Mission team at Outreach - Page A5

0x0000C0/408080x/1004/0000000000000
UK - KING LIBRARY
ATTN: SERIALS DEPT
ON KY 40506-0001

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 116 • Number 40 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, July 11, 2002

Flat Gap Road in northern Rockcastle County is currently closed because of construction on Interstate 75. Work crews are constructing a new bridge to include a third lane of the interstate. The road is expected to be open by the start of school in August.

Mayor says new budget unsatisfactory

By: Richard Anderkin

Mt. Vernon Mayor Karen King says she is still not happy about the City of Mt. Vernon's budget.

The first reading of the budget was passed by the council last week, but for it to go into effect the council must have a second reading and it must be published.

"The council has an obligation under state law to approve methods that will raise enough revenue to properly operate the city," King said.

King said Tuesday that she was most upset by the fact that the new budget does not include the family health insurance plan for employees,

"We should not expect our employees to work for relatively low wages and very few benefits, they have no obligation to carry the city," she said.

King also said that because of the potential loss of benefits, most if not all of the eight city police officers have indicated they would quit.

"We may be down to a police chief and possibly assistant chief before it is all over," she said.

"Whether it is an election year or not, we have an obligation to run the city the way it should be and you can't run it without enough revenue," she said.

The city pays a premium of approximately $19,000 a month in insurance, but the Mayor thinks the family health plan is a very good benefit that helps keep good employees," she said.

An individual health plan is still included in the budget.

The Mayor said that she felt like it was her obligation to go back to the council again and ask them to pass some type of tax increase.

"We are going to fall short in every fund, even in our water and sewer funds we are having difficulty making ends meet," she said.

"It is basically costing us more to make our water than we take in," Water Superintendent Dennis McClure said.

"The state has increased the cost of analyzing test samples that we are required to do, some of them cost as much as $2,100 and our debt service on the the new water plant is enormous, but we still have some of the lowest rates in the state," King said.

McClure said the city also should consider raising the rates for wholesale customers.

"We sell millions of gallons of water a month to Western, Brodhead and Rockcastle and I'm not sure we are even breaking even on our costs," he said.

Mayor King said the council should consider raising the payroll tax, an insurance tax and restaurant tax among other things.

In past years the city has bor-

(Cont. to A-8)

For Relay for Life event in August

Paint Rockcastle purple in support

You may be seeing purple bows popping up all over Rockcastle County. The purple bows are in support of cancer awareness and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event on Friday, August 2nd at the Rockcastle County Middle School.

The bows can be purchased for a $10 donation to the American Cancer Society. If you would like a purple bow to hang at your home or business call any of the numbers listed in this article.

During this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, a special ceremony will be held at 10 p.m. in which a luminary representing each individual will be lit.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is a celebration of survivorship and remembrance that raises funds for and awareness of the fight against cancer. After sunset at each of the 3,000 Relay for Life events nationwide, luminaries decorated with the names of those who have battled cancer are lit and left glowing throughout the night to remind everyone of the incredible importance of their contributions. The ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and courage with which we continue to work toward a cancer-free tomorrow. Please see the attached Luminary Order Form for more details on how you can help light up the track on August 2nd.

For more information about purchasing a luminary you may contact Darlene Larkey at 878-9412 or Darlene Mink at 758-9700.

The next Relay for Life planning meeting will be Thursday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the community room of the Cumberland Valley Home Health located in the Industrial Park and then again on Thursday, July 18 (same time and place). Team captains need to be at the July 11th and 18th meetings.

It is still not too late to form a team for the August 2nd events. Teams can consist of church members, family members, neighbors, friends, corporations, clubs and organizations. If you are interested in forming a team then don't miss the July 11th meeting.

If you would like more information about the event or how to form a team then you may contact any of the following people: Kelly McClure at 256-4122, Tom and Darlene Larkey at 878-9412, Darlene Mink at 758-9700 or Cynthia Rogers at 679-3287.

The Relay for Life is not just for people who are walking on a team. Everyone is invited to attend the event, whether you are a cancer survivor, participating on a team, or just plain curious about what's going on at the Rockcastle County Middle School. We invite everyone to attend. A schedule of the events of August 2nd will be posted in the Signal in the upcoming weeks.

We are also in need of business sponsors as well as items for auction. If you are interested in being a business sponsor and/or donating an item for the event then please contact Danielle Smith at 256-3907.

The theme for the event will be Rockin' Relay. If you are a cancer survivor and would like to be a part of this event then please call Sandra Bullock at 758-8058 or Mary Ann McNew at 256-4046.

N & N Construction of Mt. Vernon is currently replacing the bridge on Mullins Station Road. The old wooded bridge was constructed in 1912. Work is expected to be completed in middle August.

Comedian Gregory at Renfro Valley

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center brings the "Funniest Man in America," James Gregory to the stage on Saturday in the New Barn Theater. Gregory has been a stand-up comedian for over 19 years. He has appeared in concert with Randy Travis, Reba McEntire, Ricky Skaggs and more.

Gregory appears live on 120-150 radio shows during the morning and afternoon drive time throughout the year, every year. These appearances frequently include syndicated radio shows: "John Boy and Billy Show", "Bob and Tom" and others. "My show is one of comedy routines and

(Cont. to A-8)

Arson reason for Willailla hay fires

Arson is suspected in three fires early Tuesday morning in the Willailla section of Rockcastle County.

Brodhead Rural Fire Chief Johnny Benge said that someone set fire to round bales of hay on the farm of Don and Ora Lee Hurst around 3 a.m. Tuesday morning and that the Hursts lost about 40 bales before the fire was extinquished.

Benge said that around 6 a.m., round bales of hay at the farm of Owen Burton were also intentionally set on fire, but that he lost only two or three bales, although he had about ninety stacked up.

(Cont. to A-8)

RCHS JROTC honored with special task

Rockcastle County JROTC Corps of Discovery 2002 had the distinct privilege of lowering the flag at the Mt. Rushmore National Monument on the Fourth of July. What made the occasion more memorable was the fact the flag was the same flag that was flying over the monument on September 11.

The staff of Mt. Rushmore made the decision that even though the flag was showing signs of wear it would not be retired from service until after our nation's 4th of July celebration. The 12 students from the Corps of Discovery formally lowered and folded the flag in front of an enormous crowd followed by an extremely moving patriotic program by the US Air Force Band.

JROTC members taking part in the 4th of July celebration were Tim Tyler, Jonathan Noe, Brian Bullock, Chris Eldridge, Jacob Helton, John Phelps, Justin Cornelius, Joe Husband, Jessica Toothman, Erik Stallsworth, Andy Coffey, Derrick Hensley, SGM Keith Taylor and Jenny Taylor.

More news on the Discovery 2002 trip out west in the upcoming weeks of the *Signal*.

A survivor is thankful for blessings

By: Josh Bray

Travel back with me if you will to 1985. Bon-Jovi was on the radio, long hair was "in" and the Camaro

(Cont. to A-8)

Cancer Survivor Josh Bray

Mt. Vernon businessman Billy Hiatt, left, was awarded the Best of Best award for Main Street businesses by Carol Bryant, Director of the Renaissance Kentucky Program for Mt. Vernon. Hiatt has operated his business for 41 years. There were several other Main Street businesses nominated.