



Christmas at the MAC

■ Page 10A

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Weekend Edition, Dec. 14-16, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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Wayland ends Quest contract

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

The Wayland City Commission voted to end its contract with a coal mining company this week.

During a meeting on Tuesday, the commission voted unanimously to end its contract with Quest Energy, citing a breach of contract.

The move comes about a month after the city hired Jigsaw Enterprises of Pikeville to survey the former coal mine site that the city owns

to determine how much coal Quest has removed.

The city commission approved the agreement with Knott County Coal and Quest Energy last year and the mining started in June.

In May, American Resources Corporation issued a press release, saying that through its subsidiary Quest Energy and Knott County Coal, it entered into an agreement to "acquire an active surface mining operation focused on re-mining a

See **WAYLAND**, Page 6A



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Wayland City Attorney Tyler Green, right, talks about the city's contract with Quest Energy during a meeting on Tuesday. Wayland Mayor Jerry Fultz, left, is also pictured.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows
Hundreds of children attended the 28th Annual Christmas in the Park in Prestonsburg on Dec. 6. It's hosted by the Prestonsburg Woman's Club, Archer Park and Prestonsburg.

Hundreds attend Christmas in the Park

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

The 28th Annual Christmas in the Park was a success on Dec. 6, with hundreds of people in attendance.

The event, hosted by the Prestonsburg Woman's Club and sponsored by Prestonsburg and Archer Park, featured a visit from Santa Claus, gifts for children, food and

See **EVENT**, Page 2A



Open house set for homeless shelter

A **FLOYD CHRONICLE**
AND **TIMES STAFF** REPORT

The Floyd County Homeless Shelter committee is hosting an open house on Monday for the East Kentucky House of Hope.

The public is invited to attend the event, which will be held from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17.

Officials report that work on the facility, located at 644 Ky. Rt. 122 in Martin, is complete, but the agency is still waiting to obtain state approval on some permits before it can officially open.

The homeless shelter is currently seeking donations of non-perishable food items, and it is also seeking volunteer groups that will pledge to provide lunch at 11 a.m. or dinner at 6 p.m. to shelter residents when it opens.

Several churches, individuals and businesses have already signed up to provide meals to residents during the month, but more volunteers are needed to provide that service.

The shelter only has a "warming kitchen" and cannot be used to prepare food for the people staying

See **SHELTER**, Page 6A

The opry is bringing down the house for Christmas

A **FLOYD CHRONICLE**
AND **TIMES STAFF** REPORT

The Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry Christmas Show has brought thousands of people to the Mountain Arts Center this month, and there's only two more shows for those who want to watch it before Christmas.

The final two performances will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14, and Saturday, Dec. 15.

Every show begins with performances by the Jr. Pros, a troupe made up of children from throughout region who sing, dance and play instruments.

See **OPRY**, Page 9A

Hundreds of people attended the first-ever matinee of the Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry Christmas show on Saturday, Dec. 8.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows



CHRONICLE & TIMES

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EVENT

Continued From Page 1A

refreshments and numerous activities, including face painting and games.

More than 40 volunteers, mostly from Big Sandy Community & Technical College, turned out to help at the Archer Park skating rink to help.

Event Chairperson Judy Howell said women's club members and volunteers wrapped about 600 presents that were donated for children under the age of 12 for Christmas in the Park.

The club started the program 28 years ago because members saw a need in the community, Howell said.

"Many of the people who attend this particular event, they're working multiple jobs, but they still need a little extra help with being able to see Santa for free and to have, like a party atmosphere," she said.

She said that need has increased over the years.

"When I first started working with this, maybe 25, 26 years ago, when I started working with it, we would, on average, get maybe 100 to 120 kids," Howell said. "There was a need, but it wasn't that great. Now, with the economy the way it is in our area, there's a greater need."

She said the need changed about 10 years ago, when more peo-



Volunteers with the Prestonsburg Woman's Club distributed hundreds of gifts at Christmas in the Park. The event was made possible with support from Archer Park, the City of Prestonsburg and volunteers from Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows

ple started attending the event. On Thursday, people stood in line for hours prior to the event.

She commended officials with Prestonsburg, Archer Park and all of the volunteers who helped, calling that service "amazing."

"Without their support, we couldn't do it," she said.

The Prestonsburg Woman's Club has about 40 members, and Howell said the club is always looking for "volunteers who want to help peo-

ple." The club's next project will benefit local nursing home residents.

"When I was little, I grew up in Martin County, and there were programs for us in that county to help out and I always thought when I grow up, if I'm able to help people do it, I want to give a part of the community as well," said Howell.

For more information about volunteering, call Howell at, (606) 889-4750, or club President Sabra Jacobs at, (606) 889-4778.



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Charges, lawsuits filed 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

Benjamin Shepherd, 28, of Hueysville; first-degree promoting contraband, possession of drug paraphernalia, two counts of possession of a controlled substance, two counts of prescription not in original container

Dennis Gregory Wilkins, 37, of Louisville; first-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in original container, promoting contraband

Barbara Hicks, 55, of Garrett; promoting contraband, possession of drug paraphernalia

Lisa Ann Alberty, 38, of Kite; promoting contraband, possession of drug paraphernalia

Sean C. Patton, 31, of Printer; first- and second-degree fleeing/evading police, improper display of registration plates, public intoxication of a controlled substance, first-degree disorderly conduct, resisting arrest

Lakota Mullins, 19, of Hi Hat; receiving stolen property under \$10,000

Paul Milton, 45, of

Garrett; first- and second-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia

Christopher Slone, 28, of Wayland; possession of drug paraphernalia, driving on a suspended license, carrying a concealed deadly weapon, first- and second-degree possession of a controlled substance

Ricky Adkins, 28, of Martin; first-degree possession of a controlled substance

Aaron T. Kimbler, 23, of Prestonsburg; first-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia

Marvin Ousley, 59, of Van Lear; tampering with physical evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia

Misdemeanor cases filed

Nick Hagans, 42, of Langley; theft by failure to make required disposition

Edith P. Mcendree, 44, of Prestonsburg; public intoxication of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a controlled substance

Kevin Wade Wilkinson, 46, of Prestonsburg; driving under the influence, no license, menacing, resisting arrest, failure to register transfer of vehicle, possession of an

open alcoholic beverage in a vehicle

Amber Webb, 24, of Lackey; second-degree wanton endangerment

Donnie B. Combs, 41, of Lackey; second-degree wanton endangerment

Brittany Haney, 36, of Banner; driving under the influence, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, disregarding stop sign

Lawsuits filed

Rachael Hall vs. Charles E. Moore, BRC Trucking LLC; personal injury complaint

Community Trust Bank vs. Angela K.

Wright; complaint concerning contract

Brandi Nicole Clark Maynard vs. John Thomas Clark; divorce

State of Georgia vs. David O. Ajveyitsi, Christian Fumanya Monyei; petition for certification that witness Ronda Caudill is needed in this state

Division of Child Support Enforcement, Delores Bentley vs. Joshua Mullins; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

Division of Child Support Enforcement, Ethan Meade vs. Bethany Meade; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

Division of Child Support Enforcement, Amber McMahan vs. William Ratliff; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

Maggie Hall vs. Zachary Roberts; personal injury complaint

Donald Shannon vs. 3M Company, fka Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Mine Safety Appliances Company, Mining Services Company, Kentucky Mine Supply; personal injury complaint

Earnestine Hall vs. Connie Butler; property rights complaint

Charles Bruce Bowen, Lorraine Bowen, Randy

Moore vs. Wesburn Inc. doing business as Artic Cat of Prestonsburg, Artic Cat, Freedomroads LLC; personal injury complaint

Gregory R. Jones vs. Allison Hall; petition for determination of child custody and support

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.

Deputies recover stolen ATV

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Floyd County Sheriff's Department recovered an ATV that was recently stolen in Floyd County.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, Deputy Justin Szymchack arrested Scotty Conn, 28, of Garrett, charging him with one felony count of receiving stolen property.

According to documents filed in Floyd District Court, Szymchack received a complaint about Conn allegedly stealing an ATV from Fred Lyons. Szymchack joined Deputy Kevin Johnson to conduct a "knock and talk" at Conn's residence.

"When we arrived on the scene, I noticed a four wheeler sitting next to the front door of Mr. Conn's house matching the description of the stolen four wheeler,"

Szymchack wrote in the citation.

He reported that Conn's mother gave deputies permission to check the VIN number on the ATV, and it matched the VIN number of a ATV that had been reported stolen.

Conn told deputies that his friends brought the ATV there the night before, Szymchack reported.

Conn entered a not guilty plea to the charge in Floyd District Court on Dec. 10. District Judge Jimmy Marcum placed him under a \$1,000 cash bond and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 19.

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PMC BRINGS NEW LIGHT TO LOCATING VEINS FOR IVS AND BLOOD DRAWS THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGY

By: Carol Casebolt

Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) has introduced a new device that helps health care professionals locate veins for IV sticks and blood draws. The AccuVein AV400 projects a pattern of infrared light onto the patient's skin that reveals the position of underlying veins.

The process is simple, just point the lightweight, portable device at the skin and click to display the peripheral veins beneath.

The system is designed to help healthcare professionals locate the best vein for venipuncture. Venipuncture is the most common invasive medical procedure worldwide with an estimated 2.7 million procedures conducted every day in the United States alone. Studies reveal that up to one third of attempts to access a vein fail the first time. Improving first-stick attempts is a major goal for health care providers around the world.

PMC Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Office, Michelle Rainey said, "We are committed to providing quality care at PMC. I can see that many patients will benefit from this new technology. We are excited about using the AccuVein to minimize pain for those patients with the greatest risk for multiple sticks."

Even the most experienced healthcare professionals can have difficulty accessing veins quickly the first time.

Everyone is potentially a difficult stick. Young children and the elderly often have small or damaged veins that are difficult to "hit" even by experienced practitioners using only their naked eye.

Dark-skinned individuals also are difficult to stick the first time, as are patients with a his-

tory of extensive past IV drug applications or drug abuse. Obese patients also have proven difficult to stick successfully.

In addition to the range of patient types, factors such as dehydration and medications can often play a role in the ability to access veins as well as low body temperature and lack of muscle.

Vein visualization has been introduced throughout the world in over 130 countries. It is being used in over 5,000 hospitals and is now available at PMC.

For additional information about services at Pikeville Medical Center, call 606-218-3500 or visit pikevillehospital.org.



BRIDGET MCCOY – A BARIATRIC SUCCESS

By: Amanda Jo Lawson

Bridget McCoy of Johns Creek struggled with obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, irritable bowel syndrome and acid reflux. She realized she had not made her health a high priority and was constantly thinking she was not living the life she wanted.

McCoy recalls having several failed diet attempts. "I was unhappy with how I felt and how I looked. I felt like I had tried everything and had almost given up hope," said McCoy.

She stated she had tried everything on her own and failed. At that point, she decided to make an appointment to see Pikeville Medical Center's (PMC) Bariatric Surgeon, Amy Johnson, MD.

"I was nervous. I had heard and seen results of people who had surgery and the results spoke for themselves. I was just scared I would fail at this too," said McCoy.

At 217lbs, she faced her fear and made an appointment with Dr. Johnson.

Dr. Johnson made McCoy feel at ease and helped her understand the options she had regarding her obesity.

"I remember meeting Bridget for the first time. I knew, with proper guidance and help, her life could change. I could not wait to see what would happen to her after a life changing sleeve," said Dr. Amy Johnson.

Dr. Johnson informed McCoy that she was the perfect candidate for gastric sleeve surgery.

"After my appointment I went home and prayed about the situation. I had tremendous support from my husband, daughter and church family. I had the support I needed to make the right decision regarding surgery," said McCoy.

After extensive thought and prayer, McCoy decided to proceed with surgery at PMC's Weight Loss Surgery Center. She lost 85lbs and her health changed for the better.

McCoy said, "I struggled with weight for a long time. Having surgery was not the easy way out for me. I now realize, without this surgery, I would have never felt as good as I do today."

Since surgery, McCoy no longer faces obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, IBS or acid reflux.

"There are things I can do now that I could not do before. I feel so much better. Shopping for clothes is even fun now. My life is better all around," added McCoy.

McCoy says her only regret was not doing this sooner.

"I wish I had put my fears aside a long time before this. The way I feel now is beyond anything I could ever explain," McCoy said.

Prior to her surgery, McCoy hid in family pictures, hated shopping or even going places to do things.

Since surgery, she enjoys cruises, trips to Disney World and shopping with her family; all things she never felt like doing.

"I never realized what I was missing. I am enjoying my life and I am a much healthier person," added McCoy.

She says she wants to encourage anyone who is considering weight loss surgery to do themselves a favor and do it now.

She credits Dr. Johnson and her staff for an amazing experience.

For more information about the PMC Weight Loss Surgery Center or to schedule an appointment call 606-218-2205.



A TRUE TESTIMONY TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HEART CARE

By: Amanda Jo Lawson

Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) continues to make advancements for heart care in the region. PMC's commitment to expanding and investing in a state-of-the-art heart and vascular institute is changing the future of heart care in this region.

PMC patients who qualify for heart surgery using the Da Vinci Surgical System are already seeing a host of advantages. The Da Vinci surgical system is designed to facilitate complex surgeries using a minimally invasive approach; improving results and helping physicians provide quality care for heart patients.

Mike Smith, 75, of Sydney recently experienced PMC's commitment to care. Smith had open heart surgery performed by PMC Cardiothoracic Surgeon, John Deel, MD, using the Da Vinci surgical system.



Smith stated he had seen doctors at other hospitals regarding symptoms he was experiencing.

"It was a different type of pain than anything I had experienced in the past," said Smith. "My chest was very tight. I felt like there was a heavy weight sitting on my chest."

Smith was referred to PMC for his heart symptoms. "It was strongly suggested that I seek care for my heart at PMC," said Smith. "I was glad to know they wanted me to come to PMC because I had heard so many wonderful things about this hospital."

Upon his arrival, Smith underwent a stress test. At that time, PMC Interventional Cardiologist, Muhammad Ahmad, MD, performed a heart cath. Smith was experiencing severe disease of the main vessel.

Smith had 80-90 percent blockage of the entire vessel, causing damage to the heart muscle and needed open heart surgery to repair the damage.

Smith met with Dr. Deel and found he was a candidate for open heart surgery using the Da Vinci surgical system.

"Dr. Deel was amazing to me. He explained everything with compassion and made me feel very comfortable about my surgery," added Smith.

"Open heart surgery was the solution to repair the amount of blockage in the entire vessel Smith was experiencing," said Dr. Deel. "Smith's Da Vinci-assisted surgery, allowed him to have smaller incisions, faster recovery and experience less pain with equal results."

Smith says he appreciates PMC for all they did to care for him in his time of need.

"I am thankful for the care I received at PMC and thankful to God for his will to take care of the physicians and myself," Smith added.

PMC's commitment to growth and providing advanced care is raising the bar for heart care through technology and our most recent addition of the-state-of-the-art cath labs. Procedures performed close to home allow family and friends a more convenient opportunity to support patients during their recovery.

Smith said he was pleased with the care he received at PMC and is thankful his family could avoid the burden of traveling long distances to be with him during surgery and recovery.

For more information about Pikeville Medical Center's Heart and Vascular Institute, call 606-218-3500 or visit pikevillehospital.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Time to end corporal punishment in schools

THE WINCHESTER SUN

When the Kentucky legislature convenes for its 2019 general session, it will have the opportunity — again — to end the barbaric practice of corporal punishment in schools.

Rep. Steve Riley (R-Glasgow) has filed a bill, like he did last year, that would ban the practice of physically disciplining children in all Kentucky schools.

Yes, you read that right — in 2018, it's still legal for educators to strike a child as a form of "punishment."

Fortunately, the practice is not widespread and it's dying an overdue death: In the 2016-17 school year, 17 of Kentucky's 173 school districts reported the use of corporal punishment,

according to the most recent annual Safe Schools statistical report from the Kentucky Department of Education.

A total of 334 corporal punishments were meted out during the 2016-17 school year, down from 517 in the 2015-16 school year, which was also down from 574 in the 2014-15 school year, according to the report.

But 334 instances of quasi-abuse of children (nearly twice every school day) is 334 too many.

Physically punishing a child accomplishes a lot of negative consequences all at once.

For starters, children are at school to learn and grow.

Corporal punishment shuts down their ability to learn in a positive manner and teaches

them instead that school is a place where they may feel pain and fear.

Corporal punishment also embarrasses the victim, promoting a culture of bullying among students, where those who have been punished are either mocked by the other students or become the bullies as they seek to regain their pride.

Corporal punishment risks further harming children with abusive parents.

In fact, kids who are victims of abuse are more likely to act out, making them more likely to be subject to corporal punishment in the few dark corners of the state where it remains in use.

There may be some who argue corporal punishment in schools was necessary at some point in the past.

Although we could not disagree more given what decades of research has shown us about human behavior and learning, we're also not interested in arguing that point.

Corporal punishment is useless today.

Most teachers working today don't want to use it and don't need it — their training has given them all kinds of tools for dealing with problematic behavior in positive ways that don't create further problems and don't harm children.

Unfortunately, there will be defenders of corporal punishment, even today.

Whenever a relic of the past faces elimination, there will be people who argue that it should be kept around.

These apologists for

lost causes always fall back on the same old tricks, no matter what the issue is:

—Othering: They will argue the children being punished aren't like you or me, that they are some other group of people who need harsh treatment to bring them in line.

—Scapegoating: They will blame the victims or some other entity, attempting to redirect conversations away from the actual topic of educators striking children and toward someone else's behavior.

—Nostalgia: They will romanticize the past and allege that doing away with the harmful practice would somehow mean doing away with history.

—Equalization: They will frame the issue as a disagreement of opinion

only and minimize the research and evidence that says they're wrong, in order to make it seem like both sides have equal legitimacy.

None of these tricks hold an ounce of logical water — they are snake oil, plain and simple. When the snake oil salesmen show up, we should ignore them and think about our children instead.

It's time for Kentucky to move on from corporal punishment.

It's time that our kids can go to school knowing for sure that their teachers are there to teach them, not hit them.

It's time to tell our legislators we want them to end corporal punishment in Kentucky's schools in 2019.

GUEST COLUMN

Cold shoulder

**By SJ RUTH
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS**

Baby it's cold outside. I think I better stay.

But Meat, you live right next door. There's barely a couple inches of snow. You really should go.

Kinda sounds like a song doesn't it?

That's the old conversation Meat and I used to have before Tater came along to put something other than spiked eggnog in his holiday plans.

Now I look forward to late evening conversations with the couple.

Tater has a way of reeling Meat's more extreme wassal-influenced rants back from the terroristic threatening realm he used to occupy.

Just last night they were over until almost midnight chewing the holiday fat. There's a lot of fat to chew these days, too.

Meat's considering sending his resume to the White House. If Chris Christie doesn't get the chief of staff job, he believes he's the next best choice. He reminded us, several times, that he was once in charge of the

annual Elkhorn Kiwanis Club BBQ.

He seemed oblivious to the fact that neither has existed since that fateful day. It's the experience that counts.

Tater was in more of a contemplative mood. She believes 2018 will go down as the year the Republican party openly quit on the concept of democracy and rule by law.

The thing to know about the GOP is they are always secretly doing whatever they are accusing the other side of. All this mumbo jumbo about

voter fraud? Well what do you call thousands of uncounted absentee ballots in Georgia and Florida?

What do you call gerrymandering state districts so that no matter how many people vote for Democrats, there's always a Republican majority?

What exactly do you call lame duck laws that take power away from newly-elected officials simply because they aren't Republicans? It's the same as when an outlaw Senate leader refuses to consider a President's constitutional obligation to appoint Supreme Court justices.

It's called a fraud on the voters, that's what

it's called. And the party of Trump is of course the party of fraud. It's the one thing he's good at.

"Hey, what's in this drink? You left the nog out of my eggnog!"

"There's nothing left out of that drink, Meat. Eggnog without nog is just yolks. I put plenty of rum in there."

"Yeah, says you."

We all enjoyed a good laugh at the Cheeto's on camera hissy fit over the border wall. We agreed if Chuck Schumer can make you look bad on national TV, you're not winning. So much not winning!

The Donald's so desperate for a win, he'll take credit for shutting down the government.

His party will be happy, too, because what they really mean by small government is no government at all.

When Meat brought up the "I" word, claiming the Democrats didn't have a carrot on their snowman if they didn't start proceedings in January, Tater stood right up.

We really can't stay. We really should go. He brought up the word and I say no, no, no. You know there's bound to be talk ...

But Tater, just one more drink. Meat is right on the brink. It's not near as late as you think.

And baby, it's cold outside.



CHRONICLE & TIMES

LETTERS OR COMMENTS:

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Email:
news@floydchronicle.com

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Jeff Vanderbeck, Publisher
(jvanderbeck@news-expressky.com)

Russ Cassidy, Editor
(editor@news-expressky.com)

Danny Coleman, Ad Director
(dcoleman@news-expressky.com)

Bobby Gilliam, Production Manager
(bgilliam@news-expressky.com)

Lisa Moore, Office Manager
(lmoore@news-expressky.com)

Randy White, Sports Editor
(sports@news-expressky.com)

Emma Burchett, Office Manager
(eburchett@floydct.com)

FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

Wayland City Clerk resigns

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Wayland City Commission bid farewell this week to an employee who has served the city for more than a decade.

During a Dec. 11 meeting, the commission accepted the resignation of City Clerk Sharon Anderson, effective Dec. 31.

Anderson submitted a letter of resignation to the city last month, citing family obligations and saying that it's time for her to step down.

"I did not make this decision lightly but after months of contemplation I have decided it is the right decision for me," Anderson wrote.

Wayland Mayor Jerry Fultz and commission members praised Ander-

son for her work. They approved a resolution, recognizing her "exemplary" 14-year career in Wayland and commending her for performing her duties in a "trustworthy, dependable and superb manner."

Fultz said it will be hard to replace her, saying it's been a "blessing" to have her as an employee.

"I'm just heartbroken that she's leaving, but I totally support her," Fultz said.

Commissioner Michael Caudill made the motion to accept Anderson's resignation, but said he was doing so reluctantly.

"It's been an honor working for the city. It has," Anderson told them. "It's been tiring.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Wayland City Clerk Sharon Anderson listens as city officials read a resolution the commission approved to honor her. She resigned from her position this week.

It's been hard at times. There were times when I told other people that something was going to have to happen, but I have to say this past eight years, it's been good, but it's just my time to go."

Anderson offered to help train the city's in-

coming clerk, but Fultz said he's not been able to find a replacement yet.

He highlighted several upcoming projects, saying that coordinating the paperwork for those projects will be more challenging without her.

what's owed."

Quest Energy is required to pay Wayland a minimum of \$4,000 per month in royalties, as well as wheelage payments, and, in September, it had not paid made a payment since June, officials said. Green said it owed Wayland more than \$12,000 at that time, alleging a breach of contract because of the delinquencies and the lack of "true and accurate" reports the company was supposed to provide the city.

Last month's financial report showed Quest paid the city more than \$17,600 in October, but those payments were for August, officials said.

Green pointed out that in addition to these payments, Quest is required to provide the city with reports about the coal it removes from the city property.

"We've had some reports. We don't know if that's all or not. But we know that we haven't received a check on royalties....We didn't get anything for September, October or November, of actual royalties and tonnage, wheelage, I guess is what it's called," Fultz said. "We got this \$4,000 check and it doesn't necessarily say what it was for, but we did deposit that check. I was afraid not to. It was a personal check, well, it was on a different company, I guess."

He said the president of the company told him on Wednesday that they would "try to get a train out" the following day and pay Wayland everything it is owed on Friday.

"He has indicated that he would get us caught up on Friday. We don't know what caught up is," Fultz said. "We have a tonnage report, and I don't even know how accurate it is, but I do know that there's got to be a recovery rate of that tonnage, and we don't know what that recovery rate is. So,

there's no way for us to know what that amount is at this point, no more than it was in June, July and August."

Commissioner Mike Caudill asked whether the city would ask Jigsaw to conduct surveys to determine how much coal has been removed from the site since the company started mining.

"That's up to the commission," Green said. "You could. I imagine Quest, under the guise of Knott County Coal, will attempt to negotiate with the commission after they receive this letter. It will be up to the privy of the commission how to proceed if they come back to the table."

Fultz suggested the city ask for up-front payments, as it has with previous coal companies that mined the site.

Officials report that the city hopes to eventually remove all of the coal from this area and clean it up for development. It includes about 45 acres, Fultz said, and around 15 acres is flat land.

Commissioners Kathy Mills and Curtis Lee were absent.

The commission also:

- Approved bills and the financial report, showing the city has \$40,800 in its road aid fund and \$61,800 in its general fund. City Clerk Sharon Anderson said the city is "right where we should be" in terms of the budget.

- Learned from Fultz that the city has made progress is obtaining funding to buy a new police car, and that there has been progress on several city projects. The FEMA drainage project is underway this week, and the city will seek bids on its gym project on Dec. 19. Fultz said an Abandoned Mine Lands grant project is also underway at the city's old water plant.

- Approved donating \$300 to the Garrett Fire

Adis Clark
Adis Clark, 85, of Betty Layne, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

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

Barbara Jean Compton
Barbara Jean "Cookie" Compton, 70, of Hueysville, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

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

Frank Lee Duncan
Frank Lee Duncan, 45, of Hueysville, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

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

Steve Hamilton Stout
Steve Hamilton Stout, 91, of Martin, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

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

SHELTER Continued From Page 1A

there.

Once complete, the East Kentucky House of Hope will offer two dorm rooms for males and females, and be able to accommodate up to 12 people.

Organizers have partnered with Kentucky River Community Care to operate the shelter under guidance from the committee, serving as the board of directors.

KRCC staff will stay at the shelter around the clock and other employees from KRCC will also work there. They will provide numerous ser-

vices for clients, including assistance with mental health issues, career assistance and, among other resources, specialists who can help people with disabilities.

The shelter also seeks donations of nonperishable food items and personal hygiene items.

Tax deductible donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 1746, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653. For more information, visit the shelter's Facebook page or call (606) 886-2201.

More information about the shelter and its programs is also available online at ekyhouseofhope.com or on the homeless shelter's Facebook page.

WAYLAND Continued From Page 1A

coarse disposal area in Wayland."

The press release said Knott County Coal will assume ownership of all permits, leases, government approvals and reclamation bonds on the property.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration's online database reports that a Faith Unlimited Contracting started working as a contractor at this mine in May 2018 with Quest Energy Corporation listed as the controller.

Wayland City Attorney Tyler Green mailed a letter to Thomas Sauve, president of Knott County Coal on Dec. 11, reporting that issues raised in a letter the city sent to the company in September are "yet to be addressed."

Green notes in the letter that the city is terminating the agreement, effective immediately.

"Please remove all equipment from city property as soon as possible, pursuant to the Agreement," Green wrote.

He told the commission, "We sent them a letter back on Sept. 7, and they didn't, well they responded, but they didn't correct the deficiencies in the letter, being payment and reporting."

Mayor Jerry Fultz said he met with a representative of Quest and the city received a \$4,000 check this week, but that payment doesn't put the company in compliance with the contract.

"We met with him on a Wednesday and he gave us \$4,000, but that doesn't bring us up anywhere," Fultz said.

"Right," Green said to him. "But that's nowhere close to what the city's owed, right?"

"No," Fultz said. "Well, we don't know

Department for its Santa Run.

- Accepted the resignation of City Clerk Sharon Anderson and approved a resolution to honor her.

- Encouraged commission members to attend a swearing-in ceremony for all city and county officials that will be held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the Mountain Arts Center. Fultz said he can swear officials into office if they prefer, however.

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Bond reduced in school gun case

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Floyd County Circuit Judge Johnny Ray Harris reduced the bond for a former student accused of bringing a gun to school this year.

On Dec. 11, an order sustaining a motion to reduce bond was filed in the case against Andrew Prater, 18.

Harris reduced Prater's bond from \$10,000 cash to \$8,000 cash, ordering that he undergo pretrial monitoring if he is released from custody.

Prater was 17 years old when he was 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.

A bond hearing was held in this case in Floyd Circuit Court on Dec. 3, with Harris reporting that he would take the motion to reduce Prater's bond under advisement.

Prater 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.

The wanton endangerment charge was filed because Prater allegedly threatened a student with a gun near the school property a few days prior to this alleged incident, Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner told Harris on Dec. 3.

Turner asked Harris to keep Prater's bond the same, citing the alleged threat and concerns about having a gun on school property.

Prater's attorney Athanasia Lewis asked Harris to reduce Prater's bond, saying he denies

threatening anyone with a gun. Lewis said Prater is not a flight risk and that he is "entitled to a presumption of innocence."

Floyd County Detention Center officials confirmed on Wednesday afternoon that Prater was still in custody.

A pretrial conference is scheduled to be held in the case in January.

On the day he considered Prater's bond, Harris also took a bond revocation request in another case under advisement. As of Wednesday, however, no ruling had been filed in that case, in which Kimberly Akers, 44, is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree as-

sault and driving under the influence.

She is accused of allegedly murdering Heidi Ann Hamilton, 38, of Craynor, and assaulting her fiancé Chris Hamilton, 37, in a Dec. 14, 2017, crash that police claim was caused because Akers was driving under the influence of drugs.

Akers pleaded not guilty during her arraignment in July, and Harris reduced her bond from \$250,000 cash to \$50,000 cash or property, following a recommendation from pre-trial services that month.

On Dec. 3, Akers and her attorney Robbie Wright appeared in court

for the bond revocation hearing, following allegations that Akers tested positive for illegal drug use.

In testimony, Akers asserted that she taken narcotics that were legally prescribed by two dentists for an abscessed tooth and other issues that required the removal of two teeth. She and Wright questioned the validity of the drug test she received during the hearing.

Harris requested copies of Akers' medical records, which have since been filed in the case. He set a status hearing to be held on Dec. 20.

Prestonsburg tourism plans bike trail

By MARY MEADOWS STAFF WRITER

Prestonsburg Tourism Director Samantha West answered questions about the organization's plans to develop a bike trail in the city this week.

The tourism commission has discussed the project over the past couple of months.

West said the project is planned in conjunction with Prestonsburg's efforts to enhance mountain bike trails at Sugar-camp.

"So, the city, they're working on their own mountain trails and developing the mountain biking trails as a whole. So, they're working on that side, but what we want to do is develop action plans to bring the bikers and those that are experienced and those that are brand new on a

bicycle for the first time, bring them directly in town," West said. "People are coming and camping, but they're not taking in the town, so we wanted to find a way to bring them directly to that, by making it really easy and accessible."

She said Prestonsburg Tourism partnered with an organization called "My City Bikes," to map biking routes in Prestonsburg. She said the company is working on a "Best of Prestonsburg" bike trail map that highlights historical places in the city and its businesses. The maps are designed to give bikers an all-day tour of the city, she said.

She said the map will be available on the tourism commission's website, which is being updated, and may also be shared on the city's web-

site and websites of other local businesses and organizations.

"It updates in real time," West said about the map. "So, what we'd like about it, is that where it is software-based, if a business changes locations, we can actually go into the system and actually update it in real time, verses a printed map... We can actually update it. We can have it on our site. The city can have it on their site. Each individual business can have it on their site also, so it can actually be shared between many organizations."

She said officials want to make these maps easy to understand and accessible, and officials are also working to develop a plan to improve safety for those who want to bike through the city.

The maps will be

available in the spring.

Prestonsburg Tourism and the City of Prestonsburg each paid \$1,000 for the service, West said.

During a Dec. 11 meeting, West told the commission that the agency is now publishing its meeting minutes on its website, following up on a request made last year by commissioners. The commission voted to publish the agency's financial on the website when accounts are reconciled and the reports are ready.

Commission members Julian Slone and Rodney Gardner were absent. Mayor Les Stapleton told the commission that he is still waiting on a nomination from the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce to fill the seat that will be left by Rick Hughes, who was elected to the Prestonsburg City Commission.

In other news, the commission also:

- Paid \$17,400 in bills and tax payments of \$45,400 to the MAC (\$11,655); Prestonsburg Parks (\$14,795); Prestonsburg Tourism (\$14,795) and StoneCrest (\$3,586).

- Heard from East Kentucky Science Center Director Steve Russo, who said the center's holiday-themed laser shows, "Season of Light" and "Laser Holidays" will continue to be offered at 2 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays through Dec. 20.

- Heard from Mountain Arts Center Programming Director Joe Campbell, who said the Jason Isbell concert, set for Sunday, sold out three days after it was announced this fall, and a third-party buyer is selling tickets for the concert for hundreds

of dollars. West reported that Nick Jamerson of Prestonsburg is expected to perform at a festival in which Isbell is a headliner, leading Campbell to say that other areas are starting to notice the talent of Eastern Kentucky musicians.

- Approved travel for tourism officials to attend golfing conferences in other areas to promote a "Stay and Play" package at StoneCrest.

- Learned from Stapleton that the city is submitting a proposal to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to host the elk drawing in May at the Mountain Arts Center.

- West reported that the commission sought bids for the creation of rack cards for the agency, but no bids were submitted. She said officials will now consider other options.

Marriages, property transfers filed in Floyd

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

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

Marriages

Courtney Leigh Ritchie, 22, of Bevinville, to Justin Tyler Brown, 23, of Bevinville

Angela Lynn Johnson, 41, of Bypro, to Joey Franklin Burke, 39, of Bypro

Trudy Gaye Little, 58, of Martin, to Edward J. Gabbard, 54, of Winchester

Crystal L. Kimberling, 38, of Hueysville, to Jonathan W. Howard, 41, of Hueysville

Kendrick A. Powell, 21, of Prestonsburg, to Katherine Marie Bailey, 19, of Prestonsburg

Property transfers

Jessica Newsome, Ronnie Newsome to Robert D. Lawson, Teresa Lawson (Deeds Book 641; pg. 742)

Gracie Leslie to Kenneth Leslie, Wilma W. Leslie (Deeds Book 641; pg. 745)

Eddie Roberts, Mary Thomas Roberts, Peggy Roberts, William Roberts to Rebecca Salisbury Jenkins, Myril McKinney (Deeds Book 641; pg. 749)

Bobby Branham, Glenda Branham to Jim-

my Branham (Deeds Book 642; pg. 1)

Sylvia Hall to Charles David Hall, Melissa Martin (Deeds Book 642; pg. 6)

Eva Vance to Citizens Bank of Kentucky (Deeds Book 642; pg. 8)

Richard Ellis, Vickie D. Ellis to Ashley R. Borders, Gary N. Borders (Deeds Book 642; pg. 25)

Floyd County Master Commissioner, Gregory A. Isaac, Capital One Bank, Nationstar Mortgage, Michael Lee, Patricia Ann Lee to The Bank of New York Mellon (Deeds Book 642; pg. 28)

Daniel Hall, Gary Allen Hall, Amanda Keathley, Stevie Mitchell to Nicholas J. Martin (Deeds Book 642; pg. 32)

Keith Bartley to Bill Conley, Tonya Conley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 35)

Edgar L. Shepherd, Joy Shepherd to Ricky D. Seals (Deeds Book 642; pg. 39)

Bill Conley, Tonya Conley to Keith Bartley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 44)

Coyette Lawson to Christopher J. R. Lawson (Deeds Book 642; pg. 48)

Burton Collins to Roger Collins (Deeds Book 642; pg. 52)

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to Brushy Development Corporation, Loren G. Turner (Deeds Book 642; pg. 54)

Tonya Farmer, Ricky Hitchcock, Heirs of Ann Hitchcock Slone, Brandon J. Slone, Brianna Slone,

Zoe Slone, Alma Tackett to Ruby Hitchcock (Deeds Book 642; pg. 61)

David Glenn Boyd to Stephanie J. Norton Boyd (Deeds Book 642; pg. 65)

Jeanie Frasure Hicks, Rodney Hicks to Kevin Bailey (Deeds Book 642; pg. 77)

Yassin Khattab Md., Hala Saty to YHK Properties (Deeds Book 642; pg. 81, 87)

Deborah Griffin, Don Griffin to Ward Hale (Deeds Book 642; pg. 93)

Alberta Blackburn to Brandon Bolen (Deeds Book 642; pg. 96)

Wilmington Savings Fund Society to Ernest Hurt Jr., Judy Marie Mills (Deeds Book 642; pg. 97)

Geneve Slone, Meredith Slone to Danny Mead (Deeds Book 642; pg. 106)

The Elk Horn Coal Company LLC to CBD Re-

sources Inc. (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 108, 111)

Sandy Bartley, Wray Lynn Bartley, Gary Branham, Patricia Branham, Stephen Clark, Gary Collins, Sharon Collins, Randy Dinsmore, Vicky Dinsmore, James Hamilton, Cheryl Martin, Danny Martin, Jackie Martin, Connie Murphy, Michael Murphy, Amy Slone, Billy G. Sowards, Heather Sowards, Lincoln Sowards to Martha Carroll, Randy R. Carroll (Deeds Book 642; pg. 114)

Cheryl Martin to Stephen Cark (Deeds Book 642; pg. 116)

Danny Martin to Stephen Clark (Deeds Book 642; pg. 120)

Sandy Bartley, Wray Lynn Bartley, Gary Branham, Patricia Branham, Franklin Clark, William Clark, Stephen Clark, Gary Collins, Sharon Collins,

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Randy Dinsmore, Vicky Dinsmore, James Hamilton, Cheryl Martin, Danny Martin, Jackie Martin, Connie Murphy, Michael Murphy, Amy Slone, Billy G. Sowards, Heather Sowards, Lincoln Sowards to Martha Carroll, Randy R. Carroll (Deeds Book 642; pg. 122)

Myril McKinney, Teresa McKinney to Rebecca Salisbury Jenkins (Deeds Book 642; pg. 141)

Rebecca Salisbury Jenkins to Teresa McKinney (Deeds Book 642; pg. 144)

First Baptist Church of Allen to Allen Baptist Church Inc. (Deeds Book 642; pg. 147)

Frasure Manufacturing and Electrical Service Inc. to Gene R. Frasure (Deeds Book 642; pg. 156)

Manis Ousley to Alva Mae Ousley, Alva Sue Ousley, Manis James Ousley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 159)

James Manis Oulsey to Alva Sue Ousley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 161)

Alva Mae Oulsey to Alva Sure Ousley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 165, 174)

Alva Mae Ousley, to Manis James Ousley (Deeds Book 642; pgs. 168, 171)

Bobby Howell to Tammy Hamilton (Deeds Book 642; pg. 177)

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Legislative work group discusses school safety in P'burg

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

The state's 2018 School Safety Working Group held its eighth legislative meeting at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg on Dec. 11.

The group, created in May, has met periodically throughout the year to review school safety policies and procedures, communication and collaboration among police, educators and mental health professionals.

State Sen. Max Wise, chairman of the group, said this committee is not required to present recommendations to legislators, like a task force would, but explained that it could, let legislators know about "common themes" presented at these meetings.

"So, I know a lot of people are interested in hearing today, I've got a lot of the media saying, okay, what now? What's the recommendations? Where are we going from here?" Wise said. "You know, that's going to be up to the legislature to decide where we will go, but I am open to listening to anyone up here with any kind of closing comments, any kind of observations that any of you all want to take."

Jon Akers, director of the Kentucky Center for School Safety, thanked legislators for taking a "measured approach" by establishing the workgroup to gain insight before legislative decisions are made.

Rep. John Blanton asked legislators to create a plan that can be used statewide.

"As we move forward with whatever recommendations that may come from this or ideas may come from this, I just caution all of us, if we do look in the future on doing some piece of legislation, that we do not put together a simple, cookie-cutter method," Blanton said. "Every school district differs around the state. We don't want to put something in that may work at Seneca, and may not work at Pikeville or whatever. They need to have

the latitude within the language for each individual district to be able to reach what they feel like is the best potential model ... We don't want to tie someone's hands and force them in to doing something."

He said it's also "vitally important" to provide funding for any recommendations it offers.

"We can't afford to put unfunded mandates that these schools that are already strapped, can't afford to do," he said.

Henry Webb, the former superintendent in Floyd County, had similar comments, saying any recommendations should be "flexible enough" for all districts to implement.

Dr. Joe Bargione, a certified school psychologist, said any potential solution should also include a partnership with other community groups. He said there are five or six key drivers to promote school safety and suggested that if those drivers were identified, schools could work with groups to implementing them.

Sen. Johnny Ray Turner thanked Wise for bringing the legislative hearing to Prestonsburg, saying the meetings have helped him realize decisions he made when he was teaching, in regards to discipline, were right. He said hopefully legislators can "come up with a solution that everybody can work with."

Wise, Turner and Blanton were the only three of 10 legislators appointed to the committee who attended the meeting.

No local school officials or groups gave testimony at the meeting, but several local officials attended, including superintendents of school districts in Floyd and Pike County, as well as officials from Magoffin County.

Testimony was provided by Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Director John Holiday and Deputy Director Mike Sunseri; Jo Craven, the interim director of the Kentucky Center for Instructional Discipline;



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows

Henry Webb, right, superintendent of Kenton County Schools, asks a question during the 2018 School Safety Working Group, held in Prestonsburg Tuesday. Also pictured are, left, Dr. Joe Bargione and Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, center.

Dr. Vestena Robbins and Christina Weeter of the state's Interagency Council's Social and Emotional Task Force; Jefferson County School's health coordinator Eva Stone and school nurse Barbara Colgan; Lafayette High School student Ashley Barnett and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School students Gabriella Staykova and Nasim Mohammadzadeh, a member of the group.

Sunseri emphasized the importance of updating the state's 911 systems to allow people to send texts, photos, videos and data to police. He also talked about the need to give school administrators access to a network that prioritizes their calls over students or others who call and text when an emergency occurs at a school, and the need to have accurate 360-degree mapping that could be used by 911 centers.

Holiday talked about the need to decrease emergency response times, provide resources and equipment to help police and partner groups to improve school safety.

"The issue of school safety, I don't have to tell this committee, it's a complex one," Holiday said. "Addressing this issue is a lot more complex than simply stopping a bad guy with a gun."

He said the Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center determined there were 39 school threats in 28 Kentucky counties, including threats reported in Pike, Martin, Letcher

and Lawrence counties, since the school shooting in Parkland, Florida in February. He said that 34 percent of those threats came from social media.

He emphasized the need to change the emergency response to these incidents from a reactionary response to one that could potentially stop a school shooting by detecting threats on social media. He said eight school shooters in America "told us" what they were going to do before the shootings occurred.

"Criminals don't make an appointment, but they do leave clues," he said, emphasizing the need for resource centers through which officials can assess social media posts which seem threatening.

Holiday also talked implementing intelligence resource centers filled with trained intelligence analysts and others who provide "real-time data and information analysis" of social media threats.

"Let me tell you, real time data is what it's all about," he said. "If you're not getting real-time data, you're missing the train ... I can't tell you how important that is for that first responder or that emergency services personnel that's making that breach into that area. They've got to have that information immediately."

He said within five minutes of the school shooting in Marshall County this year, he received a picture of a person officials believed to be the shooter.

Holiday said the government is "pushing resources out" on a daily basis to help prepare for "complex coordinated attacks" that could occur in the future.

"How effective would this be in our psyche if our schools were amongst the targeted?" he asked. "Critical analysis at all levels, at all federal agencies are saying the same thing. It's a matter of time until complex coordinated attacks reach our shores and then start targeting our schools. But potential for surprise attacks among our schools will continue to increase unless we establish an around-the-clock school safety resource center that they can combat the rising trend of social media threats by analyzing threats in real time. It's got to be in real time."

Lafayette High School student Ashley Barnett and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School students Gabriella Staykova and Nasim Mohammadzadeh, a member of the School Safety Working Group, also testified on behalf of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence on Tuesday, with the students emphasizing the need to include students in the decision-making process about school safety.

Their presentation included pictures of Dunbar High School students going through metal detectors and it offered information from student surveys. They reported that some students felt the school should have

hired more teachers or bought instructional items instead of implementing metal detectors. One student, they said, equated the school's new metal detectors to a prison.

When questioned by Blanton about how students can be protected without having an environment that feels like that, the students emphasized the need for greater communication and the need to increase mental health support with funding for more counselors at schools.

That request was also echoed in testimony given by Jefferson County School's health coordinator Eva Stone and school nurse Barbara Colgan, who had 3,500 office visits from students last year. They reported that school nurses help students who have endured all sorts of violence, and some of those students are referred to counselors for mental health needs.

"You would be shocked at the things I see," Colgan told the group.

A presentation was also presented on PBIS, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program, a multi-tiered system used in Floyd and other counties to teach children the appropriate behaviors.

After the hearing, Floyd County Schools Superintendent Danny Adkins said the district plans to continue and improve that program in this county.

Ribbon cutting



Submitted photo

The Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on Dec. 11 for the Rural Medical Group, which opened a general practice clinic at 6450 Ky. Rt. 1428 in Allen. The company, owned by Sarah and Carl Brown, offers preventive care, lab services and diagnostic treatment. Its services include family care, gynecology and others. For more information, call (606) 874-0509.

PPD: Counterfeit bills used at Wal-Mart

A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Pike County woman was arrested this week after allegedly using counterfeit bills at Wal-Mart in Prestonsburg.

According to documents filed in Floyd District Court, Rachel Louise Smith, 25, of Pikeville, was arrested on Tuesday, Dec. 11, and charged with one count of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the first degree, a felony.

Prestonsburg Police

Officer R. Kelly Frasure reported the department received a complaint about a woman who was possibly in possession of about \$1,000 in counterfeit bills at the store's customer service counter.

Frasure and Assistant Chief Mike Conn investigated the allegation, reporting in court documents that Wal-Mart turned over the counterfeit cash.

Frasure claims that Smith had 19 \$50 bills, totaling \$950, in counterfeit

bills with "several matching serial numbers."

"Several of the bills also had slants/uneven cut prints with some white edges exposed," Frasure alleged in the citation. "The accused was attempting to use the money for a Wal-Mart-to-Wal-Mart transfer to another subject."

Frasure reported that Smith told officers that she got the bills after selling automobile parts to a family friend. She identified him as "Curt from Pikeville." She would not

identify another person she allegedly came to Wal-Mart with, Frasure reported, but video surveillance showed they arrived at the store in the same vehicle.

Smith entered a not guilty plea in the case on Dec. 12.

District Judge Jimmy Marcum placed her under a \$10,000 surety bond and ordered her to undergo pre-trial monitoring. He scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 19.

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Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry members perform on stage at the Mountain Arts Center on Dec. 8. There are only two Christmas shows remaining. They begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

OPRY
Continued From Page 1A

Performers of the opry include longtime members like Tony Whited, Jody Conley, Dwayne Benge, Garland Rogers, Josh Shepherd, as well as new members like Aliyah Allen, Sarah McCoart and Rachel Messer, who was featured on NBC's "The Voice" this year. One of the show's highlights, of course, is the antics of house comedian Munroe.

The show features performances of traditional Christmas music, as well as bluegrass, country and gospel tunes geared to help people ring in the holidays.

MAC officials praised the show during a Prestonsburg Tourism Commission meeting on Dec. 11, with officials reporting that tickets sales are good this season. They said that inclement weather caused the cancellation of a show last Sunday, but the MAC hosted a matinee performance of the opry for the first time on Saturday to accommodate a tour

group coordinated by the commission.

"We've never done a Saturday matinee before. We specifically scheduled it this year because one of the tour operators asked us to, and she said she could get a group come down, and we ended up selling about 600 tickets," MAC Director Clayton Case said.

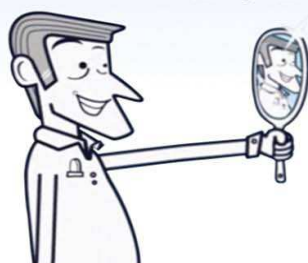
Tourism commission administrative assistant Brooke Lemonds said some of those tourists came to Prestonsburg in June and asked to return to see the opry.

Tourism chairman Jim Ousley thanked MAC staff for being flexible and willing to work with tour groups.

"It's a gigantic economic driver for the area. It helps everybody, and you guys have really turned it up and done a good job by helping us out and I appreciate it. I really do," Ousley said.

Opry tickets range from \$12 to \$16 and can be purchased by visiting, macarts.com, by calling, (888) MAC ARTS, or by visiting the MAC box office.

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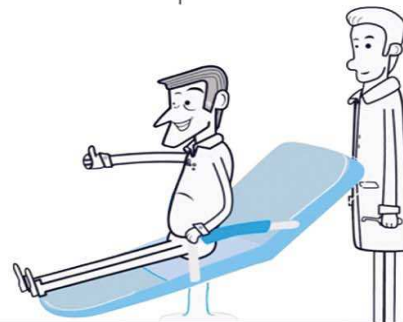
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DECEMBER

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO THE LIBRARY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH AT 5:30 PM IN PRESTONSBURG THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AT 3PM AT THE EASTERN BRANCH.</p> 						1 Arts and Crafts for Adults 11 AM (P)
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	26	27	28	29
<p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> <p>Closed for the Holidays</p>						
30	31	 <p>Gingerbread House Making Class 1: 3 - 4:00 PM, Class 2: 4:30 - 5:30 PM (Eastern Branch) NO sign-ups necessary please choose a time and show up!</p>  				
<p>Closed for the Holidays</p>						

True grit:

David King climbed every mountain, no matter how steep



ROGER ALFORD

My long-time friend David King called the other day and told me an old joke about a proud Texan who was touring the Deep South with an equally proud

Mississippi man.

A cottontail rabbit raced across the road they were driving along, and Texan asked what it was. "Why, that's a rabbit," the Mississippian said. "A rabbit," roared the Texan. "We have rabbits 10 times that size in Texas."

A bit later, a deer raced across the road, and the Texan asked what it was. "That's a deer," the Mississippian fellow said. "You call that a deer," the Texan replied. "We have deer twice that size in Texas."

The Mississippian man was growing a bit tired of the "everything's bigger in Texas" attitude when he noticed a huge snapping turtle had crawled up on the side of the road, and the Texan asked what it was.

"That's a tick," the Mississippian said.

David got a big laugh out of telling that joke. It turned out to be the last one he'd tell me. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack a few days later.

At his funeral, I reminded his family and friends of David's love for westerns, and that one of his favorites was "True Grit" with John Wayne. I told them I thought that was especially fitting because David was himself a man of true grit.

I found that out hunting with him after he had retired. There was not a mountain he wouldn't climb, no matter how steep and no matter that his hip at the time was bone-on-bone, making every step painful for him. He was a man of true grit.

As a young man, he worked construction in Ohio and Indiana. If you had been there, you would have seen a 130-pound man running a 90-pound jackhammer. He was a man of true grit.

He broke horses with Harold Auxier in Kentucky. When Dave would get bucked off an especially ornery one, Harold says, he'd climb right back on. He was a man of true grit.

He drove a truck hauling explosives to coal mines in the Appalachian region, enough explosives to launch him to the moon if something went wrong. He was a man of true grit.

He worked in underground Appalachian coal mines and was once caught in a rock fall. He was pinned for four hours until his co-workers got the rock off him. Miraculously, nothing was broken, but he was bruised and limped around for a few days. He didn't tell his wife anything about his close call. He didn't want her to worry. He was a man of true grit.

But, in the end, what mattered most to David's family and friends weren't his tough-guy jobs or his grit. What mattered to them was that he had surrendered his heart and life to Jesus, who showed the most grit of all when He gave His life on an old rugged cross so that we might have live eternally.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Floyd County Schools Superintendent Danny Adkins presents a plaque of recognition to Mike Humphries, pastor of the Sinking Fork Baptist Church. The church donated gifts for all Floyd County preschool and Head Start students and it also donated car seats, clothing, diapers and other items to the nursery at Highlands Health on Wednesday.

Christian County church helps children in Floyd

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Members of a church in Christian County spread holiday cheer in Floyd County this week.

On Wednesday, Pastor Mike Humphries and members of his church, the Sinking Fork Baptist Church in Christian County, delivered approximately 300 shoeboxes filled with gifts that will be distributed to every preschool and

Head Start student in enrolled in Floyd County Schools.

That morning, the church members also delivered car seats, diapers and other baby items to the nursery at Highlands Health. That donation included large gift baskets for the first babies born in the New Year.

Floyd County Schools Superintendent Danny Adkins praised

See DONATION, Page 11A



Big Sandy Community and Technical College and the Mountain Arts Center hosted Christmas at the MAC on Wednesday, Dec. 12, featuring a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and live music by members of the Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros. Angie G. Photography took photos of children and families with Santa and Mrs. Claus. All of those pictures are available on the college's Facebook page.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows

Christmas at the MAC



FCHS student on leadership council



Adam Hutchinson

A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd Central High School student is among a group of five high school students in Eastern Kentucky who are serving on the Kentucky 4-H State Teen Council.

Adam Hutchinson, a sophomore at FCHS, is among those five students who represent others in a 20-county region in Eastern Kentucky on

the council.

The son of Brent and Gwen Hutchinson of Emmaleena, Hutchinson is the only representative from Floyd County.

A press release from the school district said the Kentucky 4-H State Teen Council "fosters mastery by empowering council members to research, develop, present and teach concepts related to leadership and civic engagement, belonging by building rapport

among 4-H'ers with similar interests, independence by encouraging the management and education of serving on and leading committees and business meetings and generosity through regular service events and building team rapport."

The State Teen Council conducts business at four gatherings each year.

For more information, visit, 4-h.ca.uky.edu.

DONATION

Continued From Page 10A

the group during the delivery of gifts to Adams Middle School on Wednesday morning.

He presented Humphries with a plaque of appreciation, telling the church members that he appreciates their willingness to help Floyd County students. He invited them to hand out gifts to children next year.

"There is a true need for this program in Floyd County," Adkins said. "You don't know how many lives you will impact with this, so, I can't thank you enough."

Director of Early Childhood Anna Shepherd and Early Childhood Education Consultant Kim Grubb also praised the group for the help.

Humphries said his church started participating in mission trips in this region several years ago in partnership with East Kentucky Missions, which is located in Salyersville, but Wednesday's donation marked the first time the group assisted Floyd County students.

Humphries said the church also delivered gifts this week to Head Start students in Salyersville.

He said there are plenty of people in need in Christian County, and the church offers various

types of assistance there, but members also wanted to reach out to Eastern Kentucky because there aren't as many resources here.

"We have a lot of need in western Kentucky, or in our town, but, yet at the same time, there's a lot of opportunity in our town," he said. "We do have jobs and we do have chances, and there are a lot of people around that do help."

He was surprised there's no Salvation Army in this region.

"We have a homeless need, a poverty need and in town, there's always folks to help, but it just seems like that up here, there's not an opportunity for folks to get out of this spot that they're in," he said. "It's just not there, and it breaks your heart. And so, you just want to come and help."

He said the "mentality and faith" of people in this region "is so much greater than what we see at home."

"And it's because they are dependent, you know. So many of them are trusting, and depending on God to meet their needs, and we see that when we come up here, so it's inspiring just to be around those folks," he said.

He said the group will return in July to host Bible schools in the Salyersville area.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
Officials with Floyd County Schools pose with members of the Sinking Fork Baptist Church, who donated around 300 boxes of gifts for all Head Start and preschool students in the county.

Community Events

•Dec. 14, 15 at 7 p.m.: Billie Jean Osborne Kentucky Opry performs Christmas show at the Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS or macarts.com

•Dec. 14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: City of Allen to host annual Christmas party with Santa, Jacob's Ladder Food Pantry (near City Hall).

•Through Dec. 14: Essentials for Santa, a program hosted by Duff-Allen Central students and Dumas Rescue, seeks donations of blankets, pillows, socks, personal hygiene items, clothes, toys and nonperishable food items at donations boxes at DACE, the Dollar Store at Eastern, the county library at Eastern, Howard Family Pharmacy. Donations will be given to Floyd County children in need.

• Dec. 15, 10 a.m.: Coal Run Lions Club to host "Photos with the Grinch" fundraiser at Johnson's Home and Gardens, 130 Power Drive, Pikeville. Coal Run Village. Free to those who bring a small item for homeless Pike County students.

• Dec. 15, 11 a.m.: Prestonsburg Shop with a Cop, Mountain Arts Center

• Dec. 15, 22, 11 a.m.: Arts and Crafts for Adults, Floyd County Public Library, Prestonsburg

• Dec. 15, 1 p.m.: Santa and Mrs. Claus to greet guests at Home Furniture, Prestonsburg

•Dec. 15, 2 p.m.: Christmas parade in Wheelwright

Dec. 15, 2 p.m.: Faith Bible Church, Martin, to host community prayer meeting. Everyone welcome. (606) 358-4425

•Dec. 16, 8 p.m.: An acoustic evening with Jason Isbell, Mountain Arts Center. macarts.com

• Dec. 16, Wheelwright Fire Department to host Santa Run.

• Dec. 16, 7 p.m.: Jason Isbell to perform, Mountain Arts Center. Tickets are \$30 to \$70. 888-MAC-ARTS or macarts.com

•Dec. 17, 4 p.m.: Canvas Needle Arts, Floyd County Public Library, Eastern branch

•Dec. 17, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Soil and Water Conservation District meets, 18 Mayo Br., Brandykeg. (606) 889-9800

•Dec. 17, 6 p.m.: Prestonsburg City Council meets, city hall. (606) 886-2335

•Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education meets at Allen Elementary School. (606) 886-2354

•Dec. 17, 5 p.m.: Open House, East Kentucky House of Hope homeless shelter, 644 Ky. Rt. 122, Martin.



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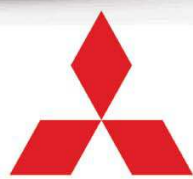
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