



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
Tammy Terry

TamsFrontPorch@IrvineOnline.Net

Today's story is really just random, Springtime thoughts of a Tuesday before Spring Break!

We got the best thing in our Easter basket this year, our daughter! She showed up unexpectedly Friday evening, I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened the door and saw her car in the driveway! We had a wonderful weekend visiting and sharing stories, napping and enjoying the Easter feast at Mom's house. It all seemed to go by so fast, I blinked and she was gone! We did manage to take a "family portrait" while she was here, even though Sarah's husband Jake is still in Milan, Italy and our son Dylan, is in DeRidder, Louisiana, we improvised. I love it! Just goes to show you can still be together even though you're far apart!

I'm curious why the construction in front of Estill Springs Elementary has come to a grinding halt? This is just my opinion, but it seems they were in a mighty big hurry to cut down all the beautiful trees along Main Street and now they've not come back and cleaned up their mess, or as Granny would say "they forgot to lick their calf"! It was bad enough that the beautiful Magnolia had to be cut down, along with numerous Evergreens, but people, let's get back here and clean up the mess you've made! I cry every time I look at the branches, gnarled and broken, on the yards of the beau-

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tiful homes of Main Street. Our county's claim to fame, The Mountain Mushroom Festival, is fast approaching. I do hope the mess is cleaned up by then! And while we're on the subject of the construction, it seems to me beginning around 8:30 a.m. after school traffic has cleared out, would have made much more sense than stopping traffic. But they didn't ask me, did they?

Years ago, when our Festival began, people took pride in our county. They cleaned, fluffed and buffed and had everything looking bright and shiny when visitors rolled into town. Even those of us out in the rural areas took advantage of the free dump days at the landfill. Sprucing up around our homes in hopes that visitors would drive around and admire our beautiful county. Boy, that sure isn't happening on Sand Hill this year! The folks that are trashing our road are probably too busy racing up and down our road to read, but we see you. We know who you are, although the police don't seem to know your names...we do! We know why you're ripping and running on Sand Hill road, the least you could do is keep your fast food restaurants trash in your car and throw it out on your OWN road. And SLOW DOWN!!! So help me, if you cross the yellow line on me one... more...time...you're gonna find yourself in for a rude awakening, 'cause I ain't taking the ditch again! It's your business how you spend your

money, but when you start endangering my life and the lives of my family members and neighbors, the residents of Sand Hill are gonna unite and take back our community! Enough is Enough! And I don't appreciate you stopping in the straight stretch between my house and my Mom's to shootup. We know you're doing it, you're foolish enough to throw out your needles! If I were you, I'd check my rear view mirror, Sand Hill folks want their beautiful, scenic highway back! Find another place to do your business!

The fruit trees, forsythia, tulips, buttercups and red buds are painting our County with dazzling color! I can't help but sing praises as I come off Sand Hill each morning to work! My favorite is, "How Great Thou Art". You'd be amazed at how wonderful your day goes when you sing hymns on your way to work. The fog rising off the Kentucky River as I top the first hill just takes my breath away! Rock House Mountain looks like something right out of a Fairy Tale, with the sun cresting the horizon and the mystical fog making eerie figures as it climbs skyward. Sometimes the sky is bright pink, blue and orange as the sun peeps over the mountains and looks lovingly down at our little towns of Irvine and Ravenna. I'm proud of our county, proud to be an active member of our community and proud to call Estill...my home!

Tam



Gatton Teams Finish 1 & 2 With Estill Student A Member of Runner-Up Team

A team from The Gatton Academy won the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) West Kentucky Regional Science Bowl on Feb. 27. The DOE National Science Bowl® (NSB) challenges students' knowledge in all areas of science, including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math.

With the win, the team will travel to the DOE's National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., from April 30 to May 2. The DOE provides the all-expense paid trip for the winning team to represent west Kentucky in the high school competition.

The Gatton Academy had a second team in the competition, which finished the tournament as runner-up. This team consists of senior Niven Achenjang of Barbourville and juniors Sherafghan Khan of Hopkinsville, Ayush Prasad of Flatwoods, John "Caleb" Stickney of Irvine and Tricia Thompson of Owensboro.

"I am very proud of the achievements of both teams The Gatton Academy fielded in the Regional Science Bowl," Marksberry said. "All players have come a long way since the beginning of the year, earning their victories through dedication to personal and team-wide improvement since the beginning. We look forward to competing at the national competition in Washington, D.C., this April."

Eighteen high school teams competed in the all-day tournament. Other high schools competing were McCracken County High School (which earned third place), Bal-

lard Memorial, Calloway County, Carlisle County, Crittenden County, Marshall County, Massac County (Illinois), Mayfield, Paducah Tilghman, Union County and West KY Home Schools United. Some schools had more than one team competing.

"Our team was successful at the Regional Tournament because of their fascination with this competition," said Assistant Director of Academic Services Derick Strode. "They started practices even before the school year began to prepare. This has been a student-led initiative the whole year."

During the national competition, The Gatton Academy will compete in the same fast-paced, question-and-answer format that was used in the regional competition. The students will not be answering questions during the entire trip, as they will also have the opportunity to visit national monuments and museums.

"Many of our students developed a love for and fascination with science at a very young age," said Director of The Gatton Academy Dr. Lynette Breedlove. "They have been curating science information for years and Science Bowl gives them the opportunity to use that knowledge."

Over 9,000 high school students nationwide compete at the regional level nationwide. Only 70 teams, or about 350 high school students in total, will proceed to Washington for the NSB.



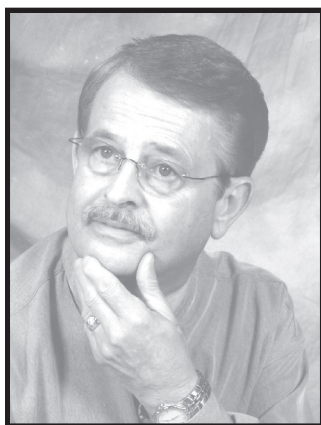
A Gatton Academy team was runner-up in the regional Science Bowl competition. From left: Coach Derick B. Strode, Ayush Prasad, Tricia Thompson, Sherafghan Khan and Caleb Stickney; not pictured, Niven Achenjang.

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