UK - KING LIBRARY
500 S. LIMESTONE ST.
LEXINGTON KY 40506-0001

Rockcastle get big win at Clay County

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky, 40456 Volume 114 Number 15 Ph (606) 256-2244 50¢ a copy Thursday January [illegible] 2001

Board hears requests for posting of historical documents

The Rockcastle County Board of Education heard a request from a Laurel County man Tuesday night concerning the posting of Ten Commandments and other historical documents in Rockcastle County Schools.

Herschel Walker, with the Ten Commandments Advancement Fund gave a twenty minute presentation to the board, which discussed the matter briefly and instructed Superintendent Larry Hammond to gather more information on the subject and report back to them in a couple of months.

Currently because of federal law, the Ten Commandments are not posted in any of the Rockcastle County School buildings.

The board also heard from Brodhead School Architect David Samokar, who told them that the project at Brodhead was seven to ten days behind schedule.

The new building is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of school next August but, from all indications it is going to be a struggle for that to happen.

Hammond's personnel actions included the hiring of Renee Wolfe, Tammy Newton, Susie Carpenter and Teresa Bombard, as substitute teachers.

Patricia Morgan Vien was hired as special education teacher at the Alternative School.

One new member took the oath of office Tuesday night at the beginning of meeting.

Newly elected member Mike Burdette was sworn in, along with incumbent members Terry Burton and Martin Vanzant.

Dr. G.W. Griffith was re-elected as board chairman and Terry Burton was re-elected vice-chairman.

Sam Stallsworth is the fifth member of the current board.

Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette, right, swore-in three members of the Rockcastle Board of Education on Tuesday night. Board members from left: Terry Burton, Mike Burdette and Martin Vanzant.

Council discusses variety of issues during regular meeting

By: Richard Anderkin

A new Mt. Vernon City Council took office on Monday night, but they were still facing the same old problems.

The council discussed a shortfall in the budget in the water and sewer department, lack of funding for a new fire house, the draft audit of the city's finances for the year ending June 30, 1998, a new boundary for the city limits and possible vacancies on the police force.

Local CPA Joe Clontz presented a rough draft of the city's 1998 audit.

Clontz said the audit wasn't complete because city employees still had not keyed in all of the information needed to finish it.

He said there didn't appear to be any problems with the audit, but that he could not issue his independent audit report and make his recommendations until everything had been completed.

Clontz said it would be in the best interest of the city and the council to try and catch up all of the audits, including the June 2000 audit as soon as possible.

Mayor Karen King said she had hired two more people in the office and that they would be used to help key in the needed information so the audit work could go faster.

When the city's audits are not completed in a timely fashion, the city loses out on money from the state.

Clontz said that it wasn't a significant amount, about $8,000 annually, but over time it adds up.

Mayor King also told the council that an engineer was currently working on squaring up the city limits.

Currently the city's boundaries look like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle.

The new boundary will be bad news for some people who currently work in businesses close to the city limits, but not in them. Once the new boundary is approved, those people will then begin paying the city's half percent payroll and net profits tax.

She said the boundary would also likely include a straight line from exit 59 to exit 62 of I-75, taking in that portion of the interstate.

The new boundary would also straighten out the boundaries along the 461 by-pass, where some businesses are in the city and some aren't.

The Mayor did not give any time frame for redrawing the boundaries.

The council also heard from police chief Bill Mink, who told them that Brian Doan had been hired to replace Coby Smith, who is joining the ranks of the Kentucky State Police.

Mink also said that officer Barry Adams would be staying with the department for the present and not going to the state police, as was earlier thought.

Mink said officers Doug Thomas and Nathaniel Price had applied to the Berea police department, but that at present neither one had been hired.

Firemen Brian Hansel and Steve Griffin asked again about funding for a new fire house on Main Street.

Cont. to A-10

2000 had plenty of good, bad news

By: Richard Anderkin

The last six months of 2000 began with the city of Mt. Vernon beginning to collect their wage tax.

Shots were fired at Rockcastle County High School assistant principal Barry Noble's home and the new Hwy. 421 at Big Hill, which cost $13 million was dedicated.

A local family learned that a member of their family who was killed in the Korean War, would finally be buried in Arlington National Cemetery and the county was among sixty other counties in the state sued by the Trixie Foundation, an agency that looks out for the well being of animals.

The 13-year-old baseball all-stars advanced to the state and athletes at Rockcastle County High School learned that drug testing would begin on August 1.

Mrs. Geraldine Robbins retired as librarian at the Rockcastle County Library and Kristiana Burk was hired.

A memorial was held for the late Tandy Pedigo, former plant manager at Rockcastle Manufacturing by his co-workers and The Oaks played at Renfro Valley.

August began tragically when an Orlando man, Mark Mason, was killed in an ATV accident and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet scheduled a meeting to discuss the possibility of a new road from Hwy. 150 to the interstate at Conway.

The Rockcastle County Board of Education gave final approval to a $6.7 million building for Brodhead and members of the Mark Mason family filed suit over his burial place.

Students at Roundstone School had the highest scores on the CTBS and the annual Little World's Fair was held in Brodhead.

Calvin Rader, a well known Mt. Vernon man was killed in an auto accident on the Hwy. 461 by-pass and Western Water announced they would begin a $1.2 million water project.

A resident on the Oscar Isaacs Road made verbal threats when county workers removed a fence from the county right-of-way and the body of a Conway woman, who had been shot to death was found at Cove Branch.

A few days after police were led to the decomposed body of Patty Clark, they arrested Davy Stewart of Orlando and charged him with her murder.

Cont. to A-10

Brodhead needs police officer

The Brodhead City Council voted Monday night to take applications for police officer through January 26.

The new council was also sworn in, which includes one new member, Larry Taylor. Taylor joins Mayor Walter Cash and council members Curt Brown, Everett Albright and Johnny Wilcop.

Two local men charged

Two Rockcastle County men were charged with manufacturing methamphetamine first degree after they were stopped by police on New Year's Day.

Mt. Vernon police officer Barry Adams arrested Jason Bullock, 18, of Mt. Vernon and Bryan Pittman, 20, also of Mt. Vernon at 11 p.m. after their vehicle was pulled over at Cummins Car Wash on Hwy. 150.

According to Mt. Vernon police Chief Bill Mink, Adams and officer Coby Smith found many of the items that are used to make the illegal drug in Bullock's car.

Mink said that police then obtained a search warrant for a house on Sand Springs Road, where the two were apparently living and when officers with the Drug Enforcement Agency and Mt. Vernon officers searched the house they found more chemicals used to make the drug.

Besides the Meth charges, Bullock was also charged with driving under the influence and possession of a controlled substance.

Pittman is being held in the Rockcastle Detention Center is due in court on January 22. Bullock, who is free on bond, is due in court on January 31.

Citizens say no to landfill in northern part of county

By: Richard Anderkin

Approximately 40 people turned out for the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court meeting Tuesday to protest the building of a landfill in the northern part of Rockcastle County.

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court took immediate action against the landfill and unanimously passed a resolution against the landfill.

The proposed landfill is on the property of David McFarland at Little Clear Creek.

McFarland is a contractor and has applied to the state for a permit to build a landfill on his 200 acre farm, which lies in Rockcastle and Madison County. The landfill would be located between Mason Lake Road in Madison County and Little Clear Creek in Rockcastle, but it would be in Rockcastle County.

McFarland said Wednesday, that the landfill would be located off his private drive, near his home and a home his brother is building on the same property.

Citizens at Tuesday's meeting were concerned about the type of items that would be put in the landfill and what impact the landfill would have on the environment in the area, including the water supply and purity of Little Clear Creek.

The landfill would be used to disposed of construction/demolition debris only.

Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis told the group that he wasn't questioning the integrity of Mr. McFarland, but that he was concerned about the landfill not being monitored all of the time.

"The question I have is how is Mr. McFarland going to be sure that hazardous materials are not dumped in the landfill when he is not around," Carloftis said.

The Judge said that he would never be favor of any type of landfill in the county, because of problems caused by one in the Pine Hill area a few years ago.

That landfill contaminated the Boils in the Roundstone Creek, which was used for Livingston's water supply. Now Livingston gets its water from the Wood Creek Water District in Laurel County.

After the court passed the resolution, the Judge passed around a petition against the landfill which was signed by him and all five magistrates and by those concerned citizens in attendance.

The Judge said that although the court was vehemently against the landfill, he was not sure how much control the county had over the landfill being approved.

He said that he had talked with the state on two or three different occasions and had gotten different answers about just how much authority the fiscal court had in this matter.

However the Judge told the group that the county may have some say in the matter because of their solid waste ordinance that was passed in 1990.

Part of that ordinance says that "solid waste in Rockcastle County shall be deposited at a processing facility or disposal area approved by the county."

Another part says, "no person may engage in the business of residential or commercial solid waste collection unless he or she holds a permit issued by the Rockcastle Fiscal Court."

McFarland said that his landfill would not be open to the general public and would be used mainly for debris generated by his demolition busjess.

He also said that no agreement had been reached on disposing of debris from the Boone Square Apartments in Berea in his landfill as of yet.

He also said that concerns about large trucks tearing up the road in Little Clear Creek were also unfounded because the route to the landfill would be from the Mason Lake Road in Madison County and had no plans to travel through Little Clear Creek.

McFarland said that he would discuss the situation with anyone concerned about the landfill and give them a tour of the proposed site as well as share information from the state with them.

He said the state had already inspected the site and told him verbally that they did not think the landfill would pose a watershed problem but that he hadn't receive official notice of approval of the landfill as of yet.

Judge Carloftis said he thought word could come from the state as early as Wednesday as to whether or not the permit for the landfill was issued.

"We are going to fight this as far as we can," Carloftis said.

After the court passed the resolution, the Judge passed around a petition against the landfill which was signed by him and all five magistrates and by those concerned citizens in attendance.

The Judge said that although the court was vehemently against the landfill, he was not sure how much control the county had over the landfill being approved.

He said that he had talked with the state on two or three different occasions and had gotten different answers about just how much authority the fiscal court had in this matter.

However the Judge told the group that the county may have some say in the matter because of their solid waste ordinance that was passed in 1990.

Part of that ordinance says that "solid waste in Rockcastle County shall be deposited at a processing facility or disposal area approved by the county."

Another part says, "no person may engage in the business of residential or commercial solid waste collection unless he or she holds a permit issued by the Rockcastle Fiscal Court."

Local man pleads guilty to littering

A Mt. Vernon man pled guilty recently in Rockcastle District Court to two counts of criminal littering.

According to court records, Quentin Burnett, 82, was caught twice on video camera throwing trash from his car.

Burnett was sentenced to 60 days in jail and given a $1,000 fine but,

Cont. to A-10

Members of the Mt. Vernon City Council were sworn in Monday night. Front row, from left: Curt Brown, Sam Stallsworth, Mayor Karen King and Wayne Bullock. Back row, from left: Lawrence Daugherty, Charles Kirby, Gene Crouser and Joe Mullins.

The Rockcastle County Extension Service has moved their offices to a new building. The building is located off of Woodland Place Drive in Mt. Vernon and faces West Main Street.