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# BRAXTON

## CITIZENS' NEWS

Off



25 CENTS

"DEVOTED TO BRAXTON COUNTY -- RESPONSIVE TO ITS CITIZENS' NEEDS"



Students not only receive instruction from lab mentors, they also helped one another while working at the new computer work stations.

## Technology Camp provides unique experience for area youth

By Erica Whitney

The Flatwoods Volunteer Fire Department and Future Generations combined forces to offer any 9-15 year old Braxton County resident an opportunity to attend Technology Camp. The camp was funded by the surplus from the American Patriot Act. The weeklong event ran from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. August 8<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Flatwoods Fire Department.

Participants were provided with equipment and supplies needed to build their own computer, either HP or Dell. Paul Beatty, Jean Bleigh, and Kim Davis served as lab mentors and provided instruction to the youth. Also on hand to help was Traci Mallow a represen-

tative from Future Generations. The campers were taught the fundamentals of several different computer programs, basic computer skills, how to navigate search engines, graphic design, and photo editing.

"It was a great experience for not only the kids, but the lab mentors as well. The kids learned new computer skills and made new friends," said Davis. During the week, mentors noticed that some of the kids really enjoyed the photo editing tutorials. They allowed the youth to take home cameras and capture images for a tee-shirt they created. "It was fun. I learned that I liked to take pictures and edit them," said Courtney

Davis, a sophomore at Braxton County High School. Before the camp she explained that she usually just used her I phone to take pictures, but was impressed with the difference in quality a digital camera provided.

By week's end, each student had a fully functioning computer they had built themselves under the guidance of trained professionals. The youth also received a flat screen monitor, keyboard, mouse, an 8gb flash drive, a tee-shirt, and a wealth of knowledge acquired throughout week. The group hopes to be able to provide the camp again, but the program which relies on government funding will have to wait to see what the future brings.

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A Special Look

at Braxton County

### Technology camp provides a unique experience for area youth A Photographic Look



The students worked alongside each other.



Jean Bleigh irons on t-shirt transfers for the kids.



Each participant was given the opportunity to ride on the fire engine that serves Flatwoods.



Proudly displaying the images that they chose for their shirts are Katy Dean, Kourtney Davis, Karene Bruce, Brittney Beatty, Alyssa Leigh Monford, Ally Sizemore, and Lindsay and Clara Toler. The photos could be chosen from one that was taken over the week or a favorite image from the internet.



*The kids were excited to get a chance to ride along on the fire engine.*



*The youth present learned a lot about search engines and graphic design.*



*Traci Mallow, Kim Davis, and Jean Bleigh devoted their week to be lab mentors.*



*Participants were asked to give feedback to help improve any future projects.*