



Boys Beat Jackson - A-3

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 13 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50¢ a copy - Thursday, January 13, 2000



A Livingston man was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident on Hwy. 490 near Livingston, Tuesday morning. Bobby Lee McClure, 53, was treated at the Rockcastle Hospital for head and internal injuries and flown by helicopter to the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington. Above, McClure was aided at the scene by Livingston firefighter John Kuhn, EMT's Harry Harmon and Roy Lucas and Mt. Vernon firefighter Steve Griffin. According to police, McClure apparently lost control of his motorcycle in a curve and struck a tree in the 11 a.m. accident.

Larkey speaks to school board concerning summer football camp

By: Richard Anderkin
Rockcastle County High School athletic director and head football coach, Tom Larkey took center stage at the Rockcastle County Board of Education meeting Tuesday night to discuss athletics at RCHS.

Much of the discussion concerned football camp and whether or not

players were properly supervised during the four day camp at Jabez in Wayne County.

Larkey was asked to speak to the board after Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond received a letter from a parent, which made serious allegations concerning the football camp.

The letter from the parent of a former freshman player apparently accused older football players of hazing and "initiating" freshmen players during the annual summer camp.

According to Hammond the letter also questioned the supervision of players during camp.

Larkey presented a daily sched-

ule which players follow at camp to the board and reassured them that players were well supervised by the eight coaches that attend camp.

Board member Martin Vanzant asked Larkey why coaches did not sleep in the same cabin as players at

Cont. to A-12

Gates building retreat for blind, disabled

By: Richard Anderkin
Although Mike Gates is blind, he certainly has a clear vision of what he wants to do on his 800 acres located at Pine Hill on the Toddy Payne Road.

Mike, and his wife Lori, head Christ Outreach Inc., an organization for the blind and physically disabled.

They are currently in the process of cleaning up and fencing their property, which actually lies between Pine Hill and Maple Grove.

The Gates plan to build a retreat, the main function of which will be to help the blind and disabled get on with their lives.

"We want people to know that life is worth living, that there are thousands of options available to them after they are injured and they shouldn't just give up," Gates said.

On their property the Gates plan to build an 8,000 square foot building that will have ten bedrooms with two beds each, a community room, bathrooms and a commercial kitchen. That

Gambling machines confiscated at S & M

Last Thursday afternoon, Kentucky State Police Detective Tommy Ritter executed a search warrant involving illegal gambling at the S&M Grocery/Deli, 17 miles north of Somerset on KY 39 in Pulaski County.

Confiscated in the search were 7 gambling machines, along with the coins inside. No arrest was made at the scene, but the owners of the grocery, James Michael Brown, 42, and Sue Anna Brown, 43 of Crab Orchard, were both cited to appear in Pulaski District Court in Somerset on charges of Promoting Gambling 2nd, according to a State Police news release.

Detective Ritter of the London State Police Post is continuing and conducting the investigation. He was assisted by members of the Somerset Police Department and the Lake Cumberland Area Regional Task Force, according to the release.

will be just part of their complex that will also have other buildings including one for a spa and weight room.

Gates has already excavated the site and he plans to start construction this Spring.

Besides the complex, he plans to build six lakes and an outdoor swimming pool.

One of those lakes has already been built, and as of this week, had about two feet of water in it.

Those attending the Christ Outreach Retreat will be taught horseback riding, hunting, fishing, swimming, hiking and mountain climbing.

"Our goal is to help people, ages eight to eighty, learn that they can live productive, active lives," Gates said.

Gates, who was blinded eleven years ago in a hunting accident when his best friend's 12 gauge accidentally discharged, said that after his accident he thought his life was over. "At first I really thought that because I was blind, I couldn't do anything," he said.

"But it wasn't long until I realized that I could do whatever I wanted and now I am so busy doing the things that I can, that I never think about the things that I can't do," Gates said.

The entire project is slated to cost \$3.2 million. Of that, he plans to spend nearly \$400,000 on fencing alone.

Gates said his retreat will eventually have 20 full-time employees with an annual operating budget of \$600,000.

Gates also said that he has raised

Senters not guilty

It took a Rockcastle County Circuit Court jury less than one hour Tuesday to acquit a local man of second degree assault.

Larry Senters, 44, of Livingston was indicted last year, after he allegedly hit Billina Mason with a metal flashlight causing physical injury.

The trial lasted two days before the not guilty verdict was reached.

approximately \$200,000 in private donations thus far and he has spent a lot of his own money on the project.

"We will try our best to hold the line on cost for our retreat to about \$35 per week per visitor," Gates said.

"We will also have a buddy system in place for those physically handicapped people that need a lot of

help," he said.

Gates said that he chose Rockcastle County for his project because of price. "The land was simply more affordable here than other places," he said.

But Gates has already run into

Cont. to A-12



Billy Wynn, left and Mike Gates stand on the covered bridge they built over a dam on one of the six small lakes Gates intends to build on his property at Pine Hill.

Court discusses monument for Commandments

By: Richard Anderkin

The Ten Commandments issue was brought back before the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court on Tuesday during their regular monthly meeting.

Local citizens involved with Family U.S.A. Inc., told the court they would like to erect a monument on the courthouse lawn displaying the commandments.

Linda Neal, Regional Coordinator for Family U.S.A. and Larry Burdette, owner of WRVK radio station simply asked the court for their blessing on the project and told them they would not even have to vote on it so as to not be libel if any type of legal problem arose.

Neal and Burdette told the court they had a petition with 1,500 names on it, for such a monument and that the vast majority of the 81 churches in the county had responded positively.

Burdette said that Family U.S.A. would construct the monument themselves on the courthouse lawn.

County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlolitis told Burdette that he thought the majority of the people working in

the courthouse would be in favor of such a project and that he himself had the Ten Commandments posted in his office as did other office holders in the county.

After more discussion on the matter, Carlolitis appointed a committee of Larry Burdette and magistrates Bill McKinney and John Holbrook to research the project.

Carlolitis said the three would look into what other counties have done and see what some of the legal ramifications would be if the monument was built.

A representative of the Kentucky Association of Counties was also in attendance at the meeting and reiterated KACO's position that they would not pay for any legal defense if the county was sued over the Ten Commandments.

Suit has been brought against McCrory and Pulaski counties by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The representative said that KACO had no position on what a county should or shouldn't do, but that they simply would not pay out any

Cont. to A-12

Council delays action on tax

By: Richard Anderkin

The Mt. Vernon City Council is still without a payroll and net profits tax.

The council delayed a first reading of an ordinance Monday night after councilman Clark Mullins requested more information.

A committee, which was formed by Mayor Karen King, had recommended that the council pass a one percent tax, instead of the one and half percent tax they had originally sought last November.

But, after a lengthy discussion between council members and concerned citizens, the first reading was put off until next Monday night, January 17.

When Mayor King read the ordinance Monday night, there was at least one blank space, which she said would be filled in later and the ordinance stated that the tax would be retroactive to January 1, 2000.

That was because she had intended to have the tax in place at that time, according to the Mayor.

Mt. Vernon City Attorney John Clontz said Wednesday that the council could not pass a tax with a retroactive date and that ordinances usually are completed before the first reading.

During Monday night's discussion, the Mayor said did not present a solid plan for what the council is going to do with the extra money.

The Mayor referred to the city's

debt and the fact that the city owed \$370,000 on the city park. In addition they owe their own water and sewer department \$250,000 and the Kentucky County Music Hall at Renfro \$24,000.

According to the ordinance read on Monday night, retirement bonds, investments and social security will not be taxed.

Also the first \$2,000 of other income for those 65 and older will not be taxed.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette, who attended the meeting in the capacity of a private citizen, asked about confidentiality concerning the tax.

Burdette said that he thought it was important that measures be in place to protect the privacy of the people of Mt. Vernon who were paying the tax to the city.

Mayor King said there was a clause in the ordinance that addressed that and that everyone's information would certainly be confidential.

When councilman Mullins requested the delay so more information could be gathered, he said that the one percent may not be high enough.

If the council does pass the first reading of a payroll and net profits tax on Monday night, they must then publish it in the Signal seven days prior to a second and final reading and vote.

Solid Waste Program cleaning up the county

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle County's Solid Waste program is apparently making great strides in cleaning up the county.

Solid Waste Coordinator Scott Berryman told the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court on Tuesday that since November 29, 699 bags of garbage had been picked up along the county's roadways, and eleven illegal dump sites had been cleaned up, which generated 25 dump truck loads of garbage.

Berryman also told the court that 32 notices of violation have been sent to residents whose names were found in the dumps and along the roadways.

Berryman said that even if one piece of paper, such as a check stub was found along the roadway, a violation notice will be sent.

Of the 32 violation notices sent, eleven people have responded.

"They simply have to tell us how their garbage is disposed of and that is, as long as it is in a legal way," County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlolitis said.

"We have had some people pretty upset and we have had some that

were very understanding and appreciated our efforts" the Judge said.

If those who have been sent notices do not respond to the Solid Waste office, they could eventually end up in district court where they will be prosecuted for littering by the county.

Berryman said that some people may even be required to clean up a dump site, if it can be proved that enough of their garbage was illegally dumped there.

The county is also going to place two surveillance cameras randomly at dump sites throughout the county in order to catch those dumping illegally.

Much of the work on the dump sites and the pick up along the roadways have been done by prisoners from the Rockcastle County Jail, who work on a work release program.

Currently 22 are in the program and work on a daily basis with the county and the state.

Berryman told the court that he was also in process of identifying every illegal dump in the county for clean-up.

Cont. to A-12