

Cooper wins Rotary speech contest

Green County High School student Heaven Cooper was named the first place winner in the Rotary Speech Contest. Cooper will advance to compete in the sectional contest March 21, hosted by the Hodgenville Rotary Club.

By HEAVEN COOPER
ROTARY SPEECH

Walking around my town's local festival, Cow Days, is still one of my most memorable experiences of intermediate school. The excitement to milk Cow Days' mascot, Annie the Cow, was contagious. Little did I know that milking a fake cow for a small cup of koolaid would have such a profound impact on my life. Seeing the happiness that the older students spread spoke to me as a younger student. Not only were they volunteering their time by helping the kids milk Annie, but they were doing it with such joy. This prompted me to begin wondering what I could do to make such a difference, and the same type of situations have been occurring since Rotary's inception. Over the course of 113 years, Rotary has not only touched lives around the world, including its members, but the role it plays has grown exponentially. During my five years of membership as a junior Rotarian and interact member, Rotary has helped me realize what inspires me the most; furthermore, Rotary has taught me how to be an inspiration as well as how being an inspiration can not only impact others but myself.

Now, I'm not going to lie, sometimes finding inspiration isn't easy. As humans, we find



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Greensburg Rotary President Andre Calhoun served as the presenter of the monetary prizes given to the winning participants of the club's annual speech contest held Feb. 26. Winners were: Heaven Cooper, first, \$300; Kayla Patterson, second, \$150; and Dalton Green, second, \$150. Rotarian Martha Stepp served as the club's speech coordinator and fellow Rotarian Nancy Stearman is the Central Region Coordinator. Cooper will advance to compete in the sectional contest March 21, hosted by the Hodgenville Rotary Club.

ourselves in times of apathy; however, when I take a step back and look at the grander scheme of things, I realize I am inspired by quite a lot. For me, having the knowledge that the same God who created everything in this world for a specific purpose created each of us for a different purpose fuels my actions. Not to mention, the simple fact that there are infinite variations of possible outcomes for any situation in life. This inspires me to step out of my comfort zone, as it did for many others. For example, polio wouldn't be nearly eradicated if it weren't for someone being inspired to take action, just as you wouldn't be hearing these speeches if we weren't inspired to write them. Through Rotary's countless service projects, both locally and globally, it dawned on me that there is so much going on in the world that isn't brought to light. Knowing that the

world has an abundance to offer and that I've only skimmed the surfaces drives me. It pushes me to experience what is greater, hopefully with fellow junior Rotarians by my side.

While being an inspiration may seem hard, it actually isn't. Because everyone is different there is no set way to be an inspiration. In fact, you may be an inspiration without even realizing it. I realized this when I heard my niece tell her mom she wanted to be like me. This is the case for many; people don't realize how much their simple actions can affect people. However, a few ways to ensure you are being a true inspirational figure may include being and staying positive and exhibiting the behaviors of the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, created by Steven Covey. By embodying these behaviors such as beginning with the end in mind

and seeking first to understand and then to be understood, you are not only being an inspiration to others, but you are also bettering yourself. This leads me to my third and final point.

As a Christian and junior Rotarian, it is very important to me that I am the best version of myself while leaving a positive impact. I can ensure I do this by aspiring to inspire. I take actions to inspire because, through Rotary, I have learned that many benefits, not only for myself but for others, come along with it. For example, when Rotary hosts its annual Angel Tree gift wrapping event, I find myself realizing how much happiness it brings me to serve, not to mention the happiness the children receive when they get those gifts. Going from being one of the children who received to one who does the giving is humbling. To know that I am helping these chil-

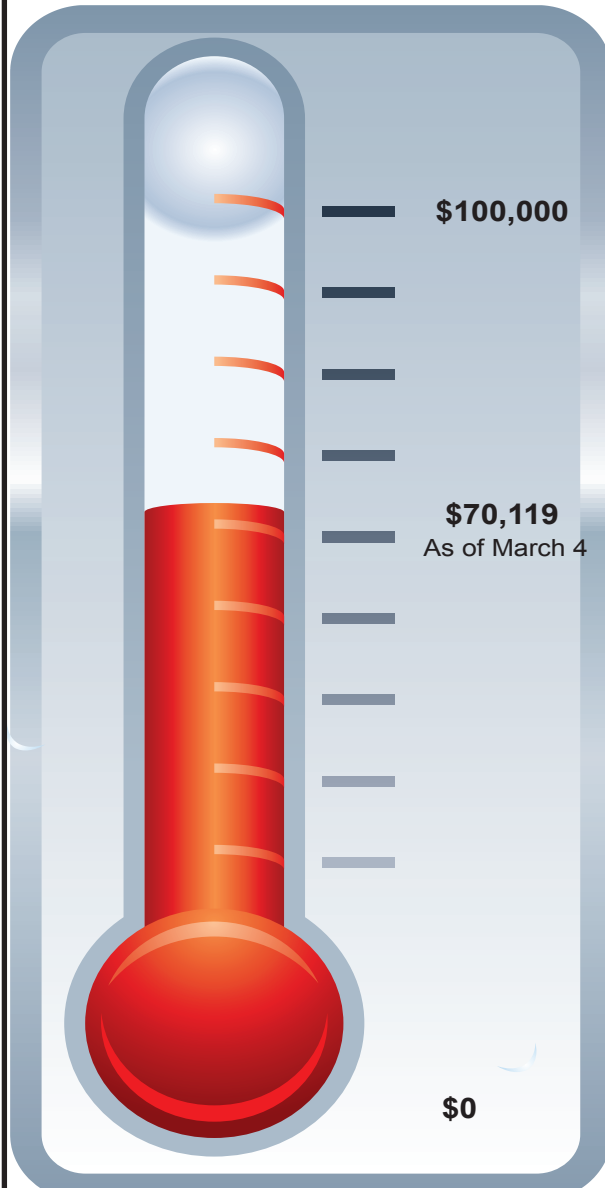
Lewis to visit ATC

Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis began a monthly series this year of visits to Kentucky Area Technology Centers, high, middle and elementary schools across the state.

"I am looking forward to seeing learning in action during my visits," said Lewis. "The best part of my job is having the opportunity to spend time in schools with students, educators, and leaders. I get to see teaching and learning in action, and in addition to students and educators, engage with parents and community stakeholders. There is no substitute for personally spending time in classrooms and in local Kentucky communities."

The commissioner is scheduled to visit Green County Area Technology Center November 7.

Old Courthouse Restoration Fundraiser



Mail donations to:
Green County Historical Society
P.O. Box 276
Greensburg, KY 42743

Contact:
- Nan Montgomery • 270-932-7144 (Historical Society Treasurer)
- John Frank
Green County Judge Executive
Green County Courthouse

IGA

From page 1A

The PTO part of me is also sad. IGA has donated to our events for as long as I have been on board. They never even hesitated. They donated 300 hot dogs nearly every festival and matched just about any price for whatever else we needed. We loved buying other items there because they ALWAYS worked with us.

So many people and

so many organizations are going to miss this. It was nice to shop locally and see those same friendly faces.

I am downright sad. I'm writing this on a stressful Tuesday, and here I am, no cobbler.

Not only was their cobbler incredibly yummy, my five-year-old daughter requests their chicken legs at least once a week.

She bawled Monday

afternoon when I told her IGA was closing. She legitimately sat in my lap here at the Record-Herald office and cried her sweet little eyes out. Guess I'm gonna have to learn how to fry chicken. That's a task I've always left up to IGA and Grandma. (I DO cook a lot, but I don't fry stuff often).

And, what am I going to do around the

holidays? Ask anyone who has asked me how I make my hundreds of peanut butter balls every Christmas—"Only use IGA brand almond bark... that's the key; it's the best there is."

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Small town life. It's great. It's sad. It's things like blackberry cobbler and chicken legs that make life's lessons hit home.

City Council meeting cancelled

City of Greensburg's monthly City Council Meeting has been cancelled for Monday night, March 11. The meeting will be rescheduled for a later date.


For more information please contact City Hall at 270-932-4298.

Deadline for news and advertising is 2 p.m. central time Monday.



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