

Winter Super Saturday



During the month of February, students usually learn about President's Day, celebrate Valentine's Day, and try to build a snowman on a snow day. However, this past February students from Russell County Schools embarked upon an exciting adventure where they learned so much more! 26 students, representing 2nd-8th grade, participated in Western Kentucky University's Winter Super Saturday sessions where they explored their passions in math, science, history, art, and technology.

According to The Center for Gifted Studies, "Super Saturdays encourages students in grades 1 - 8 who are of high ability or have high interest in a topic to pursue their passions outside the regular classroom. Through a minds-on, hands-on approach to learning, students explore and investigate such areas as math, art, science, history, writing, music, and performance under the thoughtful guidance of experienced teachers and in the company of enthusiastic, like-minded

peers". Russell County students learned how to become successful entrepreneurs, operate Virtual Reality technology, create replicas of human organs, produce various styles of artwork, and a plethora of other activities.

Not only did students receive the opportunity to attend Super Saturday sessions, but they were also taught a valuable lesson about the positive effects associated with giving to others. With the financial help of the Wicker Quinn Family Foundation, Russell County

Schools were able to award 20 scholarships to students who were interested in attending the workshops. Each scholarship covered the cost of the workshop, lunch, and transportation for each session. These acts of kindness provided students with the confidence to turn their dreams into reality!

It is evident to see from the smiles that every student had a blast while attending the workshops. Students were able to engage in challenging activities with like-minded peers while visiting a college campus. Students were also introduced to the physical attri-

butes associated with living in a larger city. This experience would not have been possible without the Wicker Quinn Family Foundation established by Mr. Kent Wicker and Mrs. Karen Quinn. Their generosity is making such an impact on the students of Russell County! Also, a special thank you to Superintendent Mr. Ford and the Russell County Board of Education for their support and encouragement. In conclusion, the positive outcomes from this experience can best be summed up by a quote from Mr. Benjamin Franklin, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest".

Blue Raiders earn Mid-South Conference honors

COLUMBIA, Ky. - Seven Blue Raiders earned Mid-South Conference men's track & field Academic All MSC honors, conference officials announced recently.

Jim Headrick, Austin Mattingly, Timothy Higgs, Levi Owens, Mason Stogsdill, Cameron Thurman and Caleb Watson each picked up the honor.

In order to be nominated by an institution, a student-athlete must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale and must have achieved at least sophomore academic status.

Along with Lindsey Wilson, Cumberlands (Ky.) and Thomas More (Ky.) led all Mid-South institutions with seven honorees each. Cumberland (Tenn.) and Georgetown (Ky.) each had six award winners.

Community Trust Bank is the proud sponsor of the Mid-South Conference Academic Award program.

Community Trust Bank, founded in 1903 in Pikeville, Kentucky, currently serves the people and communities of Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee with 71 banking locations. Community Trust Bank is committed to providing its customers and the communities they serve, the highest standards of personalized customer service by offering both competitive and innovative products and services.

PHASE continued from page nine

everyone will be asked to wear a mask.

"We're also going to need people to wear these to the grocery store or other places that they're going out where there are other people," Beshear said.

Any forward-facing businesses - those with direct, in-person contact with the public - will have the ability to not serve people who are not wearing masks.

State cases continue to rise

During his briefing on April 27, Governor Beshear stated that there were at least 4,146 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Kentucky, with 87 newly confirmed.

The Governor also reported five new deaths on Monday, raising the commonwealth's toll to 213 deaths as related to the virus.

"Let's be smart and do the right things," Beshear added. "Let's make sure that as we take steps to reopen, that we don't increase that count. Our job is to protect one another. We've come too far to stop."

According to Governor Beshear, 1,521 Kentuckians have recovered from the virus.

Testing sites expanded

Governor Beshear announced last Friday the expansion of testing sites across the bluegrass state in an effort to help Kentuckians receive the care they need. This expansion will also aid the state to better track and control COVID-19 across the commonwealth.

"Yesterday with our drive-through testing, we had the single best day we've had here in the commonwealth," Beshear said during his April 24 briefing. "And this is really important because if we want to move from healthy at home to healthy at work, we've got to increase our testing capacity. It gives us more data about how we are going to respond, where our hot spots can be, and we will learn more about how many asymptomatic people are out there."

According to the Governor, testing has increased by more than 40% in the past week. New testing sites are located in Cadiz, Hazard, Hopkinsville, Mount Vernon, Murray, and Louisville.

Drive-thru testing for COVID-19 is also now available at T.J. Urgent Care located at the T.J. Health Pavilion in Glasgow. Earlier this month, a pilot program for the drive-thru testing proved successful, and this option is now available for health care providers to order for their patients.

The COVID-19 test is a nasal swab, which is administered by hospital staff. According to T.J. Regional Health, the hospital is working in conjunction with Gravity Diagnostics, a lab located in Covington.

During the drive-thru testing, a clinical staff member will perform the test at the patient's vehicle. The patient will then be instructed to quarantine at home until test results are received. Results will be available to the provid-

er who ordered the test or to other clinical staff within approximately 24 to 72 hours after testing.

Testing availability is still limited at this time. Patients will only be tested with an order from their provider, and only patients who meet Center for Disease Control (CDC) criteria will qualify for an order to test.

"We are happy to provide this service which will be a great benefit to the community," Neil Thornbury, CEO of T.J. Regional Health, said on the provider's website. "It is imperative that patients who utilize the drive-thru testing location follow the instructions and comply with their physician's orders."

National and Global Update

As of April 27, there were over 1 million confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in the United States with almost 57,000 virus-related deaths. New York is staying steady at nearly 300,000 confirmed positive cases, the most of any state.

Globally, COVID-19 has infected over 3 million individuals and has caused over 211,000 virus-related deaths worldwide.

More information regarding key updates, actions, and information from Governor Beshear can be found at www.kycovid19.ky.gov and also on the Governor's official social media accounts. Governor Beshear's daily press briefings occur each day at 4 p.m. CT on both the KET channel and Facebook live.

2020 South Kentucky RECC Annual Meeting Notice:

Due to COVID-19 concerns and current restrictions, the 2020 South Kentucky RECC Annual Meeting week is cancelled.

This was a decision that we hoped we would not have to make, but the safety of our members, employees and the communities are our first concern. As there are no required actions of the membership that make it necessary to hold the annual meeting, we are not required to have an annual meeting. SKRECC's Annual Report with financial information will be in your May issue of the Kentucky Living Magazine, and it is also available on our website, www.skrecc.com.

When restrictions are eased, South Kentucky RECC plans to hold Member Appreciation Days at each office location later in the year. We will distribute our popular bucket and bulbs at that time. Similarly, we intend to hold our planned truck giveaway drawing as well. Dates and details will be forthcoming.

We hope to see everyone at Annual Meeting 2021!

