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Weekend Edition, Dec. 7-9, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 98 • 20 PAGES • 50 CENTS

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New details emerge in BLHS gun case

Turner: Teenager who brought gun to high school in March threatened student days prior

By **MARY MEADOWS**
 STAFF WRITER

Monday.

The bond hearing was held on Dec. 3 in a felony case against Andrew Jacob Prater, 18.

Prater was 17 years old at the time he was

Details about an alleged threat to a Betsy Layne High School student emerged during a bond hearing held in Floyd Circuit Court on

See **GUN CASE**, Page 2A



Andrew Jacob Prater is escorted to a holding cell after a bond hearing was held in Floyd Circuit Court on Monday.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

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Storytime with Santa



The Floyd County Library's Prestonsburg branch hosted an evening with Santa Claus on Tuesday, featuring a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and pictures with Santa. Children received candy canes and free coupons for ice cream at Dairy Queen and chicken nuggets at McDonald's.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows

BSCTC plans to move dental program to Paintsville

College seeks \$28.2 million in funding for dental program expansion, other projects

By **MARY MEADOWS**
 STAFF WRITER

If a request by the Big Sandy Community and Technical College Board of Directors is approved and funded, the college's dental program could move from

See **DENTAL**, Page 6A

Printer pair charged with cooking meth

A **FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES** STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky State Police found an alleged meth lab at a home in Prater this week.

According to Floyd District Court records, Kentucky State Police Trooper Matt Martin determined through an investigation that methamphetamine was being manufactured at a home in Printer.

See **CHARGED**, Page 3A

Allen may have hired auditor, spent road aid; officials didn't know about it

By **MARY MEADOWS**
 STAFF WRITER

During a Dec. 3 Allen City Commission meeting, the mention of the need for grant funding brought out reports — to the surprise of commis-

sion members and the city attorney — that the city might have hired a certified public account to fix its delinquent audit issues.

And that wasn't the only thing the commission members and city

attorney expressed surprise about during Monday's meeting.

Some officials expected to receive quotes for paving work in the city, but they learned, instead, that the paving has already been done

and paid for.

On Thursday, however City Clerk Krystal Spurlock, who did not attend the meeting on Monday, said she does not believe the city has hired the auditor.

Allen may have hired an auditor without approval

Allen is required to conduct financial audits every odd-numbered fiscal year, and they must

See **ALLEN**, Page 8A

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GUN CASE
Continued From Page 1A

arrested in March for allegedly bringing a gun onto Betsy Layne High School property. Officials reported he had stopped attending that school several months prior to the alleged incident and had no business there.

His name was not publicly released until he was indicted by a Floyd County grand jury on Oct. 31 and his arrest warrant was filed on Nov. 13.

In the case, he faces felony charges of unlawful possession of a weapon on school property and first-degree wanton endangerment, misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving on a suspended license and a violation of minors not to possess or purchase alcohol.

During a hearing about the bond that should be set in this case on Monday, Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner explained why Prater was indicted on the wanton endangerment charge.

At the time of Prater's arrest, officials with the school district and the Floyd County Sheriff's Department reported that Prater did not threaten any student on the day he allegedly brought a gun onto school property. Turner explained in court Monday, however, that Prater allegedly threatened a

student with a gun days prior to the alleged incident.

"In this case what we have, judge, is the defendant was caught on school grounds with a handgun and ammunition in his car, along with \$360 in cash, digital scales and bags with traces of marijuana, which, I think was the basis, obviously, for the possession and the weapon charge," Turner said. "But, prior to that, and also, I think, under investigation at the time that this happened ... was an allegation that he had pointed the gun at a student there, maybe at the bottom of the hill there where the school is located, several days before this."

Turner said that alleged threat is why his office is seeking a substantial bond for Prater, who has been incarcerated about 30 days. He told Circuit Judge Johnny Ray Harris that the \$10,000 cash bond current set for Prater is reasonable in light of the charges in this case and public safety concerns.

Prater's attorney Athanasia Lewis, however, believes otherwise. She is seeking a reduction in Prater's bond

"Well, your honor, first off, Mr. Prater is adamant that he never pointed a weapon at anyone," she said. "Second off, he was free for a good four months prior to his indictment and had no actual occurrences during that time. His

whole entire family lives in this county, and is able to post a substantial bond."

She said that Prater is not a flight risk and is "entitled to a presumption of innocence."

She asked for a lower bond or home incarceration.

"Like I say, it's not an everyday charge that we have, and he denied that he pointed the gun at a student, but the student disagrees and the grand jury didn't believe that as well," Turner said. "At best, I think he was somebody who apparently was not a student who was coming to school to deal drugs while armed with a deadly weapon, which is not a great thing, if that's what he was doing. And worse, he could have had some ideas toward harming somebody."

He asked Harris to leave the bond as it is, mentioning problems with school shootings across the country, while Lewis emphasized that Prater is entitled to a presumption of innocence. She said his family could post a substantial property bond and would ensure he follows any bond conditions imposed.

Harris said he'd take the matter under submission. No ruling was filed in Floyd Circuit Court prior to print deadline on Thursday.

A pretrial conference is scheduled to be held in the case on Jan. 3.

Veterans giving back to veterans



Submitted photo

The Betsy Layne Disabled American Veterans Chapter 169 recently donated \$150 to the Veterans Transitional Housing center located at Shelby Valley. Additionally, the chapter donated \$150 to both the Lexington VA Medical Center and the Paul E. Patton Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center in Hazard. Pictured, from left to right: DAV 169 Adjutant Ken Hamilton, SV Veterans Transitional Housing Program Manager John Shaver and DAV 169 Commander Jerry Roberts.

Deputy: Teenager gave vodka to student, claiming it was water

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Betsy Layne High School student was arrested recently for allegedly bringing alcohol to the school and giving it to another student.

According to a citation filed on Monday in Floyd District Court, Jonathan C. Howell, 18, of Prestonsburg, was arrested on Nov. 29 and charged with one count of unlawful transaction with a minor, a misdemeanor.

Floyd County School Resource Officer Darrell Bradley, a deputy with the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, wrote in the citation that Howell

brought alcohol to school and gave it to another student on Nov. 29 while telling that student that it was "Raspberry water."

Bradley wrote that it was Raspberry vodka, 100 proof, per admission of Howell.

He was arrested at 2 p.m. at BLHS on Nov. 29. Bradley listed BLHS Vice Principal Terri Hall

as a witness in the case. Attempts to reach Hall, Bradley and other district officials were unsuccessful as of print deadline.

Howell was administratively released from custody by pretrial services.

He was ordered to appear in Floyd District Court on Dec. 12 for an arraignment.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Southern Water & Sewer District

Our regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, Dec. 24, 2018 has been rescheduled for **Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, at 5 p.m.**

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Marriages, property transfers filed in Floyd

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Several marriages and property transfers have recently been filed at the Floyd County Courthouse. They include:

Marriages

Darrel Parks, 68, of Prestonsburg, to Lillieann B. Neeley, 58, of Prestonsburg

Judy Lee Rice, 50, of Prestonsburg, to Jason Moses Wallen, 41, of Prestonsburg

Property transfers

Amanda Hall, Stewart Alan Hall to Carlos Elswick, Vicki Elswick (Deeds Book 641 pg. 637)
 Mary M. Katynski, Barbar Tierney to Charles M. Manik, Gregory A. Manik (Deeds Book 641 pg. 643)

Latasha Bryant Little to Jorne Marc Wasserman (Deeds Book 641 pg. 647)

Archie Wayne Stevens II to Joseph Stevens (Deeds Book 641 pg. 651)

Allen Keith Frasure, estate of Lois Eugene Frasure, Jeanie Frasure Hicks to Jeanie Frasure Hicks (Deeds Book 641 pg. 655)

Allen Keith Frasure, estate of Lois Eugene Frasure, Jeanie Frasure Hicks to Allen Keith Frasure, Jeanie Frasure Hicks (Deeds Book 641 pg. 660)

Allen Keith Frasure, estate of Lois Eugene Frasure, Jeanie Frasure Hicks to Allen Keith Frasure (Deeds Book 641 pg. 664)

Joavenell McCoy to Jeffrey McNealy, Jennifer Waters (Deeds Book 641 pg. 675)

Brent F. Little, Nellie Little to Garrett Fredrick Bouse, Samantha Kay Bouse (Deeds Book 641 pg. 676)

Sally Branham, Debra Burke, Johnny Burke to David May (Deeds Book 641 pg. 680)

Centex Home Equity

Loan Trust, Nationstar Mortgage, The Bank of New York Mellon to Jeffrey Collins; property in Prestonsburg

Suzanne Sellards, Danny Sellards to Margaret Holbrook, Thomas Holbrook (Deeds Book 641 pg. 685)

Maggie Banks, Tim Banks, Beverly Branham, Curtis Branham, Rhonda Branham, Roy Branham, Connie Estep, Steve Estep, Matilda Hinchman, Belinda Risner, Henry Risner to Eugene Branham, Mary Branham (Deeds Book 641 pg. 705)

and 699)

Bryan Hall to Lisa Hall (Deeds Book 641 pg. 712)

Allison B. Smith, Larry Smith, Adria Wright, David C. Wright to Christine M. Steele, Zachary Steele; property in Auxier

Linda Sue Kimbler Dunn to Larry Kimbler (Deeds Book 641 pg. 731)

Maggie Banks, Tim Banks, Beverly Branham, Curtis Branham, Rhonda Branham, Roy Branham, Connie Estep, Steve Estep, Belinda Risner, Henry Risner to Matilda Hinchman (Deeds Book 641 pg. 735)

Open house next week at BSCTC

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Big Sandy Community & Technical College is hosting an open house for its Adult Learner program next week, as well as a spring "Registration Blitz."

The public is invited to the open house, which will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the student center on the college's Prestonsburg campus.

The college offers several programs

and classes specifically geared to help adults who need to further their education to get a career, as well as GED classes for adults.

The college is also hosting a "Registration Blitz" for those interested in starting classes in the spring semester. That event will be open to prospective students from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 10-11.

For more information, call Tina Terry at, (606) 886-7374.

CHARGED

Continued From Page 1A

On Dec. 3, Martin arrested the occupants of that home, Randall Ratliff, 44, and Pamela S. Hall, 34, charging them with manufacturing methamphetamine, first-degree possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of meth precursor.

Martin alleges in the citations that upon speaking to Hall, who was a passenger in a traffic stop, he learned that there were "several one step labs" in her home.

Hall granted troopers consent to search the home, Martin reported, and she accompanied Martin and other troopers to her home, where Ratliff was located.

"Upon speaking with him, he advised that he did have a little bit of crystal meth that was finished product from his last 'cook,'" Martin wrote. "The subject retrieved the small clear bag from his bedroom and gave it to me."

Martin claims that there were several "one-step labs" throughout the home, as well as products used to make the illegal drug.

The troopers called the DESI East (Drug Enforcement Special Investigations) for a cleanup of the residence, Martin reported.

"Upon speaking with Randall he advised me that he had been making crystal meth for the last year, and was cooking approximately one a week during that time period," Martin wrote. "He stated to me that he had everything needed to cook except for the 'cold pills.'"

Martin reported that Hall said she did not cook

the meth, but knew it was happening in the home.

"(The) female stated she had not cooked, but was aware that Ratliff was cooking and he and her both would go to buy the precursors and cold pills," Martin wrote. "(She) stated she was aware of the ingredients used to make the product. Through investigation it was discovered to drugs were at Hall's brothers residence whose girlfriend used and cooked crystal meth as well."

Martin noted in the citation that Hall's brother granted consent to search his residence. It doesn't appear that charges were filed against him, however.

Ratliff and Hall were arraigned by District Court Judge Eric Hall on Tuesday. Hall placed both of them under a \$25,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 10.

Trooper Zach Bryson and Trooper Derek Coleman also assisted in this case.

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PMC REHABILITATION CENTER TREATING MORE PATIENTS WITH NEW EQUIPMENT AND ADDED SERVICES

By: Amy Charles

The Outpatient Rehabilitation Department at Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) recently installed a specialized piece of equipment designed to test and treat balance, mobility and vestibular (dizziness and vertigo) deficits in patients. Balance disorders are serious health concerns impacting many people.

Patients at PMC with balance, mobility and dizziness problems can now be tested on the SMART EquiTest system. The same technology used to measure equilibrium on NASA shuttle crews pre- and post-flight is now available to assess and treat patients with balance related problems.

The SMART EquiTest system collects and translates data in two ways. First, it utilizes a dynamic force plate that can rotate while the patient stands on it. The plate quantifies the vertical forces exerted through the feet to measure center of gravity. Second, a visual surround and screen also move to measure a patient's use of visual information to maintain balance.

The machine administers a computerized assessment and is analyzed on-site and interpreted by therapists, to determine impairment and treatment necessary. It assesses the functional capacity of the coordination of the eyes (visual), inner ear (vestibular) and muscles and joints (somatosensory). Outpatient Rehabilitation receives referrals from audiologists and other physicians, especially ENTs.



"The SMART EquiTest system aids in vestibular testing and rehabilitation," explained Vice President of Rehabilitation Services, Debbie Puckett. "In combination with experienced and trained physical therapist, Kenneth Hensley, we are now capable of finding strategies to retrain motor control and vestibular system to help improve balance."

Outpatient rehabilitation has grown over 42 percent over the last three years, now seeing an average of 90-100 patients per day. Technological advancements are just part of the reason why.

This remarkable piece of technology completes the already impressive lineup of rehabilitation equipment that includes the HydroWorx aquatic therapy pool.

"The pool is really amazing and patients of almost any age and diagnosis can use it," said Director of Rehabilitation Services, Linda DeRossett. "The floor goes up and down allowing therapists to adjust the depth of water to accommodate any size patient, even pediatrics. Therapists can even roll wheel chairs into it."

Other features include an underwater treadmill and cameras. Patients can use their own buoyancy to aid them in walking on the treadmill. Therapist use the camera to view the patient's feet and legs to analyze their technique.

Astym therapy is another specialized treatment administered by physical therapist Cherry Rivera. She uses tools that stimulate different parts of the body to regenerate healthy soft tissues (muscles, tendons, etc.), especially the feet. This treatment also helps to eliminate or reduce unwanted scar tissue that may be causing pain or movement restriction.

Inpatient physical rehabilitation, located on the 10th floor of PMC's May Tower, has also seen steady growth since its opening in 2003, providing services to approximately 8000 patients during that time. In the last four years, inpatient rehab has grown 19 percent, treating nearly 600 patients last year alone.

Strict Medicare criteria must be met for a patient to qualify for inpatient rehab. However, PMC still receives transfers regularly from other facilities to be rehabilitated here. In the past 12 months PMC has received almost 100 patient transfers from 30 different facilities, which translates to 20 percent growth over last year.

"We naturally get patients from surrounding counties for rehab," said Puckett. "If you begin treatment at another facility and want to come home for rehab, PMC can get you here if you meet the criteria."

Notable pieces of rehab equipment on the inpatient side include the Lokomat and the ArmeoSpring, both made by Swiss manufacturer, Hocoma.

The Lokomat is a robotic treadmill training system that uses a body weight support system to suspend individuals while their legs are attached to robotic legs that assist with basic walking functions. The ArmeoSpring is specifically suited for patients who are beginning to regain active movement of the arm and hand. By providing arm weight support and com-



puterized biofeedback, the ArmeoSpring enables patients to use any remaining motor functions and encourages them to achieve a higher number of reach and grasp movements based on specific therapy goals.

Both of these devices are perfectly suited for patients trying to regain motor functions from injury or illness such as stroke.

"The most common patients we see on the tenth floor are stroke, trauma, fractured hips, spinal cord and brain injuries, neurologic diseases and debility," said Director of Inpatient Physical Rehabilitation, Myra Stephens.

Staff size has also grown over the last several years to keep up with patient numbers. Both inpatient and outpatient rehab departments are made up of physical therapists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, rehabilitation nurses, nurse aids and a social worker on the physical rehabilitation units. PMC also has two physical medicine rehabilitation specialists, Dr. Milton Calima and Dr. Sankar Chirumalla.

All speech language pathologists are certified in VitalStim therapy. The VitalStim Therapy System involves the administration of small, electrical impulses to the swallowing muscles in the throat through electrodes attached to the skin overlaying the muscles. Through patient evaluation, the therapist determines which muscles would benefit from this facilitation.

"This is how you know PMC really cares about its patients," explained Puckett. "PMC invests in specialized training for its employees and the latest technology for the patients."

A new speech language pathologists has just been hired to meet the rapid growth of PMC's speech rehabilitation services.

For more information, call 606-218-3500 or visit pikevillehospital.org.



A LIVING TESTIMONY OF PMC'S REHABILITATION CARE

By: Amy Charles

Tami Sloan, 50 of Wheelwright, is a true success story of both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation at Pikeville Medical Center (PMC).

She was brought to Pikeville Medical Center exhibiting symptoms of a stroke in January of this year. Unfortunately, for her, PMC was the third hospital she and her husband, William, had visited for care. The first two facilities, dismissed her symptoms as an allergic reaction and mental illness. This delay in diagnosis and treatment meant that rehabilitation would be more difficult for Tami.

Within minutes of entering PMC's emergency room, Paul Weinberger, MD, emergency medicine physician assessed her situation and ordered diagnostic testing to properly diagnose the stroke. PMC is a certified Primary Stroke Center, meaning the physicians and staff of the Emergency Department, and throughout the hospital, are specially trained in identifying the signs and symptoms of stroke in patients.

"Dr. Weinberger knew what was going on after only asking me a few questions," explained Tami. "Twenty minutes from the time I came in, he was already figuring out that I was having a stroke."

When her test results came back, the stroke was confirmed. Tami was experiencing a brain stem stroke in the pons; a type of stroke that only four percent of people survive. The brain stem handles basic functions like breathing, swallowing, heart rate, blood pressure, sleeping. The pons is about the size of your thumb. Director of PMC's Primary Stroke Center, Naveed Ahmed, MD, took charge of Tami's neurologic care.

"The first few days I was in the hospital were a blur," Tami said. "Dr. Ahmed was very honest with me and William, telling me that I was fortunate to be able to communicate, but that I may not live through this."

Tami took that advice to heart and used as much of the following days with her husband, children and grandson, saying everything she needed to. But her health began to improve little by little. She was going to live, but her left side was paralyzed from the stroke.

Tami was admitted to the PMC's 10th floor for inpatient rehab for 10 days. There, Occupational Therapist, Rachelle Glass helped her learn to put her shoes on and bath and care for herself again. Physical Therapist Tracey Tipton helped her learn to get in and out of a car and eventually walk again with the help of a hemi-walker. Her biggest motivation was her four-year-old grandson, Raylan.

"Raylan was my inspiration through it all," said Tami. "Helping take care of him would remind me of why I needed to walk again and get better."

Her husband William built her a home-gym for her to use. Every time she went to physical therapy, William would see what equipment Tami was using and would make sure she had something similar at home to continue the techniques she was learning.

"William is a big part of why I'm still here," Tami said. "He pushed me to keep up with my exercises at home, even when I didn't feel like it."

When Tami was well enough to be discharged, she continued her treatment at PMC's Outpatient Rehabilitation Center. These bi-weekly visits have helped Tami to refine her motor skills. Physical Therapist, Whitney Tyree and Occupational Therapist, Susan Mozena have helped Tami re-learn how to help prepare meals, button clothing, apply her makeup and even style her hair.

"I can't praise the therapists enough. They push you to do the best you can," said Tami. "They even prayed with me. They are truly the best. I believe that God gave them to me to help me get better."

William remarked that his wife's therapists did not treat her like it was their job. They treated her like family and he appreciated that tremendously.

"As a Stroke Neurologist, I am amazed at how each patient presents, but I am very happy for the patient and family when the recovery from the stroke is good," said Dr. Ahmed. "Tamara has been one such patient who, with God's grace, has done so well working with our wonderful physical and occupational therapists."

The Sloan's are very grateful for the care that Tami received at PMC. She will be here for another year to enjoy the holidays with her children, Cheyenne and BB, and the rest of her family.

"The care that she got here was priceless," William expressed. "If you even think you might be having a stroke, you need to come to PMC to be seen. She is a living testimony of that."

"This facility is top-notch and I would advise anyone to come here," said Tami. "I couldn't have gotten better care anywhere else. Without these ladies I would not have made this much progress. They deserve all the credit for helping me come this far," Tami added. "They are more than my therapists, they are like family and I love them."

The administration at PMC makes sure that the rehabilitation departments have the very best diagnostic and therapeutic equipment available to patients.

Tami will continue outpatient rehabilitation visits through December. Afterwards, her progress will be reevaluated to determine if treatment will continue.

Please visit www.pikevillehospital.org for more information about PMC's Rehabilitation Services.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

McConnell owes coal miners an answer as clock runs out on tax for black lung victims

Lexington
Herald-Leader

Kentuckians bringing a plea for victims of black lung to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will have a hard time being heard above the clamor of coal industry money — more than \$2 million poured into federal races in the last two years by Alliance Resources CEO Joe Craft alone.

Unless Congress acts, a tax on coal production that pays medical and other costs for black lung victims and their dependents will be slashed at the end of this month.

The industry opposes renewing the tax at its current rate. If the industry wins, the Black Lung Disability Fund would lose 55 percent of its funding. The trust fund, already

\$4.3 billion in debt, would have to borrow even more from the Treasury to meet its obligations.

In other words, taxpayers would assume the coal industry's responsibility to miners who contracted a fatal respiratory disease in workplaces where dust control was too often inadequate, if not an outright fraud.

In a cruel paradox, black lung in its most severe form is rising among miners as the coal industry declines in Central Appalachia.

Among underground miners in Kentucky who have worked 25 years or more, 17 percent have coal workers' pneumoconiosis or black lung, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the highest rate in almost 30 years. Among

longtime miners in West Virginia and Virginia, black lung is even more prevalent, while the rate in other states is 5 percent.

Central Appalachian coal is bringing about \$79 a ton on the spot market. Since 1986, domestically-sold coal has been taxed at a per-ton rate of \$1.10 for underground and 55 cents for surface-mined to support the black lung trust fund. Congress has renewed that rate several times, most recently in 2008. If Congress fails to renew it, the tax would revert to 50 cents and 25 cents per ton, plunging the trust fund \$15 billion into debt by 2050.

It's easy to imagine members of Congress demanding cuts in black lung benefits or eligibility, as happened in 1980, to curb that spiraling debt.

After all, McConnell recently said the "single biggest disappointment" of his 35 years in the Senate is failing to trim Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which he called "the real driver" of the national debt. McConnell conveniently overlooked the Republican tax cut that he helped shepherd through Congress a year ago that will fatten the debt by \$1 trillion over 10 years.

Coal industry donations for congressional races topped \$7 million over the last two years. Craft put \$1.1 million into helping elect Republicans last month, including late donations in Senate races important to McConnell. In addition, a revocable trust that shares Craft's initials and one of his addresses in Tulsa, Okla. gave \$1 million to McConnell's super

PAC, the Senate Leadership Fund.

Earlier this year, the National Mining Association put out misleading information about the trust fund's health, only to have its disinformation exposed by a study by the Government Accountability Office.

About 25,700 miners and survivors receive health care and monthly cash assistance of \$650 to \$1,300 through the trust fund, which was established 40 years ago to cover miners whose employers no longer exist. Even if all their benefits were stopped next year, the GAO estimates the trust fund would still be more than \$6 billion in debt in 2050. Raising the tax rate by 28 cents for underground coal and 14 cents for surface-mined

coal would eliminate the debt by 2050.

Speaking in Pikeville in October, McConnell told reporters, the trust fund would "be taken care of before we get into an expiration situation."

More recently, he's been mum, omitting any mention of black lung victims from his priorities for the 115th Congress' final days, stressing instead the need to confirm more Trump nominees to the bench and other posts.

A one-year extension of the black lung tax is included in a House tax package that has little chance of moving.

The miners, their families and friends who trekked to McConnell's offices in London and Washington, D.C. on Nov. 29 at least deserve an answer.

GUEST COLUMN

United, we thrive

By **JEFF VANDERBECK**
PUBLISHER,
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

\$52 million in upgrades at Pikeville Medical Center were announced and the only official from the county who was in attendance was Pike County Attorney Keith Hall. Not one magistrate, not the judge nor the deputy judge-executive were in attendance.

One might argue that its past the election and they don't need the votes to get re-elected, which will not hold water. They have either missed or have not been invited to many announcements over the years, even

during election season. They are incompetent and are a speedbump on the highway to progress.

In the audience, and welcomed by PMC CEO Donovan Blackburn, was Pike County Judge-Executive-elect Ray Jones. I didn't see any of the newly-elected commissioners there though, which is not a good start.

City officials from Pikeville, Coal Run and even Prestonsburg were in attendance. Current Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale was there, in another capacity, but he was there. It's clear that PMC is attempting to break down county and city barriers while

they are expanding services. And with Ray Jones at Pike's helm in another month, this can only be good for this county and region.

The press conference was used to inform the public of many new services and expansions that PMC will have or are in the process of going through. In the announcement was a new heart institute, a lab expansion where work stays in the facility and is not contracted to another state. Clinic expansions/constructions in Martin, Whitesburg and South Williamson were announced, as was a new primary care center at the hospital. They will

bring back their billing and coding department in-house, which will be located at the Landmark. And, the crowd roared when they heard the El Azul will be relocating to the Landmark as well. Ay, dios mios!

PMC will be moving their administration offices to another building to make way on the campus for a children's hospital. And on the second floor they announced a soon-to-open coffee shop. They couldn't divulge the name of the national chain that will be housed in the coffee shop, but could it potentially rhyme with Marbucks? Just a guess.

These new projects will provide jobs, expanded services and tax base revenue, all of which are

desperately needed. The city will clearly benefit from this, as will the county. Also benefiting will be patients of not only PMC, but everywhere else also, as PMC will raise the bar in healthcare services and offer assistance to other entities that may not have the advancements that PMC does.

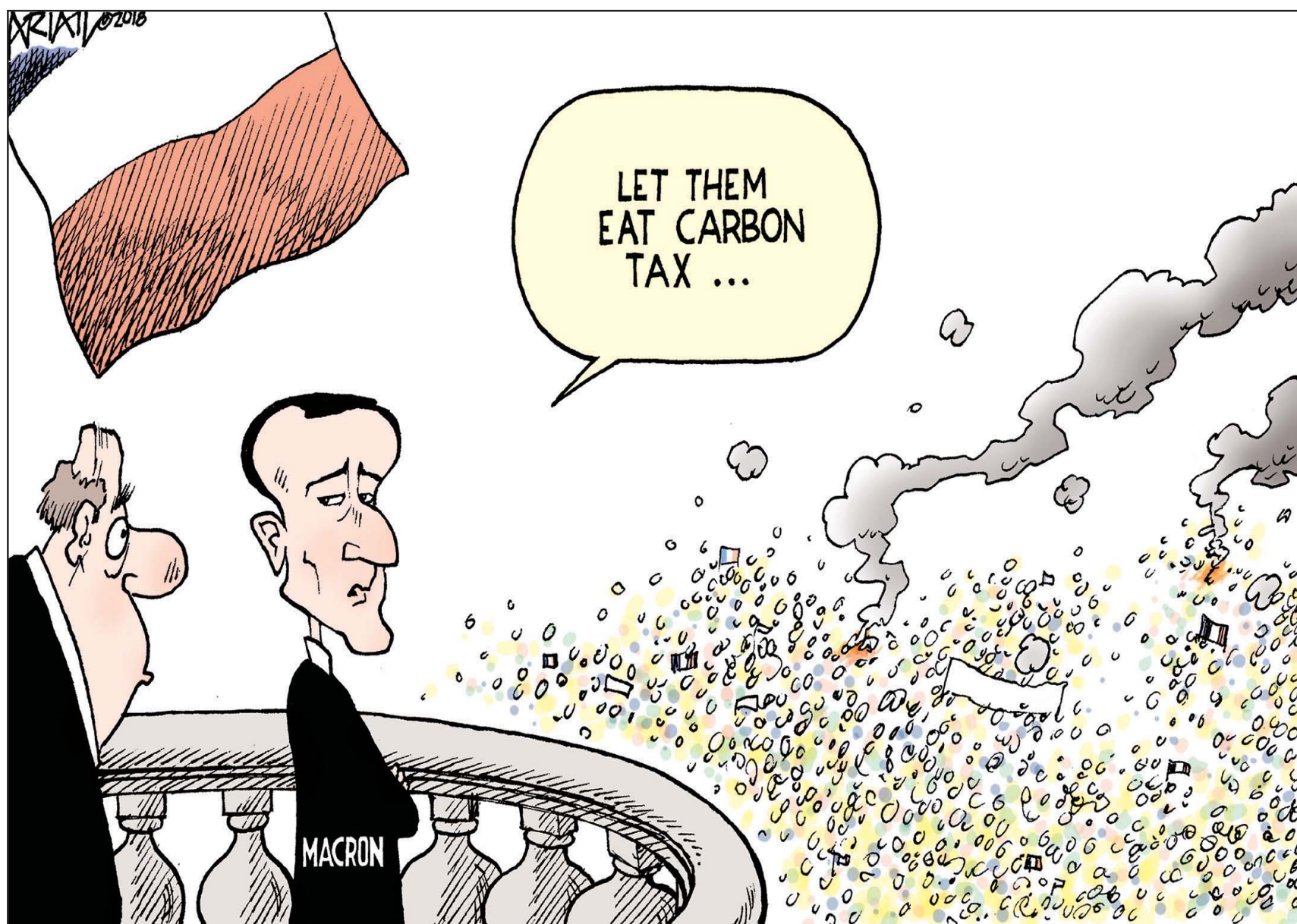
While there will be a large amount of money spent on these projects, I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. I think you will see additional expansions and services provided by PMC in Pike County and the region. And with the help of the newly-elected officials who clearly understand that if the county is to survive, we need PMC to continue to grow and expand, I can see more of

this coming soon.

I can speculate by saying that you will see PMC and Jones work together to offer more facilities in remote parts of the county where health care is desperately needed, but that would be mere speculation. I can also speculate that, with the influx of Enerblu and the number if people they will be bringing to the region who will have healthcare needs, PMC, the county and the region will prosper.

Like the Gipper told Gorbachev to tear down the wall, this region needs to do the same. We get little help and respect from the rest of the state and, if we are to thrive, we need to band together and get behind these projects and work together for mutual Eastern Kentucky prosperity.

Thanks for reading the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*.



CHRONICLE & TIMES

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Several charged in Floyd District Court

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Charges were filed against several people recently in Floyd District Court, and there were also lawsuits filed in Floyd Circuit Court. The cases include:

Felony cases filed

Charles Collier, 40, of Sitka; flagrant nonsupport

Sonya J. Risner, 52, of Salyersville; theft by unlawful taking over \$500

Matthew Gooslin, 37, of Leicester, N.C.; theft by unlawful taking over \$500

Byron Rister, 38, of Paintsville; flagrant nonsupport

Nathan Colby Bartley, 38, of Dana; first- and second-degree promoting contraband

Sasha Huff, age unavailable, of Combs; flagrant nonsupport

Randall Ratliff, 44, of Printer; manufacturing methamphetamine, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of meth precursor

Pamela S. Hall, 34, of Printer; manufacturing methamphetamine, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of meth precursor

Carla Forsyth, 25, of Harold; first-degree promoting contraband, possession of drug paraphernalia

Candy Ann Compton, 31, of Wheelwright; first-degree promoting contraband, possession of drug paraphernalia

Misdemeanor cases filed

Steven A. Moore, 39, of Mallie; fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

Greg L. Shepherd, 39, of Prestonsburg; fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

James P. Allen, 55, of Prestonsburg; fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

Timothy Thomas, 27, of Blue River; fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

Nikki Spurlock, 29, of Printer; fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

Kristina Marsillett, 35, of Prestonsburg; two counts of fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

Leah Head, 37, address unavailable; contempt of court

Kenneth Spriggs, 37, of Pikeville; driving under the influence, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in proper container

Burnis Newsome, age unavailable, of David; harassment

Susan Bentley, age unavailable, of David; harassment

Josh Moore, 35, of Hi Hat; fourth-degree assault

BJ Woods, 28, address unavailable; third-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia

Nathan C. Bartley, 38,

of Dana; driving under the influence, possession of drug paraphernalia

Jimmie Moore, 58, of David; driving under the insurance, driving on a suspended license, failure to maintain insurance, no registration receipt, no registration plates, first-degree disorderly conduct, menacing

Byron Rister, 38, of Boons Camp; public intoxication of a controlled substance, disorderly conduct

Gregory Short, 50, of Garrett; public intoxication of a controlled substance, disorderly conduct

Chad Hall, 21, of Wayland; public intoxication of a controlled substance

Brenda Little, 51, of Blue River; endangering the welfare of a minor, second-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in proper container, public intoxication of a controlled substance

Traci Newsome, 27, of Minnie; theft by unlawful taking under \$500

Chad E. Allen, 46, of Garrett; alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest

Jonathan C. Howell, 18, of Prestonsburg; unlawful transaction with a minor

William Robert McCarty, 36, of Hager Hill; fourth-degree assault, menacing (inmate)

Amanda Rose Stephens, 36, of Allen; driving under the influence, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, no registration plates, no registration receipt, failure to produce insurance card, improper equipment

Ashlie Swiney, 34, of Paintsville; public intoxication of a controlled substance

Robin Lynn Henson, age and address unavailable; contempt of court

Joshua B. Robinette, 33, of McDowell; theft by unlawful taking under \$500

Lawsuits filed

MTAG vs. Christopher Justice, unknown spouse, unknown occupants, Tax Ease Lien Servicing, Floyd County; foreclosure

Willard Johnson vs. Jamie Johnson, Connie Smith; property damage complaint

Prestige Financial Services vs. William Click, Melissa Click; complaint concerning contract

Donald Hatfield, Aaron Tackett vs. Thomas Farmer; personal injury complaint

John V. Case vs. Haskel N. Salisbury; personal injury complaint

Jasmine M. Horn vs. Brenda C. Hamilton; personal injury complaint

Editor's note: The above list reflects people who are charged in Floyd District Court and those listed in lawsuits in Floyd Circuit Court. The charges and lawsuits filed against them are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent or not liable until proven guilty.

DENTAL

Continued From Page 1A

Prestonsburg to the Mayo campus in Johnson County in a few years.

During a meeting on Dec. 4, the board unanimously approved a strategic needs analysis to seek funding and approval from the state for that expansion, as well as several other projects BSCTC officials hope to complete over the next few years. The plan was approved as part of the college's biennial budget request process.

Collectively, the funding requests for these projects are expected to total more than \$28.2 million, with the projects scheduled to span from 2020 through 2023.

Chief Financial Officer Michelle Meek presented the proposals ranked in order of priority for the college's needs.

The first request was a \$1.5 million plan to upgrade and renovate the welding shop on the Mayo campus, a project that the college plans for the 2020-2021 budget cycle. Meek said the shop is "very outdated."

"The current facility is inadequate," she said. "The shop was constructed in the 1950s and has had no facility upgrades since its construction."

Documents provided to the board say that the welding shop is inadequate in regards to space, ventilation, lighting and electrical availability, making it difficult to accommodate current and anticipated enrollment there.

The dental program expansion ranked second on the list of priorities and it's slated for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Meek said the college is seeking a \$3 million grant for the project. She said moving the dental program from Prestonsburg to the Mayo Campus would provide more space to expand the program and upgrade equipment.

Documents provided to the board say that expansion would provide adequate space, updated equipment and other needs that are required by federal laws and the college's accreditation guidelines.

The dental program change was the only needs assessment proposal that prompted questions from board members. Myra Elliott, dean of academic affairs, told them that the Mayo campus has the infrastructure needed.

"We're wanting to expand it to a teaching, I mean, a testing center as well, and the facility at Mayo already has the water supply and things under the floor, so it was a cheaper way for us to

build there, for one thing. But the space is just perfect," she said.

The third project on the list of priorities is a proposed \$20 million project for preventative maintenance and preservation of facilities at BSCTC.

If state funds are awarded for this project in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, BSCTC plans to upgrade HVAC systems on all campuses, replace six roofs and make other renovations and repairs. The plan also calls for upgrade to the sewage waste disposal plant and filtration system at Hager Hill, Meek reported.

The final project approved as part of the needs assessment is a plan to upgrade infrastructure, safety and technology at BSCTC. The college will seek \$3.7 million in state funding for this project in 2022-2023.

If approved, the funds will be used to upgrade infrastructure, sidewalks, parking lots, security systems and technology at all campuses.

BSCTC programs, accomplishments highlighted

During the meeting, the board also approved seeking approval to add the Mountain Arts Center and local high schools as off-site teaching facilities. The college plans to offer a certificate program in recording, sound engineering and related industries at the MAC and certified nurse aid programs at local schools.

BSCTC President/CEO Dr. Sherry Zylka gave an update on several programs and accomplishments BSCTC has realized since her tenure began in January.

She said the college will be offering new programs in its sustainable agricultural certificate program, beginning next spring, with the first course being a dual credit program with Johnson Central High School.

She said the SkillsU grant has expanded into two counties, with Elliott saying the department has just opened on the Pikeville campus, with staff interviews underway, and is fully functional now in Magoffin County.

The SkillsU program is an adult education program that also helps people who are working to

obtain their GED get into the workforce. Elliott said participants will be employed and getting their GED at the same time.

The board recognized Kelli Chaney, head of the college's workforce program who was recently hired as president of a college in Tennessee.

"So, we're sad to see her go, but we're proud of her and all that she's accomplished," Dr. Zylka said.

Chaney talked about the Digital Careers Now program, for which BSCTC, Southeast Community & Technical College and Hazard Community & Technical College received a \$3.5 million grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The program is geared to train people for remote jobs in health-care, information technology and other careers.

Several other programs were also highlighted, including the college's CDL truck driving program, which Zylka said had a 100 percent pass rate.

Zylka also praised student services staff for reducing the college's default rates.

She explained that community colleges risk losing federal funding if they have a default rate of 30 percent or more for three years or more. She reported that Southeast Community & Technical College "was in that position" but got assistance from US Senator Mitch McConnell "so that the school wouldn't close down."

She said BSCTC's default rate at has been "hovering" at 28 and 29 percent, and she challenged student services staff to get it under 25 percent. The default rate is now 24.3 percent, she reported, saying, "A lot of hard work went into it; a lot of attention was paid to it." Board members commended the effort.

During the meeting, John Herald, dean of IT and facilities, talked about a consulting group that evaluated emergency and utilities services at the college. He reported BSCTC could save \$406,000 annually to make energy efficiency improvements that include upgrades to lighting, HVAC and other areas at all campuses. As part of the project, solar panels will be installed on

the Johnson Building on the Prestonsburg campus, he said. BSCTC will use the savings it realizes from the program to repay a \$5 million loan over a 14-year period, he said.

Meek presented a financial report, detailing the college's unrestricted fund balance — highlighting funds used for operations at BSCTC.

The report shows the college gained 60 percent of the revenue it has budgeted for the 2019 fiscal year and spent about 42 percent of it. The balance was more than \$21.8 million as of Nov. 30, Meek reported, and the college has received more than \$13.7 million in revenues and spent about \$8.8 million.

"I think we are on target. We're doing well," she said. She expressed concern about a decrease of about \$600,000 in fall tuition revenue, saying that it's too early to tell what the enrollment in spring will be.

Meek also reported that the college has about \$2.4 million in its prior year fund, and officials spent more than \$435,000 of those funds to address some non-recurring instructional needs that were not addressed in the BSCTC budget.

Explaining how the college determines its funding priorities, Zylka said "money's still tight," and talked about how officials are looking at the how population declines and outmigration in the region could impact enrollment. She said programs like SkillsU will help address the issue, as well as other programs the college offers.

Zylka presented a request to the board of regents this week to get approval to name the new technology center in Pikeville in honor of Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers. She said a ceremony probably won't be held until Feb. or March, depending on Rogers' schedule.

Johnson County resident Kayla Rice, who works in the college's admissions and records department, was sworn in as a new board member at the meeting. Philip Elswick was re-elected as chair; Karen Sellers was elected as vice chair and Lisa Kirk was elected as secretary.



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NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING APPLICATION OF SOUTHERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT FOR AN ALTERNATIVE RATE ADJUSTMENT

In accordance with the requirements of the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("PSC") as set out in 807 KAR 5:0001, Section 9(2)(b), notice is hereby given to the customers of the Southern Water and Sewer District that a hearing has been ordered by the Kentucky PSC to investigate issues related to water loss and indebtedness but not limited to these purposes.

The hearing will be held December 18, 2018 at 9 AM in Hearing Room 1 of the Public Service Commission offices at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, KY.

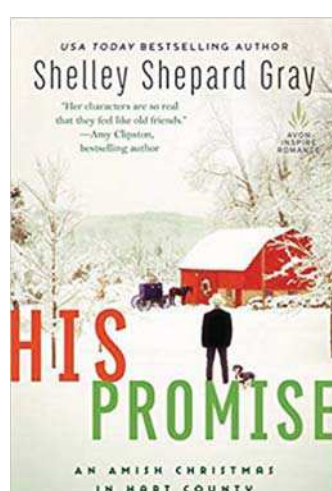
This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov

Book releases for Christmas



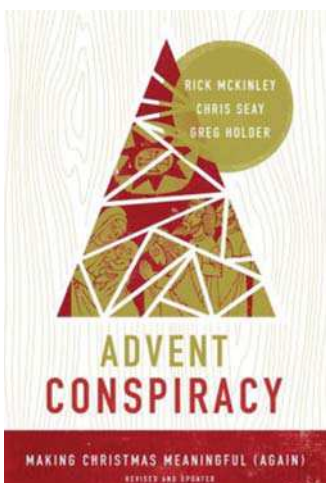
Sacred Holidays: Less Chaos, More Jesus

By Becky Kiser



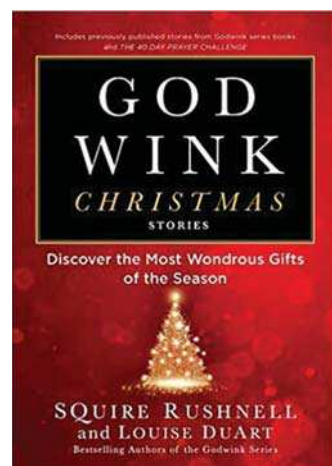
His Promise: An Amish Christmas in Hart County (Amish of Hart County)

By Shelley Shepard Gray



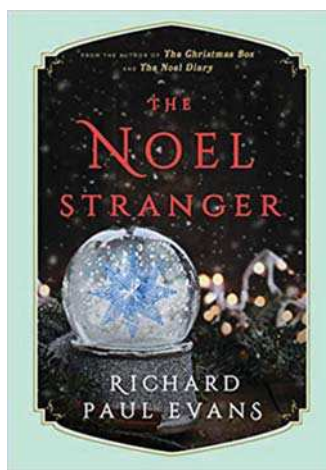
Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)

By Rick McKinley, Chris Seay and Greg Holder



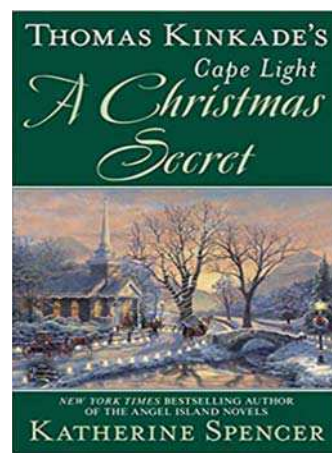
Godwink Christmas Stories: Discover the Most Wondrous Gifts of the Season (The Godwink Series)

By Squire Rushnell and Louise DuArt



The Noel Stranger (The Noel Collection)

By Richard Paul Evans



Thomas Kinkade's Cape Light: A Christmas Secret (A Cape Light Novel)

By Katherine Spencer

Holding our tongues

We rarely regret holding our tongue, though we often regret speaking, especially when it is done hastily or in anger. Silence also has the virtue of being impossible to correct. There are plenty of opportunities to keep silent. When others are gossiping it is usually best to keep silent or to try to change the subject. When someone has spoken in anger to us or otherwise hurt our feelings, it is tempting to hit back with angry words, but your silence will show you to be the better person and perhaps convince the other person of their own sin. It is especially hard to hold our tongue when someone has said something about us that we know to be false. How much of our speech throughout the day is nothing more than an attempt to justify ourselves or present ourselves in a better light? In modern parlance, we are "virtue signaling" when we try to correct other's misperceptions. When I was growing up I often heard the phrase "self-praise stinks" whenever someone was going on about how great they were. Leave the praising of yourself to others, and let others be the ones to criticize, to gossip, or to engage in all the endless chatter that pollutes our lives. Consider using the time your silence has afforded you for more beneficial endeavors. — Christopher Simon



"The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues." —Proverbs 17:27-28

Local Church Directory

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

147 Burke Ave, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-8087
Pastor John Carwell
www.cumprestonsburg.org
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m.
Evening Worship – 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study – 7 p.m.
Youth/Children – 7 p.m.

COW CREEK FREEWILL BAPTIST

Route 194, Cow Creek
Phone: (606) 424-8313 • Find us on Facebook
Pastor Nathan Lafferty
Assistant Pastor BJ Crider
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Service – 7 p.m.

CROSSRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

9239 Ky Rte 122, Minnie
Phone: (606) 377-2560 • Facebook: CrossRidge
Pastor Steve Richardson
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Service – 7 p.m.

FAITH REVELATION MINISTRIES

62 South Harkens Avenue, Prestonsburg
SUNDAYS
Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Worship – 11:15 a.m.
THURSDAYS
Bible Study – 7 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

354 US Hwy 23 North, Allen
606-874-9468
Pastor Tim Searcy
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Services – 10:45 a.m. & 7 p.m.
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Service – 7 p.m.

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In only 57 years, the Word was forgotten



By JAMIE BECKETT
CHRONICLE & TIMES

The temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt over a seven-year period when King Solomon ruled. "Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold (1 Kings 6:21)." It also consisted of intricate details with carvings of cherubims, palm trees and open flowers (1 Kings 6:29). Christian authors label it as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was magnificent and dedicated to the glory of God.

Despite Solomon's dedication to God in the beginning, by the end of his life "his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God (1 Kings 11:4)." Solomon even built altars of worship for the gods of his many wives. After his death, Israel was divided into two kingdoms. The Southern Kingdom, called Judah, was ruled by Solomon's son Rehoboam.

The Northern Kingdom, called Israel, was ruled by Jeroboam, one of Solomon's officials who rebelled against him.

Jeroboam immediately began erecting idols, because the temple was located in Judea. Basically, he started the kingdom off on the wrong foot and led them away from God. Judea went through 19 kings over a period of about 200 years before being carried off into captivity by the Assyrians.

Judah also had some evil kings. However, there were good kings in the mix as well, which possibly helped them remain a kingdom about 100 years longer than Israel. One of the best kings was Hezekiah who ruled for 29 years. He destroyed places of worship set up for idols by the previous king Ahaz. The Bible says, "Hezekiah trusted in the Lord," "he held fast to the Lord" and "the Lord was with him (2 Kings 18:5-7)."

However, upon Hezekiah's death, his son Manasseh took over and ruled for 55 years. Unlike his father, "he did evil in the Lord's eyes, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites (2 Kings 21:2)." He erected altars of worship for idols, even placing altars inside

of God's temple. "He sacrificed his own son in the fire (2 Kings 21:6)." Manasseh led Judah astray. Upon his death, his son Amon continued in Manasseh's ways for the two years he ruled before his assassination.

When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.

In those 57 years, Judah went from being a nation with a leader who put their trust in God to one that forsook the Lord. Josiah gained the throne at the age of eight. However, despite the evil of his father and grandfather, he ordered the temple to be restored. During the work, the Book of the Law was found and read to King Josiah. "When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes (2 Kings 22:11)." He sought the will of God. He renewed the covenant with God and destroyed the altars of idols.

Josiah did a wonderful thing by obeying the com-

mandments of God. He heard the Word and he acted. But, it had only been 57 years since the rule of Hezekiah. In those 57 years the people had forgotten the Word of God! That's only two generations! In two generations, the Word was no longer heard or followed. Despite the country's history – it was created by the Lord himself – they had forgotten the one true God!

America is 242 years old. It was founded by people seeking freedom of religion. However, like the Israelites, people have forgotten our country's history. They have forgotten the Lord our God. They have forgotten the Word, which our laws are based upon.

The Northern Kingdom survived roughly 200 years before being carried into captivity and the Southern Kingdom lasted roughly 300 years before Babylon overtook them. America was established 242 years ago. How long will the Lord tarry for us? How far astray will our country go before the Lord no longer places His protection upon us? God's own chosen people neglected the Lord and was carried away. They were punished for their transgressions. What then shall God do to us?

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Thacker named director at Big Sandy CAP

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Board of Directors announced that Wanda Thacker was hired as the new executive director of the agency.



Wanda Thacker

Thacker took the helm following the retirement of longtime executive director Mike Howell.

She joined the agency in 2002 and has served as BSACAP's deputy director since 2005. Upon her appointment as deputy director, Thacker created the agency's communications department, which included the formalization of the agency's annual report and the institution of the Board of Directors Manuals, the agency newsletter and its website. She also "brought order and enhanced privacy" to employee records by formalizing Human Resource processes, according to a statement from BSACAP.

Thacker managed the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Community Services Block Grant, which brought about \$4.5 million to the agency through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Thacker also oversaw increased funding to both the Senior Community Service Employment Program and the Workforce Investment Act Program.

Vice-Chair of the BSACAP Board of Directors A.B. Conley said, "Ms. Thacker was an outstanding candidate for the position. She has been an invaluable part of the agency's inner workings for a number of years and has shown the kind of talent and skills we need to keep moving forward. The board is confident that Ms. Thacker will be a wonderful executive director."

To learn more about BSACAP and its programs, visit, bsacap.org.

KSP encourages drivers to prepare for winter driving

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

With the possibility of wintry weather moving into the Commonwealth this week, the Kentucky State Police (KSP) is cautioning motorists to be prepared for hazardous driving conditions.

"Winter driving can present formidable challenges including sleet, snow, slick roads, freezing temperatures and reduced visibility," KSP spokesman Sergeant Josh Lawson said. "It can be a deadly combination if you're not prepared."

KSP reported that slippery roads were the contributing factor in 12,772 crashes and 69 highway deaths in 2017.

Lawson says the agency relies heavily on its social media platforms to get pertinent information to citizens when winter weather hits the Commonwealth.

"We have had great success using Twitter, Facebook and the KSP Mobile App to share winter weather updates," said Lawson. "We encourage drivers to down-

load our free mobile app so they will have real time traffic updates when planning winter travel."

To meet the challenges of the upcoming winter driving season, KSP reminds drivers to plan ahead, make sure all passengers are properly restrained, drive defensively and ensure their vehicle is properly maintained to handle the effects of cold temperatures.

Other safe winter travel tips include:

- Check road and weather conditions before you leave by visiting <https://transportation.ky.gov/sites/GoKY/home> an online traffic, roadway information and weather portal operated by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. It offers real-time information that is updated every two minutes.
- Call 511 or 1-866-737-3767 for latest road/traffic conditions.
- Refrain from calling 911 for road or weather conditions due to high call volume.
- Reduce speed in wintry conditions.
- Leave early – allow

more travel time; expect delays.

• Increase distance between vehicles – the ability to stop is significantly affected on snow covered or icy roadways

• Clear all windows on your vehicle prior to travel – having unobstructed vision is vital to avoid running off of the road or having a collision.

• Ensure your windshield washer fluid is full and that you use an anti-ice solution.

• Turn on your vehicle's headlamps. Remove any dirt, mud or snow.

• Use caution on bridges and overpasses as they are susceptible to freezing before roadways.

• Avoid using cruise control which can cause a vehicle's wheels to continue turning on a slippery surface when speed needs to be decreased.

• Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of gas in the event you are stranded for an extended period of time.

• Charge your cellular phone prior to departure.

• Always dress warmly and keep a blanket in

the vehicle.

• Carry a winter survival kit that includes items such as blankets, a first-aid kit, a can and waterproof matches (to melt snow for water), windshield scraper, booster cables, road maps, tool kit, bag of sand or cat litter (to pour on ice or snow for added traction), collapsible shovel, flashlight and extra batteries.

KSP is also requesting travelers to observe for stranded motorists. If you see or suspect that someone is stranded, contact KSP at 1-800-222-5555.

If you get stranded, staying in your vehicle is often the safest choice, says Lawson, who offers these added tips:

- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna as a signal to rescuers.
- Move anything you need from the trunk into the passenger area.
- Wrap your entire body, including your head, in blankets, or extra clothing.
- Stay awake. You will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems.

ALLEN

Continued From Page 1A

be completed by Feb. 1. The city's most recent audit detailed finances in the 2009 fiscal year and it was turned into the state in 2010.

The state auditor sent a letter to the city in April, asking for the city's plan to correct the issue. The city commission has discussed the need to hire an auditor several times during this year, but the discussions waned after former assistant clerk Bill Parsons, now deceased, helped the city correct deficiencies for other types of financial documents the city is required to file with the state.

The last time the topic was discussed publicly at a meeting, Allen commission members talked about reaching out to an auditor to see if he or she would be willing to complete an audit in Allen.

City Commissioner Eilene Kinzer and City Attorney Beth Shortridge learned for the first time on Monday, however, that the city might have hired that person.

The discussion started when Commissioner Elmer Parsons brought up the need for grant

funding.

"Guys, after the first of the year, we really need to sit down and talk about getting some grant money, and beautify the city, take care of this place," Parsons said.

Shortridge told him, however, that the city can't qualify for grants until the city gets an audit done.

"How about us getting ahead of the CPA and see where we stand?" Mayor Sharon Woods said.

Shortridge said she didn't know which CPA they spoke with, and Eilene Kinzer voiced concern.

"I thought we were still getting bids, I didn't know we had hired anybody," she said.

Mayor Sharon Woods said, "Yeah, he's doing our audit."

She and Parsons said this CPA was the only person to agree to do an audit in Allen. Parsons reported he called 11 CPAs.

"He's the only one that would touch it," he said.

The discussion continued for several minutes, with Shortridge and Eilene Kinzer voicing concern and frustration about not knowing that

Allen hired a CPA.

Woods told them the city hasn't paid the CPA, but Parsons said he believes there's a "verbal contract" with him, and that the former assistant city clerk, now deceased, "may have signed something with him."

Shortridge voiced concern about that possibility.

"Yeah, that'd be good, if you let your lawyer know. If you're signing contracts, I'd like your lawyer to review them," she said.

She also voiced concern when Parsons reported that the city had only five days to get an auditor, and that's why this CPA was hired.

"Who said that?" Shortridge asked. "When did this come up?"

Parsons told her, "The state department said that. Ask Krystal. She's got all the paperwork."

In an interview on Thursday, Spurlock confirmed the city has not paid this CPA, Richard Paulmann of Crestwood, and she said that the former assistant clerk did not sign a letter of engagement with him. She said she sent Paulmann the city's financial records in June, as she

was instructed, and she hadn't heard from him, so she called him to inquire about whether he would be interested in doing the city's audit. He was on vacation and promised to return the call, she said, but he has not called since.

"I would not consider that hired, absolutely not," Spurlock said Thursday. "Because the way I understood it was, he was interested in doing it for us, but he wanted to see our stuff and would send an engagement letter if he was still considering trying to complete it for us. But, you know, we've never got anything back from him and I sent this on Monday, June 18. That's how long he's had our stuff."

Spurlock also said the city has not received a letter saying the state would take over in five days if an auditor was not hired.

Allen spent road aid without approval

In May, the Kentucky Department for Local Government reported that Allen was compliant in filing other types of financial documents with the state, and the state released \$31,055 in

municipal road aid funds that had been withheld since 2010.

Officials reported this week that all of those funds are now spent — to the surprise of commission members, the city attorney and the city clerk.

The commission did not vote to hire the company. When the topic was previously discussed, Mayor Sharon Woods said she would get quotes from another company and bring it back to the commission.

Commissioner Eilene Kinzer asked whether the city got those quotes for blacktop work, and Woods told her, "It's been done and it's been turned in."

Shortridge also questioned the hiring of Highlands Paving to complete that work, asking what company would be doing it.

"So, what company was going to do that?" she asked.

"The same company that done the other," Woods said.

"When's that going to happen?" Shortridge asked.

"It's already happened," Parsons said.

"We've already done the blacktop?" Shortridge responded.

"Yeah, they called me and they said, 'Listen, the mill is going to shut down pretty quick and it's going to turn cold, if you need it, if you want it done, you better do it now.' So, I said come on," Parsons said. "Well, Sharon's (Woods) the boss."

Woods said she authorized the hiring, Commissioner Josh Kinzer also asked if the work had already been done.

"So, how much money do we have left from that road fund?" Eilene Kinzer asked.

"Zero," Parsons said.

"We've spent the whole thing?" Eilene Kinzer said.

Spurlock reported on Thursday that Highlands Paving was paid \$11,100 for the second round of paving, for a total, she said, of \$27,600 to date.

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Legislative workgroup to talk about school safety in P'burg

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, and Rep. John Blanton, R-Salyersville, are hosting the next meeting of the School Safety Working Group in Prestonsburg.

The meeting will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Mountain Arts Center. The public is invited to attend.

"Concerns across the commonwealth continue to mount as shootings at schools as well as at malls, theaters, churches and other places are becoming more prevalent," said Turner. "The leadership of the Kentucky General Assembly created the task force to evaluate school safety in Kentucky and devise measures that could be implemented across Kentucky. My experience as a teacher and an administrator is giving me perspective as we continue to study this issue."

The group, formed during the 2018 legislative session, has been meeting and holding hearings across the state to glean input on the best way to keep students, teachers and others safe when they are at school.

The group has heard testimony from teachers, students, law enforcement, resource officers and others to get a better insight into the complex problem. Turner has asked school superintendents and law enforcement from his area to attend the meeting.

"Securing our schools has become a priority," said Turner. "I understand the fears that people are feeling and sharing with me. I have a daughter who is a school administrator and a granddaughter who is a few years away from starting school. I want



Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, speaks in the Kentucky senate in 2017.



State Rep. John Blanton speaks on the floor of the Kentucky House in January.

them to be in a safe environment just as I want all of our students and staff to be in a safe zone."

After his appointment to the task force, Turner reached out to the school superintendents in his districts and to other superintendents in Eastern Kentucky to get their input.

"Who better than the folks at the schools to give us ideas on how to secure our schools," said

Turner. "I appreciate each them for taking the time to talk to me and give me their thoughts and suggestions on making our schools safer. I plan to get feedback from other school personnel and students as this process continues."

Some of those individuals may share their ideas at the Dec. 11 meeting.

"It is sad that we even have to think about how

to keep people with guns or other weapons out of our schools," Turner said. "Schools should be a safe haven for children. Unfortunately too many individuals have taken their anger and violence to schools so now school safety is a critical priority across the nation."

Turner invites constituents to contact him with suggestions or feedback by email at, johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov.

Community Events

- Dec. 7; 5 p.m.: Martin will host Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in downtown Martin. Event will feature Santa Claus, live music, Bible story readings, free hot chocolate and cookies and gifts for kids.
- Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m.: Appalachian Hospice Care to host Service of Remembrance and Hanging of the Doves ceremony at May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.
- Dec. 7, 6 p.m.: Mountain Comprehensive Care Center to host Royal Christmas Ball fundraiser, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park convention center, with crafts, face painting and other activities, including pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Proceeds benefit children's services. \$35.
- Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m.: Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry performs Christmas show at the Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS or macarts.com
- Dec. 8: The Mountain Muse and the Floyd County Extension Office will host the Floyd County Gingerbread House Contest, pre-registration required. All materials will be provided. Door prizes for contest winners. 11 a.m. for children ages five to 11. 12:30 p.m. for children ages 12 to 18. (606) 886-2668
- Dec. 8; 11 a.m.: "Chalk it Up" contest to be held for children, teenagers and adults, downtown Prestonsburg, with prizes awarded for best sidewalk chalk drawing. Free, chalk provided. Register at City Perk or Lou's Place for Pets.
- Dec. 8; 1 p.m.: Santa and Mrs. Claus to greet guests at Home Furniture, Prestonsburg
- Dec. 8; 5:30 p.m.: City of Prestonsburg Christmas parade. Prizes to be awarded to the best float and "jacked up ride."
- Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.: Breakfast with Santa & Friends, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, May Lodge.
- Dec. 10, 9 a.m.: Big Sandy Regional Industrial Authority meets, Sandy Area Development District. (606) 886-2374
- Dec. 10-11; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College to host a registration blitz for the spring semester, all campuses. 855-GO-BSTC or bigsandy.kctcs.edu
- Dec. 11, 12 p.m.: Prestonsburg Tourism meets, Mountain Arts Center. (606) 886-1341
- Dec. 11; 5:30 p.m. Rudolph Party, Floyd County Public Library, Prestonsburg
- Dec. 11, 6 p.m.: Wayland City Commission meets, community center
- Dec. 12, 6 p.m.: Big Sandy Community & Technical College to host Christmas at the Mountain Arts Center, featuring free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. (606) 886-7374
- Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: The Wool Club meets, Floyd County Extension office.
- Through Jan. 18: Judi's Place for Kids seeks designs for its 2019 Run with Courage 5K Run t-shirt. Submit entries of original artwork (no copyrighted images, please) to info@judisplace.org or mail it to 128 South College Street, Pikeville, Ky. 41501.

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Martin City Clinic (606) 285-3142 112065 Main Street Martin, KY	Belfry Clinic (606) 353-1287 26229 US 119 N Belfry, KY	Salyersville Clinic (606) 349-3115 1410 Royaltown Road Salyersville, KY	

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KDE approves new high school grad requirements

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

In an unanimous vote on Wednesday, the Kentucky Board of Education approved changes to the regulation on minimum graduation requirements for students entering high school in 2019 and 2020.

The requirements now will move through the remainder of the administrative regulations process, including review by two legislative committees, with a possible effective date of March 2019.

In a presentation to the board, Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis described the two main changes to the original proposal approved in October, both related to providing more flexibility for students on their path toward college

or a career. "We value the comments we received," said Lewis. "In the revised proposal, the personalized pathways for students remain, with flexibility for additional math and English courses. The most significant change comes in detaching the transition readiness component from the graduation requirement."

Board chair Hal Heiner said the revised proposal seemed to address the concerns brought up during the public hearing.

"I commend the KDE staff for making sure student and district needs are accounted for," said Heiner. "This provides alternatives that takes into account the differences in our districts, but also the differences in our students."

The proposed changes include the introduc-

tion of graduation prerequisites.

For public charter schools, principals may submit the same collection of student evidence to the commissioner of education or designee.

The Transition Readiness component in the first draft of the proposal has been removed in recognition of some of the equity challenges among districts and students. Because resources can vary greatly between districts, some stakeholders believed Transition Readiness would have put an undue burden on smaller or financially strapped districts by having to provide additional courses to students.

"The key concern is, depending on the district that we are talking about, the routes that some districts can provide to help students achieve tran-



Submitted photo
Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis, center, talks to the Kentucky Department of Education about new graduation requirements.

sition readiness are just not there," said Lewis. "In some of our larger and better-resourced districts, we have those opportunities, but in resource-starved districts, they could only provide two or three pathways. Whether we are talking

about high school graduation requirements or not, there is an equity issue among districts."

During the meeting, the KDE also accepted the second reading of an amendment to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's accountability system. The

regulation will now be filed, and a public comment period will be held in January. Any comments received will be considered and responded to in a statement of consideration before the regulation is finalized.

New graduation requirements

Under the revised statute, students entering high school in the 2021-22 school year will demonstrate basic competency in reading and math in one of three ways:

1. The student's 10th-grade state-required assessments meet the minimum criteria in reading and math.

• The minimum criteria shall include scoring, at least, as an Apprentice in reading and math in the state assessments.

• Students who do not meet the minimum criteria on one or both assessments may retake the reading and/or math assessments twice

annually in the 11th and 12th grades

• The student's first completion of the assessments in grade 10 shall contribute to the school's accountability rating

2. The student's 8th-grade state assessment is rating of Proficient or higher for reading and/or math.

3. The principal may submit a collection of the following student evidence to the superintendent or designee for review and approval:

• The student's ILP that includes student transcript

• If applicable, the student's IEP that includes evi-

dence that the student has received specially designed instruction and related services in reading and math

• Performance on the required state assessments

• Appropriate interventions, targeted to the student's needs, provided to the student to ensure support was provided toward meeting the requirements outlined in this administrative regulation

• Student work demonstrating the his or her competency in reading and/or math, as applicable

• The student's post-graduation plans

Under the revised pro-

posals, students entering high school in the 2020-21 school year must also meet one of these graduation qualifiers:

1. Precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education

2. Benchmark score in one section of a college admissions or placement examination

3. Three postsecondary credit hours or more of a KDE-approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher

4. One course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria:

• Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three or higher

• Cambridge Advanced

International (CAI) with a score at or above benchmark

• International Baccalaureate (IB) with a score of five or higher

5. Industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board

6. Four credits from valid courses within a single KDE-approved career pathway

7. Complete two years of a KDE-approved or Kentucky Labor Cabinet-approved pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship

8. A KDE-approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience or alternative requirements as prescribed in a student's IEP.

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BSCTC hosts open house for its CDL program

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The Big Sandy Community & Technical College Workforce Solutions team participated in an open house on Nov. 29 at Gateway Community and Technical College so business leaders could learn more about program offerings.

The CDL simulator utilized at BSCTC, which was installed in August, is an ATS simulator modeled after a 2018 Freightliner Cascadia. The simulator teaches students shift patterns, how to properly operate the clutch and about driving in adverse weather before putting them in a real rig on the roadways.

Speakers at the event included Gateway president/CEO Fernando Figueroa, CDL business partner Doug Simpson, Gateway graduate and truck driver Kaleb Thornton, Kentucky Community and Technical College System Vice President; Paul Czarapata; and Kentucky Trucking Association President/CEO Rick Taylor.

"Eighty-nine point two percent of Kentucky

communities solely rely on trucking to deliver their goods," Taylor said. "So there's opportunity for drivers throughout the state."

Taylor said because of the demand for drivers, veterans and women should consider the field. Currently, only five percent of truck drivers are women, and veterans who have experience in truck driving can earn a CDL quickly, a press release from the college said.

The Kentucky Trucking Association reported in 2016, that total trucking industry wages paid in Kentucky exceeded \$5 billion with an average annual trucking industry salary of \$44,843.

"We're proud to be at the forefront of educating the next generation of truck drivers," said Kelli Chaney, dean of Workforce and Economic Development at BSCTC. "Our role is to prepare the talent needed to fill jobs in our region. This is just one of many ways we're helping alleviate the state's workforce shortage and grow the economy."



Submitted photo

Attendees try out CDL simulators used to do pre-training for CDL drivers at Big Sandy Community & Technical College while at an open house at Gateway Community and Technical College.



Submitted photo

Chris Compton, who worked 23 years in the coal mines, found a new welding career at SilverLiner, thanks to training provided through a local program.

Former coal miner finds new career at SilverLiner

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Twenty-three years — that's how many years Pike Countian Chris Compton dedicated to a job he thought he'd retire from at a coal company just 30 minutes from his house. That retirement plan was shattered in February 2016, however, when the company Compton worked for issued mass layoffs and his number was up.

"That's the lifestyle living here — if you didn't work in the coal industry then you had to go somewhere else," Compton said. "We couldn't really go to another coal company that was close that was paying what they were paying, so it made it kind of hard."

"Your bills are still coming in, so you have

to make ends meet somehow," he said.

Clad in a work shirt embellished with his name on the left side and the SilverLiner logo on the right, Compton sits in the offices of his new employer.

Manufacturing company SilverLiner announced at the end of 2017 that it would build a new facility in Pike County and needed to hire nearly 50 people with welding experience. Those chosen would then go on to complete further training in aluminum welding, thanks to a partnership with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System in Hazard and Paintsville and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc.

He said the path to his current position was

neither quick nor easy.

After the layoff, Compton says he hunted for work, as his unemployment benefits weren't enough. "Odd jobs here and there" helped keep his afloat for nearly eight months until he finally got a call back from the local hospital for an available position in the receiving department. He said the pay "was nowhere near the kind of paying job like the coal industry."

Compton admits he believed that would be the case for the rest of his working life. His hopes were sparked, however, when he heard of the new opportunity with SilverLiner coming to his hometown.

"I heard about it on the news and then kind of looked it up on the Internet and then went from there," Compton

said. "I figured from the work ethic that we came from and the way we were raised that it would be something that I liked to do."

Compton was one of hundreds who submitted their application online and waited to hear back from the company. In February, he got the phone call he'd been hoping for.

"I got a phone call that said we're going to do like a 10-minute interview with you," Compton said, adding that after the interview he had to take an assessment at Big Sandy Community and Technical College to see if he was eligible.

In addition to providing nearly \$100,000 in funding for the training, boots, tools and

See COMPTON, Page 12A



Submitted photo

Floyd Central student Lindsay Caudill is the daughter of Paul and Pam Caudill of Banner.



Submitted photo

Floyd Central student Katie Moore is the daughter of Alan and Kristy Moore of Minnie.



Submitted photo

Prestonsburg High School student Abbey Poe is the daughter of Mark and April Poe of Prestonsburg.



Submitted photo

Floyd Central student Kade Scott is the son of Byron and Stephanie Scott of Langley.

Floyd Central, PHS students honored

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

Superintendent Dany Adkins announced in a press release on Tuesday that several students at Floyd Central and Prestonsburg high schools were selected as representatives for the 2019 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar.

"Congratulations Lindsay Caudill, Katie Moore, Abbey Poe and Kade Scott," he said in the statement. "These four are the representatives for the 2019 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar from Floyd Central and Prestonsburg High School."

He described the program as a "fantastic

opportunity" for these students. "HOBY is a fantastic opportunity for sophomore students," he said. "The heart of this program is about helping young people learn to lead and better serve their communities. Developing this in our students will lead to changes in our district, our state and in our global community.

With programs like HOBY, the National Honor Society, student councils and more, we're helping our kids develop much needed skills that aren't necessarily in the curriculum but are beneficial for society. We want to help kids take advantage of more opportunities like this and empower them for the future."

Caudill, More, Poe and Scott will attend the state seminar at Berea College in June 2019. "Students will experience life on a college campus for few days as they develop their leadership skills and learn to use those skills to influence their communities positively," the press release said.

Adkins said, "We're very proud to have these outstanding young people represent our district at the state conference and look forward to seeing their skills used in making a difference in our schools and community."

For more information about the program, visit, hoby.org.

COMPTON

Continued From Page 11A

supplies for the classes, EKCEP staff assisted with handling applications, assessments and other needs to assist Compton and his fellow students as they began their training.

That training began in March, and Compton said he was more than ready for it.

"I was still working at the time, and they kind of worked the schedule so that if you were working you could get there," he said.

Four days a week, Compton would get off work at 3:30 p.m. and drive to the Paintsville BSCTC campus nearly an hour and a half away. Once the class let out at 9 p.m., he would return home to restart that process the following day.

"It was a tough 12 weeks, but I'm glad I did it and it turned out," he said.

Although the training class was a fast-track course to get the welders ready in the shortest time possible, Compton says it was very in-depth and helped him and his classmates prepare for the work that lay ahead.

"It was real exciting once we'd gotten through the class. Chris (Tomlinson) had kind of sat down

after the assessment to get the feel to where we were at," Compton said. "He sat down and talked with me and said, you know it'll be greener on the other side if you take this class — and it's worked out."

Compton and the other trainees are currently finishing up training on-site at the SilverLiner temporary site in Pike County. The permanent facility is set to open in late-2018 or early-2019 in the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park.

Life for Compton is looking up since he decided to look into SilverLiner. He said he's sure his life would look different had he never made this endeavor.

"I'd probably be doing a lot of traveling, I'd say, because I'd have probably went back to the mines in the coal industry, but you have to drive two hours to get to one from where we're at here in Pike County," he said.

He thanked his new employer.

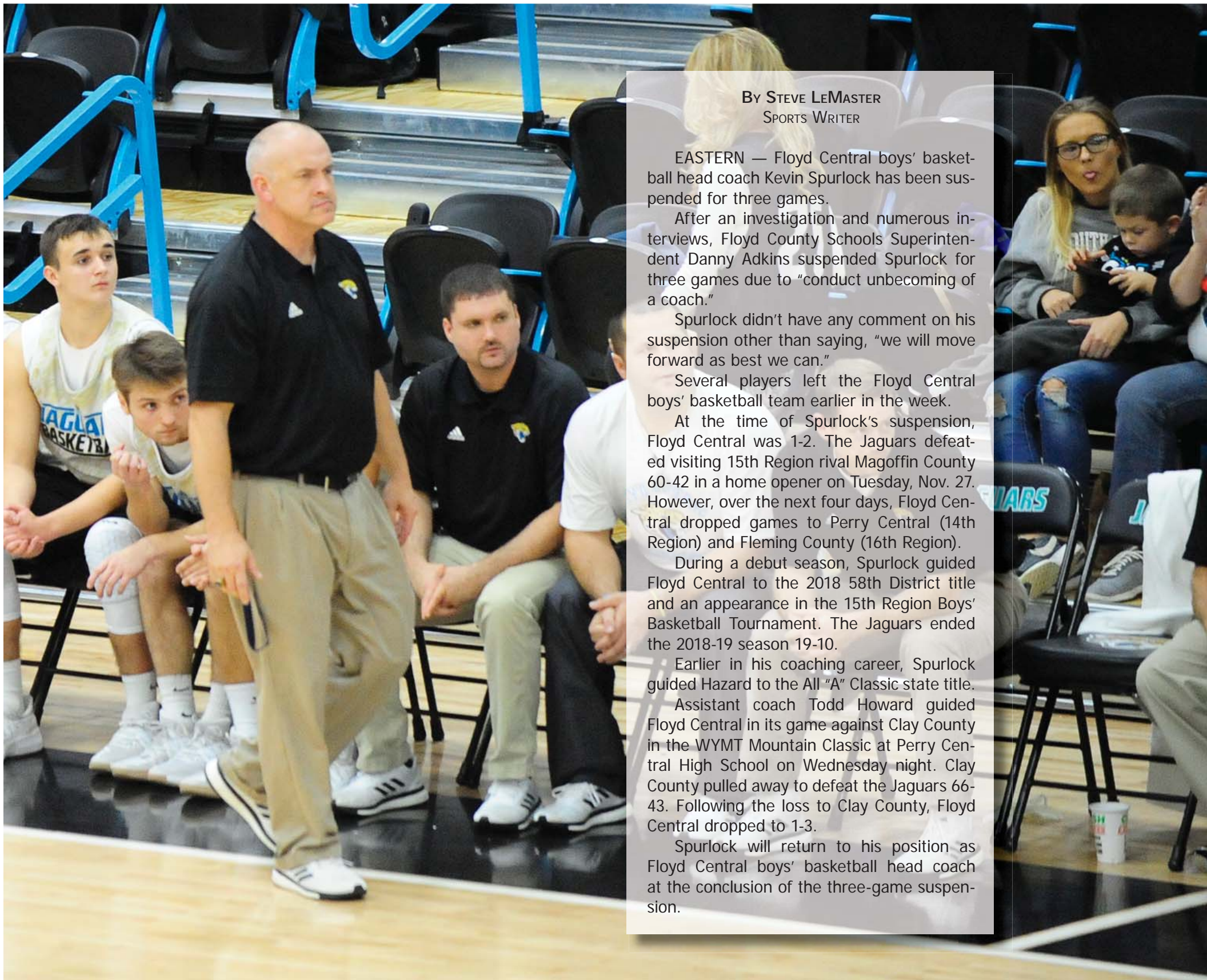
"I'd just like to thank SilverLiner for giving me the opportunity to show them what I can do and what I can learn," he said with a grin. "You're never too old to learn something."

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2	3 Wesley Christian, Bright Beginnings (B)	4 Warco (B), Teen/Adult Ornament Making 5:00 PM (E), Sign Language 5:30 PM (E), Santa Visit 5:30 (P), Unsolved Mysteries/Unsolved Crimes 7:30 PM (P)	5 Cliffside, Left Beaver Creek (B), Toddler Time 10 AM (E)	6 Adventure Learning Center (B), McDowell Senior Citizen's Center Outreach, Story Time 10 AM (P), Story Time 2 PM (P), Santa Reads A Story 3 PM (E), Pen & Tell Writers Group 5 PM (P)	7 Highland Terrace (B)	8
9	10 Wesley Christian, Bright Beginnings (B), Highland Heights Outreach (P)	11 Creekside and Ivy Creek (B), Adult Crafts 5 PM (P), Rudolph Party 5:30 (P), Sign Language 5:30 PM (E) 	12 Dixie (B), Toddler Time 10 AM (E)	13 Wayland (B), Garrett (B) Story Time 10 AM (P), Story Time 2 PM (P)	14 Adams Middle School (B)	15 Arts and Crafts for Adults 11 AM (P)
16	17 Wesley Christian, Bright Beginnings (B), Canvas Needle Art 4 PM (E) 	18 Warco (B), Sign Language 5:30 PM (E)	19 Cliffside, Left Beaver Creek (B)	20 Adventure Learning Center (B), Martin Senior Citizen's Center Outreach, Story Time 10 AM (P); Story Time 2 PM (P), Gingerbread House Making (2 Separate Classes Starting at 3 PM & 4:30 PM (E))	21 Highland Terrace (B)	22 Arts and Crafts for Adults 11 AM (P)
23	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Closed for the Holidays</p>						
30	31	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: #c00000;">Gingerbread House Making</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006400;">Class 1: 3 - 4:00 PM, Class 2: 4:30 - 5:30 PM (Eastern Branch)</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #006400;">NO sign-ups necessary please choose a time and show up!</p>				
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Closed for the Holidays</p>						

Spurlock suspended three games



By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

EASTERN — Floyd Central boys' basketball head coach Kevin Spurlock has been suspended for three games.

After an investigation and numerous interviews, Floyd County Schools Superintendent Danny Adkins suspended Spurlock for three games due to "conduct unbecoming of a coach."

Spurlock didn't have any comment on his suspension other than saying, "we will move forward as best we can."

Several players left the Floyd Central boys' basketball team earlier in the week.

At the time of Spurlock's suspension, Floyd Central was 1-2. The Jaguars defeated visiting 15th Region rival Magoffin County 60-42 in a home opener on Tuesday, Nov. 27. However, over the next four days, Floyd Central dropped games to Perry Central (14th Region) and Fleming County (16th Region).

During a debut season, Spurlock guided Floyd Central to the 2018 58th District title and an appearance in the 15th Region Boys' Basketball Tournament. The Jaguars ended the 2018-19 season 19-10.

Earlier in his coaching career, Spurlock guided Hazard to the All "A" Classic state title.

Assistant coach Todd Howard guided Floyd Central in its game against Clay County in the WYMT Mountain Classic at Perry Central High School on Wednesday night. Clay County pulled away to defeat the Jaguars 66-43. Following the loss to Clay County, Floyd Central dropped to 1-3.

Spurlock will return to his position as Floyd Central boys' basketball head coach at the conclusion of the three-game suspension.

Lady Blackcats turn back Phelps, 62-49

Ariaz records triple-double in P'burg's win

By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Much-improved Prestonsburg posted its second straight win on Tuesday night, defeating visiting 15th Region rival Phelps 62-49 in an early-season girls' high school basketball game.

With the win, Prestonsburg evened its record to 2-2.

Phelps dropped to 2-1 with the loss.

Caroline Ariaz led Prestonsburg with a triple-double, scoring 14 points, pulling down 11 rebounds and registering 10 steals.

Kaitlyn Keathley ranked as the Lady Blackcats' leading scorer, netted 19 points.

Accompanying Keathley and Ariaz in double figures, Reesce Endicott scored 13 points for the Lady Blackcats.

Prestonsburg coach Brandon Kidd was proud of his team's effort in the early-season contest.

"I'm very proud of our team and their effort," said Kidd. "Did we play our best? No. But

See **BLACKCATS**, Page 3B



Prestonsburg's Kaitlyn Keathley drives to the basket against Letcher Central in action earlier this season. Keathley scored a game-high 19 points as host Prestonsburg defeated Phelps 62-49 on Tuesday.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne falls at Shelby Valley, 70-37



LEFT: Betsy Layne's Zach Bentley puts up a shot under the basket Monday evening in a 70-37 loss to Shelby Valley.

ABOVE: Betsy Layne's Chase Mims pulls up for a jump shot Monday evening against Shelby Valley.

Blackcats notch first win under Rose

By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG —
Prestonsburg is off to a 1-2 start in the 2018/2019

boys' high school basketball season. The Blackcats are under the direction of first-year head coach Brent Rose.

After falling to 15th

Region counterpart Pike Central in a season opener, Prestonsburg defeated Leslie County for its first win. However, since the victory over Leslie

County, Prestonsburg has dropped a game to 15th Region foe Phelps.

Host Pike Central pulled away to beat Prestonsburg 54-47 in a sea-

son opener on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

But the Blackcats didn't stay in the loss column long.

Bouncing back, Prestonsburg rolled past homestanding Leslie County 61-35 on Thursday, Nov. 29.

"It was good to get in the win column," Prestonsburg coach Brent Rose commented following his team's triumph over Leslie County. "It was a good team effort. I thought we played good defensively and more importantly we rebounded well and shared the ball well. We moved the ball well and got good looks at the basket. That was a big improvement from our game at Pike Central. I believe we have the capability to be a good

team, but it will take all of us being on the same page to make that happen.

Phelps prevented Prestonsburg from remaining in the win column earlier in the week, defeating the visiting Blackcats 52-40 on Tuesday.

Rose took over as head coach of the Blackcats during the offseason. He replaced former head coach Brandon Gearheart.

Prestonsburg is scheduled to host Lawrence County for a 58th District opener on Friday night. Tip off for the Prestonsburg-Lawrence County boys' basketball game is set for 7:30 p.m.

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

BOAS	GORED	CAMP
UHUH	AMUSE	ORAL
ZITI	MENSA	WISE
ZOOM	LENS	FIESTA
	MILS	CREST
FREELY	ALIKE	
LIBRA	OBIS	DIBS
UFO	CANASTA	GAI
XENA	DUST	BLOND
	SLOSH	COARSE
OLDIE	BAUD	
POINTS	PORTLIER	
RANI	LAUDE	IDLE
AMEN	AIRES	NOSE
HYDE	BLESS	GLAD

Champion's Week takeaways



Racin'
Steve Mickey

There may be some flaws in the way NASCAR goes about its business but one thing they do seem to get right season after season is the way it celebrates its new champion and the drivers that make the sport such a fan favorite. It's such a celebration that even though the banquet on Friday night steals all of the headlines, it takes two days to actually give out all of the awards.

Some of the biggest names in the sport have never won the NASCAR Cup Series Most Popular Driver award but there are two names that seem to have a strangle hold on it. This award is based on a fan vote and this year the fans spoke loud and clear as they named Chase Elliott the recipient.

The Most Popular Driver award is no stranger to the Elliott family as Chase's father Bill holds the record of 16 years as the fan's favorite. Second to the elder Elliott is Dale Earnhardt Jr. who retired at the end of the 2017 after receiving the award for 15 consecutive years.

The younger Elliott's win this season could be the beginning of a long run as the Most Popular driver as he no doubt

benefits from a legion of fans that still remember his famous father's tenure in the sport. He also has a relationship with Earnhardt Jr. as he drove for him in the Xfinity Series and when he moved up to the Cup level he was his teammate at Hendrick Motorsports.

Martin Truex Jr.'s time as the podium as the series' second place finisher served as somewhat of a eulogy for Furniture Row Racing. It is still hard to process what he, crew chief Cole Pearn and owner Barney Visser were able to accomplish as a one-car operation based in Denver, Colorado.

Truex Jr. joined FRR in 2014 and during his time there, he won 17 races and the series title in 2017. Maybe the greatest accomplishment of the time that he, Pearn and Visser were together was the second place finish this season after announcing during the summer that the team was shutting down at the end of this season. Being able to hold the organization together for that length of time when the future was so uncertain for everyone that worked there speaks volumes for the amount of character that those three individuals possessed.

Joey Logano's speech as the newest series title holder showed a side of himself that most fans of the sport didn't know. The Penske Racing driver put the rest of the series on notice during the play-off portion of the schedule that he would do

whatever was necessary to win when he bumped Martin Truex Jr. at Martinsville to go on and capture the checkered flag and in the process punched his ticket as one of the Championship 4 drivers that would run for the title.

He has always been aggressive on the track and while it may not make him a favorite with some of the drivers and fans, his speech showed him to have a softer more personal side. He was introduced by Gavin Grubbs who he met when working with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and formed a relationship with that eventually led to him being a groomsman at his wedding. He became emotional when he talked about his wife Brittany and his son Hudson who was born just prior to the start of the season. He continued his speech by saying he was alright not being the most popular driver in the series and alluded that as long as the fans were either booing or cheering that it was all good for the sport.

When the night came to an end there was a feeling that this could be the last Champion's Week held in Las Vegas. What was once an event so big that it took most of the week to get in has now turned into a two day show. Rumors has it moving to either Nashville or Charlotte in 2019 and if that does happen, the ten years that Vegas has hosted the event has more than been a fitting finish to the season.

Kidd scores 1,000



photo submitted
Betsy Layne Elementary School eighth-grader Andrew Kidd joined the 1,000 point club as BLES hosted DACE in a Floyd County boys' basketball matchup on Thursday. He is the son of Russell and Stacey Spurlock Kidd of Dana.

BLACKCATS

Continued From Page 1B

the girls never gave up and continued to compete."

Prestonsburg shook a slow start to claim the win. Phelps led 15-14 at the conclusion of the first quarter but trailed at the end of each of the last three periods. The Lady Blackcats battled back to lead 29-27 at halftime.

Finishing strong, Prestonsburg doubled up Phelps 20-10 in the fourth

quarter.

Kidd, who is in his second season as the Lady Blackcats' head coach, has witnessed his team develop early in its latest campaign.

"I can see so much improvement in this team already," confided Kidd. "If we played that game last week we would have lost it. But these girls are trusting each other and really coming together as a team and it's showing on the court."

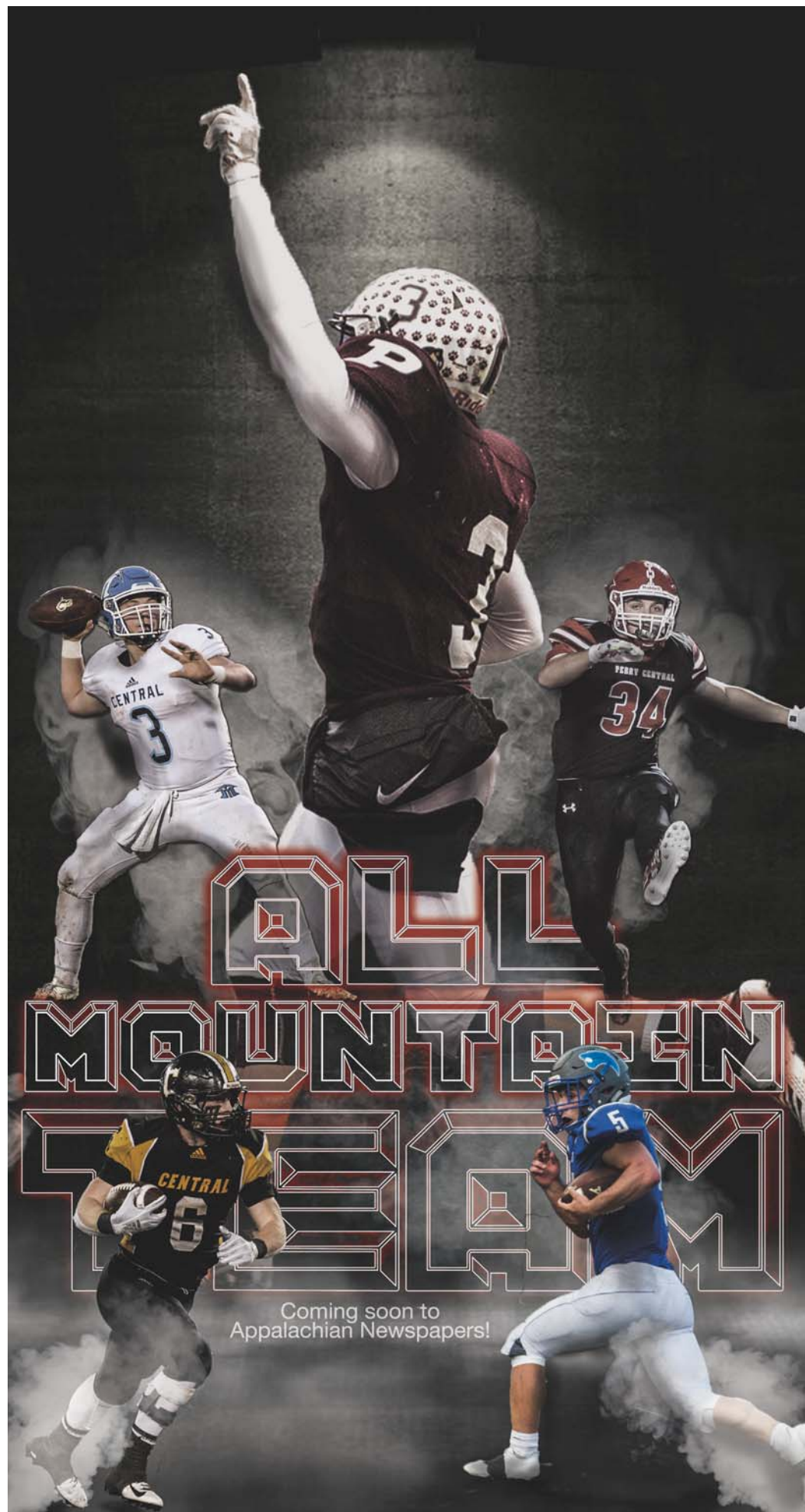
The Prestonsburg coach expects his team

to continue to improve.

"I keep stressing to trust the process," said Kidd. "If we do that by the end of the season we will be a hard team to beat."

Chole Smith led Phelps with 17 points. Joining Smith in double figures for the Lady Hornets, Danielle Prater added 11 points.

Prestonsburg is scheduled to host Lawrence County for a 58th District girls' basketball game at 6:00 pm. on Friday.



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Balance and integrity should be priorities. Be cautious of anyone trying to persuade you to take part in something that sounds too good to be true. You are best off trusting in your skills and experience, and practicing moderation and common sense in all walks of life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Stay grounded and avoid temptation. It's OK to have fun, but don't let anyone talk you into something that could lead to problems with someone in a position of authority.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Stick to the rules and regulations. If you exaggerate or lie, you will be held accountable. Someone you thought would have your back will disappoint you. Work alone. Make a positive domestic change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Look at all sides of a situation and make choices based on truth and facts. If someone tries to interfere, put a stop to it before it's too late.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – If someone overreacts, walk away. Don't get involved with people who are excessive or emotionally unstable. Focus on updating any financial or legal matters that are time-sensitive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – You'll have choices to make that could be difficult. Be sure to stick to your budget and avoid being talked into something you don't need and cannot afford.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Put your best foot forward and make the changes that will put you on top of your game. End this year on a high note. Romance is highlighted.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Make partnerships your priority. Whether at home or at work, getting along will be essential if you don't want to fall behind. Oversee any respon-

**DAILY
ASTROGRAPH**
by Eugenia Last



sibilities you delegate to others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Express your wishes when working alongside others. As long as everyone is fully aware of what has to be accomplished, you will reach your goal. Celebrate with a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – A gathering with your co-workers will be fun, but don't get carried away and let indulgent behavior make you look bad. You can have fun and still be responsible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Don't get caught in an argument that could be avoided. Take care of your responsibilities before you move on to social events. A change of heart should be addressed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Taking short trips, making plans with a friend or relative or effecting a change that will help you save more and spend less should be your intent. Focus on being and doing your best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – You'll be complimented on the changes you make or the insight you offer. Don't hesitate to speak up or to take charge if you feel you can make a difference. Romance is encouraged.

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

		1						8
		5		7				6
2								3
	4		9					
					2			
1	7	2		8				5
			2					9
4	5				6			7
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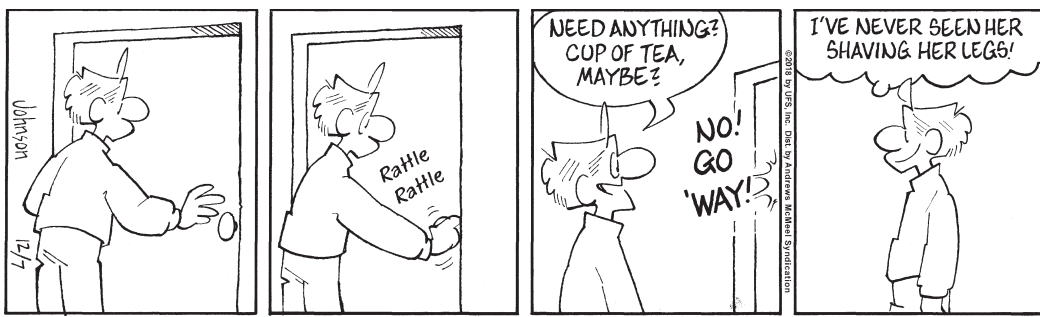
All answers are in today's edition

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
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32						33					34	35	36	37	
38					39	40					41		42		
43			44		45						46	47			
			48	49					50						
51	52	53						54							
55						56		57					58	59	60
61						62	63					64			
65						66						67			
68						69						70			

- ACROSS**
- 1 Feathered scarves
 - 5 Flared, as a skirt
 - 10 Scout destination
 - 14 "No way!" (hyph.)
 - 15 Cause mirth in
 - 16 Not written
 - 17 Type of pasta
 - 18 Brains club
 - 19 Clamp
 - 20 Camera accessory (2 wds.)
 - 22 Party
 - 24 Inch fractions
 - 25 Wave feature
 - 26 Voluntarily
 - 29 Identical
 - 32 Zodiac sign
 - 33 Geishas' apparel
 - 34 Claims
 - 38 Alien spacecraft
 - 39 Two-deck rummy
 - 42 Moo goo — pan
 - 43 Warrior princess
 - 45 Check for fingerprints
 - 46 Fair-haired boy
 - 48 Enjoy a puddle
 - 50 Sandpaper grade
 - 51 Chuck Berry tune
 - 54 Modern-speed unit
 - 55 Sharp ends
 - 57 Stouter
 - 61 Rajah's spouse
 - 62 Magna cum —
 - 64 Take it easy
 - 65 Pious ending
 - 66 Buenos —
 - 67 Wine's bouquet
 - 68 London park
 - 69 Word of grace
 - 70 Ziploc competitor
- DOWN**
- 1 Latest gossip
 - 2 Taft's state
 - 3 Freeway clogger
 - 4 Shine with a flickering light
 - 5 Courageously
 - 6 Broken mirrors, maybe
 - 7 Tries for office
 - 8 Curvy shape
 - 9 Hard of hearing
 - 10 Included
 - 11 Get up
 - 12 Yacht features
 - 13 Kilt feature
 - 21 Purple hue
 - 23 Gross!
 - 26 Continuous change
 - 27 Teeming
 - 28 Poet's black
 - 29 Embarrass
 - 30 Itemize
 - 31 Hobby ender
 - 33 Burden
 - 35 Operatic prince
 - 36 Censors
 - 37 Fries or slaw
 - 40 Shakespeare title word
 - 41 Give or take
 - 44 Totally stupid
 - 47 Serving soup
 - 49 Permit
 - 50 Affectionate gesture
 - 51 Winfrey of talk shows
 - 52 Rich, friable soil
 - 53 Had an elegant meal
 - 54 Augurs
 - 56 Big hunk
 - 57 Not diluted
 - 58 Rock star, say
 - 59 Ms. Lanchester of films
 - 60 Tall stalk
 - 63 Feel awful

ARLO & JANIS



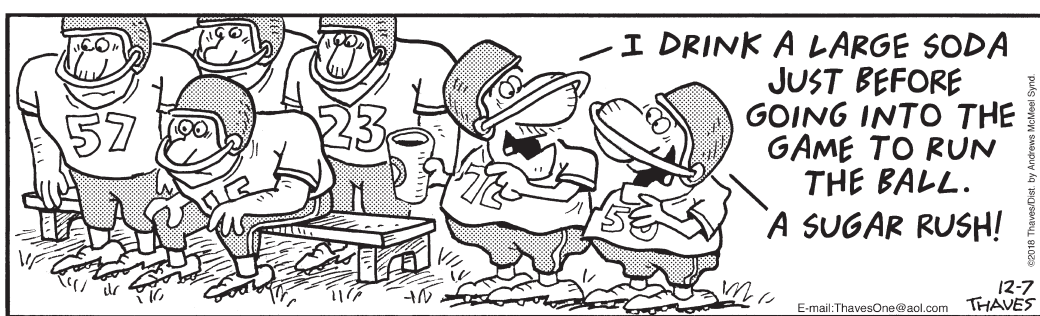
BIG NATE



BORN LOSER



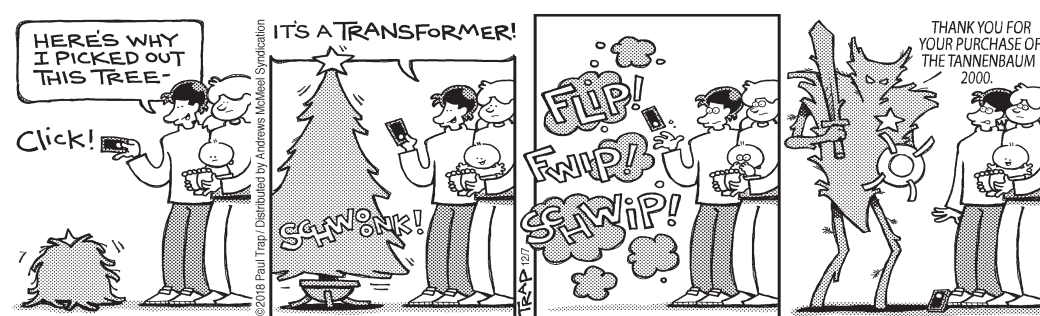
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Big Sandy ADD is an equal opportunity employer

Accepting Bids

Southern Water & Sewer District is declaring a 2009 Chevrolet 2500 Duramax Diesel as surplus property with 139,571 miles, possible bad motor. The reserve shall be met before final sale. Southern Water and Sewer District has the right to refuse any and all bids. This item must be paid for in full and transferred within 5 days of the bid date. Bids will be opened at 10:00 am on December 18th, 2018 at our office. For further information call 606-377-9296.

ANNOUNCE YOUR NEWS

Welcome Baby Smith

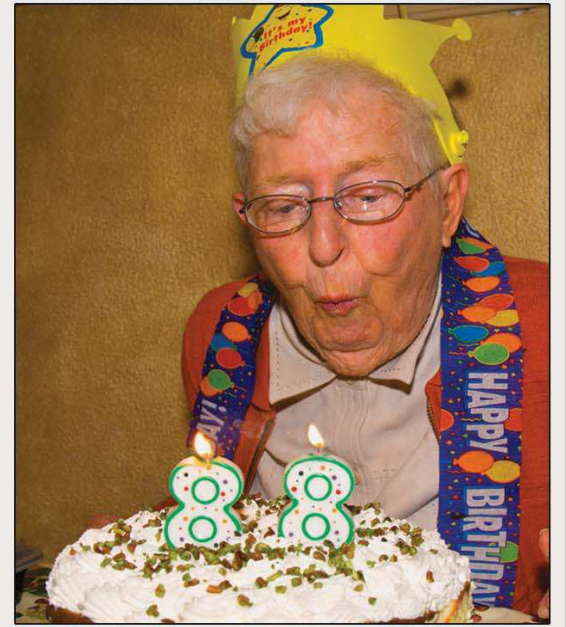


John Caleb Smith, the son of Aaron and Christy Smith of Allen was born Wednesday, December 6, 2017. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Dave and Thelma Ratliff of Allen and John and Dorothy Smith of Wheelwright, Ky.

Birth Announcements

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

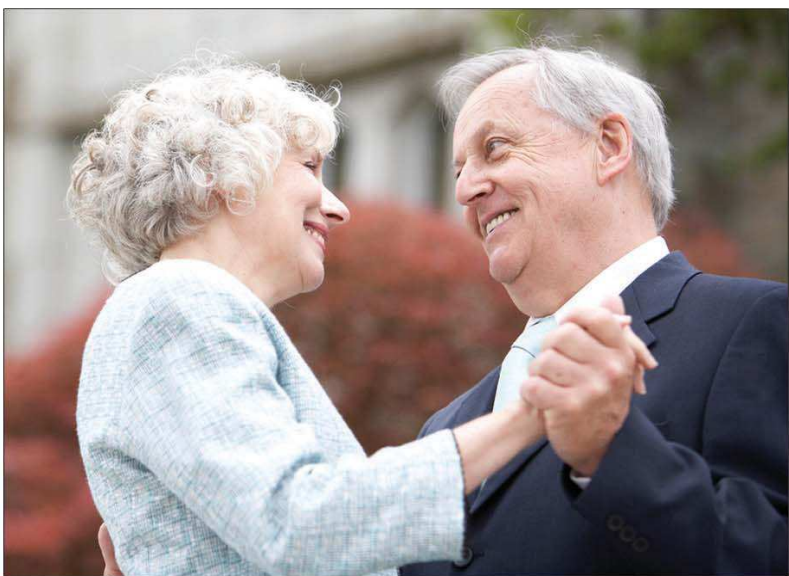
Celebrating Birthdays



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

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