

Chance of Rain 30%... What Does it Mean?

There is a joke among meteorologists that says, "If there are 10 forecasters in a room, and three think it might rain, and the other seven don't, then you have a 30% chance for the day."

Probability of precipitation, given in a percentage chance, is actually figured out a little differently. It is a little difficult to explain, but by the end of this article, you might find it a little easier to understand. The 30% probability of rain literally means that you have a three out of 10 chance of measurable rain at any given point within the forecast area. Huh?

OK, let's pretend that you have kept records at your house every day for 100 days and each day has a 30% chance of rain in the forecast. During the 100 day period, you should have logged 30 days of measurable rain, leaving the other 70 days rain-free. This is fairly straightforward, as it clearly shows a better picture of the probability forecast, but it also underlines a perception problem in understanding the forecast.

In this same scenario, even though the forecast has been verified, it appears to have been wrong for each of these 100 days. This is one of the problems faced by a forecaster with every probability forecast made. For 30 of those logged weather days, you recorded measurable rainfall, meaning that it rained. To you, it was not a 30% chance; it was a full 100% because it rained on those days. The other 70 days did not have 30% because no rain occurred, so to you, it was 0%.

Sometimes there is a clearly defined front system with a relatively narrow band of precipitation that accompanies it. In this case, the forecast can be more specific due to timing the weather system and the forecast might read, "Cloudy this morning with 70% chance of showers clearing by mid afternoon." It is easier to understand that the morning hours will have some periods of rain and on, and expect to see sunshine by the afternoon. But what about the usual summertime forecast that reads, "Partly cloudy with a 40%

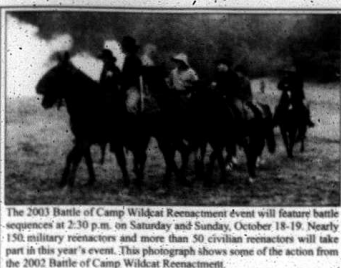
chance of afternoon thunderstorms."

To better visualize this scenario, consider this analogy. You are going to put a pot of water on the stove and turn on the burner, but only for a given time. If you leave the burner on long enough, you can reasonably expect to see bubbles rise as the water begins to boil. That is what the meteorologist expects. The atmosphere is the pot of water, and the sun is the burner on the stove. If there is enough moisture in the atmosphere, and it is heated enough during the day, the moisture will begin to condense and to "boil" within the development of thunderstorm clouds.

Back to our scenario, as you watch your pot of water on the stove, do you know exactly where, within this pot, the first bubbles will appear? The whole pot of water has the potential to boil, but if the heat is turned off, not all of this potential will be reached. Some bubbles will rise, but not uniformly. As the meteorologist watches the day progress into the heat of a summertime afternoon, scattered showers begin to grow into thunderstorms. But as evening approaches, the energy source is cut off, so the atmosphere does not reach its full potential. Again, over a given area, 40% on this afternoon got rain, and 60% did not, and each group felt that the forecast was wrong.

Today, there are so many resources to use that will enhance the traditional forecast. One of the easiest ways to check the weather radar. Once a mystery in the majority of the population, radar images are easily understood by everyone, at least to the degree of being able to tell where rain is, and where it isn't, and where it is moving to.

Twenty-four hour coverage is available via the Internet for the National Weather Service office here in Jackson. A quick glance of the radar, along with checking the wealth of other information available, will let you assign your own judgment to the daily forecast. To find us on the Internet, our web address is: www.nwsa.gov/kil



The 2003 Battle of Camp Wildcat Reenactment event will feature battle reenactment at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, October 18-19. Nearly 150 military reenactors and more than 30 civilian reenactors will take part in this year's event. This photograph shows some of the action from the 2002 Battle of Camp Wildcat Reenactment.

Camp Wildcat reenactment takes place October 17-19

The Battle of Camp Wildcat Civil War Reenactment will take place October 17-19 near London. The reenactment is coordinated by the Laurel Home Guard, the organization which has planned the event since 1989.

This year's event will be co-hosted by the First Cavalry, U.S.A. and Morgan's Second Artillery, C.S.A., and will be held on a portion of the original Confederate encampment about eight miles north of London off Hazel Patch Road.

Justin Westerfield, president of the Laurel Home Guard, said this promises to be the biggest Camp Wildcat Reenactment to date. Westerfield said she has received registrations for 15 cannons, 44 cavalry, 100 infantry, 40 civilians, two surgeons, a chaplain and eight sutlers. Union President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate President Jefferson Davis will also make celebrity guest appearances at the event. The Civil War era presidents are portrayed by Jim Sayre and Cliff Howard, respectively.

Friday, Oct. 17 is "School Day." The camp is closed to the public, but will host 1,150 elementary, junior high and high school students from area schools. The students will observe period craft demonstrations and talk with reenactors about military and civilian life during the 1860s.

The camp is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday

and Sunday, Oct. 18 and 19. Visitors can walk through the Confederate and Union encampments and observe military and civilian demonstrations, ladies social events, historic speakers, a period church service and other 1860s era activities between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. each day.

Battle reenactments will be fought at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. A memorial service will be held at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday at the original battle site on the mountain.

The reenactment event and activities are free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted. Concession will be available.

Directions to the reenactment site: Take Exit 49 off Interstate 75. This is the Livingston Exit. Hwy. 909, Southbound travelers turn left onto Hwy. 909 and go over the interstate; northbound travelers turn right onto Hwy. 909. Travel 6 miles on Hwy. 909 to U.S. 25. Turn right (south) onto U.S. 25 and travel 0.7 miles. Turn left onto Hazel Patch Road (look for the "W" sign). Parking for the reenactment is on the left, approximately 0.2 miles from U.S. 25 on Hazel Patch Road.

For more information about the Laurel Home Guard or the Camp Wildcat Reenactment, visit the organization's web site at www.campwildcatreenactment.org, e-mail nita@2geton.net or phone Juanita Westerfield at 606-528-1817.

Basketmaker Janet Northern to demonstrate at New Center

On Saturday, October 18th, basketmaker Janet Northern of Mt. Vernon will be demonstrating how she makes honeysuckle baskets from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the newly opened Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Janet Northern has been making baskets for ten years, and is self taught. She utilizes the wood and natural vines that she finds in the region surrounding her Rockcastle County farm. The Eastern Kentucky woodlands give Janet inspiration as well as material from which to work.

Starting from a piece of wood, Janet begins to design her asymmetrical

one-of-a-kind basket forms. To prepare the honeysuckle vines, Janet boils the vines for 30 minutes and then strips off the outer bark to reveal the honey colored, pliable surface of the vine. When the vines are freshly cut they are placed in water to soften them. Janet's smaller baskets are often made with reed and driftwood.

Visit the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea on Saturday, October 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to see Janet Northern of Mt. Vernon demonstrate basketmaking and talk about the process.

The Center's exhibit and travel information area, shop, and restaurant are all open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and admission is free. The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism Development Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For more information call 606-985-5448 or visit the Center's web site at kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov

For more information contact: Gwen Heffner at 606-985-5448 ext 230.

Library News

As the seasons change the activities also change here at the Rockcastle County Public Library. Teen Read Week is October 19th through the 25th. In celebration of this event The Rockcastle County Middle School Theatre will be performing an original scripted children's book, "Tark and Runt" by noted children's author Lisa Wheeler. The play will be presented during Story hour at the Library Tuesday, October 21st at 1:00 p.m. The production is presented in partnership with the Rockcastle County Schools Reading Is Fundamental Program. In addition to the Library presentation, "Tark and Runt" will be presented at the three county elementary schools.

Some new book titles have been added to the adult collection that we would like to make your aware of: The Kennedy Curse by Edward Klein; Benjamin Franklin by Walter Isaacson; Christmas with Southern Living 2003 edited by Rebecca Brennan and Julie Gutter and Blow Fly by Patricia Cornwell. In addition to these books there are also

some new books that have been added to the juvenile fiction / young adult collection. Artemis Fowl: the Arctic incident by Eoin Colfer, this book is a sequel to Artemis Fowl, and Artemis Fowl: enemy code, Princess Lessons by Meg Cabot, a Princess Diaries book, R.L. Stine picks his favorite scary stories, this book includes Stine's work as well as some other noted children's authors. Dinosaur Girl and Halloween Night Books 1 and 2 by R.L. Stine. And for this time of year several new Halloween easy readers. There will be several new juvenile and young adult books on display next week during Teen Read Week!

If you haven't taken advantage of your local library let us encourage you to do so. The resources are here for recreational reading, study, research, whatever your interest. Also to the educators, don't forget about the learning boxes we have for checkout they are here for you to use. The laminator and die cut machine are also available for use. Come on in and sign up for a card. Make the connection, connect @ your library!

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RCHS Class of '93 Reunion

The RCHS Class of 1993
is in the process of planning their 10 year class reunion. Anyone who hasn't been contacted about your current address, should call Scott Mays, 758-9089 or Renee Bowman Turner, 758-9828

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