

School archery program introduced

submitted by Charlie Baglan

Kentucky is leading the nation in developing archery courses in 22 schools across the Commonwealth, in a pilot project that partners the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The pilot project is also being considered by 15 other states across the United States.

"The name of the program is Archery in Kentucky schools," said Roy Grimes, Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and avid bow hunter. "It's a pilot project we're exploring in 22 schools in physical education classes in middle schools across Kentucky. It's a two week target archery course. Archery is a burgeoning

sport that is fair to all participants regardless of sex, strength or size. You can take a kid that is 5 feet, 1 inch tall and weighs maybe 80 or 90 pounds and put him on the archery line against the quarterback for the football team or against a boy who can almost dunk a basketball and you're leveling the playing field," said Jennie Richardson, Archery Coordinator for the KDFWR and a national tournament archer. "Everyone can compete at the same rate."

The cost of the project was \$134,000. This amount has been defrayed by as many as two dozen contributing partners including the National Field Archery Association, the International Bowhunting Organization, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Friends of the National Rifle

Association and archery manufacturers such as Sims Vibration Labs, Easton Archery and Mathews Genesis.

Up to 80 percent of the student archers in the program will retain their skill and interest in adulthood through hunting or formal competition. "We believe that students who learn the proper technique of shooting bows and arrows and who take up the sport will go outdoors and they will enjoy the outdoors," Grimes said. "Some may become target archers. Maybe they will represent our country someday in the Olympics. Some of them will become hunters and join the ranks of sportsmen in Kentucky."

Connie Shackelford and Agnes Durbin of the Kentucky Department of Education wrote the Archery in Kentucky Schools curriculum.

Kelly Ambrose, physical education teacher at Model High in Richmond, is one of the participating teachers in the program. "I think archery combines the mental with the physical in the sense they have to concentrate and they have to focus," Ambrose said. "It helps a lot of the students transfer those concentration skills they use in archery here in the classroom."

Grimes believes there is a bright future for the program. "In four or five years, I hope we're in at least half of the middle schools in Kentucky and that 50,000 kids a year are taking part in this archery course. There are three million kids who are taking archery in schools in South Korea and they are dominating the Olympics because of it."

Nettles graduates Navy course

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah E. Nettles, daughter of Bonnie C. Hudgins of Lexington and Ronald L. Nettles of Cynthiana, recently graduated from the Close-In Weapons System Operation and Maintenance Course while assigned to the Fleet Combat Training Center Atlantic, Virginia Beach, Va.

Nettles went through 27 weeks of intensive training, learning how to operate and maintain the Phalanx Close-In Weapons System, a rapid fire gun used on ships as the last line of defense against anti-ship missiles and other security threats.

Nettles is a 1998 graduate of Palaski County High School of Somerset and joined the Navy in May 2000.

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Deaths

Everett Riddell
CARLISLE - Everett Eugene Riddell, 80, of Walnut St., died Monday May 13, at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

He was born in Fayette County to the late Spencer O. and Sallie Plean Riddle.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, a retired employee of Lexington Dairy and a member of the Christian faith.

Survivors include a sister,

Lucille R. Hillock of Carlisle; an adopted brother, John Cason of Cynthiana; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, May 16 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home with the Rev. Steve Smith officiating. Burial at Blue Grass Memorial Gardens in Jessamine County.

Palbearers: were Chris Arnold, Tony Arnold, David Arnold, Mike Arnold, Randy Hart, Charles Scanlon, George Scanlon and James Scanlon.

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