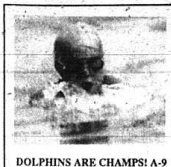


Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

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DOLPHINS ARE CHAMPS! A-9

Local hospital announces \$2 million expansion

The Board of Directors of Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. unanimously approved a nearly \$2 million expansion and renovation plan at the July 25 meeting.

The plan, which completes the hospital's long-term construction master plan, includes a renovated and expanded Lab, Emergency Department, X-ray Department and Administrative area for a total of nearly 28,000 square feet.

"These changes will create a much more patient friendly hospital by enlarging some of our busiest areas," said Lee Keene, president of RHRCC.

The new ER will be four times larger than our existing one, which means we'll be able to offer a larger, more private area along with a larger staff to care for patients," he said. The new construction will give the ER six examining rooms, trauma room, decontamination area, waiting area, supervisor and physician offices and a triage area.

The hospital recently changed its system of physician coverage for the ER. Working with the University of Kentucky Medical Center, RHRCC increased the number of doctors available in the department.

"Our female patients will be glad to know that our X-ray Department expansion will make the mammography area more convenient," said Gary Asher, director of construction. "It, along with the Nuclear Medicine Department, will move to the ground floor, so the entire department will be housed in one area," he said.

Other changes include the X-ray Department including a new waiting area and doctors' office.

An addition also will be added to the front of the hospital to accommodate a new lobby, which will house accounts payable and the switchboard. In addition, a new administrative area will move into that section to allow the Lab to expand into the present administrative area.

"One of the things I think patients

will appreciate most is the new canopy drive-through in front of the hospital," Keene said. "Patients can be dropped off right at the door and be protected from adverse weather."

The cost of new construction will be nearly \$2 million dollars, all of which the hospital has in reserve funds for the project. The next step is to

gain state approval of the building plans. Construction is expected to take two to two-and-a-half years once approval is given. Arch II & Associates, Inc. of Lexington developed the construction and renovation plans for the hospital.

RHRCC currently employs 340 people with an annual payroll of

approximately \$8 million. Because of the expansion project, that number will increase, but by how much is not yet clear.

During Keene's tenure at RHRCC, many new programs and equipment, as well as new facilities, have been added such as the Medical Arts Building, new operating rooms, acute care

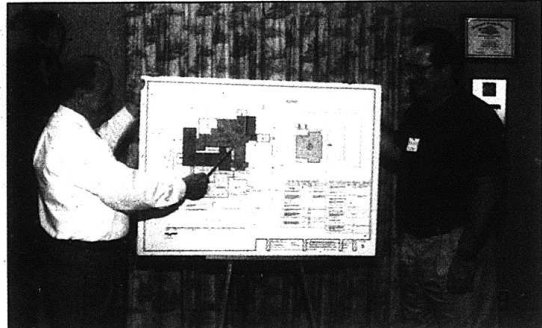
beds and rehabilitation services.

Last August, the hospital received a three-year accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and in February, it opened a Home Health Care Program that has recently become licensed by the state.

The hospital board of directors is led by the Hon. Joe Lambert. Other

members are James W. Lambert, Bige Towery, Bill Bailey, Sr., Bill Bailey, Jr. and Wayne Stewart.

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. is not-for-profit community hospital. It was established in 1956 and treats patients from across Kentucky and parts of Tennessee.



Lee Keene, left, and Gary Asher are shown above discussing the hospital's plans for a \$2 million expansion and renovation project.

Local Fair kicks off Saturday

It's fair time in Rockcastle County again.

The 105th Little World's Fair is set to kick off on Saturday at the

Rockcastle County Fairgrounds in Brodhead.

Saturday the Dairy Show will begin at 12 Noon and on Saturday

night the annual Go-Kart races will be held, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday a horseshoe pitching con-

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Judge Cain dismisses indictment

An indictment against a local man which dated back to 1996 was dismissed Friday by Rockcastle Circuit Judge William Cain.

John Lamb, 47, of Rt. 2, Mt. Vernon had been indicted in April of 1996, after he was accused of selling illegal drugs to a confidential

informant in November of 1995. Lamb had been indicted on four counts. He was accused of selling Valium on two different occasions, Tylox once, and marijuana once.

All four counts of the indictment were dismissed. Also on Friday, Eddie Gentry, 23, of Floyd Street, Mt. Vernon was sentenced to five years in prison after he pled guilty to 17 counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument.

Gentry had been indicted in 1999 on two different occasions. The forged instruments were checks drawn on the Trans Credit Union, Shannon Eaton, 23, of Mt. Vernon was also sentenced to 90 days in jail after he pled guilty to an amended

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Meeting on road is set for Aug. 29

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has scheduled a public meeting to discuss a planning study to analyze the need and establish a preferred corridor for a new route between U.S. 150 and I-75.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Brodhead Elementary School. Rockcastle County Judge-Executive said in July that the highway department was considering building a new road from Hwy. 150 through Copper Creek to Conway, where a new interchange would be built.

An advertisement considering the meeting can be found on Page B-11.



Mark Mason

of the accident.

Mason is survived by five children, ages 21 to 12. Every year 54,000 people nationwide are injured and more than 200 killed in ATV crashes. In Kentucky last year, 18 people died in ATV accidents.

Gospel Sing

Beginning at midnight and lasting into daylight hours, Renfro Valley's All Night Gospel Sing has been held on the first Saturday in August for the past fifty-eight years. Holding its own from the start, the All Night Gospel Sing is an event that not only brings people from other areas, but is of interest to local folks as well.

Much of the success of the sing's early years can be attributed to Jim Waggoner from Knoxville, Tenn., who spent 38 years in Renfro Valley on the first Saturday night in August. Prior to 1950, the All Night Gospel Sing was emceed by Rhed Thomas who, along with Renfro Valley founder John Lair, got the annual event started.

Today, as in the early days, the All Night Gospel Sing attracts large crowds of Southern Gospel fans. The event itself is quite unique. Beginning

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Shown above at last week's banquet were Roy Brown, right, and H. Lee Durham, left.

Leaders in last century honored

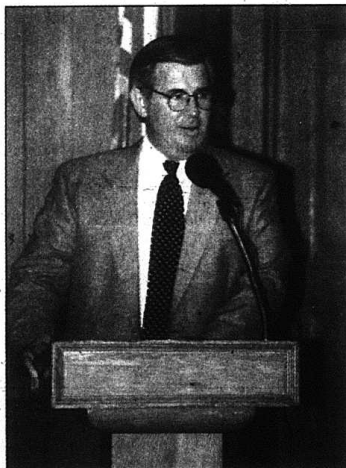
Article Submitted

Some of the improvements in the county and things of great benefit for the people are electric, telephone, water, road, new courthouse, new schools, buildings, new home and farm buildings, fencing, land improvement, better breeds of livestock, improved crops, markets and great production and farming methods, equipment and organizations, clubs that have helped people work together in cooperation to get many things accomplished.

Many of the people responsible for the those improvements in the last Century were honored recently at a banquet at the Boone Tavern Restaurant in Berea, which was sponsored by Citizens Bank.

Those honored included Rockcastle Farm Bureau. Its members have more power to get laws and insurance to help many farmers than in

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Citizens Bank President Keith Smith was the Master of Ceremonies.

Open House is Saturday at Rockcastle River Trading Co.

It may not have all of the hoopla surrounding it that Fort Sequoyah did in 1955, but you can rest assured that if it is an enterprise of the Carlolitis family, it will be a unique business.

On Saturday, Mrs. Lucille Carlolitis and her family members will host an open house at the family's newest business venture, Rockcastle River Trading Company.

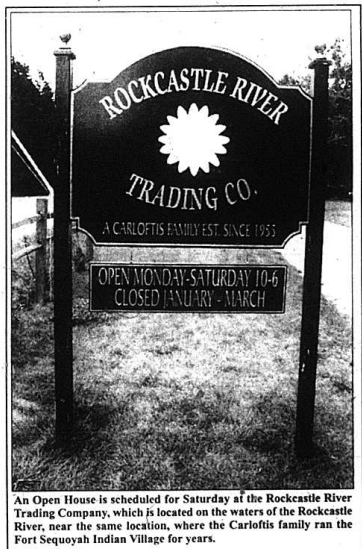
The unique shop is located on the Rockcastle River, on the very site where the Carlolitis family built their Indian Village 45 years ago. Many local citizens will fondly recollect stopping years ago, at Fort Sequoyah the Indian Village and trading post which was located three miles south of Lexington, on U.S. 25. The very same spot where the new business is now.

Established by Carlos Carlolitis and his wife, Lucille, Fort Sequoyah, began in 1955 as a replica of a 150-year-old Indian village where Cherokees made pottery, beads and other crafts in the manner of their forefathers. There was even a working blacksmith's shop.

Surrounded by the natural untamed beauty of the Daniel Boone National Forest, it served as a popular tourist outpost where nature and commerce shared top billing.

In the interim, Carlolitis passed away and Fort Sequoyah, taken from a Cherokee Indian name, went through a series of starts and stops before it finally closed for good a few years back. But by then, the Carlolitis children had matured, and, at last

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An Open House is scheduled for Saturday at the Rockcastle River Trading Company, which is located on the waters of the Rockcastle River, near the same location, where the Carlolitis family ran the Fort Sequoyah Indian Village for years.