

"Road"

(Cont. from front)

about the Circuit Court action and that some of them may be called to testify. "We're on the same team," the Judge said.

"McKinney"

(Cont. from front)

apply was March 10.

Hammond said that he would turn all of the applicants over to the council next week and that interviews would probably begin shortly after that.

Hammond said that the only local application was from Broadhead teacher Caroline Graves, who is also a member of the site based council.

Other members of the council are teachers Katreka Cash and Kathy Dyehouse and parent members Shari Proctor and Mary Ann Childress.

"Board"

(Cont. from front)

questioned out loud the benefit of field trips by students to Maroon Lanes and to play Laser Quest.

Each month the board must approve any field trip taken and just about each month Vanzant voices his concern about spending time bowling and playing laser tag, when students could be in the classroom.

The board also discussed their policy on drug testing. They are considering random drug testing for student athletes, but took no action on the policy.

The board also approved the re-surfacing of the track at the Rockcastle County Middle School at a cost of

\$40,000.

The board also awarded the bid for the school system's annual audit to local Certified Public Accountant Joe Clontz for \$7,000.

"Graves"

(Cont. from front)

recognized by the fiscal court so they could receive a donated fire truck from Madison County.

Stallworth told the court that Southend would work hand in hand with the Livingston Fire Department and that they had already purchased two trucks and were in the process of completing a metal building to house those trucks.

The court also approved a payment of \$90,000 to Emergi Tech, Inc. for equipment that will be used for the enhanced version of the county's 911 emergency dispatching.

911 director Tim Cameron told the court that the \$90,000 was half of the payment on the equipment and the other half would be paid when the equipment is delivered.

Cameron said mapping and implementing of the enhanced version would begin in May.

The court also approved the sale of the old county garage property at auction on April 28.

"Tobacco"

(Cont. from front)

kind of restriction, contracting will put the smaller farmers out of business and cripple the economic health of the rural economies.

Commissioner of Agriculture Billy Ray Smith is one of the leaders in the fight for this protective legislation. "If we're going to have contracts, we should have some guidelines in place so that farmers are well-informed and know what they're getting into," said Commissioner Smith.

Under Senate Bill 385, a Commission would be established with representatives appointed by the Governor from the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative, and the Burley Farmers Advisory Council. The Farm Service Agency and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture would serve as ad hoc members. The Commission would operate within the

Kentucky Department of Agriculture. This Commission would define a Minimum Standard Contract that would set the basic guidelines and requirements for a contract. Most of all, the Commission would determine if the contracts agree with the Federal Tobacco Price Support Program.

"This bill would reaffirm Kentucky's commitment to the Tobacco Price Support Program," said Rod Kuegel, president of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative. This bill was proposed to Senator Harris by leaders of the Burley Co-op as a means to take care of the small farmers and set some guidelines for contracting.

Also within Senate Bill 385, would be the power to declare a contract void if it did not comply with the Tobacco Price Support Program. Companies interested in contracting in Kentucky would register with the Commission, and then negotiate minimum standard contracts. Those contracts would be offered to farmers who would still be free to negotiate for even better prices and terms. An arbitration board would be available for disputed contracts.

"The Tobacco Farmers Protection Act is patterned after legislation in other states with contract agriculture. This bill is very comprehensive and offers strong protection to farmers," said Danny McKinney, CEO of the Burley Co-op. McKinney went on to explain that farmers should learn by looking at other contracted commodities and know that, unless regulated, contracting can be detrimental to the economic health and well-being of the farm and rural economies.

Contracting in tobacco has the potential to eliminate thousands of small tobacco farmers. In agriculture, 30 percent of the commodities grown or raised in the U.S. is under contracts. In these businesses, larger producers are offered the contract. Smaller farmers have limited or no markets. They are focused out of business allowing the large to become larger and the corporations to take over farm production. Without regulation, tobacco will become the same situation.

The Tobacco Farmers Protection Act, Senate Bill 385, protects the farmers from this grim end result. Here's what it does:

- Reaffirm the Tobacco Price Support Program as the best and most efficient means of preserving the economic health of thousands of small tobacco farmers;
- Ensure that any contracts or contracting practices protect the public interest in the continued efficient operation of the tobacco price support program;
- Establish a commission to oversee the contracting practices in Kentucky whose mission will be to ensure fairness and equality to all participating farmers;

• Establish a Minimum Standard Contract, which can include price, terms and conditions, and from which farmers can negotiate for more, but not less.

"This bill does not stop contracting," said Rod Kuegel. "Its purpose is to protect the farmers from the potential inequalities, inconsistencies, and injustices that often are associated with contracting."

Contracting outside of the Tobacco Price Support Program is not good corporate citizenship," he added.

participating farmers;

• Establish a Minimum Standard Contract, which can include price, terms and conditions, and from which farmers can negotiate for more, but not less.

"This bill does not stop contracting," said Rod Kuegel. "Its purpose is to protect the farmers from the potential inequalities, inconsistencies, and injustices that often are associated with contracting."

Contracting outside of the Tobacco Price Support Program is not good corporate citizenship," he added.

Republicans to meet Saturday

All registered Republicans are urged to attend and participate in the Rockcastle County Mass Convention at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 18 at the Rockcastle County Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor District Courtroom. The purpose of this meeting is the election of officers.

All registered Rockcastle County Republican voters are entitled to attend and vote upon this matter. For more information, contact County Chairman Juanita Davis at 256-2842.

Democrats to meet April 1st

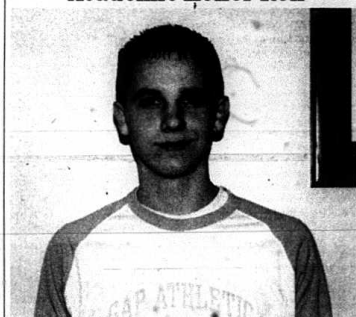
Democratic County Chair Leroy Brown announced Monday that Rockcastle County's Precinct Conventions will be held April 1, 2000, 10:00 a.m., local time, at each precinct's regular polling place.

All Democrats who reside in this county and are registered to vote in that precinct by March 1, 2000, are eligible to attend and participate in the election of Precinct Committee members. The Precinct Committee members (one man, one woman, and one youth who is 35 years of age or younger) will be the delegates to the County Convention to be held April 8, 2000, 10:00 a.m., local time at Rockcastle County Courthouse at which time they will elect a new Democratic County Executive Committee to serve for the next four years.

In addition, the Precinct Committee member will elect delegates to attend the Congressional District Convention and State Convention and State Convention to elect members of the Democratic State Central Executive Committee. The 2000 Democratic Congressional District and State Conventions will be held on June 17, 2000 at a location to be announced later.

Any Democrat registered in the county by March 1, 2000, may seek election as a member of the County Executive Committee and/or as a delegate to the Congressional District and State Conventions.

Academic Honor Roll



Luke McKibben, son of Danny and Kathy McKibben, has a 3.90 GPA at RCHS. He is a member of FHA, National Honor Society, Beta Club, and FBPA. His hobbies include playing basketball, listening to music and watching movies. He plans to attend Somerset Community College and major in Business Management and Computers.

The Daniel Boone Development Council is now accepting bids for mowing the lawns at the Town Hill Rental Complex. Please pick up a bid form at the DBDC office on the third floor of the courthouse. Bids will be accepted until March 31.

TRAINING STATE FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING AREA -13 862-0318 ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE : MARCH 20, 2000

LOCATION: ROCKCASTLE CO. HIGH SCHOOL

TIME: 7:00 PM

SUBJECT: HOME & FARM SAFETY PROGRAM

INSTRUCTOR: DALE DOBSON; FARM SAFETY FIELD OFFICER WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Western /Rockcastle Water Association's
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 5th
10:00 a.m.
at the Water Office

Depending on the "luck of the Irish" for RETIREMENT?



You may not find a pot of gold when you need it most.

Save now by opening an Individual Retirement Account with The Bank of Mt. Vernon.

BMV

The Bank of Mt. Vernon
Main Street Ph. 606-256-5141
Highway 461 Ph. 606-256-5142

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender
Substantial Penalty for Early Withdrawal