



# THE BEAR FACTS

## HCHS students learn impact of hospitality on local economy

Harlan County High School students have the opportunity to be "Career Ready" in hospitality careers when they graduate from high school. The hospitality course is a part of the Career and Technical Education program promoting both skill development and practice in the hospitality industry in a high school classroom.

*"I know we are heading in the right direction if we are producing students on the state level who are competing with larger metropolitan area schools where kids have opportunities to work in the hospitality industry on a daily basis."*

**Karen Phillips**  
*Hospitality Instructor*



Students perform various service projects for hands-on learning such as catering graduation receptions for Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and a reception for Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers.

Karen Phillips has been the instructor for the program that began three years ago. Phillips states "students really didn't know a lot about hospitality or the economic impact it has on our local community or state." Phillips brings a background in food and nutrition and hospitality industry experience to enlighten the students on this fast paced and growing career.

These students serve as hosts for many school functions including receptions, formal dinners, and fund raisers. Students team up with food and nutrition classes to serve these special functions.

At a recent 13<sup>th</sup> region principals' luncheon, students served a buffet meal complete with linens, table service and centerpieces. The students show off their skills like formal napkin folds; they admit they like the most complex ones, because they love a good challenge.

The largest group that has been accommodated was spring graduation for the



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Members of the HCHS Choir selected for the regional included, front row, left to right, Hannah Clem, Anna Jo Creech, Hannah Busroe, Bridgett Greene; middle row, Tessa Evans, Tiffany Lamb, Emily Wills, Jessica Bush, Allison Blanton; and back row, Jacob Manley, Daylon Wynn, Jordan Smith and Lacy Byrn. Gabbi Collier and Katie Ellison are not pictured.

## Students in honors choir

Fifteen members of the Harlan County High School Choir were selected for and participated in the Southeastern Kentucky Music Association's All-Festival Choir. Sixteen schools were represented.

HCHS students named to this year's All-Festival Chorus are Allison Blanton, Jessica Bush, Hannah Busroe, Lacy Byrn, Hannah Clem, Gabbi Collier, Anna Jo Creech, Katie Ellison, Tessa Evans, Bridgett Greene, Tiffany Lamb, Jacob Manley, Jordan Smith, Emily Wills, Daylon Wynn, Gabbi Collier and Katie Ellison

Three members of the Harlan County High Choir performed solos during the concert. These included Hannah Busroe in the women's chorus and Jordan Smith and Anna Jo Creech in the mixed chorus.

Busroe sang a solo during "I Am His Child." Smith was chosen by the director to sing a solo in "The World of Our Dreams." Smith and Creech were featured as soloists on "Jordan's Angels."

In addition, it is an annual tradition to have a talent show performed by a selected group of students. Ten students were selected for this honor from the choir, including Harlan County High School's Anna Jo Creech, Jordan Smith and Tessa Evans.

# Upcoming events for HCHS Black Bears

## Show your support for the Academic Team in District

Harlan County High School will host the 52<sup>nd</sup> District Governor's Cup on January 28.

This is an academic event sponsored by the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition.

Participating schools are Harlan County High School, Harlan High School and Leslie County High School.

Governor's Cup features eight events -- arts and humanities, language arts, math, science, social studies, composition, future problem solving, and quick recall.

The only event open to the public is quick recall which is slated to begin at 11 a.m. in the school auditorium. District winners advance to the Governor's Cup regional competition to be held at Middlesboro High School on Saturday, February 18.

## ACT workshops set February 6-8

Free ACT workshops will be offered at Harlan County High School for any student to attend. Each workshop will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the classroom of the teacher listed.

The workshop schedule is Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, science with Damon Lewis; Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, English with Alexa Bowman; and Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, math with Chris Hogue.

The workshops are sponsored by Harlan County High School Youth Service Center, Talent Search, and Community Education.

For more information, contact Janet White at [janet.white@harlan.kyschools.us](mailto:janet.white@harlan.kyschools.us) or 573-3006.

## Help with filling out FAFSA

A free workshop on filing the electronic Free Application for Federal Student Aid will be held at Harlan County High School on Thursday, February 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

All high school seniors and their parents/guardians are invited to attend. All participants need to bring completed income tax forms, student social security number, and student driver license.

If you have already started an online FAFSA application, bring the pin number with you.

This event is sponsored by the Harlan County High School Youth Service Center, Guidance Counselors, Talent Search, and Community Education.

For more information, contact Janet White at [janet.white@harlan.kyschools.us](mailto:janet.white@harlan.kyschools.us) or 573-3006.



## Art students work to put County on virtual map

Harlan County High School art students have undertaken a project to put Harlan County on the map – that is the Kentucky Art Council's virtual map of the state.

The KAC website tracks locations participating in the Kentucky Quilt Trail. This trail is a series of quilt patterns painted on eight foot by eight foot wooden squares and displayed on barns or four by four posts.

Rhonda Robinson's art class at HCHS is working towards bringing the Kentucky Quilt Trail to Harlan County and thus becoming another addition to the KAC virtual map of Kentucky. Visitors to the KAC website can view the different Kentucky Quilt Trail participants online and learn more about each quilt square and its location.

"Once we complete the barn quilt squares and they are on location it will put Harlan County on the Kentucky Quilt Trail virtual map," said Robinson.

She noted that by the HCHS art students participating in this project they are honoring quilting tradition, preserving cultural heritage, promoting tourism and beautifying our county.

Quilt patterns will reflect our local heritage, she said. We hope to place one on each major road in our county: Highways 987, 119, 421, 38, 215, and 160.

"Each square costs \$200. You may sponsor a square in full or make a donation to help with one square," she said.

Squares will be placed throughout Harlan County. The students will have an unveiling ceremony and reception in May for all sponsors and participants. The names and/or businesses will be listed on a brochure and recognized during the ceremony.

For more information or to sponsor a quilt square, contact Rhonda Robinson at 574-2020, extension 3534 or [rhonda.robinson@harlan.kyschools.us](mailto:rhonda.robinson@harlan.kyschools.us).

Harlan County High School's 21st Century Learning Center is assisting with this project.

For more information on the KY Quilt Trails visit [www.artcouncil.ky.gov/KentuckyArt/QTrails.htm](http://www.artcouncil.ky.gov/KentuckyArt/QTrails.htm).

# Making Bear Tracks

Kudos to our Harlan County High School Students for outstanding accomplishments and successes



- **Noah Hughes**, a sophomore, has been named one of 10 winners in the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. He will participate alongside other National Youth Torchbearers and professional storytellers at the Timpanogos Storytelling Midwinter Conference in Orem Utah in February.
- **Dillon Jeffers**, a junior, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Troop 323.
- **Michaela Simpson**, a freshman, has been named a Kentucky Torchbearer, an elite group of the top five youth storytellers in the state.
- **Michael Smith**, a senior, was named First Team-All State for football. He anchored a line that opened holes for an offense that ground out more than 4,000 yards rushing and 5,000 yards total.
- **Emily Wills**, a senior, received the Best of Show in the amateur division of the Festival of the Mountain Masters photography contest.
- **Rebecca Wynn, Emily Wills and Amanda Tolliver** recently received WYMT-TV Mountain Classic Scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000.
- **Jessica Alred** has been named the school representative for the Daughters of the American Revolution citizenship award. She will be honored at the DAR banquet later this year.
- Students of the Month this school year have included:
  - August—**Anna Jo Creech, Justin Hensley and Tiffany Akers;**
  - September — **Dustin Bray, Lindsey Hensley, Zach Chitwood and Hannah Busroe;**
  - October — **Kacy Coldiron, Marissa Rutherford and Jay Phillips;**
  - November — **Jordan Smith, Brody Belcher, Brandon Collins and Michael Forrester;**
  - December — **Chyanna Harris, Ashley Duff and Emily Wills.**

## Visit the Black Bear Café

The Harlan County High School Black Bear Café is open daily after lunch, beginning at approximately 12:30 p.m.. The café provides culinary students a hands-on learning opportunity.

Various refreshments are available for purchase, including cappuccino, hot chocolate, frozen fruit drinks and coffee. The café is utilized by the school's students and staff for a variety of events, including student incentives.

For more information on the café, contact Tammy Nance in the Family and Consumer Science department at 574-2020, extension 3583.

## Get your Black Bear gear at the HCHS Book Store

The Harlan County High School Black Bear Book Store is open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The store is a great place to pick up your Black Bear school spirit attire or purchase school supplies. Marketing students operate all aspects of the store.

For more information contact Jonathan Wireman, marketing instructor, at 574-2020, extensions 3568 or 3552.

## Take advantage of free tutoring

Harlan County High School students needing assistance with class work should contact Third Floor Principal Bonita Duncan at 574-2020, extension 3506.

Ms. Duncan oversees the Extended School Services tutoring and can assist you with enrolling in the 21st Century Learning Center for academic enhancement.

## About this newsletter

*The Bear Facts is a publication designed to promote the accomplishments and great activities taking place at Harlan County High School. The publication is prepared in conjunction with school staff, District Title I, Harlan County Community Education and District Public Relations. Ideas, recommendations and suggestions are welcome at any time. Contact Cecilia Adams or Jeff Phillips at 573-4330.*



# Hospitality

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Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.

“We were able to pull off a reception for 200 and turn around an hour later to provide drinks and fresh homemade cookies for 2,000,” she said.

“It’s a student driven operation — it has to be to succeed at all levels. The students know I expect perfection and wouldn’t settle for anything less. I always want every customer that comes through our doors to leave saying that’s the best event they’ve ever attended,” says Phillips.

Students learn that hospitality pioneer J.W. Marriott’s standard operating procedures developed in the 1930’s are still important today. Students have to be trained and follow procedures to be successful in the hospitality industry.

Probably the biggest compliment received for the program was from current Education Commissioner Dr. Terry Holiday’s visit a couple of years ago.

The commissioner had just returned from Washington, D.C. and claimed the students’ food and service was better than what he had received while visiting the nation’s capitol and staying at a Marriott property.

After completing the hospitality course, students can obtain a career major in hospitality and become eligible to test in the Kentucky Occupation Skill Standards Assessment (KOSSA). The test is an industry credential that can lead straight to employment after high school.

Harlan County High School had its first group of five students completing the requirements to be eligible to test last year. One passed this very rigorous test to achieve the honor last year.

“I know we are heading in the right direction if we are producing students on the state level who are competing with larger metropolitan area schools where kids have opportunities to work in the hospitality industry on a daily basis,” said Phillips.

Completing the third year of the program, several more students will meet the requirements to test this school year. The passing of the KOSSA test is equivalent to completing the first level of college course work in hospitality.

Phillips predicts several other students will receive credentials in hospitality services this year, providing unique opportunities for student employment in the future.



“Frankenstein” cast members, left to right, Brittany Harris, Austin Hall, Chloe—the Yorky Poo, Michael Amburgey and Anna Jo Creech.

## HCHS drama students give award winning performances

Drama enthusiasts need not look far for theatre excitement in Harlan County. The award winning Harlan County High School drama department is halfway through another successful year and some great performances are on the horizon.

Highlights of the year have included five students competing in the October 2011 Swappin’ Meetin’ storytelling contest. Two of those storytellers, freshman Michaela Simpson and sophomore Noah Hughes, advanced to state competition and were named Kentucky Storytelling Torchbearers. Hughes, a former torchbearer nominee, was named a national torchbearer and will continue on to the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival this February in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is one of ten national finalists.

The drama department participated in the annual Harlan Christmas parade in December, winning the 2011 theme award for “Unwrapping the Magic of Christmas.” The float was created with help from Mrs. Karen Phillips’ fashion design class.

The class has already completed two plays this school year; “Frankenstein” and “The Last Train.”

The students received a nomination to compete in the regional contest to be held at Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College in Cumberland on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Additional plays to be produced this spring are “Grease,” “Twain Tales,” and “Alice in Wonderland.”

Teacher Pam Hoskins expressed excitement for the challenges these plays will present. “Our upcoming trimester will be the hardest work we have done this year,” she said. “I’m looking forward to the challenges our upcoming productions will bring and how they will help us grow as actors and people.”

For more information on upcoming drama events and show times, contact Pam Hoskins at [pam.hoskins@harlan.kyschools.us](mailto:pam.hoskins@harlan.kyschools.us) or 574-2020.