

RCMS Reality Check

Rockcastle County Middle School held their annual Reality Store on March 13th. 8th grade students enjoyed the event and appreciated the effort that was put forth by school staff and various community members.

The hopeful outcome of the Reality Store is that students' attention will be peaked toward involving themselves in a substantive curriculum program focused on workforce preparation.

The Reality Store simulates the financial life of a married adult. Based on students' GPA's and career interests, they are given a monthly salary. Students must then pay their taxes, open a savings account, and pay regular monthly household expenses.

It seems that the biggest surprises for the students were the amount of money taken for taxes, child care expenses, and the amount of their salary. Our staff heard several times, "I'm not going to be a teacher. I can't buy anything." Students often had a career interest that was not compatible with their GPA. These students were given a lower paying job in the same field. It was suggested that they work hard during high school to increase their GPA and in turn, be able to make their career goal a reality.

The event could not be possible without the help of our community. Several volunteers commit them-

selves year after year. We greatly appreciate the assistance of the following people: Trish Parsons, Vicki Harris, and David Woodall from Berea National Bank; Pam Taylor and Connie Graham with Citizens Bank; Donna McClure and Donna Statton with Community Trust Bank; Kent Parke and Wildie Christian Church; Danetta Allen, Ford Realty; Carolyn Stevens, Mickal Shafer, and

April Brumett, Rockcastle Hospital; Melanie Burdette and Ashley Childers, State Farm Insurance; Brenda Saylor, Patsy Morgan, and Harrel Jackson, County Extension Office; Karen Combs and Robin Jarocki, Jackson Energy; and Sandy Whitaker, Soil Conservation Office.

The project was organized by John McQuerry, County Extension Agent, and Ms. Lesha Cromer, Mr. David Owens, and Mrs. Carla Parsons at RCMS. Thanks also to the other school staff helping with the event: Rebecca Cash, Kay Hunter, Anthony Coffey, Terry Parkey, Christy Webb, Jason Cogner, Chris Hendrickson, Nelson Graves, Jason Sims, Jennie Martin, Nancy Hale, Scott Parks, and Emily Jackson. Thanks also to Brenda Click (parent volunteer), Charlie Napier and Linda Osborne (Migrant Program) and to Diane Allen (School-to-Careers) and Kathy Bobo (Community Education).



Danetta Allen of Ford Bros. Inc. tries to help Brandy Kirby purchase a home within her budget.



Judge Katie Parsons deposits her salary into a checking account with Trish Parsons and Vicki Harris of Berea National Bank.

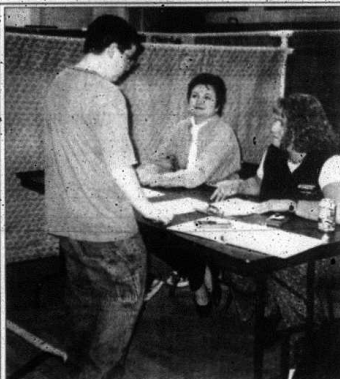


Donna McClure and Donna Statton from Community Trust and Connie Graham and Pam Taylor from Citizens Bank discuss checking and savings account with RCMS students.

Academic Honor Roll



Grinnville Graves, son of Grinnville and Vicki Graves of Mt. Vernon, has a 3.9 GPA at Rockcastle County High School. He is a member of the Band (four years), FCA, National Honor Society, Soldiers of Christ and Math Club. He plans on attending the University of Kentucky and is undecided on his major.



Brent Clontz pays his utility bills with Karen Combs and Robin Jarocki from Jackson Energy Cooperative.

Minds in the Middle

Several 6th-grade students were recognized at the Cumberland College Science Fair last week. Katie Shelton, Karla Ables, and Megan Bradley placed third in the Life Sciences division. Curtis Burton was awarded first place in engineering and physics. Amiey Russell and Kayla Whitaker placed third in that category.

The baseball team won their third game in a row last week against North Laurel. May Saylor pitched a complete game in the 5-4 win. North Laurel won the second game 3-2. The boys defeated Wayne County on Monday, 20-0. Justin Albright pitched a no hitter. The boys play at Southern Pulaski on Monday and at South Laurel on Tuesday.

The softball team fell short against Northern Pulaski by a score of 15-13. Brittany Offutt pitched all five innings and scored the first homerun of the season. The girls will play at Northern Pulaski on Monday and at home Tuesday against Southern Pulaski.

Although our ESS (Extended School Services) tutoring has ended, tutoring is still available on Mondays and Tuesdays through the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

The bus leaves RCMS at 5:00. The after-school activities continue on Wednesday and Thursday, but a bus will not run.

Ms. Cromer will be giving another session of the ACT Explore test to 8th graders this Friday, April 6. Interested students need to sign up in her office by Thursday morning. This test will give students an overview of the skills they have and the weak areas they will need to improve on during high school.

On Tuesday, April 17 GEAR-UP and 21st Century are sponsoring Take the Test Night. The event will be going on from 3:30-8:00 p.m. A free chili supper will be available. Parents can take a practice version of the EATAS assessment in the computer lab at 4:00 or 6:30 p.m. Michael Pritchard will be motivating and inspiring everyone at 5:30 p.m.

The fourth grading period ends this Thursday, April 4th. Only one more to go! Spring break begins on Monday, April 9-13. School will dismiss at 2:30 this Friday in order to conduct bus drills.

Y-Club member of the week

Courtney Alexander has been chosen as this week's Y-Club member of the week.

Courtney is a shining example of all the Y-Club stands for. Courtney is a dedicated member and a terrific leader.

Courtney has been an active member of the Y-Club since 6th grade. She currently serves as the School Service Chair in the club. Her input is

vital in planning projects and activities. Not only does Courtney help plan, but when time comes to go "down and dirty", Courtney is the first face you see.

Courtney's smile, dedication, and hard work keep our club up and running. Thank you Courtney for your outstanding service.

The Y-Club just completed a very successful clothes drive. Thanks to everyone who donated.



Donnie Sowder purchase medical and automobile insurance from State Farm Insurance employee, Melanie Burdette.



Students participating in 4-H Clothing Projects held March 26-29 at Mt. Vernon Elementary School are shown here with their volunteers. Front row from left: Christy Scott, Whitney Whitaker and Megan Hood. Second row from left: Brittany Calhoun, Brittany Hayes, Jacob Ridgely and volunteer Marsha Hines. Back row from left: Volunteer Lorraine Raulerson, Felicia Hestaut, Nancy Dickerson, Jessica Cummins, volunteer Barbara Congleton, volunteer Charlene Scott. Volunteer Vicki Chasteen is not pictured.



Broadhead Elementary School students participating in the 4-H Clothing Projects April 2-5 were, front row from left: Jillisa Lay, Jessica Lawrence, Beth Potter, Sara Ramsey and Kayla Frederick. Back row from left: Sasha Bullock, Angela DeFord, Brittanee Coffee, Britney Payne, and volunteer Casslyn Ramsey.