

Mount Vernon Signal

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The Rockcastle County Rockets won their first game of the 2013 season by defeating the Whitley County Colonels 28-9 last Friday night in Williamsburg. Junior fullback Chance Ansardi (#45) is shown above dragging Whitley County defenders toward the goal line for one of his two rushing touchdowns. Ansardi led the Rockets in rushing with 64 yards on 13 carries for two touchdowns. The Rockets will play the Pulaski County Maroons at home this Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Vernon Council approves 2013 tax rate

At Monday night's regular meeting of the Mt. Vernon City Council, the tax rate for 2013 was set at 16.6 cents per hundred dollar assessment of real estate and personal property.

The council chose to take the compensating rate of 16.2c plus 3%. Mayor Mike Bryant told the council that this rate gives city taxpayers a small break from last year's rate of 16.7c and still garners about \$3,700 in additional tax revenue for the city. The 16.6c rate will bring in an estimated \$122,497.74 in real estate tax revenue, as compared to \$118,775.31 in 2012 and \$13,613.89 in personal property revenue. The 16.7c tax rate on motor vehicles is unchanged from last year's rate.

In other business, Bryant told council members that the only bid received for blacktopping city streets

was from Greer Bros. for \$78.50 per ton. The mayor said this was an increase of about \$10 over last year's bid but attributed it to fewer roads in the city needing resurfacing this year. "This is the high end of the bid the more blacktop used, the price will go down," Bryant told the council. He said only a couple of streets needed resurfacing before winter and most of the work will be done in the spring.

Bryant also brought the council up-to-date on the beauty pageant which will be a part of this year's Bittersweet Festival. The pageant itself will be held on Tuesday, October 1st at the high school auditorium and all participants will be introduced as part of the festival events on Saturday, October 4th. The mayor told the council that the pageant will involve a "broader spectrum. It will not just be a

beauty contest."

The city's newest police officer was introduced to the Council. Shay Helton, 25, was introduced by Chief Brian Carter who told the

Man arrested for stealing copper from cell tower

By: Doug Ponder

A Berea man was arrested last Thursday after he allegedly stole a large amount of copper from a cell phone tower near Davis Lane in Mt. Vernon.

Arrested at the scene was Larry Wayne Morrow, 46, of Berea.

According to Mt. Vernon Police reports, officers responded after receiving a complaint about a man climbing the cell phone tower near Davis Lane. When officers arrived, they spoke to a witness who said they saw Morrow climb the tower and throw something to the ground from the top of the tower.

Once officers climbed
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Correction

In last week's fiscal court story, the following quote, "nobody gives a \$1 an hour raise these days," was incorrectly attributed to Magistrate Lee Earl Adams. The quote should have been attributed to Magistrate Bill McKinney.

The *Signal* regrets this error.

council that Helton will likely begin the 21-week training course at the police academy in Richmond on October 28th, since the Sept. 30th class was filled.

Carter also gave the council the activity report for July and August. Combined, the figures were: total calls for service, 965; non-injury accidents, 22; injury accidents 5; total arrests 37; drug charges 16; traffic violations, 40; other criminal charges 15; warrants served, 21; cases opened, 19; DUIs, 3 and indictments 2.

Mt. Vernon Fire Dept. Chief David Bales also made his report to the council for August. It showed responses to: 10 accidents with injuries; two accidents with injuries and entrapment; two vehicle fires; one tractor trailer accident; one motorcycle accident with injuries; one structure fire; one woods or brush and grass fire; three fire alarm activations; two smoke investigations; CSEPP training; one rescue from a roof and one assist to EMS to gain entry into a residence.

Bales also told the council that the department had received notice of the award of a 50/50 matching grant from the Kentucky Division of Forestry in the amount of \$8,540. The funds will be used to purchase fire hose and nozzles which will replace 28 sections of hose and eight nozzles.

The chief also noted that in the last 3 1/2 years, MVFD has received nearly \$190,000 in grant funds.

Four years added to Robinson's sentence

By: Doug Ponder

Circuit Court Judge Jeff Burdette recently sentenced the fifth and final defendant for her involvement in the shooting death of Jackie Bullock, 34, of Mt. Vernon.

Jessica Hailey Robinson, 22, of London was sentenced by Burdette in Rockcastle County Circuit Court last Friday to 26 years in prison.

During her five day jury trial in August, the jury originally convicted Robinson in Rockcastle County Circuit Court and found her guilty of wanton murder, complicity to first degree robbery and complicity to manufacture methamphetamine. She was also found to be a persistent felony offender because of her prior felony offenses in 2011.

The jury recommended 22 years imprisonment for wanton murder, 15 years for

complicity to first degree robbery and 22 years for complicity to manufacture methamphetamine. But Robinson would have only had to serve 22 years in prison as the jury recommended that the sentence for the three counts be served concurrently.

However, during sentencing last Friday, Burdette added four years onto the jury's recommendation due to the nature of the case and how it resulted in a murder.

"Meth and illegal drugs are a scourge on our communities all the way from the city streets of Louisville to the countryside of Rockcastle County," Burdette said. "But in this particular case the result of making meth and using meth led to the death of a man."

Burdette said he heard

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Grand Jury indicts twelve

Twelve defendants were indicted by a Rockcastle County Grand Jury on Friday, September 13th.

Indicted were:

Joetta M. Garrett-Head, 48 of Bussell Street, Brodhead and Rose C. Osborne, 60 of Liberty Drive in Mt. Vernon were named in a joint indictment. Garrett-Head was indicted for theft of identity and

Osborne for complicity to theft of identity. Bond for both women was set at \$25,000 cash/property.

Phillip Clay Falin, 38 of Whitlin Hollow Road, Mt. Vernon was indicted on two counts -- theft by unlawful taking of property over \$500 and as a persistent felony offender. Falin's bond was

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Child Play Space program underway

The Rockcastle County Development Board has formed a committee that is currently developing a play space for young children between one and five-years-old.

There will be two locations in Rockcastle County. One location will be in Mt. Vernon and the second location will be in Livingston. Organizers hope both loca-

tions will be developed in building space donated to the project rent free. However, utilities will be the responsibility of the program called "Space2Create."

Volunteers are meeting to construct the parent-run program that they hope will help young children socialize and their parents net-

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Local educator takes professional development overseas

By: Kelsey Mattingly

Rockcastle County Middle School 7th grade science teacher Ken Mattingly recently took a week off from school to share his professional development in educating students (something he's been doing in the U.S. for years) with instructors in Hong Kong, China.

On August 17th, just a few days into the new school year, Mattingly said he left the United States for a week-long trip to Hong Kong with three other educators from Ohio, through Pearson, an education company. He said he has been working with Pimser, another education company, for several years and was grateful that Pearson wanted him on board and gave him the opportunity to take his work transcontinental.

"I was surprised by it, it kind of came out of the blue. It was the opportunity of a lifetime," Mattingly said. "I appreciate my principal and superintendent for allowing me to take advantage of this opportunity."

Mattingly said that the work he is able to do in places such as Portland, Colorado and Kentucky were the same presentations he took overseas. He said the point is not to improve the way students are assessed, it's to improve the way students learn. He was able to help educators in Hong Kong understand this concept. Though there were difficulties such as the language barrier, Mattingly said that his audience in Hong Kong was eager to learn all he had to offer.

"There were some language things you had to clear up. They don't use the term 'post-test' and don't have any idea what 'blue print' means, so you had to kind of watch your language and be a little bit more patient," Mattingly said. "If you speak too fast or present too much information you'll confuse them. It has nothing to do with intelligence, it's just the language barrier."

Mattingly went on to say that he believes he made an impact on the educators he encountered during the course of his work-packed week in China. He claimed there wasn't much time for leisure, stating that their day began at 6 a.m. and ended around midnight and that most

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Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant swore-in a new police officer Tuesday morning for the Mt. Vernon Police Department. Shay Helton, 25, of Mt. Vernon will not assume full-time duties with the department until he completes the 21 week training course at the police academy in Richmond. Helton will start the course on October 28th since the September 30th class has already been filled. Until Helton completes the course he will continue to tide with officers and receive one-on-one training. Shown above from left are: Officer Adam Stallsworth, Helton, Bryant and Chief Brian Carter.

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