



Alison Palmer Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 13 the Cookeville High School SPEAK club (Students Promoting Environmental Action and Knowledge) hosted a benefit concert in which half of the proceeds went to Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM), an organization dedicated to preserving the integrity of the Cumberland Mountains.

The rest of the money that was raised is going to help fund future SPEAK projects that include taking care of the Cumberland Trail, creating a new bike trail, having a creek clean-up and starting a new recycling program at CHS.



RIDE THE TRAIN -- Llama Train plays for the concert attendees. Photo by Ellen Epley.

Mary Potter CHS Counselor

Thank you CHS Faculty for nominating the following students for November's Character Counts Awards. The nominees included: Cody Vivian, Amy Therrien, Michael Jobes, and, Tyler Long.

Cody Vivian was nominated by Tasha Walker. Mrs. Walker says Cody rarely misses class and always keeps his work area clean, and orderly. Also, Mrs. Walker states that Cody is "constantly concerned about his grades and has maintained an A average even through football season." She also says "if she ever needed something done that she

Robert S. Boyd Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)WASHINGTON

With a green light from Congress, NASA is moving swiftly to carry out President Bush's ambitious plan to return robots and humans to the moon and eventually to Mars.

The United States is also seeking foreign partners for the hugely expensive project, hoping to save money and avoid wasteful duplication.

Space officials from 17 countries, including China, Russia, Japan and much of Europe, participated in a planning workshop in Washington last week. Representatives from each nation said they intend to participate in at least the planning phase.

"They were very enthusiastic," Michael O'Brien, NASA's assistant administrator for external relations, said after the workshop. "I am 100 percent certain there will be international participation."

When Bush unveiled his "Vision for Space Exploration" at the White House on Jan. 14, he said he would welcome foreign partners.

"It makes sense that we work together to be more efficient, not duplicate our efforts, and get some savings in the process," said Craig Steidle, NASA's associate administrator for exploration systems. "We must make this journey together."

Despite the federal budget squeeze and skepticism by many

The concert took place in Dogwood park and lasted from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and featured the bands Llama Train and Moonlight Cellar Revival from Knoxville, Darren Self from Chattanooga, and Third Estate and Zac Thompson from Cookeville.

Members of the SPEAK club sold food and hot chocolate to also raise more money. For the hot chocolate, people brought their own mugs because "styrofoam cups would hurt the environment, and paper cups, which are recyclable, are just impractical for hot chocolate," said Epley

SPEAK also enlisted outside help to assist the club during the concert. "We had so many people helping us with this project. A special thanks goes to Dave Reiley and Ernie Valdez for helping with the sound and equipment and of course to all of the wonderful bands that played," said Epley.

could always depend on Cody to do it."

Amy Therrien was also nominated by Tasha Walker. Mrs. Walker says that Amy is always concerned about those around her and she helps others with their work frequently. Amy also shares her school materials with classmates in need. Her teacher states, "Amy is very patient and has a loving attitude towards all."

Michael Jobes was nominated by Janie Brock. Ms. Brock said she was walking in the Commons Area and happened to be carrying a large box. Michael Jobes, a student she did not know and had never had in class, asked if she needed help.

Michael went on to carry the box

members of Congress, the gigantic appropriations bill that was approved this past weekend contained all of the more than \$2 billion that Bush requested for the space exploration program in the 2005 fiscal year. A total of about \$14 billion will be sought for the five-year period ending in 2009. The ultimate cost of the venture, to include a manned landing on Mars if that's approved by future administrations, will run into hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 30 years.

Many scientists dissent from Bush's plan. They fear human space travel will gobble up scarce funds that they would prefer to use on pure research.

On Monday, the American Physical Society, which represents 45,000 physicists and astronomers, issued a report protesting that manned missions to the moon and Mars will jeopardize more promising robotic missions, such as the Hubble Space Telescope and the Mars rovers now surveying the red planet.

Nevertheless, NASA earlier this month awarded 70 contracts, totaling about \$1 billion, for such items as a robot "prospector" to search for a good site for a manned moon base and for construction equipment to handle mining for possible lunar resources.

Northrop Grumman Corp., the big defense contractor based in Redondo Beach, Calif., was given \$18 million to develop an "autonomous walking inspection and



About 120 people attended the concert, and the club raised approximately \$300, and another concert in the spring could be in the works.

The concert was the first function SPEAK held to help raise environmental awareness. Several of the SPEAK members made informational posters about the environment to hopefully induce people to think more about the environment.

President and founder of the SPEAK club, Ellen Epley, said that it is important for students to be aware of environmental issues. "People often say that it is a matter of man versus his environment, but in actuality we are more connected to nature than we like to think. This

in the gym and then to the girl's locker room. Ms. Brock was very impressed with this act of kindness.

Tyler Long was nominated by Anita Ray. Mrs. Ray says that Tyler "is a true blessing to have in her class." He has super manners and is a very hard worker.

Tyler is a leader among his peers and a wonderful role model for other students in Life Skills classes."

After careful consideration, we have chosen our November's Character Counts students of the month to be Cody Vivian and Amy Therrien.

Cody and Amy will receive a character counts certificate, movie

maintenance robot" for work on the moon. Boeing Corp., of Chicago, got \$31 million for a "precision landing and hazard avoidance technology demonstration" for a future lander.

Meanwhile, NASA presented a tentative exploration strategy paper at the international workshop. It suggested the lunar south pole would be the best target for the first human outpost. Two previous U.S. spacecraft have spotted what appears to be frozen water in the polar region. The water could be used for drinking and also split into hydrogen and oxygen to make fuel for future trips.

The NASA paper proposed a series of unmanned missions to the moon between 2008 and 2011 to collect data and pick a landing site. Between 2011 and 2015, robots would prepare the site for a permanent manned base between 2015 and 2020. The lunar operations would serve as a test bed and training ground for an eventual Mars landing, the paper said.

In addition to the United States, four other countries have their eyes on the moon. Last week, a British spaceship entered lunar orbit for a two-year scientific reconnaissance mission. Japan, China and India have announced plans to launch unmanned lunar orbiters in the next three years.

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Will Harris Charger Staff

Every fall semester Dr. Kathy Ligon and the speech team put on a performance. This fall, Dr. Ligon chose "Father of the Bride." This

grow into their characters," said Jessie, who also admitted that "[it] scared me playing a married woman, but Kevin made it fun. I would not want anybody else to play my husband." Elizabeth Garrett played Mrs. Banks.

Sammy Turner as Tommy Banks, Kristen Myers as Buzz Taylor, Madi Dailey as Delilah, Carly Frounfelker as Miss. Bellamy, Ward Jordan as Massoula, and Ryan Shanahan as Howard.

Extras included Megan Reel, Jessica



WEDDING PLANNING -- The wedding planner (Ward Jordan) helps to plan Kay Banks' (Jessie Holloway) wedding along with Kay's father (Bryan Isbell) and mother (Elizabeth Garrett).

Photo by Katie Coe.

play is about a young lady's marriage and her family's (especially her father's) reaction. "It is a really good, light comedy, and I had the perfect actors for it," explained Ligon.

Jessie Holloway starred as Kay Banks, the bride. Kevin Farragher played her husband, Buckley Dunstan. "The experience was fun. I haven't really worked in a play before. I have seen these actors

Elizabeth said that she prefers speech competitions over play productions. "We work so hard throughout the year on our competition pieces, and nothing is as exhilarating as having your hard work pay off." Bryan Isbell played Elizabeth's counterpart, Mr. Banks. "It was very tying being the father as I am on stage in every scene," he said.

Other cast members included

Harden, Beth Blaylock, and Missy Cooper. Tabby Blaylock and Ashley Payne were the stage managers.

The "Father of the Bride" ran Nov. 30 though Dec. 2 in the CHS auditorium. The "Father of the Bride" enjoyed a well received run. The play went on without a hitch.

Dr. Ligon would like to thank all the people who were involved, especially Mr. Anderson's Drama II class for providing a beautiful set.

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