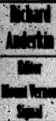


McConnell delivers interesting speech



Michael McConnell

U.S. Senator Michael McConnell gave quite an entertaining speech at the Kastle Inn Restaurant on Monday.

That is if you were a Republican. McConnell said that President Clinton's eight years in office, the worst of his life and he was glad they were over.

He also told a pretty funny joke about the former President's highly controversial pardons.

McConnell said that when he, President Bush and former President Clinton were riding from the White House to the Capitol on Inauguration Day, he noticed the former President was yawning a lot.

He said that President Bush asked him if he noticed Clinton's yawns and the two concluded that the former President had stayed up all night partying.

McConnell said that the President Bush realized later that Clinton wasn't up all night partying, he was up all night "pardoning."

Whether or not you agree with McConnell on all the issues, he has been a very strong advocate for the tobacco farmer among other things, such as his support for the gun owner.

Monday he came across as a very down-to-earth man, who has the best interest of Kentucky, and the country, at heart.

But McConnell is also one of those who is opposed to campaign finance reform.

Basically the Senator is a money-making machine.

McConnell directs the campaign financing of the country's Senate Republicans - and he is very good at what he does. He has also already raised over \$1 million dollars for his re-election bid in 2002.

The problem with so much money being involved in political campaigns is that it really leaves the decision about who your successful candidates are up to a limited number of people.

The big Republican money decided George W. Bush would be his candidate and he was. The same was true of the Democrats and Al Gore.

Because not all primary elections are held at the same time - supporters can pour money into states, like New Hampshire, and put their opponents out of the race before the actual majority of the country has any say in the process.

Savannah Brooke Owens celebrated her third birthday with a Teletubbies party at the home of her Grammy Nomina and Papaw Terry Owens on January 17, 2001. Savannah is the daughter of Lale Owens of Mt. Vernon and Gloria Owens of Berea. Savannah would like to thank her Daddy, Nannie, Grammy, Papaw, Angie, Kenny, Charles and Cameron Cornelius, Kim and Michaela Hunter, Judy Lawless and Justice Masters, Donaleah and Ryan Martin, Gayle, Cary and Ryan Whitfield, and Scotty and Roy Scott Winstead for sharing her special day with her and for all of the nice cards and gifts.

Academic Honor Roll



Ashlee Alcorn, daughter of Karen Alcorn and Earl Alcorn of Mt. Vernon, has a 3.98 GPA at Rockcastle County High School. She plans on attending Cumberland College and major in Political Science. Her clubs and activities include being a chapter and regional officer for Future Career, Community Leaders of America, co-op student at Mt. Vernon Elementary and being involved in the youth group at Bible Baptist Church. Ashlee is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Charles Holcomb, Shirley Howard, Gerald Huff, John Hart, Jerry Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Wendy Krill, John Lair, Betty Joe Lamoreaux, Lee Industries, Inc., Lee Steel Corp., Charles Lovell, Edna Madden, Kenneth McFerron, W.C. McLemore, Sammy Middleton, Margaret Miller, Harold Mills, Donnie Moberly, Libby Moody, Billy Joe Napier, Frances Napier, Grant Nelson, James Noe, Shelby Noe, Laura Overbay, Geneva Parker, Penner Stone Co., Glenn Perry, Benny Phillips, Bill Plummer, D.W. Potter, David Powell, Robert Powell, William Powell, David Purcell, R.E. Trucking, Inc., Russell Ramsey, Renfro Valley Shell, Delbert Renfro, Viola Richard, Henry Ries, D.A. Robbins, Jimmy Robbins, Vivian Robbins, Rockcastle Steel Co., Rolle Flag Co., Douglas Santo, Sandra Santo, L.M. Saylor, Roy Shearer, Tom Singleton, Arthur Singleton, Steve Sizemore, Alma Smith, Charles D. Smith, Mattie Sower, Joseph Sparks, Michael Spencer, Stella Mink, Danny Ray Stevens, Grace Sunderhaush, Catherine Swickert, Amber Swishem, Beth Swishem, Mark Swishem, J.C. Taylor, Anna Thompson, Kyle Thompson, Nicky Thompson, Betty Walker, Roy Whitehead, Loraine Wilson, W. Wilson, David Wilder, Dora Witt, Anna Wynn and Eugene Wynn.

Miller said there are three ways to contact his office, to obtain the forms and find out if you are one of the local residents the state owes money to.

You can contact Miller's office on the Internet at www.kytreasury.com or call 800-465-4722. A copy of those on the list, including the address and identification number, can also be seen at the Rockcastle County Judge/Executive's office on the second floor of the courthouse.

"McConnell"

(Cont. from front)

that the United States would not tolerate any violation of the no fly zone. As for education, McConnell said that President Bush wanted to make it simpler for local school systems to spend federal dollars. He said the President wanted to cut out the massive amount of red tape involved in using federal money in local schools.

McConnell said that the President wanted to give local schools more say as to how those federal dollars are spent.

As for gun control, McConnell said his position was, "good and steady aim" and that he had received a 100 percent rating from the NRA for years.

McConnell said that there would likely be a fight in Congress this year over a three day waiting period for guns bought at gun shows.

He said that he felt there should be some way that instant checks could be conducted, so that a three day waiting period was not necessary.

The Senator also said he thought the Bush administration would do a better job than the former administration of prosecuting people who use guns to commit crimes.

McConnell is currently serving his third term in the U.S. Senate and will be up for re-election next year.

Rockcastle drivers are "above average" in donation

Waiting lists for organ transplants are shorter in Kentucky than many places because there is a higher percentage of organ donation here than in most states. This heightened awareness of organ and tissue donation is partly due to the efforts of the Kentucky Circuit Clerks Trust For Life and the generosity of many Kentuckians who donate an extra \$1,000 to the Trust when they renew their drivers licenses.

A majority of Rockcastle County drivers again proved their support of organ and tissue donation by donating an extra dollar to the Trust when they renewed their Kentucky drivers licenses in 2000.

According to the Trust for Life office in Franklin, Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk Twain Vanzant's office received donations from 61.3% of those renewing their drivers licenses last year. The average number of drivers who donated \$1 when they renewed their licenses in the state last year was 43.3%.

"Rockcastle County should be proud of their above average participation in this very important effort," said Trust Executive Director Berkeley Sorenson and Twain Vanzant said her staff should be commended for their success.

The Trust for Life was created by

the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks Association and the state legislature in 1992 to collect donations to become a national fund to fund a year-round information and promotion effort to encourage Kentuckians to donate their organs and tissues at death so that others may live. According to the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA), the federally-designated organ procurement organization, the organ donation rate has risen significantly in the state since the establishment of the Trust and continues to rise while elsewhere across the nation it has dropped.

On the back of each Kentucky driver's license is a place where drivers can note their desire to have their tissue and organs donated. Special "donor dot" stickers are available at Circuit Clerks' offices that drivers can place on the front of their license that designate the same desire. It is very important, according to Scott, that individuals talk to their families about this decision because the final consent for donation rests with the next-of-kin.

For more information about the Trust and its organ donor awareness program, Kentuckians may call (502)695-4253 or connect to the Trust's web site at www.trustforlife.org.

Rehabilitation professionals focus on continuing education

Thanks to tuition assistance provided by the hospital, several members of the Rehabilitation staff at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. are taking classes to earn higher-level degrees or have earned professional certifications.

Linda Gregory, MA, CCC/SP, director of Speech Therapy, has just completed the first semester of her doctoral program in rehab services for the professions of communication disorders, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Graduates are qualified to conduct research, work in the rehab field and collaborate with other professionals to provide leadership on barrier issues related to rehabilitation health.

"This program is unique in that it is multi-disciplinary," Gregory said. "In today's health care climate, it's important to be able to understand all areas of rehab so that treatment plans can be integrated for better client outcomes."

Gregory is one of only eight people selected for the program and will graduate in 2004.

Steve Coy, PT, director of Physical Therapy Services, is pursuing a master's degree in business administration from Eastern Kentucky University. Ever-increasing healthcare regulatory requirements led Coy to pursue further education in the areas of management, marketing, information systems and finance.

Cheryl Mullins, OTR/L, director of Occupational Therapy Services, recently earned a certification in Sensory Integration. Mullins is one of only a few occupational therapists in

Kentucky to earn this certification, which means she is now certified to administer and interpret Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests. The tests help diagnose motor skill and other pervasive developmental disorders such as Attention Deficit Disorder and Autism.

Shaunta Poyner, an aide in the Occupational Therapy Department is completing an associate degree program in Occupational Therapy through Jefferson Community College in Louisville. Upon graduation she will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).

"In choosing to further their education, these employees are showing a commitment to their profession, this hospital and our community," said Lee Keene, president & CEO. "We think of the hospital as a continuous learning organization. By receiving help with the high cost of education, it is possible for one employee to achieve any goal they set for themselves."

The hospital also offers tuition assistance to community members who want to attend medical school and will agree to practice at RHC after graduation.

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit community hospital, which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. It operates inpatient and outpatient acute care programs, 60 long-term beds for ventilator-dependent patients, and a home health care service. The hospital was established in 1956 and is located in Mt. Vernon, Tennessee and several other states.

Houk completes training

Rockcastle County Clerk Norma Houk has completed her training, and has been recognized as a Certified County Official by the Kentucky Association of Counties' County Officials Leadership Institute.

The County Officials Leadership Institute provides training for county officials affected by HR 810 (KRS 64-5275). This statute allows county officials to receive valuable training to assist them in providing better service and representation to their respective counties while supplementing their annual salaries. Elected officials are encouraged to earn 40 training hours annually.

In order to earn the distinction of Certified County Official, an elected official must earn a minimum of 96 training credit hours. For Master's

Level Certification, the minimum is 136 training credit hours.

Houk has completed 161 training hours, and has earned the Master's Level Certification. Other Rockcastle County Officials have also earned training credits.

Leadership Training Institute Director Laura S. Wagers said, "Each of these elected officials is to be commended for this achievement, as it exemplifies the desire to excel in these difficult times and, in turn, ensure their capability to play an important role in the success of their local governments and communities. These elected officials have earned these awards for the time and effort they have spent training courses outside the course of a normal workday, and their commitment to their duties as officeholders is commendable."

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