NTI) days are now apparently allowed to be used for missed days due to inclement weather. In the past, missed snow days were added to the end of the school calendar. However, students may now use their Chromebooks for their lessons to make up for days missed from bad weather.

Also, there are two full weeks of vacation on the next calendar which also

hasn’t been done in several years. According to the 2021-22 calendar, the fall break will be from October 4 through 8. A professional development day for teachers teachers will be Friday, October 1, giving students ten consecutive days out of class.

Also, the Spring Break is scheduled for April 4 through 8, 2022.

Ballinger and board members say they are pleased with the new calendar and will continue to place student safety and learning as their top priority.

“Rockcastle County Schools is focused on ensuring the health and well being of our students while ensuring that there is an intentional emphasis on the education of the whole child,” said Ballinger.

(Editor’s note: Officials wish to remind readers that the CDC or KED could change requirements at any time forcing the district to change its policy. Any mask-related policy change will be reported here.)

## “Arrest”

(Continued from front)

he was outside talking to Chasteen. Newland was apparently forced into a car and driven to the home of Donna Hellard.

The warrant says the victim was assaulted several times by James Hellard and that Donna and James both demanded Newland’s wallet and his PIN numbers or “they would kill him.”

After an investigation, police arrested James and Donna Hellard and Chasteen. All three have been charged with kidnapping with serious physical injury, assault in the first degree, robbery in the first degree and engaging in organized crime.

All three are being held on a \$50,000 cash bond said.

## “Night”

(Continued from front)

Market, included artists young and old who displayed their wares along Main Street and in The Arts Place. Local talent showed countless forms of artwork and craftsmanship to the huge crowd that turned out on the hot evening.

The streets were also lined with vendors of all kinds and local residents gathered in the hundreds to enjoy the food, artwork, local shops, the farmers market, crafts and fellowship, according to Bray.

A much bigger crowd than expected lined Main Street, some from as far away as California, as Rockcastle County residents put their talent on display for all to see. And what talent it is. “It is hard to imagine that there is this much artistic talent right here in Rockcastle County,” said Holbrook. “But clearly we are blessed to have some amazing talent and they create such brilliant pieces of art. One more reason to be proud of Rockcastle County became evident Tuesday night.”

And to top off the night of savoring artwork, residents then visited the Farmers Market which was also set up at the event.

The new Farmers Market Building on Richmond Street is already under roof and officials hope it will be open for business before the March deadline.

Many expected the event to be a success, but few thought such large

crowds of guests and artists would take part. But, the event sparked tremendous interest and plans are already underway for the next possible event.

“The Arts Association outdoes themselves on a regular basis,” said Bray. “I can’t wait to see what they have going on at the next Midsummer Night Market.”

## “RCIDA”

(Continued from front)

“It is my understanding that some of the design is complete but that nothing is happening,” said Craig. “What can we as a community do to help move this project along,” he asked.

Holbrook and VanHook explained that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has postponed the project several times. “It just keeps getting kicked down the road,” said Holbrook. “We meet with the department regularly but nothing seems to move this project up on their priority list.”

Craig said the project is crucial to Rockcastle County. “It is vital that this project move up on the priority list,” Craig said. “There are a lot of major projects and plans for growth and development that really can’t move ahead until that project is at least on the radar.”

Craig said the development of the area below Wendy’s and to Renfro Valley is basically on hold until the 461 widening project moves ahead. “No business has trouble building a structure or how to make it look nice,” he said. “What they worry about is can customers get in here and can we get them out.”

VanHook said the Kentucky legislature will have to move the project higher on their priority list before more can be done.

Griffith had a useful suggestion. “Set up a meeting with those who make that decision and hold that meeting at the high school at 5 p.m. on a Friday afternoon,” said Griffith. “I bet it would become more important to them after they try to get there.”

Craig asked all present to “keep your ear to the ground on this subject. Encourage, promote, suggest and keep this project on the tip of our tongues when we are talking with anyone who could help move this project along.”

In other action, the board voted to defer their authority to VanHook to approve minor construction that has been requested at the Source HOV Building, after engineering has been done on the requested construction.

The board then entered closed session to discuss contract negotiations.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

## “River”

(Continued from front)

that Saturday morning and be ready to get wet and muddy.

Those willing to help are invited to meet at the Rockcastle River where one can ford the river over to Wildcat Mountain.

Also, volunteering will receive a free t-shirt, while supplies last, as well as a lunch after the clean up. Anyone interested in participating or needing more information may call the Rockcastle County Solid Waste office at 606-256-1902.

MARVIN OWENS, CORONER	2,536.00
MCKINNEYS TIRE & SERVICE	330.00
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,100.00
OSBURN ASSOCIATES, INC	2,255.27
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY PAYROLL FUND	120,299.18
PIZZA HUT	35.49
PLEASANT RUN BAPTIST CHURCH	600.00
QUILL	103.96
RACHEL'S KWIK MART, INC	1,810.07
RCHS DUG-OUT CLUB	1,140.00
MOUNT VERNON SIGNAL	1,630.00
SINGLETON INSURANCE	101.80
SMS TIRE PROCESSING	2,376.00
SOLID WASTE COORDINATORS OF KY	75.00
TOWN & COUNTRY CHEVRON	560.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	469.90
VFW	410.00
WHITESTAR	372.12
WINDSTREAM	1,238.59
WRVK 1460	2,240.00
<b>Local Government Economic Assistance Fund</b>	<b>268,855.21</b>
<b>Forestry Fund</b>	
KENTUCKY STATE TREASURER	2,555.00
<b>Forestry Fund</b>	<b>2,555.00</b>
<b>Fairgrounds</b>	
ACE HARDWARE	41.68
ATLANTIC COASTAL SUPPLY INC	438.87

<b>Fairgrounds</b>	
BRODHEAD WATER	52.08
CARQUEST	33.30
EQUIPMENT SALES & RENTAL	1,559.26
BRODHEAD FARM MART	217.35
KU	5,144.74
SCHWARTZ QUALITY CONSTRUCTION	16,150.00
SILENT GUARD SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	662.70
<b>Fairgrounds</b>	<b>24,299.98</b>
<b>911 Fund</b>	
AK ASSOCIATES	3,315.49
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY AMBULANCE	10,591.86
APPLIED DIGITAL SOLUTIONS	4,534.80
BRIANNA MINK	39.50
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INST.	2,000.00
FIRST BANKCARD	195.55
COLOSSUS INC, DBA INTERACT PUBLIC SAFETY SYSTEMS	8,966.21
KACO WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND	2,331.00
KENTUCKY STATE TREASURER	105.00
KIM RENNER	22.24
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOV	11,860.00
LINGO	653.98
MARK DOOLEY	30.60
NAMIN HELTON	39.50
OFFICE DEPOT	113.36
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY PAYROLL FUND	347,608.70
PRECISION PRODUCTS LLC	1,339.50
QUILL	1,042.61
MOUNT VERNON SIGNAL	19.40
SOUTH CENTRAL JANITORIAL	64.55
WINDSTREAM	26,986.02
<b>911 Fund</b>	<b>421,859.87</b>
<b>CSEPP Fund</b>	
ALLIED COMMUNICATIONS LLC	710.00
APRIL CAMERON	4,800.00
BATES SECURITY LLC	6,622.00
BEE GARBAGE TRANSFER SYSTEM, INC.	474.00
BRANDON REYNOLDS	195.00
CLAY INGELS COMPANY, LLC	11,108.92
DANVILLE OFFICE EQUIPMENT	2,495.97
DELL MARKETING LP	25,904.83
DISH	1,478.64
FIRST BANKCARD	1,400.43
FRANK LAURENCE	49.95

<b>CSEPP Fund</b>	
HALO	2,186.55
HYPER-REACH	4,950.00
MT. VERNON IGA	78.55
JACKSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE	14,145.05
KACO ALL LINES FUND	15,301.00
KACO WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND	2,097.00
KU	1,780.61
LAKEVIEW ELECTRIC	1,052.50
LONDON RADIO SERVICE, INC	16,946.81
MADISON TERMITE & PEST CONTROL CO.	950.00
MASTER ELECTRICAL SERVICES INC	2,376.00
MT VERNON WATER WORKS	541.72
NEWLAND CONSTRUCTION CO., INC	2,700.00
NOEL MASONRY	29,100.00
OHD, LLLP	860.00
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY PAYROLL FUND	65,406.91
QUILL	335.44
RIO GRANDE - LEXINGTON	831.25
SOUTH CENTRAL JANITORIAL	112.00
STRYKER SALES CORPORATION	21,845.00
TIME WARNER CABLE	2,219.40
TOWN & COUNTRY CHEVRON	2,012.38
BOYD COMPANY	1,846.61
WINDSTREAM COMM	569.66
WINDSTREAM	13,509.14
<b>CSEPP Fund</b>	<b>258,993.32</b>
<b>Grand Total All Fund</b>	<b>7,818,316.04</b>

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JOSEPH CLONTZ, COUNTY TREASURER

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations in the County are hereby notified that a copy of the County's FY End Statements in full are available for public inspection at the office of the County Treasurer during normal business hours.