

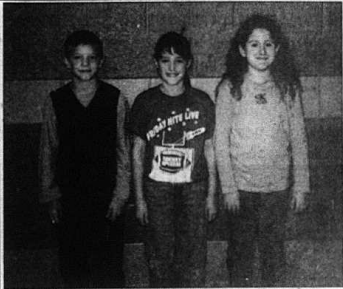
Tiger Pause

Congratulations to Brandon Mitchell and Joanie Alexander from Mrs. Sandy Brown's room and Rachael Cash from Mrs. Katereka Cash's room for having their posters selected as BES winners for the conservation contest. These students along with others from various schools will be rewarded with a banquet next spring.

Our December PTA meeting will

be held on Tuesday, December 18 at 6:00 and our student Science Fair will follow at 6:30 p.m. Please join us as our students showcase their work. Please also note that if school is cancelled due to inclement weather or for any reason our PTA meeting is cancelled as well.

The last day of classes before Christmas Break will be Wednesday, December 19. School will resume on Wednesday, January 2.



Conservation Contest Winners, from left: Brandon Mitchell, Joanie Alexander and Rachael Cash.

Library News

By Kathy McKibben

This month at the Library we are having a training session for the on-line card catalog. Several of our patrons have asked about learning to use it. We started last Friday and Saturday, but the response wasn't what we had hoped for. We advertised it on the bulletin board, so we thought we would encourage participation for this weekend. We will be having training sessions this Friday and Saturday, December 7th and 8th, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in learning to use the card catalog please call and register at 256-2388. I guarantee once you've learned to use it you will find it so much easier than before! Also there is a display of Christmas books in the Adult and Children's Libraries, books to read as well as craft ideas to decorate your home for the holidays.

We are going to be starting something a little different from time to time. Our new Young Adult books are getting good circulation, so some of our teens are turning in book reviews to me, and we are going to be using them in the paper and on the website in the coming months to promote book reading. I am going to kick this month off with a short book talk about Richard Peck's "A Year Down Yonder." This book is recommended reading for ages 12 and up.

I'm sure you've heard stories from your relatives about hard times during the Depression years. This is a book set in Illinois in 1937. "A Year Down Yonder" by Richard Peck is a wonderful, lighthearted book about a fifteen-year-old girl named Mary Alice and the relationship she develops with her grandmother, Dowdel. Mary Alice is sent to live with her grandmother for a year. Her parents are working trying to get back on their feet financially and her brother has taken a government job. Mary Alice is looking back on her time spent in the little hilly

town of Illinois and she soon realizes just how different life is in the country as opposed to living in the big city of Chicago. Grandma Dowdel was a strong-willed woman by anyone's standards, when she entered a room her presence was definitely felt. Mary Alice's journey learning to respect

and admire her strength of character, her wit and domesticity is a joy to read about. It reminds me of a woman in my life that I came to know about the same age as Mary Alice. It was my grandmother and she was also a larger than life figure that I grew to respect instead of fear.

If you enjoy real life situations set in the country, a little sarcasm, tastefully used to reach valuable lessons about hard work, and hard times sprinkled with humor, join Mary Alice as she retells her experiences while living with Grandma Dowdel. I guarantee once you start reading you won't want to put this book down. Richard Peck has done a grand job in making you feel like a part of this book making the setting and the situations come to life.

Come join us at your Library and see all of the wonderful adventures come to life, and use the information just here for the taking. Connect @ Your Library today!

Rockcastle School Menus December 10-14, 2001

Breakfast

Monday: French toast stick with syrup or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Tuesday: Sausage biscuit or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Wednesday: Egg, cheese biscuit or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Thursday: Gravy 'n' biscuits or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Friday: Breakfast pizza or cereal, toast/jelly, juice and milk.

Lunch

Monday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert and milk.

Tuesday: Sub sandwich, baked beans, lettuce/pickles/chips, pudding and milk.

Wednesday: Chili and sandwich, veggies and dip, crackers, fruit dessert and milk.

Thursday: Fish sandwich or corn dog, macaroni 'n' cheese, cole slaw, pork 'n' beans, jello and milk.

Friday: Hamburger on bun or sandwich, lettuce/pickle, spicy fries, fruit dessert and milk.

Tips For Holiday Spending

By Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Sciences



If January mail brings huge bills as reminders you overspent for the holidays, consider developing a written budget this year.

Decide how much you can afford to spend for holiday gifts. Then, prioritize people on your gift list with an estimated dollar amount for each person. Don't forget to budget for related expenses including food for special meals and entertaining, holiday outfits, decorations, greeting cards and postage, wrapping paper and travel.

Next, write down how much money you can afford to spend on each part of the holiday expenses list. See if the total expenditure falls within your holiday shopping budget. If not, you might have to adjust expenses by giving less expensive gifts, giving fewer gifts, or entertaining less.

Be sure to develop a written holiday budget, rather than commit it to memory; otherwise you might forget to include a holiday expense in the budget. Take the budget when you go shopping to help you keep track of what you spend on each item and the total amount spent.

There are several ways to make up the difference between what you can spend and what you want to spend.

If the list of your family and friends is too long, consider adjusting the amount of money allocated for gifts or suggest drawing names.

Another way to reduce gift costs is to think of non-cash gifts. Give people with small children a gift certificate for a free night of babysitting or offer to do some minor home repairs if you're "handy" around the house. Take elderly

people out to lunch and shopping, or offer to run errands for them.

Invite some friends over to make cookies or other baked items each of you can give as holiday gifts. Make large quantities of soup, chili or stew and freeze small portions to give as a gift. Since magazines often have special holiday deals, give a subscription related to someone's hobby or interests.

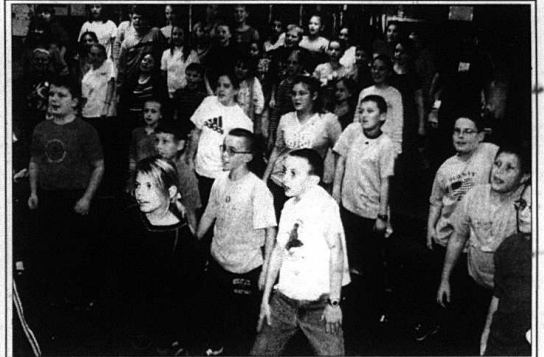
Blood Drive December 13th

The holidays are a time of enjoying the company of your family and friends around hearty meals and rooms filled with laughter. Unfortunately, not everyone gets to share in such festive times. Many families will spend their holidays in Rockcastle County Hospital where many patients are awaiting blood transfusions.

Rockcastle County and Central Kentucky Blood Center are joining together to sponsor a blood drive on Thursday, December 13th in order to protect these families from the pain of losing loved ones. To carry out this mission, volunteer donors must step

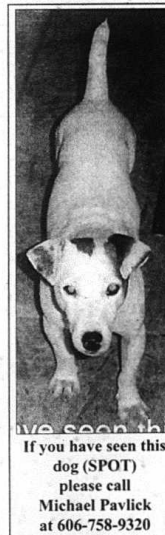
forward and give the gift of life. By donating blood between 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at the Rockcastle Extension Office in the conference room you could aid up to three patients with a single donation. The blood drive is being sponsored by Rockcastle Extension Homemakers.

This holiday season give the perfect gift to someone who will really appreciate your generosity. Give blood! It's a gift that will last a lifetime, but won't cost you a cent. For more information contact Loretta Robinson at (606)679-7413. All donors will receive a special gift for volunteering.



The Pentatones, Mt. Vernon's own 5th grade Honor Chorus, will present "Sounds of the Season," on Thursday, December 13th. The concert is scheduled to begin at 6:30 in the MVES Gymnasium. Admission is free and all are invited to attend this celebration of the holiday spirit! Shown above are the Pentatones rehearsing one of their favorite songs, "The Turkey Tango." The chorus is under the direction of music teacher Jamie Cornelius.

Subscribe to the Signal



"OLD TIME SOCIAL CHILI & PIE SUPPER"

DECEMBER 9TH
SUNDAY at 12 noon

at Rockcastle Middle School

Come enjoy an afternoon with food, fellowship & APPRECIATION PROGRAM

to Honor All Local
Veterans, Policemen & Fire Fighters

ADMISSION: \$5.00

All Proceeds to Local Fire Departments



For Tickets contact the Kiwanis Club & Fire Depts.

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Pictured Left to Right: Danny Sweet, John Alexander, Joe Taylor, Mike Berry and Bill (Boone) Tillery