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Weekend Edition, February 2 - 4, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 10 • 20 PAGES • 50 CENTS

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Floyd tourism approves logo, website work

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Recreation, Tourism and Convention Commission took steps to develop its brand last week.

On Jan. 25, the commission approved a logo and the development of a website.

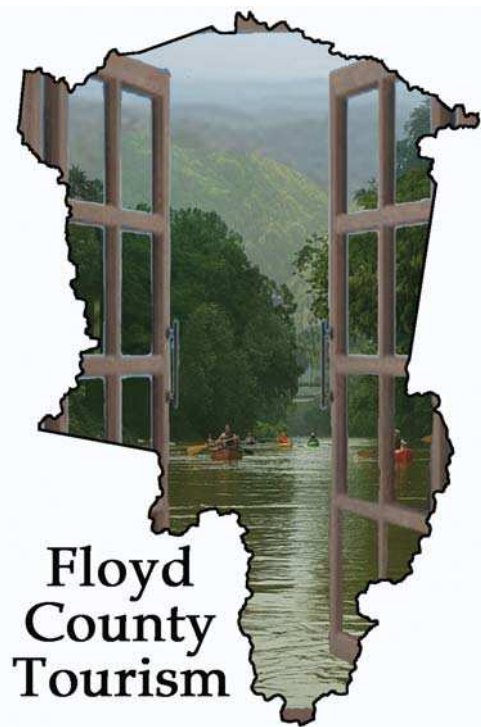
The logo, created by Mishla Curnutte of the Big Sandy Area Development District, is shaped by the county's boundary lines and includes a photograph of kayakers float-

ing on the river. Curnutte said this logo will be used on all promotional materials used by the commission. It identifies the commission as "Floyd County Tourism."

Curnutte reported that the deadline has passed for inclusion of an advertisement in the state's official travel guide, but the commission voted to spend \$800 for a two-page advertisement in the Country Music Highway Travel Guide, which is published by JLC Media of Paintsville. Curnutte said

that advertisement includes editorial content that the magazine will create.

The commission tabled approval of a rack card design, accepting a suggestion from Judge-Executive Ben Hale, who took minutes at the meeting, to start development of a webpage before the rack card is published. Hale said his IT person, Gilbert Stambaugh, could do that work. He said it would be good to have a



Floyd County Tourism

Submitted photo
Floyd County Tourism Logo

See TOURISM, Page 4A

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No charges expected in FCHS 'threat' case

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND
TIMES STAFF REPORT

Officials with the Floyd County School District and the Floyd County Sheriff's Department report that no charges will be filed in a case involving a possible threat against Floyd Central High

See CHARGES, Page 8A

Floyd man pleads to federal child porn charges

By CHASE ELLIS
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

An Ivel man pleaded guilty to federal child pornography charges Monday in U.S. District Court in Pikeville.

Joshua Keith Lawson, 31, of Toms Creek Road, Ivel, was indicted by a federal

See PLEADS, Page 2A

Floyd schools honor spelling bee champs



SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD
CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Floyd County School Superintendent Steve Trimble announced the results of the 2018 Floyd County School District Spelling Bee, which was held Jan. 31 at Floyd Central High School.

"Today, our school winners competed in our district competition at Floyd Central High School. This was an impressive group of kids and we are very

See HONOR, Page 4A

Submitted photo
Floyd County Schools interim Superintendent Steve Trimble poses with spelling bee district champ, Jim Sparkman from May Valley Elementary, left, and Prestonsburg Elementary student Drake Hatfield, who earned the runner-up honor.



Submitted photo

School winners of the Floyd County School District's annual spelling bee pose at Floyd Central High School during a Jan. 31 competition. The school winners include Jim Sparkman of May Valley, Drake Hatfield of Prestonsburg, Cameron Kilgore of Adams Middle, Jada Reynolds of Allen Elementary, Elijah Kidd of Betsy Layne Elementary, Gracie McDavid of Duff-Allen Central Middle, Dylan Boyd of South Floyd Elementary and Madison Hamilton of Stumbo Elementary.

OBITUARIES, 6A

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Teresa Damron
Mable Morris
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Bill would change county, school district boundary lines

Trimble: 'bigger not always better'

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The boundary lines of local counties and school districts could drastically change under two bills filed in the Kentucky House of Representatives recently.

Rep. Toby Herald, R-Beattyville, filed House Bill 242 and HB 243 on Jan. 24, seeking to merge 176 school districts into 55 consolidated districts and 100 of the state's 120 counties into 34 new county governments.

Under these county consolidation bill, the county governments of Floyd and Knott counties

would merge, the county governments of Johnson, Magoffin and Morgan counties would merge, the counties of Perry Leslie and Breathitt counties would merge and Pike County would remain the same.

The school district consolidation bill would merge public and independent school districts in that same fashion, and would cause the Pike County School District to merge with the Pikeville Independent School District in Pike County.

Herald is supported by Rep. Adam Koenig, R-Erlanger on the county consolidation bill, which

was forwarded to Local Government after it was filed in the House, but he is the sole sponsor of the school consolidation bill, which is now with the House's Education committee.

If approved, the school consolidation would start in 2020 and the county consolidation would start in 2021 and these bills would create new taxing districts for schools and counties.

The school consolidation bill would abolish all existing boards of education and establish 55 new districts. It calls for the Kentucky Department of Education to select su-

perintendents from the for the new districts for one-year terms, set their salaries and establish the location of each board of education. It calls for the governor to appoint school board members to serve from 2020 to 2222, and establishes school board members to be elected thereafter for four-year terms.

The county consolidation bill would abolish 100 of 120 counties and consolidate them into 34 county governments. It would start in 2021, when county judge executives of each unconsolidated county would be required to appoint a

commission of three voters who would divide the area of the new county into voting districts. Voters would chose officers for the new county officials in 2022.

Commissioners would also recommend possible names for these counties, and the name and county seat of the new counties will also be determined by voters.

Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale declined to comment on the county consolidation bill. Floyd County School District Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble voiced opposition to the school district consolida-

tion measure.

"I think that we don't need to consolidate school districts unless some of them have financial issues that they need to con to help each other out," he said. "My personal feeling is that bigger is not better. So, I'm definitely not for that bill. We've got a lot more things we need dealing with instead of the consolidation of school district."

Herald did not return calls seeking comment.

Floyd man found guilty in federal trafficking case

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Melvin man was found guilty in U.S. District Court in Pikeville this week for his role in a pill trafficking conspiracy.

According to court documents, Jeffrey Isaac, 60, was found guilty after a three-day trial on charges of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance and possession of a

firearm in the furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Court documents filed last year charged Jeffrey Isaac, Karen Elizabeth Isaac, Alyssa K. Isaac and Scott De-



Jeffrey Isaac

wayne Tackett with being involved in a conspiracy which ran for approximately a month

in 2016, in which the group allegedly distributed pills containing oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone and morphine.

According to documents filed in connection with Karen Isaac and Alyssa Isaac's cases, in June 2016, controlled purchases were

made from both Karen and Alyssa Isaac, before U.S. marshals sought and executed a search warrant at their residence. During the execution of the search warrant, law enforcement officials located more than 1,500 prescription pills at the residence, including 481 Neurontin and 440 Xanax, as well as quantities of oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, morphine,

Suboxone and Subutex, the agreement stated.

Karen Isaac, Alyssa Isaac and Tackett all pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the case last year.

Jeffrey Isaac was returned to the Pike County Detention Center to be held pending sentencing. The next hearing in the case is set for May 24.

PLEADS Continued From Page 1A

grand jury in Nov. 2017 on four counts, including one count of production of child pornography. Lawson was also indicted on two counts of distribution of child pornography and one count possessing an electronic storage media containing such depictions.

On Monday, Lawson appeared in U.S. District Court in Pikeville to enter into a plea agreement in which he plead-

ed guilty to one count of producing child pornography and two counts of distributing child pornography.

The count of possession storage media was dismissed.

During the hearing, Lawson's defense attorney Richard Hughes acknowledged Lawson did download images and then re-upload images as part of a sting operation, but that the "photos produced by him were borderline sexually explicit."

U.S. Chief District

Judge Karen K. Caldwell stated that Lawson faced a maximum statutory sentence of between five and 30 years in prison, at least five years in prison and, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Parman, Lawson must register as a sex offender.

Lawson is scheduled to be sentenced in the case on May 3 in Pikeville. He was returned to the custody of the Pike County Detention Center where he has been held since his arrest in October.

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Several charged in Floyd District Court, civil cases filed

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Charges were filed against several recently in Floyd District Court. The charges included:

Lawsuits filed

Gregory Polly, et al. vs. B&B Distributors, Inc., et al.

Patricia May vs. Sasha Conn May, et al.

Tammy Lynn Caudill vs. Stoney Caudill.

Sarah Slone, et al. vs. James E. Tackett, et al.

Lendmark Financial Services, LLC. vs. Joe Tiller.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. vs. Bran Donaldson.

Joshua McKinney vs. Kimberly Dotson May.

Americredit Financial Services, Inc. vs. JE Blankenship.

MTAG as C/F MGD-KY, LLC. vs. Johnny Lou Boldin, et al.

MTAG as C/F MGD-KY, LLC. vs. Enerpro,

Inc., et al.

KY Foster Care vs. Ronny McCoy.

Allison Collins vs. Zachary McGlone.

Douglas Wayne Hayes vs. Randy Hayes.

Darren Stapleton vs. Audreyetta Lawson, et al.

Mavis Marianna Anzaldua vs. Aarco Surveying, Inc.

Angie Prater vs. Aarco Surveying, Inc.

Gregory Adam Dixon vs. Alexis Ashley DeRossett.

James B. Hunter vs. Victoria Reynolds.

James B. Hunter vs. James J. Hunter.

Ronnie Danielle Scott vs. Jesse Douglas Blair.

Billy Gearheart, et al. vs. Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

Byron Tyler Stumbo vs. Jessica Stumbo.

Larry Tackett, et al. vs. Marlene Tackett, et al.

Felony Charges filed

Dennis Henson, 40,

of Salyers Branch, Hueysville, first-degree wanton endangerment (arrest warrant served).

Chase Harmon, 23, of Ky. Rt. 122, Bevinsville, second-degree assault.

Misdemeanor charges filed

James Reynolds, 34, of Gross Hollow, Pikeville, possession of a controlled substance.

Clinton Roberts, 69, of First St., Harold, third-degree criminal trespassing.

Jerry B. Collins, 38, of Big Branch, Honaker, alcohol intoxication in a public place.

Ricky S. Wehunt, 49, of Rogers Branch, Harold, public intoxication of a controlled substance.

Amy Shepherd, 35, of Prestonsburg, parent or guardian to send child to school.

Tyler Dean Ousley, 22, of Turkey Creek Rd., Martin, possession of marijuana.

Jennifer M. Boyd, 40, of South Front St., Dwale, disregarding stop sign, rear license not illuminated, license plate not legible, operating on suspended/revoked license, failure to notify address change to department of transportation, possessing license when privileges are revoked, failure to wear seatbelt.

Jessica Renee Johnson, 35, of Elkhorn City, no registration plates, no registration receipt, failure to produce insurance card, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, operating on suspended/revoked license, operating vehicle under the influence, endangering the welfare of a minor.

Amber Hamilton, 35, of Hutchinson Ln., Hi Hat, second-degree wanton endangerment, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).

Christopher K. Robinson, 42, of Raccoon, sec-

ond-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, prescription not in proper container.

Dustin Rowe, 27, of Moore Branch Rd., Beaver, first-degree disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, menacing.

Larry Marsillett, 32, of Riverview Dr., Dwale, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence).

Melinda Stewart, 42, of Rt. 979, Harold, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Charles A. Duncan, 40, of Store Hollow Rd., Prestonsburg, public intoxication of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Brett A. Blankenship, 23, of Highland Ave., Prestonsburg, operating motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, endangering the welfare of a minor.

Tonya R. Slone, 41, of west Garrett Rd., Garrett,

theft by unlawful taking under \$500.

Betty Thornsby, 44, of Slone Rd., Garrett, theft by unlawful taking under \$500.

Tony Kay Ranier, 61, of North Arnold Ave., Prestonsburg, theft by failure to distribute property.

Matthew Tackett, 31, of Garth Hollow Rd., Martin, harassment.

Bernie Blankenship, 62, of Teaberry, possession of drug paraphernalia, improper equipment.

Editor's note: The above list reflects people who are charged in Floyd District Court. The charges against them are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Marriages, deeds filed

The following marriage and property transfers have recently been filed in the Floyd County Clerk's office:

Marriage

James Michael Vanderpool of David to Sarah Lynn Rife of David

Property transfers

Bricka James to Tena A. Jarrell; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 706)

Paul Justice to Alan Bran-

ham, Maggie Branham; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 731)

KVVV Traffic Control to TGK Investment LLC; property at Brandy Keg Estates

Renee Marsillett, Renee Hall, Ronald Hall to Renee Hall, Ronald J. Hall property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 712)

Mary Lou Martin to Teresa Gayle Martin, William Merlin Martin Jr.; property at Open Fork

Nora P. Martin to Nora P.

Martin; property at Left Beaver

Mona Kaye Mitchell, Tex Mitchell to David Hayes, Joyce; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 743)

Karen Sue Bays Puckett, Harvey Layne Bays, Tommy Ray Bays Sr. to Margaret Jane Bays, Sammie K. Bays; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 748)

Karen Sue Bays Puckett, Harvey Layne Bays, Sammie K. Bays to Tommy Ray Bays Sr.; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 1)

Stephanie Roberts to Citizens Bank of Kentucky property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 718)

Delana Stamper to Curtis Ray Stamper; property in Allen Billie Stratton, James Stratton to Riverbend Equipment Leasing LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 702)

Jeanice Hall Allen, Jerry D. Allen to Allison Curry, Allison Nicole Curry; property at Bypro William G. Combs to Johnny Baldrige, Sandra Baldrige;

property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 709)

Barbara DeRossett, Damon DeRossett to Ronnie Patton property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 739)

April Flinchum to Richard Noble; property at McDowell John A. Goble, Patsy Goble to Megan Elyse Goble; property at Cow Creek

Kevin Hutchinson to Allison Gail Hutchinson, Brandon Cody Hutchinson property location unlisted (Deeds Book 634; pg. 734)

One pleads, one diverted in bank fraud case

BY CHASE ELLIS APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

PIKEVILLE — A Johnson County land developer entered a guilty plea and his daughter entered into a pretrial diversion program in U.S. District Court in Pikeville Monday as part of a federal bank fraud case.

Paul Fannin, owner and developer of Stone-Crest Properties, and his daughter, Chelsea Stone, were named, along with former BB&T bank loan officer Brent Lee, in a federal indictment in July 2017 charging the three with using a bank fraud scheme. According to the indictment, after Fannin's status as a loanee was downgraded through BB&T, the three worked together to take out loans in Stone's name, with the funds being directed into accounts with

Fannin's name.

According to the indictment, in September 2014, BB&T downgraded Fannin's status and Lee was prohibited from giving Fannin any new loans. Shortly after, Fannin and Lee allegedly worked with Stone to take out a \$100,000 loan in Stone's name that was later deposited into Fannin's account, according to the indictment.

"... Fannin wrote checks payable to himself and made expenditures at casinos, among other things," the indictment alleged. Three checks from Fannin totaling \$20,000 were made out to Caesars Riverboat Casino, the indictment said.

In November 2014, a second loan was taken out in Stone's name to pay off the first loan. A loan modification was made in January 2015

to disburse an additional \$150,000, the indictment said.

All three parties allegedly knew that the money was for Fannin's use.

Lee was indicted on a total of nine counts; for bank fraud (aiding and abetting), unauthorized obligation by a bank employee and theft, embezzlement or misapplication by a bank officer. Fannin was indicted on four counts; for bank fraud (aiding and abetting) and transactional money laundering. Stone was indicted on two counts of making a false statement in a loan application.

The three had been scheduled for a trial to begin Monday, but that trial was continued until Feb. 12.

On Monday, Fannin appeared in U.S. District Court in Pikeville to enter

a guilty plea to a charge of conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

U.S. Chief Judge Karen K. Caldwell told Fannin the maximum statutory punishment for conspiracy to commit bank fraud is not more than 30 years in prison and not more than five years of supervised release. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kate Anderson also said Fannin will be responsi-

ble, in part, for a restitution amount of more than \$248,000.

Stone, according to files entered into the court record on Friday, "has elected the right of pretrial diversion."

According to the order in Stone's case, Stone is presently enrolled in a pretrial diversion that will last for 18 months. Stone also waived rights to a speedy trial. The case,

according to the order, is continued for a period of 18 months, "or up to and including Jan. 26, 2020."

Fannin was scheduled to be sentenced on May 3 in Pikeville. He was allowed to remain free from custody following the Monday hearing.

Lee is currently still set for trial to begin on Feb. 12.

Welch & Ellie



Floyd County Animal Shelter

This week's celebrity is **TIM WELCH** current president of Floyd County Cal Ripken, has been involved in and volunteered his time to youth sports in Prestonsburg for over 20 years. Tim is with Ellie.

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Floyd schools have no more 'bank' days

By OLIVIA FRANCIS
FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND
TIMES INTERN

The Floyd County School District's "bank" days are now over the amount that the board of education has set for schools.

In a recent interview, Bonita Compton and Kristina Springer, directors of pupil personnel, and Pam Caudill, community education liaison, explained that for years the district has been adding time to every school day so that at the end of the year the school district has "bank" days that could be used if school is called off for bad weather or other reasons.

"In our original calendar, we go an extra 15 minutes every day and bank that time

every day of the school year," said Springer.

Floyd County students are required to have 1,062 hours of school instruction, which is 177 days per year. Springer said the district usually misses 19 days of school for inclement weather and other reasons and it is currently "nowhere near our average."

The Floyd County School District calendar only shows a total of seven bank days, but now because of the recent closings due to severe winter weather, district officials report that schools have been closed for 10 days, which means that students might have to make up three days later this year.

The school district's calendar also initially ended classes in early May, but the start of school was delayed for two

weeks because of construction delays at Floyd Central. The calendar was changed, bumping the end of school to May 17, and now, with these closures, schools might be in session even longer.

When the Floyd County Board of Education approved its calendar last year, it included more than 30 "make-up days" that could be used if school is called off. That gives the district more up to June 30 to make up time missed.

Springer said that the district will decide how to make up the lost days later in the school year.

"What we usually do is we look at, in March, we'll look at how many days we've missed and then decide if we need to, you know, how many days we're going to add where, and

if we need to make up any time," she said.

Springer also said the district's spring break, set for April 5-6, is still planned at this time.

"Anything after that first seven days ... we start adding to the end of the calendar, and we don't look at things like spring break, or extending the day or any like that unless we've missed a significant amount of time," she said.

When schools are closed, students are missing vital time for learning. To help compensate for this down time, Compton gave suggestions to help children stay focused. She recommended that parents read to their children and that students use the snow packets teachers provide during their days off.

When asked if there is any-

thing that parents can do to help their kids when school's called off, Compton responded, "They can work with their kids ... We are one-to-one ratio in Floyd County with our kids, so, if they have computers at home, they can work. There's a ton of online resources that these kids can use ... and also you can read to them."

Also, Compton offered some insight into why Floyd County schools have been called off, stating, "When we call school off, it's for the best decision for the entire county. We can't look at certain areas, we have to look at the entire county."

Olivia Francis is a Prestonsburg High School student who is interning at the Floyd County Chronicle and Times.

Brown files bill to regulating divorce

By JOSH LITTLE
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, 95th district Rep. Larry Brown filed a bill relating to divorce.

The bill, House Bill 269, if passed, would amend the KRS 403.044 statute to state that no testimony can be taken in divorce action involving minor children of the marriage until one year has elapsed. The bill would also require coparenting education before a divorce can occur when the marriage involves minor children.

The bill was introduced last year, but was not filed until Tuesday.

Brown said the bill stemmed from the ideas of Brown and his friend, Lexington Family Court Judge Tim Philpot.

"(Tim) approached me with concerns that he sees — after being on the family court bench for the past several years — on how easy it is, and in easy, I mean easy by the no fault divorce statute here in Kentucky, for people to essentially walk away — especially in divorces involving minor children — to just walk

away from the responsibilities," said Brown.

Brown said the breakdown of the family unit is "tragic."

"We're trying to do what we can to help stabilize marriage and even moreso than that, the family and the home," he said.

Brown referred to the KRS 403, relating to divorce, in which he said it was "ironic" because the preamble of 403 states that the "purpose of the statute is to strengthen marriage." He also referred to a passage in the statute that requires

the judge to find that the marriage is irretrievably broken.

"How do you do that if you don't have a hearing? The statute already requires the judges to find that the marriage is irretrievably broken, it's just that the judges don't do it," said Brown.

In divorces involving minor children, Brown said the children often "become pawns."

"I'm a Christian individual and I feel like the home and, basically, the family are the very root of where the devil is attacking us and trying to tear down the family unit," he said. "There's

so many people anymore that think marriage is: 'We don't have to get married to have kids.' Then, the next generation perpetuates that sin, you might say, perpetuates that belief that we no longer need to have a family."

According to Brown, too many kinds are coming from broken homes or are in foster care because, "the family unit has been destroyed over the past several years."

"Nobody seems to want to go back and take a hard look at it and do what needs to be done with it to try to preserve (the unit)," said Brown.

Brown said he is flexible with the one-year time lapse for testimony from the minor children. He said he would be okay with a six-month lapse.

"Saving one family would be worth it," he said.

When the bill was presented last year, Brown said Gov. Matt Bevin was in favor of the idea. He said he is hoping the governor will get behind the current version of the bill as well.

The bill will be voted on in the House of Representatives and, if passed, will move to the Senate for vote.

TOURISM Continued From Page 1A

webpage people could visit before 15,000 rack cards are distributed throughout the state.

"Websites legitimize you," Curnutte said. "Facebook is a great tool to use for people who know where you are already, I mean, know you already and they like your page and that sort of thing. But for those people that don't know about the page and don't know about you, the thing they're going to look at is a website. They're going to Google

you and that's what's going to come up."

The commission unanimously voted to approve allowing Stambaugh to create a one-page landing website. Commission Treasurer David Tackett asked if approval was needed to pay Stambaugh, but no action was taken. Hale said Stambaugh will submit an invoice at a later date.

Curnutte said contact information should be included on the website. Tackett suggested included in the Floyd County Courthouse's phone number because the commission does not yet

have its own facility.

"If it grows like we want it to grow, then we'll take the necessary steps at that time to include staff or whatever," he said.

The commission also approved the treasurer's report, which hadn't changed since October. Tackett said he would deposit receipts from November and December into the account, and that would bring the commission's total revenues up to around \$77,000.

Commission Chair Josh Hall and Secretary Tami Patton were absent at the meeting.

HONOR Continued From Page 1A

proud of all of them," Trimble said in a press release.

He congratulated the district champ, Jim Sparkman from May Valley Elementary, and Prestonsburg Elementary student Drake Hatfield, who earned the runner-up honor.

Sparkman is the son

of Paul and Shelia Sparkman of Langley. He will advance to compete in the Ford Motor Company Kentucky Derby Festival Spelling Bee in Louisville on March 17.

"We wish Jim the best of luck at the state competition," Trimble said in the statement.

Students who competed in the district spelling bee qualified after earning school champi-

on titles in grades four through eight.

In addition to Sparkman and Hatfield, other school winners include: Cameron Kilgore of Adams Middle, Jada Reynolds of Allen Elementary, Elijah Kidd of Betsy Layne Elementary, Gracie McDavid of Duff-Allen Central Middle, Dylan Boyd of South Floyd Elementary and Madison Hamilton of Stumbo Elementary.

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EDITORIAL:

Calling all women to the ballot in Floyd

Candidates flocked to the courthouse this week like a gang of geese trying to flap their way out of a snow storm.

But wouldn't you know it? The majority of those office-holding hopefuls are Democratic males.

That fact is juxtaposed with another little known fact: Floyd County has more female voters in its ranks than males. According to state data published in January, nearly 51.5 percent of Floyd County voters are female.

But voters won't see that statistic on the Primary Election ballots in May. Those ballots will carry the names of a slew of men seeking office alongside only two women. The other two female candidates who are

seeking election are eyeing nonpartisan seats that will be decided in November.

To date, four women have signed up to campaign for offices serving Floyd County residents, and the number of candidates from other parties seeking office here is also a bit lacking — with only six Republicans and one Independent signing the dotted line.

This means that, to date, in both partisan and nonpartisan races, Floyd County candidates are about 84 percent Democratic and male.

We're not knocking the ability of these fellas, but we do recognize that this lack of female candidates comes at a time when the country is in an uproar about sexual harassment allegations

involving powerful men in leadership roles in business and government, and it comes as this country is still dealing with a gender pay gap that leaves women earning only about 80 cents for every dollar that their male counterparts earn.

It also comes as Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes reports that a "record number" of 100 women — including one from Floyd County — are seeking seats in the Kentucky General Assembly. With 298 people seeking legislative seats, that means that about 33.5 percent of those candidates are female.

With filings for all partisan races complete, there are no chances for additional Republicans to find

their way on the ballot this year. But there are plenty of opportunities for women to step up and campaign in nonpartisan races.

Seats will be open for local city governments, school boards and judicial races on these nonpartisan tickets. Thankfully, several women are already serving on some of these local government bodies, but we need more.

NPR published a story last year listing seven "barriers" for women running for office. The list included the following: Women are more likely than men to think the electoral process is "highly competitive and biased" against females; women are "much less likely" than men to think they are qualified to run for office; and women are less likely than men to

receive a suggestion to run for office from anyone.

We have it on good authority that there are plenty of smart, capable women living in Floyd County, and many of them are already doing things to improve their communities. It's time for them to step up and campaign for something. It's time that they bring their voice and perspective to the table.

We want the best person to apply and definitely would like to see more qualified women apply.

Nonpartisan filings continue through August, and the Kentucky Secretary of State's website (sos.ky.gov) details everything candidates need to do to qualify.

Good luck to all candidates.

EDITORIAL:

No overreaction

School district right to react the way it did to Floyd Central threat

In hindsight, it would be easy to call the reaction by school district officials and law enforcement to last week's possible threat of a violent incident at Floyd Central High School an "overreaction."

But that would only be possible in hindsight, and it would be an incorrect assessment of the situation.

The threat ultimately turned out to not be a realistic threat

and police said this week no charges are expected in connection with the incident, which was sparked by a Facebook post. And to that, we breathe a sigh of relief along with the rest of the community.

We're incredibly glad that the threat was at no time real, but we're even more glad that local authorities didn't wait to find out if it was to react.

In the wake of

Marshall County, our sensitivities about the possibility of school shootings are rightfully heightened, but it's not as though Marshall County is an outlier in the state of Kentucky. One of the most notorious of the school shootings of the modern area occurred in Paducah in 1997.

Nationally, school shootings remain a frighteningly common occurrence and there's no real solid answers

as to how to prevent, stop, deter or predict them.

So, knowing all that, it is absolutely our preference that each threat be examined individually, but also that they be taken seriously, even if they appear on the surface to be in jest.

There are very few public places that are as in need of protection as a school. Our kids deserve to know that we've made ev-

ery effort to protect them and keep them safe. Sometimes that may seem overbearing, but the threat is real, and if there's one lesson we all need to take to heart from the shootings across this country it's that it can happen anywhere.

No place, no region, no cultural division, nothing guarantees immunity from this epidemic. It's our job to ensure we don't let down our guard.

That being said, we thank our local law enforcement, first responders and school officials for their response to this incident, but also the willingness to see it through to the end of the investigation, and for being transparent throughout the process, which can calm a lot of nerves and defuse a lot of unnecessary tensions.

We, as a community, must hope and pray that this type of tragedy never visits our community, but we also must prepare and work to ensure that we defuse any potential of it that we can.



CHRONICLE & TIMES

LETTERS OR COMMENTS:

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Cassie Allen
Cassie J. Patrick Allen, 95, of East Point, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2018.

Arrangements were under the direction of

Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

Teresa Damron

Teresa Lynn Martin Damron, 48, of Allen,

died Monday, Jan. 29, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

Mable Morris
Mable Louis Morris, 76, of Hueysville, died Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018.

Arrangements are under the direction of

Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

"Eddy" Williams

Edward Arnold "Eddy" Williams, 53, of Prestons-

burg, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2018.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Community calendar

- Feb. 2; 6:30 p.m.: "Love Sweet Love" benefit concert, Gearheart Auditorium at Prestonsburg campus of Big Sandy Community & Technical College, features Marlana Vanhooose, Big Sandy Singers, the Sons of FM and others. Proceeds benefit children services of Mountain Comprehensive Care Center. 888-MAC-ARTS
- Feb. 3; 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park hosts elk tours. \$30 per adult; \$15 for children; free for kids age 12 and under. (606) 889-1790
- Feb. 4; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Bridal Show, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park convention Center. (606) 889-1790.
- Feb. 5; 5:30 p.m.: Grow Appalachia Gardening Series, session 1, Floyd County Extension Office. (606) 886-2668
- Feb. 5; 6 p.m.: Allen City Commission to meet
- Feb. 6, 13, 20; 8:30 a.m.

- to 4 p.m.: Prestonsburg library to host AARP tax aide. (606) 886-2981
- Feb. 6; 5 p.m.: Teen & Tween Time, Eastern library.
- Feb. 6; 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County 4-H is hosting an organizational meeting at the Floyd County Extension Office to start a shooting sports team, open to kids age nine and 18. Parents must attend. (606) 886-2668
- Feb. 6; 6 p.m.: The Floyd County Beekeepers Association to meet, Floyd County Extension Office. There will be a drawing for bee nucs that is open to members who have met minimum requirements. Anyone interested in becoming members should attend.
- Feb. 7; 6 p.m.: Ryker & Riley's Unique Home Furnishings, 233 West Court St., to host workshop about chalk paint blending techniques. \$40. Limited to 10 people.

- (606) 339-2937
- Feb. 8; 12 p.m.: Floyd County Communities Against Drug Addiction meets at Prestonsburg First Presbyterian Church
- Feb. 8; 4 p.m.: Prestonsburg library to host Design Your Own Doll Shirt.
- Feb. 9; 4 p.m.: Family Game Time, Eastern library
- Feb. 9; 6 p.m.: Troy Burchett to host CD release party for "Turn Back Time," featuring Jason Goble as the opening act, Mountain Arts Center
- Feb. 13; 10 a.m.: Floyd County Local Emergency Planning Commission to host a planning meeting for an emergency exercise that will be held later this year, Floyd County Emergency & Rescue Squad.
- Feb. 13; 10:30 a.m.: "What's Cooking?" hosted by Floyd County Extension Office at the Eastern Library.
- Feb. 14; 3:30 p.m.: Pres-

- tonsburg library to host after school family/teen craft.
- Feb. 25; 7:30 p.m.: Chris August performs, Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS
- Feb. 28; 6 p.m.: Friends of Jenny Wiley will meet at the May Lodge to discuss Operation Clean Sweep and other items. Any person interested in improving Jenny Wiley State Resort Park is encouraged to attend.
- The Big Sandy Area Development District offers SHIP counselors to help with Medicare information and plans like Medicare Advantage Plans, Part D., LIS (Extra Help), Medicare Savings Programs and Medigap Plans. For details, stop by the office on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call (606) 886-2374 or 800-737-2723
- Every Tuesday, Thursday, 4 p.m.: Let's Get Moving, Eastern library.
- First, third Thursday, 8 p.m.: Comedy Night, Dew-

- ey's Bar and Grill, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. (606) 889-1790
- Wednesdays, Fridays: Big Sandy Community & Technical College hosts low-cost dental clinic. (606) 886-7352
- Every Tuesday, 7 p.m.: Lane of Roses Women's Bible Study meets at City Perk, Prestonsburg. ayngelaeastevens.laneofroses@gmail.com or (606) 367-2970
- Every Monday; 3:30 p.m., through May 7: Mommy and Me Sewing Class, Prestonsburg Library.
- Registrations accepted for 2018 Kentucky State Parks Family Adventure Quest, a digital photo scavenger hunt that requires travel to various state parks. Prizes offered for those who complete at least 10 quests by Dec. 2018. parks.ky.gov

No findings in BSADD audit

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

A Pike County accountant found no material weaknesses in the 2017 audit of the Big Sandy Area District. Certified Public Accountant Lynette R. Schindler of Pikeville presented the 2017 audit to the Big Sandy Area Development District Board of Directors recently. Schindler reported no issues of noncompliance and no deficiencies with the agency's internal control over its finances that are considered to be material weaknesses. Schindler told them, "What it says is this is a

clean opinion. We didn't find anything wrong. Everything seems to go very well here at the ADD." The Big Sandy ADD received and spent about \$7.9 million in 2017 in all of the programs it offers. It had \$2.45 million in assets, Schindler reported, and net capital assets, which calculates the depreciation of assets, is around \$762,000. The district's pension liability — the amount of funds that would be spent if the state stopped paying for employee retirements — is more than \$4.9 million. "Your long-term liability would be \$4.9 mil-

lion if you had to fund your portion of the retirement plan," Schindler said. "You are lucky in that you are in county retirement system instead of the state retirement system because you only, last year, had to pay 18.68 percent in your match. If you actually were in the regular retirement system, you would have to pay 48.59, and they expect that match to go up to 85 percent next year, with what they're requesting." She said the Big Sandy ADD is "in good shape" as far as its liabilities and assets. With retirement and depreciation calculations that are required, the audit

shows a \$181,000 loss of net assets. The agency's fund balance, however, which does not include depreciation, does not show a loss. It reports an end-of-the-year balance of about \$7,900. "This has to do with your regular operations that you do all of the time," she said. "So, as far as your regular operations of the district, you actually made a little bit of money." After the meeting, Big Sandy ADD Director Sandy Runyon emphasized that the agency ended the year with a surplus, not a deficit. "Even though that audit shows a deficit, as far as our operation-

al budget of this area development district, we are not in a deficit," she said. "We're \$7,899 in the black. It showed that deficit because you have to take out the pensions. Our operating budget is near the line, but we're still in the black." She said the Big Sandy ADD's purpose is not to make money. It uses and distributes nearly all of the funds it receives in programs that help Big Sandy residents and communities. Schindler reported decreases in federal and state funds, caused by cuts to the Kentucky Works program, and encouraged the agency to loan out more Revolving

Loan Funds, explaining that with only one loan outstanding, the federal government could take money allotted to the agency for that program because it isn't being used. During the meeting, the board voted to seek federal approval for changes in that program in an attempt to reach more small businesses in need of loans. During the meeting, Runyon expressed concerns over several proposed cuts in the state budget that would impact the agency and other agencies in local communities.

Saint Joseph honored

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD
CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Saint Joseph Martin, part of KentuckyOne Health, is among a group of facilities nationwide to receive a five-star rating from the Hospital Compare website, part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating program, according to a statement from the hospital. Saint Joseph Martin was

among 337 hospitals across the country to receive a five-star designation from CMS, and one of only two facilities in Kentucky, the statement said. "We are proud to receive this five-star rating from Hospital Compare, which is a wonderful accomplishment for our employees," said Kathy Stumbo, president, Saint Joseph Martin. "This designation would not be possible without the dedication of our

staff members, who impact each patient's hospital experience daily. Together, we are offering patients the quality care that they deserve." The Hospital Compare website reports on quality measures for more than 4,000 hospitals across the country. The goal of the Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating program, the statement said, is to improve the usability, accessibility and interpretability of CMS's hospital quality web-

site, Hospital Care, for patient and consumers. According to CMS, the star ratings make it easier for consumers to choose a hospital and understand the quality of care they deliver. The overall rating from Hospital Compare ranges from one to five stars, with a five-star rating being the highest a hospital can receive. The overall rating summarizes up to 57 quality measures reflecting common conditions

that hospitals treat, such as heart attacks or pneumonia. The statement said the overall rating shows how well each hospital performed, on average, compared to other hospitals in the United States. The Hospital Compare star ratings are based on data hospitals provide to CMS through the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program.



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More Floyd students transferred to other districts this year

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

More Floyd County students transferred to school districts in other counties this year.

The district approves non-resident contracts with Paintsville Independent, Pikeville Independent and the Martin, Magoffin, Knott, Johnson and Pike school districts. These contracts do not set caps for the number of students living in Floyd County who can transfer to other districts, and they note that the district superintendent has the authority to accept non-resident students

on a case-by-case basis.

According to non-resident contract documents recently approved by the Floyd County Board of Education, since the 2012-2013 school year, 2,564 students who live in Floyd County have traveled to other counties for their education—an average of 427 students a year.

In that same time period, the district has gained 396 students from these other districts—an average of 66 students annually.

Combining both incoming and outgoing students during those years, the district lost 2,168 students — an average

of about 361 students per year.

This year, the district gained 83 students from those counties and lost 467 students, for a total reduction of 384 in the student population. That cost the district more than \$1.5 million—more than it has lost in funding for non-resident student transfers since 2012.

With transfers in and out, the district lost 347 students in 2016-2017, 305 students in 2015-2016, 377 student in 2014-2015, 389 students in 2013-2014 and 366 students in 2012-2013.

In the 2013-2014 school year, 63 students transferred into the district, but 452 of

students transferred out, for a total loss of 389 students. But that year, the district's base SEEK funding was set at \$3,833 per student, less than the \$3,981 set for this year, which means that even though the district lost more students in 2014, its loss of funding (\$1.48 million) was less than this year's loss.

Most students living in Floyd County who transfer out are attending schools in Knott County, Pike County and Johnson County, and that has been true almost every year since 2012.

Floyd County School District Director of Pupil Person-

nel Kristina Springer said officials studied the reasons for these student transfers years ago and determined that most transferring students had never enrolled in Floyd County. She said their parents and caregivers usually work in other counties and it's more convenient for them to have students attend school in the counties in which they work.

Since 2012, the district's financial loss for students who transferred has collectively totaled approximately \$8.5 million — an average of \$1.4 million a year.

Turner, Jones meet with East Kentucky engineers



Submitted photo
Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, and Democratic Floor Leader, Sen. Ray S. Jones II, D-Pikeville, meet with Summit Engineering Inc.'s Mike Mullins and Mark Sanders to discuss projects in Eastern Kentucky. For further information on the 2018 Legislative Session, go to www.lrc.ky.gov.

Police: Pike woman charged with DUI with children in vehicle

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND
TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Pike County woman was arrested in Prestonsburg last week after she allegedly operated a vehicle under the influence with her three juvenile children in the vehicle.

Jessica Renee Johnson, 35, of Elkhorn City, was arrested on several charges, including driving on a suspended license, DUI and endangering the welfare of a minor, as well as traffic charges.

According to the citation written by officer Taylor of the Prestonsburg Police Department, the officer

noticed the registration of the SUV driven by Johnson had expired in Nov. 2017.

"While speaking to (Johnson), I noticed her pupils were pin point," Taylor wrote in the citation. Taylor said Johnson's pupils would not dilate.

The officer, according to court records, conducted numerous sobriety tests, which Johnson could not successfully complete. Johnson was then arrested and taken to the Saint Joseph Hospital. She was later lodged in the Floyd County Detention Center.

Whitesburg resident to fill Stumbo's seat

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND
TIMES STAFF REPORT

Gov. Matt Bevin appointed Whitesburg attorney Gene Smallwood Jr. to the Court of Appeals seat left vacant with the retirement of Janet Stumbo of Prestonsburg.

Smallwood has worked 40 years at the Polly & Smallwood law firm and was educated at the University of Michigan and the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he earned his juris doctorate.

In a statement, he said he appreciates the appointment and the opportunity to serve the people of the 7th Appel-

late District, Division 2.

"I pledge that I will serve with integrity, fairness, and compassion as their Judge," the statement said, in part. "I would ask for their prayers as I undertake this endeavor."

Stumbo retired on Dec. 31, 2017, following 26 years of service. She was the second woman ever elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and the first woman from the 7th Appellate District. In 1993, she was the first woman elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court without having first been appointed. She was re-elected to that bench in 1996, then, after a break, was elect-

ed, again, to the Court of Appeals seat in 2006 and 2014.

Smallwood will serve in the 7th Appellate District seat until a new Court of Appeals judge is elected. That race will be on the ballot in November, and five candidates have already filed paperwork to seek that seat.

They include David Allen Barber of Morehead, Donald Howard Combs of Pikeville, Larry E. Thompson of Pikeville, Jim G. Vanover of Prestonsburg and Marcia L. Wireman of Jackson.

The seat represents residents of Floyd, Perry, Pike, Knott, Johnson, Lawrence, Letcher, Martin and other counties.

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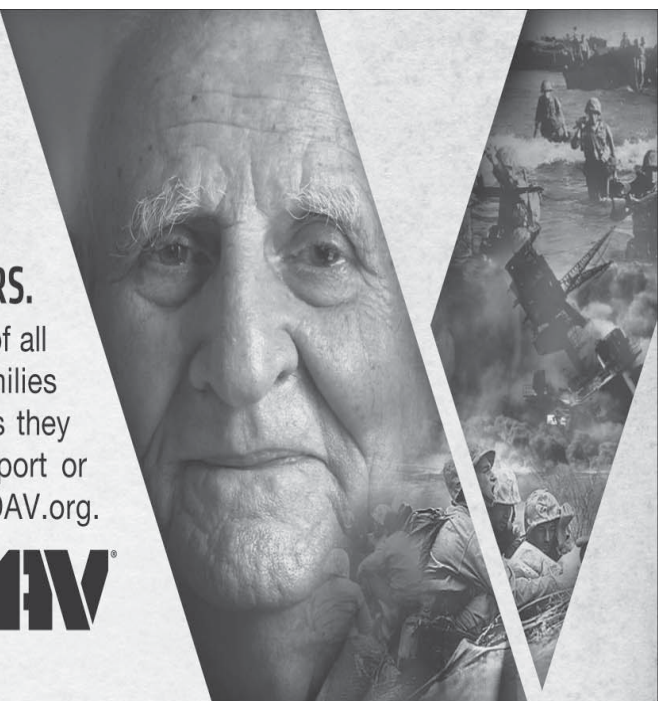
Public Notice Discrimination Mountain Manor of Paintsville

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Bridge work underway in Melvin

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Highway District 12 in Pikeville reported this week that the construction of a new bridge is ahead of schedule in Melvin.

Work started about a month ago to build a new bridge on Ky. 466 at the Left Fork of Beaver Creek in Melvin.

Despite winter weather, Highway District 12 Section Engineer Matt Moore said construction is ahead of schedule and the contractor expects delivery of the bridge beams any time from the middle to the end of February.

Frederick & May Construction of West Liberty was awarded the low bid contract of approximately \$639,000 with 160 working days for completion.

Since the construction season does not technically begin until April 1, the contractor is ahead of schedule. Moore said that unless something unforeseen happens, the new bridge should be finished and open to traffic by the end of June or the first of July.



Submitted photo
Highway District 12 officials work with bridge contractor Frederick & May of West Liberty on KY 466, building a new bridge on the Left Fork of Beaver Creek at Melvin in Floyd County.

CHARGES

Continued From Page 1A

School.

The investigated started on Jan. 24, after a Floyd Central staff member saw a Facebook post and alerted police about a possible threat. In the post, a student referred to a "kid" who allegedly made threats against the school.

The Floyd County Sheriff's Department and the Kentucky State Police launched an investigation that night and, finding

no confirmation that the student had any means of carrying out a threat, students returned to school the following day. Police remained on the school campus to ensure the safety of students and the sheriff's department continued the investigation, which is now closed.

Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt said the student accused of making the threat had no means of carrying it out. He said officials search the student's locker and his parents allowed officers

to search their home, their computers and their phones. No weapons or threatening messages were found.

He said officials also found no proof that he made a threat against the school, as alleged by the other student. Hunt previously said that the student who reported the threat could face criminal charges if he did so for no reason, but officials determined that was not the case.

"We did not find any proof that he did say it or that anything he

said would have been a threat," Hunt said. "And we found no reason to believe that the boy who said he made the threat meant to do it."

He said the student who created the Facebook post had "some impression" of something that had been said, and did not make a false statement to get attention or for other reasons.

"His parents gave us access to their phones, computers, and we did find conversations," Hunt said. "That's how we believe the boy didn't make

it up. We found enough to clear both of them, basically."

Interim Superintendent Steve Trimble said the investigation caused panic, but he is thankful it is now resolved. He praised local law enforcement and school staff for their response.

"It did cause a lot of panic at the school, especially after the Marshal County thing (school shooting)," he said. "I appreciate the sheriff and the state police. They were right there to help. And I thought Mrs. (Gre-

ta) Thornsberry and her staff did exactly what they were supposed to do."

The Floyd County Board of Education approved a contract with the sheriff's department last year, permitting K9 Unit drug searches and other services for schools. Hunt said Floyd County teachers text him or his deputies directly when they need law enforcement help.

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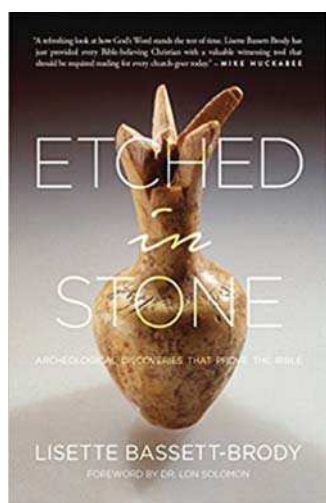
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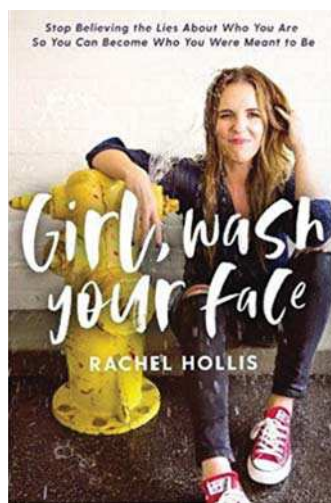
FAITH

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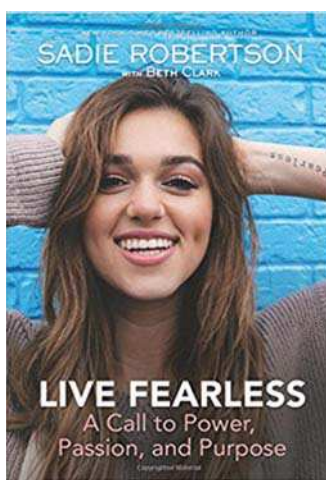
New book releases for February



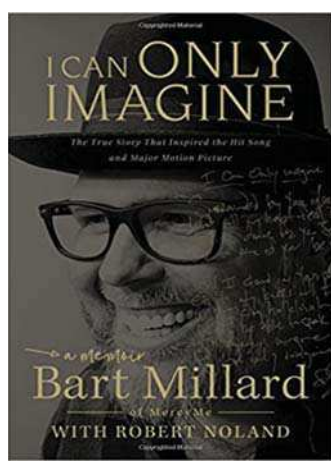
Etched in Stone: Archeological Discoveries That Prove the Bible
By Lisette Bassett-Brody



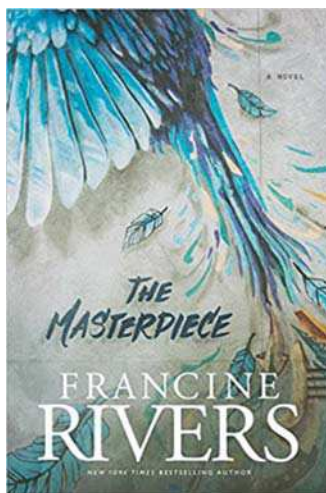
Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are so You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be
by Rachel Hollis



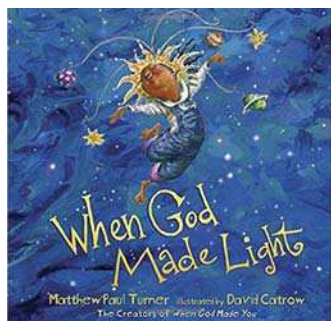
Live Fearless: A Call to Power, Passion, and Purpose
By Sadie Robertson



I Can Only Imagine: A Memoir
By Bart Millard



The Masterpiece
By Francine Rivers



When God Made Light
By Matthew Paul Turner (Author), David Catrow (Illustrator)

Three blessings

Modern psychology often confirms ancient wisdom. Much of the advice that has been empirically verified by the field of Positive Psychology echoes ancient philosophers, including the wisdom of the Bible. One of the clearest examples of this is the advice to be thankful and count your blessings. Researchers at the Positive Psychology Center at Penn have confirmed that the simple exercise of writing down three things that went well at the end of each day will improve the quality of your life. You will feel less depressed simply by focusing on the positive things in life, and by thinking about why things went well you set the stage for a more positive future. One easy way to do this is to start a journal, or even just start a document on your computer. You might title this journal or document "Three Blessings," or "Three Good Things" if you want a more secular title, and then simply list the three good things that happened to you (or which you did) and answer the question why for each one. The question as to why it happened is important because it forces us to reflect on the causes of these good things and helps us to repeat them.



— Christopher Simon

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits."
— Psalm 103:2 NIV

Local Church Directory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (IRENE COLE MEMORIAL)
157 S. Front Street, Prestonsburg, KY
606-886-8681
Pastor Dr. Jerry C. Workman
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.
Children's Choir – 6:30 p.m.
OTHER
Baptist Learning Center (1-5 years) Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PRESTONSBURG
660 North Arnold Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY
Minister Kevin G. Jett
SUNDAYS
Morning Worship – 11 a.m.
Sunday School/Junior Church – 11:30 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1430 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg
(606) 886-2214
Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Sanders
firstpresky@gmail.com
SUNDAYS
Sunday School for Children and Adults: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.

HAROLD CHURCH OF CHRIST
Beside Harold Primary Care, Harold
Phone: 606-438-2251 • 606-477-1407
Minister Willie Meade
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Youth Group – 5 p.m.

PLEASANT HOME BAPTIST CHURCH
55 Wrights Lane, Prestonsburg
Pastor Mark Tackett
Assistant Pastor Randy Polk
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study – 7 p.m.

PRESTONSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST
88 Ky Hwy 1428, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-6223
Minister Shawn Slone
SUNDAYS
Worship – 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Service – 7 p.m.

PRESTONSBURG SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
421 Jack Arnette Branch, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-3459
Pastor Tony Kelley
SATURDAYS
Sabbath School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m.
TUESDAYS
Evening Prayer Meeting – 7 p.m.

How can I aid in reaching people for Christ?



By JAMIE BECKETT
CHRONICLE & TIMES

What am I doing? Or rather what could I be doing?

How can I aid in reaching people for Christ?

I'm not exactly a social person or bubbling with personality. I'm quiet and reserved. I'm the one holding the walls up, not mingling with all of the people between the walls.

I need to get back to working with social media for the church, I told myself. It's something that I use to do. That I can do. It's working behind the scenes and it's in line with my work. (For those of you who don't know, I'm a graphic designer. I design some of the advertisements that you see in this newspaper.) I use to routinely schedule posts for our church's Facebook page and Twitter account. However, I gradually got away from it. Quite frankly, since I sit in front of a computer all day, the last thing

I wanted to do when I went home was sit in front of a computer and do more work. So, gradually, I quit posting.

Lately, I've been telling myself I have to do better. I have to do more for the church. I'm not doing enough.

On Sunday, when I came home from morning worship, I sat down in front of my computer and starting scheduling Facebook posts for the upcoming week. I shared verses from the sermon that morning, taking me roughly halfway through the week. I needed the evening service to pull me through the remaining days left. I started Googling and looking at Pinterest for inspiration. I came across an old post on a website called The Creative Pastor. There was an article titled "Thirty Churches To Follow For Social Media Inspiration." I started visiting the social media sites of those on the list. I was inspired and yet a little depressed. I found some interesting ideas from other churches across the country. However, it also made me think that everything I had just lined up to post for the week needed to be redone. They were boring in comparison.

I hadn't thrown in anything special. No artwork. I had simply shared items from the sermon. But just glancing at all these various posts, I thought perhaps I could have added a little "oomph." I could have put some creativity into it. I didn't have time to make adjustments then. I was still "researching" content posted by the other half of the churches on the list. Plus, I still needed to eat dinner and get to evening services. However, seeing what other churches were doing made me realize I could make some adjustments and improvements in the future. I could do better.

The real question is, even if I do this, will it make a difference? Will anyone even notice? And will any of these items actually reach people? Will it resonate with them? Will it make them stop and think? Will it make them question if they're on the right path in their relationship with Jesus? Will it make them

consider dropping by for service? Listening to a service? Participating and being an active member in the church? Ultimately, that's what it's all about. It's about developing a relationship with Christ and living a life for Him. Regardless of what a post may say or share, it's just a post. It has to be followed by some type of action. I may be overwhelming myself by all these questions. Perhaps I just need to focus on the current. The current being getting the posts out in order to reach people. I can build upon that. And hopefully in the process, the content will build the faith of someone they reach. Will it be successful? I don't know. But I don't know if I don't try.

What are you doing today to reach people? I'd love to hear your ideas.

Jamie Beckett is a graphic designer at Appalachian Newspapers, Inc. You may reach her at ads@news-expressky.com

...everything I had just lined up to post for the week needed to be redone. They were boring in comparison.

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Three-time Dove Award winner Chris August bringing solo tour to MAC

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD
CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Popular contemporary Christian artist Chris August will make a stop on his solo tour in Prestonsburg on Sunday, Feb. 25.

The acoustic performance will take place in the Willard & Lucy Kinzer Theater at the Mountain Arts Center (MAC). It will be his first appearance at the Eastern Kentucky venue.

August is a veteran of the Christian and contemporary scene as he has played and performed with Tobymac, Mercy Me, Matt Maher, Big Daddy Weave, David Crowder Band and has performed on the KLOVE Christmas Tours. After a skateboarding accident in 2012 left him dependent on medication, he wasn't sure which way to turn. While he did wean himself off of medication, it was while he was

on tour with Big Daddy Weave that he became an eyewitness to healing and redemption. This soon became the bedrock of August's 2015 award-winning album — "The Maker."

The title song from "The Maker" peaked at No. 1 on the Christian Inspo charts. August is a three-time Dove Award winner, winning in the following categories: Male Vocalist, Pop/Contemporary Album and New Artist. He has been featured on magazine covers of CCM and Christian Review. His history includes three number one hits in "Starry Night," "Restore" and "The Maker."

An acoustic evening with Chris August will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by visiting, www.macarts.com, or calling, 1-888-MAC-ARTS.



Submitted Photo

Jablonski reaching goals with help of BSCTC

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD
CHRONICLE AND TIMES

We all think about our future and working in our desired career. Leanna Jablonski was no different. She started high school at Pike County Central High School in 1999 with dreams of becoming a nurse, but life had other plans.

Leanna soon found herself working at gas stations and in fast food restaurants, far from her dream job, and it began to get old. She received help from the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP), which helps families find jobs or get training that leads to a job and provides financial and medical assistance to dependent children in Kentucky. With their help, Leanna soon found her way to the Ready to Work/Work and Learn program at Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) where she met Work and Learn Case Manager Anna Sanders. With Anna's help in the Ready to Work program, Leanna had earned her Medicaid nurse aid certificate with the Accelerating Opportunity Kentucky (AOKY) program that enabled her to enroll in college courses while concurrently working with Adult Ed to earn her GED, which she earned by April of 2017.

"I have three kids, 13, 11 and 10 and I wanted a change," she said. "I wanted to get my GED for my kids."

She didn't stop at getting

her GED.

"We { Sally Porter and I } saw her drive and determination and we mentioned our new Fast Path program, and she was eager to sign up," said Kelli Chaney, dean of Workforce and Economic Development and BSCTC's Pikeville Campus coordinator.

Healthcare Fast Path is a new program started by BSCTC that trains students in certified nurse aid (CNA), phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, basic life support for the healthcare worker and medical terminology program in partnership with a local hospital that gives students an opportunity to get a job. Leanna had become a CNA, earned her GED, completed the Fast Path program and landed a job nearby all within 6 months.

"Kelli, Sally and Anna have all supported me 100 percent since I started this program, and without the Fast Path program I don't know that I would have finished all of that," said Leanna. "I am planning on starting back at Big Sandy to get the prerequisites for the nursing program so I can achieve the dream I've had since I was a little girl of becoming a nurse. I would recommend this program to anyone. It is a great opportunity."

For more information about the Fast Path program or to register for classes at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, visit bigsandy.kctcs.edu or call, (606) 886-3863.



Submitted photo

Leanna Jablonski helps a student during BSCTC's Workforce Solutions Career Craze Summer Youth Camp. Upon receiving her CNA license from BSCTC, she plans to return to obtain a nursing degree.

ARH announces scholarship winners

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND
TIMES STAFF REPORT

Appalachian Regional Healthcare recently released the names of eight students who earned scholarships as ARH Scholars Award winners, and half of them are from local communities.

"This round's eight recipients were selected from a very

diverse, competitive group of people who are all extremely passionate about their healthcare career choice," a press release from ARH said. "All share a common ground: wanting to have a lifelong role in building and maintaining healthy communities."

The list includes two Floyd County residents, Sarah Akers of Wheelwright, who attends

the University of Pikeville, and Andrew Maxwell of Teaberry, an ARH employee who attends Hazard Community & Technical College. It also includes Pike County resident Carissa Dotson of McAndrews, who attends the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy and Perry County resident Jennifer Turner of Buckhorn, an ARH employee who attends

Hazard Community & Technical College.

The ARH Scholars Award program offers financial assistance for "standout" college students who are seeking careers in healthcare. It provides \$5,000 for tuition at the recipient's college of choice and mentors to work with the students to help them complete their education.

ARH, a nonprofit health system, serves residents in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. It launched the ARH Scholars Award program last year, providing scholarships to ARH employees and their families. This year marked the first time that the awards were open to the public.

BSCTC announces President's, Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Dr. Sherry Zyika, Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) president and CEO recently announced the President's and Dean's Lists for the 2017 fall semester.

To qualify for the President's List, students must be enrolled full-time at BSCTC (completing 12 or more hours) and maintain a 4.0 grade-point average (GPA). Floyd County students named to the President's List include: Kaitlyn B. Allen, Shantz Dylan Allen, Adrianna Cheyenne Blackburn, Tonya Lagreene Boyd, Olivia Lynn Branham, Hazel Collins, Kanisha L Compton, Timothy Bert Davis, Gabriel Lucus Garza, Taylor Renee Greene, Brianna Paige Hall, Christopher Lee Hall, Nicholas D. Hall, Ryan Hall, Garrett Addison Hammonds, Jessica Queen Hill, Gabriel Alexander Kidd, Matthew Craig Kidd, Haley Nicole Maines, Kayla Marsillett, Elizabeth Jean Mcdaniel, Kateland Elizabeth McDonald, Kelli Renee Mullins, Christen Ellen Murphy, Destiny Lekee Niece, Johnathan E. Niece, Colby Preston O'Bryan, Summer Lea Ousley, Mariah Dawn Patel, Elizabeth Katelan

Prater, Kimberly Ellen Prater, Blake A Ratliff, Caitlyn Dawn Ratliff, Kayla Richardson, Casey Leann Rogers, Amy Nicole Romans, Ashley N. Salisbury, Brianna Salyer, Alexa Elizabeth Scott, Vanessa Jean Slone, David Brodey Smith, Jessica R. Smith, John Gordon Stephens, Michelle Rae Stepp, Amber Nicole Stumbo, Dustin Heath Stumbo, Lauryn A. Stumbo, Megan D. Stumbo, Chariti Amber Tackett, Sarah Elizabeth Thomas, Lindsay Shea Wallen, Jeremy Gordan Whitaker, Matthew Keith Williams and Amy L. Wittenmyer.

To qualify for the Dean's List at BSCTC, students must be enrolled full-time at BSCTC and maintain a 3.5 GPA. Floyd County students named to the Dean's List for the 2017 fall semester include: Jordan Alexis Adkins, Brittany Dawn Akers, Nathan Tyler Akers, Sarah Danielle Akers, Ashley Nicole Allen, Kaitlyn B. Allen, Shantz Dylan Allen, Gwen Arnett, Rachael Michelle Bailey, Nathaniel L Bishop, Adrianna Cheyenne Blackburn, Alexandria Nicole Blackburn-Smith, Tonya Lagreene Boyd, Olivia Lynn Branham, Meghan Reece Bryant, Taylor Brooke Castle, Dakota Shawn Chaffins, Justin Dwayne

Cody, Tabitha Faye Coleman, Hazel Collins, Kanisha L. Compton, Curtis Dale Conn, Elizabeth Montana Cordle, Jennifer Lynn Damron, Bradley Wheeler Davis, Timothy Bert Davis, Cole D. Derossett, Seth C. Dingus, Logan Alexander Dotson, Misty Lee Duff, Nancy Faithe Dye, Kaylie Lynn Edwards, Gabriel Lucus Garza, Shawn Michael Glime, Caitlyn Leighann Goble, Tamea Marie Goble, Taylor Renee Greene, Brianna Paige Hall, Christopher Lee Hall, Joshua Kenneth Hall, Kage R. Hall, Maranda Lynn Hall, Nicholas D. Hall, Ryan Hall, Elizabeth Hamilton, Garrett Addison Hammonds, Seth Emit Hammonds, Cheyenne Elizabeth Harmon, Jason Austin Hastings, Teiona Hatfield, Shaelynn Jade Hicks, Jessica Queen Hill, Gina Renee Holbrook, Devan Ray Horn, Abigail B. Howell, Cameron Keith Howell, Isiah Connor Iricks, Ashley Breann Isaac, Jacob A. Ison, Donnie R. Jarvis, Alisha S. Johnson, Jacob Louis Johnson, Kaitlyn D. Justice, Kobe Braxton Justice, Gabriel Alexander Kidd, Kaitlin R Kidd, Matthew Craig Kidd, Latosha Nichole Lafferty, Madison B. Lafferty, Dalton Jacob Lawson, Allison Paige Lemaster, Na-

talie M Lester, Dawson Bradley Lewis, Alexandria Brooke Little, Breanna D. Little, Christopher Neil Little, Steven Douglas Little, Haley Nicole Maines, Kayla Marsillett, Elizabeth Jean Mcdaniel, Kateland Elizabeth McDonald, Samantha Nicole Mendes, Chelsey Caitlynn Moore, Jacob Blaine Morris, Barbara Ray Morrison, Brody Z. Mullins, Carla Jean Mullins, Kelli Renee Mullins, Christen Ellen Murphy, Stephanie R. Music, Katelyn Dawn Nelson, Isabel Paige Newsome, Morgan Brooke Newsome, Destiny Lekee Niece, Johnathan E. Niece, Colby Preston O'Bryan, Amanda A Osborne, Summer Lea Ousley, Rebecca Diana Owens, Devin N. Parsley, Kelsey I Parsons, Mollie Grace Parsons, Mariah Dawn Patel, Jordan Blake Patton, Breanna Nicole Prater, Drema Lea Prater, Elizabeth Katelan Prater, Kimberly Ellen Prater, Brandon Scott Presley, Madison G Rainey, Blake A Ratliff, Caitlyn Dawn Ratliff, Kayla Richardson, Matthew Mickale Roberts, Sonya D. Roberts, Sean K. Robinson, Casey Leann Rogers, Amy Nicole Romans, Kellie Elaine Runyon, Ashley N Salisbury, Brianna Salyer, Alexa Elizabeth Scott, Austyn Thomas Shep-

herd, Keelie Shae Short, Emily Slone, Madison F Slone, Shayenne Cutis Slone, Vanessa Jean Slone, David Brodey Smith, Jessica R Smith, McKinly Grace Smith, Kaley M. Spradlin, Larry Scott Stapleton, John Gordon Stephens, Michelle Rae Stepp, Hannah Grace Stratton, Amber Nicole Stumbo, Dustin Heath Stumbo, Kimberly Reed Stumbo, Lauryn A. Stumbo, Megan D. Stumbo, Katelynn Renae Sturgill, Addison Rili Tackett, Chariti Amber Tackett, Derek Houston Tackett, Layton Douglas Terry, Aurora Thacker, Sarah Elizabeth Thomas, Britany Paige Thornsbury, Hannah Leann Thornsbury, Shelby Towles, Davonna Nicole Wallen, Hayley B Wallen, Lindsay Shea Wallen, Larry L Wells, Meredith Isabelle Wells, Emily Belen West, Jeremy Gordan Whitaker, Joshua Alan Williams, Matthew Keith Williams, Rachel Gabrielle Williams, Bailey Dewayne Wright, Kelly R. Wright and Amy L Wittenmyer.

BSCTC places students on the President's and Dean's Lists following the end of each semester.

Floyd 4-H to start 'Shooting Sports' team

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Cooperative Extension's 4-H program is looking for children who want to compete in Shooting Sports.

Floyd County 4-H invites youth between the ages of nine and 18 to an organizational meeting for its new Shooting Sports team. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the extension office, and the

parents of these youth are required to attend.

Heather J. Coleman, who oversees 4-H Youth Development at the extension office, said she tried to start a shooting sports team last fall, but only three children attended. She needs at least 10 kids to sign up in order for the program to move forward.

If the team is organized, it will mark the first shooting sports team that the Floyd County 4-H has had in eight years. Cole-

man said the children of coaches who previously participated "aged out" of the program and no other coaches volunteered.

This year, four people from the Dewey Lake Fish & Game Club have volunteered to coach the 4-H shooting sports team. If enough kids sign up, Coleman said those coaches will receive training in March and the team will start hosting monthly meetings at the fish and game club after

that time. These coaches will offer instruction in four of the following shooting sports: archery, air pistol, air rifle, 22 rifle, pistol, shotguns and black powder guns.

Participation is free, and a child's age and his or her parent recommendations will determine which shooting sport he or she may participate in. The extension office will be raising funds to cover costs associated with the program.

"It's free to be a

member, but we'll have to fundraise to get equipment, if kids don't already have bows or equipment. If they already have their own, they can use their own."

The shooting sports team will compete in local counties and at the state level, and fundraising is expected to offset travel costs associated with those competitions as well.

Coleman encourages children between the age of nine and 18 who

are interested in shooting sports to attend the organizational meeting.

"It teaches them hunter safety, gun safety and responsibility," she said.

She said being a part of a team will also develop their leadership and communication skills.

If school is cancelled due to bad weather, the meeting will be rescheduled.

For more information, call Coleman at, (606) 886-2668.



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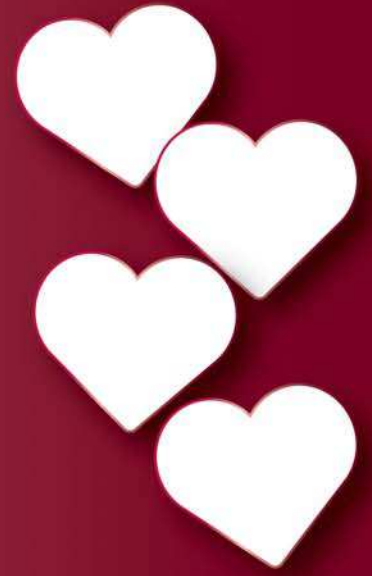
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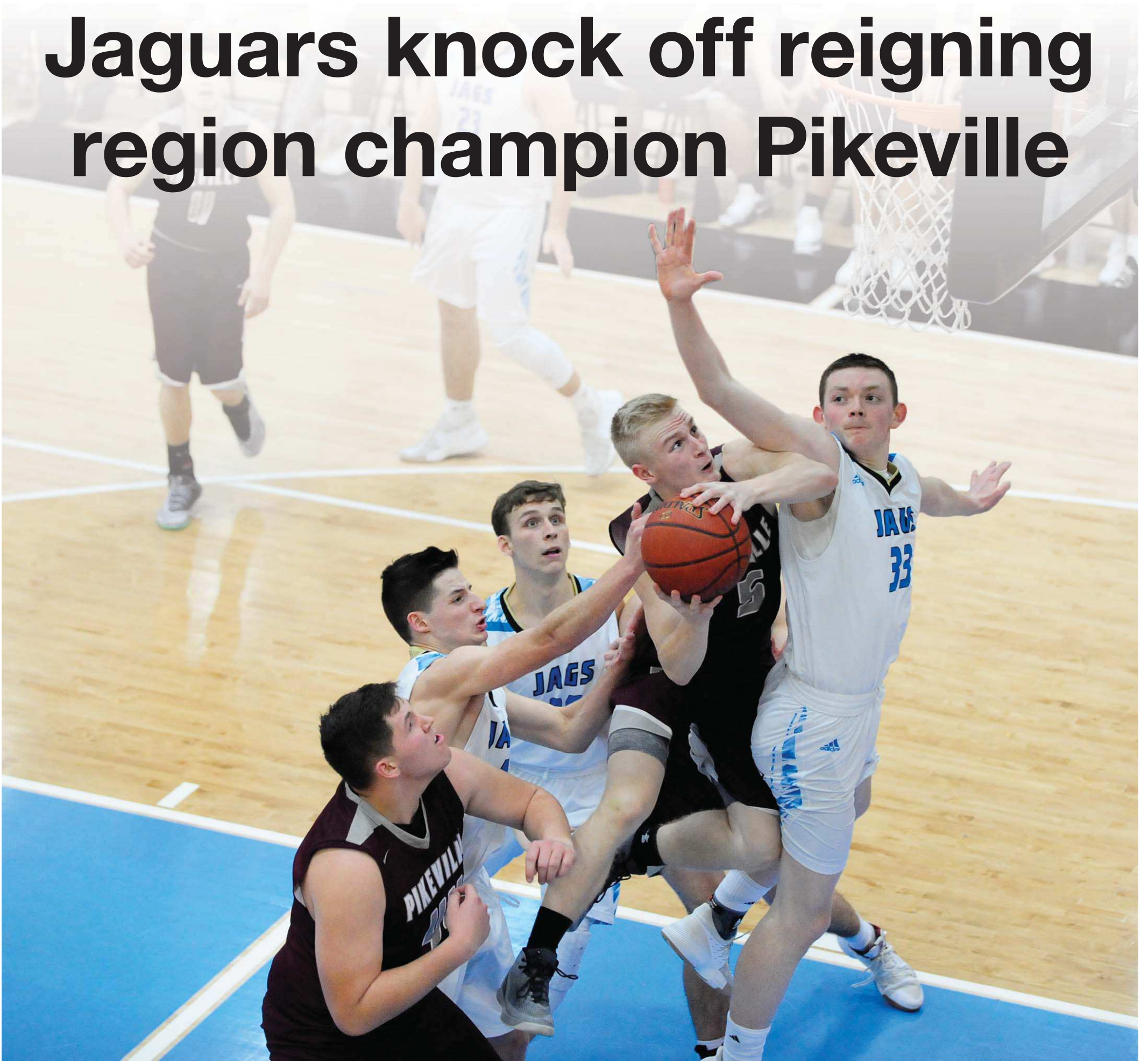
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Jaguars knock off reigning region champion Pikeville



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central's Kyle Isaac looks to deny Pikeville's Evan Rhodes at the Panthers' goal in the second half on Tuesday night. The Jaguars were able to pick up a 58-49 win over the Panthers.

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Floyd Central returned to the win column in a big way on Tuesday night, defeating visiting Pikeville 58-49 in a highly-anticipated boys' high school basketball game.

The Jaguars, under the direction of head coach Kevin Spurlock, opened the game on a 14-0 run and never allowed reigning 15th Region champs Pikeville to take a lead nor pull even. Floyd Central dealt Pikeville its third loss in four games.

With the win, Floyd Central improved to 13-8.

Pikeville dropped to 15-6 with the loss.

Floyd Central avenged a loss to Pikeville from earlier in the season. Playing on a neutral floor, Pikeville topped the Jaguars 71-63 in the Traditional Bank Holiday Classic at Lexington Catholic High School on December 29.

Prior to hosting Pikeville, Floyd Central dropped a game on the road at Paintsville over the weekend.

"It was a nice bounce-back win after a bad loss versus a very good Pikeville team," said Floyd Central coach Kevin Spurlock. "Our team needed this type of win and hopefully we can build off of it. We got off to a good offensive start and played pretty stellar man-to-man defense during the first half. They made some adjustments during the third quarter versus our defense and made a run which we knew they would. We then went to our zone and it seemed to stem the tide and get us back settled and allow us to hang on and get the win."

Following the 14-0 start, Floyd Central led 16-8 at the conclusion of the first quarter and took 31-16 a lead into halftime.

Remaining out in front after intermission, Floyd Central led 45-36 at the end of the third quarter.

Floyd Central shot 44.2 percent (23 of 52) from the field. The Jaguars were four of 12 (33.3 percent) from three-point range.

See **JAGUARS**, Page 7B



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Floyd Central's Cameron Nelson looks to drive the lane versus defending 15th Region champion Pikeville on Tuesday night.

Lady Jaguars turn back Betsy Layne, 62-57

Katie Moore records triple-double in Floyd Central's win

By **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Katie Moore recorded a triple-double to lead host Floyd Central past Betsy Layne 62-57 in a 58th District girls' basketball game last Friday night.

With the win, Floyd Central improved to 11-6 overall and 4-1 in the 58th District.

Betsy Layne dropped to 6-13 overall and 2-3 in the district with the loss.

Floyd Central shot 35.5 percent (2-of-62) from the field. The Lady Jaguars were four of 12 (33.3 percent) from three-point range.

Floyd Central shot 60.9 percent (14 of 23) from the free-throw line.

The Lady Jaguars edged Betsy Layne 47-45 in the rebounding column.

Moore scored 18 points, dished out 10 assists and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Lady Jaguars in the district win.

Seventh-grader Abby Maggard scored a game-high 20 points for Floyd Central in the triumph over Betsy Layne.

Floyd Central, which is under the direction

of head coach Justin Triplett, featured three scorers in double figures.

Accompanying two of her teammates in double figures in the scoring column and recording a double-double, Kaylee Moore delivered 10 points and a team-high 11 rebounds.

Floyd Central led 18-13 at the conclusion of the first quarter and 31-28 at halftime, but Betsy Layne wouldn't go away. The two 58th District rivals were deadlocked 41-41 at the conclusion of the third quarter.

Maggard, one of the state's top young girls' high school basketball players, banked in a three-point field goal at the buzzer to allow the Lady Jaguars to pull even before the final quarter started.

Grace Martin scored eight points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Lady Jaguars in the winning effort.

Rounding out the Floyd Central individual scoring, Kimberly Akers contributed four points and Brook Stumbo chipped in two points.

Betsy Layne, which suffered its fourth straight loss, shot 34.4 percent (22 of 64) from

the field. The Lady Bobcats were two of five from three-point range.

Betsy Layne shot 57.9 percent (11 of 19) from the free throw line.

Both Megan Frazier and Destiny Compton recorded double-doubles for Betsy Layne in the setback. Frazier scored a team-high 18 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Continuing to help provide Betsy Layne with one of the best tandems in the 15th Region, Compton scored 10 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for the Lady Bobcats.

Caroline Ariaz, Allie Jarvis and Lauryn Watkins chipped in eight points apiece while Katie Kidd added five points for the Lady Bobcats in the setback.

The Floyd Central and Betsy Layne girls' basketball teams split their first-ever regular-season series. Betsy Layne outlasted Floyd Central 75-73 in overtime in the 58th District rivals' first meeting at the Dome on January 12. The Lady Jaguars and Lady Bobcats could meet again in the postseason.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster
Katie Moore recorded a triple-double in Floyd Central's 58th District win over Betsy Layne.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster
Floyd Central's Kimberly Akers and Betsy Layne's Megan Frazier each work for rebounding position during the 58th District girls' basketball game in Eastern.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster
Floyd Central's Grace Martin delivers a putback for the Lady Jaguars during a 58th District girls' basketball game.

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Lady Blackcats upend Wolfe County, 73-58



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Cory Vance

Reesce Endicott, pictured playing in a home game earlier in the month, scored 24 points in Prestonsburg's victory over host Wolfe County on Tuesday night.

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

CAMPTON — The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats returned to the win column on the road on Tuesday night, defeating host Wolfe County 73-58 in a non-district girls' high school basketball game.

With the win, Prestonsburg improved to 7-14.

Wolfe County dropped to 9-10 with the loss.

Reesce Endicott and Alivia Slone combined to lead visiting Prestonsburg to the win. Endicott scored 24 points, dished out three assists and grabbed two rebounds for the Lady Blackcats. Slone, one of the top young players in the 15th Region, scored 22 points, distributed four assists, pulled down three rebounds and recorded a game-high six steals.

Prestonsburg featured three different scorers in double figures. Accompanying Endicott and Slone in double figures and recording a double-double, Nicole Burchett scored 12 points and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds for the Lady Blackcats.

First-year Prestonsburg head coach Brandon Kidd was proud of his team's performance in the neighboring 14th Region.

"This was a great win for us and our program," said Kidd. "Winning on the road is always hard, but anytime you can go

on the road outside of your region and pick up a win it is a great accomplishment."

Prestonsburg, which returned to the win column following back-to-back losses to Sheldon Clark and 57th District rival Lawrence County, shot 50 percent (28 of 56) from the field. The Lady Blackcats were five of 11 (45.5 percent) from three-point range.

Prestonsburg shot 70.6 percent (12 of 17) from the free-throw line.

Alison Campbell (nine points, three assists), Celine Mullins (five points) and Madison Rainey (one point, eight rebounds) aided Prestonsburg in the win.

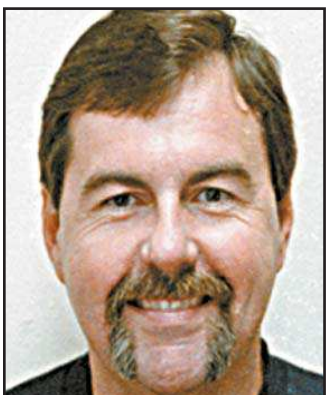
Kidd confided that his team played one of its best games thus far this season.

"We finally put a complete game together," commented Kidd. "We are now playing for each other instead of ourselves and it's starting to show."

Kidd took over a program with a depleted roster and has a chance to exit the regular-season near the .500 mark.

"This is such a special group of girls," said Kidd. "With all the adversity they faced before the season even started they came out every day and put in the hard work to get better and prove people wrong. I believe they have done that and I am so proud to be their coach."

Calm before the storm



Racin'
Steve Mickey

Long-time fans of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series will remember January was the month when the media gathered in Charlotte for the annual media tour that gave race teams the opportunity to put their best foot forward as they put their drivers and sponsors on display. It was a multi-day event that saw the media travel from race shop to race shop to be cuddled before the season got underway in February.

Usually by the time the media tour got underway there was little "new" news to be released as most teams had both their driver and sponsor lineups set for the new season. You have to remember it was January and little news had been coming out from the sport since the end of the season and every writer was looking for a story line that just might become the talk of the early season.

To go along with the January media tour, the series also would play host to its annual Daytona test sessions. Every

team in the sport would roll into the Daytona International Speedway for a couple of days of testing with their primer painted cars that only adorned a number and a primary sponsor decal.

It was finally time for the teams to see what they had with their restrictor plate cars and a chance to see how any of the rule changes would affect their cars. The only problem with the test sessions was trying to figure out which drivers and teams were holding something back and which teams might be leaving Daytona knowing they had to go back to their shop and find some more speed in their car.

NASCAR cut back on how much testing was being permitted in the sport and the January test sessions were one of the first casualties. Organizations now have the means to simulate testing conditions in their shops and with the help of engineers the data collected is used to set a baseline for the teams when they unload in February.

The media tour that just concluded last week is not the circus that it once was but it still seems to be the kickoff of the new season. Many of the stories that we will read between now and the green flag waving to begin the Daytona 500 will have their roots go back to the information gathered as the caravan of writers moved from shop to shop.

PIT NOTES: One subject that did come up several times during the media tour was questions being raised about how to change up the schedule. This is nothing new as the tweaking of the schedule is a yearly ritual as everyone seems to have an opinion. There will be some changes this season as Richmond and Las Vegas will be part of the ten-race playoff schedule and for the first time there will be a road course in the play-off as Charlotte Motor Speedway's October race will be run on what it is calling a roval as the layout will use much of the track's oval track to go along with the track portion located in the infield. Another change that has been knocked around for several years is the moving of some race weekend dates to a midweek date. Even the All-Star race that has been in Charlotte for years has become somewhat of a topic of debate as there has been talk of the non-points race being held at a different track or changing the race from its own weekend on the schedule to being added as part of a points race weekend on the schedule. All of these changes sound good and all probably have some merit for change to be made but it is not that easy as there are TV partners that must be kept happy and tracks that have worked for years to build up their weekend to their fans.

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Don't spend what you don't have. Learn by observing how others respond to situations. Don't let anyone talk you into something that will cause stress or disrupt your personal life. Keep the peace and offer suggestions, but don't go overboard or take on more than you can handle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) - If you want to help someone, take on physical, not financial, responsibilities. A practical approach when dealing with others will help you avoid being roped into something you don't want to do.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - A financial opportunity will not live up to your expectations. Dig deep and you'll discover any flaws that could alter your progress. Consider the pros and cons before moving forward.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Good fortune and opportunity will be dependent on how hard you work. Call in favors if it will help you secure your position or ensure that you are dealt with fairly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - It will be easy come, easy go if you don't protect what you have and refuse to get involved in risky ventures. Avoid joint ventures and people making unrealistic promises.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Listen to what others have to say, but also be reluctant to stand in someone else's shadow. Trust in your abilities and put your energy into reaching your goal, not into promoting someone else.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Working alongside someone who feels the same way you do will encourage positive changes at home and to your lifestyle. A creative endeavor will bring you great pleasure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Talks will lead to

DAILY ASTROGRAPH
by Eugenia Last



new beginnings. Express your ideas to someone you love to get a sense of the best way to move forward and accomplish your personal goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Take care of your work responsibilities and do your best to get along with your peers. An energetic approach to home improvement projects will encourage you to host a party.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Don't stifle your feelings when you can let them inspire you to strive for bigger and better results. Use your intuitive intelligence to help you make wise changes that will improve your personal life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - Honesty will be required when dealing with your view of yourself and your capabilities. Ask a trusted friend to evaluate your skills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Keep your personal thoughts and information a secret. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too open about your feelings. Don't give in to emotional blackmail.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - If you put more energy into establishing your personal and professional positions, you will find a path that will ensure that you reach your goals.

TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY:

- Each column has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each row has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each 3x3 Box has to have numbers 1 to 9

														8
9						6	4							
		4	5										9	
		1							5					
		8	3	2							7			
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		6				1				5	3			
2			6	8										

All answers are in today's Mingo Messenger

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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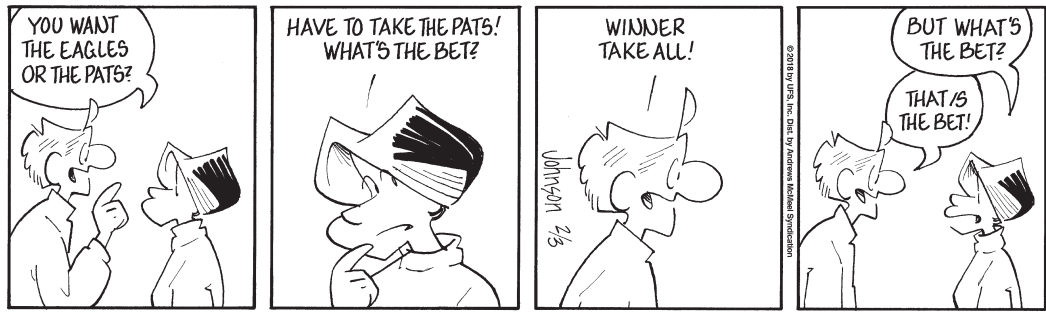
ACROSS

- 1 Nightfall
- 5 Melanges
- 10 Metal fastener
- 14 Castaway's refuge
- 15 Insurance giant
- 16 Radius neighbor
- 17 Blissful spot
- 18 Turned toward
- 19 Rock's "cushion"
- 20 Amber
- 22 Flounder kin
- 24 Per
- 27 Ms. Redgrave
- 28 Place to dance
- 32 Monks' quarters
- 36 Suffix for press
- 37 Went with
- 39 Like pagodas
- 40 Ruby and Sandra
- 42 Soprano counterpart
- 44 Veer off-course
- 45 "Wayne's World" pal
- 47 Dangled a carrot
- 49 Tooth-puller's org.
- 50 Lamb specialty
- 51 Hushed
- 53 Full extent
- 56 "Auld Lang --"
- 57 Groom, maybe
- 61 Dams' counterpart
- 65 Post-kindergarten
- 66 Princess topper
- 69 Beach scavenger
- 70 Dow uptick
- 71 Chain mail
- 72 Big Island port
- 73 Chirp
- 74 Move a fern
- 75 Hitch in plans
- 26 Package tour feature
- 28 Barely move
- 29 Circle sizes
- 30 Lascivious looks
- 31 Some are for wine
- 33 Fragrant shrub
- 34 Magna cum --
- 35 Golfer Sam --
- 38 A Day in Hollywood
- 41 Hoarding away
- 43 Be certain of
- 46 Hoopla
- 48 Wildlife refuges
- 52 Nickers
- 54 Vow venue
- 55 Bete --
- 57 Seeks change?
- 58 Jai --
- 59 Goatee spot
- 60 Sloping walk
- 62 Rack and --
- 63 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 64 Long tiring walk
- 67 Tigger's friend
- 68 Gallery display

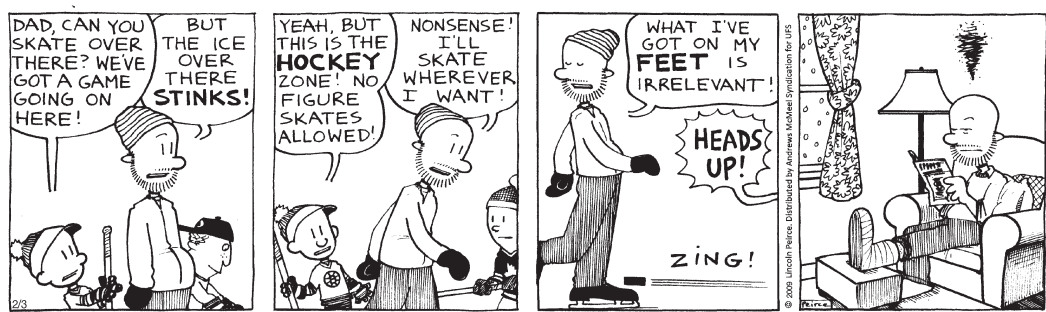
DOWN

- 1 Eat "lite"
- 2 Meat approver, for short
- 3 Knocked off
- 4 Where boxers are boarded
- 5 Lummo
- 6 Open meadow
- 7 Hankering
- 8 Tatum or Ryan
- 9 With regret
- 10 Frostbite symptom
- 11 Slugger Moises --
- 12 Part of MIT
- 13 Fraulein, to a laird
- 21 Unit of length
- 23 Machu Picchu founder
- 25 Blazer

ARLO & JANIS



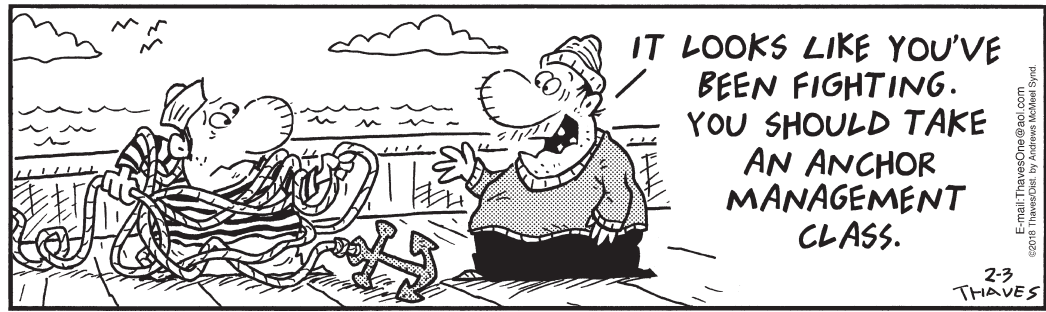
BIG NATE



BORN LOSER



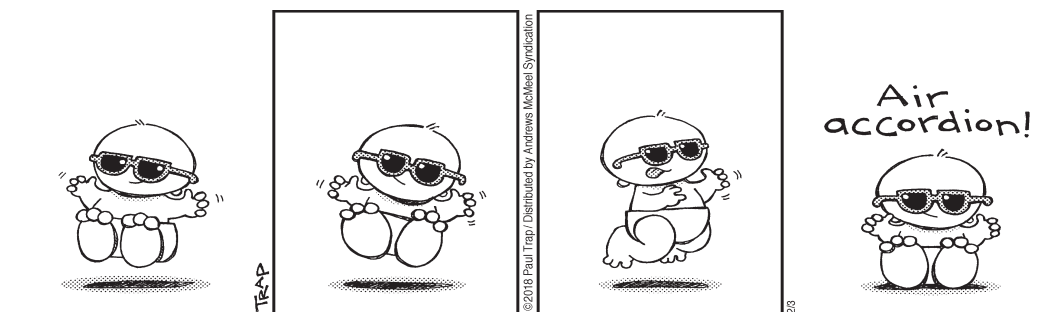
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WINTER SERVICE GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK: Many experts advise homeowners to keep their indoor home humidity between 40 and 60 percent for ultimate comfort. Dry air in a home can affect the structure of a home. Dry air will pull moisture from wherever it can be sourced, including wood structures in a home. This may cause walls and door jambs to shift and floors to creak. Central humidifiers work with the home's HVAC system. They are hard-wired and plugged into the system. Water vapor is introduced into the air that will be forced through vents throughout the house. These systems work on the whole house at once, making them quite efficient.

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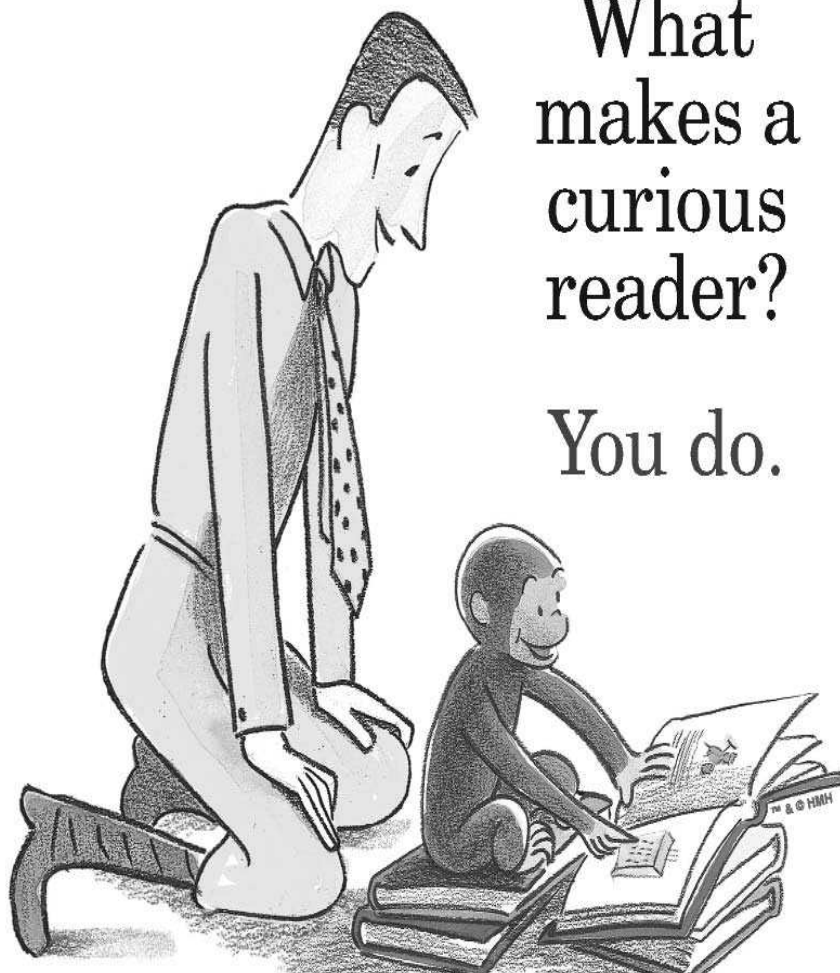
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JAGUARS

Continued From Page 1B

Floyd Central shot 57.1 percent (eight of 14) from the free-throw line.

JR Tackett led the Jaguars offensively, scoring a game-high 16 points. Tackett drained two of the Jaguars' four 3-point field goals in the victory.

Jake Collins, who was back in the Floyd Central starting lineup, followed with 13 points.

Recording a double-double for Floyd Central, Brady Conn scored 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Ethan Smith-Mills barely missed reaching double figures in the Floyd Central scoring column, netting nine points.

Also contributing offensively for Floyd Central, Kyle Issac and Cameron Nelson added three points apiece and Koby Slone chipped in two points.

Wyatt Battaile led Pikeville with a team-high 14 points. Battaile was the only Pikeville player to reach double figures in the scoring column.

Christian Billiter scored nine points while Evan Rhodes and Connor Roberts added eight points apiece for the Panthers.

Bradyn Hunter rounded out the Pikeville individual scoring, finishing with two points.

The Jaguars and Panthers aren't slated to meet again in the current campaign. Floyd Central and Pikeville could meet again in the postseason.



JR Tackett scored a game-high 16 points to lead host Floyd Central past Pikeville.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster



Floyd Central's Brady Conn (23) and Jake Collins (42) defended against Pikeville's Connor Roberts when the Jaguars and Panthers battled earlier in the week.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

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<p>4</p>	<p>12 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Mommy and Me Sewing Class 3:30 PM (P)</p>	<p>13 Martin Senior Center (B), Warco Apartments (B), Grigsby Apartments (B), AARP Tax Aide 9 AM - 4 PM (P), What's Cooking 10:30 AM (EB), Walking Class 4 PM (EB), Valentine Cookies 5 PM (P)</p>	<p>14 Cliffside Apartments (B), Wheelwright (B), Story Hour Valentine Party 1 PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)</p>	<p>15 Adventure Learning Academy (B), Morning Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Martin Senior Citizens Center Outreach, Walking Class 4 PM (EB), Women's Crafternoon 5 PM (EB)</p>	<p>16 Adams Middle School (B), Highlands Terrace (B), Teen Time 3:30 PM (P)</p>	<p>17 Trolls & Treasure Chests Registration Required</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Art With Gladys 11 AM (EB), Mommy and Me Sewing Class 3:30 PM (P), Book Club 5:30 PM (P)</p>	<p>20 Creekside Apt. (B), Ivy Creek Apt. (B), AARP Tax Aide 9 AM - 4 PM (P), Walking Class 4 PM (EB), Game Night 5 PM (P), Talk to the Hands 5 PM (EB)</p>	<p>21 Goble Roberts (B), Dixie Apartments (B), Story Hour 1 PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)</p>	<p>22 Adventure Learning Academy (B), Morning Story Time 10:30 AM (P), Mud Creek Senior Citizens Center Outreach, Mountain Comp (B), Walking Class 4 PM (EB)</p>	<p>23 Wayland (B), Garrett (B), Teen Time 3:30 PM (P)</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26 Bright Beginnings (B), Wesley Christian Schools (B), Mommy and Me Sewing Class 3:30 PM (P)</p>	<p>27 Martin Senior Center (B), Warco Apartments (B), Grigsby Apartments (B), AARP Tax Aide 9 AM - 4 PM (P), Dr. Seuss Magic Show 4 PM (EB), Talk to the Hands 5 PM (EB), Dr. Seuss Magic Show 5 PM (P)</p>	<p>28 Cliffside Apartments (B), Wheelwright (B), Story Hour 1 PM (EB), Afternoon Story Time 2 PM (P)</p>	<p><i>Sew Fun!</i> Mommy & Me Sewing Class Floyd County Library Every Monday at 3:30</p>	<p>Art With Gladys (Eastern Branch) Monday, February 19 11:00 AM (Sign-Ups Required)</p>	<p>18</p>

ANNOUNCE YOUR NEWS

Welcome Baby Smith



John Caleb Smith, the son of Aaron and Christy Smith of Allen was born Wednesday, December 6, 2017. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Dave and Thelma Ratliff of Allen and John and Dorothy Smith of Wheelwright, Ky.

Birth Announcements

All birth announcements for babies under 3 months are **FREE**.

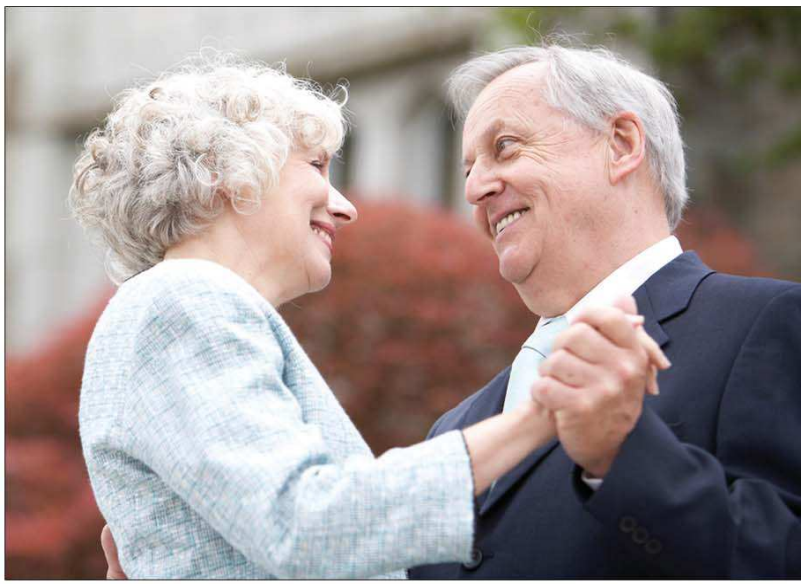
Celebrating Birthdays



The Prestonsburg Senior Citizen Center recently celebrated December birthdays. The guest of honor was Leslie Belcher. Belcher was celebrating her 88th birthday.

Senior Citizen Center Birthdays

All Senior Citizen Centers may announce their birthdays for **FREE**.



Celebrating 55 years

Larry and Jane Marcum of Martin celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on December 30, 2017 with a surprise party thrown by family and friends. The couple was married on June 23, 1962. Larry is a retired banker and Jane is retired from the Floyd County Board of Education. Mr. and Mrs. Marcum belong to the Martin Church of Christ where they are active members. They have four children, two sons and two daughters: Joe (Diane) Marcum of Martin, Frank (Judith) Marcum of Lexington, Anna (James) Richland of Archdale, NC, and Margaret (Joseph) Andrews of Lynchburg, Va. They have 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Wedding Anniversaries

All wedding anniversaries over 40 years, in addition to 10th and 25th anniversaries, are **FREE**.

Dotson-Simpkins



Mike and Cathy Layne Dotson of Prestonsburg announce the engagement of their daughter, Tara Renae, to Scott Michael Simpkins, son of Marvin and Lynn Robinette Simpkins of Williamson. The bride-elect is a 2011 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Kentucky in 2015. Simpkins is a 2011 graduate of Pikeville High School and a 2015 graduate of the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. A June wedding is planned in Prestonsburg.

Engagement

Announce your engagement in the Floyd County Chronicle for **FREE**.

Wedding

Announce your recent marriage. Weddings within 3 months are **FREE**.

Hatfield-McDaniel



Amy Michelle Hatfield and Chad McDaniel of Fort Bragg, NC, were united in marriage at six o'clock in the evening, Saturday, December 9, 2017 at the Maple Lane Farm, Fayetteville, NC. The bride is a graduate of Allen Central High School and attended Morehead State University. McDaniel is a graduate of Rowan County Senior High School. He serves as a Sergeant in the US Army. Following the ceremony, the couple left for a honeymoon in the Bahamas. They are residing in Fort Bragg.

CHRONICLE & TIMES

FLOYD COUNTY

To place your **FREE** announcement contact our office or mail P.O. Box 802, Pikeville, KY 41502.

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