AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

MT. VERNON Sentinel

VISIONS Today

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Outland Airport opens the sky to sales

BY DANIELLE TYLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — "Momentum" was the word of the day when the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority announced its newest addition Tuesday morning.

Now onboard is an Expedition Aircraft dealership and a Jabiru USA dealership, thanks to the airport's aviation sales business, Eric Evans Aviation Ltd.

"This is a historic day for the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport and the city of Mt. Vernon," Airport Director Chris Collins stated. "Eric Evans Aviation Ltd., the Expedition Aircraft dealership, and the Jabiru USA dealership offer prestige for the airport, will increase aircraft operations, will provide multiple maintenance opportunities for our fixed-based operation, SRT, and will provide new tax revenues and could lead to some exciting opportunities for the future."

It all began, Evans told the crowd, with the partnership with the airport's fixed based operator, SRT.

"It all started pretty simple," Evans said. "Through that process, I started to meet local aviation clients."

Eric Evans Aviation, Ltd., located inside the Koziara Terminal, sells all types of aircraft, ranging from piston engine singles to twin-engine business jets. According to a press release, the Expedition E-350 and E-350-XC, are known as "the ultimate go anywhere, do anything aircraft."

The King City Expedition dealership covers all areas east of the Mississippi River and the Caribbean, making Eric Evans Aviation the exclusive Eastern United States dealer of the Expedition.

The Jabiru sport aircraft is a light

Please see **Airport,** Page 3A

Sentinel Photo/DANIELLE TYLER

MOVING MOMENTUM — Originally from Evansville, Eric Evans of Eric Evans Aviation, Ltd., announced yesterday that Mt. Vernon Outland Airport would be the new home of an Expedition Aircraft dealership and a Jabiru USA dealership.

Town hall meeting to be held at church

Coalition will hold town hall meeting at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

BY APRIL TOLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Jefferson County Mission Possible Coalition's aim is to keep youth involved in positive activities and away from drugs.

One way the Coalition does so is holding quarterly, town hall meetings throughout the county, to address issues affecting area neighborhoods.

"This is all about prevention and how we can help the youth of our community and how we can come together as a community to prevent substance abuse among our youth," said Jefferson County Prevention Coordinator Robin Dodd.

In partnership with the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, the Coalition is holding a town hall meeting at the church, located at 1015 Conger Ave., from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday.

Dodd said the topic of the meeting will focus on crack cocaine and marijuana use and the impact and effect drug use is having on the

Please see **Meeting,** Page 3A

Sentinel Photo/APRIL TOLER

FOR A GOOD CAUSE — Jazmine Hughes, a fifth grader at J.L. Buford Grade School, presents a $500 oversized check to Teresa Mcilrath, co-chairwoman of the Jefferson County Relay for Life, Tuesday morning. Hughes was named the grand prize winner of the Times Square Mall's Kids With Hearts program for her giving and compassionate behavior. As a winner, Hughes was given $500 to donate to the charity of her choice.

Local children awarded in 'Kids With Hearts' program

BY APRIL TOLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — As a teacher, April Hertenstein sees a number of pupils every day.

But one fifth-grader, Jazmine Hughes, is a prime example, she said, of someone who continuously gives back to her family, friends and community.

"She's a wonderful student," Hertenstein said. "You can always count on her to do the kind, compassionate thing."

In honor of Hughes, Hertenstein recently entered the pupil's name into the Times Square Mall "Kids With Heart" program, which acknowledges children throughout the area who show selfless acts of caring and concern for others.

Tuesday morning, Bethany Benjamin, manager of the mall, named Hughes the grand prize winner of the Kids With Heart contest.

According to Hertenstein, Hughes was a perfect candidate for the contest because of her constant ability to put the needs of others above her own. The oldest of four children, Hughes spends a large amount of her time helping her three siblings keep up with their homework along with helping around the house.

That willingness to help, and compassion for others, is not only shown to Hughes' family, Hertenstein said, but to her fellow pupils as well.

"All the kids like her," Hertenstein said. "She's one of the kindest, compassionate students in this building."

As the winner, Hughes was given a $100 shopping spree and $500 to donate to her charity of choice.

Because of her grandmother's fight with cancer, Hughes, who is currently living with her grandmother, chose to donate the money to the American Cancer Society.

Hughes said she was surprised that she won and added she felt

Please see **Program,** Page 8A

Clinton, Obama face off in debate

Clinton, Obama clash over charges of negative campaign tactics

CLEVELAND (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama clashed over NAFTA, health care and the war in Iraq Tuesday night in a crackling debate at close quarters one week before a pivotal group of primaries.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Barack Obama

Charges of negative campaign tactics were high on the program, too.

"Senator Obama has consistently said I would force people to have health care whether they can afford it or not," said Clinton, insisting it was not true.

Responding quickly, Obama countered that former first lady had consistently claimed his plan "would leave 15 million people out

Please see **Debate,** Page 3A

Patients make great improvements with the help of a new device

BY JIM HALE
SENTINEL MANAGING EDITOR

MT. VERNON — Not all new and successful therapy devices are a maze of computer chips and wires. While great strides have been made in the medical field with the advent of integrated circuits, a few area residents have benefited recently from the amazingly low-tech design of a product from the Charlotte, North Carolina company Saebo.

"So many could have benefited from this new device, but it has only been available for about two years," said occupational therapist Debbie Kessler Tuesday at Crossroads Community Hospital. "It was developed by occupational therapists who started tinkering in their

Please see **SaeboFlex,** Page 3A

Sentinel Photo/JIM HALE

SAEBOFLEX DEMO — John Dunham, an Indiana native who now lives in Mt. Vernon, uses the SaeboFlex glove Tuesday during a demonstration at Crossroads Community Hospital. Dunham suffered a stroke on August 30, 2006 and was told he would learn to live without his left arm. With the help of the device he now has a wide range of motion and is able to take care of most daily tasks on his own.

Mt. Vernon police to conduct warrant sweep

BY APRIL TOLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Officers at the Mt. Vernon Police Department are looking to arrest more than 40 people wanted on drug related charges.

According to MVPD Chief Chris Mendenall, members of the MVPD/Jefferson County Sheriffs Department Narcotics Division began a day-long effort Tuesday to locate and arrest several people wanted on drug related warrants throughout the city and Jefferson County.

The warrants came after a one-year, ongoing investigation by the MVPD/JCSO Narcotics Division. The warrants were issued by the Jefferson County State's Attorney's office and signed by Circuit Clerk Judge Terry Gamber.

Mendenall said the department issues a number of warrants at once to both protect the identity of any informants working with the department by not tipping off drug dealers in the area.

"It helps us to get further into the investigation," Mendenall said.

A total of 42 people are being sought on a variety of drug related charges. Those warrants include nine people wanted on cannabis related charges; three people wanted on drug equipment charges; 18 people wanted on cocaine/crack cocaine charges; nine people wanted on methamphetamine charges; two people wanted on heroin charges and one person wanted for criminal trespass charges.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, Mendenall said approximately half

Please see **Warrants,** Page 3A

INSIDE

8 Sections, 72 Pages

Annie's Mailbox 6A
Bridge 7A
Business Briefs 2A
Classified 6B
Comics 5B
Commentary 5A
Crossword 9B
Horoscope 7A
Lifestyles 6A
Markets 2A
Obituaries 9A
Regional News 8A
Theaters 2B
TV schedules 7A

Weather

Partly cloudy with light winds.
High 31 / Low 19

Details, 2A

Sports

Rams are at Marion tonight to take on the host Wildcats in the Class 3A regional.

Details, 1B

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Meeting:

Continued From Page 1A

area.

The topic came about, Dodd said, after she was contacted by community members living in the southern part of Mt. Vernon.

"The topic arose among residents of southtown," Dodd said. "They deemed drug use as an issue for their community."

Dodd said she wants to make sure people understand that the meetings have nothing to do with reporting names or illegal activities to police, but rather as a way to bond together as a community to make neighborhoods safer.

She said the coalition does not aim its efforts exclusively at one section of the community, but at neighborhoods throughout Jefferson County.

"This has nothing to do with reporting activities to the police, it's not to research or get names or street addresses," she said. "What we are looking for is to get community involvement to address these issues."

Along with solving issues that are already problems, Dodd said the coalition also works to bring awareness to a number of programs in the area aimed at keeping youth involved in positive activities.

The coalition will be hosting two town hall meetings in both Woodlawn and Bluford on March 20. Every second Tuesday of the month, the coalition also holds its regular meeting at the United Methodist Church located at 2023 Richview Road. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, contact Dodd at 204-5075 ext. 223.

Debate:

Continued From Page 1A

... I dispute that. I think it is inaccurate," he said.

The tone was polite yet pointed, increasingly so as the 90-minute session wore on, a reflection of the stakes in a race in which Obama has won 11 straight primaries and caucuses and Clinton is in desperate need of a comeback.

Clinton also said as far as she knew her campaign had nothing to do with circulating a photograph of Obama wearing a white turban and a wrap-around white robe presented to him by elders in Wajir, in northeastern Kenya.

The gossip and news Web site The Drudge Report posted the photograph Monday and said, without substantiation, that it was being circulated by "Clinton staffers."

"We have no evidence where it came from," Clinton said, making clear that's not the kind of behavior she wants in her campaign.

"I take Senator Clinton at her word that she knew nothing about the photo," Obama said.

The two rivals, the only survivors of a grueling primary season, sat about a foot apart at a table on stage at Cleveland State University. It was the 20th debate of the campaign, 10 months to the day after the first.

The race was far different in April 2007, Clinton the front-runner by far. Now Obama holds that place, both in terms of contests and delegates won.

Both Obama and Clinton were on the receiving end of pointed questions from Tim Russert of NBC News, one of two moderators for the event.

Asked whether he was waffling on his pledge of agreeing to take federal funds for the fall campaign, Obama said he was still contesting the primaries.

"If I am the nominee I will sit down with John McCain and make sure we come up with a system that is fair to both sides," he said. Obama could presumably raise far more money than the federal system provides, but accepting government money precludes that.

The equivalent question to Clinton concerned the income tax returns that she and her husband, former President Clinton, file jointly.

"I will release my tax returns," Clinton said, if she becomes the Democratic nominee. She then added she might do so "even earlier," but not before Tuesday's primary.

The two rivals also debated NAFTA, the free trade agreement with Canada and Mexico that is wildly unpopular with blue-collar workers whose votes are critical in any Democratic primary in Ohio.

Neither one said they were ready to withdraw from the agreement, although both said they would use the threat of withdrawal to pressure Mexico to make changes.

"I have said I would renegotiate NAFTA," said Clinton. "I will say to Mexico that we will opt out of NAFTA unless we renegotiate it."

Obama said Clinton has tried to have it both ways, touting the trade deal in farm states where it's popular while finding fault with it in places like Ohio.

"This is something I have been consistent about," said Obama, who said he went to the American Farm Bureau Federation to tout his opposition and used it as an issue in his 2004 Senate campaign.

"That conversation I had with the Farm Bureau, I was not ambivalent at all," said Obama.

On the war, both candidates denounced President Bush's record on Iraq, then restated long-held disagreements over which of them was more opposed.

Clinton said she and Obama had virtually identical voting records on the war since he came to the Senate in 2005.

The former first lady voted in 2002 to authorize the war, at a time when Obama was not yet in Congress, and he tried to use the issue to rebut charges that he is ill-prepared to become commander in chief.

Airport:

Continued From Page 1A

sport aircraft, or what Evans calls the "SUV [Sport Utility Vehicle] of airplanes" first flown in 1991. Since that time, the design has accumulated over 500,000 flight hours all over the world.

In the spring of 2007, officials from the Jabiru assembly plant in Shelbyville, Tenn., visited the Mt. Vernon airport. Once Evans made his commitment, the Jabiru dealership and Mt. Vernon idea was explored.

Evans was recently awarded the dealership to offer the Jabiru J-170, J-230, J-250 and J-450 lines in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

"It's really the efforts of a whole team," Evans said.

"This is a great day for the city of Mt. Vernon," Mayor Mary Jane Chesley said. "Your momentum is showing."

Chesley likened the MVAA to the "pistons" of the airport and characterized Collins as the "spark plug."

"You make my job easier and you make us look good," Chesley said. "This wasn't easy. It took a family of people with goals and hard work. We appreciate what you have done. Your momentum is showing and the city of Mt. Vernon thanks you."

Evans said the decision to make the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport his home and business base was an easy one.

"This airport is is fantastic," Evans said. "The grounds here are one of the best in Illinois, if not the United States. This airport will be here for a long time."

For more information on Eric Evans Aviation, people can visit www.ericevansaviation.com.

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SaeboFlex:

Continued From Page 1A

garage. The options were few before this."

John Dunham, who now lives in Mt. Vernon, makes use of the SaeboFlex glove, which appears to be a series of springs on a custom-fitted frame for the forearm and hand.

"Just being able to dry myself after a shower, using both hands, is one of the things that I couldn't do before," said Dunham. "I can push a shopping cart with both hands and I even shoveled snow and ice this weekend."

Those simple tasks are major events for the stroke patient who, a few months ago, could only hold his arm across his mid-section with fist closed.

Dunham was in Fairview Heights with a friend on August 30, 2006 when he told the friend he needed to sit down for a few minutes. He recovered enough to drive home but fell on the driveway at his home. A neighbor called the ambulance and Dunham soon learned that he had suffered a stroke.

"I was told during my first therapy that I was training to live without my left arm. The doctor told me I probably wouldn't walk again. I told him that wasn't going to happen."

Dunham got some literature on the Saebo company and soon started working with Kessler and Debbie Phillips in Mt. Vernon.

Sentinel Photo/JIM HALE

EXTRA HAND — The SaeboFlex glove was created by occupational therapists to help maximize hand and arm function in those who have suffered a stroke or other neurological event. Local therapists are trained to use the device as part of a rehabilitation program.

The two Crossroads occupational therapists have taken the training with Saebo to become certified in the use of the SaeboFlex glove, a therapy tool for stroke patients as well as for those with brain and spine injury and neurological conditions. Kessler and Phillips now work with Dunham and several others, employing the glove for 45 minutes during a one-hour session at the hospital. Patients also use the glove at home for 45 minutes twice each day.

"What has amazed me is how fast, how quick the improvements are," said Phillips. "The patient is able to do practical tasks in their daily life very quickly."

Use of glove therapy is definitely not limited to those who have had a stroke recently. In fact, patients have seen great improvement in hand use and arm motion years after the stroke. The local therapists have a patient from Dahlgren whose stroke occurred in 1999.

"That patient is making quick progress," said Kessler, who added that a patient at the Saebo school made progress 50 years after the fact.

"It goes against traditional wisdom and medical knowledge," said Andrea Hills, director of rehabilitation services at Crossroads. Hills explained that, in the past, many stroke patients learned to live with little or no use of hands and arms, simply because there was no program or device available that would make a difference.

Dunham, a native of Frankfort, Ind., worked in the railroad industry for 42 years. Now in his late 60s he lives in Mt. Vernon, close to his brother.

"I think my attitude of not depending on someone else completely helped," he said. "I live on my own now and even went to Louisville, Ky\. to the Farm Show. I walked everywhere in the exhibit hall and left my scooter in the back of the truck."

The Mt. Vernon hospital and the hospital in Herrin are two of the limited number of facilities where therapists are trained to employ the SaeboFlex glove. A full list of qualified hospitals and clinics is available at http://www.saebo.com.

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Warrants:

Continued From Page 1A

of those with warrants had been arrested and six of the names were being sought out of county.

He added there were no major issues with any of the arrests.

"Everything went pretty smoothly," he said.

Mendenall said the names of the people currently wanted will be released as they are arrested.

According to Jefferson County Justice Center jail logs, the list of those arrested as of deadline include:

• Shelia K. Brown, 26, was arrested at 11:54 p.m. Tuesday on a charge of manufacturing/delivery of cocaine;

• George D. White, 23, was arrested at 10:34 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Demetrius D. Goss, 36, was arrested at 9:14 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Mary A. Ross, 46, was arrested at 9:01 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Markiece T. Rush, 20, was arrested at 8 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Robert A. Fields, 24, was arrested at 1:52 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of possession of cannabis;

• Michael W. Waters, 41, was arrested at 1:13 p.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Tracy L. Pierce, 43, was arrested at 12:23 p.m. Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance;

• Raymond A. Harris, 42, was arrested at 11:41 a.m. Tuesday on charges of methamphetamine manufacturing, disposal of methamphetamine waste and possession of methamphetamine;

• Dennis R. Heck, 45, was arrested at 11:07 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Christopher Cooper, 37, was arrested at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Timmesha M. Heard, 25, was arrested at 10:14 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of possession of cannabis;

• Jennifer R. Hilliard, 20, was arrested at 10:11 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Alfred Ford, 43, was arrested at 9:17 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Kathy K. Kennedy, 42, was arrested at 9:08 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Bobby J. Williams, 25, was arrested at 8:51 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Tashia R. McClain, 19, was arrested at 8:42 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court;

• Brandon M. Wilkinson, 21, was arrested at 8:32 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of possession of cannabis;

• and Tonya D. Wetzel, 39, was arrested at 8:03 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court.

The chief also added that investigations into drug related offenses in Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County are continuing and several more arrests will follow in the near future.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Victim's name sought

The Illinois State Police is seeking information on the identity of a man found dead on Jan. 25 in a dumpster in the 200 block of Walnut Street outside of the Cherry Street Apartments in Marshall.

Police are treating the case as a homicide. The victim is believed to be approximately mid-twenties to early 30s in age, he is 5 foot, 5 inches in height, 130 pounds, with short dark hair, brown eyes and a short goatee of facial hair.

Unidentified

The deceased has a full set of teeth with no dental work noted. The victim has no tattoos or scars and his identity remains unknown to law enforcement authorities. The picture ABOVE is an artist's rendering of the deceased male. Anyone with information on the identity of the victim should contact the Illinois State Police Zone 7 Investigations at (217) 347-2711, the Marshall Police Department or the Clark County Sheriff's Department at (217) 826-8081.

Contractor hired for $94 million project at Scott AFB

MASCOUTAH — The Scott Air Force Base command that manages all transportation for the military is getting new digs.

The military says River City Construction of East Peoria is tapped to build a new $93.6 million headquarters for the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott, just east of St. Louis.

The new 180,000-square-foot, three-story building is to be completed by 2010 to replace the organization's current building.

The Transportation Command handles all transportation — of wounded troops, supplies, equipment and other cargo — for the military.

Man pleads guilty in 2005 slaying in Metro East

EDWARDSVILLE — A 24-year-old Granite City man has admitted killing a former Metro East fire chief's daughter in 2005 and setting her apartment ablaze to cover up the crime.

In return for David Lee Felton's guilty plea, Madison County prosecutors have agreed not to seek more than 50 years in prison for the man. Without the plea deal, Felton would face up to 60 years behind bars.

Felton killed 32-year-old Amy Abram in May of 2005. Authorities have suspected that Abram was struck in the head with an object during an argument with Felton after the two had just met at a Granite City bar.

Abram was the daughter of George Abram, Glen Carbon's former fire chief.

ICE arrests 30 illegal immigrants as part of 6-state operation

CHICAGO — Federal immigration officials in Chicago say they've arrested 30 illegal immigrants in Illinois with outstanding deportation orders as part of a six-state operation.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says there were a total of 225 arrests in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Wisconsin and Missouri. The four-day operation ended Monday.

-Compiled from Sentinel staff and news service reports

Sheriff's Association looking for area donations

Association helps implement a number of programs throughout the state

BY APRIL TOLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Keeping the public safe and implementing community programs takes a lot of work, Jefferson County Sheriff Roger Mulch said, and he is asking for the community's help.

The Illinois Sheriff's Association is currently holding its annual fundraiser, asking the community to participate in its Associate Membership Program.

"The program is based on the premise that citizens and law enforcement officers can collaborate to have a direct impact in our communities," Mulch said.

Through a $20 donation, community members can help both local and statewide programs, including developing legislation to help fight crime, continuing and starting programs aimed at groups such as children and the elderly, and creating scholarships given to teenagers throughout the state.

"The money goes to great use," Mulch said. "It helps sheriffs across the state fight crime."

Roger Mulch

Locally, Mulch said his office is committed to crime prevention and improving the quality of life for everyone.

Throughout the past year, he said, the office has worked at making improvements in the community by implementing programs aimed at reducing the number of "gun-related crimes, thefts, incidents of domestic violence and other disturbances."

The office's objectives, he said, include providing officers with resources to improve preparedness and response; promote Neighborhood Watch programs; continuing specialized technical training and crime-prevention measures; and protecting senior citizens from acts of violence, neglect and fraud.

Other initiatives the Jefferson County Sheriff's office has been working on, according to Mulch, are increasing drug awareness; working closely with shelters and local organizations to help fight against domestic violence; improving correctional facilities; integrating rehabilitation programs aimed at helping criminals transition back into society and implementing activities that help detour children from illegal activities.

Mulch said he is proud of the community's support toward these programs and he would encourage all who can to become a part of the Associate Membership Program.

"I strongly urge the residents of Jefferson County to consider participating in this honorable program, not only for its monetary support of law enforcement, but also for the moral support that unites us in building a safer community," Mulch said.

Those interested may call 217-496-2371 or write to 401 E. Washington Suite 1000, Springfield, IL., 62701.

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County board explores ideas for possible website

BY DANIELLE TYLER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Next month, the Jefferson County Board will be assigning members of the board to serve on a website committee whose job it will be to gather information for a potential county website.

Last night, the board met with Larry Christy of Concepte of Illinois, to hear what a Jefferson County website could look like.

"We need to get the word out not just to Jefferson County but to the world," Christy said.

The board was presented with a power point presentation that included information about the Benton-based company and how maintenance of such a website, as well as user statistics, would be accessed.

After the presentation, county board member Jim Laird asked if a website, which would include links to the county departments, could potentially save the county money.

"Is there a savings here?" Laird asked.

"I will never say there is a savings," Christy said. "It depends on what you do with it."

Christy did say however, the website could be used as a tool to promote economic growth and development to the area.

"Information is the bottom line and you can't buy enough time in the newspaper or in the television," Christy said. "The website is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and a website is your economic development."

The next step, Christy explained, would be for the board to assign members to a committee to collect information.

"This is not a fast process," Christy said. We need for you to tell us what you want and we will take that information and get a concept. We will then present a concept to you based on what you want."

Christy was unable to provide an estimated cost, saying the cost would be dependent on the kind of website the board wished to create. He did say, however, there would be a one-time licensing fee of $200 and the monthly hosting fee would run $25 per month.

According to Board Chairman Ted Buck, the board began discussing a possible website at the January meeting but said he was unsure, due to the costs still being an unknown, whether or not a website would likely be created in the next few months.

"I want to see what it will do for us," Buck said. "I want to make sure this will benefit the taxpayers. I was hoping we would be able to hear some costs and we have got to hear some costs soon so we know whether or not we can afford it. At the next month, we will assign some people to the committee and explore it."

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No charges against impersonators in Internet suicide case

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Charles County officials who did not charge anyone in an online hoax played on a 13-year-old girl who committed suicide also will not pursue charges against bloggers falsely posing on the Internet as a woman linked to the case.

St. Charles County Prosecutor Jack Banas said Tuesday that the sheriff's department investigated those who posed as Lori Drew on the Internet. Because the bloggers were from outside of Missouri and had not sent messages to either family involved in the case, and the difficulty of legally proving the identity and actions of people behind their Internet addresses, charges are not being pursued in the impersonation case, Banas said.

A Dardenne Prairie girl, Megan Meier, thought she was corresponding over MySpace with a cute boy named "Josh Evans" online. The boy never existed. Instead, Drew, a neighborhood mother; her 18-year-old employee; and 13-year-old daughter and Megan's one-time friend, were linked to the hoax.

When messages from the fictional boy and others on the Internet turned cruel, including one stating the world would be better off without her, Megan hanged herself in October 2006.

Sentinel Photo/APRIL TOLER

A WINNER ALL AROUND — Bethany Heierman, a pupil at J.L. Buford Grade School, was one of the winners of the Times Square Mall's Kids With Hearts program for demonstrating compassion and kindness.

Sentinel Photo/APRIL TOLER

TOP WINNER — Jazmine Hughes, a fifth grader at J.L. Buford Grade School, poses with J.L. Buford teacher April Hertenstein Tuesday after being named the grand prize winner of the Times Square Mall's Kids With Hearts program.

Program:

Continued From Page 1A

"honored" that her teacher and her fellow pupils acknowledged her in such a way.

"This is the best school I've been to in my life," she said.

Although Hughes enjoyed being the center of attention on Tuesday — especially after winning her class a pizza party — she was not the only young person honored during the event.

Molly Heierman, 10, also received recognition for her "big heart."

Nominated by teacher Nicole Pool, Heierman was recognized for her giving nature, especially when it comes to fund raisers at the school.

Some examples of Heierman's generous nature were demonstrated, Pool said, during fundraisers for both troops serving overseas and a food drive for needy children.

"Every day Molly brought a bag full of change to give to the troops and every day she would bring a couple of can goods [for the food drive]," Pool said.

Along with Hughes and Heierman other winners of the Kids With Hearts contest included Molly Setzekorn, 10, Seth Morgan, 6, Courtney Hunter, 12, and Adrian Kreher, 18. All of the winners received a $100 shopping spree.

Benjamin said it is a joy to see so much positive work being done by the young people in this community. She said both children, and adults, could aspire to emulate children like Hughes' behavior.

"Jazmine Hughes is a wonderful example of the best human nature has to offer," Benjamin said.

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SENTINEL ETCHINGS

Boil water order

MT. VERNON —A boil water order has been issued for the 900 block of Main Street.

Boil water order

MT. VERNON — A boil water order has been issued for the 900 block of Perkins; the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Veterans Memorial Drive; the 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600 blocks of Main Street; the 200 block of S. Seventh Street; the 700, 800, and 900 blocks of Broadway; the 700 and 800 blocks of Jordan; and the 1900 block of S. 10th Street.

Contempt of court arrest

MT. VERNON — Nikko D. Branch, 17, of the 1000 block of S. 25th Street, was arrested at 3:39 a.m. Tuesday on a charge of contempt of court.

Methamphetamine precursor arrest

MT. VERNON — Geraldine Thames, 22, of the 200 block of Cottonwood, was arrested at 9:14 p.m. Monday on a charge of methamphetamine precursor.

Operating vehicle with expired registration arrest

BLUFORD — Robert L. Fally, 66, of the 600 block of E. North Street, Bluford, was arrested at 1:10 p.m. Monday on a charge of operating a motor vehicle with an expired registration.

Driving with suspended license arrest

MT. VERNON — Sheilah M. Forth, 38, of the 3400 block of Veterans Memorial Drive, was arrested at 12:54 a.m. Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended/revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Contempt of court arrest

MT. VERNON —Jaime L Fairchild, 30, of the 1500 block of Harrison Road, was arrested at 8:19 p.m. Monday on a charge of contempt of court.

Possible burglary reported

MT. VERNON — A caller in the 200 block of N. Fourth Street, reported to police at 2 p.m. Monday that they returned home to find the side door of their residence kicked in.