"May"be Spring has been Spotted

Do you follow your nose to the next season? I know when I smell pumpkin spice fall has arrived. When the pine scent fills the air winter is here. But when I put the top down on my Volkswagen and breathe in the freshly cut grass as I drive, I know spring has shown its face. There’s just something about the new possibilities that come with longer days and warmer temperatures. While the Homemaker year is quickly coming to its end, there are many new ideas giving us ample ways to “be the good” this spring. Get out and enjoy the sunshine!

-Angie

Help Needed

Every nine years the Lyon County 4-H program is in charge of hosting the Area 4-H Communications Day. When it is Lyon County’s turn to host, it is all hands on deck at the Extension Office. To help Wanda in making a successful day I have volunteered to be in charge of the hospitality room. The problem with that is….I certainly can’t do it alone. I need several volunteers to help me provide dinner and snacks for all the judges who will be helping with Communications Day. After passing sign-up sheets in each club meeting, here are the areas that I still need help. If you were unable to sign-up on your club meeting day, please call the office if you are able to help with the following:

- Bacon bits
- Chives
- Chili
- Broccoli cuts (you can drop off frozen bags prior to the event day)
- Finger foods (anything easy to grab)(veggie tray, fruit, appetizers)
- Cookies
- Bar cookies
- 2-3 more people to help me the afternoon/night of the event

Communications day will take place on May 11, 2018 and it will be a night event. We will be serving approximately 70 people. Please don’t assume that “someone else will take care of it.” We need to work together to make this a successful event for 4-H. Please plan to have all your items dropped off at the Extension office around noon on the 11th. Looking forward to seeing you “be the good” through this 4-H service project.

Homemaker County Annual Day

County Annual Day is set for June 21, 2018 at the Lee S. Jones Convention Building (big building). The planning committee has been hard at work
to bring you a day you won’t soon forget. The cost for the event this year is $3. Your payment is due in the Extension Office by Friday June 15, 2018. **No late sign-ups will be accepted.** Please mark your calendar accordingly. Because we are ordering food this year, we cannot sway on this! Here’s what you need to know for the event:

- BBQ and drinks will be provided.
- Eddyville is in charge of bringing potato salad.
- Fairview is in charge of bringing desserts.
- Lake Barkley is in charge of baked beans.
- Members-at-large please bring a dessert.
- Saratoga is in charge of bringing slaw, buns, pickles and onion slices.

(Please talk with your Club president or County Annual Day representative about how you want to approach bringing your item(s).)

- Eddyville-Registration
- Kitchen-Lake Barkley
- Fairview-Clean-up Crew
- Saratoga-Decorations

There will be no auction at this year’s event. You only need to come with a smile on your face and a willingness to have a good time. I look forward to having a hoot with you!

**Vision for Kenya**

**An International Project**

UPDATE! We currently have more than 500 eye glass cases made. If you would like to sew at home, patterns and fabrics are available at the Extension office. Please consider helping us to reach the goal of making 2000 eye glass cases. Please look through your fabric stashes at home. If you have fleece fabric that you could donate, we can use that to make the cases really quickly. If you have questions about the project please call the office at 270-388-2341.

**Pinterest Interest Volunteers Needed**

While September may seem like a long time away, it is now when all the planning for fall meetings start taking place. The new Homemaker Pinterest Interest club has been a huge success and much of that success can be attributed to the wonderful guest teachers that are featured each month. In trying to keep with the times, we are using Pinterest as a source for trendy ideas that fit within the traditional Home Economics programming. If you have a talent that needs to be shared and a passion for teaching others, please talk with me about teaching a Pinterest Interest class in the new Homemaker year. We would love to see new and varied ideas on next year’s calendar, and that begins with you!

**What the New Tax Breaks Mean for You**

If you receive a paycheck then you may have noticed more money coming back to you each pay period. While this makes you feel great right now, the punch may come next year when your income taxes are filed. Please read the article below and take a few minutes to use the calculator provided by the IRS. After figuring my personal taxes with the provided calculator, it determined that I will owe $1000 more than what is being withheld from my family’s checks this year. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to find that kind of money next spring. It is always better to be preventative. Take a look at the information below and be proactive for your taxes next year.

Source: IRS and Jennifer Hunter, UK interim assistant director of Family and Consumer Sciences Extension

You may have noticed an increase in your take-home pay recently due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs
Act passed by Congress in December. Now, you need to determine how that will affect you when it comes time to file taxes next year. The IRS has released a new withholding calculator to help you determine whether to change your withholding status on your W-4 to reflect these changes to the tax law.

Everyone is encouraged to check their withholding status, but it is particularly important for the following individuals:

- Two-income families.
- People with two or more jobs or who only work for part of the year.
- People with children who claim credits such as the Child Tax Credit.
- People who itemized deductions on their 2017 taxes.
- People with high incomes and more complex tax returns.

The calculator is available at https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator. Before using the calculator, you need to have a few items readily available to help you answer the calculator’s questions. These items include:

- Your most recent pay stubs.
- A copy of your most recent tax return. Preferably, the 2017 tax return if you have already filed your taxes this year.

Depending on the results, you may want to update your Form W-4 with your employer to withhold more federal taxes from your paycheck. Updating your Form W-4 is not a requirement but a personal preference.

On the Road Again

I just can’t wait to get on the road again, and travel we will this summer. The next Pennyrile Area Homemaker Trip has been planned and all that’s left is for you to stop by and sign up. Please read all the information about the trip carefully and make your plans accordingly. Don’t miss the bus!

Here’s the scoop: (please note I am trying to explain this as uncomplicatedly as I can) (that being said, please call me if you have questions).

The Pennyrile Area Homemakers will be visiting Georgetown, Kentucky on July 18 and 19, 2018. This is an overnight trip with two full days of tours, food, and fun. There’s also a little shopping thrown in for those who are so inclined.

- The trip for LYON COUNTY HOMEMAKERS will cost $19. I am providing the transportation costs for you. Please, if you talk with Homemakers from other counties (remember, this is an area trip, all nine counties will have the opportunity to send people), don’t try and convince them they have been told the wrong price for the trip. They have to pay more because their agents are not providing the bus cost for them.
- No food costs are provided in this $19 fee. You will be responsible for the cost of your food at each of our meals and stops.
- You must call and book your own hotel room. You are responsible for paying for your hotel room. The cost for the room is:
  - Single person in a room $148.50 each
  - Two people in a room $74.25 each
  - Three people in a room $49.50 each
  - Four people in a room $37.13 each

We will be staying at the Hampton Inn in Georgetown. When you call, ask for the block of rooms under the name “Pennyrile Homemakers.” Please make
sure that only one person per room calls to reserve your room. Please don’t call the hotel and try to negotiate other pricing with them. We are going during horse racing season and hotel rooms are hard to find and their prices are astronomical. I have worked with the hotel to get a hugely discounted rate already. The price you see above is the price with tax included. If you call to make your reservations and have issues please let me know. I will be glad to call the manager back and do what I can. The phone number for Hampton Inn is 502-867-4888.

- Many of the things we are doing are out on farms or in fields and the tour guides have asked that we encourage our Homemakers to dress appropriately. They do not recommend white Sunday clothes and they highly encourage shoes that you do not care if they get wet or muddy. This likely won’t be an issue, but we can’t control if it will rain the day before we go.

For your $19 you will be touring:

- Old Friends Farm for Retired Thoroughbreds
- Yuko-En Gardens
- Ward Hall
- Bi-Water Farms
- Equus Run Vineyards

A full itinerary will be given to you when you sign-up and pay your fee. You will also be required to fill out an updated participant information form to be able to go on the trip. That paperwork will be available when you sign up. We have a jam-packed two days, but I know it will be fun. The last day to sign up for the trip is June 25, 2018. No late sign-ups will be accepted as we are selling our extra bus seats to other counties.

Planning for Summer Vacation

Contact: Alex Elswick, extension associate for family resource management

It’s time to start thinking about summer. This season is a great time to relax and spend time with family. One of the best ways to spend time with your family is during summer vacations, but planning for those can be expensive and time-consuming.

To begin planning for a summer vacation, it is important to make a budget. This will help you decide where to go, where to stay and how to get there. A budget can also provide you with a spending guideline for once you reach your destination. Remember to account for credit and debit card purchases as well as cash expenditures. Decide on a reasonable budget number and stick with it. Keep track of all your transactions by saving receipts.

Once you have your budget, it is essential to start researching and planning. The Internet is a great place to find information on any destination. You will be able to find attractions, hotels, air travel, maps, etc. When booking hotels and making plans, be sure to only use reliable sites.

You can also enlist a travel agent to help you plan a trip. Travel agents are professionals who help consumers find the best prices and places. Here are a couple of reasons travel agents are useful.

- Planning - Let them do the work. You can tell them where you want to go and what you want to do and let them work out the details. They can also tell you where or what is available within your budget.
In addition, they receive daily updates on great places to visit.

- **All-inclusive options** – If you are looking for a getaway with everything included, travel agents will have that information easily available. The travel agent can book your trip so everything you expect to be included is in included and you can enjoy yourself worry-free.

- **Discounts and perks** – Often, you receive discounts to attractions, rental cars and hotels when making reservations through a travel agency. Travel agents may have access to additional options not available to those planning their own trip. For example, when booking with a travel agent, you may receive free parking at theme parks, a discount at a gift shop or a voucher for eating at a specific restaurant.

- **Tour books and maps** - Certain travel agencies like AAA can provide wonderful tour books and maps, and if you are driving, they are willing to map out your route.

When traveling, remember to pack efficiently. If you are flying, use the 3-1-1 guideline recommended by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration: 3 ounces or smaller bottles of a liquid must be placed in a 1 quart clear bag, allowing one bag per traveler. Liquids larger than 3 ounces may not be taken on the plane. They must be placed in checked luggage or discarded.

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**Calendar of Events**

**Pinterest Interest: Shortcut Cinnamon Rolls**

Date: May 8, 2018 (5:00 PM)
Class size: 18
Cost: Free
Supplies: Supplies will be provided.
Last Day to Sign Up: May 4, 2018

Linda Smith (Lake Barkley Club) is going to tempt your taste buds with her short cut cinnamon rolls. Don’t wait to sign up because classes offered in the kitchen have fewer spots due to limited space. Get your name on the list soon so you can enjoy a taste of Linda’s recipe.

**Paper Crafters**

Date: May 14, 2018 (5:00 PM)
Class size: unlimited
Cost: Free
Supplies: Supplies will be provided.
Last Day to Sign Up: May 11, 2018

Come join our group as we learn new and fun techniques to create works of art with paper. Each month is a new project. Don’t miss out on the latest one!
Thread Painting
Date: May 18, 2018 (9:00 AM)
Class size: 10
Cost: Three items of canned food to be donated to the food bank.
Supplies: List will be provided when you sign up for the class.
Last Day to Sign Up: May 14, 2018

Thread painting, or free-motion machine embroidery, is a unique way of embellishing your quilts by “painting” the images on your quilt top, clothing or anywhere your imagination takes you. Join us as Kathy Sims walks us through the steps of creating beautiful artwork with thread.

The Art of Bread Baking: Scones
Date: May 22, 2018 (2:00PM)
Class size: 15
Cost: Three items of canned food to be donated to the food bank.
Supplies: Supplies will be provided.
Last Day to Sign Up: May 18, 2018

Join me in the kitchen for a lesson on baking quick breads with the best part being the taste testing! Scones are a very rustic bread that is surprisingly easy to make. Don’t miss out on the fun….or the food!

Homemaker Leader Lesson: Sweet Enough Without All That Sugar
Date: May 31, 2018 (10:00am)
Class size: unlimited
Cost: Free
Supplies: Supplies will be provided.
Last Day to Sign Up: May 25, 2018

Jill Harris is heading over to help us learn how we can cut the sugar in our diet. Have you or a loved one been told to cut the carbs from your diet? It can be hard to take away all those sweet desserts that we love. In this class you will learn how to indulge by reducing sugar in your baking and learning how to manage your carb intake because we are really sweet enough without all that sugar. You don’t have to be the lesson leader to come to class. If the topic interests you, join us to learn more about this subject.

Paper Crafters
Date: June 11, 2018 (5:00 PM)
Class size: unlimited
Cost: Free
Supplies: Supplies will be provided.
Last Day to Sign Up: May 11, 2018

Come join our group as we learn new and fun techniques to create works of art with paper. Each month is a new project. Don’t miss out on the latest one!

Pinterest Interest: Painting
Date: June 12, 2018 (5:00 PM)
Class size: unlimited
Cost: Free
Supplies: Supplies will be provided.
Last Day to Sign Up: June 7, 2018

June will be the last Pinterest Interest class of the Homemaker year. Make sure to sign-up and get one more good class in before the summer break. You don’t want to miss learning how to draw with pen and ink. Joyce Kastas and Sharon Gates will show you easy ways to create beautiful pictures.