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A nearly 9,000 square foot barn owned by Raymond and Ronnie McKinney of McKinney Road, near Mareburg, was completely destroyed by fire Friday morning. The McKinneys lost 390 round bales of hay, three tractors, a new hay rake and numerous other items in the 6 a.m. fire. Mt. Vernon firefighters responded to the scene, but the barn was completely involved when they arrived. The cause of the blaze is still unknown.

New law would allow county to charge inmates

Those arrested in Rockcastle County may soon find themselves having to pay for their stay in the local detention center.

Rockcastle County Jailor James Miller said this week, that he is considering presenting the Rockcastle Fiscal Court with a proposal that would allow the Detention Center to charge local prisoners for each day they are in jail.

Miller said the 2000 General Assembly passed a law that allows jails to levy such a fee for incarceration and for medical and dental expenses.

Miller said that Davies County Jailor Harold Taylor made a presentation last week to jailers and Judge-Executives from across the state outlining a plan, he intends to implement in Davies County on July 1st.

His plan calls for local prisoners to pay a booking fee of \$20 and a \$20 a day fee for each day an inmate is in jail.

Miller said that he may initially propose only a booking fee of \$20 to \$25 for each person that is arrested and brought to the detention center.

"We have about 20 to 25 arrests in the county a week and just a booking fee alone would generate quite a bit of money for the detention center," Miller said.

Final approval on any type of proposal which would charge prisoners for their stay and associated expenses would have to be approved by the fiscal court.

Rockcastle Buzz Carlotis said Wednesday that he was totally in favor of charging inmates.

Taxpayers have footed all of the expenses associated with keeping inmates in jails long enough, those convicted of committing a crime, should have to pay at least a portion of the cost," he said.

"I researched this very something several years ago, but because the state had no policy in place for such a prisoner pay program we were unable to implement one," he said.

Miller admitted that it was very unlikely that all of the local prisoners would be able to pay a fee for their incarceration, but he said there could be other ways for prisoners to take care of their debt such as community service work.

On Wednesday, eighteen local prisoners and 73 state prisoners were being held in the detention center.

The county could not charge state prisoners, because the state is already paying \$26.23 to the county for their keep and they are also responsible for their own medical and dental bills.

Miller and Carlotis both admitted that charging prisoners a fee while they are in jail, is a political issue.

"I'm for it, but I don't know how the magistrates feel about it at this point," Carlotis said.

Livingston man arrested

A Livingston man was arrested Monday night, after members of the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication reportedly found 38 marijuana plants growing on his property.

Kentucky State Trooper Lefe Owens arrested J.C. Whitt, 67, of Rt. 2, Livingston at his residence on Gauley Branch at approximately 5:40 p.m.

According to court records, Whitt was charged with one felony count of cultivating marijuana over five plants.

He was released on a \$5,000 property bond and is due in court on July 19.

Bridge at CC condemned

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlotis announced Wednesday that the county bridge at Copper Creek, where Copper Creek Road and Cupps Chapel Road intersect has been condemned by the state.

Carlotis said the state's highway commissioner has told him that the state may kick in the needed \$44,000 it will take to fix the bridge.

The Judge said that the repairs to the bridge are a top priority because of the heavy volume of traffic, but that as of right now the county does not have the money to fix it, unless they get help from the state.

Although the bridge has been condemned it has not been closed, the Judge said.

Meeting scheduled to discuss poverty

Daniel Boone Development Council, Inc., will sponsor a community-wide Dialogue on Poverty on Thursday, June 29, 2000 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Emergency Operations Center (located in the Rockcastle County Courthouse), executive director Mike Buckles announced today.

The local forum is part of Dialogue on Poverty 2000: Leading America to Community Action sponsored by the National Association of Community Action Agencies

(NACAA) to actively involve low- and middle-income Americans in the ongoing discussion about poverty in America.

"We are sponsoring this community forum so that everyone can join in conversation about the realities of living in poverty and how individuals, families and communities can become self-sufficient," said Buckles.

The purpose of the forum is to determine strategies and actions needed to help alleviate poverty in

Rockcastle County and to educate public officials, the private sector and the general public about current poverty-related problems and effective strategies for resolving them.

Rainfall

Rockcastle County got some much needed rainfall in the past few days with nearly three inches falling since Sunday, according to records at the Cox Funeral Home weather station in Mt. Vernon.

In June, just over 4 inches has fallen in Mt. Vernon, but weatherman Bud Cox said that other areas of the county not received more and some less.

The high in June has been 90 degrees on June 13 and the low was 44 on June 7.

Bluegrass Festival

Connoisseurs of Bluegrass Music are in for a real treat June 29, 30 and July 1 as Renfro Valley Entertainment Center plays host to "The Old Joe Clark Bluegrass Festival." The festival now in its sixteenth consecutive year provides three full days of pure non-stop bluegrass bliss.

From Thursday afternoon (June 29) until Sunday night (July 1) Renfro Valley's Festival Grove will ring with the sounds of some of the finest pickers in Bluegrass music today, including The Osborne Brothers, Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek, Lonesome River Band, Reno Brothers, III Tyme Out, The Boys from Middle Creek, The Lewis Family, John Cosby & The Bluegrass Drifters, Mountain Heart and many, many more. Matt Paul will be on hand as Master of Ceremonies for the three day event. In the event of rain the shows will move inside until the weather clears.

Join in the fun with open stage or back yard pickin', festival camping is available all three days. Tickets range in price from \$15.00 to \$40.00. Three day ticket holders get a free soup bean supper and jam session on Thursday evening, June 29.

Food concessions and retail vendors add to the festival atmosphere. Tents will be provided for shade and guests are advised to bring lawn chairs. overnight guests should call ahead for motel reservations, camp sites in the festival area or in Renfro Valley's full service RV Park. Renfro Valley's Festival Grove is adjacent to the Renfro Valley Entertainment Center complex on U.S. Hwy. 25, just off I-75 at exit 62. For more information about "The Old Joe Clark Bluegrass Festival" or any Renfro Valley show, concert or special event call 800-765-7464 or 606-256-2638.

Lunsford receives Robinson scholarship

Elijah Wayne Lunsford of Orlando has been inducted into the University of Kentucky's Robinson Scholars Program, which provides full college tuition, room and board and books during his college career. Lunsford, son of Debra Bullock of Orlando and Wayne Lunsford of Berea and student at Rockcastle County Middle School, was one of 29 students accepted into the scholarship program at Hazard Community College on Saturday June 10.

The Robinson Scholars Program, which inducted its first class in 1997, provides scholarships valued at up to \$8,000 a year to students who otherwise would be unable to pursue a degree. The students must maintain an acceptable grade point average and graduate from high school to receive their scholarships.

The program is open to eighth graders from 29 eastern Kentucky counties, with selection based on each student's academic potential, the

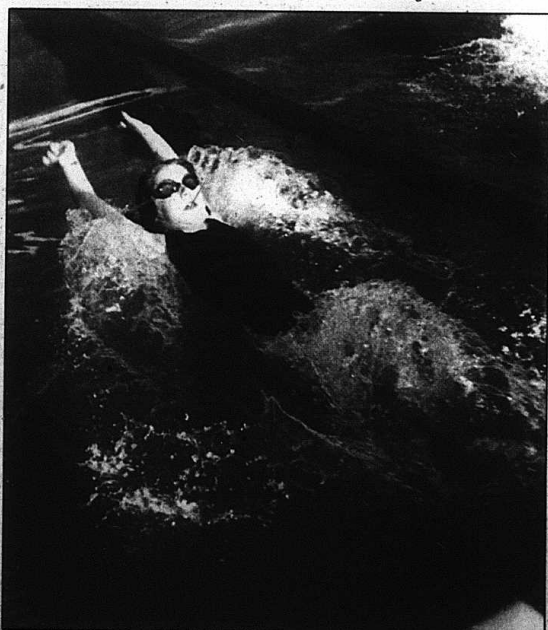
family's need for assistance with college related expenses, essays and interviews. The parents of the selected students also have not attained a college degree. Students apply for consideration through their schools' guidance counselor.

Funded by earnings from coal mining and logging operations permitted on nearly 4,000 acres of the 14,000-acre Robinson Forest in Breathitt, Perry and Knott counties, the program was established by the UK Board of Trustees in 1995. The board utilized the E.O. Robinson Trust to provide increased educational opportunities in eastern Kentucky, where college attendance is historically low compared to other regions of the state.

The trust carried a stipulation that it be used primarily for reforestation and agricultural reforestation and agricultural research or for the benefit of the people of the mountain region.



Elijah Lunsford, right, and U.K. vice president for management and budget, Ed Carter.



The Cedar Rapids Dolphins kicked off their 2000 swim season Tuesday night with a three point win over visiting Eagles Nest. Above, Jillian Lay takes off the back stroke in the 9-10 year-old girl's competition. The Dolphins next meet is Saturday against Somerset.