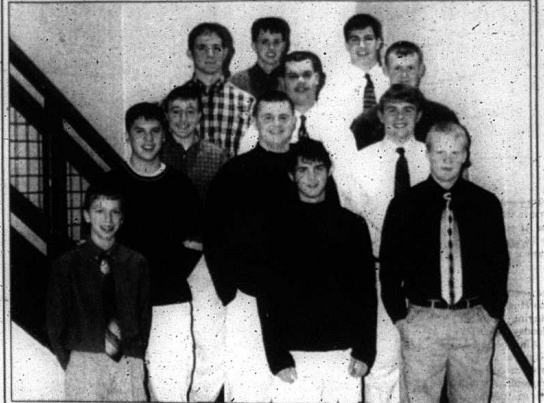




The 2003 Rockcastle County High School Basketball Homecoming Queen candidates are pictured above front row, from left: Heaven Spoonmore, Tressie Robinson, Hollie Kidwell and Megan Anderkin. Second row, from left: Kelli Doan, Casey Taylor, Stephanie Price, Rachel Childress and Allison Anderkin. Back row, from left: Brittany Asher, Jessica Carpenter, Stephanie Haarman and Elizabeth Matekovich. Miss Matekovich was later crowned Homecoming Queen.



The 2003 Rockcastle County High School Basketball Homecoming King candidates are pictured above front row, from left: Cody Lester, Matt Bray and Martin Abney. Second row, from left: Josh Smith, Jeff Ramey and Matt Allen. Third row, from left: Matt Silcox, Josh Mullins and Adam Hensley. Back row, from left: Benny Norther, Travis Burton and Stephen Boring. Northern was the eventual winner.

Swimming for third winningest coach in NCAA Div. I History Hammond takes "Down Under" route from The Rock to the Hilltop

Andrew Hammond is a member of the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers Swim Team for 2002-03. This year's team is one of the strongest in school history. The men's team finished the year at 15-0 in dual meets, tying the school record in wins and best overall record and has five relays and three individuals in the top 50 nationally.

Andrew chose WKU and swimming over several opportunities to continue his basketball career. After leading the Rockets to their first ever Sweet 16 appearance in March, Andrew received letters and scholarship offers from several NCAA II, NIAA and NCAA schools. Among them were Emory Kiddie, Emory & Henry, the University of Maine at Machias, Union College, Alice Lloyd, Milligan College and perennial power Ken-

tucky Christian College where his dad, Eddie, played for the Knights from 1975-79 and was on the 1979 team that finished third in the national tournament. His reason for choosing swimming was the challenge of participating in a NCAA Division I sport.

Coach Bill Powell, who is only two wins away from second place all-time in NCAA history, began to notice Andrew during his sophomore year. Coach Powell has been swim meet manager for the Lake Cumberland Swim Association meets for several years. Following the conference meet in the summer of 2000, he spoke with Andrew's parents about swimming for WKU, stating then that he was definitely "a division-one" swimmer.

Before enrolling at WKU, Andrew was chosen as one of 35, out of approximately 500 applicants, as a People-To-People Student Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand. He was nominated by his high school Global Issues teacher, Debbie Coleman. He spent three weeks in Australia and New Zealand, snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef, climbing the Sydney Harbor bridge, repelling, snow boarding, meeting other people groups, staying in homes of students and learning about other cultures. He was chosen by his group to be the group leader in many ac-

"House Fire"

(Cont. from front)

cause it thought we were still in the house - it was burned pretty badly when Chris did manage to get to it and we had to put it to sleep," the said.

The home was on a family farm located off the Old Brodhead-Mt. Vernon road.

The Poynters are currently living with Chris' mother, Mrs. Margaret Robinson, who also lives on the farm.

The Poynters did not have any fire insurance. Their children are two boys, ages 6 and 3 and a daughter who is 14.

Mike and Pat Brown's home on Owens School Road was also damaged by fire on Wednesday.

However, firefighters were able to contain the blaze to the living room area of the house.

"Calendar"

(Cont. from front)

Hammond, who said that a lot of the problem was illness and some of the lack of attendance was due to the schedule change. The original calendar had students getting the day off.

Attendance was better on Tuesday and Wednesday. Currently school will be out June 5th.

Tim's Pay Lake
London, Ky.
Opening
February 28th
Stocking with
8,500 lbs. of fish

Big City Auction House
Auction
Every Wednesday & Saturday Night
7 p.m.
Bids open, bidding continues

"Tourney"

(Cont. from front)

Entries are limited to the first ten teams and first, second and third place trophies will be awarded plus an All Tournament Team and MVP will be named. Entry fee is \$150 per team plus referee fees per game.

Games begin at 9 a.m. and admission is free although donations are gladly welcomed.

Two good referees are needed and will be compensated.

For more information, or to enter a team, contact: Corey Scott at 606-758-8277; 606-877-1304 or by e-mail at coreys@sun-spot.com.

Andrew has dropped more time the fastest of any swimmer I've coached," Powell said. Andrew's goal is to swim the 100 in under 47 seconds at the National Independent Champions-

hips later this month. If he accomplishes this, he will have dropped nearly ten seconds off his best time at Cedar Rapids where he swam for the Dolphins. Coach Powell has coached some great swimmers, including his son, Dan, ranked in the top 25 in the world at one time and Kicker Vencil of Richmond, who swam in the University games last summer and who has his eye on the 2004 Olympics. He is currently ranked 15th nationally. Others are Steve Crocker, a world record holder in the 50 freestyle at 19:75 and current swimmer Gord Veldman, who most likely will make the Canadian Olympic Team. During the 2000 Olympic Trials, Coach Powell had nine former and present swimmers competing.

Andrew has made the most of his opportunity, to date, in the pool and also in the classroom. He finished his first semester with a 3.5 GPA and as a member of Western's Honors Program. You can check out the progress of the WKU swim team as they head to nationals at Rochester Hills, Michigan, Feb. 26-March 1 by logging onto www.wkuports.osca.com.

Swimming has the longest season among college sports. Andrew began practice in mid-August and has had two practices on most days since.

From the Rock to the Hilltop via Down Under, dreams can come true, along with hard work, determination, positive attitude and commitment.

Andrew prepared to "warm down" following 50 freestyle at Miami, OH Invitational.

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Rockcastle County High School teachers Angie Hendrickson and Dana Singleton were honored by the RCHS Student Council on Friday night, after homecoming festivities. Shown making the presentation are Council President Travis Burton and council members Josh Smith and Allison Anderkin.

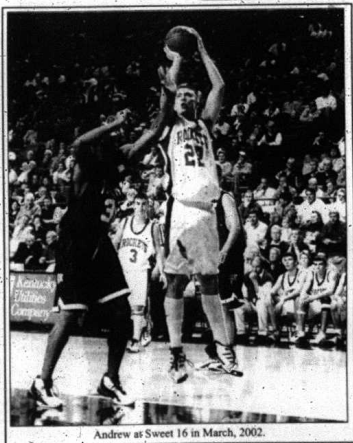
Boy's Senior Night Friday Girl's Senior Night Tuesday



Andrew holding a Koala at an animal reserve in Australia, June 2002.



Coach Bill Powell with new recruit for Western Kentucky's swim team.



Andrew at Sweet 16 in March, 2002.