

Hopkins named National Award Winner in Math

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Heather Hopkins of Broadhead, has been named a United States National Award Winner in Mathematics.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Heather who attends Rockcastle County Middle School, was nominated for this national award by Mrs. Teresa Davis, a teacher at the school. Heather will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the United States Achievement Academy.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusion recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy. The

criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Heather is the daughter of Doug and Lisa Hopkins of Broadhead and the granddaughter of Bobby and Lorene Lawrence of Broadhead and Lola Hopkins and the late Walter Hopkins of Crab Orchard.



Heather Hopkins

Anderson named National Award Winner in English

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Brittany Renee Anderson of Orlando, has been named a United States National Award Winner in English.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Brittany, who attends Rockcastle County Middle School, was nominated for this national award by Mrs. Tammy Miller, a teacher at the school.

Brittany will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

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criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Brittany is the daughter of Michelle Anderson and Terry Robinson of Orlando and the granddaughter of Beth Weakley of Mt. Vernon and James Jarvis of Lima, Ohio.



Brittany Anderson

French named All-American Scholar

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Kyla French of Berea has been named an All-American Scholar.

The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3, or higher, grand point average. Only Scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified sponsor are accepted. These scholars are also eligible for other awards given by the USAA.

Kyla, who attends Rockcastle County Middle School, was nominated for this national award by Lesha Cromer.

Kyla will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, winners of the All-American Scholar Awards should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the United States Achievement Academy.

The Academy selects All-American Scholars upon the exclusive recommendation by teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors. Once awarded, the students may be recognized by the USAA for other honors.

Kyla is the daughter of Pam and Mike French of Berea and the granddaughter of Chester and Ruth Phillips of Berea and Paul and Ona French of Richmond.



Kyla French

Jeremiah Taylor receives James Still Fellowship

Cumberland College graduate Jeremiah Taylor, son of Joe and Rita Taylor of Mt. Vernon, has recently been awarded the James Still Fellowship for Graduate Study from the University of Kentucky. The Fellowship, which is exclusively for those studying Humanities and Social Sciences, is awarded yearly to an academically distinguished resident of Central Appalachia who attended a privately funded college in the same region. Renewable for three years, the Fellowship provides a full tuition scholarship and yearly stipend. To be eligible for the Fellowship, the stu-

dent must be nominated by a director of graduate studies. Taylor was nominated by Dr. Phil Harling of the Department of History at UK.

Taylor will begin his pursuit of a Ph.D. in history this fall at UK with emphasis on Colonial and Early Republican America and the American frontier. Taylor, a Fall 1999 graduate of Cumberland College states "My foremost research interest is the 'conspiracy' phenomenon in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, ca. 1876-1907."

Cumberland College, located in Williamsburg, is a private liberal arts college in its 111th year of operation.



Charlie Napier and Loretta Powell present the principal, Ms. Mendoza, with an unrecirculated 2000 American Eagle Silver Dollar, provided by the Bank of Mt. Vernon, as a token of their appreciation.

Napier and Powell attend conference

Charles Napier, Rockcastle County Migrant Program Advocate, and Loretta Powell, Migrant Program Supervisor, attended the National Migrant Conference in San Diego, California, March 28-April 1, 2000. One of the highlights of the Conference was a trip to three schools - primary, elementary and secondary, in Tijuana, Mexico. One hundred twenty United States educators and Migrant Program staff were based across the border for a valuable exchange of ideas, culture and friendship.

Mr. Napier and Mrs. Powell, along with forty others, visited the secondary school, Escuela Secundaria Tecnica No. 15, which is comparable to our middle school. From the secondary school in Mexico, a student will enter a tech-prep school or a preparatory school for enrollment in college.

Cheering students greeted the group enthusiastically as they walked past classrooms. The group was led to an outdoor auditorium by a welcoming committee of uniformed (white shirts, maroon skirts, and vests) female students. The educators were introduced to the Principal, Esperanza Diaz Mendoza, the Assistant Principals, and the Director over area schools and then joined by the student body and faculty. The school has a total of 1300 students enrolled in two separate sessions - one from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and another from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The group was then treated to a

program of entertainment in celebration of the birthday of the first presi-

dent of Mexico. Students performed a medley of Mexican folk dances, while a group of singers presented Mexican music. The Color Guard performed a presentation of the Mexican flag. The Principal gave a very touching speech and invited the group to adjourn to the luncheon where parents had prepared a meal for them.

During the meal, Mr. Napier and Mrs. Powell presented the Principal with an unrecirculated 2000 American Eagle Silver Dollar, which was provided to them by the Bank of Mt. Vernon in honor of this special international experience.

After the meal, two Migrant staff members were taken to each classroom to observe a lesson. Each visitor presented the hosting teacher with a gift from his/her state. Mr. Napier and Mrs. Powell gave their teachers University of Kentucky T-shirts, caps

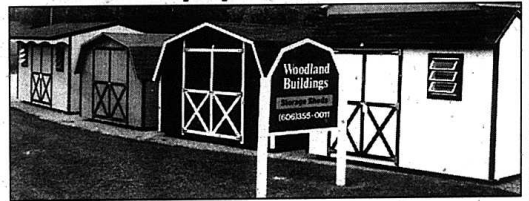
and novelty pins, along with six U.S. 2000 dollar coins. Addresses were exchanged for future communication. Mr. Napier plans to work with RCMS to organize a "Writing Exchange" for interested classes.

Following the interactions in the schools, all three groups were taken to a central location where they were provided with a discussion and explanation of the Mexican School System and Organization. An afternoon meal consisting of foods typically served around the Easter holiday was provided.

The experience raised the awareness of every member who visited. Mexican children are typical children. Mexican education encounters the same problems that we encounter. Mexico has a migrant population as we do. By working together, we can alleviate problems. There are no boundaries to cooperation.

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CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HOW THE BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN BEGAN

April 2000 is the official Blue Ribbon Month. Let's show our support by wearing the Blue Ribbon.



Help your Child to a Better self-image

You are a mirror for your Children. Help them "see" the good in themselves through you. Recognize improvement, not just accomplishment.

1998 & 1999 KY STATISTICS

• CUMBERLAND VALLEY REGION HAD 2228 REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT DURING 1999

• THERE WERE 53,316 CHILDREN REPORTED AS BEING VICTIMS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT DURING 1999

• 8 CHILDREN DIED AS A RESULT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT DURING 1999

The following letter (courtesy of the Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention) is from the founder of Blue Ribbon Day

NO! It isn't true! It simply cannot be true! They are telling me that my grandson is dead, they are wrong! There has been some mistake! Bubba is fine, but deep in my heart, I knew it was true for I have seen him on his face, the bruises on his body, and the healing cigarette burns on his hands. His doctor did not believe my daughter's story. "He fell in slippery water in the bathtub" I felt sick. I didn't understand. Are my granddaughters all right? Where are they?

I only had one child. She was a beautiful little girl. She was the light of our eyes. We knew she had entered into a stormy marriage, for we brought her home several times in the five years the marriage lasted. We suspected heavy use of drugs. But, in those five years three beautiful, healthy children had been born. I loved them dearly and they loved me. The children were 16 months, 3 years and 4 years old.

After the ordeal at the hospital my grandson was

placed into foster care for three weeks. He cried when they came to take him back to his mother. He told his foster mother "my mama don't love me" and he begged to stay. I ached for his dilemma. I was not physically able to care for him. The courts seemed to believe that home was the best place for him, but I knew better and I told no one. I begged them not to return him to his mother. But, I was overruled. My instinct as a grandmother did not count.

I never saw Bubba again. My 16 month old granddaughter was hospitalized after being beaten severely. Her leg broken in four places, and her hand burned from the tip of her little fingers to her wrist. It was only then that the "search was on" for Bubba. We learned that he had been killed, wrapped in a sheet, stuffed in a tool box, and dumped into the Dismal Swamp three months earlier.

My grandchildren had suffered and battled so much throughout their young lives that it sickened me. My life was turned into physical and mental chaos. My efforts to understand became a plea to stop abusing children. I tied a blue ribbon on my own antenna to make people wonder. It caught on locally with restaurants, businesses, police, and TV and radio stations supporting me in my efforts to make it

a real awareness campaign.

Why BLUE? I intend never to forget the battered, bruised bodies of my grandchildren. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for protection for our children. Every day I pray that our children will be allowed to hear the screams of a different drummer.

Join me, we must protect our most precious gift of all our children. Please, wear a Blue Ribbon. Put one on your car, give one to your friends, tell them what it means, you may save a child's life!

If you suspect ANYTHING is happening to your children, your grandchildren, the child next door, PLEASE ACT! If you get no response try again! You may not hear their screams, you may not see their bruises, so check for the pain and the screams in their eyes. Watch for the screams in their eyes. Mrs. Bonnie Finney

This public service announcement brought to you by The Bank of Mt. Vernon

Kids Are Worth It