

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887 unt Vernan, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 117 • Number 1 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, October 10, 2002

Memorial service for Lee Keene

memorial service will be held unday at 2 p.m. for former castle Hospital Administrator

Rockcastle Hospital Administrator Lee D. Keene. Keene, 70, died last week in Knoxwille and had been very active in the Rockcastle community during his 13 years at the hospital. The memorial service will be

d in the auditorium at the ckeastle County High School.

Bittersweet Festival

5 p.m.

There will be plenty of entertainment on hand including SoulReal, a Louisville group, who is known state-

wide.

There will also be a baby contest, parade and a lot of good food and socializing.

Saturday's events begin at 10 am. with the Bittersweet Cloggers and end at 6:30 pm. with entertainment by Pure Country.

For more information and a complete schedule of events see Page A-6.

More money available for cattle farmers

Cattle farmers

The Rockcastle County
Cattlemen's Association will utilize remaining funds (333,000) from the spring Genetic Improvement Program through a second funding cycle.

Applications will be available Nov. 1 through Dec. 2 at the Rockcastle County Cooperative Extension Service office. Priority will be given to producers who did not receive funds in the first-cycle.

However, if funds are available, additional request will be taken from previous participants.

The genetic Improvement Program assists farmers in purchasing bulls with high quality genetics. Expected Prograpy Difference (EPD's) 'guidelines set by the state are minis-

(Cont. to A-9)





Important meeting held concerning Burley Co-op

Just as outside forces are eroding entucky's tobacco culture, a split ceatens the heart of the burley busi-

ness.

Direct sales, a possible farmer buyout and dwindling demand are reshaping the market for what was once the state's top cash producer for farmer.

farms.

And many farmers are questioning the future need for a price support-system that has changed little in the last 40 years. Is the Burley To-bacco Growers Cooperative becom-

ing obsolete?
Once a solid, stolid, predictable bastion of the burley business, the coop is now fraught with fault lines that could crack wide open.
"There's been just a ground swell of farmers notifying people they want a change," said Roger Quarles, a Georgetown tobacco farmer, who sits

on the co-op board.

Wednesday, seven directors joined the 30 member board that represents thousands in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri, who have a stake in burley.

At least one incumbent was un-seated under a new one-man, one-vote system that wrestled power out of the hands of tobacco-rich counties.

of the hands of tobacco-rich counties.

"Another longtime director, "W."
Rusty Thompson of Woodford
County, apparently scraped by with
less than a 20-vote margin to cling
to his seat.

But the big earthquake that could

But the big earthquake that couje erupt at this week's meeting – and possibly break open the insular coop – is a burgeoning coup.

Quarles said he planned to challenge Henry West of Paint Lick for leadership of the co-op. West has been president for only a year, but

it's been a tumultuous one.
West, who since 1995 had served as co-op vice president under Rod Kuegel, who is now president emeritus, is seen as closely allied with longtime.co-op Chief Executive Officer Danny McKinney of Rockeaste County.
And many co-op members and directors don't blame West as much as McKinney for the faux pass of the past year, including:

A \$1.4 million ad campaign aimed at getting burley growers to

A \$1.4 million ac campaign aimed at getting burley growers to continue participation in the federal price support program – and ensure the need for a co-op.
Paying \$1.25 million for an old

Paying \$1.25 million for an old tobacco warehouse in Cymhiana after a controversial one-on-one-phone vote the control of the c sonalities and politics get all mixed up some times. From that, you have

up some times. From that, you have dissension and divisiveness."

In 2002. McKinney's salary should be at least \$13,000 according to co-op minutes.

McKinney would not say what his salary actually is.

Some other perks he acknowledges: McKinney gest one of five co-op vehicles that he also can put to personal use. Besides the co-op standard retirement packer, McKinney is also guaranteed a bonus that means he will receive another 25 percent of his salary for at least 15 years. By age 64, his death benefits will top (Cont. to A-9)

Two more die in local wrecks

to 12.
On Friday, Daniel Evans, 33, of Whitley County, died in a single vehicle accident on Interstate 75 at the 56 mile marker.
According to Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell, Evans apparently lost control on the slick road, hit the cliff and ended up in the median.

dian.

Dowell said that the truck Evans was driving landed on top of him after he was ejected from the vehicle. Evans was pronounced dead at the Rockcastle Hospital due to massive and internal injuries. The acci-

dent occurred around 7 p.m.

On Saturday, a local man was also killed in an automobile accident

involving an all-terrain vehicle.
Frankie E. Marler, 29, of Sand Springs, died after the four wheeler he was driving collided head on with a Ford Ranger truck driven by Roscoe Smith, 39, of Mt. Vernon. The wreek occurred on Hwy. 1249 around 2:45 n.m.

Kentucky State Trooper Lafe Owens said that Marler also had a passenger on his four wheeler, Jonathan W. Taylor, 16, who was se-riously injured in the wreck.

Taylor was taken to Rockeastle Hospital and later transferred to the UK Medical Center in Lexington,

Smith's passenger, Gregory Thomas, 18, of Livingston, was not injured in the wreck.

Court discusses prisoner cutbacks

The Rockcastle County Detention Center has been a money making business for the county since the recent renovation and remodeling, but that may soon change.

Rockcastle County Jailer James Miller told the Rockcastle County Fiscal Count on Tuesday that the State Department of Corrections was beginning to limit the number of prisoners that the local jail could hold.

The county of the county o

Miller said that in order for the

money the county would need to provide more beds, possibly on the second floor of the courthouse or even building a new facility.

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carfolis said that building a new facility would be difficult for the county at this time, but that all options are being considered.

The fiscal court also briefly discussed improvements at the jail and the Rockcastle County Animal Shelter, which will open in Roundstone soon.

RCMS site of exercise

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) will hold its annual exercise Wednesday, October 23.

The Rockesstle County Middle School will play a vital role in the exercise this year, so don't be alamed if you notice quite a bit of activity around the school on that aday," said Rockastle County CSEPP Coordinator Howell Holbrook.

A CSEPP decontamination trailer will be set up next to the school along with two traffic control points. The exercise information will mention that the middle school will be used as a shelter.



Want a bite? Probably not. Isaac Barnett, of Garrard County, displays this huge mushroom that was located on his property. The mushroom was over a foot in diameter.



t. Vernon Mayor Karen King signed a proclamation declaring Spouse Abuse Prevention Week in sekeastle County last week. On hand were members of the staff of the Christian Appalachian Project, to deal with abuse on a daily basis. They are shown above left: Brenda Smith, Liz Phelps, Donna Randall d Shana Gogglin.