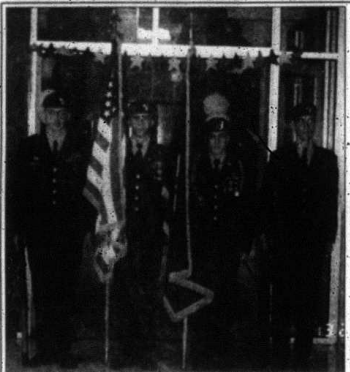




The Command Staff greeting our Honored Guests - guest speaker Ms. Ruth Allen escorted by SGM Taylor.



"Color Guard" for the evening: Brian Bullock, Tim Tyler, Jon Noe, Josh Ramsey.



From left: Cadet SSG Ronald Willey, Cadet 1SG Hollis Best, Cadet Cpt. Jeff Smith, Cadet 1st Lt. Melissa Looney, Cadet 1st Lt. Tim Tyler and his guest, Jamie Frederick.

JROTC holds Sixth Annual Military Ball

By SGM Keith Taylor
Rockcastle County High School's JROTC held its Sixth Annual Military Ball, Saturday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The military ball is a required formal event for JROTC. The evening began with formal photos by Doug Brock of Brookhead. In full military custom, the receiving line consisting of the Command Staff, Company Commander-Cadet Major Tami Taylor, Company Executive Officer-Cadet Captain Jefferson Smith and Cadet First Sergeant Hollis Best and her guests, greeted all the honored guests, our Seniors' parents and our Cadets and their guests.

After the welcome by the Company Commander, the evening began with the traditional posting of the National Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation (given by Sergeant First Class Joshua Whicker), the toasting ceremony, and the introduction of guests. The JROTC Cadet Creed was given by Cadet Sergeant First Class Anthony Northern. Refreshments were then enjoyed by all. Preceding the introduction of the guest speaker, a special slide presentation was presented with photos from this past year's accomplishments, set with music, with a special tribute to our graduating seniors. Cadet Major Tami N. Taylor, Cadet First Lieutenant Melissa J. Looney and Cadet Captain Jefferson D. Smith. These three seniors have been in JROTC for four years and all three have given so much of their time and talent to the program.

The guest speaker for the evening was Ms. Ruth Allen, Principal at Rockcastle County High School. In appreciation for her many years as a teacher and administrator, Ms. Allen was presented with red roses along with a Kentucky State flag (that had been flown over the state capitol) by

Cadet Major Tami Taylor on behalf of the JROTC cadets. CSM Charles Robinson also presented Ms. Allen with the "Kentucky Colonel" certificate given in appreciation for her support and dedication to education.

As an added surprise, Cadet Sergeant First Class Shannon Bullock presented SGM Keith Taylor (RCHS Rifle Team Coach) a check from Citizens Bank for the Rifle Team to go to the Nationals in June in Atlanta.

The formal part of the evening concluded with red roses presented to Mrs. Jenny Taylor from the senior class and a very special presentation of one rose was presented by every cadet for her dedication and love to the program.

The dancing began around 8:30 with music provided by Mr. Charlie Napier. Our honored guests for the evening were Ms. Ruth Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Danny McKinney, Mrs. Charles Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Looney, Mrs. Darlene Smith, Mrs. Brenda Bullock, Mr. Jeff Hayes and Mrs. Morrisa Swafford, Ms. Alethe Cornelius, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Burdine, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Adams and Mr. John Tyler.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Cadet First Lieutenant

Tim Tyler assisted by Cadet Major Tami Taylor for all the long hours they put into the slide presentation. Also, a special thank you to Mrs. Brenda Bullock, Mrs. Debbie

Mobley, Mr. Tom Tyler, Ms. Carolyn Thacker, Ms. Sharon Wagner and to the parents of our cadets who contributed so much to make our evening successful.

High school students attend Health Occupations Expo

Thirty students from Rockcastle County High School and 30 students from the Rockcastle Area Technology Center, along with students from 21 other schools, attended the second annual Health Occupations Today (HOT) Expo on March 28 at Eastern Kentucky University. The day gave young people the opportunity to talk with health professionals who also guided them through hands-on activities, such as a mock surgery and recreational therapy exercise. "It's very much a hands-on career fair," said Jeanie Hogg of The Southern Kentucky Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Students who attended have already indicated an interest in health careers, so this gave them the opportunity to gather information about specific jobs that might interest them. There were more than 40 professions also on hand to talk with students about careers ranging from speech therapy,

radiology and nursing to athletic training, emergency medicine and environmental health.

AHEC worked in conjunction with School-to-Work Local Labor Market Area #16, which is managed by Forward in the Fifth, to provide students with this opportunity. After visiting the exhibit area for 60 minutes, the students then attended a 30-minute debriefing where they could ask fur-

ther questions about health occupation and evaluate the experience. Forward in the Fifth's vision is that members of our communities will have the educational opportunities necessary to live full and productive lives. Our mission is to raise educational levels in the region; encourage life-long learning by providing opportunities for parents, educators and community members; and to foster partnerships between communities and schools.



Students from Rockcastle Co. High School attended the Health Occupations Expo.



Students from Rockcastle Tech Center attended the Health Occupations Expo.



FFA holds Chapter Degree Ceremony

By Eric Adams

The FFA had 24 members to receive their Chapter Degree on Tuesday, March 27th.

The Chapter Degree is the second of four degrees FFA members may receive. In order to obtain this degree a recipient must have completed two years of Agriculture classes and have a satisfactory Supervised Agriculture Experience project, just to name a couple.

Those receiving degrees were: Randall Abrams, Todd Anglin, Candice Blair, Derrick Burdette, Bryanna Busell, Michael Cronin, Matthew Doan, April Gibbons, Karac Grubb, Cole Hammond, Trenton Harding, Darin Harris, Jeremy Harris, Angie Laswell, Cody Laswell, Melinda Leger, Rebekah Lyons, Mark Miller, Rodney Payne, Heather Pingleton, Jason Reynolds, Dustin Robinson, Jeremy Rowe, Pamela Shackelford, Clay Smith, and Danny Taylor.

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SEATBELT SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The Rockcastle County Health Center is sponsoring a seatbelt safety campaign. A seatbelt survey was conducted at the high school on March 5, 2001. The survey results showed that of 232 students viewed as they were leaving school, 76% were not wearing seatbelts.

WHY SHOULD YOU WEAR SEATBELT?

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children of every age from 5-18 years old.
- For young drivers (ages 15-18) involved in fatal crashes, 43% were not using a seat belt; among those who were killed, 59% were not using a seat belt.
- Lap/shoulder belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.
- The fatality rate for young drivers (16-19 years old) is about four times as high as the rate for drivers aged 25-69.

Can the Rockcastle County High School drivers beat the Jackson County High School drivers?

We did the same seatbelt survey in Jackson County on March 13th and 68% of their drivers viewed did not have their seatbelts on! Jackson County had 8% more students wearing their seatbelts.

WE ARE ISSUING A CHALLENGE!

Can Rockcastle County High School Drivers improve their seatbelt usage more than Jackson County High Drivers?

The Rockcastle County Health Center will be repeating the seatbelt survey in May. But you won't know when... So be sure to be wearing your seatbelts!

SIGN AND TURN IN THIS PLEDGE TO WEAR YOUR SEATBELT AND TO PRACTICE SAFE DRIVING.



I pledge to wear my seatbelt and practice safe driving:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Subscribe to the Signal