

Girls beat Whitley and OBI
See Page A-10

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 16 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, January 20, 2000

With 3-2 vote

Mt. Vernon passes half percent wage, profits tax

By: Richard Anderkin
By a 3-2 vote Monday night, the Mt. Vernon City Council passed the first reading of a payroll and profit tax, its ordinance that will levy a half percent tax on all wage earners and businesses in Mt. Vernon.

The vote came after a lengthy

discussion between the council, Mayor and concerned citizens.

Last November, Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King proposed a one and half percent tax and the council passed the first reading.

After local wage earners and busi-

ness people rallied against the tax and presented numerous petitions to the council, the council rescinded the first reading and went back to the drawing board.

A committee, appointed by the Mayor to study the tax, how much

money it would generate and what the city would do with the money, proposed that the council pass a one percent tax.

On Monday night the Mayor presented the council with an estimate from the state showing that a one

percent tax would generate \$600,000 annually for the city just from the wages of those working in the city. That \$600,000 did not include any money from the profits tax, which the Mayor said she thought would be about the same.

Council member Clark Mullins made the motion to pass the tax at a half percent. Council members Wayne Bullock and Lou Vanhoose voted for it. Council members Clarice Kirby and Jackie Renner voted no.

Council member Kirby said she was voting against the tax, because she still was not satisfied with the information that had been supplied about what the city owes and what the council will do with the extra revenue.

The Mayor reiterated that the city owes \$370,000 on the city park, they are \$92,000 short in operating revenue in this year's budget and they owe their water and sewer department \$247,000. The Mayor also said that she would like to see a city pool and in the past, has said she would like to see a new building for the fire department.

She also has told the council on repeated occasions that unless a tax is passed she will not be able to give city employees much deserved raises. There were also suggestions as to amendments to the ordinance, such as exempting all income of those 65 and older by Mt. Vernon librarian Sharon Lovell. Mrs. Kirby also said that she thought the council should enforce the section of the ordinance that requires the hiring of a person to administer the program and collect the tax money for the city, although Mayor has said she hoped the work could be done with the current staff and one of them being appointed administrator.

Mrs. Lovell and Jeff Smith with the Rockcastle Hospital also presented the council with more petition

against the tax. Mt. Vernon resident David Woodall also asked the council, mainly the Mayor, what they city planned to do with all of the money. He also asked the Mayor if she had received any petitions in favor of the tax. The Mayor said that she had received a call from one person, a bus driver, who told her that he supported her and appreciated what she was trying to do for the city.

Woodall also told the council that many people live week to week and any tax, even a half percent, would be a burden. Woodall said that he thought people should be able to do things like save for their children's education, instead of paying a tax that would possibly be used for something such as a pool.

Lisa Smithern also suggested to the council that they pass a quarter percent tax, and only tax the wages

on one job, of a person working two jobs.

Johnny Tyler also asked the council if the money he derived from working in other cities, although he lives and operates his business out of Mt. Vernon would be taxed.

Mayor King told Tyler that she was very positive about how that would work, but that she would certainly check into it before the final reading. Mayor King said after the meeting that there would likely be some amendments to the ordinance before its final passage.

Others in attendance to protest the tax were: Terri Woodall, Beulah "Bootsie" Shepherd, Sylvia Mason, Sherry Hansel and Steve Putman.

Mayor King also said that anyone wanting a copy of the ordinance could request it from city hall, but that the city had adopted an open records policy that gives the city three days to comply when information such as this ordinance is requested.

Local man injured at B&H Tool

A Mt. Vernon man is still in the Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset after he was involved in a Saturday accident.

Tony Mahaffey, 33, was pinned against the outside wall at B & H Tool, after an automatic ignition starter on his four-wheel drive truck malfunctioned.

Family members said Mahaffey had walked outside of B & H Tool to start his vehicle and let it warm up before leaving. Mahaffey was standing in front of the truck when it started and pinned him against the building.

His brother Jessie said that the truck was not supposed to start if it was in gear, but it did anyway.

Mahaffey received a broken pelvis and broken ribs in the accident.

Man runs after wreck with bus

Police are looking for a man, who ran off from the scene of an accident involving a Rockcastle County school bus on Friday afternoon.

According to police, the accident occurred around 4 p.m. on Hwy. 1505 near Conway, after the driver of a blue Escort G.T. crossed the center line and struck the bus. Police said the man was traveling at a high rate of speed when it hit the bus.

Bus driver Clyde Burdette, who was finished with his evening route, was not injured in the accident and no students were on the bus.

After the Escort hit the bus it left the roadway and overturned.

Smith resigns from council

Mt. Vernon City Council member Daryl "Moody" Smith has resigned from the council.

Mayor Karen King said Smith submitted a letter of resignation after he moved outside the city limits and became ineligible to serve.

King said she must wait until the next council meeting on February 7 to accept Smith's resignation and then the council and Mayor have 30 days to appoint a replacement.

Smith had already resigned before Monday's meeting and therefore did not vote on the city's controversial tax.

Debra Lambert files for Judgeship

Judge Debra Lambert has announced her candidacy for Family Court Judge for Lincoln, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties. She has served a Family Court Judge since September 1, 1999, after having been appointed by Governor Paul E. Patton.

Family Courts hear divorce cases, domestic violence cases, child abuse and neglect cases, paternity and child support, adoptions and juvenile status cases, including truancy and beyond control.

Judge Lambert, a Rockcastle County resident, who practiced law there after her graduation from the University of Kentucky Law School in 1989, also has a degree in child development and a minor in Special Education from Eastern Kentucky University. Her law practice included many family law matters. In addition to her family law practice, Judge Lambert has been an assistant Commonwealth's Attorney and at the time of her appointment was the Mt. Vernon City Attorney.

Some Beavers have been very busy this winter in the Renfro Creek. Gary Reppert of Mt. Vernon noticed their efforts a few weeks as he drove toward Hummel. Reppert said that he has never seen any of them during the day, but their efforts are always obvious from day to day. Besides cutting down the above Ash tree, which fell across the creek, the Beavers have also constructed a dam in the creek.

Grand Jury indicts 12

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury indicted twelve people Friday for alleged crimes, ranging from armed robbery to stalking.

Mark E. Baker, 34, of Orlando, was indicted on five counts of first degree wanton endangerment.

Baker is accused of shooting into the Orlando Post Office on October 9, while five people were inside the building, which also houses Philbeck's Grocery Store.

Because of the shooting, the United States Postal Service closed

the post office, and in the notices they sent to residents, they said they were closing it because of security reasons.

"The only reason they closed the post office was because he shot into the building. There were no security problems at the post office," said Eustil Philbeck.

Frankie Lynn Powell, 49, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on two counts of robbery in connection with robberies at Mt. Vernon Dairy Mart in Mt. Vernon in December.

One of the charges against Powell is for armed robbery on December 28.

Judy Bowlin, 42, Terry Monjoy, 25, Virginia Monjoy, 25, and Howard Cameron, Jr., 26, all of Mt. Vernon were indicted on two counts, in connection with a break-in on December 14 at the home of Frankie and Vanessa Meadows at Burr.

Randall James Miner, 28, of Lexington was indicted on one count of escape, after he walked away from a work release detail, while serving time at the Rockcastle Detention Center. He has been recaptured.

Hugh Michael Helton, 42, of Renfro Valley was indicted on one count of first degree stalking. He is accused of threatening to kill his wife, Sharon Helton on December 16.

Scottie R. Harrison, and his brother, James Brandon Harrison of Azbill Road, McKee were indicted on one count of first degree assault. They are accused of hitting Scotty Allen Vap Winkle in the face and

Danny Ford running for re-election to house

State Representative Danny Ford, of Mt. Vernon, announced today that he is seeking re-election to the 80th District House seat which includes Lincoln, Rockcastle and precincts in Northern Pulaski County.

Ford, who has served as Leader of the House Republican Caucus since 1995, cited several issues he plans to focus on in the coming legislative session.

"First, and foremost, we need to resolve the health care problems that have plagued us since enactment of the so called health care reforms in 1995," Ford stated. Ford indicated that he is working closely with the Commissioner of Insurance on several proposals, including the establishment of a high risk pool in order to get health insurers back in Kentucky. Ford went on to say that tax reform, deciding how to spend the national tobacco settlement funds, and workers' compensation insurance will be among the controversial issues in 1999. Ford stated that one piece of legislation he is particularly interested in is the bill to allow the posting of The Ten Commandments in schools and other public buildings.

"I plan to work very hard to see that the Ten Commandments bill, which I believe is constitutional, will be enacted - giving the people the right to decide if this important document should be posted in public facilities."

In his announcement, Ford cited a number of projects that he is proud to have worked for on behalf of the people of his district. In Lincoln County, Ford has worked to secure

funding for the Fort Logan project, Cedar Creek Lake, the senior citizen facility in Stanford, the new edition to the Lincoln County Court House, and the reconstruction of Highway 150.

In Rockcastle County, Ford pointed to funding for the Kentucky State Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley as one of his major legislative accomplishments.

Ford has also been very active in securing funding for water line projects and volunteer fire departments throughout his district.

Ford concluded his announcement by stating that he is looking forward to continuing to serve the people of the 80th District and would be happy to answer any questions concerning his record in legislature and his campaign for re-election.



State Rep. Danny Ford

Child support collection up

According to a January 7, 2000 report of the division of child support office in Frankfort, Rockcastle County Child Support Collections have increased nearly 25% in the last quarter. As a result, County Attorney Jeff Burdette's office was given 98 percent of a possible 100 by the Cabinet for Families and Children based on performance, which again places the county in the upper level of performing counties.

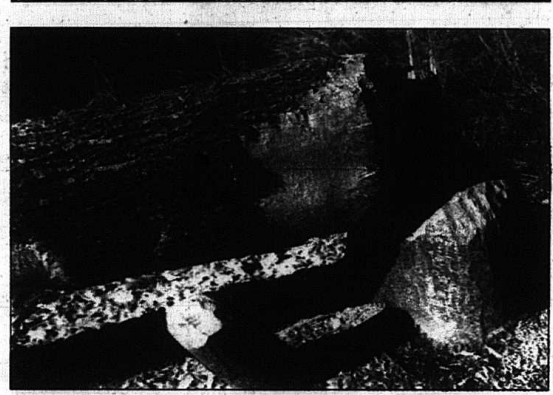
"We place extreme importance on this area, and my child support staff works diligently to see these monies are paid to support children," Bur-

dette said. "This is not about awards, because too many are doing without and so much work is left to do," he added.

Last year, Rockcastle ranked near the top in performance related to child support enforcement and goals set for 2000 promises continuing increases in collections.

Burdette emphasized that most people pay their support and his office works with those who sometimes have trouble in paying. The main focus, however, is the children.

"The new family court and initia-



Some Beavers have been very busy this winter in the Renfro Creek. Gary Reppert of Mt. Vernon noticed their efforts a few weeks as he drove toward Hummel. Reppert said that he has never seen any of them during the day, but their efforts are always obvious from day to day. Besides cutting down the above Ash tree, which fell across the creek, the Beavers have also constructed a dam in the creek.

Grand Jury indicts 12

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury indicted twelve people Friday for alleged crimes, ranging from armed robbery to stalking.

Mark E. Baker, 34, of Orlando, was indicted on five counts of first degree wanton endangerment.

Baker is accused of shooting into the Orlando Post Office on October 9, while five people were inside the building, which also houses Philbeck's Grocery Store.

Because of the shooting, the United States Postal Service closed

the post office, and in the notices they sent to residents, they said they were closing it because of security reasons.

"The only reason they closed the post office was because he shot into the building. There were no security problems at the post office," said Eustil Philbeck.

Frankie Lynn Powell, 49, of Mt. Vernon was indicted on two counts of robbery in connection with robberies at Mt. Vernon Dairy Mart in Mt. Vernon in December.

One of the charges against Powell is for armed robbery on December 28.

Judy Bowlin, 42, Terry Monjoy, 25, Virginia Monjoy, 25, and Howard Cameron, Jr., 26, all of Mt. Vernon were indicted on two counts, in connection with a break-in on December 14 at the home of Frankie and Vanessa Meadows at Burr.

Randall James Miner, 28, of Lexington was indicted on one count of escape, after he walked away from a work release detail, while serving time at the Rockcastle Detention Center. He has been recaptured.

Hugh Michael Helton, 42, of Renfro Valley was indicted on one count of first degree stalking. He is accused of threatening to kill his wife, Sharon Helton on December 16.

Scottie R. Harrison, and his brother, James Brandon Harrison of Azbill Road, McKee were indicted on one count of first degree assault. They are accused of hitting Scotty Allen Vap Winkle in the face and

about my new role in helping families. I have been blessed with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm and am dedicated to leading a successful Family Court. Family Court, with its 'One Judge, One Family' concept which means to keep all the family's legal issues before one Judge, will result in better, more consistent decisions. I have always tried to be a peacemaker in my private practice and feel strongly that seeking peaceful solutions are the role of a Judge, as well. Judges need to be active participants in a problem-solving process. I am enjoying that role immensely," Lambert said.

Lambert has met with each County's Cabinet for Families and Children to listen to their needs and concerns. Training programs are being planned to improve the service to families in the area of child abuse and neglect cases. Additionally, she has met with school truancy officials in all three counties. Judge Lambert is implementing a new truancy program. "Truancy signals that the family unit is in trouble. I see it as an opportunity to get the parents focused on the child's agenda. I order the parents to contact their child's

school and find out what programs or services the schools can offer their child. I also involve the school officials and have them report to the Court on the students needs. I am enjoying cheering on the kids when they get to work on good attendance. They also know I am prepared to be tough should they continue to have poor attendance. Perhaps I have been most personally surprised at how much I enjoy working with these

Cont. to A-11



Circuit Judge Debra Lambert

Cont. to A-11