



Boys, Girls Win - A-10

Mount Vernon Signal

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Basketball homecoming will be held this Friday night during the Rockets and Whitley Co. Colonels game at RCHS. Candidates for queen are pictured above, front row from left: Lindsey Hall, Joann Lake, Tara Burton, Tammy Peyton, Kailesh Robinson, and Tara Thompson. Second row from left: Tammy Dees and Lindsey Bell. Back row from left: Elizabeth Matekovich, Amanda Parker, Brandy Reynolds, and Jessica Carpenter.

Patton's proposed gas tax may help pave county roads

\$1.5 million included in state budget for Hall of Fame

Governor Paul Patton's Action Agenda for the 21st Century in Kentucky includes a new program to pave rural roads in the Commonwealth. Rockcastle County will be a beneficiary of this new program. Governor Patton's Roads for the 21st Century initiative will divide one-cent of the gas tax between 76 rural counties that have more than 20% of their county roads unpaved.

Based on current data, Rockcastle County should get \$376,880 for unpaved roadways from this program and will receive a similar amount each year until all of Rockcastle County's 222 miles of county roads are paved.

Rockcastle County currently has 122 miles of unpaved roads. It is expected that about 7.6 miles of road could be paved each year with funds from the Roads for the 21st Century program. At that rate, all of Rockcastle County's roads could be paved in about 20 years.

The state's regular road construction program already includes \$11,000,000 for Rockcastle County for state and federal road improvements as well as \$621,829 of rural road money and \$518,204 for county roads.

"In the 21st Century, living on an unpaved road is living in the past,"

Governor Patton said. Rockcastle County Judge Executive Buzz Carlfortis, who met other County Judges and the Governor in Frankfort on Tuesday, said that of course he would be in favor of paving the county roads, but not if it means more tax money.

He also said that the Governor will probably propose an eight-cent a gallon tax. "And the counties get back only one cent of that, doesn't quite seem fair," he said.

The Roads for the 21st Century Fund is a part of Governor Patton's proposed \$7 billion biennial budget

he'll present Tuesday night to the General Assembly. The program and initiatives in my budget proposal (Cont. to A11)

Local woman arrested for promoting contraband

A Mt. Vernon woman was arrested last week after she was apparently caught trying to pass a controlled substance to an inmate at the Rockcastle Detention Center. Carol Renner, 40, was charged with promoting contraband, first degree, after Rockcastle County Jailor James Miller sought a warrant for her.

According to the arrest warrant, Renner brought cigarettes to the Detention Center for inmate Jeff Renner and when a deputy jailer searched the

(Cont. to A11)

Little interest shown in election

When Tuesday's filing deadline had come and gone, there were few surprises in local politics. On May 23, local voters won't have much to vote for because most candidates are either running unopposed or do not have to run until November.

The only contested races on the ballot for Democrats will be for President and U.S. Congressman in the 5th district.

Jimmy "Gabe" Turner, of Drift, Sydney Jane Bailey, of Langley, and Michael Vacca, Jr., of She Biana will run to see who will face Republican incumbent Harold Rogers of Somerset.

The Republicans will have a com-

monwealth attorney's race, which will pit former prosecutor David Tapp and current acting Commonwealth Attorney Eddy F. Montgomery against each other for the six year term as well as the President's race.

No Democrats filed for Commonwealth Attorney.

Running unopposed on the Republican side are State Rep. Danny Ford, State Senator Albert Robinson and Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk Teresa Vanzant.

Vanzant, who was appointed to fill her father's unexpired term in August of 1998, and Ford, will not be opposed in November.

(Cont. to A11)



Teresa Vanzant

Duncan files for Circuit Judge

Assistant Pulaski County Attorney Michael Louis Duncan, has filed a nomination petition seeking to be elected to the Office of Circuit Judge. This judgeship is for the new Division III of the 28th Judicial Circuit which comprises, Rockcastle, Lincoln and Pulaski counties. Rockcastle County cases make up 15% of the new Division's workload.

When asked what this campaign meant to Rockcastle Countians, Duncan responded, "I know the people of Rockcastle County are fair minded, hard working, honest people. I believe they are tired of the same old politics and are willing to support a young man with a new name who is from a working class background. I started at Community College and worked my way through Law School. I then worked eight years paying off my student loans. I've never expected anybody to give me anything. I'll work hard to repay every Rockcastle Countian who votes for me."

Duncan, 43, is the son of Max Duncan, retired from Southern Belle Dairy, and Thelma Duncan, a home-

maker. His sister is Martha Chenualt Duncan, a Berea College graduate. He is married to Beth Larkin Duncan, who has taught at Burnside Elementary School for the last twenty-two years.

Duncan is a 1975 graduate of Somerset High School and has received degrees from Somerset Community College and the University of Kentucky. He was a Dean's List stu-

dent at the University of Louisville School of Law where he received his Doctorate of Law.

Duncan has served in two terms as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney. As a prosecutor, Duncan has obtained felony convictions by jury trial in all three counties of the 28th Judicial Circuit. He has been recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers as an outstanding prosecutor.

Duncan has been a practicing attorney for 17 years. His office is located at 107 N. Main Street, Somerset. In 1995 Duncan won a class action lawsuit against the Government resulting in refunds to taxes to Pulaski residents of \$175,000.00. He has litigated hundreds of cases in all areas of the law and has participated in over two hundred jury trials.

He is a founding member and has served as Chairman of the Pulaski County Bar Association Charitable Trust Foundation which over the last ten years has funded twenty college scholarships for area high school (Cont. to A11)



Mike Duncan

Payroll, net profits tax may become law Monday

By: Richard Anderkin
On Monday night the Mt. Vernon City Council will attempt to pass a payroll and net profits tax ordinance. The only thing standing in the way of the ordinance becoming law is a majority vote of the council.

Monday night's action will be the second reading of an ordinance that will take a half percent of the pay check of each person working inside the city limits. It will also take a half percent of the net profits of each business owner and or corporation.

Notice of the second reading appears in this week's Signal.

If the council does vote to pass the ordinance it will become law after it is published in the Signal.

The new tax will become law on April 1, and the half percent tax will be due the city each three months thereafter.

When Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King first proposed the payroll law ordinance to the council, she suggested a one and half percent tax, but after some very strong objections from those working in the city the council voted two weeks ago the lower rate to a half percent.

According to figures from the Department of Local Government in Frankfort, the half percent tax will raise about \$600,000 annually for the city's general fund.

That will amount to almost half of what the city's budget is each year. The last completed audit for 1996-97 showed the city with about \$1.3 million in revenue, which means the new tax would generate almost half as much in one year as the entire budget.

During several meetings with the council, concerned citizens have asked why so much money is needed by the city. They have repeatedly asked for some type of plan of action and they have requested financial records that actually show the general public and members of the council the city's true financial situation.

To date, no such financial information has been provided to those citizens or the council.

The Mayor has said repeatedly that the money is needed because of the city's poor financial situation and because of the enormous amount of financial obligations the city has.

The Mayor has told the council

that she would like to give all city employees a raise, but that without the money generated by the tax that isn't possible.

The Mayor has also said that the city owes its own water and sewer department \$250,000, which has been used in the general fund to make ends meet.

And according to Mayor King, the city owes \$370,000 on the new city park on Williams Street and \$24,000 to the Kentucky County Music Hall of Fame project at Renfro Valley.

Other projects the Mayor has said she would like to see funded with the extra money are a new building for the fire department and rescue squad and possibly a city park.

Besides all those things, City Clerk Kaye Rader has said that the city's budget for this fiscal year is \$92,000 short of the needed revenue to operate.

However, local CPA Joe Clontz, who audits the city's books, said that because the last audit completed was for the 1996-97 fiscal year, there is virtually no way to tell where the city really stands on its budget.

Clontz said that he could not start the audit for 97-98 until he received all of the information from the city, which would include the adjusted amounts from his 96-97 audit. And, if the city had their financial information in order, the 98-99 audit would be completed soon. But that of course cannot happen until the 97-98 audit is completed.

Because the city hasn't completed their audits they have lost out on Municipal Road Aid from the state.

Each year cities are required to file a Uniform Financial Information Report, but that report cannot be filed until audits are completed.

Clontz said he thought the road aid money amounted to about \$10,000 a year and he was in the process of completing the form for 96-97 so the city could get that money.

At Broadhead, where their audits are up to date, they receive \$1,000 per month.

Another note of interest: The Rockcastle County Board of Education's audit for 98-99 was completed on October 31, of 1999. At Broadhead, City Clerk Becky Bussell

(Cont. to A11)



Last weekend's weather provided the snowfall needed to build this seven foot snowman at the home of Richard and Connie Graham of Mt. Vernon. Since last Tuesday over 5.5 inches of snow has been recorded in the county. The recorded low this year was six on Tuesday morning and the recorded high was 71 on January 4th. Precipitation has been recorded 12 out of 20 days at the Cox Funeral Home weather station. Students have missed a total of five days. In the above photo from left are Connie Graham, Lauren Graham, Ronny Lee McClure and Ryan Graham.