

Yards to Paradise

By Max Phelps
Rain In Due Season

Truly it's a blessing to life of all kinds when there is sufficient rainfall. This is especially true to the farmers and gardeners who hope for rain at the best times.

Rain provides water for the butterflies and birds, and ultimately to the springs and rivers we draw drinking water from, and ultimately the oceans.

When there's been a long dry period, then the rain and storms come; the whole environment seems to react with relief. Trees get greener, grass grows overnight, seeds sprout and grow, and in the desert the cactus begin to bloom.

Timely rain is of much more use than long periods of too little or too much. Fertile lands planted in crops can wither and dry and produce very little when it does not rain during the growing season. On the other hand, it has to be dry enough to plant in the spring in the first place. Then it has to be dry enough to harvest—for molding corn or wheat in the fields from too much rain at harvest time cancels out even a bumper crop.

Large corporate farms are more at risk than backyard gardeners, for a good gardener will be successful in growing something useful to eat (or some pretty flowers) even if the weather did not cooperate when he or she wanted to plant some particular seeds. Transplants can be put in the ground even in muddy gardens if one needs to do that. I've planted tobacco, sweet potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes and such in soggy conditions with the mud squishing between my toes.

Droughts have been a fact of life as long as there have been written records. It is thought by some that

the Mayan Civilization starved from drought-induced failures of crops like corn (maize) which led to extinction.

A seven year drought in Palestine resulted in the ancient Israelites going to Egypt (where they were eventually enslaved until the famous crossing of the Red Sea). Weather indeed changes history.

Rain that falls too fast or in too great amounts causes flooding as it comes down faster than the soil can absorb it. In modern cities and towns this is exacerbated because so much native vegetation has been replaced with concrete, asphalt, short-cut grass and shingled buildings. The result is record-breaking flooding from a rain event that may have happened a dozen times before and not caused such bad damage.

To the folks with lawn sprinklers, rain means they can cut the watering, and the water bill. Rain may mean a person does not have to water their new plants. (Too much water can kill more new plants than dry weather actually, especially with clay soil that does not drain but lets a small pond accumulate in the hole where the new plant was placed.) Raised beds can eliminate most of the problems associated with ponding around roots of new trees and shrubs.

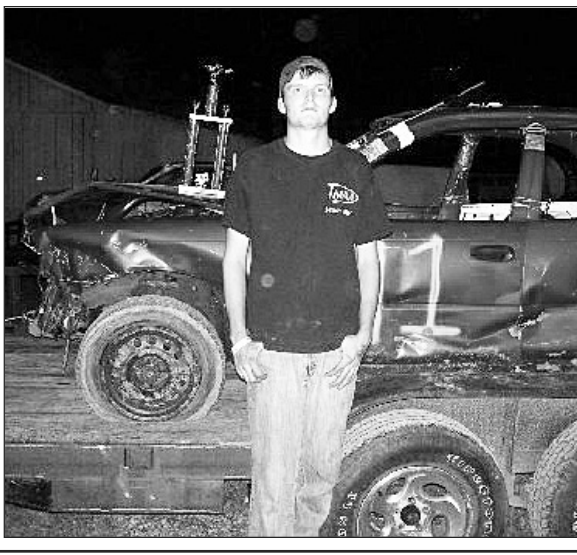
As I write this, the current growing season has been abnormally wet. Some, fearing drought, didn't plant trees or grow a garden this year. And some have planted and had floods or hail damage their gardens or crops.

As a final thought. Rainfall is much better than irrigation for our yards and gardens. The cloudiness is helpful, but it's the nitrogen from the air that a thunderstorm mixes with the water naturally that really is the magical ingredient that turns lawns green overnight as grasses, flowers and plants get both water and fertilizer in the rainstorm water.

The author is a landscaper. Send Max your comments to waterfallsinyards@yahoo.com



Joshua and Jeremiah Merritt of Wildie Rd. crashed the competition and took home top honors in the small car demolition derby at the Little World's Fair in Brodhead Monday night. In an exciting, hard-hitting battle, Josh captured first place and the Mad Dog Heavy Hitter award, and his brother Jeremiah slammed his way into second place. Congratulations guys.



Financial Aid Tip of the Month

A good admissions essay may mean more money for college

Some colleges, especially private schools, require an essay as part of their admissions process for college freshmen. That essay may also help when it comes to paying for college, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

Generally, the more exclusive the college, the more important the essay may be in admissions and financial aid decisions.

Essays let schools learn more about students than just what the application shows. That gives writers a chance to set themselves apart.

Students should put time and effort into an admissions essay. Colleges want students who can express themselves clearly, using proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. It may take

several drafts to get it right, but the essay needs to be well written and free of errors. Students should have a teacher, school counselor or parent review the essay before submitting it to the college. The better the essay, the better a student's chance of being accepted at a top school.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky's student aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES).

To find links to other useful education websites, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7372.

Money Tips for Students

Federal government offers student loan forgiveness programs

The federal government may forgive all or part of your student loans if you meet certain requirements. The forgiveness options for federal student loans, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), include:

•Teacher loan forgiveness. To qualify, you must teach at least five full years in a low-income school in an eligible district. Depending on your field, you may have up to \$17,500 in student loans forgiven.

•Public service loan forgiveness. You must work full time in a public service job and make 120 monthly payments to qualify. You also have to be working in public service when you make the 120 payments and when you apply for loan forgiveness. All of your remaining loan balance may be forgiven.

•Nursing loan forgiveness. You must be at least a registered nurse and agree to

work two years in a critical shortage facility at least 32 hours per week. If you fulfill your agreement, 60 percent of your loan balance will be forgiven. Another 25 percent will be forgiven if you work a third year.

For complete details on these and other programs, visit www.ed.gov.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky's grant and scholarship programs. It provides free copies of "It's Money, Baby," a guide to financial literacy, to Kentucky schools and residents upon request at publications@kheaa.com.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7372.

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Brodhead Elementary School



- Meet your child's teacher and see their classroom
- Join PTG
- Visit the KONA ICE stand
- If you are in need of school supplies for your child please see Ms. Satina in the Family Resource Center.

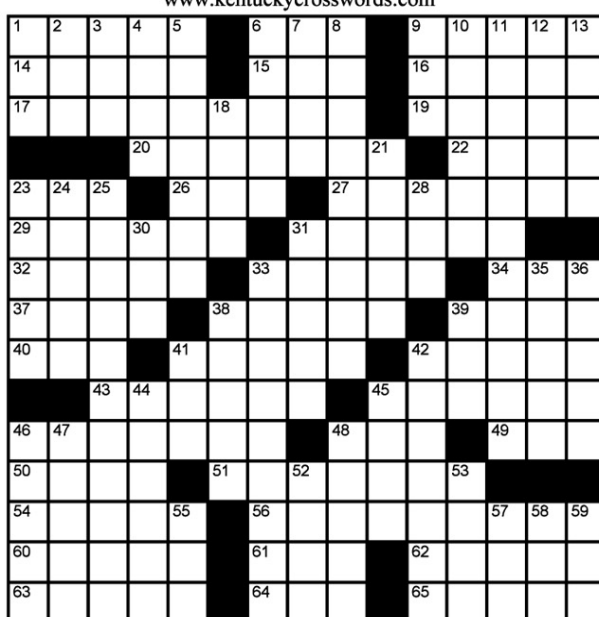
If you have your child's school supplies, please bring them to Back to School Night

BES Back To School Night
Thursday, August 8, 2013
4:00 – 7:00 PM

For more information call 758-8512.

Kentucky Crossword # 595

www.kentuckycrosswords.com



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ACROSS

1. Fable writer
6. Worthless ideas
9. Inspirations
14. Wise guy
15. Longtime record label
16. "Fiddlesticks!"
17. Kentucky city once dubbed the "Athens of the West"
19. "Silly" birds
20. Copse
22. Skedaddled
23. NCAA conf. of EKV, Morehead St. and Murray St.
26. Musical Yoko
27. Chatty
29. Kentucky county, location of the state's geographic center
31. One by one
32. Exclamation of regret
33. Australian horse
34. Delivery vehicle
37. Fine-tune
38. Masculine
39. Remain
40. Bell Co. area, or deluge refuge
41. Coffee order
42. One of the Flintstones
43. Home of Kentucky Speedway
45. The Divine Miss M
46. Torpor
48. Hodges of the Dodgers
49. U.S.N. officer
50. Pottery
51. American satirist P.J.
54. Sour
56. Kentuckian, Grover

DOWN

1. Soundless communication: Abbr.
2. Lamb's mother
3. Kentuckian Boots
4. Skip past
5. Robertson County area, or picture holder
6. Place to buy dog food?
7. Every which way
8. Kentucky city settled in 1781 as Cumberland Ford
9. It's higher on the hwy.
10. Beneficial
11. Kentucky city named for the state's first governor
12. Painting holder
13. Jenny Lind, e.g.
18. Invisible spirit
21. Holds longest no-hitter record in organized baseball
23. 1935 Triple Crown winner, or
- Nebraska city

24. Gallantry
25. Harlan County lake
28. London Greek
- Radio in the news
30. Hotel sign
31. Father Christmas
33. Former Courier-Journal editor, Pulitzer winner Henry makers
35. Commercial
36. Moves toward
38. Racer Andreotti
39. Auction action
41. Young fellow
42. Basketball player
44. Capital on the Missouri
45. Intercontinental missile: Abbr.
46. Up to one's ears
47. Prickly plants
48. Kind of room
52. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
53. Form of ether
55. Fourposter, e.g.
57. Paltry amount
58. Number of Kentucky counties est. in the 20th century
59. Kentuckian, actor Beatty

SOLUTION TO KY594

PALE SNIP SPASM
ALOT KINO AORTA
ROSA ALTO RECON
KEEN FOREBETOWN
FOGS VET
MAJORS ABO GHOW
AGART AMIGO ABA
LUNDORANGRIMES
ATE BURID GLASH
VETI RAIN VALLEY
SALAN NISI
CARROLLTON NARD
ALIAS ORBS OVAL
RACES POLO TOTA
PROLE EDEN SWAY

Public Notice

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Rockcastle County Board of Education

Students, their families, employees and potential employees of the Rockcastle County Schools are hereby notified that the Rockcastle County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disability in employment, vocational programs, or activities as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations.

Any persons having inquiries concerning Rockcastle County Schools' compliance with Title II, Title IV, Title VI, Title IX and/or Section 504 may contact:

Rebecca Isaacs, Director of Student Services
rebecca.isaacs@rockcastle.kvschools.us
Jason Coguer, Instructional Supervisor/504 Coordinator
jason.coguer@rockcastle.kvschools.us
Rockcastle County Schools
245 Richmond Street
Mount Vernon, KY, 40456
(606) 256-2125

The Rockcastle Area Technology Center offers career and technical education (CTE) programs in the areas of Vocational Health Science, Vocational Electrical Technology, Vocational Automotive Technology, Vocational Welding, Vocational Multi-Media Technology, and Business Education, for all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grade 9-12. Persons seeking further information concerning the vocational education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria should contact:

Ralph Baker, Principal
Rockcastle Area Technology Center
P.O. Box 275
Mount Vernon, KY 40456
(606) 256-4346
RalphD.baker@ky.gov

The Rockcastle County High School offers career and technical education (CTE) programs in the areas of Family Consumer Sciences, Engineering (Project Lead the Way), and Agricultural Education, for all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grade 9-12. Persons seeking further information concerning the vocational education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria should contact:

Jennifer Mattingly, Principal
P.O. Box 1410
Mount Vernon, KY 40456
(606) 256-4816
jennifer.mattingly@rockcastle.kvschools.us

To obtain this information in a language other than English, call (606) 256-2125.