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Weekend Edition, Dec. 21-23, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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Wheelwright celebrates Christmas

The City of Wheelwright hosted its annual Christmas parade, despite rainy weather on Saturday. Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted children after the event.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Mary Meadows



Parents ask district to reopen investigation into Spurlock

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER



Kevin Spurlock

The parents of two Floyd Central High School basketball players addressed the Floyd County Board of Education on Dec. 17, asking officials to re-open its investigation into coach Kevin Spurlock. Spurlock was suspended from three games in early December, following an incident in which he allegedly argued with an audience member during a

See SPURLOCK, Page 3A

Police: Two arrested after fight during church play

BY MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Documents: Preacher allegedly punched during altercation

A fight that allegedly broke out during a church Christmas play on Sunday, Dec. 16, resulted in the arrest of two Floyd County residents.

According to documents filed in Floyd District Court, the

See ARRESTED, Page 8A

Lawmakers end special session

Kentucky lawmakers go back home without dealing with pension crisis

By TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY

Flustered by the magnitude of Kentucky's public pension crisis, lawmakers abruptly concluded a special legislative session on Tuesday, opting to return home

without making needed financial repairs.

Kentucky's retirement systems have long been among the worst-funded in the nation, needing some \$43 billion to be restored to solvency.

Lawmakers had passed a law earlier

this year to funnel more money into the retirement systems. But last week, the Kentucky Supreme Court struck down that law on procedural grounds.

Republican Gov. Matt Bevin summoned lawmakers back to Frankfort on Monday to make fixes that would appease justices. But after meeting with Republican legislative leaders, the governor

See SESSION, Page 8A



Photo courtesy LRC Public Information
House Speaker Pro Tem David Osborne, R-Prospect, pauses before announcing Tuesday that the House would adjourn Sine Die and end the Special Session.

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Grand jury alleges caretakers stole money from elderly residents

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

A Floyd County grand jury indicted two people this month for allegedly stealing money from elderly residents in two separate incidents.

"We get a lot of complaints of this kind of thing, the financial exploitation of elderly people, but we don't get many cases where we can actually do something," Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner said.

The grand jury indicted Cynthia Kidd, 53, of Harold, charging her with one count of theft by deception, for allegedly stealing from an elderly man in her care, and an indictment was also issued against Gary Crum, 60, of Banner, for allegedly stealing money and other items from his mother.

The Class C penalty against Kidd carries a potential penalty of between five and 10 years imprisonment.

According to the indictment, Kidd "intentionally deceived" a 95-year-old man she was hired to care for by having him execute a Power of Attorney, a document that gave her the authority to act on his behalf in legal and financial matters.

The indictment al-



Cynthia Kidd

leges that Kidd used that Power of Attorney to allegedly withdraw more than \$30,000 from the man's saving account and that she used those funds "for her own benefit."

Turner said she used approximately \$20,000 of those funds to buy a Jeep, which was confiscated when Kidd was arrested on Tuesday.

The alleged theft took place between Oct. 23 and Oct. 25.

According to records filed in the Floyd County Deed Office, Kidd was assigned as Power of Attorney over the elderly man on Oct. 23. A document revoking that Power of Attorney was filed in the clerk's office on Dec. 3, the records show.

Turner said the vic-

tim is a 95-year-old Floyd County resident who is "very independent" and Kidd was "recommended to the family" as someone who could come by several times a week to spend time with him and do light housework.

The elderly man's children who live in another state sought help after learning that their father's money was missing, Turner said.

"So, they were actually very happy, I think, with her initially, and then she just kind of disappeared there, after she got that money," Turner said. "She didn't come back and they couldn't find her, and then they get to looking at his finances and realized that she's used that Power of Attorney to take all of his

money."

Turner encourages local residents who have hired Kidd to review the finances of their loved ones.

"My understanding is that she's someone that's done this kind of work with elderly people and sat with people a lot in the area, and there's a lot of people that have hired her for that and know her," Turner said.

When asked if he suspects that Kidd has committed this alleged crime elsewhere, Turner said, "I don't know, that's something that we would obviously tell people that if she's someone that you've hired, you should probably go and check with your loved one or whoever she was around and check your finances."

He said officials are glad that the Jeep was confiscated, which, if Kidd is convicted, could help the elderly man recoup some of the money.

In the other case

alleging theft from an elderly resident, Crum faces felony counts of second-degree burglary, theft by unlawful taking, second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and knowingly exploiting an adult over \$300. The grand jury also filed a misdemeanor charge against him, second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument.

Floyd County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Oliver Little, who arrested Crum in October, previously told the Floyd County Chronicle and Times that Crum's mother contacted adult protective services because she feared for her safety. He reported that the woman "had to check herself in a nursing home to feel safe."

Little alleged that Crum broke into his mother's home and stole items, including a checkbook, and he placed some of the stolen items

in a yard sale.

He also used his mother's vehicle without permission, Little previously reported.

"She was having mobility problems and due to the fact that he just refused to help her any and told her the only way he would help her was if she signed Power of Attorney rights over to him. And then the fact that he had financially abused her, that falls under the adult abuse, elder abuse case. Just the financial abuse in general was the primary reason for that charge," Little said in October.

He alleges that Crum threatened to kill his mother if she did not give him Power of Attorney.

"My understanding is her son, Mr. Crum, had actually threatened to kill her if she didn't sign Power of Attorney rights over, and that's when she decided to check herself into the nursing home," Little said.



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To learn more about the Family Hope Project, contact Mountain Comprehensive Care Center at any of the following locations:

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Together. We Believe.

At Pikeville Medical Center, we celebrate the spirit of the holiday season. We reflect that spirit every day in our work by placing an emphasis on compassion and faith as we approach the care of our patients. On behalf of the more than 3,000 employees, physicians and volunteers at Pikeville Medical Center, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Together. We Believe.



Floyd County Animal Shelter



Santa Claus & Gordy

Santa Claus and **GORDY** the Terrier are at the shelter announcing that the Shelter Christmas Fundraiser will be at the MAC on December 21st at 6pm.

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SPURLOCK

Continued From Page 1A

game in Ashland and for allegedly verbally abusing students.

District officials announced disciplinary action against Spurlock for “conduct unbecoming of a coach,” but Spurlock denied the allegations.

Eight Floyd Central players quit the team after the incident, the parents said.

Parents Sandra Johnson and Angie Hurd told board members Monday, however, that they believe Spurlock’s punishment was not harsh enough.

“I don’t feel like a three-day suspension was enough,” Johnson said. “I ask you all to reconsider this. Our children have been verbally abused. They have been mentally abused. They have been bullied.”

She said she understands the district has policies in place, but insisted the board reconsider Spurlock’s punishment.

“I know that these eight boys are a number to you all, but these eight boys are our babies ... and we feel like they’ve not getting justice,” Johnson said. “We’ve come up the command chain and we’ve asked that we be heard.”

She chided officials for the suspension, saying, “All you’re doing is telling Mr. Spurlock he’s untouchable.”

She told them, “You have eight varsity players that have quit the team. One is one of the top players in your 15th Region in his senior year, that don’t want to play for this man. If it was one or two, I’d say, yeah, maybe....Eight, come on, you all. I’m asking you all to please reconsider this.”

Hurd, the mother of another senior, asked the board to reopen the investigation into the “Ashland incident.”

“I have a outside witness with no ties to Floyd Central who’s willing to collaborate our story about what happened,” she said.

She presented a letter from that person, whom she described as an assistant coach from another school.

“This is my letter discussing the issue that happened in Ashland and the assistant coach from another school who saw it and asked me, ‘Is it always like this?’ and I said, ‘This is year two and it’s just getting worse,’” Hurd said.

She complained that the investigation lasted only 20 hours.

“We had our meeting at 6 o’clock, by 2 o’clock the next day, we had a decision. Everyone knew except for the parents that had gathered in the decision,” Hurd said. “Twenty hours to investigate a bullying allegation and a incident in Ashland that was completely unnecessary. He should have to pay for that. I don’t think a three-day suspension covered what happened in Ashland, let alone what every child came forth and spoke about.”



Sandra Johnson and Angie Hurd, parents of two Floyd Central High School basketball players, ask the Floyd County Board of Education to reopen an investigation into coach Kevin Spurlock during a Dec. 17 meeting at Allen Elementary School. No action was taken on the matter, but board officials are expected to respond to the request in writing.

She asked that every child be re-interviewed.

The board did not respond publicly to the allegations. Chair Sherry Robinson noted that the board’s practice is to respond to comments in writing within five days. The response was not available prior to print deadline.

Later in the meeting, the board voted to go into executive session, citing an exception to the open meeting that permits closed session discussions that might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an employee.

Prior to going into closed session, Superintendent Danny Adkins cited a state law regarding the board’s duties.

“Real quick, I would like to say something that completely slipped my mind,” Adkins said. “It’s something I’d like for everybody to know. Pursuant to KRS 160.170, every person elected to a board of education shall, before assuming the duties of this office, take an oath in addition to the constitutional oath, that he will not while serving as a member of such board in any way influence the hiring or appointment of any district employee. And any supplemental positions are hired on a year-to-year basis by the site-based council of schools.”

Upon return from executive session, the board approved a motion to use the Kentucky School Board Association’s standards for the superintendent’s evaluation, with Chair Sherry Robinson reporting that the evaluation will be done differently than it has in the past.

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Together. We Rise.



PMC RANKED NATIONALLY FOR PATIENT SAFETY AND MEDICAL EXCELLENCE

By: Carol Casebolt

Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) has received numerous quality awards including being ranked in the top 100 hospitals nationwide and the number one hospital in the state for Patient Safety in Overall Medical Care.

The awards and rankings were presented by CareChex, an information service of Quantros, Inc. CareChex provides clinical, financial, and patient satisfaction findings to consumers, providers and purchasers of U.S. medical care.



According to CareChex, in addition to the Patient Safety Award Summary ranking that listed PMC as number one in the Commonwealth and the top 10 percent in the nation for Overall Medical Care, PMC was also ranked in the top 10 percent in the nation for Patient Safety in Major Cardiac Surgery, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Heart Attack Treatment, Heart Failure Treatment, Neurological Care and Women's Health.

"I am so excited that PMC's staff has been recognized for their efforts toward

patient safety," said PMC Assistant Vice President, Risk Management and Patient Safety, Pam Vanhose. The staff have proven they take patient safety seriously as is evident by their 2019 quality award rankings from CareChex. Patient safety is a team effort and we congratulate every employee of PMC on a job very well done."

The Medical Excellence Award Summary showed outstanding rankings for the PMC Orthopedic Department for Joint Replacement and Major Orthopedic Surgery when they were listed as number one in KY and the top 10 percent in the nation.

"Each day we strive to provide quality care for our patients," said Senior Vice President and Assistant Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer, Aaron Crum, MD. "It is an honor to see PMC ranked with the best of the best in medical excellence. Seeing our Orthopedic Department in the number one position in the state and top 10 percent in the region and nation speaks volumes. This proves, once again, that our patients and community have a hospital where they feel safe and receive quality care. PMC is a hospital they can be very proud of."

Hospital officials stated that the recognition from CareChex is an excellent way to show how they compare to other hospitals across the nation.

CareChex provides clinical, financial and patient satisfaction findings to consumers, providers and purchasers of U.S.



medical care. Unlike other publicly available hospital quality ratings, CareChex provides a composite evaluation of all components of medical quality including process of care, outcomes of care and patient satisfaction.

CareChex is an innovative medical quality rating system designed to assist hospitals and health systems in improving the quality of inpatient care and promoting medical excellence to consumers, payers and employers.

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



Pikeville Medical Center took 25 students from Johns Creek Elementary School for a tour of the campus. They donated a collection of books for patients to enjoy during their hospital stay.

The 2018 Angel Tree Project at PMC was a huge success. Staff throughout the hospital provided Christmas gifts for families in Pike, Floyd and Letcher counties.

Each school submitted a family who needed assistance during the holiday season. In addition to Christmas gifts for the children, the staff put together a large food basket for the family.



DIRECT ANTERIOR APPROACH IMPROVING RESULTS FOR PMC PATIENTS

By: Amanda Jo Lawson



Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) is one of the few hospitals in the state offering patients needing a total hip replacement, a shorter recovery time, smaller incisions and typically a shorter hospital stay.

PMC's Orthopedic Surgeon, Kevin Pugh, MD, is performing total hip replacement surgeries using an anterior approach. This is an approach to the front of the hip joint as opposed to a lateral (side) approach to the hip or posterior (back) approach.

Dr. Pugh has completed

extra training to provide this advanced care for patients.

He uses the Hana Table to perform surgery. The state-of-the-art fracture table optimizes the anterior approach for a total hip replacement.

"This approach keeps us on the cutting-edge for orthopedic

surgery," said Dr. Pugh.

The Medical Excellence Award Summary showed outstanding rankings for the PMC Orthopedic Department for Joint Replacement and Major Orthopedic Surgery when they were listed as number one in Ky and the top 10 percent in the region and the nation.

He says there are very few centers using the Hana Table.

"The Hana Table allows us to do the anterior approach. This means decreased length of stay, smaller incisions and patient's mobility improves allowing them to bend up to 90 degrees within a couple hours," said Dr. Pugh.

He says patients will see less blood loss, smaller incisions and typically can go home sooner.

PMC has two Hana Tables. He stated the Hana Table allows him to get the exposure to the hip he needs to perform surgery.

Most patients needing a total hip replacement are candidates to undergo surgery using an anterior approach with the Hana Table.

"The recovery time for anterior approach is minimal. Patients typically do not have any physical therapy and no home health," added Dr. Pugh.

"If you are having difficulty doing simple things such as putting on shoes and socks or getting in and out of a car, experiencing pain in the groin area, thigh and down to the knee you most likely need to see a specialty physician," said Dr. Pugh.

For more information about PMC's Orthopedic services, call visit www.pikevillehospital.org or call 606-218-2206.

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• All letters must be signed by the author and include your street address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. No letters will be printed anonymously.

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• Letters should be either typed or printed clearly, and should not exceed 300 words.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What Christmas is about

As delightful as bright lights, decorations, gifts and parties are, they are not what Christmas is about.

Let us consider Luke Chapter 2. Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem to be registered, which was law. She goes into la-

bor. Think about Joseph frantically trying to find a place for the baby to be born. There's no room at the inn. Thank God! Inns in those days were big rooms with a fireplace, food. People stopped at inn to get out of the weather.

Most likely there were no private rooms. So God provided a manger, which I learned on a trip to Israel, was a big cave where animals were

kept — animals probably belonging to those in the inn.

If you've ever been in a barn with cows you realize the barn is cold but not freezing. Why? Because of those cows' big lungs breathing in and out, warming the air. It's far better place to have a baby than in the inn with people standing around. The hay was clean and swaddling clothes were no doubt brought by

Mary, and a far better place for the shepherds to visit the Christ Child.

God, the Father, always knows what's best.

Most of us have heard or read the Luke chapter 2 account of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us consider what this means. God sent his son Jesus to us by the way of Virgin Mary.

Mary had to be a virgin, impregnated by the Holy Spirit, otherwise Je-

sus would be born sinful, like the rest of us. Jesus had to be without sin, otherwise we mortals would have no hope of salvation. Only one without sin can forgive us of our sins. Luke chapter 1 and 2 never get old. We should read both chapters often, not just at Christmas. God bless you.

Lois Bond,
Hueysville

GUEST COLUMN

The holidays are a time to reflect and appreciate all that is great about Appalachia Kentucky

The holiday season is such a special time in Appalachia Kentucky. Gatherings with family and friends, the smell of apple cider and hot chocolate, warm cookies, candies and treats passed down from generations, it is truly a time to be thankful and reflect on the things in life that matter most — our faith, family, friends and all that makes Appalachia Kentucky home.

Christmas is particularly special for me and my family (my wife, Bethany, and daughter, Rosiland) as we prepare to spend our first Christmas with our newborn, Harker Jax, who we welcomed on Nov. 17.

From a professional standpoint, it is also a time of reflection and gratitude. Five years ago, the idea of SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Region) took root as a collaborative effort to address the challenges facing Appalachia Kentucky.



JARED ARNETT

SOAR was created as an organization to address challenges and identify opportunities using the ingenuity and capacity of the people, businesses, and organizations in the region.

There have been many plans to "fix" Appalachia, specifically Central Appalachia, and while the plans were developed with good intentions, it created the ideology that our challenges were others to solve.

Through SOAR, we acknowledged the challenges, we built a network of partners and stakeholders that represented all aspects of our region, we shared ideas, we blurred county and municipal lines and we discovered opportunities to collaborate, to innovate and to transform Appalachia Kentucky.

A Regional Blueprint for a 21st Century Appalachia was established. This plan of action

was developed for the people of Appalachia Kentucky by the people of Appalachia Kentucky. Our blueprint provided basic structure and a plan for leveraging connectivity to disrupt pervasive poverty.

It is happening. More than 1,700 people in Appalachia Kentucky are working remotely through the work of Teleworks USA and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP). Digital Careers Now, a consortium consisting of Big Sandy, Hazard and Southeast Kentucky community and technical colleges, SOAR, and EKCEP, have partnered with companies like GDIT to bring 100 remote work opportunities through innovation hubs in Cumberland and Hazard. This investment alone represents approximately \$1 million for each community.

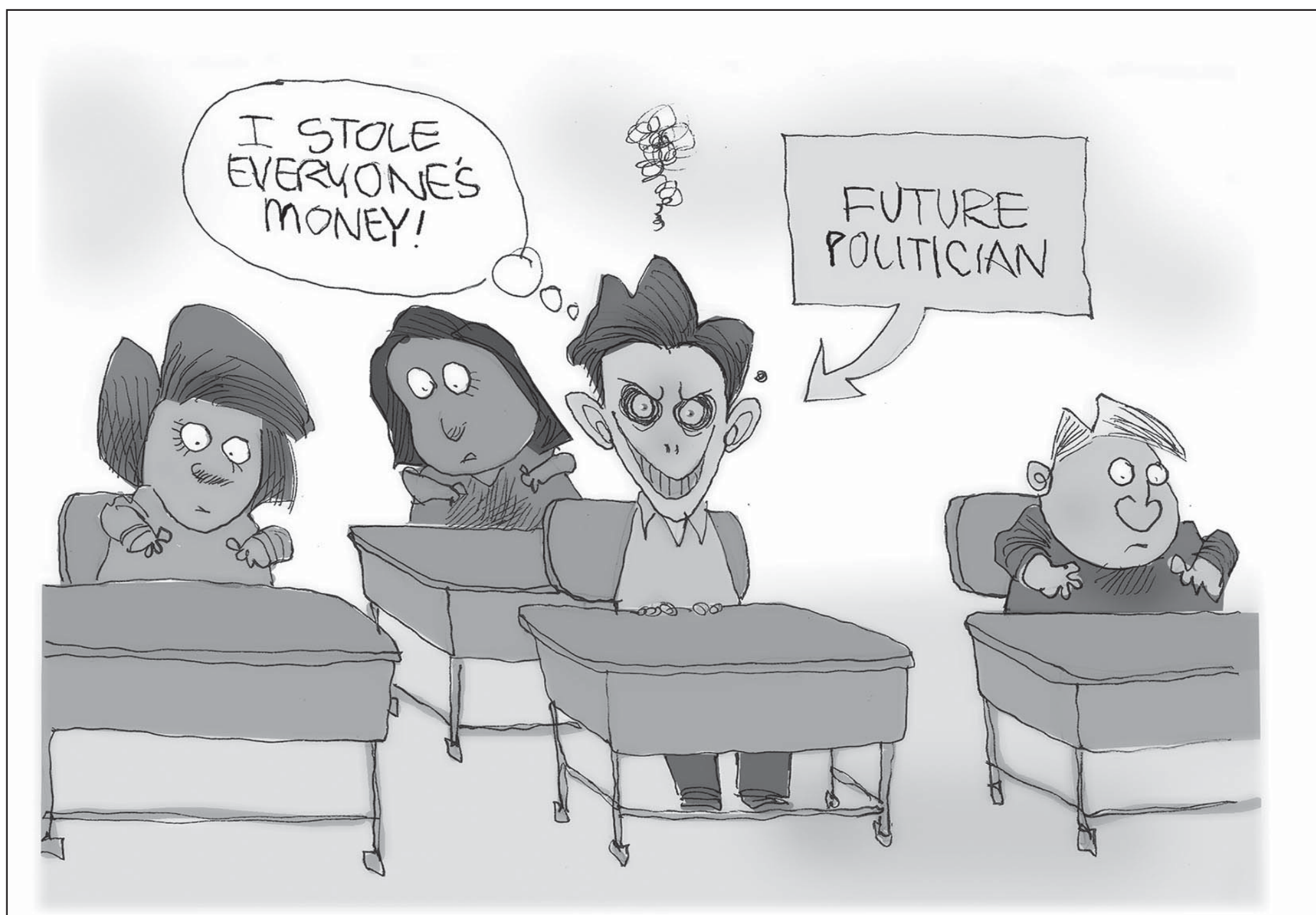
As we move closer to Christmas and the new year, I hope you are encouraged and inspired by the remarkable things happening across Appalachia Kentucky. We've made

significant progress, but there's still much work to do. Through our network of partners and stakeholders, we are drafting a new narrative for Appalachia Kentucky. This narrative is one that frames our region as a hub for innovation and collaboration and celebrates the ingenuity of the people who call our mountains home. We are building a 21st Century Appalachia. Together.

If you would like to learn more about our work and becoming a partner or stakeholder in our work, please feel free to contact us at, info@soar-ky.org, or by calling us at, (606) 766-1160. You can also learn more by visiting www.thereisafuture.org.

My wish to you and yours a Merry Christmas full of joy and cherished memories, and a new year of boundless opportunities.

— Jared Arnett is Executive Director of Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR)



Trio accused of stealing a bridge

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

In the past two decades, Floyd County Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner has seen cases where all sorts of thefts are alleged, and scrap metal is certainly on that list.

"With the scrap metal stuff, they'll steal about anything," Turner said. "They used to steal man-hole covers and things in Hazard."

But the allegations in an indictment issued recently by the grand jury marks the first time Turn-

er has dealt with a case of a stolen bridge in Floyd County.

"The allegation was that they stole a bridge, that they took a bridge apart, like one of these small metal-type bridges that maybe leads to one residence or something or goes over the creek. And then they took it apart for scrap metal," Turner said.

He was talking about the indictment issued last week against a Floyd County resident and two Pike County residents who are accused of taking apart a metal bridge

and stealing it.

Kimberly Mimnaugh, 46, of McDowell, Jerome Norman, 37, of Raccoon, and Michael Pinion, 38, of Raccoon, were each indicted on one count of felony theft by unlawful taking in these cases. The alleged theft took place in March, according to the indictments, and the bridge was valued at more than \$10,000.

Mimnaugh, Norman and Pinion are scheduled to appear in Floyd Circuit Court for an arraignment on the charges against them on Jan. 2.

Their indictments

were among other theft-related indictments filed in Floyd Circuit Court recently.

Aaron S. Crum, 29, of Printer, was indicted on felony counts of theft by unlawful taking and third-degree burglary for allegedly stealing property from a residence in Floyd County in Oct. 2017.

Kenneth L. Hayden, 31, of Blue River, was indicted on felony counts of second-degree burglary, theft by unlawful taking, first-degree criminal mischief and for being a persistent felony offend-

er. The grand jury alleges that he damaged property at a home he burglarized in January, and that he stole more than \$500 worth of items from that home.

Gary Hale, 37, of Martin, was indicted on one count of receiving stolen property valued at more than \$10,000 and one count of being a persistent felony offender, second degree.

In September, he was arrested after he was allegedly found driving a stolen truck.

Hale reported that he bought the truck from his

father-in-law in Marshall County, the District Court citation alleged, but the truck was registered as being stolen from that county.

Shonda Music, 33, of Prestonsburg, was indicted for with theft of identity for allegedly using someone else's name in June. The grand jury also charged her with several misdemeanor crimes, including carrying a concealed deadly weapon, giving an officer a false name or address and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Several charged in 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

Leta Griffith, 47, of Drift; improper equipment, driving on a suspended license, driving under the influence, two counts of first-degree possession of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a controlled substance

Dingus R. Hamilton, 31, of Hi Hat; inadequate muffler, rear license not illuminated, careless driving, improper equipment, driving under the influence, driving on a suspended license, open alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle, no registration plates, failure to maintain insurance

Trina Branham Huffman, age unavailable, of Pikeville; flagrant non-support

Andy Coahran, 25, of Prestonsburg; fugitive

Scotty Conn, 28, of Garrett; receiving stolen property

Billy Stumbo, 50, of McDowell; first- and third-degree possession of a controlled substance

Rachel Louise Smith, 25, of Pikeville; first-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument

Gary Hale, 37, of Martin; first- and second-degree promoting contraband

Misdemeanor cases filed

Sean C. Patton, 31, of Martin; reckless driving; two counts of second-degree fleeing/evading police, criminal littering, second-degree criminal mischief

Pamela Prater, age unavailable, of Printer; theft by failure to make required disposition of

property

Lonzie Edmond Isaac, 36, of Price; third-degree criminal mischief, third-degree criminal trespassing

Jessica Collins, 28, of Martin; driving under the influence, endangering the welfare of a minor, possession of drug paraphernalia

Amanda Collins, 32, of Blue River; endangering the welfare of a minor

Kevin Moore, 28, of Prestonsburg; menacing, third-degree terroristic threatening

Brittany Patrick, 28, of Garner; driving under the influence, second- and third-degree possession of a controlled substance, prescription not in proper container

Ashlie Swiney, 34, of Paintsville; second-degree criminal trespassing

Heather Halcomb, 43, of Martin; public intoxication of a controlled substance

Selena Nichols, 41, of Harold; public intoxication of a controlled substance, menacing, resisting arrest, third-degree terroristic threatening

Angie Hamilton, 38, of Tram; public intoxication of a controlled substance

Tanya Marsillett, 30,

of Dwale; third-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of an open alcoholic beverage in a vehicle, driving under the influence, improper equipment

Kurt Russell Hord, 26, of Flemingsburg; failure to surrender revoked operator's license, possession of license when privileges are revoked

Jeanna F. White, 32, of Meade Branch; harassment

Becky Gross, age unavailable, of Ivel; failure of parent/guardian to send child to school

Cody Slone, 27, of Ivel; two counts of third-degree criminal trespassing, third-degree terroristic threatening

Crystal L. Lewallen, 35, of Van Lear; public intoxication of a controlled substance, menacing, resisting arrest, second-degree disorderly conduct

Roy M. Gibson, 44, of David; public intoxication of a controlled substance

Delbert Conn, 34, of Martin; complicity to commit second-degree criminal mischief (inmate)

Steven Alex Moore, 39, address unavailable; second-degree complicity to commit criminal mischief (inmate)

Lawsuits filed

Chelsea Sarah Kaitlynn Hunt vs. Steven George Hunt; divorce

Danny McKenzie through personal representative Anna McKenzie vs. Dr. Denis Alikier, Consolidated Health Systems doing business as Highlands Regional Medical Center, Highlands Hospital Corporation, doing business as Highlands Regional Medical Center; personal injury complaint

Austin Kidd vs. Kermit Conley, Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Kentucky Association of Counties, Geico Indemnity Company; personal injury complaint

Billy Handshoe vs. Depuy Synthes Sales Inc. and several affiliated companies, Johnson & Johnson and several affiliated companies, Medical Device Business Services Inc., Highlands Hospital Corporation, doing business as Highlands Regional Medical Center, Dan Hopewell LLC and an affiliate company; personal injury complaint

Ford Motor Credit LLC vs. Keith A. Bailey; complaint concerning contract

Community Trust Bank vs. Gary Adkins; complaint concerning contract

Darlene Henson vs. Richard Henson; divorce

Kayla Salyer, individually and as next friend to a child vs. Brooklyn L. Craft; personal injury complaint

Kentucky Division of Child Support Enforcement, Miranda Tussey vs. Tommi Ray; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

Kentucky Division of Child Support Enforcement, Jessica Hackworth vs. Matthew Hackworth; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

Kentucky Division of

Child Support Enforcement, Angela Eichhorn vs. Dakota Daniels; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

Kentucky Division of Child Support Enforcement, McKenzie Spears vs. Emory McCoy; petition for child support and healthcare insurance

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.

FLOYD COUNTY CHRONICLE AND TIMES OBITUARIES

Thomas Brown

Thomas M. "Tommy" Brown, 40, of Langley, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.

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

Rodney Smith

Rodney L. Smith, 48, of Stanville, died Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

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

Melissa Lynn Wise

Melissa Lynn Taylor Wise, 49, of Stanville, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.


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

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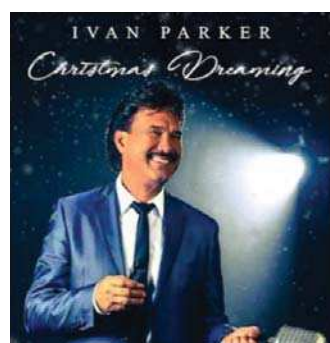
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Newly released Christmas albums



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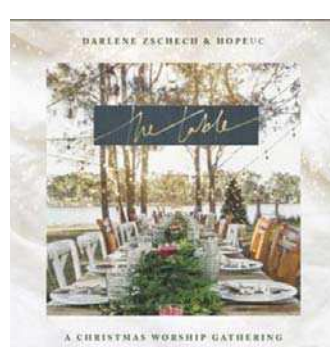
Christmas Eve In Bethlehem
by Hannah Kerr



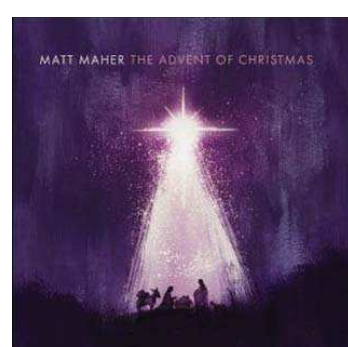
It Must Be Christmas
by David Phelps



Something's Happening: A Christmas Album
by CeCe Winans



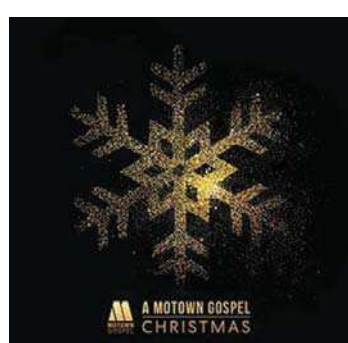
The Table: A Christmas Worship Gathering
by Darlene Zschech & HopeUC



The Advent of Christmas
by Matt Maher



December
by Mac Powell



A Motown Gospel Christmas
by Various Artists

Christmas is here!

It is easy to overlook the fact that Jesus's birth was the culmination of a series of crises. Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, found herself "with child." Surely this was a crisis for Mary and Joseph. Joseph considered "divorcing her quietly," but was advised by an angel in a dream not to do this. Mary and Joseph then travelled to Bethlehem to fulfill the requirements for the Roman census, and were forced to take refuge in a stable because there was no room in the inn. Mary virtually gave birth to Jesus in a cowshed. While it is tempting to think of Christmas as a joyous celebration, we do well to remember that it has its roots in a series of crises, not the least of which is the existential crisis faced by mankind in general. That is, humanity needs a savior. We simply cannot redeem ourselves, no matter how hard we might try, and thus God in his love and compassion for his creatures sent his son to save us. The darker side of Christmas should remind us that many people struggle at this time of year. People who are lonely or who have lost a loved one during the previous year may find this time of year difficult. People struggling with alcohol or drug addictions may be unduly tempted at this time of year because of all the merry-making, and some people tend to become depressed because of the shorter daylight hours. Whatever the case may be, we all do well to recall that the first Christmas was a series of difficult events with a very happy ending. Reach out to someone who may be struggling with the holidays, and don't despair; you'll make it through the holidays!

— Christopher Simon

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."
—Galatians 4:4-5 NIV

Local Church Directory

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

137 Bryan Street, Pikeville
Phone: 606-437-6117
Father Richard Watson
SATURDAYS
Mass - 5 p.m.
SUNDAYS
Mass – 10 a.m.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

562 University Drive, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-8046
The Rev. Sr. Judy Yunker, Vicar
Email: stjamesdiolex@gmail.com
Website: www.stjamesdiolex.org
Diocese: Lexington

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

60 Martha's Vineyard, Prestonsburg
606-874-9526
Fr. Brandon Bigam
SATURDAY
Services – 5 p.m.
SUNDAY
Services – 11:15 a.m.

TRIMBLE CHAPEL CHURCH

79 Trimble Chapel Square, Prestonsburg
Pastor David Bowling
SUNDAY
Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Services – 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Services and Youth Group – 6 p.m.

VOGEL DAY METHODIST

US 23, Harold
Pastor Dennis Love
SUNDAY
Sunday School – 10 a.m.
Worship – 11 a.m.
Healing Service – 7 p.m. on last Sunday of month
WEDNESDAYS
Prayer Meeting & Youth Fellowship – 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting – 8 p.m.

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354 US HWY 23 South, Prestonsburg, At junction of HWY 23 and RT 80
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Pastor Dr. Tim Searcy
http://allen-baptist-church.twenty28cms.com
SUNDAYS
Bible Study – 9:45 a.m.
Worship – 10:45 a.m. & 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Evening Worship – 7 p.m.

List your church in the directory, call (800) 539-4054 or email ads@news-expressky.com

Savior's birth more than storybook tale



By JAMIE BECKETT
CHRONICLE & TIMES

"How many kings step down from their thrones? How many lords have abandoned their homes? How many greats have become the least for me? And how many gods have poured out their hearts to romance a world that is torn all apart? How many fathers gave up their sons for me? Only one did that for me," sings Downhere in "How Many Kings."

When you stop and think about the Savior's birth, it's more than just some storybook tale with a baby in a manger surrounded by cute, cuddly sheep. Truly there was nothing storybook about the reality of what occurred. Jesus left his home in glory to be born of flesh. More than likely, His mother Mary probably endured some repercussions of being an unmarried pregnant woman. During that time, she could have been kicked out

of her parents' home. Her soon-to-be husband Joseph could have left her. Mary could have been left homeless, scorned and rejected. However, an angel came to Joseph, telling him to take Mary as his wife.

The couple was traveling to Nazareth for the census. Mary gave birth in a stable and Jesus was laid in a manger. There was nothing adorable about this picture. There was no room in the inn. They were outside with the animals – imagine the noises and the smells. And here, the King of kings and the Lord of Lords (1 Timothy 6:15), the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) was born in a stable and laid in a manger. The setting isn't fitting for the Christ who is worthy of all. We wouldn't consider such a dirty place to be fitting for any woman to give birth in.

However, God had a plan. The Prince of Peace, was born for the purpose of reconciling us to God. And in order for that to happen, someone had to take the punishment.

Jesus stepped off his throne to live among us. Despite being Immanuel, (meaning "God with us"), He was also God in the flesh. He experienced the same types of trials and

pains that we endure. He was hungry and tired. He mourned with those who lost a loved one. He was angry with those who exploited others. However, Jesus was what none of us could be – perfect. It was His righteousness that drew enemies. They didn't want to hear the truth. They didn't want to see their sin.

How many greats have become the least for me?

Therefore, Jesus was arrested and illegally tried. He was beaten with a cat of nine tails. (Some died from this punishment alone.) Then Jesus was forced to carry His cross, until someone else was told to take over. He was taken to Golgotha and nailed to the cross, as though He were guilty like the men on either side of Him. But Christ wasn't. He was innocent. This innocent man took our sin to the cross.

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Holiday closures in Floyd County

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

Several local government offices and agencies will be closed for Christmas and New Year's Day.

The closures include:

- All state offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
- All federal offices, including post offices, will be closed Dec. 24 and Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Courthouse will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
- Prestonsburg City Hall will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Health Department will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Extension Office will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1.
- There will be no garbage collection by Prestonsburg City Utilities on Dec. 25. The

collection schedule will not change for Christmas Eve or New Year's.

- Waste Connections will not collect garbage in the county on Dec. 25.
- Wheelwright City Hall will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Judicial Center will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
- Allen City Hall will be closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Judicial Center will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Extension Office will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.
- Martin City Hall will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Public Library in Prestonsburg and Eastern will be closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.
- The Floyd County Chronicle and Times will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

ARRESTED

Continued From Page 1A

fight started between two females before the Christmas play began in the church, and it "spilled outside" with the husband/boyfriend of those women. Several assaults were reported in the case files, including injuries to a child, the child's mother and grandmother and the preacher's claim that he was punched when he tried to break up the fight.

Prestonsburg Police Officer Ross Shurtleff arrested Mark Anthony Gilliam, 21, and his girlfriend, Tabitha Ann Compton, 20, both of Hi Hat, after the incident allegedly occurred at the Trimble Chapel Church on Watergap Road on Dec. 16.

Shurtleff reports in the court filings that he was responding to a report from Kentucky State Police Trooper D. Coleman, who alleged an

"irate" man was "fighting with the congregation and possibly had assaulted a child."

Shurtleff reported that when he arrived, members of the congregation were standing around the church's parking lot blocking the roadway to prevent Gilliam and Compton from leaving the premises.

Shurtleff wrote that Gilliam would not answer his questions and, at one point, he "lunged toward" him in a "menacing manner" and was "creating a disturbance amongst an already upset church congregation."

Shurtleff alleges that Gilliam and Compton came to the church to watch a Christmas play that featured his children.

"In speaking with witnesses and family members, I learned that (Gilliam and Compton) came to the church to watch a Christmas play that featured (Gilliam's) children whom he had in common with his wife, a victim,"

Shurtleff wrote. "As (Gilliam and Compton) arrived, the girlfriend and wife began having a verbal altercation which became physical and spilled outside."

He alleges in the document that Gilliam assaulted his wife and choked her. The victim's mother, who was holding the youngest of three children, was "knocked to the ground" by Compton, the documents say.

Compton was charged with fourth-degree assault and second-degree disorderly conduct, both misdemeanors charges. She pleaded not guilty during an arraignment on Monday and District Judge Eric Hall also ordered her to have no contact with the victim in the case and to have no violations of the law. She was released from custody that day on a \$2,000 surety bond.

Gilliam was charged with two counts of fourth-degree assault, one of which is listed as

"child abuse." He was also charged with second-degree disorderly conduct, menacing and resisting arrest. Shurtleff arrested him on those charges and transported him to the Floyd County Detention Center.

The following day, in a separate case, Trimble Chapel Church Preacher David Bowling filed a complaint against Gilliam, alleging that Gilliam hit him in the face while he was trying to separate the fight. Gilliam was charged with fourth-degree assault in that case.

Gilliam pleaded not guilty in both cases during his arraignment on Monday. Hall ordered him to have no contact with the victim or the child in the case, assigning him a 500 ft. retraining order and requiring him to follow social services orders. He set Gilliam's bond at \$500 cash in both cases. Hall scheduled a court trial in both of those cases for March 14.

SESSION

Continued From Page 1A

said he was convinced lawmakers weren't prepared to take the necessary action.

Bevin and House Speaker-Elect David Osborne said lawmakers will tackle the issue in a legislative session set to begin on Jan. 8.

Osborne said 14 percent of the state's General Fund budget is now needed to begin paying

off the unfunded liability of the state's eight public pension plans.

"It has become clear that we need to bring this special session to a close," Osborne said to a burst of cheers from the House gallery, where teachers and other public employees were gathered.

The Senate adjourned shortly after the House.

"We came in here hoping that we could

find a quick resolution to this, a quick solution," Osborne said. "It didn't happen."

Bevin said he was saddened to hear teachers and other public employees cheer when lawmakers voted to conclude the special session.

"It honestly makes me sad when I hear people celebrate and dance upon their own financial grave," he said.

Not everyone was upset by the sudden ad-

journalment.

Attorney General Andy Beshear, who is also seeking the Democratic nomination for governor in the May primary, charged that Bevin was attempting to cut retirement benefits a week before Christmas. He called the attempt "wrong and cruel."

"Tonight, our values prevailed and partisanship took a backseat to what is right," Beshear said.

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Floyd BOE honors students, staff

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Floyd County Board of Education honored dozens of students and staff during its regular meeting this month.

The list of honorees received plaques, certificates and medals for their accomplishments. They include:

•Prestonsburg High School student Makenna Shepherd, who won three gold medals and one silver medal at the Special Olympics Artistic Gymnastics Kentucky State Games. The district's Community Education Liaison Pamela Caudill said she believes Shepherd is the only Floyd County student to earn these state honors.

•The boys and girls soccer teams at Prestonsburg High School were recognized for being 15th Region All A Championships in their divisions this year. The girls team has earned the honor three out of the past four years, Caudill said, and the boys team also earned the 15th Region champ title.

•Academic teams from Duff-Allen Central, South Floyd, Adams Middle, Allen Elementary and John M. Stumbo Elementary were honored for accomplishments in recent academic competitions. The board recognized all Duff-Allen Central academic team members for winning first place overall in the competition.

First place winners who were honored included Chloe Hall of SFES, Jada Reynolds of AES and DACE students

Alex Begley and Brody Buck.

Second place winners who were honored included Kiran Thacker of SFES, Jada Reynolds of AES, Sage Slone of AMS and DACE students Laci O'Quinn and JD McKinney.

Third place winners who were included Sophia Ratliff of AMS, Sage Slone of AMS, Courtney Moore of SFES and DACE students McKinnley Martin and Brock Horne.

Other winners recognized included Erika Tackett of SFES, Cameron Kilgore of AMS, AES students Jacob Roberts and Emma Porter, JMS students MJ Yates and Alyssa Tackett and DACE students Gracie McDavid, Mason Buck, Kailee McGuire and Emery Bartrum.

•Academic teams from Floyd Central, Prestonsburg and Betsy Layne high schools were honored for accomplishments in recent academic competitions. The board recognized all students on the Floyd Central academic team for earning first place overall in the competition.

First place winners who were honored included Floyd Central student Kade Scott, who earned first in both arts and humanities and math, as well as Floyd Central students Adam Hutchinson, Preston Crase and Lindsay Caudill.

Second place winners who were honored included Betsy Layne student Alexis Keathley and Floyd Central students Ryan Sword, Lakayla Conn and Justin

Tussey, who won first place in two both math and science.

Third place winners who were honored included Prestonsburg student Haleigh Jefferson, Betsy Layne students Alexis Keathley, Brianna Johnson and Andrew Waddle, and Floyd Central students Colby Cooley, Justin Tussey

Other winners recognized included Prestonsburg students Cameron Goble, Nadaleigh Lester, Brycen Shepherd and McKenna Wireman, Floyd Central students Madison Thornberry, Desirae Caudill and Mashaayla Spencer, and Betsy Layne students Alexis Keathley, Casey Hall, Haley Tackett, Shantana Blanton and Christy Caudill. Student Reese Reynolds was also honored for ranking fifth in social studies.

•Six teachers who recently earned National Board Certification were also recognized. They include: Prestonsburg Elementary teachers Kristin Price Garrett and Kristin Hatfield, Kayla McKinney from Floyd Central, Erica Reid from Allen Elementary, and Duff-Allen Central teachers Jessica Slone and Jennifer Wade Wells.

Superintendent Danny Adkins congratulated the teachers, saying, "These are huge achievements." The certification process take years, Caudill said, and requires teachers to continuously improve. The district is working toward increasing the number of teachers with National Board Certification to 50 percent by 2020.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The Floyd County Board of Education honored the Prestonsburg High School student Makenna Shepherd, center, on Dec. 17. Shepherd won three gold medals and one silver medal at the Special Olympics Artistic Gymnastics Kentucky State Games.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The Floyd County Board of Education honored the Duff-Allen Central middle school academic team on Dec. 17, recognizing the team and its coaches for earning first place overall in academics.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The Floyd County Board of Education honored the Floyd Central High School academic team on Dec. 17, recognizing the team and its coaches for earning first place overall in academics.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The Floyd County Board of Education honored the Prestonsburg High School Girls Soccer team on Dec. 17, recognizing the team and its coaches for earned the 15th Regional All A championship.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Mary Meadows
The Floyd County Board of Education honored the Prestonsburg High School Boys Soccer team on Dec. 17, recognizing the team and its coaches for winning the 15th Regional All A championship and becoming 15th Region champs.



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Jail officials: Woman threw urine on deputies

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County woman was arrested for charges in four separate felony cases this month for allegedly breaking a window and trying to sneak drugs into the jail, and then allegedly assaulting deputies by spitting, kicking and throwing urine on them.

Floyd County Detention Center Lt. Parker DeRossett filed the four felony cases against Mikayla Wallen, 21, of Louisville, this month.

Wallen has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges and District

Judge Jimmy Marcum scheduled preliminary hearings to be held in each case on Jan. 2.

DeRossett claims in documents filed in Floyd District Court that Wallen broke a window in a visitation room at the jail by repeatedly kicking it on Dec. 7.

She was charged with first-degree criminal mischief, a felony, in that case, with officials claiming she caused approximately \$2,400 in damages at the jail.

The court filings show that Wallen was taken to Highlands Regional Medical Center later that day, and over the next couple

of days, more felony cases were filed against her.

On Dec. 7, Jail Deputy Bill Henegar reported that Wallen had hidden drugs inside her person while she was at the hospital, DeRossett alleges in one case.

He claimed that he examined a clear bag filled with a "large amount of clear crystal like substance believed to be methamphetamine" that was allegedly recovered in that investigation.

Wallen was charged with first-degree promoting contraband, possession of drug paraphernalia, first-degree possession of a controlled

substance and tampering with physical evidence in this case.

On Dec. 8, Wallen was charged again, at the hospital, with one felony count of third-degree assault and menacing.

DeRossett alleges in that citation that deputies Henegar and Tammi Oskarek were watching Wallen at the hospital and she was trying to get out of her restraints.

When Henegar went to check those restraints, Wallen allegedly spit on him, "kicked him in the head" and threatened to kill him, DeRossett claims.

On Dec. 9 — the day Wallen was served with arrest warrants in all of these cases — DeRossett claims that Wallen asked Oskarek to use the phone while she was in the hospital's intensive care unit.

DeRossett claims that Wallen "became mad and loud" when she learned she couldn't use the phone and she "picked up a bed pan with urine in it and threw it at Oskarek, "covering her from the neck to waist with urine."

Wallen was charged with third-degree assault and menacing in that case.

Wallen appeared in

Floyd District Court last week and entered not guilty pleas in all cases against her.

Marcum set separate bonds for each of the cases totaling around \$9,000.

These are not the first felony cases Wallen has faced in Floyd County this year.

In November, she was arrested for first-degree drug trafficking for allegedly bringing more than a pound of methamphetamine to Floyd County.

That case was referred to the grand jury for consideration.

Bevin says calling special session was necessary

By MARK MAYNARD KENTUCKY TODAY

Gov. Matt Bevin said on a talk radio show in Huntington that a special session that he quickly called on Monday afternoon was imperative because of current lawmakers' familiarity with the pension reform issues and finances in Kentucky.

He said that the new House bills proposed add nothing new from Senate Bill 151, so there should be less discussion and questions among legislatures.

"It's nothing that hasn't been debated ad nauseum in the 2018 legislative session," Bevin said on the Tom Roten Morning Show on WVHU 800 AM Tuesday morn-

ing. House Bill 1 and House Bill 2 were introduced late Monday night by Rep. Jerry Miller, a Louisville Republican.

"Senate Bill 151, which they already passed, is broken into two pieces with many parts removed, some of the most contentious parts, the parts that judges ruled against whether they should have or not," Bevin said. "The logic is we need to start with the basics."

Breaking the previous pension overhaul into two pieces made sense, he said.

"If we don't have the ability to pass comprehensive pension reform bill in one fell swoop, we will eat this apple one

bite at a time."

Bevin said House Bill 1 only affects new hires and House Bill 2 has only one issue that applies to current employees starting in 2024 concerning what Bevin called a "multiplier by which they can spike their pension." Ending that is an idea that came from school superintendents and one that has been discussed in the legislature, he said.

If they waited to address the pension reform in the 2019 General Assembly session, which begins Jan. 8, there would be new faces who wouldn't know as much about the pension reform plan that the Kentucky Supreme Court unanimously struck down four days ago for procedural

problems, he said.

"There's nothing new that hasn't been heard of, talked about or discussed by these particular members," Bevin said. "You have to realize some of these members too won't be coming back. Some are retiring and some lost their seats (in election). We start next year it's a whole new group of people, not all who have been through this discussion month after month after month."

The idea of calling the special session on Monday was that it could be completed before Christmas, he said.

"They could be done on Friday, that was the whole purpose of starting on Monday to get the first reading yesterday

(Monday), second today (Tuesday), and third in the House Wednesday. The Senate gets its first Wednesday, second (reading) Thursday and third (reading) and vote on Friday. It could be done in that short order."

House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, called the special session "appalling" and Attorney General Andy Beshear said bringing lawmakers back during this time of year was cruel.

Bevin said Adkins, a gubernatorial candidate, hasn't offered a solution to the problem.

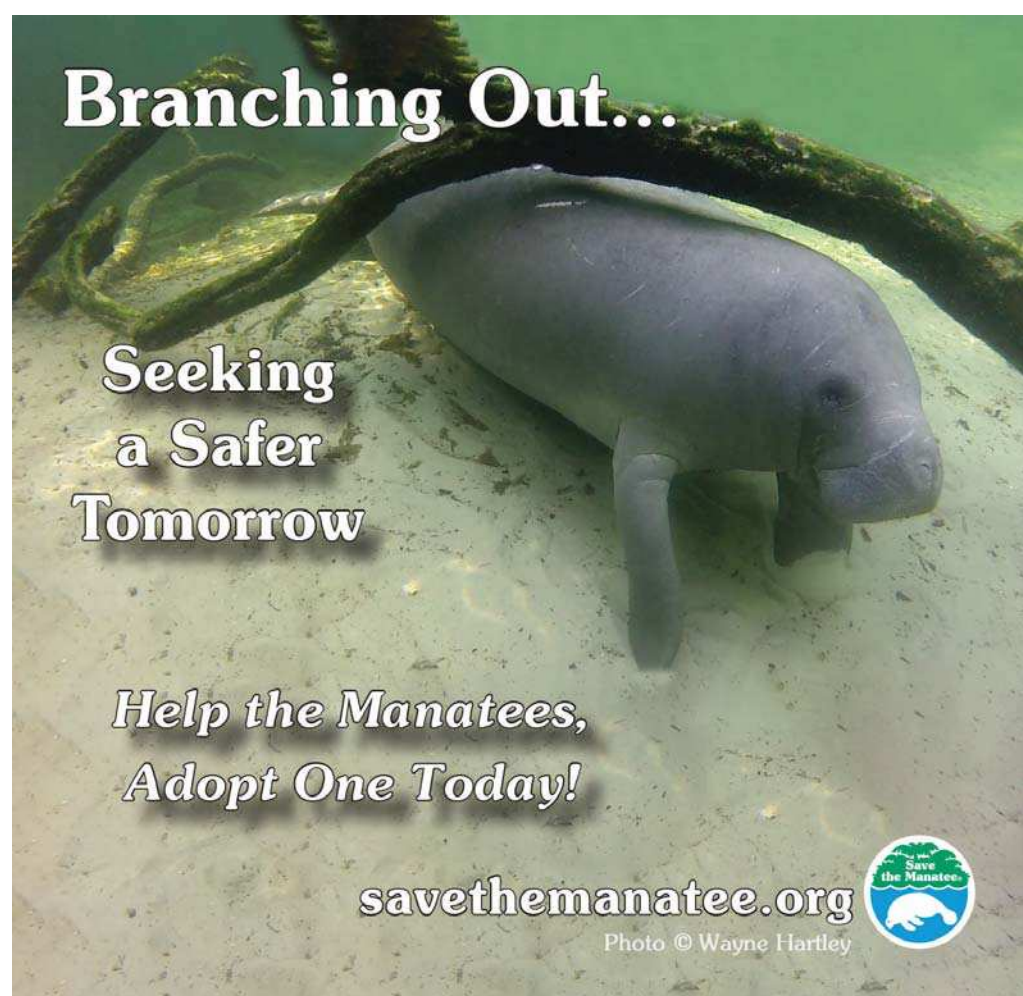
"Here's what's crazy. This is a guy who literally thinks he should be governor, has filed to become governor and is

running to become governor," Bevin said. "He thinks it's appalling that we are trying to save a failing pension system, but he doesn't have a solution."

"We're dealing with people so far removed from financial reality. They do not understand what's at stake."

Bevin said the solvency of Kentucky, the credit ratings of Kentucky, debt issuances of Kentucky, the bankers, business people and taxpayers are under financial assault if the pension system fails.

"We have some of our leading Democrats Whistlin' Dixie here past the graveyard and pretending that there is no problem and it's a shame."



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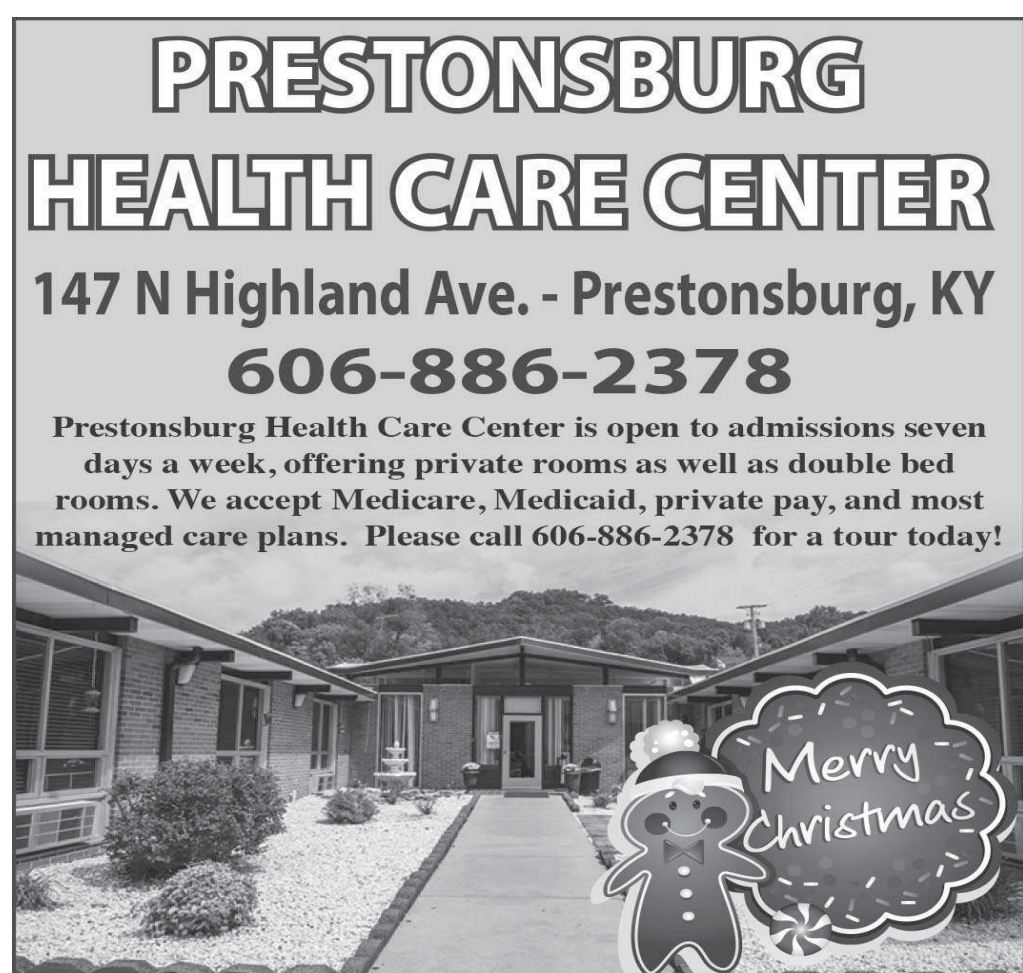
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Merry Christmas

Officer's killer to serve life in prison, no parole eligibility

By Chase Ellis
Appalachian Newspapers

PIKEVILLE — A Pikeville man charged with capital murder for the March death of Pikeville Police Officer Scotty Hamilton entered into a plea agreement to two of his five charges in the case and was sentenced to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole during hearings held in Pike Circuit Court Wednesday.

John R. Hall, 56, of Hurricane Road, Pikeville, entered into a plea agreement in which he pleaded guilty to murder for Hamilton's and also to a charge of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and a persistent felony offender charge — be dismissed. Bartley said two guns had been located during the investigation, a rifle and a handgun, and the handgun was identified as the murder weapon. During the hearings, Bartley was joined at the prosecution bench by Kentucky State Police Sgt. Randy Combs and Pikeville Police Chief Chris Edmonds.

In the agreement, Hall also stipulated that he had committed the murder while Hamilton was working and on duty as a police officer, which allowed for the pursuit of enhanced punishments through the state.

With the plea agreement, Bartley recommended a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for murder and 10 years for the handgun violation. Those sentences, by Kentucky law,

were ordered to run concurrent with each other.

According to Bartley, Kentucky does not allow for any sentences to extend more than life, therefore he could not make recommendations of a life sentence plus 10 years, as the maximum allowed was life.

A pre-sentencing report, which usually creates a delay between when plea agreements are entered and the sentencing phase, was prepared in advance of Wednesday's hearing as both prosecutors and defense said they were prepared to "get this behind us today."

Hamilton's mother, father, brother and widow each signed agreements to the plea agreements. Hamilton's mother, Patricia, spoke during the hearing.

"Because of you, my heart is broken, as is our family's, friends', his brothers in blue and the community he loved so much. Because of you, our lives are forever changed, but yours will change to," Patricia Hamilton said to Hall. "Scotty's senior quote for graduation was to 'Live life to the fullest, take one day at a time,' and that he did."

Bartley said, Hamilton's brother, Jeff, would decline to speak out of respect for the court as he was "too upset to make a statement, ... without, frankly, being inappropriate for the court room."

PPD Det. Virgil Ray read a prepared statement from Chelsi Hamilton, Hamilton's widow, who was present for the sentencing. Ray read from the statement that the death of Scotty Hamilton had left Chelsi Hamilton and his



Appalachian Newspapers photos by Chase Ellis
Members of the Kentucky State Police, Pikeville Police Department and other law enforcement and first responder agencies piled into Pike Circuit Court Wednesday during the sentencing of John Russell Hall. Hall, pictured below, pleaded guilty to the murder of PPD Officer Scotty Hamilton and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

young daughter, Brynlee, searching for their "new normal."

"On March 13, ... our lives were turned for the worst when I lost the love of my life, my best friend and the father of my little girl. In these past couple of months, I have experienced a roller coaster of emotions with this case. I want justice served for my husband ... Scotty's main priority in life was the care of his daughter and to know he won't be around to see his daughter go to her first day of school, attend her first dance, to see her graduate or to be there to walk down the aisle is heartbreaking," Ray read. "We now have to find our new normal in life because that is what Scotty would have wanted us to do."

After the statements, Pike Circuit Judge Eddy Coleman accepted the plea agreement and the sentence recommendations and ordered Hall sentenced according to the agreement. Coleman ordered that Hall be returned to the custody of the Clark County Detention Center where he is currently being held.



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- Dec. 27, 5 p.m.: Floyd County Tourism meets, county courthouse. (606) 886-9193
- Dec. 30, 3 p.m.: City and county officials to participate in a swearing-in ceremony, Mountain Arts Center
- Archer Park Christmas light display is open to the public through New Years. The park will offer sleigh rides from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., carnival rides and other events on Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 22. Carnival rides, games and food will be available in the evenings, throughout the week. Admission is free. Group discounts are available for the rides.
- Every Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Moms Meet Moms in Recovery support group, offering free diapers, baby items, babysitting, food, refreshments, informational resources, at Destination Church. Qualifies as "parent education" and "peer support group" required by drug court. For information, call Kelly at (606) 886-2788
- Through Jan. 18: Judi's Place for Kids seeks designs from school-aged youth in Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Martin and Magoffin counties 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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Marriages, property transfers filed

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

Heather Yvonne Brown, 39, of Garrett, to Bobby Neil Ousley, 37, of Garrett
 Rebecca Lynn Davis, 37, of East Point, to Brandon Chase Goble, 19, of Dwale
 Jessica Collins, 36, of Martin, to Joseph Ratliff, 33, of Martin
 Lavahishia Nashae Robinson, 21, of East Point, to Dustin Ray Hunter, 25, of East Point
 Karrie Leanne Kidd, 30, of Printer, to Danny Joe Coburn, 34, of Printer
 Brandi Carol Damron, 35, of Hi Hat, to Dana Curtis McCown, 32, of Wheelwright
 Keith Bartley, 52, of Prestonsburg, to Stephanie Racquel Newsom, 48, of Lexington
 Jodi Kathryn Peck,

31, of Prestonsburg, to Joshua Michael Mahon, 36, of Prestonsburg

Property transfers

Alan Investments III to Amber Gaines, Christopher Gaines (Deeds Book 642; pg. 180)
 TG VZG LLC to Randy Burke (Deeds Book 642; pg. 186)
 Christine M. Steele, Zachary Steele to Janie Colanda Ross, Kevin Bradley Ross (Deeds Book 642; pg. 189)
 Gerema Kinney, Gregory Kinney to Connie Sue Hunkle (Deeds Book 642; pg. 192)
 Elias Haoun, Peggy Hatoun, Master Commissioner Gregory Isaac, Francine Kay, Harold B. Kay III, Harold B. Kay Jr., James Kay, Maria Kay, Linda Sue Roeth, Milton Roeth, Fred Salisbury, Myra Salisbury, Helen Stewart, Johnny Stewart, Pearl Waddles to Harold B. Kay, Harold B. Kay III, James Kay (Deeds Book 642; pg. 195)
 Margie Hughes to Denzel Turner (Deeds

Book 642; pg. 202)
 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance to Adele Marie Barber (Deeds Book 642; pg. 205)
 Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance to Andrew Clayton McCoy (Deeds Book 642; pg. 211)
 Brent G. Clark, Jennifer Clark Coleman, Clyde Tackett, Gwen Tackett, to Keith D. Lamb, Petra E. Lamb (Deeds Book 642; pg. 215)
 Steven Johnson to Kevin Hamby (Deeds Book 642; pg. 220)
 Jane Roberts, Lisa Roberts, Ricky Joe Roberts, Robert Wesley Rob-

erts Jr. to JDF Court II LLC (Deeds Book 642; pg. 221)
 Herbert L. Charles to Jheri Endicott (Deeds Book 642; pg. 226)
 Linda Ferrell to Nora Adiar, Vanidan Ferrell Jr., Tracy Wiley (Deeds Book 642; pg. 234)
 James Orbin Childers, Sherry L. Childers to Dawn Martin, Mabry E. Martin; property on the Right Fork of Beaver Creek
 Helen M. Lapointe, Linda Maulo, Marlin Maulo to Jessica Newsome, Ronnie Newsom (Deeds Book 642; pg. 243)

Happy Anniversary!



Submitted photo
 Prestonsburg residents William Eddie and Geraldine Burchett are celebrating their 50th anniversary this week. They were married on Dec. 21, 1968, at the Endicott Freewill Baptist Church. Before retiring, William worked as an ICI Explosives Manager and Geraldine was a homemaker. They have one child, Shondella Burchett.

Deputy: Man pulled a knife on firefighters

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County resident is facing several criminal charges after allegedly threatening firefighters who were trying to extinguish a structure fire.

According to documents filed in Floyd County District Court, Randy M. Duncan, 24, of Garrett, threatened officials with the Martin Fire Department on Dec. 14.

Floyd County Sheriff Deputy Justin Szymchack reports in the citation that he was dispatched to a structure fire on Hite Road because Duncan was "brandishing a knife" toward firefighters, "telling them not to spray water on a structure fire."

He said several firefighters made the allegation, claiming that Duncan pulled out a knife and told them they were not

going to spray water on the fire.

Szymchack claims Duncan "became violent" when he attempted to arrest him. He was subdued after Szymchack deployed OC spray.

Deputies Derrick Blackburn and Dusty Newsome also assisted in the arrest.

He was transported to the Floyd County jail and is facing several misdemeanor crimes, including, obstructing governmental operations, resisting arrest, first-degree disorderly conduct and third-degree terroristic threatening.

Duncan pleaded not guilty on Dec. 14, and District Judge Jimmy Marcum set his bond at \$1,000 surety.

He ordered Duncan to have no further violations of the law and scheduled a court trial in the case for Feb. 21.

Hunt to represent sheriffs statewide

FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Kentucky Sheriffs' Association elected Floyd County Sheriff John Hunt to serve on its board of directors.

The measure was taken during the association's 89th annual conference in Louisville earlier this month.

It is both an honor and a privilege to work with the Kentucky Sheriff's Association," said Jerry Wagner, executive director of the association. "Sheriff Hunt is most deserving and has always represented Kentucky Sheriffs in a positive manner. I feel sure he will continue to stand for Kentucky Sheriffs, along with the citizens of Floyd County and the Commonwealth during his tenure."

Wagner said the association "strives to bet-

ter the office of Sheriff" by keeping sheriffs across the state abreast of "what's going on in the law enforcement community with ongoing training and legislation."

"We would like to congratulate Sheriff Hunt on being elected to the board of directors. We look forward to a great year and hope everyone will lend their hand in support of and congratulations to Sheriff Hunt."

Hunt ran unopposed on the ballot this year and will start his second term in office in Floyd County in January.

He has decades of law enforcement service under his belt and has earned numerous awards and honors for that service.

He said he is honored to have been selected for the position and is looking forward to serving in this new role.

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Bobcats hold on to beat Jaguars, 47-41



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne's Jordan Frazier drives to the basket during Tuesday night's 58th District game at Junior Newsome Arena.

By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — Betsy Layne held on to beat visiting Floyd Central 47-41 to notch its third straight win on Tuesday night.

With the win, Betsy Layne improved to 5-3 overall and 1-0 in the 58th District.

Floyd Central dropped to 2-7 overall and 0-2 in the district with the loss.

The Bobcats, under the direction of head coach Brad

Short, used a 15-6 run in the third quarter to defeat Floyd Central.

"Our boys just played hard," said Short. "We are young and going to continue getting better. I loved our defense tonight."

Betsy Layne edged Floyd Central 9-8 in the first quarter but found itself behind at half-time. Floyd Central outscored Betsy Layne 14-10 in the second quarter to lead 22-19 at the break.

But Betsy Layne fared bet-

ter after the intermission period.

The Bobcats limited Floyd Central to three field goals from inside the arc in the third quarter.

See **BOBCATS**, Page 2B



By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — Floyd Central notched its second straight 58th District girls' basketball win in the 2018/2019 season on Tuesday, leveling host Betsy Layne 68-33.

Floyd Central remained undefeated with the win, moving to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the 58th District.

Betsy Layne stumbled to 2-6 overall and 0-2 in the district with the loss.

Visiting Floyd Central led at the conclusion of each quarter. The Justin Triplett-coached Lady Jaguars are averaging 67 points per game.

Floyd Central shot 49.1 percent (26 of 53) from the field. The Lady Jaguars were three of 14 from three-point range.

Floyd Central shot 59.1 percent (13 of 22) from the free-throw line.

The Lady Jaguars forced county rival Betsy Layne to play from behind throughout the district contest.

Senior Lauren Preston led Floyd Central to the win, scoring 19 points and pulling down six rebounds.

Floyd Central featured three scorers in double figures. Brook Stumbo scored 14 points while Kaylee Stumbo added 12 points for visiting Floyd Central.

Kaylee Moore, who finished with four points, paced Floyd Central inside, securing seven rebounds.

Abby Maggard (six points), Katie Moore (five points), Kamryn Shannon (four points), Grace Martin (four points) and Kennedi Harvel added two for the Lady Jaguars in the victory.

At press time on Thursday, Floyd Central was hosting opening round games in the Lady Jaguar Invitational.

Lady Jaguars level Betsy Layne, 68-33



Davy Bentley defends for host Betsy Layne during the Bobcats' 58th District game against visiting Floyd Central.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Ethan Smith-Mills looks to make a move for the Jaguars.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

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BOBCATS

Continued From Page 1B

Brady Robinson led Betsy Layne with a game-high 17 points. Following closely behind Robinson in the Betsy Layne scoring column, Jordan Frazier netted 15 points for the Bobcats. Robinson and Frazier scored six points apiece for Betsy Layne in the fourth quarter. Frazier was six for six from the foul line in the final period.

Zack Bentley (six points), Shawn Howell (four points), Lukas Manns (three points) and Chase Mims (two points) accounted for the rest of

the Bobcats' scoring. Betsy Layne was 16 of 25 from the free-throw line.

Brandon Little led Floyd Central with 14 points. Little was the only Floyd Central player to reach double figures in the scoring column. Ethan Smith-Mills scored nine points while Jacob Hamilton added seven points for the Jaguars.

Additional scorers for Floyd Central in the short effort were Eric Burke (three points), Grant Blackburn (two points), Skyler Hall (two points) Braden Moore (two points) and Brody Buck (two points).

SUDOKU & CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Betsy Layne honors Newsome



Legendary coach Junior Newsome was honored and recognized as Betsy Layne High School's new gym was named Junior Newsome Arena on Tuesday night.

Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Steve LeMaster

Lady Blackcats turn back Jenkins, 81-64

By **STEVE LEMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats have entered the Christmas break on a two-game winning streak. Over a three-day span, Saturday-Monday, Prestonsburg posted back-to-back wins, beating Oneida Baptist Institute and Jenkins.

On Saturday, Prestonsburg pulled away to defeat host Oneida Baptist Institute 69-40.

Remaining in the win column two days later, Prestonsburg topped visiting Jenkins 81-64 in the fourth annual Lady Blackcat Cerebral Palsy Awareness Game on Monday night.

More on Prestonsburg's back-to-back wins follows.

Prestonsburg 81, Jenkins 64

Turning back 15th Region rival Jenkins, host Prestonsburg prevailed 81-64 in the fourth annual Lady Blackcat Cerebral

Palsy Awareness Game on Monday night.

With the win, Prestonsburg evened its record to 5-5.

Jenkins slipped to 1-6 with the loss.

In a balanced offensive effort, Prestonsburg featured four scorers in double figures.

Senior guard Kaitlyn Keathley paced Prestonsburg with a double-double, scoring 20 points and pulling down 10 rebounds.

Following Keathley in double figures for the Lady Blackcats, Alivia Slone scored 12 points while Alison Campbell and Resce Endicott, back from an injury, added 11 points apiece.

Prestonsburg shot 50.9 percent (27 of 53) from the field. The Lady Blackcats were 10 of 26 (38.5 percent) from three-point range.

Prestonsburg shot 58.6 percent (17 of 29) from the free-throw line.

Barely missing a double-double, Caroline Ariaz added nine points and a

game-high 11 rebounds for the Lady Blackcats.

Celina Mullins (six points), Sydney Jarrell (five points), Faith Lazar (four points) and Jillian Kidd (three points) accounted for Prestonsburg's other scoring in the win.

Prestonsburg 69, Oneida Baptist 40

Prestonsburg halted a two-game losing skid over the weekend, defeating host Oneida Baptist Institute 69-40 on Saturday.

The Lady Blackcats shot 48.1 percent (25 of 52) from the field. Prestonsburg was seven of 21 (33.3 percent) from three-point range.

The Lady Blackcats shot 70.6 percent (12 of 17) from the free-throw line.

Kaitlyn Keathley led Prestonsburg to the win. Keathley finished with a game-high 24 points, along with eight rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Caroline Ariaz accom-

panied Keathley in double figures for the Lady Blackcats and recorded a double-double, scoring 19 points and pulling down 12 rebounds.

Alison Campbell narrowly missed reaching double figures for the Lady Blackcats, netting

nine points.

Alivia Slone added eight points while Kylie Stephens, Maggie Nelson and Celina Mullins rounded out the Prestonsburg individual scoring with three points apiece.

Emilie Field-Darragh paced Oneida Baptist

Institute with 23 points.

Oneida Baptist Institute featured a pair of scorers in double figures. Recording a double-double, Katy Schroeder added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Lady Mountaineers.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Ask yourself emotional questions and be honest about your feelings and expectations. It's up to you to bring about positive change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Stand your ground and make choices based on what you can afford and what you feel comfortable doing. A promise you make to someone should be based on what's doable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) - Time spent at home with your family or friends will encourage you to make a lifestyle change. Recognize the things that will enhance your life, and make the right choices.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - Communication, travel and dealings with people you don't always see eye-to-eye with will lead to an unwanted predicament. Don't over-react; just go about your business. Change begins within.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - You are best off doing your own thing, getting your personal papers up to date and forgoing a debate with someone who could influence your future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - If you care about someone, now's the time to let him or her know. You don't have to buy an elaborate gift; you can just share your feelings and time. Romance is in the stars.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - You'll be given the wrong information or directions. Don't be too trusting or willing to let someone use emotional manipulation to get you to do

**DAILY
ASTROGRAPH**
by Eugenia Last



his or her dirty work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Getting together with a friend or colleague will lead to an interesting idea that will tempt you to get involved in something unusual. Don't give all your secrets away or make a commitment without more information.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - An opportunity will change your direction and life. Get the facts before you share your plans with loved ones. The choices you make won't please everyone, but this time you have to please yourself first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Calm down to deter others from overreacting. Take a stand when it comes to indulgent behavior. Be the mature one in your group and avoid trouble.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Getting together with peers, relatives or people who have chosen a different path than you have will tweak your intelligence and give you reason to consider making a lifestyle change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - A kind gesture will help you seal a deal or understand how you can improve an important relationship. A personal change will make you stand out and will bring a positive response.

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

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All answers are in today's edition

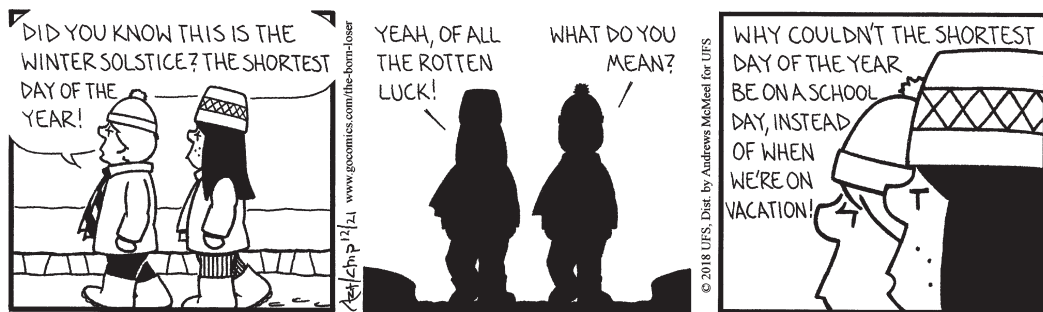
ARLO & JANIS



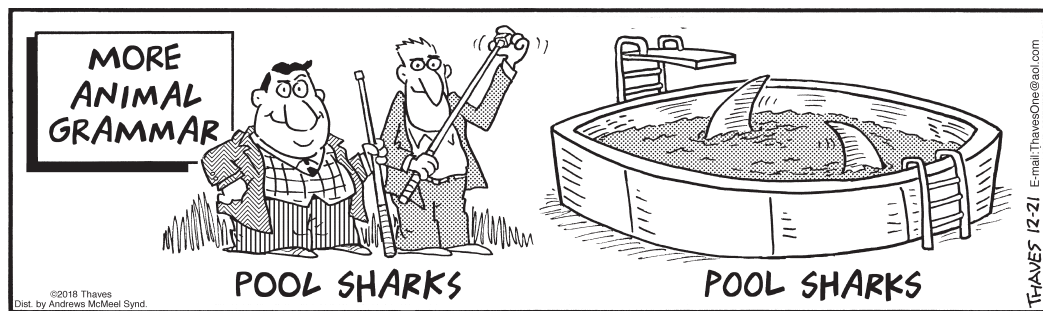
BIG NATE



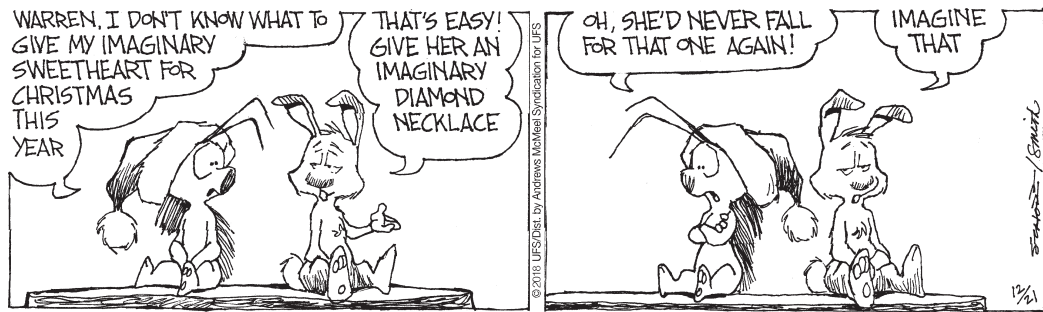
BORN LOSER



FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- ACROSS**
- Bona - (genuine)
 - Gave a buzz
 - lck!
 - Parliament members
 - Pitcher
 - Poet's black
 - Be in store
 - Asian desert
 - Wolf, to Pedro
 - Fatherly
 - Leave
 - Rower's need
 - Party
 - Snarled up
 - Clumsy boat
 - In the least (2 wds.)
 - Pole vaulter's hurdle
 - Approach
 - Mature
 - Late-night Jay
 - Easy access (2 wds.)
 - Valletta's country
 - Is, to Fritz
 - Lunch order
 - Athens rival
 - Not just mine
 - Clearer
 - Haziest
 - Sitar kin
 - Consumer
 - Sun Valley site
 - Harrow rival
 - Dole out
 - a dull moment
 - Warrior princess
 - Disfigure
 - Connelly of "Dr. No"
 - Identify
 - Campbell of country music
 - EMT technique
 - Chair-back piece
 - Wallop
 - Before, in combos
 - Crowd noise
 - Speakers' platforms
 - Scintilla
 - Catastrophic
 - Edge
 - Not as good
 - Graceless one
 - Recipe verb
 - Mountain climber's aid
 - NBA venue
 - Work a muscle
 - Crumbly cheese
 - March 15, in Rome
 - Roof part
 - Former New York stadium
 - Split
 - Off. employee
- DOWN**
- Beat, as wings
 - Missouri neighbor
 - Heck!
 - Singer - Adams
 - Esteem
 - MP prey
 - Beak of a bird
 - Football field
 - Pound sounds
 - WWII sea menace (hyph.)
 - Venomous snake
 - No-frills hairdo
 - Leisurely walk
 - Kilt-wearer's no
 - Cartoon shrieks
 - Taxi rider
 - Mexican menu item
 - Perched on

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Floyd County Chronicle • Weekend Edition, December 21 - 23, 2018 • Page 5B

TO OUR READERS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD



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The *Floyd County Chronicle and Times* reserves the right to edit, properly classify, cancel or decline any ad. We will not knowingly accept advertising that discriminates on the basis of sex, age, religion, race, national origin or physical disability.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD

Please read your ad the first day it appears in the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*. Report any errors immediately and we will gladly correct any errors published. Credit will be issued for one (1) day only. After the first day the ad can be corrected for the remaining number of runs, but credit will not be issued for days ad ran incorrectly.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

eral apartment and grounds maintenance preferred. Applications must be completed in person at the Central Office located at Warco Apartments, 402 John M. Stumbo Drive, Langley, KY. On Highway 80, outside Martin, KY. Between the hours of 10:00AM and 4:00PM weekdays, Wednesdays 10:00AM to NOON only. No phone calls. The Housing Authority of Floyd County is an



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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant to Application Number 836-5689

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Mason Coal, Inc. P.O. Box 869, 100 East Mountain Parkway, Salyersville, Kentucky 41465 has applied for an underground coal mining operation located 1.4 miles south of the Gretel Post Office in Floyd County. The proposed operation will consist of approximately 8.82 acres of surface disturbance making a total area of 1343.43 acres within the proposed permit boundary. The proposed operations area is approximately 6.0 miles southwest Kentucky 979's junction with Kentucky 1426 and located 0.01 mile east of Mud Creek. The proposed operation is located on the McDowell U.S.G.S. 7 1/2-minute quadrangle map. The surface to be disturbed is owned by Levi Tackett. The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653. Written comments, objections, and requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Ky. 40601. This is the final advertisement of this application. All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

LEGALS

ment's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653. Written comments, objections, and requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Ky. 40601. This is the final advertisement of this application. All comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

INVITATION TO BID/ REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pursuant to KRS 45A.365 and Board Policy 04.32, the Floyd County Board of Education is hereby providing notice that the Board will receive sealed bids for the following items, supplies, and/or services listed below; Cafeteria Furniture for nine schools to include tables, booths and chairs. Bid Specifications and Bid Forms may be obtained by contacting Dale Pack via phone at 606-886-2354 Ext 5545, via e-mail at Dale.pack@floyd.kyschools.us, or via mail at 106 North Front Avenue, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Bids will be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16th, 2019 and will be opened on this date at 1:05 p.m. All envelopes must be clearly marked **SEALED BID- Cafeteria Furniture Attention- Michael Long** on the outside of the envelope. All proposals must be received by the time designated and none will be considered thereafter. The Board of Education cannot assume the responsibility for any delay as a result of failure of the mails to deliver the bids on time. Faxed bids cannot be accepted. Proposals will be publicly opened and recorded at the time

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and location stated above. The contract(s) may be awarded to the lowest and/or best evaluated qualified pro-

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posal meeting all specifications and conditions, subject to all other provisions of the item's/service's request for proposal

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and be in the best interest of The Board of Education. Acceptance/rejection of proposal(s) for

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item/service listed above is planned to occur at the board meeting to be held on Monday, January 28th at 6:30 p.m. The

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Floyd County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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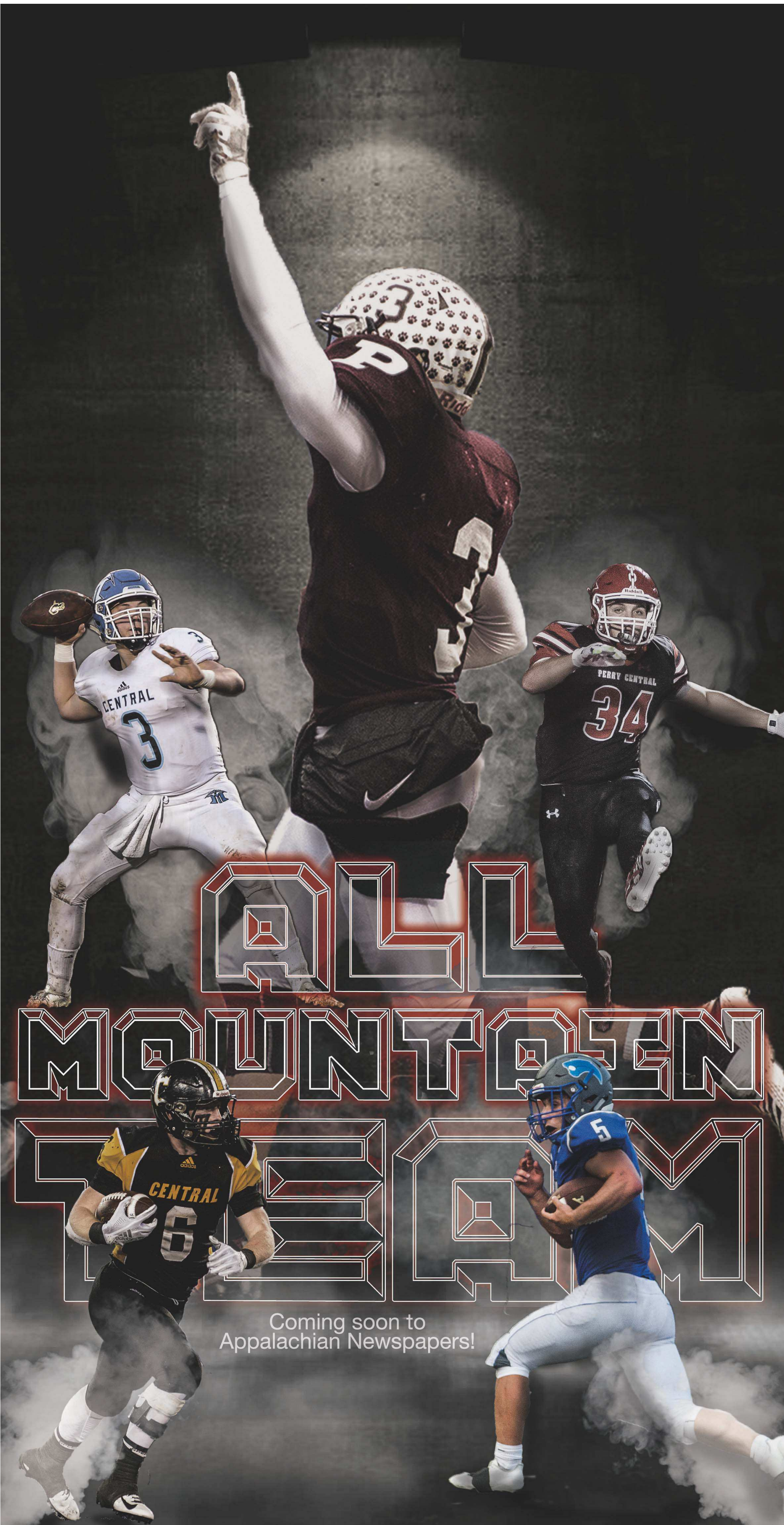
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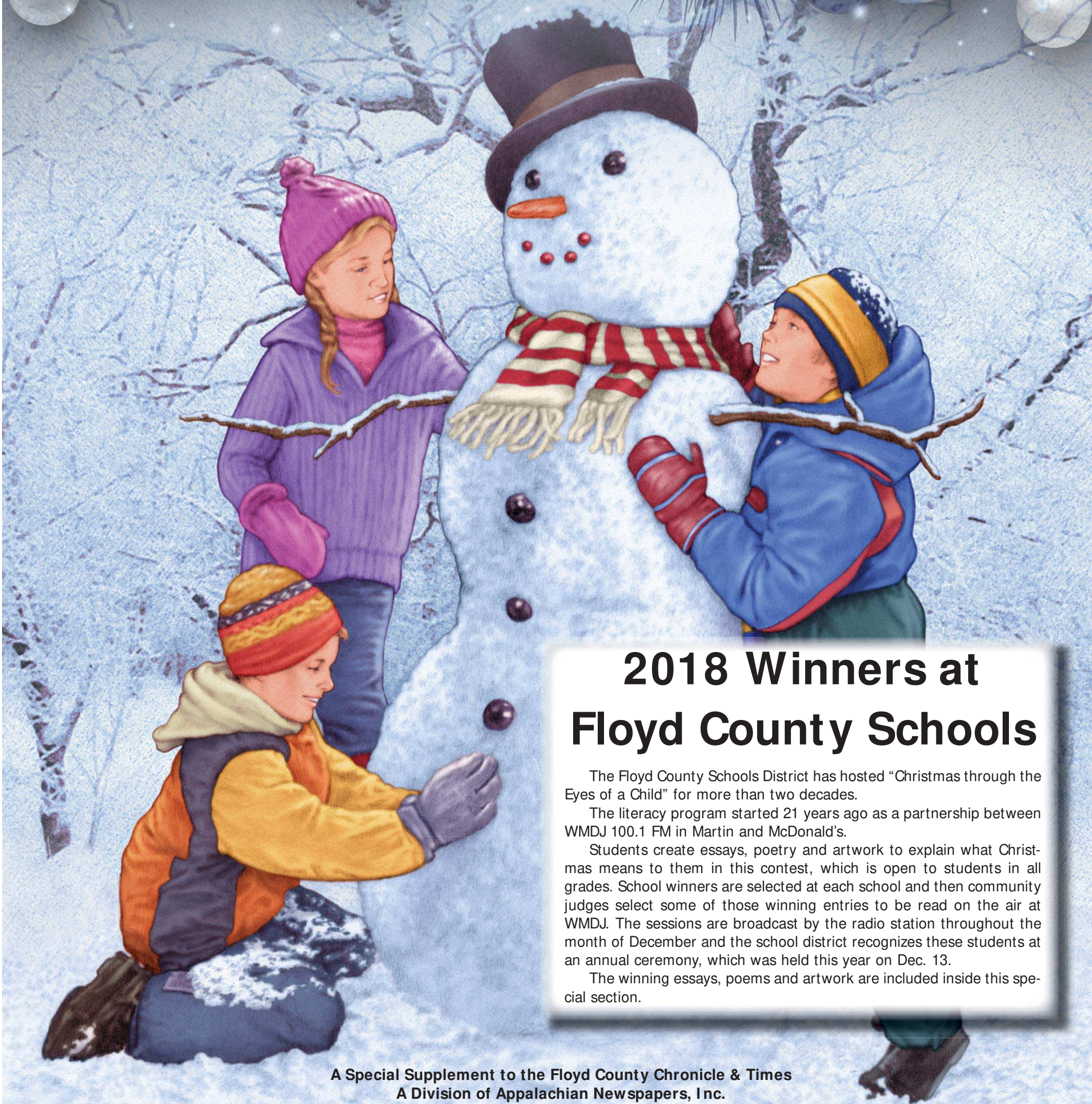
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Christmas

Through the eyes of a child



2018 Winners at Floyd County Schools

The Floyd County Schools District has hosted "Christmas through the Eyes of a Child" for more than two decades.

The literacy program started 21 years ago as a partnership between WMDJ 100.1 FM in Martin and McDonald's.

Students create essays, poetry and artwork to explain what Christmas means to them in this contest, which is open to students in all grades. School winners are selected at each school and then community judges select some of those winning entries to be read on the air at WMDJ. The sessions are broadcast by the radio station throughout the month of December and the school district recognizes these students at an annual ceremony, which was held this year on Dec. 13.

The winning essays, poems and artwork are included inside this special section.

A Special Supplement to the Floyd County Chronicle & Times
A Division of Appalachian Newspapers, Inc.

**Floyd County
Board of Education**

Happy Holidays



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Adams Middle School

Christmas Giving By Braydon Jervis

Christmas is about giving not receiving. I know you're happy for the gifts and can hardly sleep the night of Christmas Eve, but have you ever given a gift? Giving a gift makes you feel wonderful. You don't have to spend big dollars on gifts, remember it's the thought that counts. Christmas in my family is about giving, so we all pull a name out of a hat and get a gift for that person. The kids have a turn, then the adults.

This Christmas I want you to pray for the people who aren't fortunate enough to celebrate with family and give at least one person a gift even if it's just a letter. Like my step-dad once told me, it's the little things that matter the most.

Christmas Memories By Billy Akers

Christmas is a time to visit and spend time with family. Christmas is also a time I remember past family members. Along with my current family, I would most like to see my Mamaw, Papaw and uncle that died a long time ago. I still remember how they would hug me. My favorite memory is when Mamaw and Papaw would fix sweet cornbread and pickled corn. I am thankful that I can remember them every Christmas. I look up at them in the sky and say Merry Christmas and that I miss and love them.

The Meaning of Christmas

By Emily Burchett

Christmas is when Jesus was born. This is the day Jesus was born; the day our savior came into the world. This day is important because he came to save us from our sins. Every Christmas morning my family sits together and we read the story of baby Jesus. When Jesus was born he received gifts of frankincense and mire. This act of kindness has inspired many people to give presents at Christmas. So every Christmas morning I think about the birth of Jesus and I'm thankful for his greatest gift to all of us, the hope of forgiveness. This is what Christmas meaning to me.

A Memorable Christmas

By Alexis Osborne

It was Christmas Day and all of my family were gathered at my house to celebrate. Everyone was talking, laughing and eating. My great-grandmother and I was sitting by the Christmas tree admiring how beautiful it looked. Decorating the tree is my favorite thing to do for the

Christmas Poem By Kaitlyn Hager

Christmas is the snow that blankets the ground;
Giant forts and snowball fights erupting through the town.

Christmas is the laughter of children of all ages;
Delightful cheers, excited screams and booming songs and praises;

Christmas is the hot chocolate sipped around the fire;
Bundled up in blankets and heavy woolen attire.

Christmas is the chorus and the carols and the bands;
Jingle bells and sleigh bells ringing all across the land.

Christmas is the giving but also the getting;
No time for worries and no time for fretting.

Christmas is the ornaments that stretch as far as you can see;
From chimneys to ceilings to the sparkling Christmas tree.

Christmas is the cookies baked at high noon;
Where there were once fifty, now there are two.

Christmas is the love from the people you hold dear;
Christmas is the most wonderful time of year!

holiday.

I will never forget the last Christmas I shared with my great-grandmother. If I could just go back in time and see her again. She always showed how much she loved me and my sister. Together we would place a special ornament on the tree for her as a cancer survivor. My great-grandmother would tell us stories about my grandmother. She also talked about the funny things that happened in her classroom when she was a teacher. I will never forget my great-grandmother and the wonderful memories we made at Christmas while we decorated the tree.

Christmas with Family By Skyla Johnson

To me the meaning of Christmas is to have fun with family, to show our love, gifts and to have a feast. The best gifts I have received was a chocolate lab puppy and a hover-board. My most memorable Christmas is when my cousins Brayden and Katie gather around to sing while Katie played the guitar.

Christmas Through the Eyes of A Child By Carlie Fannin

If I could grant one Christmas wish, it would be for every child to know the true meaning of Christmas. Most children think Christmas is all about gifts, but the greatest gift of all is Jesus Christ. If you could only imagine every child, knowing the true meaning of Christ it would be just amazing. The birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of all because he gave us the gift of life, the gift of the Christmas holiday, the gift of church, the gift of family and the gift of so many more things. If every child knew, he was the real meaning of Christmas, our world and society could be different. If every child knew Christ and went to church, their life would be amazing. Spending time

with family, eating and celebrating Jesus Christ is the best. If you celebrate the birth of Jesus and spend time with family on Christmas, you are in for one of the best days of your life.

My family wakes up and eats breakfast and then we read the Bible and watch our favorite Christmas movie "Elf." Then, we go to church and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. After church, we come home and get in comfortable clothes then go sledding. Finally, to finish off our day we open our gifts. This is the reason I want every child to know the true meaning of Christmas. This is how my family and I spend the holidays celebrating Jesus. My wish is that every child will know the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus Christ.

What Christmas Means to Me

By Emily Hackworth

Christmas is the most blessing time of all. To me, Christmas is all about good times with my family. Every holiday season, my family and I always watch Christmas movies together. My favorite Christmas movie that we watch together is "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer." I always love when my family gathers in our living room and we watch "Rudolph," "Frosty the Snowman" and "A Christmas Carol." Also, our family always goes to the local Dairy Queen to get peppermint blizzards, and then we drive around Archer Park and see the admirable Christmas lights. On Christmas morning, my family and I get up and we all sit around our Christmas tree and open our presents. Nothing makes me more ecstatic than seeing my family members' eyes beaming with happiness every time they open new presents. Also, to me, Christmas means for you to have a good time and just feel joyous and apprecia-

er people Christmas could mean something much different like presents or food. Some people want expensive phones or toys, but not me. All I want for Christmas is to be surrounded by my loving family that I love so much.

Christmas Traditions By Madison Blevins

In my family we have many different traditions. I love every single one of them. One thing we have done ever since I was born is read "The Night Before Christmas" on Christmas Eve. We all go in the living room right before bed. We get a blanket, lay on the floor right beside our fireplace and lay cookies and hot chocolate out. We get our book out and each year Bub and I take turns on who reads it. Before we read, Bub and I get to pick out one gift to open. After opening our gift, reading the book, drinking hot chocolate and eating cookies, we all lay down to go to bed.

On Christmas day I always wake up the earliest, so I always go and jump on Mom and Dad to wake them up, and then we go and wake up Bub. We go to the living room to open our presents and take pictures. After we do that we would visit my papaw and other family. Those are my traditions. I would love to hear your Christmas traditions, too!

My Definition of Christmas Joey Ousley

Christmas is a time of year where kids can all look forward to waking up early on Christmas morning and opening gifts that their entire family has gotten them before they go and

play with the toys. That's almost every kid's meaning of Christmas, but my definition of Christmas is much different than the kids younger than I. My definition doesn't involve getting gifts. It involves family.

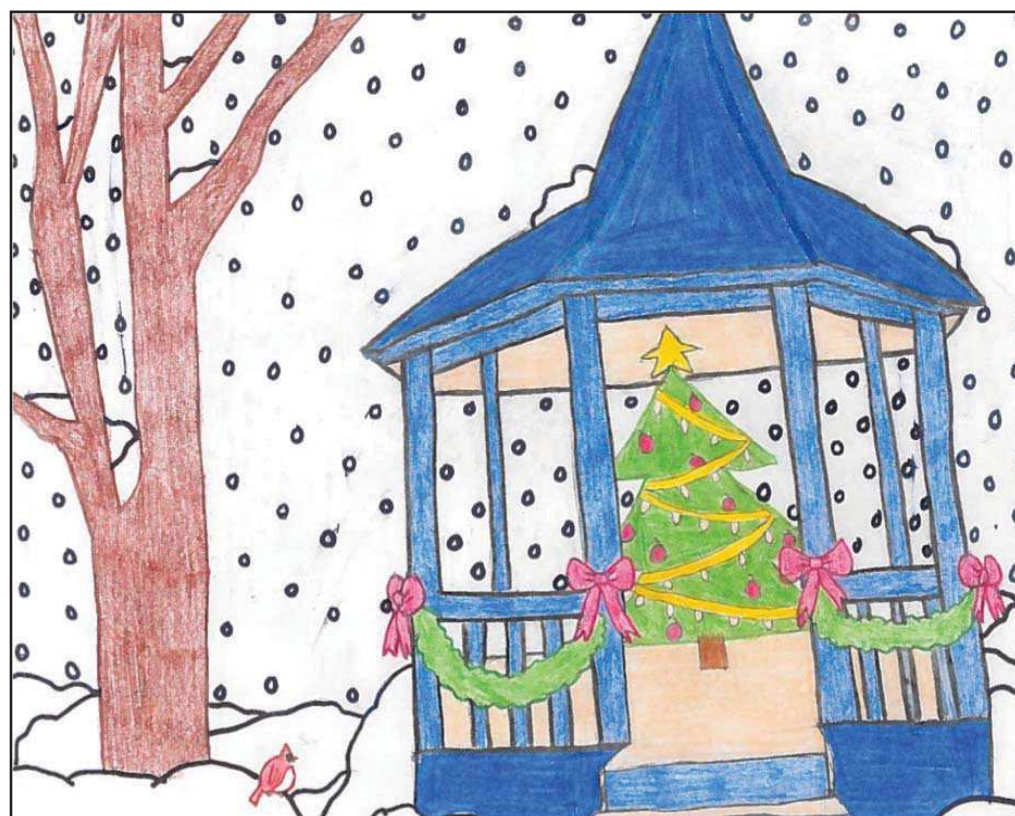
My definition of Christmas is spending time with family while you still can spend another holiday with them. It is showing that your family is more important than some piece of plastic. It is showing your family and even your friends that you love them. Most of all, my definition is celebrating with my family the birth of a man who died for our sins on the cross.

Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child By Max Willoughby

Christmas the best day of the year, where families come together and eat at the dinner table. Christmas is filled with giving and receiving. To most kids, Christmas means waking up as early as they can and running downstairs to open gifts from Santa. Most kids focus on the receiving part of Christmas more than the family time or giving part. This is a bad way to see Christmas because you're missing the whole meaning.

To me, Christmas means getting up early and seeing the gifts downstairs and watching my family open gifts from each other. It means going to the church service seeing little kids run around and everyone happy. It means going to my grandparents and eating a good Christmas dinner with my relatives. I love Christmas and what it means to me. I hope everyone else can be as happy as I am on Christmas.

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Allen Elementary Art Winner
Megan Woods

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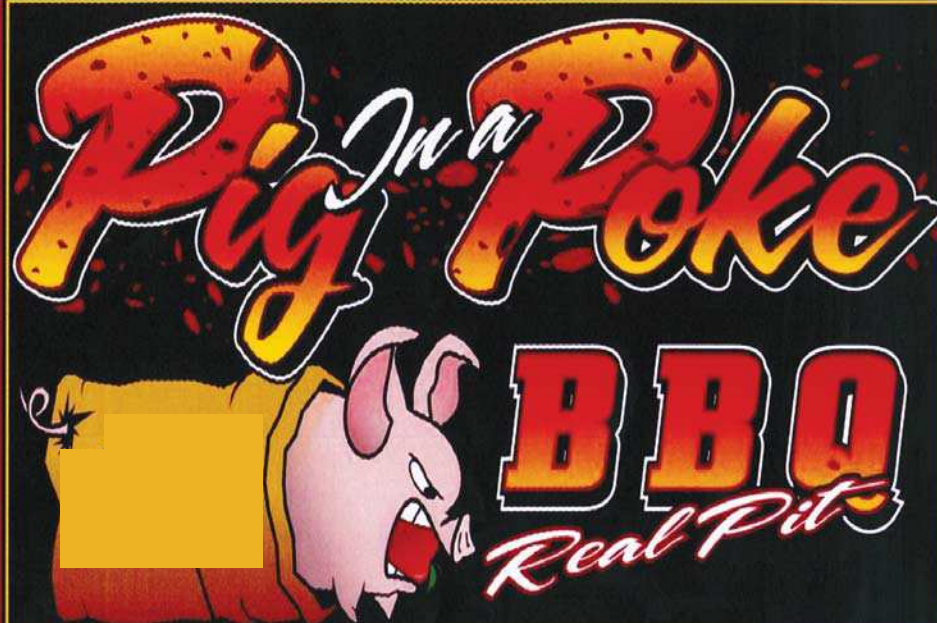
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My Christmas Wish By Nataylea Crum

If I could make one wish for Christmas it would be that Jesus would make my big sister's autism better and take her seizures away. I'd love to hear her talk and watch her run and play. I wish she could dance and cheer with me and have fun like other kids do. That is my Christmas wish!



My Christmas Wish By Jia Johnson

If I could have one wish for Christmas it would be to help make the world a better place for everyone. I would wish that homeless people would find homes and have food every day. I would wish for the soldiers to be home with their families every night and never have to fight. I would wish that everyone would have the feeling of loving, caring and wanting to help others every day! I wish for peace!



I Want to Celebrate Christmas With... By Aria Ottrando

I have always loved Christmas, but being an only child, I had no one to share all the Christmas fun with. But this year, I have a baby brother and I can't wait to watch his little face as he sees Santa for the first time and watches the twinkling lights on the tree. This will be the best Christmas ever!



The Best Christmas I Ever Had By Chase Crawford

The best Christmas I ever had was the one right after my Pap got a new heart. My Pap's organ donor was a superhero and made it possible for him to celebrate Christmas with his family. My family and I thank God every day that our future will be filled with many Christmas memories with our Pap. This is definitely the best Christmas I can remember.



Christmas is Magical By Grant Ballman

Christmas is a magical time. All of my family gathers together in my house to celebrate the birth of Jesus and make new memories. I have learned that receiving presents is not the most important part of Christmas. Every year, my dad takes me to pick out a few toys for other boys and girls who may not get a lot for Christmas. It is truly the holiday of giving and love. Another tradition I look forward to is baking cookies with my mom. The house smells so good and Santa Claus must really love them because he just leaves the crumbs. Christmas is my favorite time of year.



My Family Tradition By Rory McCarty

My favorite family tradition is baking tons of Christmas cookies. I love being able to bake with my mom. She lets me mix the dough and taste test, too. We make snicker doodles, chocolate chip, sugar cookies, peanut butter cookies and so many more. When the cookies are baking, the house smells so magical. My favorite part is getting to decorate some of the cookies. When we bake cookies together is when it really feels like Christmas to me.



A Wish to Help the World By Sierra Slone

This year, I only have one Christmas wish. Every year (especially on holidays) I see so many young children, adults and the elderly that live every day without shelter, a nice warm meal or even get the warmth of a nice fuzzy coat on cold winter days. Most families have the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree and opening presents. But have you ever taken the time to wonder about those who can't afford presents or have never gotten the luxury of celebrating Christmas? So, this year I'm going to take care boxes of everyday necessities to the needy and the homeless. Sometimes we just get caught up in the luxuries we have and forget about the ones who don't get the opportunities. But don't forget, never take anything for granted.



If I had One Wish By Ruthie Dillon

If I had one wish for Christmas, it would be for my great grandma to still be with us for Christmas. She passed away before I was born. I was named after her; her name was Ruth. I would love to meet her, even if was just for a few hours, it would be the best few hours of my life. I would tell her about everything like plays, songs, volleyball and archery. It would be the best day ever.



If I Could Grant One Wish By Kate Moon

If I could grant one wish this Christmas holiday, it would be that all of the soldiers that are away would get to come home at least for the holiday. Now, I know that being a soldier is serious business because my great uncle, who sadly passed away a few years ago, was in the Vietnam War; he died with a Purple Heart. I truly hope that all the families with a loved one away gets to spend the holidays with them.



Santa and Toys to the Birth of Christ By Cameron Campbell

The meaning of Christmas has changed for me since I was a little kid. It used to mean Santa and toys. Now, it is about celebrating the birth of a baby named Jesus, and the gift He gave to us, which is the promise of an eternal life. I love spending time with all of my family and of course our Christmas program at church. It is a time of peace, hope and love. This is what Christmas means to me.



One Gift By Abby Bell

If I could give one gift to every child in the world, it would be love. This is because not every child feels love, for reasons like being in foster care or living near a war zone. I believe this is important because I am adopted, so I know

how it feels to think you're not loved by someone. So, I want to let the children know they are loved.



The Gift of Jesus By Hannah Wakeland

If I could give one gift to every child in the world, it would be Jesus and a Bible. The Bible is important to me because it informs me about everything Jesus did for the human race. Jesus is everything. He's better than money, friends and even better than family. He gave me life. He gave me a family, money and suckers. Jesus is always there for me when my family isn't. Most of the time all I have is Him to talk to. I know that some children might not have any friends or family, so those kids could have Jesus and could read the Bible to learn more about Him. So kids... you need Jesus!

Betsy Layne Elementary School



What Christmas Means to Me By Augusta Rogers

Christmas means different things to different people. What Christmas means to me is that we bring family and friends together to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We eat dinner, exchange gifts and share love with our family. It isn't all about the presents, but to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is also time to reflect on what is truly important in your life. Sharing and making people happy while remembering the real reason for Christmas...the birth of Jesus.



What Does Christmas Mean to Me? By Harley Osborne

Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus. Jesus was born on Christmas Day. Christmas is also love shared between family. Christmas is about decorating the Christmas tree while listening to Christmas carols. It's about enjoying dinner with family and remembering all the loved ones that are no longer on Earth to celebrate the family Christmas traditions. It's about watching Christmas movies and baking cookies. Christmas is about exchanging gifts with family and friends.



Betsy Layne Elementary Art Winner
Shyla Kidd



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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By Jacob Adkins

What is the first thing that pops into your head when someone Says Christmas?

For me, it's not the perfectly wrapped presents placed delicately under the tree and it is not the sweet hot coco my baby brother and me share while watching "Rudolph."

When I hear someone say Christmas it is a person that pops into my head, my granddaddy. Two years ago, my granddaddy was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. Last year in February, he passed away from it. I shared so many great memories with my granddaddy but my favorite memory of all was when we listened to UK play over the radio one morning before school. Every time UK done something wrong he would scream and shout at the radio, watching him get worked up over a basketball game always gave me and everyone else a good laugh.

This year for Christmas, I want to do something special to honor my granddaddy. I have been saving my allowances for a while now and I finally have enough to take my family to a real life UK game. I was saving up to take him to a UK basketball game, but by the time I had finally saved up enough to take him he was tired and couldn't do the things he used to enjoy before, he was such a devoted fan and he deserved to see them live in action. I am hoping that he will be able to watch the game from up in heaven. This year is going to be a bittersweet Christmas because it is going to be hard to go without him but I know I am going to put a smile on my granddaddy's face up in heaven.



always make sure we have season passes to Dollywood so we can all go together. We make sure to watch all the Christmas shows, and my favorite one of all to watch is when Jesus was born with Nana and Pap because that's what Christmas is all about.



If I could grant one wish
By Katelyn Worrix

I would wish my sister, Tonya, would come back from Heaven to be with me and my family for Christmas. I never got a chance to meet her. She got sick and had to go live with Jesus. I always wonder what she would think about me as her little sister. I love you, Sissy Tonya.



Best Gift!
By Noah Davis

Last Christmas, I received the best gift ever! My Nanny and Papaw Ron got me a Red Rider BB Gun. This is a special gift because I love guns. My Papaw Ruben and I go hunting. Hunting is one of my favorite activities! I love my Red Rider.



If I Could Grant One Wish
By Karleigh Caudill

If I could grant one wish, I would let all the military go home on Christmas to be with their families. That way they would be a Christmas gift to all that love them. I believe that having your whole family together for Christmas is the meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child
By Brenston Roberts Kindergarten

I love everything about Christmas, but my favorite Christmas tradition is going to Tennessee with my family. Mamaw and Papaw



What Christmas Means to Me
By Gloria Rodriguez

Christmas is the best holiday of every year because it's a celebration of Jesus' birthday. Not only that, it's the holiday when my family gets together and open presents and have dinner together. I love Christmas because I get tons and tons of gifts. Also I get to go around and look at Christmas lights that everyone puts up. And I love to decorate my house with my Mom and Dad. We love going and buying a Nutcracker to add to the decorations. Christmas is a special holiday for everyone that loves and cherishes God, family and friends and this is what Christmas means to me.



What Christmas Means to Me
By Carter Parsons

Christmas to me and my family is baking cookies and putting them out for Santa, putting up the Christmas tree, hanging up stockings and putting ornaments on the tree. Another tradition that my family does, is each year me, my sister and my brother get to buy a new ornament from the store. Each year we get to pick out a new one that represents that year. For example, sometimes I will pick an ornament for a sport I participated in. My mom and dad buy the ornaments and write our names and the year on it. Our Christmas tree is decorated with all our ornaments and we get to pick our own spot on the tree for our new ornament. But, the real meaning of Christmas for my family is celebrating Jesus' birthday and how he died on the cross for our sins. My favorite part of Christmas is going to church with my family and learning the true meaning of Christmas.



What Does Christmas Mean to Me?
By Skylar Rose

It means a time for giving and joy and spending time with family and friends. Christmas means giving back and I love when we do that because it makes you feel nice when you give to others and are laughing with family while you sit around a warm fire with the people you love. Christmas isn't about food or presents, you always got to remember that.



Christmas through the Eyes of a Child
By Carly Williams

To me, Christmas means more than just presents. It means more than getting that new Xbox, or expensive pair of shoes. Christmas isn't about showing people down on black Friday, just to get 80% off of that flat screen that you've been wanting. Christmas is much more than this.

To me, Christmas is a time where family and friends come together. Families come together to watch Christmas movies, eat Christmas dinner, and most importantly, spend time together. We may not

realize it as kids, but when we get older, we will miss coming together with our family at Christmas. Families use Christmas as a time to practice their old traditions, and make new ones that will last for generations.

Even though opening gifts are a part of my family's Christmas traditions, and many other families' traditions, it isn't the most important thing to me. I'll admit, I love presents, everyone does. When I was younger, presents were all that mattered. Now that I have become older and more mature, I value the event of opening presents more than the actual presents. The best part of opening presents is the excitement of everyone around me. When we open presents, everyone is happy and excited, and everyone has a good time. This feeling of happiness is more important than the materialistic objects.

Christmas isn't about getting exactly what you want wrapped up in a pretty bow. To me, Christmas means feeling happiness with all of my family, and it's a time to look forward to. It's a time to make memories and a time to cherish. So this Christmas, don't obsess too much over the cute sweater. Cherish this time with your family and friends, because it is more important than you realize.



Family Tradition
By Ethan Slone

Our family has this tradition where we would visit our grandparents on both

sides of the family, then we would host a party at our house so that all of us can hang out together. On Christmas, we would go one at a time and open up gifts with my family.

On Christmas eve, me and my family will pick the presents for my dad's side of the family. We will go to my first grandparent's house and open gifts with my cousins, grandparents, uncles and aunts. Then, if my grandpa feels well (he's getting up in age) he will sing songs for us. Near the end of the visit, the adults will talk while us kids play with their new toys, puzzles or games that we got.

After we get home from my grandparent's house, our family pitches in to clean the house for the party. Dad will make his famous steak sliders and mom will make foods and snacks. As guest start to arrive, the snack pile begins to overflow. We also have to get more tables and chairs. Us kids begin to aggravate the adults. When we get settled in, the games began. There was tag, hide and seek and scavenger hunts.

That night, we set milk and cookies out and head to bed. Christmas day starts out by opening up our gifts and stockings with our lovely parents. After the gifts, we head over to my grandparents on my mom's side. We have gifts, listen to music and we hang out.

These are great traditions that our family has. We visit family, we do parties and we have to chase my little cousin around the house until we can't no more. This is what Christmas looks like through the eyes of a child.



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What I Want for Christmas

By Landon Hicks

The toy I want for Christmas this year is Jurassic T-Rex Roar. I should be able to get this toy for Christmas because I have been a very good boy. I've listened to my parents and I do my chores. This is what I hope to get for Christmas.



Family Tradition

By Pacey Conn

The tradition my family and I celebrate is the birth of Jesus. Daddy takes all devices away because he says we need to enjoy being with my nanny, uncle, aunt and him. That is what my family observes each year.



What Christmas Means to Me

By Colin McPeck

What Christmas to me is the time of year when families across the whole world gather to celebrate Jesus' birthday. On this day, many years ago, Mary had a son who they named Jesus. The wise men brought gifts from far away to celebrate his birth. This is why we buy our loved ones gifts now at Christmas. Christmas to me is a time when we gather with our family to show love for one another. We eat our favorite holiday meals like turkey and dressing. We even have desserts like pumpkin pie and homemade candy. We gather around the Christmas tree

and open gifts as we watch the lights sparkle. Family is most important during this time. This is what Christmas means to me.



Spending Time With Family

By Chloe Huff

Christmas means to me a time of year where you get to spend time with your family and eat dinner. It also means to me if you have family that is in a different state, or you never get to see them, you get to see them and spend time with them. To me, Christmas is not about getting presents or about the decorations to me. It is just about seeing your family, eating a dinner with them and seeing family you don't get to see.



Merry Christmas!

By Breanna Anderson

Each year I help my mommy and mommaw bake Christmas before Christmas. We make chocolate chip, sugar and peanut butter cookies. We put them in pretty Christmas packages and tie them in a bow. We add name tags for our neighbors. Then, we walk to each house and I go knock on their door. I give them a package of homemade cookies and I say, "Merry Christmas!" To see them smile, it makes me very happy.



My Parents Don't Get Gifts from Santa Anymore!

By Brooks Pennington

I think it is better to be me at Christmas time than it is to be adult. My mom spends a lot of time shopping for gifts for everyone. She works hard decorating our house and tree for

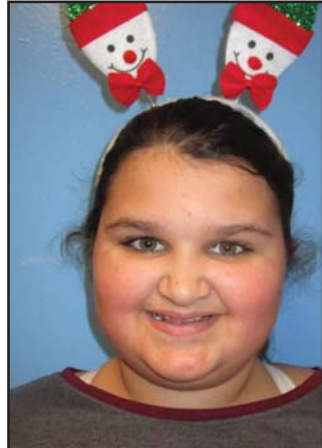
Christmas. My dad works very hard getting everything out of the attic for her. My mom also wraps a ton of presents to put under the tree. It takes a lot of time! The worst part of being an adult at Christmas is my parents do not get gifts from Santa anymore! That is terrible! I definitely want to be me for Christmas!



If I Could Grant a Christmas Wish

By Tessa Spencer

If I could grant one wish for Christmas, it would be for all of the soldiers to come home. I think that all of the soldiers should come home because it is important for them to spend time with their family and loved ones. I also think that it is important for soldiers to come home for Christmas because they are always deployed, and they never get to see their family.



If I Could Grant a Christmas Wish

By Sadie Prater

If I could grant one wish, it would be for all the soldiers to come home for Christmas! There are so many soldiers that go months without talking to their children and loved ones. Many soldiers miss out on their children's birth or the burial of a loved one. Christmas is a time for families to get together and celebrate. I think they should be home to celebrate Christmas with their families.



By Cole Lafferty

I'm not here to tell you about any of my favorite gifts I've gotten on Christ-

mas. I'm here to say the true meaning of Christmas is to love and appreciate all you have. I learned Christmas two years ago that my grandmother, who I loved so much, was diagnosed with breast cancer. I tried to spend as much time with her as possible when she was still around. A couple weeks ago she passed away, and I hope she gets to meet Michael Jackson in heaven one day, like she always wanted to. Now I know, having all your loved ones healthy and with you brings way more joy than Xbox game could ever. Thank you for listening.



I Would Like to See Stephen for Christmas

By Todd Prater

Someone I want to celebrate Christmas with is my older cousin Stephen Prater. I don't get to see him often because of his life in the military. Stephen is a Major in the United States Army. He served two tours in Iraq and spent a year overseas training for his next assignment and is one of my heroes. When I was in kindergarten, we took up items at school and made care packages to send him and his friends at Christmas.

I don't look at Stephen as a cousin. He feels more like a big brother. Some of my favorite memories with him are of just the two of us playing video games and chess together. His next assignment will more than likely take him to a country in the former Soviet Republic where he could be stationed for several years. I am thankful for the time we get to spend together, but I pray for his safety and that the next Christmas we get to spend together isn't the last.



Christmas, Christmas, Christmas

By Alexis Caudill

When you think of Christmas what do you see? Some see a tree with noth-

ing under it. Some see a tree with a lot of gifts under it. Some even see a huge table full with family and food. I see a tree with three presents under it. Christmas was the day Jesus was born and that's why my family celebrates. On Jesus' birthday he got three presents, one from each of the three wise men. On Christmas Jesus got three presents, so we get three presents. My mom always taught us that Christmas wasn't about getting, it is about giving. If I could grant one wish to give to the whole world, it would be to give happiness because everyone deserves to be happy.



If I Could Give a Gift to Every Child

By Brance Pennington

If I could give one gift to every child in the world it would be the Holy Bible. If every kid had a Bible, then they could learn about Jesus. Jesus gives away the best gift you can get. He gives it to anyone who wants to receive it. The special gift that Jesus gives is forgiveness. The best part of all is that you can get this gift from Jesus at anytime of the year.

John M. Stumbo Elementary

The Best Gift I Ever Received

By Jaylin Tackett

My favorite gift is my coat of many colors. My fa-

vorite singer is Dolly Parton and she had a coat of many colors when she was a little girl. My coat is special because my coat was made from my nana's clothes. She is my guardian angel and she watches over me from Heaven.

Our Christmas Miracle

By Noah Akers

Christmas miracles happen to everyone. Mine happened the year of 2015. My baby brother, Cayson, was born on December 1 and one of his lungs wasn't there completely, so it was harder for him to breathe. He had to have surgery on Christmas Eve. We weren't able to see him but we were able to FaceTime him and my mom. Three years later he is a normal kid and it doesn't affect him at all! He's our Christmas miracle!

What I Want for Christmas

By Leland Tucker

I want to celebrate Christmas with my family. We have so much fun together on Christmas. We open our gifts and have Christmas dinner together. Spending time with my family makes me happy. I love my family!

Christmas Memories

By Lydia Johnson

One of my favorite Christmas memories is when I was chosen to be Mary in the church Christmas play. It was exciting to be in her shoes. I got to wear a cool costume, and ride on a (fake) donkey. Jesus was played by my baby doll, Josie. While all this was fun, it made me realize how hard that first Christmas really was for Mary. Riding on a donkey while pregnant couldn't have been fun. She had to stay in a stable filled with animals, dirt, and hay. She also had to worry about people trying to kill her baby! I am thankful I have this Christmas memory, and thankful that Mary was the dedicated woman she was.



John M. Stumbo Elementary Art Winner
Braylon Gross

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Winners at John M. Stumbo include Noah Akers, Leland Tucker and Lydia Johnson, pictured left to right in the front row, and Alexia Williams, Brooklyn Rogers, Ethan Roberts, Cynthia Hamilton, Isabella Tackett, Layla Johnson and Zoey Hamilton, pictured left to right in the back row. Not pictured are winners Jaylin Tackett, Alyssa Hayden and Braylon Gross.

especially love the lights, trees, and all the pretty decorations. Most of all, I love that I am blessed to have a family that loves me and teaches me the real meaning of Christmas. I know that Christmas is the day we get presents, but it is really Jesus' birthday. I figure the best gift I could give to Jesus is to be kind and loving to those people around me. I think Jesus would like that gift.

my Granddaddy. She has kept them for a long time. The second Christmas tree we decorate it with special Disney and superhero ornaments. When we turn the Christmas tree lights on, it is beautiful and sparkly.



My Favorite Gift
By Malia Gibson

My favorite Christmas gift I've ever gotten is my baby doll. Her name is Emma and she has blonde curly hair and blue eyes like me. My Big Pops gave her to me because he said she looked just like me. He turned 100 years old this year. He always gets me my favorite presents. I can't wait until this Christmas to see what he gives me. I love him so much.



Silly Elf!

By Paislee Hammonds

My funniest Christmas memory is from last year. My elf, Holly, did a lot of silly things. The funniest thing of all was when Holly pooped a chocolate Hershey kiss in my little sister's diaper! She is so silly.



Two trees

By Colin Reynolds

I like Christmas because of all the special ornaments that we put on Christmas trees. We decorate two Christmas trees. One tree, we put special family ornaments that my Granny has collected for many years. These ornaments are special because some we made for her and



Sweet Memories

By Emma Stanley

The warm smell of cinnamon fills the kitchen. The flour is already in my hair. I love rolling out cookie dough and cutting it into my favorite Christmas shapes, all while singing Jingle Bells with my Nanna. My favorite Christmas tradition is making sweet memories with my family.

Adults Have a Better Christmas

By Zoey Hamilton

I think Christmas would be better as an adult for several reasons. One reason is I could decorate the tree and house by myself. I could even do the outside lights and climb on top of the roof! I wouldn't have to wonder what my presents are because I would be the one buying them. There would be no more yucky turkey for dinner! I would just have pepperoni pizza and all the other foods I like. The very best part is if I have kids then my elf, Stewart, will play all his pranks on them and not me!

My Christmas Wish
By Isabella Tackett

Christmas is such a joyous time of year! We always have a wonderful Christmas every year at my house. My brother, Eli, and I are very, very lucky. We receive so many gifts that we wonder how we will ever find the time to play with them, and where we will store them all. Our rooms are full!

Every year, though, I wonder how it would be if we didn't get those gifts and didn't have our family with us to enjoy this time together. Some people are not as lucky as my brother and me. If I could grant one wish it would be for all families and loved ones to be together for Christmas and all children could get what they wish for. I wish every worker could have time off to enjoy this special time of year with their families, and all soldiers could be home with their families for good, and there would be no more wars.

How wonderful it would be to have all those you love gathered around to celebrate Christmas and share this special time with you! This is my wish for Christmas, and I hope that one Christmas soon, it will come true!

Adult or Child?

By Brooklyn Rogers

It is better to be a child during Christmas time. Children have it easy during Christmas. The children have to open gifts on Christmas. Children don't have to buy gifts for anyone because some kids don't have money. Kid's get a lot

of presents compared to adults.

Adults have way too much to do during Christmas time. They have to make list of all the people they have to buy presents for, they spend a lot of money on other people, and they have to clean up after everyone. Some adults cook on Christmas, so they will have to clean all of the dirty dishes. Sometimes adults don't get Christmas presents from many people.

My Wish
By Ethan Roberts

My grandma has worked all her life. If I had one Christmas wish, it would be to allow her to retire. She has worked forever and never stops. She is so close to retirement but she has not made enough money yet. She has had a rough work life, and it is time for it to retire. If she could be the boss, she might still want to work. She is a good person, but she does not need to work 24-7. That is my Christmas wish.

Christmas Wish for My Family
By Alexia Williams

The last Christmas I got to spend with him was in 2008, my great-grandpa. He had dark brown hair. He had tan skin from working at the farm. He usual had a button up shirt on, jeans, with boots and a hat. He had a unique smell. It was like the smell of horse feed and apple pies. He was the hardest working person I knew. He was so generous and didn't think twice about helping someone, no matter what the situation was. Family meant absolutely everything to him. He was the sweetest and kindest human there was.

If I could grant one wish for my family, it would be to spend one more Christmas with my great grandpa. This is my wish because I was truly close with my great grandpa, Denver. He was my favorite person in the world and I loved to spend time with him. We had a special bond, a bond that I had with no one else. I would never call him papaw, grandpa, great grandpa not any of the names you would expect. I called him old man and he called me Lala, there was never

a moment where we called each other something else. Every night he would call and tell me "Goodnight, I love you". Any holiday when my family was all together I would sit next to him no matter what. He was truly my very best friend. He is the reason I fell in love with basketball. Every Kentucky women's basketball game, we would always watch it together. That is a memory I will cherish forever. I never got the chance to thank him for getting me into basketball because I loved it as much as I love him. I would do anything for him to be able to watch me play now. Whenever I am in a game or practice, I always feel like he is with me or watching over me. He is the reason I take basketball so serious and want to do so well in basketball. I could not thank him enough.

I do not remember very much from that Christmas because I was only 3 years old. A few months prior, my family and I discovered devastating news. He was sadly diagnosed with lung cancer. But every year, my mamaw, papaw, mom, dad, uncles and I would go to his house to celebrate Christmas. That holiday season, my family did not tell me about his illness so that it wouldn't leave me sad. I'm glad I spent that Christmas with him because it was the last. I will always love you old man, you'll forever have a special place in my heart.

One Gift
By Alyssa Hayden

If I could give one gift to every child in the world, it would be the gift of spending Christmas with the family members you don't really get to see very often. Around the world, millions of kids don't get the chance or opportunity to spend time with some family members they don't normally get to see, and I am one of these kids. These last few years I haven't been able to spend Christmas with my Uncle Nelvin, especially due to the distance--for he lives in Oklahoma and I live in Kentucky and every year it pains me to not be able to spend time with him on Christmas. But it pains me more when other people have to go through this as well. Due to this, I would gift every child in the world a chance to be able to spend Christmas with a family member they don't get to see often.

What Christmas Means to Me
By Cynthia Hamilton

Christmas for everyone should be about the laughter, joy and cheer! Our family gathers around the table, and we thank the Lord for another year. Then all of us children gather around the tree anxious to tear into a gift. With joy, we open it up to find a new toy or book.

Oh, what a day of laughter, joy and cheer! But then, sadly, I look at the book in my hand, and I think about all the other

children in the world - the ones who have no money to buy gifts and have no feast to cook. It is then that I realize how lucky I am. I'm thankful for my family and the day of joy I had.

I had trouble sleeping. Everything was quiet as I stare up at the stars with their beautiful twinkling in the night sky. My mom came and checked on me to see if I am asleep and told me I need to hit the hay or old Saint Nick will not come. She wished me goodnight and planted a kiss upon my cheek, "Good night!" I wish everyone was as blessed as me.

.....
May Valley Elementary



If I Could Grant a Wish
By Aubree Shelton

If I could grant one wish for Christmas it would be that a child is adopted by a loving family. I would like to do this because everyone needs to have loving parents for those special memories they make. I am very happy to have parents like mine.



I love Christmas!
By Savannah Skeens

I love Christmas time and everything that goes along with the season. I



May Valley Elementary Art Winner
Brody Caudill

The Christmas TV Tradition
By Layla Johnson

When we put the pumpkins away
And it's getting closer to Christmas Day
Hallmark Channel movies will play, play, play

My mom will watch them day and night
My dad will complain with all his might
This will cause a huge, huge fight
Who would have thought Christmas stories told
Could make our house feel so cold

Some people find much delight
While others are not so nice,
Because no Golden Girls are on at night

I find myself siding with Dad
I don't think these stories are super rad
No matter how the story may begin
The guy always gets the girl in the end.

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Two Front Teeth

By Annabelle Jackson

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth. I lost them both this year! You see, it's really hard to eat chips and crunchy stuff without them. I think I should get my two front teeth for Christmas, since I have never received a lump of coal in my stocking and my Dad clearly has!

simple, really, and it doesn't cost any money. I wish that in 2019 the people in my community and around the world would choose to be kind to one another. Think about all the conflicts that could be prevented if people would just be nice.



If I Could Give Every Child a Gift

By Lydia Wallace

If I could give every child in the world a gift, I would give them a Bible. At first, I thought about a toy, but a toy would eventually wear out. A Bible guides me throughout my life and protects me from evil. So this is why I picked a bible. A Bible can stay with us just like Jesus does.



Scary Santa

By Konner King

When I was little I was terrified of Santa. Crazy, I know! I didn't want to sit in his lap because his big beard scared me. Now that I'm older, I know that he is actually a nice guy and brings me presents. He's not so scary now!



My Favorite Christmas

By Emily Moore

My favorite Christmas was last year because I learned about the birth of Jesus. It showed me the true meaning of Christmas. Learning about Jesus made me want to get baptized and show everyone how much I love Jesus. Christmas made me realize that God loved us so much that He gave us his greatest gift. His name is Jesus!



I Enjoy Giving

By Ayden Howell

A few days before Christmas, my mom always give me a big bag and tells me to fill it up with toys that I don't need or want anymore. At first, I hated doing this until my mom explained to me that we were taking them to a family that doesn't have much and can't afford to buy presents for their kids. That always makes me feel better because I know that another little boy would enjoy playing with some of that stuff more than I would. So, every year for Christmas, I always enjoy giving to those who need the help.



My Christmas Wish

By Katelyn Marshall

My Christmas wish is

wish it would be for every person in the military to get to come home for Christmas. When I was younger my dad was in the military. I never got to see him on holidays that were special, especially Christmas. It was one of my favorite holidays and dad was never able to be there for it. People miss out on so many special things when they are in the military, but they are so brave to serve for our freedom so we can have the time to celebrate Christmas and other holidays ourselves. My dad is now home with us and is able to spend Christmas with us. I hope that my wish will come true, and all families will get to feel the joy that I do.



What Does Christmas Mean to Me?

By Cash Calhoun

Christmas means happy times. Happy family, happy to open gifts and happy to eat some of Mamaw's good food. Happy to spend time with my sisters. Happy to stay up late and play games. Happy to get gifts. Happy to see our tree and lights. Happy Jesus was born on this day!



"Who I Want to Spend the Holidays With"

By Abby Patrick

I want to spend the holidays with my family. We have Christmas dinner and open presents, everyone is happy and having a great time. I wish I could have Christmas every day of the year!



If I Could Grant One Wish

By Kaitlyn Elkins

If I could grant one wish for Christmas it would be

**.....
Prestonsburg Elementary School**



If I Could Grant One Wish

By Tattiana Martin

If I could grant one wish, it would be for a soldier. The soldier is my brother Austin. He is stationed at Fort Sill. I wish he stays safe and gets to come home to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with our family. We all miss him so much love him for everything he does. We pray for him everyday.

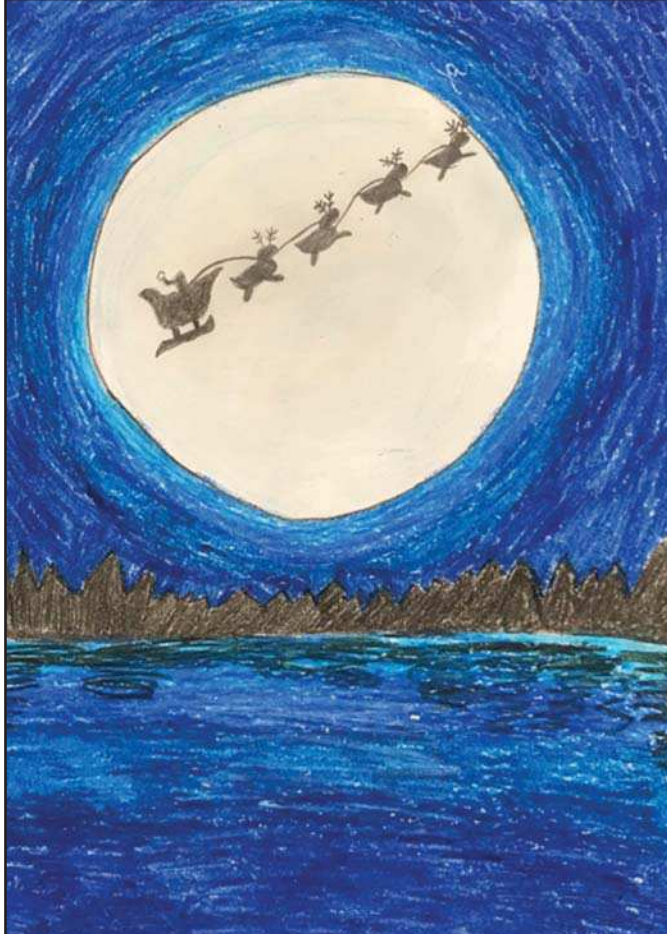


Coming Home for Christmas

By Emileigh Sturgill

Overall Winner

If I could grant one



**Prestonsburg Elementary Art Winner
Madelein Lewis**

for children. No child should ever feel alone or unloved especially on Christmas. So, my wish would be for every child to be able to spend the day with family and friends that love them. Which means waking up opening presents, laughing, playing games, and having a hot Christmas dinner together. This is my one wish that I would grant.



The Best Present

By Kennedy Lemaster

The best present I ever received was when my grandma got to come home for Christmas. She lives at the nursing home, and she got to spend a few hours at our house. This was the best present ever because it was a gift not only for my family, but for her too.

When she saw us at the nursing home, she was so excited. She was even more excited when she realized that she was spending Christmas with us. That day we played games, exchanged gifts and ate our favorite foods. I will never forget the Christmas she was able to join us. This was my best present ever.



Peppermint Pig

By Amelia Gilbert

Every year on Christmas Eve my great aunt buys a

pig made of peppermint. It comes with a little hammer and a small bag. We put the pig in the bag. Then, the kids take the hammer and crush the pig. Next, we pour the pieces into a bowl. Last, everybody digs in and eats it. It is so much fun! This is one of the tastiest Christmas traditions we do.



Courage!

By Brody Hicks

To believe in yourself to be anyone you want to be and to do anything you want to do. If I could give every child in the world a present at Christmas this would be courage!

Imagine a world where every single child believes in themselves and everything they are capable of doing. Children sometimes think that because they are small they can't make a difference. I believe every child can though, if they just had courage. Sometimes, I don't feel

courageous to do things I want to do, but I remind myself that even superstars have failed. Failure is the first step to success. I want everyone to have the courage to step up and try, but keep trying if they do fail. Imagine what a great Christmas that would be.



Christmas Memories

By Lakien Stephens

One of my favorite Christmas memories is when I got to spend Christmas with my Papaw Ray for the last time. I can still see the big smile on his face while opening his present, a pair of house shoes. Every year he would ask us to get him a pair. He would wear them all year long until he opened a new pair on Christmas Eve. He always said that's the best gift ever. I will cherish this memory forever.

What Christmas Means to Me

By Lilian Craig

My family gathers around our tree. My angel sits in our yard, Her penguin friend not very far. Mom decorates with lights and sounds. Our home, to Santa, is easily found. The tree and decorations are always great, But Jesus is what takes the cake. Without him, I could not be with my family around our tree, And that's what Christmas means to me.

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The Best Gift
By Aubree White

The best Christmas gift I've ever received was my little brother. In 2014 I asked for a little sister, but instead I got a little brother. This year he is 2 because he was born in 2015, but he's going to turn 3 in November. When I got to hold him for the first time my heart felt like it was going to explode with love. Now we have lots of fun playing together. At first, I was disappointed that I didn't get a sister but now I am so happy that I got a little brother.

special to me because my daddy died when I was just a baby. Now, I can not wait to spend Christmas with my daddy every year.

Thank you, Sadie May.



Christmas Tradition
By Elijah Tackett

Every year on Christmas Eve my family has a tradition that I enjoy being a part of. Each year on Christmas Eve morning, we go spend a few hours at the Westcare Emergency Shelter in Pikeville. The shelter is a home for people who have no place to live. There are kids that live there too. Each year we collect things like candy, hot chocolate, popcorn, warming items, and small toys to take over when we go. I get sad for the kids who are there but I like to think we have made their day a little better. No one should spend Christmas alone and no kid should ever be homeless.

come back or not is amazing. They fight hard for the people that they love, and coming home on a very special day only makes them fight harder. Spending time with family and friends, celebrating Jesus's birth, and making good ole' memories is what makes Christmas so special. It brings happiness, joy, laughter, and "happy" tears to the family that get to spend time with their soldier on the holidays. Christmas is full of the greatest memories that will last a lifetime. Having the people that mean the most with you, celebrating Jesus's birth on Christmas is one of the best wishes that you could ever wish for, and that is why if I could grant one wish, I would wish for a soldier to come home to his/her family to celebrate the holidays with.



One Wish
By Corbin Meade

If I could grant one wish I would grant the wish that the soldiers could have more time to spend with their families for Christmas. All they get to do is work all the time and fight bad people to keep us safe. They never get to spend time with their family. To me that is what Christmas is about. Some of the soldiers have to spend Christmas in other countries so they don't get to spend it with their family. That is not fair to the kids and their mom and dads. So, I would fix it so all soldiers get to go home for Christmas.

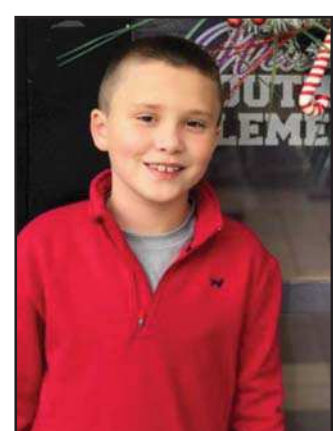


South Floyd Elementary Art Winner
Kaylin Mullins

wish it would be for the soldiers. My wish would be that they get to come home this Christmas. I get to eat with family and friends and they have to stay in an army camp. They work so hard for our country, and I am home singing Christmas carols while they are off fighting in a war. It's not fair for them to risk their lives for our country. They deserve to be with their friends and family this Christmas, not at an army camp. I know soldiers have a busy life, but I wish I could give back something in return for all that they do for us. It is very important to me that they get to come home this Christmas. If I could grant any wish it would be for the soldiers to spend the holiday with their families.

come to Kentucky, so they go many places on Christmas. We always go to paint cookies at my great grandmother's the night before. Then we go there to eat Christmas dinner, after dinner we exchange gifts. Before my uncle entered the Air Force, he had been to every Christmas at my great grandmothers.

I hadn't seen him in 2 1/2 years and when he came in, we spent so much time together. We ate, we exchanged gifts with one another and sung Christmas songs together. It's also my favorite Christmas memory because, that Christmas was the best Christmas ever. My cousin and I had snowball wars and we also decorated the cookies and tree together. He had moved to Texas a couple years before that Christmas and then he came in and surprised me. We sat on the couch together with milk and cookies watching Christmas movies and then he took me to see the lights at Archer Park. It was really fun. We took a lot of photos, made silly jokes and he even tried to push me into the water fountain! When we got back home my mamaw and papaw had gone and gotten sleds for us. We went down this big hill on the sleds. I ended up falling off. He laughed so hard and so did I. That's my favorite Christmas memory because I got to spend it with the best cousin ever.



One Wish
By Myles B. Holbrook

If I could grant one wish for Christmas I would grant the gift of life. I wish that no one on Earth would ever die. I wish that no one ever had to die because this would mean that I would have the chance to meet my uncle, Brandon. I never got to meet Brandon but he is who I am named after. I know he was a great person and he would've loved me very much. I am thankful for my loved ones especially the ones watching over me in Heaven. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas with the people they love.



One Wish
By Kaden Hunter

If I could grant one wish, it would be for my uncle who is in the Air Force to be able to come home and spend Christmas with our family. My uncle has been in the air force for almost five years and he is constantly moving around from Texas to Alaska and now to South Carolina. He is now deployed in Qatar. He will be there until sometime in January. His wife/my aunt will not come to Kentucky for Christmas because she is scared and her house is the only address they have to go to if something happens to him. We would enjoy spending Christmas with her and my cousin; they are nice and always welcome me to come to their house. They always visit both sides of his family when they all



If I Could Grant One Wish
By Trey O'Bryan

My Christmas wish for this year is for my family to be all together in one house. My heart will not be broken anymore if my daddy was still at the same house. I would be so happy if my wish came true.



One Wish
By Katelynn Taylor

If I could grant one



The Meaning of Christmas
By Cynthia Williams

When most kids think of Christmas they think about only toys and candy. To me, that's not what Christmas is all about. What Christmas means to me is spending time with friends and family. It means carrying on family traditions like putting up the tree together or helping grandparents make Christmas dinner. Last but not least, Christmas means giving thanks for what you receive.



One Wish
By Kennedy Harvel

If I could grant one wish for a soldier, I would wish for them to come home to his/and or her families for Christmas. Soldiers are always putting themselves on the line for our freedom, fighting hard fights, and having their buddies backs. They leave their kids, their wives/husbands behind to go to war for this country's freedom, having no idea if they will come back alive. For this special day, full of memories to last a lifetime I wish a soldier to come home to his family and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This isn't only important to the soldier, it is important to the family that they come home to as well. A child, a husband/wife, a sister, a friend, a uncle, an aunt, a brother, a parent, a grandparent, etc. this would make Christmas even better to see that special someone come home to be safe. Receiving a gift is awesome, but seeing a person that you probably haven't seen in a long time, and not knowing if they'll

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South Floyd Elementary



Sadie May
By Peyton Hall

Christmas means a lot to me when my elf comes to my house. She does not stay on the shelf. She does all kinds of things like messing with the Christmas tree and hiding presents. One year she put a picture of my daddy on the tree. It was



My Papaw
By Sofiya Cook

If I could spend Christmas with anyone, I would spend it with my papaw, Ronnie. He passed away two years ago from cancer. We miss him dearly. He was a very important part of our family. My papaw spent every Christmas with our family. Our Christmas traditions are not the same without him anymore. I wish that this year he could come home and spend one last Christmas with us.



Christmas Memory
By Victoria Hall

One of my favorite Christmas memories would be when my cousin Lance came in. It's my favorite Christmas memory because

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One Wish
By Riley-Jo Compton

If I were granted one wish it would be that my papaw Dale would still be alive. When he was alive, we always had Christmas together as a family. He would come with gifts for everyone, and we all sat around and talked, played games, and Papaw read Christmas books. Mom would cook dinner and when it was ready, we would go to the kitchen, say a blessing prayer and give Jesus all the credit because Jesus is the reason for the season. The whole family would be there. After dinner we would take food to our neighbors who couldn't leave home. Then we would all met in our living room and exchange gifts. It was fun. To me, giving of gifts is as good or better than receiving them. As much fun as all this was, I would trade it all in to have my papaw Dale back to share Christmas with us and for one more hug and kiss, which is a priceless gift. I would love if he could just watch me play basketball one more time because he always said I would be his little baller. I know my papaw is in heaven and maybe through my prayers he will know what he means to me.



Aunt Sarah
By Grayce Little

If I could spend Christmas with anyone, I would want to spend it with my aunt Sarah. We haven't spent time together in forever. When I was little, my parents and I would drive to my Aunt Sarah's house every Christmas and she'd always get me the perfect gift! Now we don't even get to see each other on holidays. I still even have the doll that she gave me for Christmas when I was five. I don't want presents for Christmas this year; I want my aunt Sarah to visit me and my family.

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Betsy Layne
High School

By Makayla Grace Hall

Christmas, to me, means spending time with family. Christmas isn't about wasting money on material things...things which will be forgotten within a couple of months. When I was younger, that was what I believed Christmas was all about—gifts and toys. As I grew older, I realized that Christmas is about being with family because they won't be around forever. Spending time with family is the most amazing gift. On Christmas, we go to my grandparent's house, where all the family gets together. We sit around and talk and laugh about such random things. We talk about what's been going on in our lives and we listen to everyone's stories. Every year, I get so excited seeing my family because I don't



Betsy Layne High School Art Winner
Dusty Rogers

get to see them very much. I hope that this is one tradition that my family never stops.

By Jenny Boyd

Growing up in a home overrun with siblings allowed for moments of great revelry and love. The hours spent with each other—sharing in times of rest and play—contain some of the best memories that I have of childhood. When I think of my most treasured moments, I am reminded of the impressions of Christmases past. The moments filled with the season of joy and wonder. The decorating of the tree, writing letters to Santa, baking cookies and handcrafting gifts for those most love family members.

By Brittany Prater

When I first think of Christmas, I always think of the meaning behind it. Christmas, to me, is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, my savior. Christmas is also a time where I get to spend time with my family. It's not about the gifts or the movies or the food. It's about enjoying the holidays with the ones that you love the most. The most amazing memories that I have of Christmas is when my family and I decorate the tree together and have a big dinner together and watch movies. Sometimes, everyone get so caught up in their own lives that we don't get to visit each other until a holiday like Christmas. Christmas is when all my family makes that special effort to come together. The most rewarding part of the get together is listening and laughing with each other and watching my nephews and nieces as they open their presents. Christmas, to me, is about celebrating the birth of Jesus with those you love the most.

By Devin Martin

Christmas is a very important and fun time to be around my family. My family has many traditions around the holiday times. Our traditions include putting up the tree on Thanksgiving and opening two presents on Christmas Eve. After Thanksgiving, Christmas is the only holiday left so we try to get into the Christmas spirit immediately. We have always opened two presents on Christmas Eve for as long as I can remember. Sometimes, my mom would let me open more than two present. Finally, on Christmas eve, we make all the desserts to get ready for our huge family dinner the next day.

By Ethan Hall

I honestly think Christmas as an adult is better because you have the enjoyment of giving your family and friends their presents and watching them open and enjoy their gifts. Children have such a precious gift when they get their gifts

from Santa. There's an innocence in giving to small children and watching their faces when they unwrap everything. It's always better to give than to receive.

By April Hall

Being a kid and thinking about Christmas means that you usually only think about the toys and the gifts. Usually kids don't really understand the real meaning behind Christmas but when you are an adult, you think about the TRUE meaning of Christmas—your family, the birth of Jesus Christ and all the love and cherishing of others that happens on that day. You get to sit around the kitchen table and talk and laugh about everything. You get to just enjoy life on that day and think of all the great things about your life and your family and friends.

By Madeline Roberts

December 25, the day of giving and receiving pretty bikes and expensive clothes wrapped with decorative bows. For those who have families, it's an exciting time. If I could give one gift to every child, it would be a loving family. For this gift has no price, it would just mean so much more than material items. Having loving parent who stay together and never part, for parents who don't fight or yell. Some kids would give anything for a loving family. That's why I would give that gift to everyone in the world.

By Destiny Spears

I think it's better to be a child on Christmas than an adult because adults stress more and they do so much around the holidays. If the adults were children on Christmas then they would get to enjoy themselves. Sometimes we have adults who hold grudges against other family members but usually kids don't do that. Kids are happy and have nothing against each other so it would be a lot easier and happier if on Christmas, everyone could be a kid again.

By Skylar Hamilton

Like every other holiday, Christmas brings out the little girl in me. Even though I turned 15 last year, Christmas consisted of opening presents and family members saying "SMILE/CHEESE" for pictures. Though they don't want to see us grow up, this year I want to participate in the older activities and see my younger family members have all the joy and happiness that the holiday brings. Since I'm a year older, I want to help cook dinner with my mamaw and decorate in the most extravagant way, take a lot of pictures and help wrap presents. These activities are all performed by the adults in my family but being more engage with the activities (on a different level) gets me more excited for Christmas than what gifts do. If giving my time and

help to my family will reduce stress for others, then I will feel more grown up and responsible. At 16 years old, learning small lessons in life will help me later on, unlike temporary materialistic things.

By Inetta Hamilton

A few years ago, my family would all go to the nursing home close to Christmas. We would decorate my papaw's room and put up his tree, sing Christmas carols and take him down to watch the carolers.

He would be so happy because the whole family would come over and be together. I always saw the biggest smile on his face when we were there, especially at Christmas. He'd sing and laugh and go on with jokes and stuff. One Christmas, we got him a dog and he was the happiest that I had ever seen him. He loved that dog more than anything. That was the happiest day of my life seeing him smile like that. When he smiles, it automatically makes me smile.

By Ashley Akers

If I could spend Christmas with anyone I wanted, it would be my mamaw. She has been gone for over three years now. We used to always celebrate Christmas at her house when we were little.

If she was here, she would be smothering me with kisses and giving me a great big bear hug. Every time she saw me, it was like the first time. She was always so happy to see me. She would have the brightest smile on her face that never went away. I know that she would have a big meal fixed for us and she would be laughing and joking and smiling. I can hear her calling me "little britches" and handing out gifts. She would be telling everyone to eat more. One of the main reasons I want her back is that she always brought happiness to the room—any room that she was in. She never left anyone out and I mostly miss just sitting on the porch listening to her sing to me.

By Taylor Johnson

Christmas is the time of joy and laughter. The time to spend time with your loved ones. Two years ago, right after Christmas, my uncle John passed away and it was a very sad time but we've been able to get through it because of all the memories we had. We've had memorials for my Uncle John. The best part of Christmas was when he was with us. He would peek into all the Christmas presents and tell my mom that it was me who ripped the wrapping paper. He just brought joy to the family and smiles to me. Now, we still smile because of the memories that we have with him. We talk about him every Christmas and it makes us smile and makes him still a part of our holiday.

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Floyd Central
High School

By Kaitlyn Jarrel

If I could have one Christmas wish it would be for all the soldiers to get to come home for the holidays and spend time with their families. They work so hard everyday of their lives to protect us. They risk their own lives to give us freedom and keep America a safe place for us. Soldiers have big responsibilities and hard jobs. Therefore if I had one wish it would be for all the soldiers to get to come home for the holidays and spend time with their families.

By Luke McCoy

For many people in America, Christmas time is the time of the year where

everyone is supposed to be happy, thankful, and forgiving. Christmas time is also the time of year where presents are exchanged. For most children, this day is waited for all year long. Many gifts like toys are given out, but there is one special gift I would like to give an extra special person in my life: my mom. She is my angel, my super hero, and she is also my best friend, so if I could give her one gift it would be to give her a fully furnished-paid for home. My mom has been through a lot and has lost her home, so I would just love to give her a place no one can ever take from her. That is my greatest wish.

By Kelli Thomas

When I was little, I was always a picky eater. I hated pepperoni, sauerkraut, tomatoes and especially onions. Believe it or not, I thought they were too spicy. Well, my great-uncle Danny, who always put an emphasis on "great", loved to joke with me. So, on Christmas Eve, all the kids were super excited to open gifts. We all began to tear through gifts. All around my grandma's living room were toy trucks, tea sets, dolls, Nerf guns, and my gift from my great uncle Danny: an onion.

By Savannah Price

If I could grant one wish it would be for my grandma to see her great-grandparents again. She would always tell me stories about them and what would happen around the holidays. Everything in my family changed once my great-grandma passed away. 30 people would cram into her small, old fashioned house and exchange gifts, laugh, and little kids would play while the adults reminisced. I would give anything for all my family to get together one last time, so I could hear all the stories I never was told.

By Marcy Howell

If I could grant one wish it would be for the children in foster care to get a chance to really have a family that will love them and will always care for them. Every child deserves happiness love and care. I would want them to never be hurt again and they deserve a safe place where they never have to be scared again. They deserve the best family and they deserve to have a wonderful Christmas.

By Trevor Castle

Christmas, to me, is the holiday of giving. Christmas has been a holiday for giving from the wise men giving gifts to Jesus to moms and dads and grandparents give gifts to their children. Even though the years have affected Christmas a bit, the idea still remains and this is important because this is a

day for caring for others instead of yourself. Christmas is the time of year when people should be brought together whether it is a group of friends to family, people should have the people they know and care about around them for a great time of year.

By Alyssa Cichetti

In my opinion, it is better to be a child rather than an adult when Christmas rolls around because it isn't as stressful. Children do not have to worry about how costly and expensive things can be. Children don't have to worry about staying up all night on Christmas Eve preparing for the big day after. Children do not have to worry so much about trying to figure out what the perfect gift for someone will be. For children, Christmas is a care-free, fun time of year where pretty lights are decorated around a big tree. A time when family joins together and the scent of baked good fill the air. Christmas is far better as a child rather than an adult.

By Josh Mullins

I think it is better to be an adult at Christmas. When you're a kid you are so happy you don't realize how much it all means to you. When you're an adult you get to see the happiness you give someone. It always means more to me giving happiness rather than receiving happiness. And, when you are an adult you can officially see how much happiness you can really bring to a child an adult.

By Jeremiah Goble

To me, Christmas means spending time with my family because it is a holy holiday: the birth of Jesus. I have been raised in church my whole life, so I have believe in God and believe in Jesus's birth. My family is always busy and I love getting together with my family. The presents are nice, but nothing means more than my family.

By Jacob Owsley

To me the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of Jesus. But to many people, Christmas means everybody is happy and you spend more time with your family. Both of these are completely true. Christmas to me can mean all of the above. Spending time with those you love and who love you. It's not about presents as a lot of kids think. It's about enjoying the time you have on this Earth. But most importantly it's about forgetting those bad feelings you might have about someone and celebrating the birth in the world of Christ, Jesus, no matter who you are you can celebrate christmas anywhere.



Floyd Central High School Art Winner
Brook Morton

By Jordan Stacy

The best surprise I got for Christmas was when my cousin came home. He was deployed in Germany and our family didn't know think that he would be coming, but on Christmas EVE there was a knock on the door and when my aunt opened it, there he was.

By Meghan Johnson

Christmas is more than presents and more than decorations/ To me, Christmas is Jesus. Churches and family coming together to celebrate the birth of Christ which is also the best gift I have ever received sometimes, I sit and wonder if He had never been born. Thankfully, I'll never have to know. I'm able to snuggle up next to a warm fire, drink hot coco, and share stories about Jesus Christ and what He means to me with my family. Christmas is family. Christmas is Love.

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Prestonsburg High School

**If I could grant a wish
By Madison Jervis**

If I could grant one wish this Christmas, it would be for my friend and her family to be at peace around the holidays, which will be a challenge for them at such a family oriented time due to the recent passing of her father. I would grant that she finds comfort and tranquility knowing he is at rest, no longer battling his heart condition and in a better place when she sees his empty spot at the dinner table instead of the feelings of grief and emptiness. I would grant that she reflects on happy Christmas memories that she experienced with her father while with her family- the room echoing full of laughter while telling

stories of the past. While I know the holidays will be extremely hard for her, I would grant that they would be easy on her and full of reminiscence.

Is it Better to be an Adult or Child at Christmas?

By Lakin Webb

Being a child around Christmas time is the best. Free presents, food and more. What more could you want? Well, as an adult, it's different. Most of the time it is the adults planning the events, cooking the food and buying the presents. That doesn't sound fun to most people, but to me, I think it's better to be an adult around Christmas because I love buying presents for people and watching them get surprised and excited when they open them. I also love cooking. It's my favorite activity to do and I love planning events and food prepping. As an adult, you start to appreciate your family and friends more. You start being more appreciative about the time you spend with the people you love and being more appreciative of what you have rather than what you don't have. That's why I think it's better to be an adult around Christmas time.

**Christmas Then and Now
By Michael Woods**

Christmas: it is a wonderful time of year. From the enormous family reunion that always ends with everyone getting a padded stomach to that delicious secret family recipe that everyone's grandma knows all the way from Oregon to Maine. Do you know what's even better than that? The gifts we exchange with one another with all the love and not to mention that these gifts costs a lot of money. Most of us know what it's like to

**Wonderful Time of the Year
By Bethany Lowe**

Holiday for families to get together
A time for making memories with loved ones
The Lord Jesus Christ was born
Caroling and rejoicing door-to-door
Helping family decorate the tree
Remembering lost loved ones
Icicles hanging from the roof
Sitting around the warm fireplace
Tearing open presents on Christmas morning
Mistletoe hanging all around the house
Angels on the Christmas tree
Stars brightly shining
Mounting stockings on the fireplace
Eggnog and cookies
A Christmas Story
Nativity scenes for everyone to see
Snowy day
Traditions passed down
Ornaments hanging on the tree
Making Christmas dinner with family
Exchanging Christmas gifts

open up that one big gift that we receive from The Three Kings or Santa Claus. As a parent, you love it just as much to see those cheerful smiles on your children faces. So, what is better, the Christmas back then when you were a child or the Christmas now when you're an older individual?

To me, Christmas is better when you are older and some people may think I'm crazy but let me explain why. Christmas is better during this age of your life because I've already had my younger days of being a kid on Christmas morning. Where you open of all the gifts with wrapping paper spread all across the room, then getting to play with all of your unique toys. Now it's time to watch the younger generation to laugh and have fun, so they can have their very own Christmas memories. That's why Christmas now is better than Christmas then.

By Logan Isaacs

Christmas means a lot of things to a lot of people. Christmas means a time to rejoice the birth of Christ

with family and friends that are dear to you. And though I know the true meaning of Christmas now, it took several years for me to actually learn what Christmas should really be about.

By Kaitlyn Norman

Christmas: when we think of this holiday, we think of Santa, presents, snow, maybe even Christmas movies. I choose to not make this cold holiday about presents or Santa. Christmas means one word to me: family. Without family, what's the point of the holiday or any holiday? Family is worth more than any present I could ever receive. I would always tell my mom, "I don't want anything for Christmas," and I meant that. All I want for Christmas is to watch movies and eat food with my mom. Family is forever while gifts are only temporary. Family brings happiness while gifts bring guilt. They buy expensive gifts which we will break, lose, or use only once. Family can bring you happiness, memories, stories and even the introduction of family you haven't met before. Just being together with cousins, aunts and uncles you may not see anymore and just being in the living room with everyone creating memories which will last a lifetime will always bring joy. Who would choose a gift over quality time with people you love? Would you rather be in your room sleeping, or be in the other room where your family are. You won't see your family forever and one day you'll regret not spending time with them. So, I ask you, "What does Christmas mean to you?"

By Paige Wright

This year I want to celebrate Christmas with as many people as possible. I want to spend it with my family, but I also want to celebrate Christmas with my amazing boyfriend and some of my loving friends because, besides my family, those are the people that mean the most to me. And as many always say, "Christmas isn't just about presents; it's about spending the day with the ones who mean the most to you."

By Kaitlyn Keathley

I want to spend this Christmas with my family and my boyfriend. Christmas is all about spending time with those you love the most. This is always my favorite time of the year because I am at my happiest. There is not a better feeling than the holidays and making memories that you will cherish forever.

I would want to spend time with my brothers that I do not get to see very much. One is in college and the other lives in Louisville. My brothers are the most important people to me. I would do anything for them no matter how close we are or are not. We all have a special bond that no one can ever take away from us. When we were all younger spending Christmas together, I look back and realize how much I miss that.

I would also want to spend Christmas with my boyfriend. I know how lame and cheesy that sounds coming from a high school student, but I am completely happy and myself around him. No matter what the future holds, I want to look back and remember this Christmas knowing how in love I was with this boy. Family and friends are the greatest gift we could ever have. To be surrounded by such great people is an amazing feeling that no one should take for granted. I am so lucky to have many great people in my life that I will be enjoying Christmas 2018 with.

**What I Want for Christmas
By Kendall Fletcher**

Many people are fortunate and get to spend Christmas with everyone that they love, but I do not receive the same gift each year. I get to spend each Christmas with almost all of my family and even my girlfriend, but I

don't get to see my mamaw anymore. She passed away two years ago and every Christmas since then, I have missed her presence: the smell of her perfume and the warmth and love of her hug. All I can do while eating is look at the empty chair which belongs to her. I miss her cooking and gifts. Every Christmas everyone else has just forgotten her, but I haven't. I can still smell her homemade cookies and taste her homemade punch. Everyone else hated the punch, but she still made me some every year. All I want for Christmas is to spend it with everyone I love, especially my mamaw.

By Makayla Stone

One of my favorite Christmas memories was on December 13, 2017, in which I watched the Prestonsburg High School Honor Choir's production of "The Polar Express." The play was performed for the entire school on the stage in the gymnasium. It's about a young boy who rides a train to visit Santa in the North Pole. There was also an opening act before the play itself began. The opening act featured performances of a variety of Christmas songs by the PHS Honor Choir. "The Polar Express" was a great addition to the Christmas season. The play included great acting skills, songs performing from the movie and set changes to set the mood and tone. My personal favorite song in the play was "Hot Chocolate." The backup singers were dressed as hot chocolate servers and incorporated serving trays into their dance choreography. This song was my favorite part of the play because of its excellent ability to captivate the audience. I'm thankful for the opportunity to see my school's production of "The Polar Express." The cast did a great job at singing, acting, dancing and entertaining. You can tell that much time, dedication and hard work was put into this production. Overall, I really enjoyed "The Polar Express" and I would watch it again if I could.

By Ethan Adkins

What Christmas means to me is a time for family and friends to come together and show their love for each other. It is also the time we celebrate Jesus's birthday, for without Him, we would not live.

**This is Goodbye
By Tessa Jarrell**

I wish to celebrate Christmas with you Grandpa. Things just are not the same without you anymore. I know plenty that would agree, definitely Grandma, Especially around Christmas time when we all hurt so much we can feel it deep in our core.
December is when you let go; you left us.
Who knew it would be like this forever
There is nothing more to discuss
Grandma looked at you one last time and I could tell it upset her.
Sadly, cancer won this battle and made our world stop,
Cancer is like a pool and you are forever drowning.
You can try to paddle to the top, sometimes it does not stop,
This is goodbye for the time I am counting.
I will never forget your warming smile,
I will see you again in a little while.



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