

# Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 45 Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, August 10, 2000



Billy Ray in Renfro - A-8

## Man steals vehicles, arrested by local police

A Williamsburg man is being held in the Rockcastle County Detention Center on a \$10,000 full cash bond, after he was arrested on Tuesday morning by Mt. Vernon City Police.

According to court records, Darrell Estep, 21, of Williamsburg is accused of stealing a 1999 Plymouth Voyager in Williamsburg and driving it to Mt. Vernon where he stole a 2000 Chevy Truck, which was parked at Peg's Food Market.

Mt. Vernon police officer Doug Thomas and Darrell Zanet got a call at 5:10 a.m. from 911 dispatch that Jason Stewart's truck had been stolen.

The officers observed the truck traveling through Mt. Vernon at a high rate of speed and they followed it.

The officers attempted to stop the stolen truck, which reached speeds of 100 miles per hour.

According to the police report, Estep was apprehended in the Hummel area of the county, after an eight mile chase. Police arrested Estep after he wrecked the stolen truck.

He is wanted in Whitley County on theft charges and will appear in Rockcastle District Court on August 14. He was charged in Rockcastle County with theft, DUI, possession of drugs, evading or eluding and speeding.

## Nearly \$33,000 so far Mt. Vernon collects tax

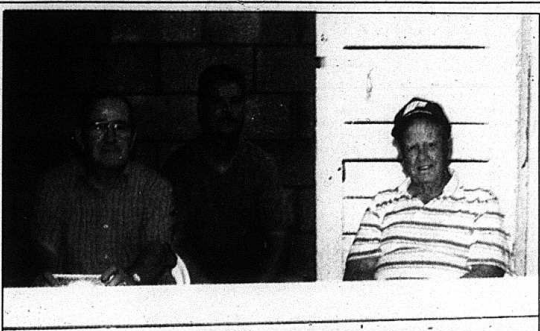
The City of Mt. Vernon has taken in nearly \$37,000 in tax revenue from their payroll tax, which the council passed earlier this year.

The deadline for employers to submit the half percent tax to the city was July 31.

That tax was for the months of April, May and June.

Employers throughout the city limits were required to withhold one-half percent of the wages they paid their employees. That tax will be paid to the city on a quarterly basis.

Mt. Vernon City Clerk Kaye Rader said that many businesses in the city had not paid their tax to the city.



## Little World's Fair is in full swing!

The 105th Little World's Fair is in full swing this week at the Rockcastle County Fairgrounds in Brodhead. Shown above, at right, is Sherman Danny Sargent, who has worked at the fair every year for the past 65. The 83-year-old former county magistrate from Brindle Ridge, was eighteen when he started working at the fair. Also in the photo are from left: Charles Fletcher and Nelson Graves. A small crowd attended the fair on Tuesday night, probably because of the bad weather in the area. At right: Rockcastle County High School sophomore Doug French tries his hand at the basketball shooting contest. The fair continues through Saturday night.



## Board seats, Judgeship up for grabs

The first Tuesday in November some Rockcastle countians will have the opportunity to vote in a school board race and at least one city council race.

The filing deadline for those offices was Tuesday and two of the three incumbent members of the Rockcastle County Board of Education have opposition.

There are also seven individuals seeking six council seats in Mt. Vernon.

But at Livingston only three people filed for the four seats.

And at Brodhead, four people filed for four seats.

In division four school board, which includes Climax and Orlando voting precincts, Martin Vanzant, 59, who is seeking his first full term, faces opposition from Beverly Sexton, 46.

In division five school board, incumbent Sherry Isaacs, 31, who is seeking her second term, faces opposition from Mike "BoChamp" Burdette, 46.

## Jail sued

The Rockcastle County Jail has been named the defendant in a small claims suit filed last week.

Zona and Terry Mink of Eubank are seeking \$1,500 in damages.

They claim in their suit that \$300 was taken from Terry Mink, after he was put in a cell with some state prisoners when he went to the jail to serve time on the weekend.

Mink also claims his pants were cut by another inmate with a pair of scissors while he was in jail.

Rockcastle County Jailor James Miller said that the allegations made by the Minks are false.

"When we checked him in he had \$120 in his wallet and we offered to put it up for him, but he decided to keep it," Miller said.

"At that time we were allowing weekend prisoners to keep their personal stuff while in jail - but that is no longer the case," Miller said.

Miller said that deputy jailers did not check the money.

In division two school board, incumbent Terry F. Burton, 45, will be unopposed as he seeks his third term on the board of education.

In the Mt. Vernon City Council race, incumbents Wayne Bullock, Jackie R. Romer, Clarice Kirby, Lonetta Daughtery and Clark Mullins will be joined by Gene Cromer and Barbara Bennett in the race for council. Six of the seven will make up the new city council in January. Councilwoman Lou Vanhoose did not file for re-election.

Cont. to A-8

## Local man sues court

It is a good thing that the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court has the Rockcastle County Attorney to represent in legal matters, because if they did not they couldn't afford their legal fees.

Legal action was filed against the court again this week, this time by a Mullins Station man, who is seeking \$1,500.

Ernest Cromer claims in his small claims suit that the county has refused to clean out a culvert and ditchline on a county road and that he had to hire someone to do it because the county would not.

Cromer also claims that the water run off caused by the clogged ditchline and culvert caused damage to a storage building and that there is still a ditchline running through his property because the county did not do the work.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive said the suit was "silly and meritless because you can't sue the county over a county road."

Carlofus also said that Cromer was asking for the work to be done on his private property and that it simply wasn't going to be done. "I hope he has to spend more money on his road if that's the case," Carlofus said.

Carlofus has been summoned to Circuit Court for the small claims action on September 5.

Cont. to A-8

## Board approves \$6.7 million building at Brodhead

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Board of Education gave the final approval on the bids for a new school building at Brodhead during regular monthly meeting Tuesday night.

The low bidder on the project was W. Wilburn of Lexington. William's bid was \$6.7 million, with the total cost of the new school building at \$6,670,850.

Rockcastle County School Finance Officer Richard Bray told the board that the total cost includes a \$325,220 fee for the engineering firm and \$127,000 for equipment and furnishings.

Included in the new building will be 20 classrooms and a gymnasium. The new building will be constructed on the current ballfield and playground on the current school property.

Construction is scheduled to begin within two weeks. Architect Joe Samokar told board members the new building would be ready for use by the beginning of school in August of next year.

The board also approved the new property tax rate for the coming year, which dropped from 43.1 to 42.4. The reason for the drop was an increase in the assessment of property in the county.

Last year, Rockcastle County's property was valued at \$325 million and this year it is valued at \$355 million. It was the eleventh straight year the school system's tax rate had either stayed the same or decreased.

School Superintendent Larry Hammond also announced his personnel actions to the board.

They included the hiring of substitute teachers: Elizabeth Jean Jones, Judy Doyle, Lydia Napier, Cathy Allen, Jamie Bryant, Sara Coquer and Angela Blanton.

Brandon Hargis was hired as asst. football coach at the middle school, Jenny Sweet was hired as Coordinator of 21st Century Community Learning Center. Karen Wilson was hired as a district wide speech pathologist. J.D. Harris was hired as a special education teacher at the middle school and Gina Wilson as a primary teacher at Brodhead.

Steve Bullock was hired as coordinator of the new Alternative School. Stephanie Jill Whitaker, math teacher at the middle school, Melissa Bruner special education teacher Brodhead, Greg Bullock, elementary teacher, Brodhead, Dana Bullock, special education teacher, Mt. Vernon and April

Cont. to A-8

## Suit filed over burial

By: Richard Anderkin

A somewhat unusual law suit was filed in Rockcastle County Circuit Court last week in an effort to stop the burial of a local man in Ohio.

According to the suit, some family members of Ernest Mark Mason, Sr., 40, through their attorney Willis G. Coffey, asked that Mason's body be returned to Kentucky for burial.

The suit was filed by Mason's oldest daughter, 21-year-old Tara Terina Mason, against her stepmother, Mason's apparently estranged wife, Cathy Mason and Hodapp Funeral Home in West Chester, Ohio.

Mason was killed July 30 in Russell County after an all-terrain vehicle turned over on him as he attempted to climb an embankment.

Terina, his mother Cookie and sisters, Alecia, Pam and Michelle went to Coffey to see what legal means they could take to stop their brother's burial in Ohio.

Alecia Benge, Mark Mason's oldest sister said that Mark and his estranged wife had not lived together since August of 1999 and that her brother had filed suit in August of 1999 seeking a divorce from his wife. On Wednesday, Circuit Judge William T. Cain denied the request for the restraining order, citing the fact that Mason's body was already in Ohio and he had no jurisdiction in that state.

It is really a shame, I thought the family had a legitimate case and Mason should have been buried in Rockcastle County," Coffey said.

In his suit seeking the restraining order, Coffey pointed out that in Kentucky, a surviving spouse, or "next of kin" is entitled to possession of a dead body if the parties have been living in normal relations of marriage at the time of death. "It is clear that Mark and Cathy Mason had not been living in normal relations of marriage," Coffey said.

"They tried to beat her (Cathy) up on Monday morning for no reason and they caused the problem," Ernest Mason said.

"That is when she decided to move him to Ohio to keep down the problems with his sisters," Mason said.

Mason also said that his son and daughter-in-law were not getting a divorce.

However, a suit, in which Mark Mason was seeking a divorce from Cathy Mason was filed in Russell County Circuit Court in August of 1999. Case number 99-CI-00259 was filed on August 20 of last year.

Coffey also pointed out in his suit that Mark Mason gave a deposition on June 26 of this year in an effort to finalize his divorce.

"Mark's oldest children, who are 21 and 19 should have been the ones to take care of his arrangements - what happened just wasn't right," said Alecia Mason Benge.

To make matters worse for the three sisters, when they arrived in Ohio for the visitation at Hodapp Funeral Home, they were told that they, nor their three husbands could

Cont. to A-8



A Crab Orchard woman was seriously injured in a single car wreck on Hwy. 1505 near Conway Tuesday afternoon. Members of the Brindle Ridge Fire Department and E.M.T.s with the Rockcastle Ambulance service responded to the 4 p.m. call. Adria Murry, 21, was treated at Rockcastle Hospital and transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington with multiple injuries. According to police, Ms. Murry was traveling toward Conway when she lost control of her car on the rain slicked roadway, leaving the road and striking a tree stump.