

A Soldier Salute



Owens in Bosnia

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. David W. Owens has been deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge. The U.S. Task Force members serve at various mission support bases and camp sites in Bosnia.

Operating Joint Forge, formerly referred to as Operation Joint Guard/Endeavor/Determined Effort, is a NATO-led joint, multinational peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A coalition of military forces from 19 countries is supporting the effort, designed to promote the peace process stated in the Dayton Accords, which was inked in December, 1995 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

The sergeant, a squadron leader, is the son of Willetta Owens (BMC), Vernon and the late Clyde Owens.



Loudermilk

serving in Iraq

Marine Reserve Staff Sgt. Ryan Loudermilk is serving in Iraq as a platoon leader. Loudermilk is a member of the Marine Corp Military Police Company A-1st Division out of Lexington. He is employed with Kentucky State Police - London Post serving Rockcastle County. He was called to duty in January.

Ryan also served in the first Gulf War.

Ryan's wife Kelli, sons Zachary, 5 and Jacob, 22 months, live in Brodhead.

His parents are Bobby and Alma Loudermilk of Somerset and formerly of Mt. Vernon. Ryan's brother Mark lives in Brodhead.

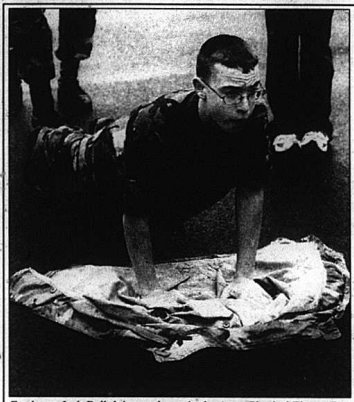
Raider team wins at EKV Mil Stakes Competition

Twenty-two members of Rockcastle County High School's JROTC Raider Team traveled to Eastern Kentucky University Saturday, March 29th to compete in Eastern's Military Stakes Competition hosted by the Senior ROTC.

In spite of the very chilly and rainy weather conditions, the competition went on as planned except for a few minor changes to the schedule.

The Rockcastle team won first place in the Army Physical Fitness Test and the Obstacle Course. They won second place in the Litter Evacuation and won second "Overall" out of fourteen teams competing. They also competed in the Squad Drill and Land Navigation.

After the competition, the team went to dinner at Ryan's and a movie in Richmond.



Freshman Josh Bell doing push-ups in the Army Physical Fitness Test competition.

The U.S. War with Iraq

By: Regina Rice

5th grade MVES student Melinda Kinser's homeroom Fellowship Rockcastle Countians, I am writing this speech to express my emotions and opinions on the war with Iraq.

I would first like to start off by saying that I fully support our President. I know that so many people are opposed to his decision but everyone must remember that when he was elected President, he took an oath to make the best decisions to protect our country. I think he has honored that oath beyond belief. He is only making the decisions that he feels will protect our safety and if you are a true American, I feel you should be behind our President 100 percent. But, your opinion may be different. This is just mine. But our President's decisions need to be supported because he knows what he is doing.

Also, another matter I would like to discuss is our troops stationed in Iraq, Kuwait, the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf and the huge sacrifice they are making for the safety of our country by leaving their families and by risking their lives. I would like to express my gratitude to them for devoting their time to serve our country.

I also feel that every Christian person should get down on their knees each night and pray for each soldier's safe return. Also, my heart goes out to the 27 already killed in the first several days of battle. I would also like to say to the families of the soldiers who have been captured that I

pray for their safety. And the most important thing to be said, is how courageous our troops are because they never know if they will ever get to see the faces of their children or wives again. They don't know if they will ever get to set foot on American soil again. But, without this courageousness and taking these risks, we would have no chance of winning the war. But, they are taking these risks and we are going to win the war. I have this much faith in our troops and our President.

Also, we have to remember that not only are they fighting the enemy, they also have to fight through the weather. The large sand storm that was predicted to hit Iraq has also become an enemy. They still have to fight through this storm but, because of the technology we have acquired since the first Gulf War, our troops can still hit accurate targets. This helps our troops to keep from taking innocent lives. This technology also helps our troops stay alive by telling them where enemy weapons are so they can move out of the path of these weapons. But, some of these weapons are hard to escape such as nuclear and biological weapons. It takes a lot of protective gear to protect them from this weapon but, with this gear, they are able to survive these weapons. Another danger, especially for the Air Force, is an American plane getting shot down and soldiers being captured as POW's or Prisoners of War. After they are captured, they are tortured and, besides being killed,

Cont. to A-10



Senior Cory Canterbury carries five gallon water cans in one part of the Obstacle Course competition.



Pictured front row from left are: seniors Cory Canterbury, Justin Cornelius, Adams Stallsworth, Joe Husband, Sarah Steele and Ross McClure. Second row standing from left: Jessica Toothman, David French, Sam Isaacs, Chris Miller, Larry Mink, Josh Bell, Guid-on Bearer Jesse McCollum (kneeling), Erika Toothman, Michael Taylor and Dustin Emerson. Back row from left: James Adams, Shane Foster and Justin Richards. Also traveling with the group were Chrystal Valerio, Erik Stallsworth, Chaimne Rhoades, Mrs. Jenny Taylor and Sergeant Major Keith Taylor.

Classified Ad deadline is Noon Tuesday

The Soldier

The average age of the military man is 19 years.

He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country.

He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away.

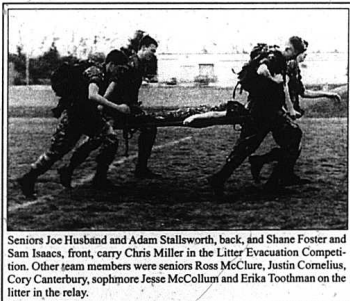
He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and

155mm Howitzers. He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He will march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and

Cont. to A-10



Seniors Joe Husband and Adam Stallsworth, back, and Shane Foster and Sam Isaacs, front, carry Chris Miller in the Litter Evacuation Competition. Other team members were seniors Ross McClure, Justin Cornelius, Cory Canterbury, sophomore Jesse McCollum and Erika Toothman on the litter in the relay.

Scholars attend workshop

University of Kentucky Robinson Scholars from around the region, including Elijah Lunsford of Mt. Vernon, recently participated in an ACT preparation workshop held at Buckhorn State Park near Hazard.

The students, who are in their junior year of high school, attended sessions focusing on the four content areas of the ACT and learned how to cope with the stress and anxiety of test taking. Sessions were presented by Brenda Fitzpatrick of KAPLAN, Inc., and Sandy Holbrook, director of the Academic Support Center at Southeast Community College in Whitesburg. Paula Whitaker is the regional coordinator for the Robinson Scholars Program.

The University of Kentucky Robinson Scholars Program provides students from Eastern Kentucky with support services and scholarship resources that empower them to complete a baccalaureate degree at the University of Kentucky. Students are selected in the 8th grade to participate in the program. Upon completion of high school and acceptance to the University of Kentucky or one of the state community colleges, the students are awarded a four-year scholarship which includes tuition, fees, housing, dining and books.



Robinson Scholar Elijah Lunsford

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