

Results for recent FFA contest at Tech

The Culpeper County Senior FFA Chapter and Floyd T. Binns FFA Chapter both participated in, and scored well at, the annual Block and Bridle Contest, which includes stockman's and livestock judging events, on March 16 and 17 at Virginia Tech.

The stockman's judging event was held on March 16 with 84 total teams competing; approximately 300 students traveled to Virginia Tech to demonstrate their talents.

Results for Floyd T. Binns FFA at the stockman's contest: Team A placed 17th overall, 20th for the quiz segment and second in judging and questions. Team member Bethann Giles placed 10th highest individual in judging and questions.

Floyd T. Binns FFA Chapter team members were: Team A: Andrew Smith, Bethann Giles, Cassie Ratcliff and Victoria Taylor; Team B: Kristen McKaige, Tony Dyer and Ray Leake.

Results for Culpeper County Senior FFA at the stockmans contest:

Team A placed 10th in judging and questions; team member Storm Myers placed 10th highest individual in judging and questions. Team member Beth Bennett placed 23rd highest individual in judging and questions.

Culpeper County Senior FFA team members were: Team A: Katie Sheads, Beth Bennet, Matt Bennet and Olivia Gore; Team B: Amber JOnes, Storm Myer, Natalie Rosenberger and Nick Carpenter.

The livestock judging event was held on March 17 with 97 teams, composed of 350 students.

Floyd T. Binns FFA kept the same teams for livestock judging. The CCHS teams for livestock judging were: Team A: Katie Sheads, Beth Bennett, Oliva Gore and Natalie Rosenberger; Team B: Matt Bennett, Storm Myers, Nick Carpenter and Amber Jones.

Results for Floyd T. Binns FFA at the livestock contest:

Team A placed 18th overall and second out of the middle school teams. The team also placed ninth in swine judging. Team member Andrew Smith scored a perfect 100 in the sheep division and was 22nd highest in the swine division. Team B tied for ninth out of the middle school teams and 22nd in the question category.

Results for Culpeper County Senior FFA at the livestock contest: Team A placed 4th in cattle judging, 13th in swine judging, 19th in sheep judging, first in team questions and 10th overall for the contest. Team B placed 18th in team questions. Team member Katie Sheads was 13th highest in cattle judging and 13th highest overall individual. Team member Beth Bennett was 10th highest in swine judging. Team member Olivia Gore was 7th highest in questions and Matt Bennett was 8th highest in questions.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: David Snogles and his wife Anita visit with students from Enterprise High School in Enterprise, Ala., who have been meeting in the local community college since their school was destroyed by a tornado. BELOW: Steve Graves, social studies tutor at Enterprise High, holds drawings of the eight students who died in the tornado on March 1.

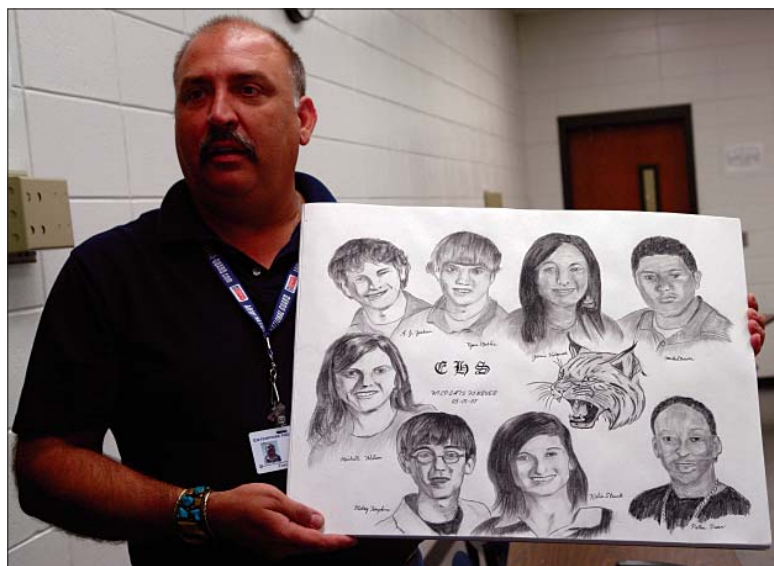
Tragedy teaches us what's really important

It's funny how often pre-conceived notions can crop up out of nowhere and then become incredibly difficult to shift. One example of such is the one that 'HorseQuest USA' is simply about a couple of Brits (myself & Anita) riding around the country on horseback — not so! Well, yes it is true that a part of what we are doing is to do with horses, in fact quite a lot of it is, but there is more to it than just riding horses honest!

We are aiming to ride trails in every state of the country, true — but we are hoping that in doing so we raise the profile (and hopefully some much needed funds) for a few worthwhile Equine charities like the Brooke, the ILPH and the BHS. We also want to learn more and spread the word about natural horsemanship, to 'educate' people about alternative ways to treat and better understand their horses. We are also recording a lot of what we see and find in the U.S. for British TV, to show the folks back home what it is really like in America — not what you see on TV and read about in the national newspapers — but the real people and the real communities all over this country.

That brings me on to this week's main topic which was the result of a humbling, yet ultimately uplifting, experience we had from a visit to Enterprise High School in Alabama. For those of you who may have missed the news recently, Enterprise High School was hit by a tornado back on March 1 when eight students were unfortunate enough to lose their lives on that tragic day. We went with the guys from the 'Best of America by Horseback' TV show to see the site for ourselves, and see how the survivors of that event were coping with life after the initial media frenzy, and with having to move in to the local community college whilst their school is rebuilt.

We met the Assistant



DAVID AND ANITA HASBURY-SNOGLES

Principal, Steve Graves, the Social Studies Tutor, Tracy Kyser who was in the Hall where the Students were lost (that's him in the picture with his drawing of the 8 children who died that day), and of course a large number of the students themselves, one of whom (Katie Collins, just 16 years old) lost 3 of her best friends that day.

"Every cloud has a silver lining" as we say in England, and the great thing about that day was the way "the best of people is drawn out by the worst of times" — everyone in the local community and beyond pulled together to help out. Indeed we heard stories of how some of the first people to respond to the disaster were those who had suffered similarly themselves in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. We heard how chil-

dren were helping to pull their fellow students, and their teachers, out of the rubble, and how they were more concerned for others than they were for their own safety. We heard how Army helicopter pilots from the nearby Fort Rucker Training Center were risking their own lives in gale force winds to airlift survivors from the wreckage.

One common theme we got from the day was that people now had a greater appreciation of their own family and friends, and there was a new view of life overall, really valuing each new day that they had been given. As Katie herself said "you have to live much more for the moment — you can't say I'll leave doing something until tomorrow, when you have the chance to do it today"

Steve Graves said that there were no words sufficient enough to say thank you to all the people who had offered and given assistance to Enterprise High School, and they had come from all over the country. The whole community had been drawn closer together as a result of the tragedy and the teachers now saw their students "more as people, and less as numbers" — a very revealing statement

from someone as senior as he.

The word that summed up how all the people of Enterprise now felt about each other was "family" — everyone had their 'second' family with them besides their own immediate relatives.

The emphasis on the family is something we have found still exists around many of the places we have visited in America. It's good to know that there are others out there who care about you, and whom you care about too, and Anita and I have been very lucky to have found that ourselves in the shape of Tom & Pat Seay, and the rest of the guys at 'Best of America by Horseback' — they are our 'second family,' and good people they are too — one and all.

Until next week, when I'll reveal more about the new 'Deputy Sheriff' Tom Seay, Ride the Dream!

David Snogles can be reached at david_hasbury@yahoo.com.

Growers finding an upside in cold snap

By Brian McNeill
MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

A cold snap over the weekend has left farmers across Central Virginia with damaged crops — but that may not necessarily be a bad thing.

"It surely is damaging our peaches," said Bennett Saunders of the Saunders Brothers Nursery and Orchard in Nelson County. "But we know we'll have at least a partial crop when it's all over."

Overnight temperatures dropped into the agricultural danger zone of the mid- to upper 20s on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, according to the National Weather Service in Leesburg. Anything below 28 degrees can result in lost crops, particularly fragile fruit such as peaches and grapes.

"The cold weather is definitely affecting us," said Andy Reagan, winemaker and manager of Jefferson Vineyards in Albemarle County. "It's killing off the buds that had broken out. We've lost about 10 percent of our crop so far."

To counteract the frost, Reagan hired a private helicopter pilot to hover over Jefferson Vineyards during the weekend. Air pushed down by helicopter rotors can circulate dry, cold air and sap moisture out of the vines, helping to prevent frozen grapes.

"On the whole, our vineyards are still looking pretty good, but it's hard to know what's going to happen," Reagan said.

Losing crops at this point in the season can actually be helpful. When frost thins out a fruit crop by killing buds, it can actually improve the remaining fruit, said David Robishaw, marketing specialist with the Virginia Department of Agriculture.

"You want to thin out the fruit on a tree anyhow, so it's possible that the cold weather hasn't had that bad of an effect," Robishaw said.

Temperatures are expected to stay above freezing for the remainder of the week, according to the weather service.

The price of fruit could be affected if the crop is reduced by an extraordinary degree, but it is too soon to tell at this point.

Brian McNeill is a staff writer at The Daily Progress in Charlottesville.

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