

A good job of listening; court should way benefits



I have always been a firm believer in giving credit where credit is due and although many people will still think it is too much, at least the Mt. Vernon City Council listened to the concerns of residents and lowered their proposed payroll tax rate.

On Monday night the council voted the narrowest of margins, 3-2, to impose the tax at a rate of a half percent or a half cent of every dollar earned in the city limits.

That rate is a far better one than the 1.5 percent proposed by the Mayor and some members of the council last November and it still should be enough money to take care of the city's financial woes.

There were some other suggestions made by residents that the city should also consider.

Resident Sharon Lovell suggested that the wages of those 65 and over be totally exempt instead of just the first \$2,000 of the ordinance calls for.

I'm not sure of the exact wording, but the ordinance also calls for an occupational tax officer to handle the huge massive amounts of paper work that will be involved in collecting the tax.

Mayor King has said that she intends for the current staff at city hall to handle the paperwork initially, but in order to make things run smoothly from the start and not have a lot of confusion, she and the council should create the position and hire someone to be in charge of this very important part of the city's operation.

Monday night the Mayor presented figures from the state that showed a one percent tax generating about \$600,000 annually. She said the state had also said that the one percent net profits tax would also generate about the same amount, which would total to \$1.2 million annually.

So, we all know that at a half percent the tax will generate approximately \$600,000 a year for the city, so money to pay someone will not be a problem.

Again the council should be commended for listening to the enormous outpouring from those opposed to the higher tax, but many citizens still would like to see a solid plan of

action and they would also like to be presented with some solid information about what the city plans to do with the money.

The second and final reading of the ordinance is scheduled for the next regular council meeting on February 7, at 7:00 p.m. The tax will begin being collected on April 1.

There has been some recent discussion concerning the Toddy Payne Road and the possibility of the fiscal court closing it.

That is because of a multi-million dollar project that is underway in the southern part of the county.

A project that once completed, would be of a great benefit to the county as a whole.

Last month the council voted not to close the road although it is impossible to cross the road in a car. The absolutely only way a person can cross the road is in a four wheel drive truck, which would be quite an adventure or on an ATV.

Mike and Lori Gates had Christ Church for the Blind and have bought eight hundred acres along the road. They have spent thousands and thousands of dollars cleaning up the property and working on the road so they will have access to their eventual home.

Several people have been to the fiscal court asking that the road not be closed, but sometimes the court must decide what is best for the entire county as a whole and not just a few people.

No one lives along the section of the road that Gates wants closed, and everyone that lives on either end has access.

The county has not maintained the road in years to the extent that small trees have grown up in it.

Mike Gates said that he doesn't want to cause any problems, but a retreat for the blind must be safe and in a secure area. As long as the road is open that will not happen.

Some of the people that use the road now for ATV riding, which is against the law on a county road, don't stay on the road, they trespass on their vehicles and others use the sides of the road as a garbage dump.

Gates said that some people are even using the area to grow marijuana.

The court should take a good hard look at the road and the benefit of closing the road compared to the benefit of having a retreat that would help blind and disabled people and provide 20 good paying jobs.

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Happy Birthday, Mom!

She was born the oldest of four children on January 29, 1920 in Cool Springs, Georgia. Cool Springs was a sandy crossroads in southern Georgia that consisted of two stores, a school and the Free Will Baptist Church. Over the next eighteen years she was joined by a sister and two brothers. Her parents were hardworking farmers who raised cotton, tobacco, and hogs. They were strict and required their children to work hard. Life was not easy and luxuries were few and far between.

Everyone has a story to tell. This is the story of my mother, Mary Agnes Brann Whitehead, who will celebrate her 80th birthday in a few days.

The stories that she tells from her grade school days are of school plays and basketball. She then attended high school in Moultrie, Georgia, and played on the girls' basketball team. Young ladies who believe they are breaking new ground today as female athletes do not realize that this ground was broken long ago by people like my mother.

Religion was an important part of her life as a child and remains so to this day. Her mother taught Sunday School at the Free Will Baptist Church and insisted that her children be there every Sunday. Throughout her life my mother has continued to be a dedicated churchwoman, holding positions of leadership in her local church and in district missionary associations. At this time she is still an active member and Sunday School teacher at the Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg.

After high school she moved to Albany, Georgia to enroll in business college. Going off to school by herself was quite an undertaking for a young woman in south Georgia in the 1930s. It was in Albany that she met this handsome Kentucky boy who had moved south to work on air-

planes and eventually join the Army. She and Roy Whitehead were married on July 16, 1942 and lived together until his death in 1989.

When the war was over, Roy took his bride back to his home in western Kentucky. As Agnes traveled through the rolling hills of Muhlenberg and Ohio counties, she thought that she had never seen such narrow, curvy roads in the flat land of her home, but she settled in to make a life for herself and her husband in this new land. Welcomed by my father's family, she soon became a respected member of the church and the community.

Two children, my sister and I, came along in a few years, and while my dad worked long hours for Peabody Coal Company, Mom raised the kids. She and dad sacrificed a lot to give us the opportunities they never had. He had been one of eleven children and had never had the opportunity to go to college. Both wanted their children to have more. Together they provided the opportunity for my sister and I to attend college and experience the world in ways they never had. Without their sacrifices, I would not be where I am today.

No talk of my mother would be complete without a mention of her cooking skills. There is nothing like Southern cooking. It just does not get any better than a meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, lima beans, corn, fresh tomatoes and homemade rolls. Those rolls were and continue to be some of the best things you ever put in your mouth. But all in all, my favorite has to be the chocolate pie. I have eaten a lot of chocolate pie in my years, and I can tell you that none one makes a chocolate pie as good as my mother's. No one.

Mom, I appreciate the sacrifices that you have made for me. I just hope I have passed on a little of your wisdom and strength to my children.

Fairview News

By Mrs. Hubert Chasteen

Hello to all!

I haven't been able to write much lately, but I will try to write a little bit, with God's help. I do feel much better and thank God for the improvement.

So many people are sick, the flu is raging at this time. I feel so sorry for those who are ill, or have lost loved ones recently.

Rev. David Aker is still serving as our supply pastor and we thank God for him.

The attendance was very good over the weekend and 138 were present for Sunday School. We are blessed to have so many young people in our church.

Well, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays are past and gone. Hope each of you enjoyed all of them. If we are well and happy we should be so thankful to be alive.

Dorothy Lambert and Mary Lou Reynolds of Augusta, Georgia, are visiting Dorothy's relatives at the present time.

Several folks from the Fairview vicinity enjoyed the delicious fish supper sponsored by the Brindle Ridge Fire Department on Saturday night, January 8th.

Mrs. Hallie Alexander and Mrs. Mayne Gregory visited at the home of Mr. Marshall Whittemore of Conway last Wednesday.

Mrs. Jean Hayes of Winchester is visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary Cope. Mrs. Hallie Alexander, visited Mrs. Dealie Barnett Sunday.

Let's all try to be more loving, nicer and kinder in this year of 2000. We will be happier that way. God bless you.

Mt. Vernon Personals

By Marie McKinney

Last weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. C.S. McKinney were their son, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McKinney of Reading, Ohio; their daughter, Mrs. Sharon Lovins; grandsons, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lovins of Berea, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lovins and granddaughters, Samarah Jaclyn of Livingston; also Oma Vaughn of Woodstock; Virgie Vaughn of Somerset and Mr. Bud Parker of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgie Kirby and Mrs. Billy French of Indiana spent last Saturday night with Mrs. Bessie Kirby.

Mr. and Mrs. C.S. McKinney visited Mr. and Mrs. Ebb Brown a while Monday.

Our sympathy goes out to all who have lost loved ones recently. Mrs. Peggie Murphy visited her mother, Mrs. Pansy Nicely on Saturday.

C.S. and Marie McKinney visited Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Barnett last Sunday.

Sunday visitors to Mr. and Mrs. Ebb Brown were their daughter, Mrs. Brenda McFerron and grandsons, Terry and Jerry.

"Letters"

(Cont. from A2)

Of course I finished reading the ordinance when I was home later Monday night after the meeting, not before the vote was taken.

Why? person that a council member would be so trusting is beyond me to vote yes without knowing what the ordinance really said or maybe he was caring.

I for one do care about the job I'm trying to be fair and legal. As pointed out the council last night's meeting, we are the ones who are responsible for what happens with every vote that we cast not the Mayor so much as us.

I still need the people to keep on showing that they will keep tabs on what's going on at City Hall and hopefully this ordinance can still get some changes before its second and final reading.

Thank you Editor and thank you concerned citizens.

Clarice K. Kirby
Mt. Vernon City Council Member

Dear Editor:

It is the early morning hours, two days before Christmas, as I begin this letter. Although this is a joyous season, it brings an occasional tear to the eyes of my wife and I.

There is a vacancy at our home. Our son will not be here to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth with us. Instead, we made a trip to his burial site and placed a Christmas wreath on his grave.

Stephen J. Poole's death on Mother's Day, May 14, 1989 turned our world upside down. His sister suffered an emotional breakdown and all three of our lives has a void forever.

An oncoming driver making a left turn drove into our son's lane of traffic, hitting his car at the tip of the driver's side front fender and was in the driver's seat when he got through.

In a short time, death occurred. The driver said, and the accident report states, "I didn't see the car." Indeed, this driver couldn't see to properly move a lawn, much less operate a motor vehicle. However, he had a valid driver's license.

This took place one year to the day after Larry Mahoney, a drunk driver, caused the death of 27 people in a church bus. If you or your son were facing death in an auto accident and the cause was to be a drunk driver or a driver that couldn't see, which would you choose? A crazy question not worthy of thought or an answer?

Your actions as a Kentucky Legislator are going to speak for you on this question in this legislative session. The legislature has made drunk driving a crime, however, driving without eyesight that meets the standard required of a newly licensed driver in reality is encouraged. Most drivers never again have to pass an eye sight test after securing their license. Therefore Kentucky's high-ways have many drivers with sub-standard eye sight.

I beg you to use your influence to enact legislation requiring that drivers nearing license renewal or first issue be required to pass an eyesight test. If you do so, you will have said again to that crazy question I asked earlier, and kept tear drops from the eyes of many people during future Christmas seasons. I will be willing to furnish more information or assist in any way.

Sincerely,
Stephen W. Poole
Benton, KY

"What Saith The Scriptures"

In the book of Acts we read, "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." Acts 18:24-26. There could be many lessons mentioned about Apollos that we could talk about, but we want to emphasize one lesson in particular: Apollos was teachable! Though he was religious, sincere, fervent in spirit, eloquent in speech, and mighty in the scriptures, he needed to learn some things. Aquila and Priscilla took the time and effort to help him and Apollos was receptive to their help. Jesus prayed, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matt. 11:25. We have far too many in the sectarian, denominational world, who are in error, that cannot be taught. Why? Because they do not have this teachable spirit. I would to God we had more people in the world like Apollos, teachable! Would you be receptive to understanding the way of God more perfectly, or would you get mad? Think on these things.

Providence church Christ

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