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The Newport Plain Talk

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COCKE COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1900

73rd Annual Cocke County A&I Fair returns July 20

COCKE COUNTY—The Cocke County Fair Association is happy to announce the return of the 73rd annual A&I Fair.

The group is excited for all the new entertainment that will be a part of the 2021 year.

A new carnival company will be joining the midway this year's fair. Fox Creek Amusements from Kentucky will bring in all the rides that locals love.

The J BAR K Professional Rodeo Company will be joining the fair this year for a two night Rodeo with 8 different events included each night from roping, to saddle bronc riding, and barrel racing, just to name a few, and of course

who can forget the bull riding.

This year the association is happy to invite RWA Revolutionary Wrestling Alliance, to the fair for a two night "Battle at the Fairgrounds" with former WWE/WCW/ECW & current IMPACT Wrestling Star "The Swingman" Johnny Swinger. Catch him and all the stars of RWA.

The Demolition Derby is sure to be a slamming show, and of course the fair will also have all the amazing livestock shows and entertainment, making this the best fair the association has ever had.



The 73rd Annual Cocke County A&I Fair will kick off July 20 with was is promised to be a Jam Packed event filled with fun for the whole family. A new carnival company with provide some of the same rides that fairgoers love.

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Operation Quarantine leads to multiple arrests

COCKE COUNTY—In the last Cocke County Grand Jury, thirty-two people were indicted for the Sale and Delivery of Schedule II (methamphetamine and/or heroin). On Friday, June 25, the Cocke County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) conducted "Operation Quarantine" where CCSO Narcotics Division officers arrested eighteen individuals following their investigations.

During the arrest operation, CCSO received assistance from the Newport Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, White Pine Police Department, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement

SEE ARRESTS, PAGE 4A

No new COVID cases reported in last week

STAFF REPORTS

COCKE COUNTY—No new COVID-19 cases have been reported in the county over the last seven days. The county's case total remains at 4,545.

According to the state health department, there are still two active COVID cases in the county.

No new fatalities or hospitalizations have been reported in the county.

Only 265 new vaccinations have been reported in the past week, bringing the total to 26,928 doses administered.

Just less than 40% of the county has received at least one dose, and about 36.5% are fully vaccinated.

The following is a list of surrounding counties showing their total COVID-19 count compared to active cases, as well as their population percentage that has received at least one dose versus percent fully vaccinated:

Sevier: 13,597/41 (38.22%/34.27%)
Hamblen: 8,684/16 (32.12%/29.42%)
Greene: 8,045/15 (36.80%/33.05%)
Jefferson: 6,333/12 (40.79%/37.19%)

The CDC reported 250 new cases as of July 4 for the state of Tennessee, which brings the total to 867,407 cases in the state. A total of 800 new cases have been reported in the last seven days.

Only three new fatalities were reported across the state, which brings the total to 12,571 lives lost in

SEE COVID-19, PAGE 4A

Parrottsville holds biggest July 4th Celebration to date



The Town of Parrottsville held its annual July 4th Fireworks Showcase over the weekend, and hundreds attended the event to celebrate Independence Day and a return to normalcy. Mayor Dewayne Daniel secured thousands in donations from community members and businesses to make the event possible. Daniel, center, stands with a few of the many fireworks that lit up the night sky. With him is Parrottsville residents Jacob and Caleb Henry. See more photos on page 10A.

Newport's Mason Lodge awarded original charter number

NEWPORT—Newport's Mason Lodge #4 was originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina as Newport Lodge #50 on December 6, 1806. The Newport lodge worked under that charter until the formation of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee on December 27, 1813.

It was one of the 9 founding lodges of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. At that time it was given the charter number of 4. Sometime around 1836 Newport Lodge lost its charter during the anti-masonic movement that was sweeping the nation. On October 3, 1854 Newport lodge was issued another charter of #234 and resumed work in Cocke County.

The lodge remained under that charter for the past 167 years constantly working in the community and helping children. On March 24, 2021

at the annual Grand Lodge convention the members and Grand Lodge staff decided to award Newport Lodge with its original charter number of #4 to accurately reflect its heritage and service to the community. The lodge building that sits on Mims Avenue has been there since it was built in 1866 and still operates to this day.

The original lodge building was burned during the Civil War. Newport Lodge served as the first formal school house for Newport before Newport Grammar School was built. The lodge still retains quite a bit of its originality including the brick that was made on the site of the building in 1866 and is one of the oldest buildings in Newport.

Newport Lodge #4 meets on the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. and has served the community for the past 215 years.



The Newport Mason Lodge was awarded its original charter number by the Grand Lodge staff at a recent convention. The #4 lodge designation accurately reflects the heritage and service of the lodge to the community. In the front row from left are Robert Reed, Jr., Robert Reed, Sr., Dean Williams, Jimmy Clark, Tyler Grail, Matthew Strange, Dr. Richard LeBeau and Frank Johnson. In the rear are John White, Paul Shaver and Roger Stokely.

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