

FFA annual fall activities and contest

Mark Dyehouse, Reporter
Rockcastle County FFA
 The Rockcastle County FFA Chapter had an interesting and fun experience competing in the annual fall contests and activities.

In September, the FFA Chapter held the annual fall cookout. There was a great turn out of FFA members and several parents. The alumni members and other parents prepared the food. There was food and recreation for all to enjoy. Some of the more enjoyable events of the night were the annual FFA Bow Shoot and the first ever Agricultural Olympics. Senior Nathan Doan placed second in the Bow Shoot and junior Ben Graves placed first. In the Agricultural Olympics Matthew Whitaker received the bronze medal, Daniel Bustle received the silver medal and the overall winner receiving the gold medal was Brandon Cole. The chapter would like to thank all those who helped with this event. The members of the FFA chapter would like to encourage anyone with a child involved in FFA to become a member of the FFA Alumni, although you don't have to have a child involved in FFA to become an Alumni member. The Alumni is there to help the students. By being an active member of the alumni, you can help the

members of the FFA in various ways. You can also help your own child in opportunities for college. Consider joining the alumni. If you are interested in learning about the alumni, you can contact the Agricultural Department at the high school or a member of the FFA Alumni. The FFA Chapter appreciates all that the alumni do for the FFA Chapter.

Our chapter held the annual fall Greenhand Ceremony on Tuesday October 21, 2003 in the RCHS lunchroom. The Greenhand Ceremony is held to honor newly active FFA members with his or her first stepping stone in the FFA Chapter. They will be able to achieve many more degrees in their experience in FFA. In order for an FFA member to receive their Greenhand degree, they have to complete several requirements relating to FFA. One of the requirements is memorizing and reciting the five paragraphs of the FFA Creed.

At the Chapter Greenhand Ceremony, the FFA held an FFA Creed Speaking Contest. There were two members who participated in the Creed Speaking Contest, those being Jenny Lynn Clark and Kayla Bishop. Jenny Lynn Clark placed first in the contest and Kayla Bishop received second in the contest. Both members did an excellent job in re-

citing the FFA Creed.

The other contest was an FFA Quiz Contest. In these events, members are quizzed on historical FFA events and dates. Several members participated in this contest. Izak McQuary came out on top finishing in first place. Michael Clark received second place in the contest. For their placement of first in the contest, both Jenny Lynn Clark and Izak McQuary will be advancing to

the spring contest to compete for the overall chapter winner.

On October 23, 2003, the Rockcastle FFA Chapter participated in the Kentucky River Region FFA Fall Contests. These contests are held at Eastern Kentucky University. Our chapter participated in the land judging contest. Land judging team members are Mark Dyehouse, Matthew Whitaker, Brandon Cole, and Kayla Bishop. The team placed sec-

ond in the region, and will advance to the State Contest. Matthew Whitaker and Kyle Owens tied for third individual of the day.

Members of the chapter also participated in the JV Parliamentary Procedure Contest. This team placed first in the region. Team members and their names are pictured below. Members participated in Regional JV and Varsity Tractor Driving contest. Brian Powell won the Varsity

Tractor Driving Contest. Joncolly Robbins placed second in the JV Tractor Driving Contest.

Members of the chapter, who attended this event, were extremely pleased with the results of the day at Kentucky River Regional Competition Field Day.

September and October have been busy months for the FFA. There are still many activities and projects planned for the months to come.



Pictured above are the FFA members of the regional winning Fall Regional Parliamentary Procedure Contest. Team Members were: Back row from left: Michael Clark - Sentinel, Joncolly Robbins - member, Justin Lear - President, Max Robbins - member, Matthew Bussell - member, Cody Robinson - Vice-President. Front row from left: Jenny Lynn Clark - Secretary, Danielle Adams - member, April Benedict - Treasurer, and Kayla Bishop - Reporter.



Pictured above are the newly installed FFA members who received their FFA Greenhand degree at our annual Fall Greenhand Ceremony that was held on Tuesday October 21, 2003. The FFA Greenhand Degree is the first stepping-stone to a great experience in the FFA. Back row L-R: Laura DeKawar, Kayla Bishop, Tina Hiding, Joncolly Robbins, Cody Robinson, Justin Hensley, Dustin Lear, Russell Bullock, and Izak McQuary. Front row L-R: April Benedict, Danielle Adams, Lisa Northen, Krystal McFerton, Michael Clark and Jenny Lynn Clark.



Pictured above is freshman Joncolly Robbins who participated in the JV Tractor Driving Contest at the Kentucky River Region FFA Field Day. Joncolly Robbins placed second in the regional contest.



Pictured above are the contestants who participated in our chapter's annual FFA Creed Speaking Contest at our Fall Greenhand Ceremony that was held on Tuesday October 21, 2003. Contestants were Kayla Bishop who placed second, Jenny Lynn Clark who placed first, and Zach Hale who was in charge of the FFA Creed Speaking Contest.



Pictured above are the first and second place winners in our chapter's annual FFA Quiz Contest that was held at our FFA Greenhand Ceremony. Shown are Izak McQuary and Michael Clark fighting it out in the end for first place. Izak finished first and Michael finished second. Also shown in the picture are Karen Mink and Jessica Ayher who were in charge of the FFA Quiz Contest.

RCHS Youth Yak

By Myrna D. Childress

Mission Statement. The mission of Rockcastle County High School is to equip all students with sufficient skills to become contributing members of society.

By the Numbers: Rockcastle County High School has an enrollment of 821 students. We have 164 seniors, 202 juniors, 226 sophomores and 231 freshmen. We have 87 staff members.

Our SBDM Council met in its regular monthly session Wednesday, October 29 at 3:30 p.m. at the high school. Several items were on the agenda including a report on assessment. RCHS has made an improvement on test scores. Our goal is to improve even more. The next scheduled meeting is November 19.

Because we did so well on our CATS test, Mr. Hale and Company treated the students to a CATS Celebration on Monday, November 3 during fourth block. We had food and Rockcastle plus time to socialize and have some "free" fun time.

Students have received their picture proofs. Money, if you wish to purchase your photos, is due back to the office by or before November 5.

Reminder to those parents who pick their children up in the afternoons: Pull in behind the buses. Do not enter the front parking lot. Cell phones have caused some problems recently. The rule is as follows: If a student drives to school, leave the phone in your car. If a student doesn't drive and has a need to bring their phone in the building they are to leave the phone in the office and pick it up at the end of the day.

Volleyball-Our district winning girls' volleyball team had the distinct opportunity to play in its first state volleyball tournament in Frankfort. We went up against the winning program from Sacred Heart Academy from Louisville who ended up winning the tournament again. Even though we lost to them by a score of 2-0, our girls are still number 1 to us!!!! Keep up the winning tradition players and coaches. There's always next year.

Our varsity football team defeated Perry Central by a score of 43-19 and also defeated Knox Central 55-6. The Knox Central ended regular season play. The first round of the play-offs will begin this Friday when the ROCK versus Lawrence County here.

Congratulations to Cody Alexander for being named as one of the finalists in the Wendy's High School Heisman Award Program. One male and one female will be named state winner and compete for national honors. Good luck Cody!!

Members of the mixed chorus

traveled to Lincoln Co. Thursday to audition for the Ky. All-State chorists. Those who went were: Anna Coffey, Courtney Hale, Traci Parsons, Tressie Robinson, Danielle Savage and Shonda King.

Our Academic team recently competed at Sonnet where Jr. Varsity team defeated both Russell Co. and Cumberland. Justin Miller was our top scorer. Varsity lost to Russell Co. and Sonnet. Josh Blair was that top scorer. On October 28 the A team competed at Lincoln County outcome of that meet was as follows. Varsity- RCHS defeated Cumberland Co. 12-9, RCHS lost to Lincoln 35-8 and lost to South Laurel 31-6. Anna Guilfoil was the high scorer. In Jr. Varsity-RCHS lost to Lincoln, Cumberland and South Laurel. High JV scorer was Justin Miller. Next meet will be at McCreary Center on November 11.

Staff members that either have helped or will help during ball games this year were provided a "Thank You" lunch on Thursday. We had food from Sonny's Barbeque brought in to us during third block (or now here). Selling those tickets were worth it Mr. Noble!!

Our cross-country team are winners!! The girls are regional champs while the boys' team qualified for state competition. Good Luck runner!!

New Feature-We will randomly select a student and staff member each week to be Student Spotlight and Staff Spotlight. We will interview those chosen and share with our readers what a little about them. This week our Staff Spotlight is Mr. Brandon Hargis. Mr. Hargis teaches Physical Science to 9th graders. He graduated from Pulaski County High School. He lives in London with his wife, Kim who is an Instructional Assistant at RCHS. Mr. Hargis began working in Rockcastle County in 2000 as a science teacher at RCHS. The next year he worked as the coordinator of the 21st Century Program at RCHS. This past school year he has taught at RCHS. He received his teaching degree from Centre College in Danville and Eastern Ky. University in Richmond. His interests include fishing, hunting, and spending time with his church family. His most memorable teaching event was spending two weeks at NASA Langley during the summer of 2002.

When asked what he likes best about RCHS he said, "The total dedication and compassion the staff/teachers have for working with students." If he could change anything about RCHS he says he would like for the students to show the same commitment and dedication to learning as the

staff does to teaching. His favorite book is the J.R. Tolkien Trilogy Series. His favorite movie Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade and he also likes the Tolkien movies, Lord of the Rings, and The Two Towers. His favorite musical group is the Christian band, Mercy Me. We are lucky to have Mr. Hargis as part of the RCHS staff.

Our Student Spotlight is on Dallas "Bucky" Skinner. Bucky is a sophomore here at RCHS. He just turned seventeen on October 2. He is the son of Ms. Joanna McCormick of Livingston. Bucky attended Brookfield Elementary until the fourth grade after that he attended Mt. Vernon Elementary. He has played football since the fourth grade. He plays halfback and fullback for the RCHS. His favorite subject is Physical Education. Bucky says Mr. J.D. Bussell is his favorite teacher because he's a good teacher and also a nice person. He likes country music and his girlfriend, Amy. His favorite movie is "Any Given Sunday". When asked what he likes most about RCHS, he said the football program. "I least favorite thing about attending is the dress code. In ten years from now he sees himself having a career in welding and maybe be married with some children. He plans to pursue his interest in welding by attending a technical school after graduation. Best of luck Bucky.

Deadline to have immunizations up to date by October 31. If your child has been contacted that you are due a shot or a physical exam, please be sure to have this done. By law, immunizations must be kept up before a child is allowed to attend school.

Students, if you are having trouble in class or have gotten behind due to illness and absences, remember to take advantage of our after school services such as credit make-up or tutoring. Check the bulletin boards or ask the counselors or Ms. Dana Singleton about these services. Remember don't struggle when help is available. Also, remember our Loss of Privileges rule. If you have 3 unexcused absences, you will spend one day in ISS and not be allowed to attend any extra-curricular activities such as games, dances etc. for one month. If you get 5 unexcused absences you will lose driving privileges as well as all after school activity privileges for the rest of the school year. Don't find yourself in this situation. Juniors and seniors, remember, this includes the prom. Parents, if your child is absent you can expect a call from our school. We check on students daily as to why they are not in school. Please call the school anytime your child is absent.

We're not trying to invade your privacy, we just want to keep track of our students, your children.

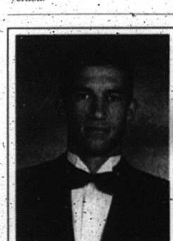
The deadline for registration for December's ACT is Friday, November 7. Take your completed packets with payment and postage to Ms. Sondra Mullins in the front office. She will take care of it for you. Rockcastle County High School Youth Service Center can always use clothing donations. Call 256-4818 for details.

We will be out of school November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving. Give thanks.

Three Local students named to Dean's List

National College of Business & Technology in Richmond has named three Rockcastle County students to the Dean's List for the summer term.

The following students earned a minimum grade point average of 3.5 out of a possible 4.0: Lavada Adams, Mount Vernon; Debra Chesnut, Orlando; and Lavada Gatliff, Mount Vernon.



Cody Alexander, son of Gerald and Irene Alexander of Mareburg, has been named one of the finalists in the Wendy's Heisman Award Program. One male and one female will be named state winners and will go on to compete for national honors.

The Wendy's High School Heisman is a high school award, which honors senior male and female students who have excelled in academics, athletics, and community service.

He is a member of First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, and has participated in many projects geared toward improving his community.

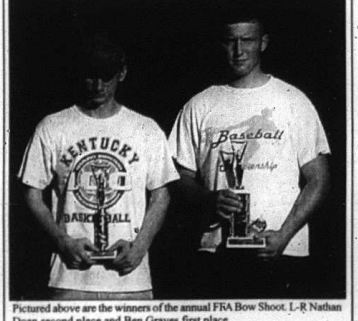
Cody has been a member of both the football and baseball teams throughout high school, while maintaining his 4.0 + grade point average.



Pictured above is one of Rockcastle FFA's finest, senior Brian Powell the winner of the Kentucky River Region, Regional Varsity Tractor Driving Contest winner.



Pictured above are the winners of the first ever Rockcastle County FFA Agricultural Olympics. L to R - Daniel Bustle - Silver Medal Winner, Brandon Cole - Gold Medal Winner, Matthew Whitaker - Bronze Medal Winner.



Pictured above are the winners of the annual FFA Bow Shoot. L-R Nathan Doan second place and Ben Graves first place.