



# Register-News

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## Santorum makes stop in King City

By **TESA CULLI**

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MT. VERNON — Republican presidential nominee Rick Santorum made a stop in the King City on Saturday, part of a tour of the state before Tuesday's General Primary Election.

"I'm encouraged by your enthusiasm," Santorum told

the crowd of 660 that gathered in the community hangar at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. "Everyone says Illinois doesn't have conservatives. We're going to show them on Tuesday that the conservative movement in Illinois is alive and well."

Santorum compared him-

self to a Republican president from Illinois — Ronald Reagan.

"I'm running against the establishment like Ronald Reagan did," Santorum said. "They said the country needed a moderate, that Ronald Reagan was too conservative and he doesn't connect with people. ...



Santorum

They said he was a throwback from a different era, that we needed someone who is in touch with the times. That's the same argument we hear today..."

Santorum concentrated the majority of his message Saturday on the presidential race, talking about the need for a different president and

how he was the candidate to beat President Barack Obama. He said the main issues are Obamacare, the economy and policy in the Middle East. He even joked about Obama being from Illinois.

"The people of Illinois have a particular obligation

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### Greeting the crowd



Republican presidential nominee Rick Santorum took time to meet with residents and visitors who came to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Saturday afternoon to hear the candidate speak. Santorum spent about 20 minutes signing autographs and posing for pictures following his address.

TESA CULLI/REGISTER-NEWS.COM

## Council to discuss tax increase

By **TESA CULLI**

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MT. VERNON — The city council will be discussing a one-half percent increase to its Municipal and Service Occupation Tax — commonly referred to as Home Rule sales tax — during its meeting tonight.

The council announced its intention to raise the tax during a workshop session last week, stating the increase would be used to pay the debt on capital projects and to undertake additional projects, according to Mayor Mary Jane Chesley.

Capital projects are currently financed through the food and beverage tax, the 2 cent per gallon diesel tax and the telecommunications tax.

"Unfortunately the revenues from those three sources are not enough to cover what we need to be doing," Chesley said last week. "The city is proposing a half-cent increase to sales tax to provide the revenue that we'd be needing to carry on these projects that we so desperately need to complete, particularly in economic development and quality of life."

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## People react to Santorum's visit

By **TESA CULLI**

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MT. VERNON — More than 660 people traveled from around the region to hear what Republican presidential nominee Rick Santorum had to say on Saturday.

Local people also played a part in the event, with Jim Duncan presenting the opening prayer and Jeremy Wright of the Boy Scouts reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. City Councilman Ron Lash spoke on behalf of the mayor and city council welcoming the visitors and Santorum to the city and Mt. Vernon Airport Manager Chris Collins also welcomed the national candidate to the airport.

"I came to see the next president and give him my support," Mark Marlow of Mt. Vernon said. "I wanted to hear him and

"He believes in family values. He has the same Christian values I have."

PHYLLIS KEEN

make sure I was here for this."

Phyllis Keen, another Mt. Vernon resident, said he wanted to learn more about the candidate and to support Santorum.

"He believes in family values," Keen said. "He has the same Christian values I have."

For Ben Kennedy, it was a chance to see and hear from his pick for the nomination. "I've already voted for him absentee," Kennedy said.

"I wanted to come and find out what Rick will do for us when he becomes pres-

ident," Mt. Vernon resident Bruce Miles said.

For Marty Cox of McLeansboro, he wanted to be at the event to report back to his son, Mark.

"Mark is definitely for Santorum," Cox said. "He wasn't able to be here, so I said I would come. I wouldn't mind seeing him as president anyway."

Jeff Smith of Staunton traveled to the King City for the opportunity to see his can-

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## Toys for Kids to host toy drive

Drive to benefit victims of

# STOP

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to get it right this time,” Santorum said with a laugh. “The people of Illinois really have the opportunity to really send shockwaves on Tuesday.”

Santorum also gave some comments about Obama calling him a “weak horse” and “appeaser in chief.”

“We have a president who simply appeases and negotiates with evil,” Santorum said. “Ronald Reagan knew you don’t negoti-

ate with evil. There is only one candidate that has a track record different from President Obama on the important issues of the day.”

Although his speech concentrated on running against Obama, he also had a few jabs to make at his Primary opponent Mitt Romney, saying he is watching television and seeing advertisements from Romney saying he is not really a conservative.

“Then I change the channel and hear that I’m too conservative,” Santorum said. “When you can’t go out and talk about your own

record, then you try to pick and mislead people about what the record actually is.”

Santorum said he is not running a negative campaign.

“People are excited and tell me, ‘thank you for delivering a positive message about what’s at state in this nation instead of going out and beating down the opposition and running negative ads,’” Santorum said.

Santorum spent a portion of the day in Missouri, then went on a whistle stop tour of Illinois, starting in Chicago and making stops in Effingham, Mt. Vernon and Herrin.



More than 660 packed the community hangar at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Saturday to see Republican presidential nominee Rick Santorum. TESA CULLI/REGISTER-NEWS

## SANTORUM

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didate.

“I came because of his passion, and he has great ideas to bring manufacturing back to the nation,” Smith said. “He’s not afraid to talk about God.”

Patrick Green came from Alton to hear Santorum speak.

“I came because I want-

ed to hear Rick speak in person,” Green said. “The reason I’m supportive of him is because he’s the most heartfelt candidate, he speaks from the heart.”

The crowd at the airport on Saturday was highly supportive, speaking out at times during Santorum’s address in agreement with his stance on issues.

Those attending Saturday’s appearance also got to hear from one of the nation’s most well-known

families — the Duggars from the TLC Channel show “19 Kids and Counting.” Duggar family members have been traveling with Santorum while out on the campaign trail. Nick Duggar spoke to introduce Santorum, while two Duggar daughters, dubbed “The Santorum Girls” sang a campaign song while Santorum signed autographs and allowed pictures to be taken with the crowd.