



Devon McGuire swings at a pitch during last Thursday night's loss to the Somerset Briar Jumpers. The Rockets recovered from the Somerset loss to beat Wayne County 11-2 at home Tuesday night.



Amber Collins swings at a pitch during last Thursday night's game against the Somerset Briar Jumpers. The Lady Rockets next game is this Thursday when they play the Lincoln County Patriots in Stanford. First pitch is set for 5:45 p.m.

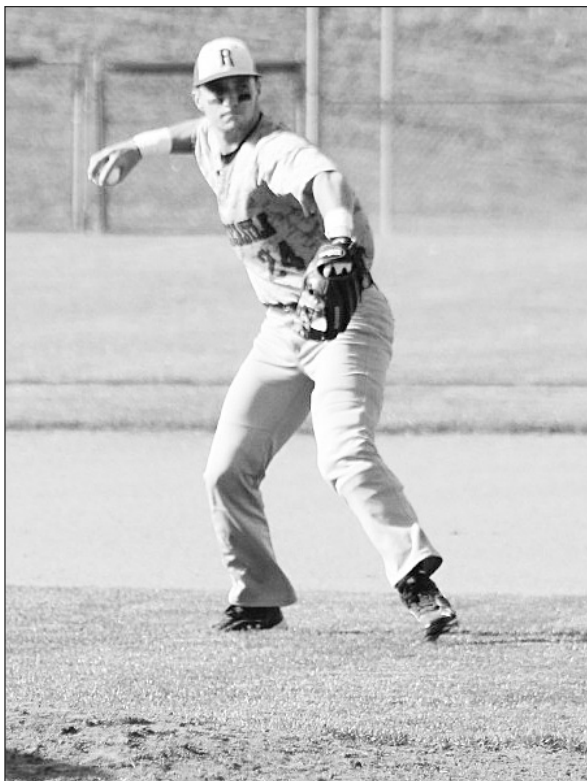


Joey Reid killed a 29 lb. gobbler, during the recent turkey season, on Cecil Thacker's farm on Scaffold Cane Road. The turkey had a 10 1/2 inch beard and 1 1/4 inch spurs.



Come celebrate with us and get a
free Fried Ice Cream!
"Julian's Birthday"

EL CAZADOR
Mexican Restaurant
2176 Wilderness Rd. • Mt. Vernon • 606-256-1082



Damien McDaniel attempts to get a runner out at first base during last Thursday night's game with the Somerset Briar Jumpers. The Rockets are now 13-9 on the season.



Shelby Ham gets a base hit during last Thursday's 11-0 loss to the Somerset Briar Jumpers. The Lady Rockets are now 3-18 on the season.

RCMS volleyball photos and update along with the track senior photos will appear in next week's issue of the Signal



Shelley Alcorn recently killed two turkeys. In the top photo, the turkey had an 11 inch beard, weighed 24 lbs. and had one inch spurs. In the bottom photo, the turkey had a double beard one measuring 12 inches and the other 8 inches. The turkey weighed 24 lbs. and had one inch spurs. Also in the bottom photo is Sarah Alcorn.



Chris Wren attempts to get a runner out at first during last Thursday night's 8-1 loss to Somerset. The Rockets next game is this Thursday night when they will host the Casey County Rebels. First pitch is at 6 p.m.

Rockcastle star invited to USA team tryouts

Fresh off a solid sophomore season that saw her lead her team to the NCAA championship game, being named Sophomore Female Athlete of the Year at U of L and named to the third Team all Big East, Rockcastle county native Sara Hammond has received an official invitation to tryouts for the USA National

team.

Only 35 players from colleges across America are invited. Tryouts are May 16-19 at the US Olympic training facility in Colorado Springs, CO. Should Sara make the 12 player roster, she will travel with Team USA to participate in the World University Games in Russia in July.

Kentucky Afield Outdoors:

Early May is the start of the best fishing for bluegill, redear sunfish

Early May in Kentucky is not only a good time to set out tomato plants in backyard gardens, but it's the start of the best fishing of the year for bluegill and redear sunfish.

When water temperatures approach 70 degrees, these two native sunfish species move into the shallows of ponds, small lakes and large reservoirs in preparation for spawning.

"If I was to pick a time here it would be the second week in May," said Paul Rister, western district fishery biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, who manages fish populations in Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.

Both lakes support excellent populations of the sunfish species. "When they are spawning, generally the redear sunfish will be out from the banks in a little deeper water than the bluegills," said Rister.

Anglers should try to time their fishing trips to coincide with rising or stable lake levels. "By the time bluegills and redears go on the bed, both lakes are usually stable at summer pool," said Rister. The ideal fishing area is a shallow embayment that has flooded vegetation on the mudflats, close to gravel shores.

Rister said meal worms and crickets are the preferred live baits for redear sunfish, while red worms and crickets are tops for bluegills.

The recommended strategy for both species is suspending the bait under a float. "Redears want the bait close to the bottom, with as little weight (split shot) on the line as possible," said Rister.

Bluegill strike bait suspended a little shallower than redears, along weed lines. Light wire, long-shank hooks in size # 8 or #10 are recommended for both species.

These sunfish spawn in colonies, their saucer-shaped nests clustered together. Spawning can continue into June, if water conditions are ideal.

The redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*) is commonly called the "shellcracker" because it likes to feed on mussels, snails and insects on the bottom. A special plate of teeth in the back of the fish's

throat enables them to crush shells. The preferred habitat for redear sunfish is clear water where rooted aquatic vegetation often grows.

On Aug. 27, 2004, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to give the redear sunfish sport fish status, and protected populations from overharvest by creating a statewide 20-fish daily creel limit.

Other Kentucky waters that support quality populations of redear sunfish include Beaver Lake in Anderson County, Elmer Davis Lake in Owen County, McNeeley Lake in Jefferson County and Pan Bowl Lake in Breathitt County.

The bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) is arguably the most popular panfish in Kentucky. An abundant species that's present in all the state's river drainages, bluegill are easy to catch and their white flesh is sweet and firm. Bluegill thrive in ponds and small lakes across Kentucky.

Statewide, there's no daily creel limit on bluegills, but Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) lakes have restrictions on the number of bluegills and redears that can be kept.

Redear sunfish and bluegill are willing strikers all day long, perfect for introducing a child or adult novice to fishing.

The license year expired Feb. 28, 2013. You'll need to buy a new fishing license, available in the sporting goods section of department stores and tackle shops, to fish now. Licenses and permits may also be purchased online from the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife homepage at fw.ky.gov or by calling 1-877-598-2401. The entire Spring Fishing Frenzy series will be posted at this same website for future access to these articles.

Art Lander Jr. has been writing about the outdoors since the 1970s. He is a staff writer for Kentucky Afield Magazine.

Taste
The

Now Open on Hwy. 461

• Fresh Peaches • Tomatoes • Watermelons
• Cantaloupes • Beans • Corn
• Hanging Baskets
• Tropical Plants
Much More!

Peach City

Difference

OPERATION UNITE

Drug Tip Hotline
1-866-424-4382
(toll free - your name is not required)

Toll-free Treatment Help Line
1-866-90-UNITE