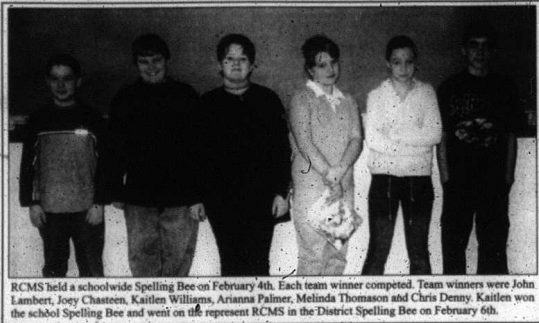




RCMS held a schoolwide Spelling Bee on February 4th. Each team winner competed. Team winners were John Lambert, Joey Chastain, Kaitlen Williams, Arianna Palmer, Melinda Thomas and Chris Denny. Kaitlen won the school Spelling Bee and went on to represent RCMS in the District Spelling Bee on February 6th.

Minds in the Middle

Our Parent-Teacher Conference Night has been rescheduled for this week. March 11th, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Report cards were mailed home this week. The 21st Century Community Learning Center is sponsoring supper for the entire family. Come and join us! The 21st CCLC activities will not be in session on this day.

Congratulations to the members of the RCMS band who participated in the 2003 Solo and Ensemble Festival at Eastern Kentucky University last weekend. Drew Harrison, Josh Nation, and David Davis scored distinguished on their performances. The following students scored proficient on their performances: Jesse McCauley, Steven Renner, Ashley Mullins, Matthew Martin, Emily Renner, Dustin McGuire, Cathie Williams, and Amanda Shepherd. Our band is proud!

This Thursday and Friday, there will be a Hunter's Education Course at RCMS. Call John McQuary at the county extension office for more information at 256-2403.

Our 8th grade Reality Store event has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 25th. We appreciate our community volunteers for being so flexible with the rescheduling.

As you are aware by now, our school day begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m. in order to make up two snow days. This will run through April 3rd. Students are tardy after 8:00 a.m.

Since we made some changes to our lunchroom schedule last week, we have had several questions about how it works. Our lunch periods begin at 11:00 with two or three classes coming to the cafeteria at five-minute intervals. This has omitted long lines. Students are required to sit in a certain section of the cafeteria. They do not have assigned seats and are not required to sit at the same table or with the same people every day. They do not, however, sit with students from another team. These sections help us to better monitor where problems occur. Our goal was to keep our lunchroom as safe as possible. The transition has gone very well and we are pleased with the improved behaviors during our lunchtimes. Thank you students!

YSC Update

Remember that tutoring is available on Wednesday's from 3:00-5:00 with transportation provided. There are only two grading period left in the school year, so don't procrastinate. Parents can monitor their student's school performance by setting a regular time for homework, looking at tests and school assignments, and helping organize special projects or extra credit work. If your child is having problems, contact the teachers and make plans to communicate regularly. Make sure assignments are turned in and that they are studying for test. Reading is always important, so take time to read to your child or let them read to you.

Cleaning Float Trays

By Tom Mills
Co. Ext. Agent for Agriculture/
Natural Resources

The greenhouse and float-tray production systems offer many advantages to tobacco transplant producers. However, a disadvantage of the float system is that it provides an ideal habitat for the development and spread of bacterial diseases due to the constant presence of water. Therefore, a key to success with these production systems is keeping the pathogens causing diseases out of the system.

A disinfection program is a MUST! The media and water being used in the float system must be disinfected. All equipment and tools that come in contact with the system should be pathogen-free. That means either using new trays or re-used trays must be properly washed and sanitized.

What is available to disinfect trays?

Steam, methyl-bromide, fumigant chlorine bleach, and quaternary ammonium chloride salts are available in Kentucky.

STEAMING the trays has been the most effective disinfectant, but, the cost is high and some items are damaged by steaming. Most studies indicate that the trays need to reach at least 160 degrees F for 30 minutes, but this method presents problems for farmers in developing countries to meet the temperature and time required.

FUMIGANTS: Methyl bromide with 1% chloropicrin has been almost as effective as steam in some of the tests. It provides excellent control of Rhizoctonia (brown blight) on the surface of the tray. It will greatly reduce the level of Pythium, but has not been as effective as steam or proper bleaching on reducing Pythium, probably because a significant amount of Pythium is found embedded in the tray. It is important to have an airtight plastic, to pre-wet the trays, and to avoid large stacks of trays. Methyl bromide is heavier than air, so it settles; therefore, best results occur with long, short stacks rather than tall, deep stacks. We have found little control in private nurseries at the low rates, so use the maximum labeled rates (3 lb/1000 cubic ft). Containers of fumigants are very toxic and more easily damaged with this chemical. Pay special attention to ALL label precautions related to safety.

CHLORINE BLEACH solutions have given a high level of control. Just dipping the trays in the solution and allowing them to dry is not just beneficial. We have found little benefit to using more than 10% solution. Without proper aeration and post-washes, all residues can cause serious problems, especially with older trays that tend to soak up more material.

Bleaches work best when the trays are washed with soapy water, then dipped several times into clean 10% solution (1 gal/water), followed by covering them with a tarp or plastic to keep wet overnight (24-48 hrs) with the bleaching solution. Afterwards, the

Cleaning Float Trays

bleach solution should be washed from the trays with clean water or water plus a little liquid bleach, followed by aeration to eliminate the chlorine and salts. Worker safety issues are also important with bleach. It is important that the bleach solution remain below pH 6.8 and that new solutions be made up every 2 hrs or whenever it becomes dirty, whichever comes first. Organic matter will remove the active ingredients quickly.

Q-SALTS (Quaternary ammonium chlorides) are the most marketed such as GreenShield, Phosin, and Prevent as solutions containing 20% ammonium chloride. Many growers are using them, but the effects are not as positive as some believe, based on UK testing. The greatest benefit is in the final wash and an exposed surface in the greenhouse. In all UK tests, Q-salts have always provided some control, as compared to using soap washes only, but have always been inferior to any of the above mentioned methods.

Isom Leach: Research on much soil from the trays by using soap and water or high pressure washes. Completely soak the trays in 10% bleach solution and cover with plastic for 24-48 hours, followed by washing and drying. Turn trays on their side for best air movement. Trays which are damaged allowing large amounts of last year's soil media to remain in crevices are candidates for being disposed of. Sanitation is very important. As trays are used more, more disease problems occur.

For producers with DISEASE meters, annual calibration is recommended. Contact the Extension Office if you would like to check your meters' accuracy.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Think Pay Laks in London
Shed 6th, 20th and 25th Nov
4,400 (includes entry and refreshments)
Shed 6th, 20th and 25th Nov
4,400 (includes entry and refreshments)

The Rockcastle County Middle School met for their regular meeting February 27 with all members present, except for Ken Mattingly.

Two main items of business were discussed.

The first concerned the recommendation by Anthony Coffey, principal, to Supt. Larry Hammond that Burley Burkhardt be employed as head softball coach for RCMS, the assistant coach's job will be posted as Mr. Burkhardt was employed in that position.

Coffey also shared with the council four proposals on how to disperse reward money for the school. The council agreed, by consensus, to share the proposals with the staff for voting. The council agreed that the majority vote would rule in the decision.

The council also requested that an additional proposal be made that would place all of the money in the school fund to be used for the students and instruction. The council also agreed by consensus to wait until Mr. Coffey returned from his trip out of the country to distribute and vote on the funds.

Rockcastle Schools Menus 3/6-3/12

Breakfast

Thurs., March 6: Breakfast pizza or cereal, toast/juice, juice, milk.
Fri., March 7: Egg & Toast or cereal, toast/juice, juice, milk.

Mon., March 10: Chicken biscuit or cereal, toast/juice, juice, milk.

Tues., March 11: Gravy N Biscuit or cereal, toast/juice, juice, milk.

Wed., March 12: Pastry or cereal, toast/juice, juice, milk.

Lunch

Thurs., March 6: Lasagna, corn, garden salad, french bread, peaches, milk.

Fri., March 7: Hamburger on bun or spaghetti, lettuce/pickle, spicy fries, fruit dessert, milk.

Mon., March 10: Hot dog on bun or sandwich, potato wedges, carrot sticks, peaches, milk.

Tues., March 11: Chili and sandwich, veggies and dip, crackers, fruit dessert, milk.

Wed., March 12: Manager's choice.

\$1,000 Reward

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for robbing the home of Kenneth Wade Graves in Mt. Vernon on Sat. Feb. 8th
Call 256-8231

Fifth Annual Wild Turkey Super Fund/Membership Banquet

Working for the Wild Turkey and Hunting Heritage

WILDCAT MOUNTAIN LONGBOARDS CHAPTER

of the

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

Banquet on Sat. March 15, 2003

Doors Open at 6 p.m. • Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Live and silent auction after dinner of Wildlife Prints, Outdoor Gear and Guns

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

945 W. Main St., Mt. Vernon

Single ticket \$35 (includes membership)
Couples ticket \$45 (one membership and two dinners)
Sponsor ticket \$210 (membership, extra tickets and meal for one)
• Jakes \$15 (includes membership and dinner)

For more information call Bill Cameron (256-256-3640), Tony Mahaffey (606) 256-4805, Mike McGuire (606) 256-5184, Larry Henley (606) 256-9481, Jerry Martin (606) 453-9906, Jeff Lyons (606) 256-9838, Joan Garrison (606) 758-8938, Gerald Alexander (606) 256-5606, Tim Sweet (606) 256-9608.

Operation Girl Scout Cookie Drop

Girl Scout cookies are here, and they are an American tradition! This year, you will have an opportunity to buy your favorite cookies and send a box to our troops!

Troops in Rockcastle Co. are selling extra boxes of cookies that will be sent to the soldiers and their families at Fort Campbell and Fort Knox.

Please call these Girl Scout leaders to find out how to buy a box of Girl Scout cookies, or to donate money for a box to be sent to troops. Businesses may buy a case of cookies for \$36 or a box of cookies is \$3 for each box.

Rockcastle Co. troop leaders will be willing to assist you in stocking up on cookies or treating our troops to a box of Caramel Delites, Peanut Butter Patties, Thin Mints, Shortbread, Animal Treats, Friendship Circles or a reduced fat variety. Lemon Pastry Creams or Shortbread. Girl Scouts in Rockcastle Co. will help fill your order.

Call Vicki Chastain, cookie manager for Rockcastle Co., at 256-4817 after 5 p.m. to find out who the troop leader is at your favorite Rockcastle Co. school.

Brownie Troop #605 now selling cookies

Brownie Troop #605 is now selling Girl Scout Cookies. Anyone wanting to buy cookies may contact any of the following parents:

Sonya Parker, 256-8095; Brenda Miller, 256-8302; Judy Mason, 256-3335 or Crystal Ann Smith, 256-1991.

Cookies Sale at Carter's Market

Girl Scout Cookie Sales will be held by Brownie Troop #605 at Carter's Market on U.S. 25 South, Mt. Vernon on Friday, March 7th from 4 to 7 p.m.

Local residents among December EKU graduates

Among the 973 Eastern Kentucky University students who received degrees at the conclusion of the Fall 2002 semester include:

Rebecca Anglin, Bachelor of Science, Broadhead; Deborah Bentley, Associate of Science-Nursing, Broadhead; Elizabeth A. Bradley, certificate, Broadhead; Susan Michelle DeBord, Bachelor of Science, Broadhead; Bradley S. Smith, Bachelor of Arts, Broadhead; Sara C. Cogher, Bachelor of Science, Mt. Vernon; Leslie Anne Hunt, Bachelor of Science, Mt. Vernon and Diana Robinson, Associate of Arts, Orlando.

Doobs performs in senior recital

Stephanie Michelle Doobs, daughter of Bentley and Leila Cromer of Mt. Vernon, presented her senior recital Friday, February 28, 2003 on the campus of Cumberland College, Williamsburg.

Stephanie's vocal performance included selections from Giovanni Battista: Pergolesi, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Georges Bizet, Frederick, Loewe and many more. Stephanie is a student of Dr. David Eitel.

The recital was presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree.

Cumberland College, located in Williamsburg, is a private liberal arts school in its 114th year of operation. Cumberland offers four undergraduate degrees in 37 major fields of study, 30 minors and nine pre-professional programs.

Mount Vernon Message

For the week of 3/6/03

Upcoming Events

Our Family Resource Center is sponsoring a program on Thursday, March 6 at 2 p.m. for all students. Lem Shepherd, African American musician/artist will be performing for the students.

Family Resource Center is sponsoring Family Art and Literacy Night on Monday, March 10 at 6 p.m. This will be for 5th grade students and families.

Our 1TG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11. P2 students will be performing. Check your child's backpack for more details.

The art prizewinner for the last rotation was Heather Bradley from Ms. Clark's homeroom. Heather chose pencils as her prize. Congratulations Heather!

Spring Assessment is quickly approaching. It is imperative that your child attend school regularly and on time. Please make an extra effort to schedule any appointments for after school when possible.

Our school has just received a letterhead certificate of award from the Kentucky Department of Education to commend staff, students and parents at MVES for working hard to reach or exceed Recognition Point 3, and making progress toward the goal of proficiency. We will also receive a flag to display inside the building.



Billy Cameron and Tony Mahaffey presenting a check for \$500 to JROTC's Corps of Discovery '02 members for their trip out west.

News from the NWTF

By: Gerald Alexander

Hopelully, spring will soon be here and so will turkey season. The Rockcastle County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF) would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of our community who have helped us in a variety of ways to make a positive difference in this area.

I would like to mention to the community some of the ways funds for our chapter are generated and spent. Our money is acquired in one of four ways.

The most common is membership dues which are \$25 per year and paid each spring. Most commonly, as members are contacting people in the spring to participate in the banquet and auction, they ask them to become a member or renew their membership.

A person may become a member at either the annual banquet or the Rockcastle Middle School on Saturday, March 15 or at the turkey-hunting seminar to be held on Saturday, March 29 at Roundstone Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As the annual NWTFF banquet and auction (doors open at 5 p.m.) will be able to buy tickets for several guns that will be raffled off, plus many wildlife-oriented framed prints. A wide selection of other items will be auctioned or raffled from sleeping bags and turkey calls to tents, blinds and wildlife sculptures. The money raised from the auction goes to the NWTFF which uses the funds in various ways.

The hunting seminar to be held on March 29 at RES will feature Tim Heald, a representative of Knight and Hale Corp., as MC. There will be useful information on turkey hunting, along with vendors showing various products for turkey hunting. Calling contests will be held to allow individuals to show off their skills. Proceeds from this event will go directly to our chapter.

As of this past year, money collected through wildlife violations will be a source of funding for the NWTFF. Thanks to the efforts of Jeff Burdette, Rockcastle Co. Animal Conservator, the court system, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Steve Isaac, local conservation officer, a portion of the money levied for wildlife fines is returned to county sportsman clubs. This

Project Wisdom readers for the week of February 17-21 were as follows: Dylan Holden, Megan Cromer, Ian Bullock and Shane Gibbons, fifth grade teacher was our mystery reader. Readers for last week were as follows: Anthony Perwitz, Taylor McGuire and Whitney Harrison, all students and Melinda Kincer, fifth grade teacher was our mystery reader. Thanks to all who have participated in this project.

Our quote for this week is: "There is no right way to do the wrong thing."



Heather Bradley MVES art prize winner.



Billy Cameron and Tony Mahaffey presenting a check for \$500 to JROTC's Corps of Discovery '02 members for their trip out west.

money is used for worthwhile wildlife and education-oriented projects.

The chapter's funds are used to help the community in various ways. The majority of our budget goes to sponsor education-oriented projects. These include many projects at the high school, plus a strong effort to give five junior NWTFF membership to elementary students. The picture with this article, shows the chapter giving \$500 to the RCHS ROTC program to help offset student costs to participate in Corp. of Discovery which allowed the students to follow the path of Lewis and Clark in a field trip out west.

The NWTFF makes a contribution to Project Graduation, which benefits the RCHS senior class. One \$500 NWTFF college scholarship has been given in previous years to promote further education to college-bound seniors. With the new funds from the chapter this year will sponsor two scholarships of \$500 and possibly more. The RCHS counselors offered the applications for the scholarships to the seniors in the last few weeks, with a deadline of March 11th. (A rubric was given with each application on how the application would be judged).

The NWTFF has a junior membership and the chapter makes a major effort to sign up as many students as practical. We have in the past worked with 4-H, Cub Scouts and the Hunter Safety Course to pay the membership dues of as many young members as we had available funds. This may help some parents understand how their child started getting the junior membership magazine JAKES.

The National Wild Turkey Federation, through their affiliation with seed companies, offers a limited amount of seed to be put out as wildlife plots to its local members. Some of the seed may have a low germination rate, because it may be over a year old when donated.

For more information about the Rockcastle Chapter of the NWTFF, please contact Billy Cameron, 256-3640; Tony Mahaffey; Joan Garrison, 256-8030; Jerry Martin, 453-9906; Larry Henley, 256-9481; Gerald Alexander, 256-5606; Tim Sweet, 256-9806; Mike McGuire, 256-5184; Joe Cummins, 256-2182 or any other local NWTFF member.