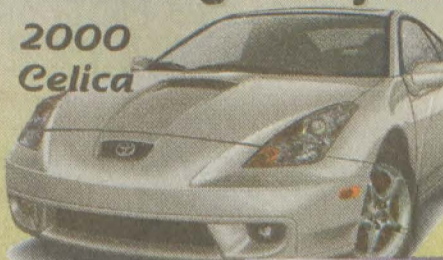


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Sports

- Profile on Margaret Damron • B1
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Sun., Mar. 26, 2000

Volume 73 • Number 37

The Times

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County could lose over \$7 million in state budget battle

Stumbo says GOP is playing politics

by Ralph B. Davis
Managing Editor

As the state legislature ground to a stalemate Friday over the Republican-controlled Senate's attempt to cut \$178 million from a budget backed by Gov. Paul Patton and the House of Representatives, over \$7 million in Floyd County projects were left hanging in the balance.

With rhetoric running hot between Democrats and Republicans, the Senate adopted its own budget along party lines, cutting Patton's request for \$178 million in additional taxes and spending.

Also on the chopping block were a slew of projects funded by the state's coal severance tax. Those items, which are funded through each county's share of the tax, strayed too far from the fund's original purpose of building roads and spurring economic development, Republicans said.

One such project was \$1 million for water lines requested by County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson.

In addition, the Senate budget cuts several other big-ticket projects planned for Floyd County, including:

■ \$3 million to the city of Prestonsburg for sidewalks and further work on the mountaintop golf course project.

■ \$2 million for the Mountain Arts Center.

■ \$1 million in additional funding for the East Kentucky Science Center to be built on the campus of Prestonsburg Community College.

In a statement released to The Floyd County Times, House Majority Floor Leader Greg Stumbo blasted Senate Republicans for playing politics with the lives of people in his district.

(See Budget, page two)



GREG STUMBO was among many Democrats calling the Senate's budget unacceptably.



BENNY RAY BAILEY urged his colleagues in the Senate to reject the GOP budget, to no avail.

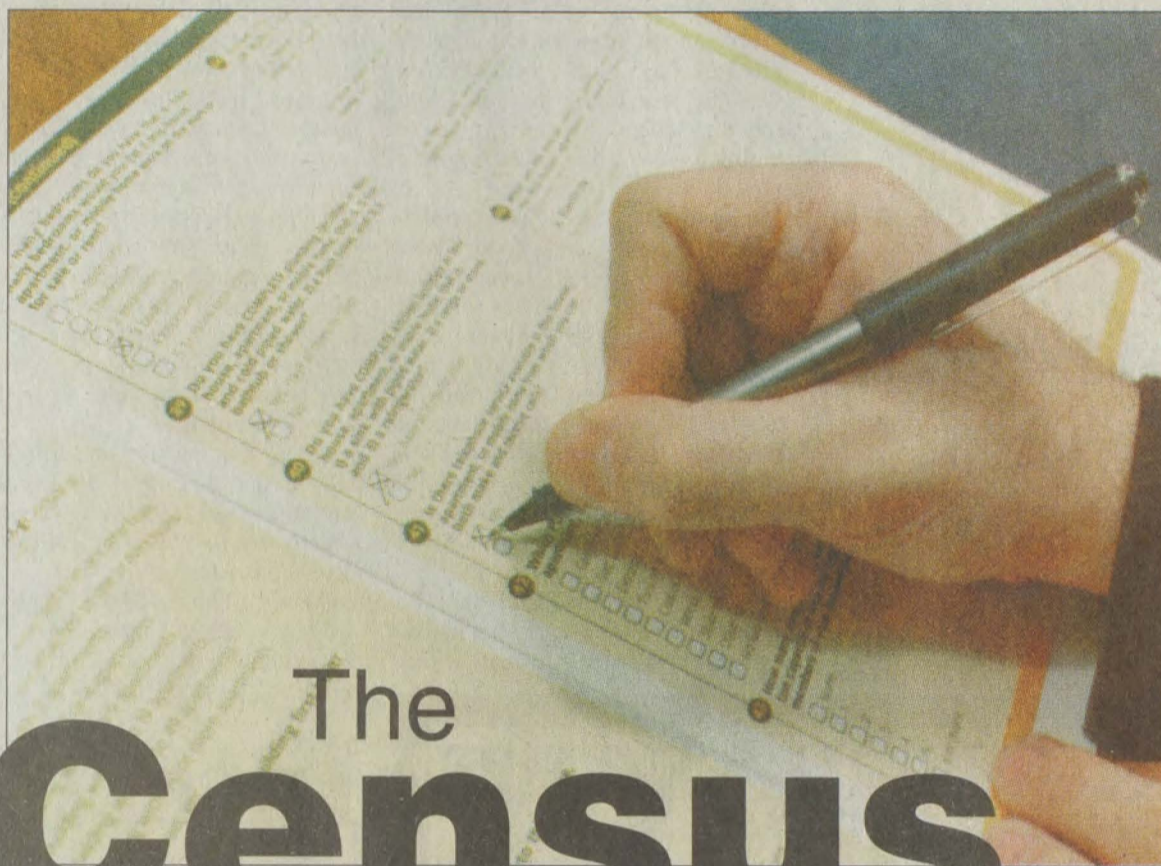
INSIDE

Full text of Stumbo's reaction to the Senate's budget.
Page A4



JAILHOUSE CONVERSION — John Allen, inmate at the Floyd County Detention Center, joined fellow inmate Ricky Jones in a display of faith by being baptized Friday. The two men took the plunge in the recreational area of the detention center. (photo by Randell Reno)

The Big Story



The Census

Why is it important to you?

by Randell Reno
Staff Writer

Stand up and be counted is the message being sent out all across the United States by the U.S. Census Bureau. "Everyone counts" is one of many themes the census bureau is using to get U.S. citizens to participate in the tally of the country's population.

Though the census can seem imposing, accuracy truly matters when filling out the form.

Imagine how hard it would be to plan a long trip using a map that was five, eight or even nine years out of date. So many things may have changed that the old map might almost be useless.

For government agencies, the census of population and housing that takes place every 10 years is the road map that helps them make multiple decisions, such as where to put new roads and schools.

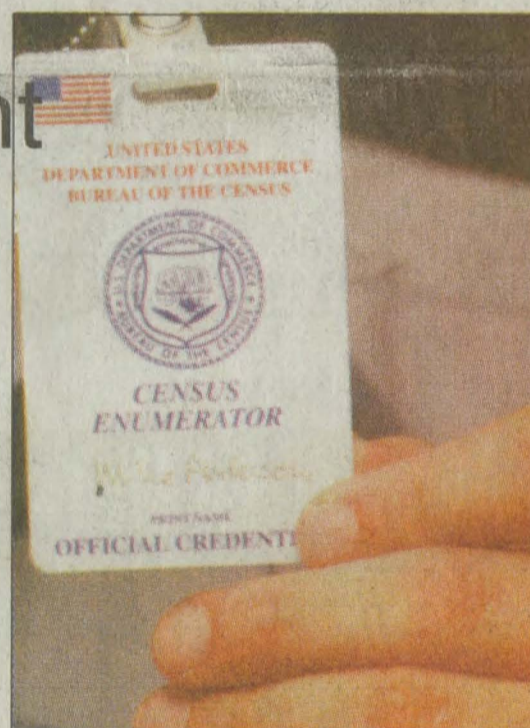
During the census, five out of six of the nation's housing units receive a copy of the short form, which asks basic information, such as the name, age, sex and race of the persons in the home.

About one in six addresses receives the census long form, which asks a total of 52 questions about the residents' demographic characteristics, the housing they live in, how they go to and from work, the languages they speak at home and other information that helps define the patterns of community life in our country.

The census directly determines how big a slice of the pie each community gets. Based on census figures, federal and state funds are allocated to city and county governments to help build roads, schools, fire and police departments and libraries, and determine DES/EMS/911 funding.

City, county, state, and educational leaders are all asking for each resident to participate by filling out the forms accurately. Each person counted helps to determine the amount of money coming into the area.

In 1900, fewer than 10,000 registered automobiles poked along the 125,000 miles of "surfaced" roads at top speeds of 20 to 30 mph and Census Day



If a census worker should come to your door, request to see identification. Con artists take advantage of the decennial census to gain information about their victims.

came on June 1 — after planting and before harvesting when the 40 percent of the population who lived on farms returned from the fields.

About 53,000 census-takers went door-to-door for up to eight weeks to count an average of 1,400 residents each. Each census-taker carried an 80-page book of instructions and a "general schedule" of 22 questions. These included name, age, sex, race, relationship to the "head of household," literacy (11 percent of the population over 10 years old could not read or write — today the question is not asked), whether the person spoke English and where they were born (nearly 14 percent of the nation's 76 million people in 1900 were foreign-born; in 1997, an estimated 9.7 percent of the population that had grown to 256 million were born outside the United States). The answers were filled in sequentially by the census taker.

One hundred years later, about 860,000 will conduct the 22nd national census in what will be the largest peacetime mobilization in the United States since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The census bureau projects the nation's population on April 1, 2000, will be about 274 million people.

People from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, research markets, target

(See Census, page two)

What's Inside

- Time to Save Gas • A3
- Internet News • A3
- Poison Pen • A4
- Regional Obituaries • A5
- Call Before You Dig • A6
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COUNTY BRIEFS

Floyd PRIDE grants total nearly \$40K

Floyd County is the recipient of four PRIDE grants totalling nearly \$40,000.

The Floyd County Fiscal Court will receive half the money for two stream cleanup projects.

One \$10,000 grant will help the county and volunteers from the Hueysville Church of Christ clean three miles of Right Beaver Creek. Another for the same amount will pay the county and volunteers from Samaria Old Regular Baptist Church pick up garbage and debris from a four-mile section of Mud Creek.

Another \$10,000 grant is being given to the Floyd County Conservation District to fund a white goods buy-back program. The money will be used to buy old appliances such as stoves and washing machines in an effort to keep them from being tossed over hillsides.

Prestonsburg Community College is the recipient of the final grant, worth \$9,800. That money will be used to help pay for continued monitoring of the Big Sandy Watershed through visual, biological and chemical surveys.

Funding for the four projects comes from a competitive grant program of the PRIDE program established by U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers.

"These grants are a critical part of the Kentucky PRIDE cleanup program because they help communities defray the expensive cost of cleaning up our roadsides, riverbanks, streams and solid waste dumps across southern and eastern Kentucky," Rogers said. "It's vitally important that we clean up the trash and garbage from our lands and waters so we can promote tourism and economic development. This PRIDE grant funding will help us continue to achieve the goals of this important cleanup campaign."

Public meetings

- Martin City Council, regular meeting, 6 p.m. tomorrow.
- Floyd County Board of Education, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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More employees seek something better

(NAPSA)-A recent survey did a good job of finding out why so many employed workers are seeking a better job.

CareerBuilder, Inc., a provider of targeted interactive recruiting on the Web, surveyed more than 50,000 visitors to its careerbuilder.com site.

Fifty-nine percent of those who responded were ready to wave goodbye to their current employer.

One out of three survey respondents described their boss as "a nightmare," while 11 percent were gentler, saying their boss is "difficult" to work for.



Employees are no longer in the workforce for the long haul. Only one in three stay in the same job for five years.

Employees are no longer in the workforce for the long haul. With the lowest unemployment rate seen in years, employers are seeing more turnovers than bakeries. Only one in three have held the same job for five years, and one in five are on their fourth or higher job in five years. Nearly half of all respondents have an updated resume ready to distribute at a moment's notice, and only one in five employees surveyed hope to do their current job better and more efficiently.

Sixty-three percent of employers said they had to lower their hiring standards to fill vacant positions due to the tight labor market. When faced with such dire circumstances, employers are forced to get creative with their recruiting strategies.

One in three employers are embracing technology to retain and attract employees. Companies are beefing up their web sites and using recruiting technology, such as registering on career-related web sites.

Job seekers are not looking for the frills and lush benefits characteristic of the eighties. When asked what perk interested them the most, nearly half said they would prefer a laptop computer over every other Friday off, housekeeping services or a limousine service to and from work.

Surprisingly, one in three first-time job seekers said finding a job in a good location is more important than doing what they love or retaining the best salary. But for the seasoned job seeker, a competitive salary and benefits is most important.

With CareerBuilder.com and its Mega Job Search technology, job seekers visiting the CareerBuilder site have the ability to access more than three million career postings, as well as insightful career advice.

Census

advertising, locate pools of skilled workers, prevent diseases, even rescue disaster victims.

When Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida in 1992, for example, census information aided the rescue effort by providing relief workers with estimates of the number of people missing on each block, as well as detailed maps of whole neighborhoods that had been obliterated.

Senior citizens' groups often draw on statistics from the census to support their desire for community centers.

As businesses try to determine if the market for a new product is large enough or if the product will be accessible to consumers, one source of vital statistics is the census. Census numbers help businesses reduce their financial risks and broaden their markets.

Nonprofit organizations often use census numbers to estimate the number of potential volunteers in communities across the nation. Developers analyze census data before deciding where to locate a new shopping mall. Male and female distribution will be considered by a dating service before deciding to advertise in an area, and income levels, by an expensive clothing store before investing in a new outlet.

Census statistics help determine where to build roads (add lanes, install stoplights or lower speed limits, too) and hospitals (or free health clinics) and child-care centers. They also help identify which communities need more federal help or job training, Head Start, or the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, which provides dairy and other nutritional supplements to new and nursing mothers and their children.

Federal law mandates that no one outside the census bureau can ever be given any information that

would enable them to connect your answers with your name and address.

It also says that before anyone inside the census bureau sees your completed questionnaire, they must first be sworn to secrecy. And if were to violate this oath? They would have the long arm of the law to contend with: a sizable fine (up to \$5,000) and a prison term (up to five years).

Not even the president of the United States is permitted to look at the individual census records.

Before major renovations that would temporarily close down the White House got underway roughly a half century ago, Secret Service agents visited the census bureau. Their mission was to try to find information about neighbors around the house where they were planning to move President Harry S Truman until work was completed on the White House.

The agents explained to Ed Goldfield, program coordinator for the 1950 Census, that obtaining the information was a matter of national security. But Goldfield denied their request, explaining that releasing information on individuals obtained from the census was against the law. Today, protecting the privacy of census respondents remains a critical part of every census bureau employee's training.

This means no courts of law, credit companies, solicitors, police, military, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, immigration or welfare agencies have access to the records — nobody.

After you return your form, it will be sent to one of the Census Bureau's four processing centers, where workers will scan it directly into computer that can read responses. Within 10 to 15 days, it will be shredded. Your answers will be combined with those of other people to produce statistical sum-

maries.

The census bureau's policy on confidentiality dates back 150 years. Since it was established, the agency has processed hundreds of millions of questionnaires — from those filled out by movie stars to those completed by your neighbors — without any breach of trust.

The Revolutionary War was expensive and the census provided a way to allocate the debt among the states. The founding fathers also wanted to establish a truly representative government and linking state population totals to the number of members in the House of Representatives would serve this purpose.

By counting people for both taxes and representation, the founding fathers believed the census would be both accurate and fair. While the states might be inclined to inflate numbers to increase their representation in Congress, using the numbers for taxation would discourage any attempts to fudge the numbers. Although the census' role in tax collection ended in 1913 when the 16th Amendment authorized the direct taxation of individuals, its role in maintaining representative government is as strong today as ever.

Originally there were only 65 members in the House of Representatives. But because this number was linked to the size of the population, membership grew to 106 after the 1790 census determined that there were 4 million people in the country. The number of representatives continued to grow along with the nation until 1911 when Congress limited membership to 435.

Kentucky lost a representative in the last census. Many leaders attribute that loss to an inaccurate census. Some say they did not receive or fill out a census form.

Participating in the census is in everyone's best interest. People

who answer the census help their communities obtain state and federal funding, as well as providing housing assistance and more.

Federal dollars supporting schools, employment services, housing assistance, highway construction, hospital services, programs for the elderly and more are distributed based on census figures.

The census was originally created in 1790 to determine how many representatives a state would send to Congress. While still in that function the census now determines how the U.S. Government distributes \$185 billion.

"It's not a way to keep up with the people or how many are family," said Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin. "Any time you get funding from a state and federal agency, (they) allocate money based upon the number of people in the area."

Fannin says his city has grown, which would put it in a better position to receive more federal aids for growth. "If people don't fill it (the census) out there's no way to prove it."

One such program based on federal funds is the Title I teaching program. Census figures are directly responsible for the continuation of such programs.

There are a lot of different federal funds that directly fund the educational programs according to Floyd County Superintendent Paul Fanning.

"It is important to get an accurate report," said Fanning. Population shifts affect school funding, said Fanning, who saw the state of Alabama lose money.

With low population numbers and reported income levels, Fanning said, "A lot of money left the state."

It is important that you stand up and be counted. If you did not receive a census form please obtain one and send it in. It will affect the next ten years of your life.

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Internet helps families research their roots

(NAPSA)-Before the Internet came along, researching family history could mean hours of writing letters or flipping through pages of Census records.

Now, finding out more about your family's past may be easier when you take advantage of today's technology.

"More people than ever before are using the Internet to search their roots," says Francis Dowling, genealogy expert for Local Ireland (www.local.ie), a site designed for Irish-Americans. Dowling offers the following tips for researching your family tree:

1. Know the name of the ancestor who emigrated. That family member is the bridge between the U.S. and your family's origin.

2. Identify approximate dates. Because illiteracy was quite widespread before 1900, many immigrants did not know their birth date. Ages appearing on marriage and death certificates are often only estimates. Knowing the year of emigration is useful.

3. Find the name of the ancestor's parents. Since many individuals with the same name may have left any country at a particular period, identifying the names of your ancestor's parents will help distinguish him or her from others.

4. Learn the name of the ancestor's spouse. The name of the spouse will help with positive identification.

5. Know the county of origin. Countries such as Ireland have county heritage centers, which keep indexes or copies of records.

Local Ireland's content includes local Irish news, entertainment, chat rooms, and travel and tourism information.

A genealogy section is the site's most popular category, featuring "Local Names," a forum for people with the same family names; "Surname of the Week," that details the variations and history of the most common names; an Irish Family Register; and Coat-of-Arms information. Such resources are

said to be extremely useful when getting started.

Local Ireland features links to Catholic, Church of Ireland and

Presbyterian registers as well as the National Archives in Dublin and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Budget

"I am outraged for my district that they are caught up in this political web woven by the Senate Republicans," Stumbo said. "Through no fault of their own, they are being punished to prove a political point, that point being that 'they can do it, so they will.'"

In a sudden spurt of activity during what had been a ho-hum legislative session, the House rejected the Senate's version of the bill. Meanwhile, Patton held a rally and press conference in the Capitol Rotunda to spur support for the House version of the budget.

The impasse between the two sides now means House and Senate leaders will try to hammer out a compromise in conference committee.

But with tempers and words growing more fiery throughout the day Friday and time running out on the General Assembly's clock, the likelihood of the legislature adjourning without a budget is growing larger.

Should that happen, legislators would have to return for a special session on the budget to prevent state government from shutting down on July 1.

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Paint group to hold second national search for the prettiest painted places in America

America has many cities, towns and neighborhoods that inspire with their beauty and charm. But which are the most attractive and well-maintained? We'll have a better idea later this year.

The Paint Quality Institute (PQI)—assisted by judges from Better Homes and Gardens and Architecture magazines—is holding its second nationwide search for the "Prettiest Painted Places in America."

The first competition, held in 1997, produced more than 300 entries. Many more are expected this year.

"Part of the mission of the Paint Quality Institute is to help the public understand and appreciate the vital role played by top quality paint in protecting and enhancing homes and buildings," said John Stauffer, director of the Paint Quality Institute.

"When we first ran the competition in 1997, we discovered scores of American towns and neighborhoods that had taken this message to heart by beautifying and protecting their architectural heritage with quality paints and coatings. This year, we want to find and acknowledge even more."

According to the sponsors, the nationwide competition is open to towns, neighborhoods and historic districts with an abundance of painted homes and buildings that are aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained. "We want to encourage all attractive

communities throughout the U.S. to get involved, from small towns to city neighborhoods," said Stauffer.

Invitations to enter the competition are being sent to nearly 11,000 tourism boards, chambers of commerce, and economic development organizations in all 50 states. Since some deserving places may not be on the mailing list, nomination forms and contest rules will also be posted on the Paint Quality Institute web site at www.paintquality.com.

Deadline for nominations, which must include color images, is May 15.

The judges of the competition—members of the media and a representative from PQI—will evaluate all entries and select 27 regional finalists, three from each of nine geographic regions.

Following site visits by PQI representatives, one winner will be named in each region. Regional finalists and winners will be recognized in an extensive national promotional program.

Also this year, the Paint Quality Institute will hold a separate competition to find the "Prettiest Painted Places in Canada."

For more information on the competition, visit the Institute's web site at www.paintquality.com; write to the Paint Quality Institute, Rohm and Haas Company, P.O. Box 1348, Philadelphia, PA 19105-9965; or call 215-351-4229.

Time to save gas! AAA offers free tips

Gasoline prices in the U.S. are breaking records and Americans are crying for relief. While motorists wait to see if the oil companies roll back prices, AAA is offering some common sense tips to conserve the gasoline you buy.

AAA's Gas Watcher's Guide can help drivers save fuel and money while driving safely and protecting the environment.

The guide points out that attitudes about driving are everything. Our automotive culture is told to "drive bigger," "go faster" and "do more," all of which consume large amounts of expensive fuel. AAA recommends re-thinking the use of your vehicle, and see if there are

ways to cut back without significantly altering your lifestyle.

"Keeping your car in top running condition certainly saves fuel, as does driving slower and consolidating errands to cut down on driving time," said Dan Dickson, public relations manager for AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky.

"Another way to save is to make sure you're using the right type of gas for your car. Most cars today are designed to run on unleaded regular, 87 octane fuel."

Dickson points out that buying medium and premium grades of gas is a waste of money unless the car manufacturer recommends it. Cars rarely run better on higher octane

fuel, and the extra cost per gallon, 20-30 cents, is significant.

You can get a free copy of the Gas Watchers Guide at AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky branches located in downtown Lexington and at the Palomar Centre, also in Lexington. The guide is also available at AAA offices in Danville, Frankfort and Russell.

AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky is a not-for-profit automobile serving 120,000 members in 61 counties in central and eastern Kentucky and parts of Virginia and West Virginia.

Trash vessel temporarily moved to Dewey Lake

The Trash Hunter Vessel which was purchased to help in the ongoing battle against trash and debris on Fishtrap Lake, will be sent to Dewey Lake to fight another battle against the forces of trash and debris. This is a temporary assignment for the vessel to help not only Fishtrap Lake, but other lakes in the area. The vessel will assist in clean-up efforts throughout the month and during the cleanup contest scheduled for April at Dewey Lake.

The Vessel will be transported to Dewey Lake no later than April 3, and will remain at Dewey Lake for the month of April. A member of the Fishtrap Lake staff will be assigned to assist with the vessel while it resides at Dewey Lake. The vessel should be back at

Fishtrap Lake by May 1.

For additional information, contact (606) 437-7496 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For general lake information, call (606) 437-9426.



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I N T E R N E T

NEWS AND NOTES

An online invitation that lets users plan events from start to finish

(NAPSA)-The most important guest at the party this year is a site that lets users easily organize get-togethers, trips, reunions, fundraisers, movie nights, or any type of group activity. And what's more, it allows event planners to electronically collect any fees associated with the event like ticket, food or beverage costs—all for free.

The site, called MyEvents.com, allows event organizers to create fun online invitations complete with all event details. Planners can include driving instructions, updated weather and event reminders, and interactive RSVP features like the ability for invitees to post comments, photos and more.

What is unique about the site is that MyEvents lets organizers create their own event "bank" for billing invitees for any cost designated by the planner. Whether it's used for planning a ski trip with friends or for an alumni association collecting monthly dues, the Event Planner's money exchange option allows invitees to pay "their share" online without any service or usage charge.

How It Works

To get started, the organizer logs in to MyEvents and picks from a variety of themes for the invitation-cocktail party, birthday,

vacation, meeting, etc. Next, the user enters vital event information like location, time and date and most importantly—who is invited. The organizer may pick the time and date the invitation goes out, schedule email reminders and select options like allowing invitees to invite more people. If the event has an associated cost, the organizer includes the cost on the invitation and a bill is created.

When a potential guest is invited to an event, they receive an email invitation with a link to the RSVP site. The invitation includes event details and RSVP functionality, plus the opportunity to add a comment, see who is coming, find out how to get there, and even check the weather.

If the event has an associated cost, invitees may pay the organizer via credit card or debit card without ever leaving the MyEvents site. Once an invitee accepts an invitation and agrees to pay online,

the event organizer instantly receives funds in his or her online bank. He or she may transfer funds from the event bank to a personal credit card. According to Patrick Connolly, MyEvents.com CEO, "The process is quick, secure and free to all users." Users need not worry about providing account information as the entire process is completely secure, and no one may see or access any of the personal financial data.

The site also allows families, clubs, teams—any type of group—to use it to stay in touch and stay organized. Users can create their own private communities around common interests, event or series of events and share tools such as photo albums, bulletin boards, private chat, address books and more.

MyEvents.com has received one of the prestigious Forbes Favorite Internet awards and was named "Best Virtual Secretary" on the web.

KET call-in show scheduled for March 28

The Kentucky Revenue Cabinet's annual income tax call-in show on Kentucky Educational Television (KET) will be aired on Tuesday, March 28, at 9 p.m. EST.

During this show, KRC staff members will answer questions from the public about Kentucky individual income tax issues for the 1999 tax year. Tax information and filing tips will also be presented during the show, along with messages from KRC Secretary Mike Hayden and Taxpayer Ombudsman Betty Claycomb.

For more information, consult local TV listings or KET's Web site at <http://www.ket.org>.

How to avoid road alligators

(NUI) - You see them every day — mean, ugly and dangerous rubber road alligators on the sides and in the middle of major streets and highways throughout America.

Tire debris can be quite menacing for motorists just trying to get from point A to point B. And it won't go away until all motorists immediately pull over when a tire problem is detected, according to the Tire Retread Information Bureau.

Contrary to popular belief, this messy waste isn't because of tire retreads. The real culprits are poorly maintained tires that are driven underinflated, overloaded and mismatched.

In fact, a tire run 20 percent or more underinflated is considered flat by tire manufacturers. But most motorists, including truckers, ignore air pressure maintenance

without realizing just how dangerous it is.

"Tires that are run underinflated long enough will come apart," says Harvey Brodsky, managing director of the Tire Retread Information Bureau.

For more information about the tire debris problem and what the retread industry is doing about it, contact the Tire Retread Information Bureau toll-free at 1-888-473-8732, by e-mail at retreads@aol.com, or on the Web at www.retread.org.

Welcome to the New Millennium
YUM YUM



Girl Scouts-Wilderness Road Council
293-2621
(800) 475-2621 PSA



Edward and Lula Hatfield of Right Fork of Bull Creek celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary on March 23, 2000, with family and friends.

We would like to wish our grandparents, Edward and Lula Hatfield, a happy wedding anniversary. To us, they're our best friends, our neighbors whom we love and admire a lot.

Shane Hatfield
T.C. Hatfield
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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

—First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution—

Viewpoint

Sunday, March 26, 2000 A4

QUOTE OF THE DAY...

The man who has never made a fool of himself in love will never be wise in love.

Theodor Reik—

Editorial

Making votes vital will stop election fraud

It is easy to think that people who violate the law have some sinister intent, or that they lack the strong moral fiber we claim for ourselves.

Kentucky's long history of election fraud is certainly a blight on the democratic process, but many people wrongly assume that cheating at the polls only existed in the past among rural counties, where the poor and uneducated would sell their vote for a few dollars or a bottle of whiskey.

The truth is, voter fraud is alive and well in Kentucky and knows no geographic limits, said Tracy Campbell, a University of Kentucky professor and historian who spoke in Owensboro about the topic Tuesday and Wednesday.

Campbell is the author of "Short of the Glory," a biography of Edward Prichard Jr., the brilliant Kentuckian who squandered his career when he was convicted of stuffing a ballot box in a 1948 Bourbon County election. With ballot boxes now passé, those who wish to ensure victory find more imaginative ways to cheat, Campbell said.

A number of advancements have occurred to stop election fraud, but like Prohibition, it is difficult to stop something people want to do simply by making it illegal. The only way to put an end to election fraud is to identify the common denominator of those who sell their votes and try to eradicate that reason.

As Campbell has gathered information for his next book on political corruption, the common theme is the disconnection between voters and the people they have a chance to elect. When residents feel their vote is useless, they at times have little remorse over trading money in exchange for their vote, Campbell said.

This is not simply history. Last October, six people were indicted in Knott County for paying 12 Alice Lloyd College students \$25 to \$30 a piece for their votes to sway the May 1998 Knott County primary.

We worry quite a bit about public disaffection with politics and the cynicism that seems to be ever increasing. As Campbell said, the 12 hours the polls are open on election day is the closest the power structure gets to the public. Can we afford to sell that right for any amount of money?

Even if we are not involved in voter fraud, allowing tainted races to proceed unimpeded only deepens the belief that the outcome is a foregone conclusion, thus making an honest person feel his vote will not matter.

We can change that by keeping the public interested in who governs them. When a friend, relative or co-worker says he or she is not planning to vote, it is your responsibility to change that opinion.

Change will only happen one person at a time.

—Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer



Guest Column

Republicans gutted needed services, not 'pork'

by Rep. Gregory D. Stumbo
House Majority Floor Leader

Since being elected to the legislature, the most important focus of my work in Frankfort has been to put the people of my district first. I attempt to identify the most pressing needs there and strive to find solutions. I believe it is a primary task that is expected of us by our constituents.

The items that I promote for inclusion in the state budget are projects that somehow will enhance our local economy or improve our quality of life. I do not define water lines that allow small communities whose underground water supply is contaminated to get clean water as "pork." Neither is pork a school science center or technology center whose influence may make the difference between a rewarding life and a life of poverty. In fact, the reference to these essential items in the budget as pork not only is offensive to me but it is a backhanded slap at every resident in my district.

When the budget was put together this session, I worked hard in good faith to make sure the greatest needs of my communities were met. I had no idea that the mean spirited, bipartisan attitude of the Senate would result in a dead end for my efforts to keep my district from its gradual move forward toward prosperity in this new century.

I looked forward to the first session of the new century with high hopes that all members would come to Frankfort with the mindset of enabling Kentucky to continue its efforts to equally compete with the rest of the world. To do that, we must continue to improve and expand, crucial in areas such as education and economic development. It is irresponsible to publicly declare this state has been gorging itself on excess revenue in the budget spent irresponsibly for the past two years and that it is time now to "fast." I suggest those who honestly think that need a reality check. I dare them then to look into the face of the child from a single parent family from McDowell or the child whose parents are unemployed in Weeksbury. I challenge them to look that volunteer fireman in Banner who puts his life on the line regularly in the eye and tell him to "fast."

It was with a great deal of disappointment I report to my readers that the Senate Republican members

saw fit to strip the most essential projects in the budget which would have helped my district. They claim they removed all the nonessentials — the pork.

I maintain that they took out the projects we need to make a difference in our quality of life, and trashed them to make a political statement. The Senate Republicans want to use the budget as a political football, which is in essence saying they want to use the people of Kentucky to reach their own objectives.

And as the primary election date approaches, they will assure everyone that they saved them from a tax increase that will financially bury them. When actually, House members were the ones that drew the line against the controversial tax provisions in the budget like the gasoline tax.

But regardless of who is responsible for what, if the House version of the budget is not rescued, there will still be people drinking contaminated water and children in isolated areas who will still be unable to obtain necessary medical and social services for preschoolers.

I am outraged for my district that they are caught up in this political web woven by the Senate Republicans. Through no fault of their own, they are being punished to prove a political point, that point being that "they can do it," so they will.

I still have some hope that all is not lost and that something realistic can be salvaged in a conference committee. I pledge to all of you in my district that I will personally do everything I can do to resolve this contemptible budget stalemate and bring some sanity to an unacceptable situation.

The projects the Senate irresponsibly removed from the budget that will have an adverse affect to us include one million dollars worth of water projects for Floyd County and a million dollars for our Science, Math and Technology Center. There was money in the budget the House approved to construct and dredge a boat ramp at Jenny Wiley Park, money to improve Big Sandy Regional Airport and \$3 million for community development projects in Prestonsburg. The Senate wiped out money for sidewalks in Prestonsburg and a mountaintop improvement project and \$2 million for the Mountain Arts Center. But it's all gone now.

I encourage you to contact your local state senator and tell him to put these things back in the budget.

Oil and Alaska: Energy problems can't be drilled away

It was only a matter of time before Alaska's congressional delegation seized on national unease over gasoline prices to justify another attempt at sinking oil wells in a wilderness sanctuary. It's a lame rationale, but no more so than some others these folks have offered.

During the Persian Gulf War, the last time world oil prices were this high, the Alaskans said U.S. military security required opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling.

In the federal budget struggle of 1995, they urged tapping the refuge to balance the books. And, now, as the possibility of a \$2-a-gallon summer season approaches, Sen. Frank Murkowski says the refuge's

oil is vital to shielding the economy from big swings in the world petroleum market.

The truth is that Murkowski, Sen. Ted Stevens and Rep. Don Young will favor drilling the refuge even when gasoline is cheaper than bottled water, as it often has been in recent years. This has nothing to do with the nation's interests and everything to do with Alaska's.

Oil is lifeblood in Alaska, funding most of the state's budget and ensuring that citizens get dividends — not income tax forms — from their government each year. Thus, a congressional delegation that

See Guest, page five

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are welcomed by The Floyd County Times. In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable. Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

Poison Pen

by Ralph Davis
Managing Editor



Have no fear, the GOP Senate is here

As the legislature wrapped up this week's business, it seemed to be venturing down an all-too-familiar course.

Remember the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994? Remember the federal government locking its doors shortly thereafter because Democrats and Republicans couldn't agree on a budget?

If you don't, don't worry. It's looking more and more likely that we'll see a repeat of all that, only this time on the state level.

But really, I don't know too many people who would mourn the passing of state government, at least not right away.

But what really irks me is the disdain Senate Republicans appear to have for Eastern Kentucky by axing many of our region's projects which would have been funded by the coal severance tax.

Of course, this is all being performed under the guise of saving us from higher taxes. But what the Senate Republicans don't want you to know is that by cutting these projects, they have done nothing to save you one penny in taxes.

The way the coal severance tax works these days, less than half of the money obtained by taxing coal is sent back to the counties where the coal was mined. Of that, part of the money is sent to county and city government to be spent directly on roads or road-related expenses. The rest — the portion which the Senate is now tinkering with — is put into an account which must be spent on roads or economic development projects and which must first be approved by the state.

In other words, money proposed for Floyd County already belongs to Floyd County. It's our money and our local leaders have asked the General Assembly to allow it to be spent on certain projects. During a normal legislative year, that would be a routine matter. But not this time.

As a result of Senate President David Williams declaring that he would tighten down on how coal severance money could be spent, many projects which coal-producing counties were counting on are now in jeopardy.

Why? For the life of me, I cannot figure it out. By cutting those projects, Senate Republicans are not returning one dime to the state's general fund. They are not reducing state spending to avoid Patton's tax increase, as is their stated intention.

Instead, they are allowing all of that money to sit there untouched, while coal counties are faced with problems we need taken care of now. Floyd County, for instance, has \$2 million in coal severance funds, but Williams and his group of thugs have decided we can't spend it on...

Well, what is it? Exactly what evil is it that Senate Republicans have so bravely saved us from?

If you're not already sitting down, you may want to because I am getting ready to tell you the exact nature of the horrendous scheme our sinister fiscal

See Pen, page five

The Floyd County Times

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Mission and Adventure Camps 2000 open registration

Father-son outings, an extended hiking and camping adventure, and traditional week-long camps featuring swimming, horseback riding and ropes are among a variety of camping experiences being made available to boys this summer through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department.

Summer registration has opened for Mission and Adventure Camps 2000, and boys in grades 1-12 are encouraged to register quickly for specific camps and dates.

"The camps will focus on adventure camping while teaching on-mission principles," said Dwayne Doyle, Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department missions coordinator. "We are committed to providing a purpose-driven camp that leads boys to active participation and a relationship with Christ."

The camps, developed by the Brotherhood Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, are designed to complement Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, Mission Kids, and the Woman's Missionary Union's Kids in Action materials.

Mission and Adventure Camps offer boys the opportunity to experience missions, while developing skills and learning life lessons.

"The camps will have a new schedule for the summer that will

feature tracks. Tracks will allow campers to focus on specific skills," said Doyle.

Campers may choose three tracks for one camp week. Tracks include horsemanship, athletic adventure challenge, mountain biking, marksmanship, challenge ropes course, outdoorsman adventure, camp crafts, basic water safety and swimming.

The camps provide a dedicated staff to supervise campers at all times. All counselors have completed at least one year of college and all junior counselors have finished at least their junior year of high school. All staff have been trained in first aid and CPR.

An on-site Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief team will assist Camp RABRO for the summer. They will help with food preparation and will teach campers about disaster relief ministry.

There are three Mission and Adventure Camp options with various camp dates and locations. The first camp option is located at Mid-Continent College, Mayfield. Boys in grades 4-8 can attend camp June 12-16 or June 19-23. A father and son overnight will also be hosted by the college, June 16-17.

The second camp option, located at Camp RABRO, Bagdad will offer camps for boys in grades 1-8. The dates for grades 4-8 include

June 26-30, July 10-14 and July 17-21. Boys in grades 1-3 may choose from three dates, July 5-7, July 24-26 and July 26-28. Camp RABRO will also host two father and son overnights for grades 1-3, July 7-8 and July 28-29.

The third camp option, June 30-July 5, is a specialized camp for boys in grades 9-12. This camp is entitled "Outdoor Leadership Challenge," and focuses on leadership development and adventure skills. Participants will take a two-day backpacking trip into the Red River Gorge. The camp will meet at Camp RABRO for initial training and then leave the following day for the hike.

The cost of camp is \$115 for boys in grades 4-8 and \$50 for boys in grades 1-3. A \$25 deposit is due upon registration and the balance is due at camp arrival. Completed application forms and deposits should be sent three weeks before camp date.

The Calvin Fields Memorial Scholarship fund is available to cover costs for boys unable to afford camp.

For registration and scholarship information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department at 502/244-6489 or toll free (888) 254-5720 or register online at www.kybaptist.org/camp.htm.

REGIONAL OBITUARIES

Pike County

Ruby Jean Presley, 60, of Phyllis, died Saturday, March 18, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington. She is survived by her husband, Thurman Presley. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 22, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Ruby Hamilton Cochran, 95, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, March 22. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 25, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Fern Thompson Smith, 68, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, died Tuesday, March 21, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 25, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Marvin Coleman, 68, of Raccoon, died Saturday, March 18, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 21, under the direction of Community Funeral Home.

Charles Randell Jackson, 41, of Matewan, West Virginia, died Tuesday, March 21, at Williamson Memorial Hospital in Williamson, West Virginia. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 25, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Home.

Jettie Marie Phillips Justice, 78, of Virgie, died Wednesday, March 22, at her home. Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, March 26, 1 p.m., under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Magoffin County

James Edward Arnett Jr., 64, of Poquoson, Virginia, formerly of Salyersville, died Wednesday, March 15, at Sentara Hampton General Hospital, in Hampton, Virginia. Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 20, under the direction of Dunn-Kelley/Prater & Dunn Funeral Home.

Harry Green, 72, of Hillsboro, Ohio, died Friday, March 17, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Anna Bolen Green. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 21, under the direction of Turner & Son Funeral Home.

Byron B. Stephens, 90, of South Bend, Indiana, formerly of Magoffin County, died Wednesday, February 9, in Regency Place, in South Bend, Indiana. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 12, under the direction of Forest G. Hay Funeral Home.

Anna L. Foster, 68, of North Judson, Indiana, died Friday, February 11, at Starke Memorial Hospital, Knox Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 15, under the direction of O'Donnell Funeral Home.



Experimental radio broadcasts began in 1910 with a program from the Metropolitan Opera House, starring singer Enrico

Mary Risner, 84, of Lima Twp., Michigan, formerly of Magoffin County, died Tuesday, February 29, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Friday, March 3, under the direction of Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Cassie Hale Mullins, 50, of Norwalk, Ohio, died Tuesday, March 14, at her residence after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were conducted Friday, March 17, under the direction of Eastman Funeral Home.

Kevin M. Cole, 42, of Munith, Michigan, died Wednesday, March 8, at Chelsea Community Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Deborah S. Elliott. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 11, under the direction of Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Joel C. Salyer, 51, formerly of Salyersville, died Friday, February 11, in Porter Memorial Hospital, in Valparaiso, Indiana. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 14, under the direction of O'Donnell Funeral Home.

Coming To Our Sunday Paper Soon!



The Only Magazine In America That Celebrates Hometowns Just Like Ours.

American Profile is all about America's heartland. With regular features on unsung heroes, hometown profiles, regional food, family and more, American Profile is a celebration of the people and lifestyles that make up this unique landscape that we call home. Look for it in our Sunday paper soon!



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We are currently seeking committed mission-driven individuals and families to serve as foster parents for Kentucky's children.

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PSA

Gospel Concert

April 8th, 2000

Saturday Evening at 7:00 p.m.



"Higher Ground"
From Lexington

"Silver Wings"
From Johnson County

Community United Methodist Church

Burke Avenue
Prestonsburg, KY

Card of Thanks

The family of Daniel Smith wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all friends and family who expressed their concern with comforting words, food, flowers, and fellowship. Our thanks go out to Minister Jim Smith of Daniels Creek, whose comforting words helped ease the pain from losing someone we loved so dearly. Special thanks go out to Allen First Baptist and McDowell First Baptist Churches for the wonderful singers and delicious food served after the funeral.

Thanks to the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 18, of Auxier, for the military honors.

"I wish to extend my sincere apologies to Delores Conn of Allen, and her family, for the error of having her name as Delores Smith for her brother, Daniel Smith's obituary. I love you, Delores." Ellie Smith of Michigan.

The Floyd Funeral Home will forever be in our prayers for their kindness and for handling the arrangements in such a professional, yet personable fashion. Thanks Larry, Cory, Traci, and associates.

Active pallbearers were: Dwayne Smith, Dean Smith, Darren Conn, Greg A. Jamison, Clark Smith, Mike Smith, Virgil Smith, and John Smith.

Honorary pallbearers were: Dee Jamison, Henry James, Hagar Tuttle, Bill Wild, and Frank Foley.

THE FAMILY OF DANIEL SMITH

Guest

complaints of U.S. reliance on foreign oil while winning repeal of a longtime ban on exporting Alaskan crude, then champions security interests while forcing the Interior Department to permit peacetime drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve — set aside in 1923 for use in war or national calamity

Production of North Slope oil has indeed declined in recent years, primarily because of oil companies' responses to low world prices and, more recently, the rejected merger of British Petroleum and Amoco. This is worrisome to Alaska, but should it be worrisome to the nation, for whom the Arctic refuge is held in trust?

Each spate of high gasoline prices reminds Americans that our way of life is entirely too reliant on

oil, too dependent on imports. We are persuaded anew of the need for a national energy policy that more vigorously promotes conservation and alternative fuels, reduces pollution, slows global warming. We may even change our habits for a time.

Then, the prices fall and we buy our sport-utility vehicles, give up our bus passes, build our new homes on the suburban fringe.

But even as we wince at today's numbers on the gas pump, most of us understand that we can't drill our way to a short-term solution, given the years it takes to bring new wells into production. We know it's not a long-term answer, either, for at some point the oil will run out. The most we accomplish is to postpone the day of reckoning by

some unknown factor. Estimates are that oil under the Arctic refuge might supply the nation's needs for six months or a year, maybe more and maybe less.

For that postponement, should Americans be willing to scatter oil wells across the last pristine sector of Alaska's north coast, a fragile landscape of harsh beauty and critical significance to hundreds of species in the Arctic ecosystem, one of the last big places on the continent where human presence is undetectable?

If so, perhaps we should prepare for the post-petroleum era by planning to build hydroelectric dams in the Grand Canyon and to log the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for stove wood.

— Minneapolis Star Tribune

Continued from p4

Have you already spent your 1999 tax refund?

Many people spend their income tax refund—at least mentally—well in advance of its arrival. If you can't wait to buy that new DVD player or book that mini-vacation, you'll want to be sure that a mistake doesn't delay the IRS' processing of your return.

The following 15 reminders, courtesy of the Kentucky Society of CPAs, will help to ensure a timely refund check if the IRS owes you.

1. Check your return and schedules for mathematical errors. Transposed numbers or incorrectly totaled columns can cause significant delays in processing returns.

2. Include the correct Social Security number for you, your spouse, and your dependents. The IRS computer matches names and numbers and automatically kicks out tax returns with discrepancies. Worse yet, the IRS can deny a personal exemption, as well as the child tax credit and dependent care credit, if you file your return without correct Social Security numbers for your dependents or care providers.

3. Use the pre-printed, peel-off mailing label the IRS provides with the Forms package you receive in the mail. The label includes information designed to help speed the processing of your tax return. Verify the information for accuracy and make necessary corrections on the label.

4. If you are age 65 or over, or if you are blind, be sure that you consider claiming the additional standard deduction you might be allowed.

5. Choose the right filing status. In certain situations, married couples who file as married filing separately can lower the family's overall bill. If you are single and support a dependent, check to see if you qualify for the lower tax rates available to a head of household or a surviving spouse.

6. Be sure to attach to your return all Form W-2s, and any 1099s showing a federal income tax withheld.

7. Verify that you have claimed all eligible dependents. If you provide more than half of the support of a parent, you may be able to claim the parents as a dependent, even if he or she does not live with you.

8. Check your 1998 tax return for items such as capital losses that exceeded the \$3,000 limit, excess charitable deductions, and excess investment interest expense that you can carry over and claim on this year's return.

9. When you take another job during the year, your new employer begins withholding Social Security taxes as if you had paid none at all. If you worked for more than one employer during 1999, you may be eligible to claim a credit for any overpaid Social Security taxes.

10. Be sure that you properly document any charitable donations. Under current law, you must have a written acknowledgment from any charity to which you contributed \$250 or more. A cancelled check in this situation is no longer sufficient proof.

11. Tax credits help to lower your final tax bill, but be sure you meet the income and other eligibility requirements before claiming the Earned Income, Child or Dependent Care, HOPE Education, or Life-time Learning credits.

12. Make sure you sign your return and if you file jointly, be sure your spouse signs the return as well. Include all required schedules and attachments and put your Social Security number on each page in case they become detached at the IRS office.

13. Confirm that you have used the correct column in the Tax Rate Table or appropriate Tax Rate Schedule.

14. If you're receiving a refund, indicate whether you want the overpayment refunded in cash or credited to your estimated tax for the next year. If taxes are due, make your check payable to the United States Treasury and write

your Social Security number on your check. Be sure to sign your check and to make a notation showing that it is in payment of your 1999 Form 1040 tax liability. Do not staple the check to your return.

15. Before mailing your return, make two copies of your return, one for your own records and one for the state income tax authorities. Last minute filers should consider requesting a receipt to verify a timely postmark.

Double-checking your return will help you avoid common errors that slow the processing of your return. If you're confused about any aspect of filing an error-free return, consult a CPA for professional advice.

This column is provided by the Kentucky Society of CPAs. For more information about personal finance, income taxes or business issues, visit our website at www.kycpa.org.

Pen

Continued from p4

court was preparing to hatch, only to be foiled at the last second by our crusading GOP Senate.

They were preparing to unleash upon the county ... water lines. One million dollars worth of them. Mostly for the southern half of the county, which is woefully underserved currently.

Thankfully, the Senate has stepped in and saved Floyd County from being further corrupted by the creeping scourge of safe, clean drinking water.

So, for those of you in any place in this county without city water, the next time you are lying awake at night, worrying that a waterline could sneak up to your house and pollute your family with water unspoiled by raw sewage or chemical contaminants, you can rest easy knowing that David Williams and the Republican Senate have spared you from such a horrible fate.

Spring Open House

Prestonsburg High School

Thursday, March 30, 2000

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Parents, extended families, and community members invited.

Coy D. Samons



Ronnie Patton and the physical education students at Duff Elementary and Allen Central Middle School raised over \$2,000 for the American Heart Association. For their efforts the school received a Jump banner that will hang from the ceiling of the gym.



Kindergarten student Savannah Meade and fifth-grader Tiffany Owens show their jumping skills during a celebration on Thursday. (photos by Willie Elliott)

REWARD

For information leading to the arrest of persons who stole a 1989 Gray Ford F-150 pickup, and a safe containing a 1,000-oz. bar of silver.

Truck last seen in Branham's Creek/Mud Creek area

437-6236



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Columbia Gas reminds customers, contractors to 'call before you dig'

Spring is finally here and gardeners, landscape companies and building contractors are already hard at work.

In all too many cases, however, these outdoor workers put themselves and others in danger by digging near unmarked natural gas lines and other types of buried utility lines.

For that reason, Columbia Gas of Kentucky is reminding customers and contractors to "call before you dig."

One simple toll-free call to the Kentucky Underground Protection Center—1-800-752-6007—puts the caller in touch with a free underground utility location service operated by Kentucky Underground Protection Inc.

But calling 'before you dig' (BUD) is not just a good idea, it's the law.

Last year in Kentucky, Columbia Gas responded to 425 calls for broken natural gas service lines and main lines. "Most of our line breaks are simply the result of not being notified prior to the work so that the lines could be marked," said Mike Webb, director of field operations at Columbia Gas of Kentucky.

Anyone planning to dig should call the 'BUD' line at least two business days, but not more than 10 business days, prior to beginning their work.

Once the call is made, member utility companies of Kentucky Underground Protection in the area of the excavation are notified, and each utility marks its lines.

Although most utility companies are members of Kentucky Underground Protection, some are not. Those companies that are not members must be contacted directly for line markings. Kentucky Underground can provide callers with a list of which utility companies are members of their service in various areas.

And while safety is the number one reason to have utility lines located before digging, line breaks are costly, too. According to Webb, excavators who don't request utilities be marked and then break natural gas lines are financially responsible for repairs.

When those repair costs are combined with the time delay on the project, the financial impact of a line break on a business or individual property owner can be significant.

For more information about utility line marking or to make a locate request, contact the Kentucky Underground Protection Center at 1-800-752-6007 or www.kyunderground.com.

Columbia Gas of Kentucky, a

Columbia Energy Group Company, serves more than 140,000 commercial, industrial and residential customers in 60 Kentucky communities.

Headquartered in Lexington, Columbia Gas of Kentucky has area offices in Ashland, Maysville, Winchester, Frankfort, Lancer and Paris. Information about Columbia Gas of Kentucky is available on the Internet at www.columbiagasky.com.

Columbia Energy Group, based in Herndon, Virginia, is one of the

nation's leading energy service companies, with assets of around \$7 billion.

Its operating companies engage in virtually all phases of the natural gas business, including exploration and production, transmission, storage and distribution, as well as retail energy marketing propane and petroleum product sales and electric power generation. Information about Columbia Energy Group (NYSE:CG) is available on the Internet at www.columbiaenergygroup.com.

Justice in training

Army Pvt. Bobby R. Justice has arrived at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, to complete basic military training.

During the training, the soldier will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading, tactics, military customs and courtesies, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Justice is the son of Susan L. and Tim Ousley of Prestonsburg.

Soldier completes basic

Army Pvt. Angelia L. Scott-Shockley has graduated from basic military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina.

During the training, the soldier received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Scott-Shockley is the daughter of Charles Scott of Eastern, and Lorraine Abu-Qartoumy of Prestonsburg.

DEERE SEASON 2000

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports



Feature:
Sting Makes His Acting Debut
 ■ The Square Circle Wrestling Page • B6



Margaret Damron

Damron's leadership vital to repeat season

by Ed Taylor
 Sports Editor

On a rather warm afternoon this past Wednesday, the Prestonsburg High School softball team made its way to Archer Park where they would take out their gloves and bats and take another day in preparation for the upcoming season.

But this will be a special year because the Lady Blackcats will find themselves as the hunted instead of the traditional role of being the hunter.

You see, last year Prestonsburg accomplished two goals in one game — they beat regional nemesis Pikeville, and they won the girls' 15th Region softball tournament, earning their first-ever trip to the state tournament.

For senior first baseman Margaret Damron, perhaps the win over Pikeville was the most pleasing.

"Probably beating Pikeville was the most pleasant of the two," said Damron, "We faced them in the regional finals before and they beat us out."

Damron said winning last year's regional tournament was rewarding because she missed part of the season with an injury.

"It was real exciting," she said. "Of course the bonus was when we got to beat Pikeville."

Can the Lady Blackcats repeat? Can they find a replacement for hard-throwing Brandy Slone, who graduated last year? Can they find a dependable third sacker to fill the "hot corner" at third base? Damron believes one of the two could be a question mark this season.

"We have a new player this year, Brittany Carey, who is really good at third base," said Damron. "She can throw the ball and is a good fielder."

Carey comes from North Carolina and is a freshman at Prestonsburg.

But what about pitching?

"Probably is the big question mark for us this year," she said. "We are used to having strong and fast pitches. But now we are trying to rebuild our pitching."

While the mound work poses a question mark, still Damron feels it will be all right.

"It will come around. We have several who will be pitching this year," she said. "We just need to get stronger defensively."

Damron's reference to defense was meant more toward the Prestonsburg infield, where more bat contact is expected this year.

(See **DAMRON**, page two)



A Look At Sports...

Sports Sports Sports



What an NCAA tournament we have witnessed this season. Only one number one seed (Duke) remains and right now I like Iowa State.

When Gonzaga was beaten, I sort of went with Iowa State because I like a team that plays hard.

What about the Badgers? They are the best defensive team in it. LSU did not look very impressive against Wisconsin.

Of course, I want to see Florida and Tennessee do well as they represent our conference.

It has been a tournament of surprises and I feel

there are more in store when the final eight is set after this weekend.

■ The Kentucky baseball Wildcats are 1-4 in the SEC after getting off to a 15-0 start. Since then, the Cats have played .500 baseball at 19-4. But that is still an outstanding record.

■ I suppose the good season that Dusty Bonner had last year does not count for the upcoming season. Bonner guided the Cats to their second consecutive bowl appearance this past season.

According to coach Hal Mumme, Bonner will have to compete against Jared Lorenzen, who was red-shirted last season.

Lorenzen was suspect after his grades and conditioning took a dive. But the word out of the UK camp is that Lorenzen has both in order and is ready to

compete for the starting job.

Mumme promised the media that a quarterback would be named in the first half of the spring football practice.

■ The KHSAA is expecting attendance records at this year's girls' state tournament to topple.

With the wide fan support across the state, girls' basketball is alive and well in the state of Kentucky. Doomsayers of the past are probably getting full of having to eat their own words of condemnation of the sport.

I think one of the reasons for the success is the interest girls have taken in the sport over the past five

(See **SPORTS**, page two)



Prestonsburg's Caudill sets three new state records

by Ed Taylor
 Sports Editor

Prestonsburg's Jeremy Caudill set two new state weightlifting records last week at Elizabethtown, where over 400 weightlifters took part. The state meet was held March 17 at Central Hardin High School in E-town.

The first record to fall was the deadlift, where Caudill lifted 685 pounds, bettering the old record of 680. Actually, Caudill had one lift of 700-pounds but the lift was not allowed. He then proceeded to lift 685 for the new record.

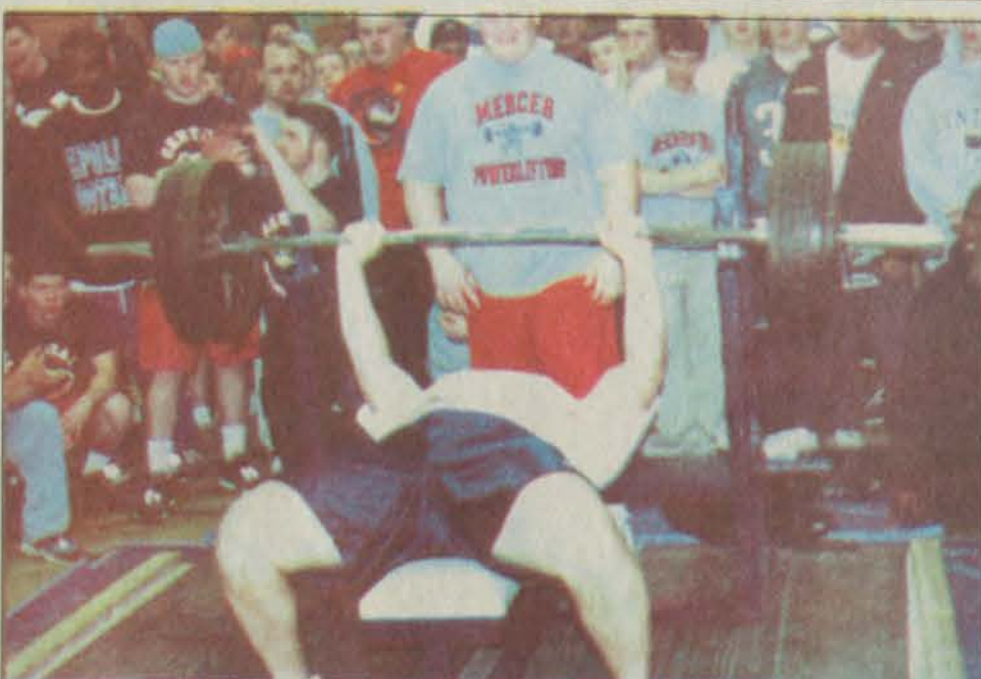
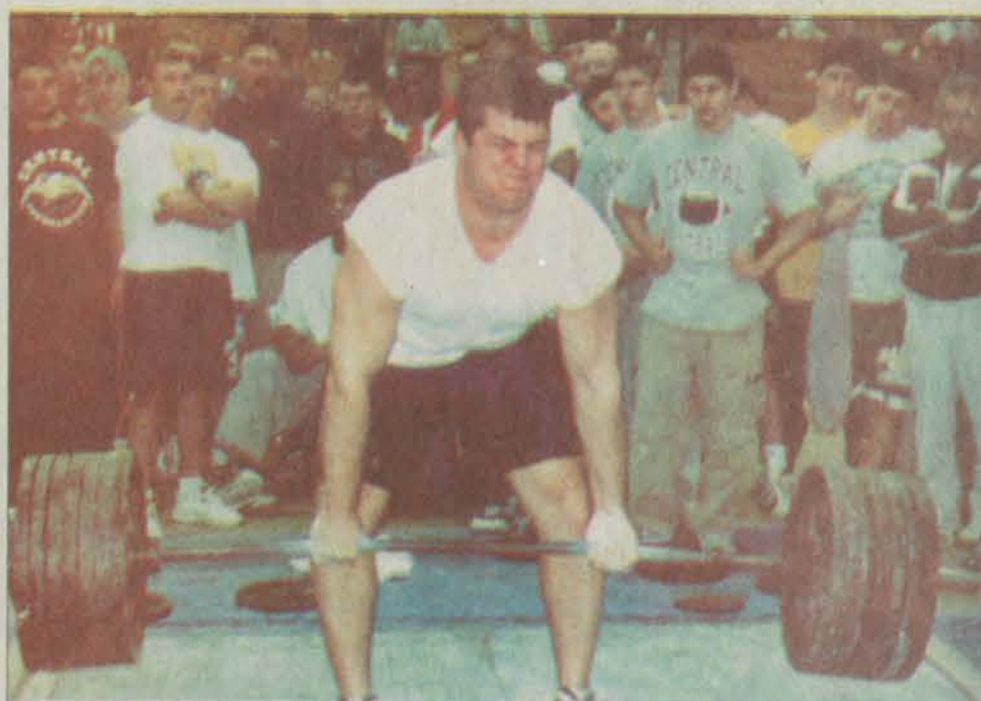
He also established a new record in the benchpress by pressing 430 pounds, 10 pounds better than the old record of 420.

A third record was set by Caudill with total weight of 1,050.

"Jeremy did real well," said Coach John Derossett. "We took him down there knowing he had a chance to break the records. Those records have stood for a long time, so it may be a long time before Jeremy's is broken. Jeremy brought home three nice trophies."

Caudill competed in the heavy-

(See **CAUDILL**, page two)



PRESTONSBURG'S JEREMY CAUDILL set three new state weight lifting records last month. Caudill bench-press 430 pounds to break the old record of 420 pounds. The Prestonsburg Blackcat had a deadlift of 685 pounds. His total poundage was also a new state record. Caudill signed to play football with UK this coming fall. Caudill also takes part in track and field.

Games on tap

■ Baseball

Mon., Mar. 27
 South Floyd at Millard
 Phelps at Feds Creek
 Johnson Central at Spring Valley

Tues., Mar. 28
 Magoffin at Betsy Layne
 South Floyd at Pikeville
 Phelps at Pike Central
 Jenkins at Millard
 Elkhorn City at Shelby Valley

■ Softball

Mon., Mar. 27
 Millard at Prestonsburg
 South Floyd at Magoffin
 Elkhorn City at Shelby Valley

Tues., Mar. 28
 Shelby Valley at Paintsville
 Millard at Pikeville
 Elkhorn City at Jenkins

IT WAS A NICE DAY for aride around the greens at the Jenny Wiley Golf Course this past Wednesday. Golfers were aplenty, enjoying the super weather. (photo by Ed Taylor)

Caudill

weight division, which is the largest division of the meet. Caudill, who signed to play football with the University of Kentucky this fall, also competes in track and field at Prestonsburg. He has made several state meets in discus. He also runs the 100-meter dash. "That could be scary as big as he is," said Coach Derossett, "but he is so fast for a big man."

TRACK NOTE The Prestonsburg track and

field team, also coached by Derossett, will actually wear uniforms this year, according to the Prestonsburg coach. "I have Dewey Jamerson helping me out this year," Derossett said. "I told Ron (Hampton, school athletic director) that we are going to have a track here someday and we need to look like a track and field team. So, he turned loose of the purse strings and got us new uniforms." The Prestonsburg coach was

elated over the fact that 26 girls alone came out for track and field this season. "We are going through spring football practice right now with the boys and they will be out for track and field when that is over," Derossett said. Prestonsburg won the Floyd County Conference last year and is a favorite to repeat this season. "We want them to look good when they go to the state meet," said Coach Derossett. "Last year they looked pitiful,"

Continued from p1



Half Mountain Speedway taking shape for season

by Ed Taylor Sports Editor Racing season is here and the Half Mountain Speedway is nearing completion and should be the site of some good stock car racing. Bleachers, concession stand and other minor details are in need, but the

track will be one of the more scenic facilities in the state. A family atmosphere will be the key to the new track as a picnic area will place. Special seating for the handicap will also be provided by track owner, Jim Branham.

Continued from p1

Sports

years and especially those who have set out to work hard to be an entertaining player on the hardwood. Good coaches of the game's fundamentals have made the game much more enjoyable to watch. But the number one reason has to be the rivalries that have built over the years that created fan interest. I enjoy covering girls' basketball. I enjoy watching them play the game and they no longer have to take a back seat to the boys' game. This year's regional tournament held at Elkhorn City saw a large gathering each night and what a great tour-

namment it was. That was evidenced by the outstanding players featured as well as some very good teams. An interesting fact was released on the state tournament. Over the past 25 years, 15th Region teams have played 25 first-round games and only won five. That is amazing. Only five victories out of all the teams from our region who have competed in the tournament. Why don't our teams measure up to other state teams? What are we doing we shouldn't be or what is it we're not doing that we should? The most state championships have

come out of the 12th region, six, with an overall record of 42-18. Absolutely staggering. Out of the 16 regions, the 15th has the worst of all state tournament records, followed closely by the 16th Region with a 7-25 record. See where Mark Portugal took another step toward the Reds rotation with a good outing against Pittsburgh the other day. Junior banged out home run number six for the spring. The Reds farmed out Scott Winchester to Louisville. Louisville is the new Triple A farm system for the Reds who worked

out of Indianapolis for many, many years. A note of interest for UK fans who followed the recruiting process. UK signees Cliff Hawkins and Michael Southall will play in the Nike Derby Festival Basketball Classic in Louisville on April 30 at Freedom Hall. Until Wednesday, good sports everyone and be good sports!

Damron

"We have to get stronger in the infield," she said. "We expect them to be hitting the ball more on the ground this year." Damron said she likes what she sees in returning players this year with a good mixture of young players as well as veterans. "Megan (Hyden) will play left field for us and she hustles all the time," said Damron. "She is just a solid outfielder. Brook (Coleman) covers the outfield as well as anyone. I've seen her run all the way from center field and catch the ball in right field." Steady at shortstop will be junior Amelia Conley. "Amelia has excellent range at shortstop," Damron said. "She can fire the ball over to you and swings a good bat." Damron, who has been playing first base since her sixth-grade year, likes the position and says she, "has grown accustomed to it." "I enjoy playing there. If there is one thing I would like to do this year, it is improve on my fielding, catching the hoppers that come

over there." Damron said with certain infielders, she has to make some adjustments in taking throws. "Seems everyone throws different and you have to adjust to it," she said. "But I just want to get better." Damron said it should be a fun season for the Lady Blackcats with the team chemistry that is in place. "It is always a fun season. This team gets along really good," she said. "We work well together." Damron said that Allen Central was the team to contend against this year, although Betsy Layne and South Floyd are talented teams. "Allen Central, they are tough to beat," said Damron. "They have a good fielding team and they are a good hitting team as well." "Betsy Layne has improved a lot from last year and last year they gave us all we wanted. Unfortunately, I didn't get to play in one of the two games we played them." "Ever since I have been playing as a freshman, South Floyd has

improved each year. They could be a surprise team this year." Phil Damron is both dad and coach to Margaret Damron. "He has been with me ever since T-ball," said Margaret. "He has always been right there, griping or coaching." "He has been a big part of my career. My mom doesn't care much about it. But Dad has always tried to help me." "He will go out and work with me. Before the state tournament last year, we went out and worked all day long for three days." Damron admitted that he was a little more strict with her. "He is tougher on me. A lot of people don't understand when I yell at him," she said. "I have to live with him. I get it here and if I really mess up, I get it at home. But I love him and he really has helped me a lot." Damron is expected to show the needed leadership on the diamond this year and is the lone senior on the team. If she stays healthy look for Damron to have a big season with the bat and in the field.

Continued from p1

Advertisement for Southeast Kentucky Outdoors. Features a photo of a man with a bow and arrow. Text: "Watch for this Special Section COMING SOON!!! to the Floyd County Times".

NCAA 2000 Final Four tournament bracket. Title: "MARCH Madness CHAMPS". Finals: Monday, April 3, RCA Dome, Indianapolis, 9:18 p.m. Semi Finals: West vs. Midwest (April 1) and East vs. South (April 1). Regional Finals: March 23, 24, 25, 26. Round names: First Round, Second Round, Reg. Semi's, Reg. Finals. Locations: Salt Lake City, Tucson, Ari., Cleveland, Minneapolis, West, East, Winston-Salem, N.C., Buffalo, N.Y., Birmingham, Ala., Nashville. Teams listed include Arizona, Jackson St., Wisconsin, Fresno State, LSU, Texas, Indiana St., St. John's, N. Arizona, Gonzaga, Louisville, Oklahoma, Winthrop, Purdue, Dayton, Michigan St., Valparaiso, Utah, St. Louis, Syracuse, Samford, Kentucky, St. Bonaventure, Iowa St., Conn. St., Auburn, Creighton, Maryland, Iona, UCLA, Ball State, Duke, Lamar, Kansas, DePaul, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida, Butler, Temple, Lafayette, Oregon, Seton Hall, Hofstra, Indiana, Pepperdine, Stanford, S. Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, Louisiana-Lafayette, Connecticut, Utah St., Cincinnati, UNC-Wilm., Tulsa, UNLV, Ohio St., App. St., Miami (Fla.), Arkansas.

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insider golf

by t.j. tomasi
Director of the Players School at PGA National

ASK THE PRO

Q: How do I know how much to flare my feet at address?

— B.W.
from Carrollton, Ga.

A: If you stood at address with both feet pointed straight at the target line, you would have no flare at all. How much you should turn your feet out at address depends on your ability to turn back and through the ball.

To establish a starting point, take a few normal strides and then stop walking and check out how your feet are flared. Some will have very little flare and some will have a lot. It depends on how you're built in the hip area, and everyone is a little bit different.

Use your "walking flare" as your starting point when taking your stance. The average flare is about one quarter of a turn from perpendicular, but you should personalize it by stepping in with your feet pointing directly at the target line, then turning them out to your walking flare position.

To Ask the Pro a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.

GOLF SPOKEN HERE

The Flange

Your sand wedge has a flange on the bottom that's different than your other clubs. This flange ensures that the leading edge of your club won't touch the ground when soled. The term "bounce" is used to describe the effectiveness of the flange in producing a club that won't get caught in the sand. The more bounce on your flange, the more it slides rather than digs.

The average sand wedge has around 56 degrees loft with 11 degrees bounce to prevent the leading edge from taking too much sand, but there are many combinations of loft and bounce, so you need to test them out before choosing the right wedge. Basically the tighter the lie the less bounce you want, so it's a good idea to carry at least two sand wedges to be ready for



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“
I was about ready to file an autopsy report on my game.
”

—a relieved Nick Price after shooting a 67 during the first round of the Nissan Open



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. T.J. Tomasi is the director of the Players School at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He is a member of the elite Top 100 Teachers chosen by Golf Magazine and is a Class A PGA teaching professional.



TEE TIMES

PGA Tour

April 3-9: The Masters, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga. (USA/CBS)

April 10-16: MCI Classic, Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton Head Island, S.C. (TGC/FSN/CBS)

April 17-23: Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic, Forrest Oaks Country Club, Greensboro, N.C. (TGC/FSN/CBS)

April 24-30: Shell Houston Open, TPC at The Woodlands, The Woodlands, Texas (TGC/FSN/CBS)

LPGA Tour

April 13-16: Longs Drugs Challenge, Twelve Bridges Golf Club, Lincoln, Calif. (TGC)

April 28-30: Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, Eagles Landing Country Club, Stockbridge, Ga. (TBA)

April 24-30: Shell Houston Open, TPC at The Woodlands, The Woodlands, Texas (TGC/FSN/CBS)

Senior Tour

March 27-April 2: The Countrywide Tradition, Desert Mountain (Cochise Course), Scottsdale, Ariz. (ESPN/ABC)

April 10-16: The PGA Seniors' Championship, PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (ESPN/NBC)

April 17-23: Las Vegas Senior Classic, TPC at Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nev. (ESPN)

April 24-30: Bruno's Memorial Classic, Greystone Golf Club, Birmingham, Ala. (ESPN)

TEERING OFF

Fleisher's Senior Dominance Is Lesson in Championship

Just a month into the new millennium, Bruce Fleisher won his ninth Senior PGA Tour tournament since joining the tour a little more than a year ago.

Fleisher, who earned \$195,000 for his four-stroke victory in the GTE Classic, is averaging \$81,135 in 36 senior starts. Still, with all his success, Fleisher says he's having a tough time believing what is happening to him.

"I'm struggling to believe that I'm doing what I'm doing," said Fleisher, who turned pro in 1970, but had only one win in 408 events on the PGA Tour, the 1991 New England Classic. "Maybe I should be more

confident now."

Maybe! Especially since he's beaten everyone like a drum and won almost \$3 million on the Senior Tour, but here's the real question: How do you hang in there like Bruce Fleisher did? Do you play well because you're confident, or are you confident because you play well? Asked another way: Which comes first, confidence or performance?

The answer is confidence comes first, but there are two levels of confidence. The first level is general confidence that you can do most anything, even if you haven't done it before. The second level of confidence is specifically related to your



Bruce Fleisher

becomes an integral part of your personality as you mature. You're not scared of failing, so you try all sorts of things — the latest technology, a new job, whatever strikes your fancy.

It's said that Thomas Edison failed 1,000 times trying to find the secret to the light bulb, but

performance — you know you can do it because you've done it before.

Level one confidence starts when you're young and it becomes an integral part of your personality as you mature. You're not scared of failing, so you try all sorts of things — the latest technology, a new job, whatever strikes your fancy.

It's said that Thomas Edison failed 1,000 times trying to find the secret to the light bulb, but

he said he learned 1,000 ways that didn't work. Edison's outlook is an expression of level one confidence — "I can do it; I just haven't yet."

Level one self-confidence allows you to hang in there until your performance comes around. Then quality performance takes over and drives your confidence to level two, where the better you do, the more confidence you have. Let this cycle run for a while and it won't be long before you're a champion. Too many people quit just before something good happens, but champions like Bruce Fleisher hang in there — even if it takes 30 years.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME

Conquer Bunker Shot With Quadrant Method

I can remember as a kid wondering how in the world the other kids could swim. It looked easy, but when I tried, I sank.

It's the same way with the short, greenside bunker shot. When you watch someone who can do it, it looks easy, but as soon as you try it, all sorts of nasty things happen.

Out of the sand, use the bounce of your sand wedge — the rounded bottom that gives you the ability to shave the sand rather than dig deep. Here's how:

In your practice, draw two perpendicular lines in the sand to form four quadrants (remember that it's against the rules to touch your club to the sand in a bunker during actual play). One line points to the target, the other to the ball of your front foot. Number the quadrants clockwise from one to four as shown in the photos. Place your ball where the two lines meet.

The key to the sand shot is to swing your clubhead into quadrant three on the backswing, then along your shoulder line into quadrant one on your through swing. Note that your



At address my body is open but my clubface points directly down the target line drawn in the sand.

club at no time enters quadrant four as it would if you followed the swing path you use for normal shots.

This three-to-one swing path promotes the flange of your sand wedge along with a cut-across swing action that slices through the sand to give you the soft-landing splash shot you need.

Like most young boys, I finally learned to swim, and if you use the quadrant method, you can finally learn to play the greenside bunker shot with confidence.



I've numbered the quadrants drawn in the sand 1, 2, 3 and 4. To get out of the bunker safely, all you have to do is swing the club into quadrant 3 (left above) on the backswing, and through to quadrant 1 on the follow-through (at right). It's as simple as 3-to-1.



BIRDIES & BOGEYS

Dress the Part

Greg Norman wants to wear shorts on the PGA Tour. He's no Betty Grable, but is the real reason the PGA Tour won't let its pros wear shorts because they've got lousy-looking legs? No, it's because shorts aren't professional, and the tour players are — they're "professional golfers."

Etiquette experts say our manners have never been worse, and a majority of American employees say the amount of downright rude behavior in the workplace has increased over the past decade. Some of it has to do with the way we dress.

"I think people behave better when they're dressed up. It seems to affect their behavior," says Sue Fox, founder of Etiquette Survival Inc. and author of "Etiquette for Dummies."

So if it's true that people who "dress like a pro, act like a pro," maybe it's also true that golfers who "dress like a pro, play like a pro."

South Paws

Six left-handed players are competing regularly on the PGA Tour, and that's a record. The players are Phil Mickelson, Steve Flesch, Mike Weir, Russ Cochran, Greg Chalmers and Kevin Wentworth.

Some general facts about handedness: According to a study by Gilbert and Wysocki surveying 1,177,507 people: About 11 percent of Americans are left-handed.

Men are more likely (12.6 percent) to be left-handed than women (9.9 percent). Right-handers are 95 percent right-footed and 66 percent right-eye dominant, but only 45 percent of left-handers are left-footed and 57 percent of left-handers are left-eye dominant.

Two great golfers who are left-handers but played as righties: Arnold Palmer and Ben Hogan.



Mike Weir from Canada is one of the best lefties to ever play the game.

DON'T MISS IT

Masters Mania

Well, you certainly don't want to miss The Masters, April 3-9, the first major of the new millennium. The Masters (called the Augusta National Invitation Tournament until 1939) began in 1934, the brainchild of Bobby Jones and Cliff Roberts. That first tournament was won by Horton Smith, and the next year, Gene Sarazen hit "the shot heard 'round the world" — a double eagle on the par 5 15th hole. The resulting tie with Craig Wood forced a 36-hole playoff the next day, which Sarazen won by five strokes.

In 1965-1966 Jack Nicklaus became the first Masters champion to defend his title successfully and in 1986, at age 46, Nicklaus donned a record sixth Green Jacket. In 1997, Tiger Woods broke the tournament four-day scoring record that had stood for 32 years, shooting 18 under par and winning by 12 strokes.

Last Year's Winner: Forced to withdraw from the 1995 Ryder Cup because of rheumatoid arthritis in three joints of his right foot and two in his left, Jose Maria Olazabal did not play for 18 months. But he overcame the foot problem that threatened his career to win his second Green Jacket in 1999, and he will be back to defend the title this year.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

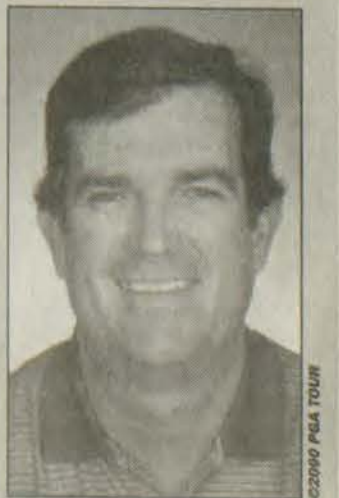
Lietzke Is Steady as He Swings

Who has the best swing on the PGA Tour? Well, it depends on how you define "best."

Certainly Tiger Woods is the best player by any benchmark you care to use, but I'd say that Bruce Lietzke has the best swing — if by that we mean the swing that is practiced the least but is the most reliable under pressure.

Lietzke, 48, played nine tournaments last year, about normal for him. "I don't want my swing to improve at all," Lietzke admits. "I want my swing to be exactly like it was yesterday, and I want it to be exactly like it was 25 years ago, and that is all I strive for."

And no one can argue with that — he's No. 38 on the all-time money list.



Does Bruce Lietzke have the best swing on tour?

NASCAR this week

If you've got a question or a comment, write:

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7 p.m. • Sunday • ESPN2

2000 POINTS STANDINGS

WINSTON CUP	BUSCH	TRUCK
1. Bobby Labonte, 794	Matt Kenseth, 823	Andy Houston, 520
2. Mark Martin, 785	Mark Martin, 725	Mike Wallace, 493
3. Dale Earnhardt, 762	Todd Bodine, 683	Kurt Busch, 468
4. Ward Burton, 733	Randy LaJolie, 666	Joe Ruttman, 461
5. Dale Jarrett, 721	Jeff Green, 646	Greg Biffle, 460
6. Tony Stewart, 653	Ron Hornaday, 641	Terry Cook, 428
7. Bill Elliott, 663	David Green, 597	Steve Grissom, 415
8. Ricky Rudd, 647	Mike Dillon, 577	Jack Sprague, 404
9. Jeff Burton, 621	Phil Parsons, 573	Dennis Setzer, 359
10. Rusty Wallace, 595	Kevin Grubb, 560	Marty Houston, 350

TOP TEN

Weekly rankings by NASCAR This Week writer Monte Dutton. Last week's ranking is in parentheses.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. (1) Bobby Labonte | Had an off week |
| 2. (2) Dale Jarrett | Runner-up finish |
| 3. (3) Dale Earnhardt | Paragon of consistency |
| 4. (4) Jeff Burton | Another Darlington top-five |
| 5. (5) Mark Martin | Would trade his BGN wins |
| 6. (6) Tony Stewart | Three top-fives already |
| 7. — Ward Burton | Well-deserved victory |
| 8. (7) Bill Elliott | Disappointing showing |
| 9. (8) Rusty Wallace | Defending Bristol champ |
| 10. — Matt Kenseth | Very impressive rookie |

FROM LAST WEEK

THE WINSTON CUP SERIES

DARLINGTON, S.C. — For Ward Burton, victory in the Mall.com 400 was richly deserved and long awaited.

In order to win the second Winston Cup race of his career — and first in 131 races — Burton had to hold off reigning champion Dale Jarrett, who carried with him the corporate might of Ford Motor Co., in a lengthy late-race skirmish.

By race's end, it wasn't much of a battle. Jarrett closed the final margin to 1.420 seconds, but until Burton switched off the afterburners, his lead was twice that large.

Burton led the final 37 laps, 85 of the final 89 and 188 of 293 overall.

BUSCH GRAND NATIONAL

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Saturday marked the occasion of another 1-2-3 sweep in the Busch Series, with Mark Martin, Matt Kenseth and Jeff Burton taking the first three positions in the Suncom 200.

At least the race was competitive between the Roush drivers. Martin, Kenseth and Burton all drive Roush-owned Fords in the Winston Cup Series, and Martin's and Burton's BGN cars are owned by the mammoth

team. Kenseth's BGN car, a Chevrolet, is owned by Robbie Reiser.

Martin spent most of the next-to-last lap running side-by-side with Burton, who could not keep up the pace as the two came off the fourth turn to take the white flag. Kenseth took advantage to whisk second away from Burton on the final circuit.

"It's too bad for Jeff Burton," said Martin, who has won three of the season's five races. "He had the fastest car at the end, but I've lost a lot of races that way."

Every single BGN race this season has been won by one of the drivers who finished in the top three Saturday, with Martin winning at Rockingham, Atlanta and Darlington, Burton at Las Vegas and Kenseth at Daytona.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK SERIES

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Joe Ruttman, 55, drove a Dodge to victory in the Chevy Trucks 150 to break a 42-race victory drought.

Ruttman led 99 of 150 laps to pick up his ninth career series win. It was Ruttman's first victory on an oval since he won in 1997 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Jack Sprague finished second, while Andy Houston took the point lead for the first time in his career following a third-place finish.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

Dale Earnhardt Jr. vs. his pit crew

Earnhardt Jr. felt his car was so difficult to drive that a crash was unavoidable. He pleaded via radio for an unscheduled pit stop that might have fixed the problem. His crew chief, Tony Eury, instructed him to tough it out, and Earnhardt crashed on the 203rd of 293 laps. "We took a chance and tore up the race car," said the young driver. "When the car ain't running right, you need to get in there and fix it. It was terrible."

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his opinion: "Earnhardt is probably right, but it is hardly unusual for crew chiefs to lobby against costly pit stops. Bottom line: Only Earnhardt Jr. knew how bad the car actually was, and he could have overridden his directions and brought the car down pit road."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Glenn Roberts picked up his nickname not from racing but from baseball. Fans began calling Roberts "Fireball" because of the fastball he displayed with the Zellwood Mud Hens American Legion team near his home, which was then in Tavares, Fla. He won his first NASCAR race on Aug. 13, 1950, at Hillsboro, N.C.

ON THE SCHEDULE

THE WINSTON CUP SERIES

COMING UP: Food City 500
WHERE: Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway (.533-mile track)
WHEN: Sunday, March 26
DEFENDING CHAMPION: Rusty Wallace
FORMAT: 500 laps/266.5 miles
QUALIFYING RECORD: Rusty Wallace, Ford, 125.142 mph, April 9, 1999
RACE RECORD: Charlie Glotzbach, Chevrolet, 101.074 mph, July 11, 1971

NOTABLE: Wallace won from the pole in last year's race. ... Before Wallace's victory, Jeff Gordon had won this race four years in a row.

BUSCH GRAND NATIONAL

COMING UP: Cheez-It 250
WHERE: Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway (.533-mile track)
WHEN: Saturday, March 25
DEFENDING CHAMPION: Jason Keller
FORMAT: 250 laps/133.25 miles
QUALIFYING RECORD: Mark

Martin, Ford, 123.746 mph, April 8, 1994

RACE RECORD: Harry Gant, Buick, 92.929 mph, April 4, 1992
NOTABLE: Morgan Shepherd has won twice as many BGN races here, four, than any other driver. ... Mark Martin and Todd Bodine are among drivers who have won twice.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK SERIES

COMING UP: Dodge California Truck Stop 250
WHERE: Mesa Marin Raceway,

Bakersfield, Calif. (0.5-mile track)
WHEN: Sunday, March 26
DEFENDING CHAMPION: Rick Carelli

FORMAT: 250 laps/125 miles
QUALIFYING RECORD: Ron Hornaday, Chevrolet, 95.400 mph, Oct. 17, 1998
RACE RECORD: Randy Tolson, Chevrolet, 76.293 mph, Oct. 12, 1997

NOTABLE: No Ford has ever won at Mesa Marin. Chevrolets have won five of the last six, split by Dennis Setzer's '98 victory in a Dodge.

PROFILE

Jeremy Mayfield



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

Jeremy Mayfield practices before this year's Daytona 500.

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Jeremy Mayfield, one of three Winston Cup drivers from Owensboro, Ky., is attempting to regain the form of 1998, when he won a Winston Cup race and finished seventh in the point standings.

Last year saw a decline both for Mayfield and for Rusty Wallace, his pseudo-teammate. Wallace drives for Penske Racing South, Mayfield for Penske-Kraneffuss, and Roger Penske has equity in both teams.

The shops are located adjacent to each other, and the teams cooperate in many ways.

Like Michael and Darrell Waltrip, as well as the three Green brothers in the Busch Series, Mayfield grew up in Owensboro and found early prominence racing at local short tracks.

Mayfield lists Darrell Waltrip, the first Owensboro driver to "make it big," as a role model for his early career.

HOMETOWN: Born and raised in Owensboro, Ky., lives in Cornelius, N.C.

AGE: 30

CAR: No. 12 Mobil-1 Ford Taurus, owned by Michael Kraneffuss

CAREER STATISTICS: 182 starts, 1 win, 22 top-five finishes, 40 top-10 finishes,

2 poles, more than \$7 million in career earnings

FIRSTS: Start (Oct. 10, 1993, at Charlotte), pole (July 26, 1996, at Talladega), win (June 21, 1998, at Pocono)

WHAT SETS NASCAR APART FROM OTHER MAINSTREAM SPORTS? "The thing about NASCAR racing is you can meet the drivers, you can meet the teams, and you can actually talk to them and spend some time with them. Try to do that with a pro football player. I noticed that CART is initiating a program to bring their drivers closer to their fans. I think doing that is a pretty smart move on their part and something I bet their fans are really going to love."

DO YOU THINK NASCAR DRIVERS ARE STILL CLOSE TO THEIR FANS? "Let me put it this way. If you want a NASCAR driver's autograph, you don't have much of an excuse for not having it already. Besides at the track, most of us do a lot of personal appearances, all over the country. I've been in Mobil plants, Mobil stores, Kmarts, convenience stores, all over the country. A bunch of times, I'll slip out to our souvenir trailer on Saturdays at the track and sign for an hour or so. You don't have to buy anything — of course, nobody is going to stop you from buying anything — you just have to show up."

Who's Hot... Who's Not

HOT: Tony Stewart has finished in the top five in three of the first five races.

NOT: Bad luck continues to torture Jerry Nadeau, who was involved in a crash on the eighth lap at Darlington and is 35th in the Cup standings.

Trackside Trivia

- Who won the World 600 with relief help from Lee Roy Yarbrough?
- What was the assumed name Bobby Allison used early in his career?
- What driver was known as "The Golden Boy"?

1. Donnie Allison, in 1970; 2. Bob Sanderman; 3. Fred Lorenzen.

AROUND THE GARAGE

Trickle taking over for Bliss on A.J. Foyt's team

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Owner A.J. Foyt has relieved driver Mike Bliss after Bliss failed to make starting fields at Rockingham, Las Vegas and Atlanta.

Veteran Dick Trickle drove the No. 14 Conoco Pontiac at Darlington and will drive the car at Bristol.

NOW THAT'S ROUGH: Jimmy Spencer says the Darlington asphalt is "like a cheese grater."

"It just grinds the tires," Spencer added. "It's got these little white flint rocks in the asphalt and, because it's in the Sandhills, sand gets on the

race track and deteriorates the surface.

"Run your hands across the parking lot while you're there," he suggested. "It'll rake your hand open. It just destroys a set of tires."

TICKET NOSTRADAMUS: The ticket manager at North Carolina Speedway, Deanna Ingram, has twice designed tickets for Winston Cup races at the track, and each time the driver whose photo she selected to adorn the tickets has gone on to win the race.

Ingram, who joined the track in May, put Jeff Burton on the ticket for last fall's race, and Burton went on to win. She put Bobby Labonte on tick-

ets for the Feb. 27 race, and he won. She hasn't announced her choice for the Oct. 22 Pop Secret 400.

NEW RESTRICTOR PLATE: Winston Cup Series director Gary Nelson announced a rule change for the DieHard 500 at Talladega four weeks from now. The carburetor restrictor plates used there will have their openings decreased in size from 29/32 inch to 7/8 inch.

In attempting to improve the quality of the racing, NASCAR has backed off the mandatory shock-absorber rules adopted for the Daytona 500. Only the rear shocks will be standard at Talladega, as opposed to all four in Daytona last month.

FIVE MORE YEARS: Larry McClure has announced a five-year extension in his Abingdon, Va., team's sponsorship contract with Eastman Kodak.

The 15-year partnership began in 1986 and will continue through 2005 under terms of the new contract. With Ernie Ivan, Sterling Marlin and Hamilton behind the wheel, Kodak and McClure have combined for 14 victories, 13 poles, 63 top-five finishes and 143 top-10 finishes.

During the second half of this season, after STP sponsorship of Petty Enterprises ends, Kodak will take over as the longest running continuous primary sponsor in the series.

CREW OF THE WEEK

Dale Jarrett's pit crew is composed mostly of former Rainbow Warriors who crossed over from Jeff Gordon's team in the off-season, but when the chips were down during the final stop of the Mall.com 400, Tommy Baldwin and his crew put Ward Burton back on the track first. Burton broke a 131-race lapse between his other Winston Cup victory, at Rockingham in 1995.

INSIDE THE PRO FISHING TOUR

Reese Brothers Enter the Books

The \$104,000 BASSMASTER Arizona Western Invitational on massive Lake Powell was the scene of a historic occurrence Saturday, when two California brothers placed first and third — the best finish by brothers in the 31 years that the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society has been staging tournaments.

In a bitterly tough fishing week that brought most of the West's best bass pros to their knees, Skeet Reese, a past BASS Masters Classic qualifier and the better known of the two brothers, countered the difficult conditions to run away with the top honors. His older brother Jimmy placed third.

Skeet and Jimmy Reese, who spent their formative bass-fishing years competing together in team tournaments in California, ganged up on the rest of the field to steal the show at the Lake Powell event, which ended Saturday. Skeet Reese, the second-round leader, sealed an easy victory with a final-round catch of 9 pounds, 2 ounces to score the first BASS win of his career with a total of 25½ pounds. Jimmy Reese finished third with 14-6 despite catching only a single 1½-pound largemouth in the final round. Both took home fully rigged Ranger boats valued at more than \$25,000.

Sandwiched between the Reese brothers was first-round leader Mike Reynolds, who struggled for the final two days. His two-bass, 4-pound, 11-ounce final stringer pushed his three-day total to 19-6 — good enough for second place and another Ranger boat.

Jimmy Reese, 34, owner of a janitorial service in Ukiah, Calif., was asked to name the best fisherman in the family. "That would be Skeet Reese's brother," he replied, laughing. "We both have our strong suits. Obviously, Skeet has more experience. I don't want to give him the edge, but the edge goes to him."

Eastern BASS Concluded Shane Meers of Rome, Ga., won the final BASSMASTER Eastern Invitational Saturday on Alabama's Pickwick and Wilson Lakes with a three-day total of 36-3. He won \$42,000. North Carolina pro Todd Auten finished second with 32 pounds.

The final Eastern standings determined the first five qualifiers for the 2000 BASS Masters Classic in Chicago: Woo Daves of Virginia, Michael Iaconelli of New Jersey, George Cochran of Arkansas, Gerald Beck of North Carolina and Charlie Youngers of Florida.

Record-Setting EverStart Hometown angler William Smith of Moncks Corner, S.C., recently survived four days of intense competition on the Santee-Cooper Lakes to set a new final-round weight record of 21 pounds, 3 ounces and win \$10,000, plus a Ranger bass boat, in his first EverStart Batteries Series tournament.

Smith, a 29-year-old maintenance technician, caught five bass during the final round to break the 19-15 final-round weight record set in 1999, also on Santee-Cooper. "I kick myself every time one of these big tournaments comes to town and I don't compete," said Smith, who had to borrow an outboard from a local boat dealer just to fish the tournament. "This time I decided to go for it. It's really unbelievable. Words just can't describe how I feel."

Tim Tucker's Pro Power Ratings

Star indicates a pro who is coming on strong.

This Week	Last Week	Weeks on List	Angler, Hometown
1	1	39	Denny Brauer, Camdenton, Mo. Runner-up in '99 Classic; Fla. Top 150 finals
2	2	39	Davy Hite, Prosperity, S.C. Won '99 BASS Masters Classic
3	3	39	Larry Nixon, Bee Branch, Ark. Won BASS Top 150 opener; made Md. finals
4	4	39	Kevin VanDam, Kalamazoo, Mich. Won N.Y. BASS event; reigning Angler of Year
5	5	22	Tim Horton, Spruce Pine, Ala. Won Md. Top 150; Mich. and Ga. Top 150 finals
6	6	39	Rick Clunn, Ava, Mo. Runner-up in Vl. BASS Top 150
7	7	22	David Fritts, Lexington, N.C. Two top-10 finals; Millennium runner-up
8	8	39	Stephen Browning, Hot Springs, Ark. BASS Mich. Top 150 finals; FLW Fla. finals
9	9	9	Michael Iaconelli, Woodbury Heights, N.J. Won Vl. Top 150; runner-up in Fla. Top 150
10	10	3	Shaw Grigsby, Gainesville, Fla. Won last two Top 150 tournaments
11	11	36	Zell Rowland, Montgomery, Texas Finals of Vl. BASS Top 150
12	12	36	Clark Wendland, Cedar Park, Texas Won FLW Open; MegaBucks runner-up
13	13	19	Darrell Robertson, Jay, Okla. M-1 champ; won \$850,000 in two months
14	14	29	Roland Martin, Clewiston, Fla. Runner-up in Top 150 season-opener; 21st in Md.
15	15	17	Aaron Martens, Castaic, Calif. Calif. BASS winner; made Ga. Top 150 finals

These ratings of America's top tournament bass pros are based on Tim's opinion of their talent, knowledge, experience and most recent tournament performances.

PRO BASS FISHING RESULTS

Alabama Invitational

Here are the top finishers in the Alabama BASSMASTER Eastern Invitational held March 21-23 on Pickwick/Wilson Lakes, Florence, Ala., including angler, hometown, total catch (and number of dead fish), total weight, and earnings.

Rank	Angler	Hometown	Total Catch	Total Weight	Earnings
1	Shane Meers	Rome, Ga.	10/0	36-03	\$42,000
2	Todd Auten	Gastonville, N.C.	10/0	32-00	\$27,000
3	Michael Iaconelli	Woodbury Heights, N.J.	11/0	31-13	\$25,000
4	Woo Daves	Spring Grove, Va.	8/0	29-09	\$9,000
5	Joe Thomas	Millford, Ohio	12/0	24-12	\$7,000
6	Charlie Youngers	Oviedo, Fla.	7/0	23-04	\$5,500
7	Tom Hamlin Jr.	Macon, Ga.	8/0	22-15	\$5,000
8	John Crase	Lexington, Ky.	5/0	22-07	\$4,500
9	John Johnson	Winnebago, Ill.	9/0	21-11	\$4,000
10	Rick Sharp	Florence, Ala.	5/1	21-07	\$3,700
11	Duane Lewis Jr.	Dresden, Maine	6/0	21-05	\$3,200
12	Dave Barnes Sr.	Weeks Mills, Maine	9/0	20-15	\$2,900
13	Gary Gausman	Lachute, Quebec	5/0	19-11	\$2,500
14	Sandy Melvin	Boca Grande, Fla.	8/0	18-00	\$2,250
15	Tom Doherty	Palatine Bridge, N.Y.	7/0	18-00	\$2,250
16	Roger Farmer	Dalton, Ga.	7/0	18-08	\$2,000
17	Ricky Allen	Bartlett, Tenn.	6/0	18-00	\$2,000
18	Jody Cordell	Stone Mountain, Ga.	5/0	17-12	\$2,000
19	Terry Baksey	Monroe, Conn.	7/0	16-08	\$2,000
20	Al Krizan	Hopatcong, N.J.	6/0	16-08	\$2,000
21	George Cochran	Hot Springs, Ark.	7/0	15-12	\$1,900
22	Gregory Pugh	Cullman, Ala.	6/0	15-12	\$1,900
23	Fred Bland	Birmingham, Ala.	6/0	15-08	\$1,900
24	Mike Hicks	Richmond, Va.	6/0	15-07	\$1,900
25	Charlie Hartley	Grove City, Ohio	5/0	15-04	\$1,900
26	Van Schwendemann	Franklin, Tenn.	6/0	15-01	\$1,800
27	Ricky Wisdom	Florence, Ala.	4/0	14-14	\$1,800
28	Bert King	Lenoir City, Tenn.	6/0	14-14	\$1,800
29	Gerald Gostenik	Dearborn, Mich.	5/0	14-12	\$1,800

Arizona Invitational

Here are the top finishers in the Arizona BASSMASTER Western Invitational held March 9-11 on Lake Powell at Page, Ariz., including angler, hometown, total catch (and number of dead fish), total weight, and earnings.

Rank	Angler	Hometown	Total Catch	Total Weight	Earnings
1	Skeet Reese	Cotati, Calif.	14/0	25-08	\$26,000
2	Mike Reynolds	Modesto, Calif.	7/0	19-06	\$25,000
3	Jimmy Reese	Ukiah, Calif.	11/0	14-06	\$25,000

A weekly guide to sports in the wild, including the professional bass fishing tour

Outdoors

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YOUR SPORTS

Taking Wing



Skydivers Prove Anyone Can Fly

A Skydive Hawaii staff member and a customer take a tandem jump over Oahu.

By STEVE GUST

What exactly motivates someone to jump out of a plane at 13,000 feet so she can free-fall at 120 mph for almost a minute?

For Dany Brooks, 38, it just looked like fun. Now, it's part of her job. She is the director of communications for the United States Parachute Association and has logged 1,850 jumps.

Until 1992, though, she was just another worker in a San Francisco office. That's when she and a dozen or so co-workers saw a video about skydiving.

"It looked fun and we decided to give it a try," Brooks said.

Getting ready for that first jump required a day-long instruction session, but soon Brooks was on her way up in a Cessna.

Finally, with the hum of the engine and the rush of the wind in her ears, Brooks inched her way out by the wheel, following the hand signals of the flight master.

"Hand signals are the only way you can communicate. You can't hear anything when you're that far up," she said.

And then, the moment of truth. She tumbled out into the air, kept from a free fall only by a parachute that hadn't yet been activated.

"You really don't feel like you're falling," she said. "You just feel air pressure. It's like sticking your hand out of the car window when you're driving."

Whatever the feeling, she liked it. "Of all the people in the office, I was the only one who stuck with it," she said. She liked it so much that when the USPA needed a communications director, she applied, although it meant moving to Alexandria, Va.

After 1,850 jumps, you would imagine that Brooks has had a scary moment or two. She has.

"There was one time I had to pull the reserve chute," Brooks said. She had already logged more than 500 jumps at the time, so when she tugged the handle that day and nothing happened, she knew to go for the reserve chute. Her heart skipped a beat or two, but the reserve chute worked.

"That was kind of my fault," she said. "I had someone else pack the chute."

Promoting safety, she points out, is one of the missions of the USPA. And, she added, most accidents occur after the chute is deployed.

Frank Hinshaw of Hawaii knows about the dangers, but touts the sport's safety record.

"It more dangerous when I drive talking on a cell phone," he said, while doing just that.

He made his first jump in March 1981 "to relieve stress." Soon, the Columbia, Mo., native was hooked on skydiving. By 1992, he was the owner of Skydive Hawaii at Dillingham Airfield on Oahu, where he caters mainly to the large tourist trade.

"When people are on vacation, they usually do things they wouldn't do at home, and skydiving is one of them," he said.

Most will jump tandem style, which is probably the easiest way to parachute for the inexperienced. A customer is harnessed to a more experienced skydiver, and one chute carries both down.

Hinshaw says anyone can do it. Besides some of the rich and famous, including entertainer David Hasselhoff, about 26,000 others use his service each year. "We've had blind people and paraplegics jump," he said. "We even had a 99-year-old grandmother do it. Anyone can do it."

Tips From the Pros



DEAN ROJAS of Lake Havasu City, Ariz., is a past BASS Masters Classic qualifier. He is pictured with a 13.77-pound bass he caught recently in Texas.

How to Land That Big Bass

"Man, take it easy with big fish. That would be the first thing I would emphasize once you get them up close to the boat. That's when your rod skills really come into play — learning how to control the rod and the (reel) drag and lead the fish around."

"You always want to try to figure out what the fish is going to do next. If you see him darting around in front of the boat, you always want to go with him. You don't ever want to sit there and get into a tugging match with him, because you're going to lose probably about 80 percent of the time."

"What I like to do when a fish makes a lunge or makes a run is to go with him — giving in to the fish, so to speak. There are a few techniques like bowing down to the fish and kneeling and that sort of thing, but just concentrate on working the fish as easy as you can while making sure your drag is set right. A lot of times, I'll even adjust my drag while I'm fighting the fish."

Late-Season Hunters Face Wary Doves

By TIM TUCKER, Outdoors Writer

Dove hunting is one of America's most popular outdoor sports and certainly among its most social forms of hunting. Each fall and winter, hunters throughout the country get together regularly to socialize as well as bag a limit of the fine-tasting game birds.

But many dove hunters drop out after the initial phase of hunting. And those who persevere during the later stages of the season need to adjust their tactics somewhat for hunting pressured birds.

Florida dove hunter Jerry Gerardi makes several adjustments that he says pay big dividends when hunting late-season doves.

First, he uses extra camouflage, even covering his face. "Camo is more important late in the season because the birds are very, very wary by then, because they've been shot at all season long," he said. "Also, make sure the finish on your gun is dull or covered with camouflage tape. Otherwise, the shine from the gun barrel is enough to spook wary doves in flight."

"If you wear glasses, wear a face-net or a wide-brim hat because when you look up at the birds, the sunlight reflects off your glasses. It's just like somebody standing out there signaling with a mirror. So many times I could never figure out why the birds would veer off just as they got into range. And I've had other hunters tell me they could see the reflection every time I looked up."

Another good way to extend a successful dove hunting season is to maintain a logbook — something many bird hunters have never considered.

"Doves are very predictable, even more than quail, so a logbook can really be valuable," says veteran Georgia dove hunter B.L. Hampton. "A logbook will help in any hunting situation."

"Logbooks are important for several reasons. None of us would be hunting if we didn't like what we're doing. And by simply flipping through a logbook, you give your memory an assist. You can recall a lot of good information by looking at a log. I would urge a logbook for any sportsman, whether it be fishing or hunting."

"Constructing a logbook for doves, it's important to record the time of day that the flocks started flying. Where the birds were flying. Where the birds were found and what they were doing when they were found. Were they resting or were they coming to the field? Record any behavioral characteristics of the bird that you notice. What was the daylight like? What were the weather conditions? Was the barometric pressure rising or falling? What was the moon phase?"

"Over a period of time, a logbook will really give you a lot of insight into the animal's behavior. That will give you as much of a pattern as anything else I know."

That insight is particularly important for those who hunt the final days of the season.



A dove hunter shows off his late-season take.

WRITE TO US

The Outdoors page is published weekly by Longwing Publications Inc., P.O. Box 15045, Sarasota, FL 34277. Outdoors writer Tim Tucker, who has written for every major outdoors magazine in America, has a Web site at www.probbass.com. If you have a question that you would like Tim to answer on this page, write to him in care of Longwing Publications. Sorry, no phone calls.

GEAR AND GOODIES

MirrOlure Adds to Top Pup Bass-Lure Lineup

For more years, the 63-year-old L&S Bait Co. of Largo, Fla., has been best known for its time-tested MirrOlure saltwater plugs, which have caught everything from trout to tarpon for as long as we can remember. But in recent years, the MirrOlure folks have jumped into the freshwater (particularly bass) market.

L&S Bait recently added a new lure to its Top Dog line of topwater plugs designed for catching bass. The new Top Pup is the smallest of the three bass surface plugs.

The Top Pup is just 3½ inches in length, but it looks like a bass-catcher. It features round-bend hooks, enticing 3D eyes, highly reflective built-in body inserts, lifelike scales and gills as part of



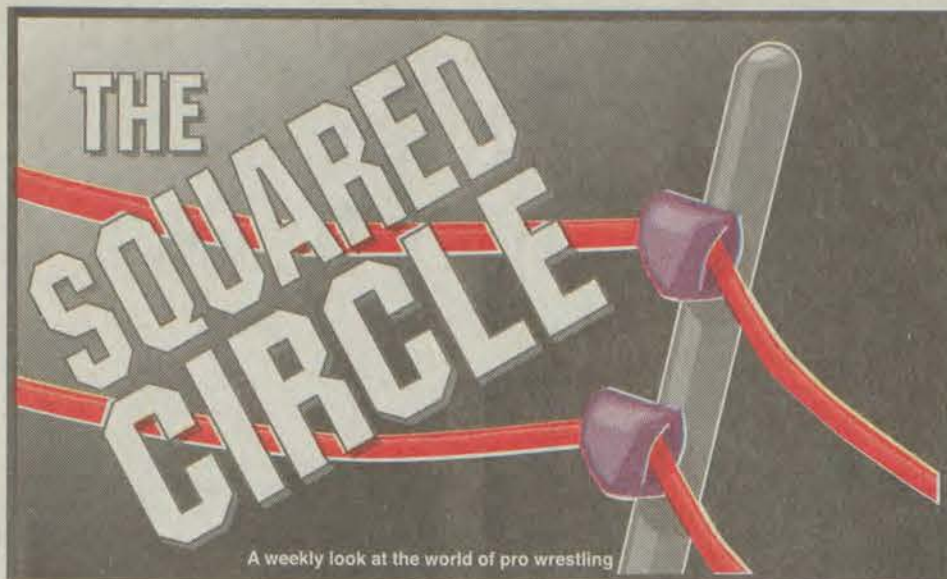
the color pattern, and a durable heat-cured finish. Available in nine colors, the Top Pup is tank-tested and hand-tuned.

On the water, it casts smoothly and features a nearly automatic side-to-side darting motion that bass anglers refer to as "walking

the dog." It also gives off a loud noise from an internal rattle that should attract bass from a distance.

— Tim Tucker

For more information, call L&S Bait Co. at (727) 584-7691.



A weekly look at the world of pro wrestling

PAY-PER-VIEW

■ **WWF, Wrestlemania 2000, Anaheim, Calif., April 2**

TOP 10

1. Triple H, WWF
2. Mike Awesome, ECW
3. The Rock, WWF
4. Sid Vicious, WCW
5. Chris Jericho, WWF
6. The Big Show, WWF
7. Jeff Jarrett, WCW
8. Raven, ECW
9. Justin Credible, ECW
10. Crash Holly, WWF



■ THE ROCK ■ JUSTIN CREDIBLE

Look for: Mick Foley to have a nonwrestling role at Wrestlemania.

MAILBAG

Tell us what you think about professional wrestling, its stars, trends and story lines.

Also, if you have a question or comment about a subject, write to us at The Squared Circle, c/o Sports, News Journal, 70 W. Fourth St., Mansfield, Ohio 44903. You can fax it to us at 419-521-7415 or e-mail to aconchel@cosmg.com. Please include your hometown.

Dear Squared Circle, I have been watching wrestling just about all of my life. I was wondering, did Chris Candido and Crash Holly used to be a tag team in the WWF? Here is my top 10.

1. The Rock
 2. Mike Awesome
 3. Stone Cold
 4. Kane
 5. Cactus Jack
 6. Matt Hardy
 7. Jeff Hardy
 8. Sid Vicious
 9. Rakishi
 10. Spike Dudley
- My top 5 tag teams are:
1. Hardy Boys
 2. Too Cool
 3. Rock and Sock Connection
 4. Edge and Christian
 5. Godfather and D-Lo Brown
- Ryan Daubenmire
Lancaster, Ohio

A: No, Candido teamed with Dr. Tom Pritchard to form the Body Donnas a few years ago in the WWF. Crash Holly worked independent shows before coming to the WWF.

Dear Squared Circle, When I went to Fargo for "Thunder," I thought it was really exciting. WWF would have been better, but WWF never comes around here, so I enjoyed WCW.

1. Bret Hart
2. The Rock
3. Kane
4. Undertaker
5. Triple H
6. Buff Bagwell
7. Chris Jericho
8. Hulk Hogan
9. The Big Show
10. Konnan

What happened to the Filthy Animals?
— A Fargo, N.D., fan

A: They broke up a couple of months ago. Konnan and Rey Mysterio Jr. are trying to get out of WCW.

FEUD OF THE WEEK



Steve Corino vs. Tommy Dreamer, ECW

CATCH PHRASES

"He's been busted wide open."
— Any announcer

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



By Anthony Conchel
Squared Circle Editor

Since 1985, there's been one constant in World Championship Wrestling. Wrestlers have come and gone between WCW and other promotions, but one face has remained. That constant is a 250-pound, face-painted fan favorite named Sting.

Even though he's been out of action lately making a TNT movie and nursing some minor bumps and bruises, WCW fans still love The Stinger. More than a thousand loyal followers logged onto wcw.com recently to chat with Steve Borden about his career, his movie and his future.

"I was looking for a change. I was just hanging around Los Angeles and getting bored" when the movie opportunity arose, Sting said.

The result was the lead role in "ShutterSpeed" opposite Daisy Fuentes. Borden played the role of a cop and did a commendable job in his first on-screen persona.

How did the rough-and-tumble wrestler fare on the set of an action adventure?

"I really enjoyed the movie. I used a stunt double for most things. But I did some minor stunts like the motorcycle riding and hanging onto the side of the truck during a chase scene."

Borden described the six weeks of filming as "grueling."

He would film in Vancouver, British Columbia, for five days, get up on Sunday morning, eat breakfast and fly to the states. On Monday he'd appear at "Nitro" and then return to Vancouver at 3 or 4 a.m. Tuesday.

"I don't like the traveling. I've been doing it for 15 years. Getting on an airplane, getting a cab, checking into a hotel, going to the arena. But it's part of the life of a professional wrestler," he said.

"I've probably wrestled in about 6,000 matches all over the world. I don't know ... maybe

closer to 8,000."

A couple of years ago Sting abandoned the short, bleached blond hair and bright face paint for a darker look.

"I was trying to change my image into a more edgy character."

The strange thing was that fans loved him even more. Despite not being on television for several months at a time, his return was greeted with cheers, and Sting masks could be seen throughout the arenas. Hanging out in the rafters and wielding a ball bat, Sting emerged wearing black, and his legion of fans has never been stronger.

"I'd like to thank the fans who have supported me through all the years and changes. I'm still unclear on my character's future. I'm not withholding information; I'm just not sure where to plug myself into here," he said.

Sting acknowledged that WCW is in transition.

"There are still so many changes going on in WCW. And in the process there have been a lot of sacrifices made — some good and some bad."

"I had a lot of creative control in 1997 and '98 and had a great working relationship with Eric Bischoff."

Sting's come a long way since teaming with Jim Hellwig (The Ultimate Warrior) as the Bladerunners Rock and Sting. Now at age 40, the husband and father is pondering his future in the sport.

A devout Christian, Sting seems content spending time at home with his wife and children.

"We bought a little fixer-upper of a house. It was built in 1934. So my wife and I are redoing it and having fun with that. I might do another movie ... I would love to do a comedy or a western."

And will Sting follow in the footsteps of authors Ted DiBiase, Mick Foley and The Rock by writing a book about his life?

WHO IS THE MAN BEHIND THE PAINT?

WCW's veteran performer Sting makes his acting debut, contemplates the future

AFTER THE BELL

News and gossip from the wrestling world:

■ Word has it that Kevin Nash's power is slowly being eroded by WCW executives. Meanwhile, Terry Taylor resigned from WCW's booking committee because of his frustration over his ideas being ignored by Kevin Sullivan and J.J. Dillon. Taylor, however, still works as a road agent.

■ Former wrestler Liz Chase died in Florida recently. Chase, only in her mid 40s, held several titles, including the Florida Championship Wrestling strap. She retired a few years ago and had been selling real estate.

■ The WWF's King of the Ring is slated for June 25 at Boston's Fleet Center.

■ Despite its organizational problems, WCW is going ahead with plans to develop a cartoon aimed at kids 11 and under.

■ Al Snow will take some time off shortly because of three bulging disks in his back. He has been pulled from house shows until Wrestlemania, and may not see much action until he heals.

■ Davey Boy Smith is in an Atlanta rehab center trying to kick his addiction to painkillers. He met with WWF owner Vince McMahon and decided to seek help in his two-year battle with this problem. We wish Smith well and hope he can return to action after getting the help he needs.

■ The Blue Meanie and Jim Anvil Neidhart are now Music City Wrestling tag team champs. Meanie has dropped 30 more pounds and wants another shot in the WWF.

■ The WWF is negotiating with other networks in addition to the USA Network for its three programs — "Live Wire," "Superstars" and "Raw is War." The contract with USA expires in September.

■ Diamond Dallas Page is still out on the sidelines with his back injury. He is trying to rehab the injury himself in the gym.

■ This year's Brian Pillman Memorial Show will be Thursday, May 25, in Cincinnati, at the Xavier Schmidt Fieldhouse. ECW is running an event at the same time in Columbus. The Pillman organizers say that Dallas Page, Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Shane Douglas, Al Snow, D-Lo Brown, Terry Taylor, Missy Hyatt, Chris Candido and Tammy Sytch plan to attend. Last year more than \$35,000 was raised for Pillman's widow, Melanie, and their children.

■ Acclaim announced that ECW "Hardcore Revolution" climbed the video game charts in just its first two days on sale to become the No. 2-selling video game for Play Station Game Console of the Week.

■ After leaving WCW for the second time recently, Steven Regal has once again signed a contract with the WWF. Regal has battled personal problems, including an addiction to painkillers. He'll work out in WWF's development system before getting a mainstream push.

COMING TO YOUR TOWN

A look at upcoming wrestling shows across the country:

- WWF...**
- March 18, Cedar Falls City, Iowa
 - March 19, Moline, Ill.
 - March 20, "Raw Is War," Chicago

- WCW...**
- March 20, "Nitro," Gainesville, Fla.
 - March 21, "Thunder," Orlando, Fla.
 - March 25, Abilene, Texas



- ECW...**
- March 18, Salem, N.H.
 - March 24, Wichita, Kan.
 - March 25, Kansas City, Kan.
 - March 31, Richmond, Va.

REAL NAMES

Little Guido
James Matotato
5-9, 201

Hometown: Howard Beach, N.Y.

Birthday:
March 12, 1972

Pro debut:
September 1991

MAT MEMORIES

A look back at memorable moments in pro wrestling history:

■ Feb. 9, 1937: Billy Wolfe defeats Clara Morensen via disqualification in an inter-gender match in Atlanta.

■ April 1985: The first wrestling videotape — Pro Wrestling Illustrated's "Lords of the Ring" — is released.

WHO'S HOT/WHO'S NOT



Chris Benoit: Since coming to the WWF several weeks ago, The Crippler has received a lot of TV exposure. He's a terrific wrestler who should get main-event status.

Stephanie McMahon: Her gimmick as Triple H's wife might be up soon. But perhaps she'll find another on-camera role with the WWF. She's very convincing.

WRESTLING ON THE WEB

- www.wrestlezone.com
- www.wrestleScoop.com
- www.WWF.com
- www.WCW.com
- www.ECWwrestling.com
- www.wrestlingarena.com
- www.wrestlemania.com



If you know of a new or hot wrestling Web site, share it with Squared Circle readers. Send it to aconchel@cosmg.com

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Eastern team places first in Space 2000

Floyd County student involved

by Sha Phillips
 Assistant news editor
 Eastern Progress

It rolls. It digs. It drills. It even watches with a camera. It is the national championship robotics device from Eastern Kentucky University.

On March 1, Eastern's five-member robotics team captured the first-place trophy in the Space 2000 and Robotics 2000 Construction Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event was co-sponsored by NASA.

In 1998, the team competed in the contest and won second place. Luke Anderson, a junior business management/aviation administration major from Sarasota, Florida, is the only original team member.

"Winning second place (in 1998) gave us more confidence this year," Anderson said.

The robotics device they used at the competition was the same concept as before, just more technical, according to Anderson.

Since the team spent so much time together building the device, teamwork was a must. Patrick Eidson, a junior construction management major from Richmond, said one of his favorite parts of the trip to Albuquerque was hanging out with the guys.

"It was a good feeling of accomplishment to work for the same goal," Eidson said.

Anderson, a punter for Eastern's football team, said working with the different majors made the project more realistic.

"Everyone had different ideas about how to solve the same prob-



Demonstrating their robot are, from left, Wendell Wilson, Luke Anderson, Bobby Owens, Wes Harris, and Patrick Eidson. (photo by Corey Wilson)

See Space, page two

This Town That World

Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being reprinted due to request. The following column was written in 1960.

We read a lot about ententes, these days. It's not their ententes but their purposes that interest us.

IN HONOR OF DOCTORS

March 30 was Doctor's Day, a time for recognition of those who are seldom appreciated fully until we are so sick we can't even say, "Thanks." Voltaire paid these who serve fitting honor when he wrote:

"No man is more worthy of esteem than a physician who, having studied nature from his youth, knows the properties of the human body, the diseases which assail it and the remedies which will benefit it; who exercises his art with caution and who gives equal attention to the rich and the poor."

FISHING REPORT

John Warrix, of Prestonsburg, was the only Floyd County fisherman known to have come home from Cumberland Lake with a fish after having a go at the lake's famous walleye run over the weekend. He landed an eight-pounder.

If the unknown man who recorded on movie film this high spot in the life of the aforesaid Mr. Warrix will contact this newspaper, we will be glad to pay him a liberal rental fee on that film. We have an idea we might turn it into profit for ourselves.

MORE OF SAME

Olin Elliott, of Allen, came up Sunday with the prize local catch of the belated fishing season with a seven-pound bass taken from Dewey Lake. We also hear talk of a six-pounder being caught the same day.

That big bass Oral Delong reported Wednesday afternoon was more than talk it was so real I turned pea-green with envy.

AH, MUSE!

This is the season of spring poetry, but the verse we've seen circulated about town doesn't seem to be of that variety. We were not aware that there is so much literary talent hereabouts.

OF WORDS AND SUCH

Saw in a book, the other day, an explanation of how the word "greenhorn," came into usage. It seems that in the old days, when oxen were used as draught animals their owners found them so dumb that they would not learn to obey one or two simple commands till they were old enough to have heavy horns. The ox with young, or "green," horns just would not "yea" or "back" or "gee" or "haw" when ordered to do so, simply because the brute was so dumb he hadn't learned what the orders meant. And so it came to pass, we are told, that a beginner or one who doesn't know the ropes is referred to as a "greenhorn."

Which gets me around to thinking about the origin of that good, old mountain word, "feminst," means, "opposite." I'm inclined to think this word is the result of the English penchant for contracting words and phrases in that clipped speech of theirs. Strikes me that it may have all started with the phrase, "over against," which does mean, "opposite," and with the English shortening it as they did with one of their oaths, "S blood." Thus they made of it "verginst," and by the time some of our sturdy pioneers got through with it, it



Marathoners Lisa and John Salyer with Bill Francis

Fulfilling a goal in my life

by Bill Francis

It was Saturday, January 23, 1999. John and Lisa Salyer of Oil Springs, Rex Music, Randall Watts and I had just finished running a 5-K run as part of the Winter Bluegrass State Games.

It was 33 degrees with rain and winds gusting 40 mph. I noted that this was close to the weather we would encounter if we ran in the marathon in Xenia, Ohio, just south of Dayton.

Everyone laughed as I tried to talk them into running a marathon. None of us had ever run in one. We would have only six weeks to train for the race.

We stopped at the Running Shop in Lexington and I talked with Larry, one of the clerks. He laughed and said he thought we were crazy even to talk about doing a marathon. He said it takes at least six months to train for one.

I told him we were going to do it in six weeks. He talked loud with a laugh so everyone in the store could hear him stating that we thought we were going to run a marathon with only six weeks to train.

We began running the next day. We would meet at Allen Central High School parking lot. Rex, John, Lisa and I. I believe we were all

See Goal, page two

Painting of local woman on exhibit in Frankfort

A Floyd County woman who is no stranger to honors has been honored once again with the hanging of her portrait in the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort.

A watercolor portrait of Eula Hall, founder of the Mud Creek Clinic, has been included in the Kentucky Women Remembered Exhibit at the capitol building.

Portraits of Hall and five other outstanding Kentucky women were unveiled in a special ceremony on March 7 by Gov. and Mrs. Paul Patton.

Hall was nominated by Mike Howell and Joyce Preston of the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Inc., of which she has been a board member for 17 years.

In their nomination, Howell and Preston cited Hall's founding of the Mud Creek Clinic, her work to get safe drinking water to residents of the area, and her efforts on behalf of black lung benefits, Social Security, SSI, Aid to Dependent Children and other programs for low income persons.

The nomination calls her "a remarkable eastern Kentucky woman whose desire in life has been to ensure that the people of the Big Sandy area receive quality health care regardless of their ability to pay for it."

See Painting, page two



Flanking the portrait of Eula Hall are, from left, Hall, her son Dean Hall, Kentucky First Lady Judi Patton, and daughter-in-law Sheila Hall.

PostScript

by Pam Shingler
 Editor



The business of art

If you watch The Movie Channel or any of the other channels that offer old movies, you're likely to see musicals from the 1930s where a bunch of kids with nothing but talent, stage a major production for friends, neighbors and Hollywood movie moguls.

It all starts with one of them—Judy Garland or Mickey Rooney, most likely—exclaiming, "Let's put on a show."

Of course, they have no money, but someone has a old barn, and, heck, what else do you need?

That's the movies. That's fiction. It's not

real life.

Real life is meeting a payroll, paying royalties for the right to put on a show, housing the cast and crew, forking over thousands of dollars for insurance, and coming up with enough money to cover dozens of other expenses.

Jenny Wiley Theatre, one of our region's true treasures, is reality. As capable as the folks there are of transporting us out of reality into a dream world for a few hours at a time, they have to rely on real money to do it.

Folks at the theatre are in the midst of fund-raising now for the all-too-close summer season. For whatever reason, individual gifts are down this year, so more mailings and a telethon are being planned.

Some folks mistakenly think that ticket prices cover the cost of the productions. Nuh-uh. To cover the cost, tickets would have to be \$30-or more apiece—more like you'd pay in Lexington for a touring group

that's just passing through and doesn't care squat about you. That, of course, doesn't include what it costs you in gas to get there, food at a chic restaurant, and perhaps lodging, since it's no fun driving back on the Mountain Parkway at midnight. (Then, there's the cost of someone to watch the kids and the kennel bill for the dogs.)

Some folks also mistakenly think that the theatre gets grants to cover its costs. Again, nuh-uh. Yes, the theatre does receive some grants, but they don't begin to pay all the bills. And, some grants, in fact, require that the theatre match the grant with local donations. If local gifts don't add up, then the grant is cut back, which, when you think about it makes sense. Why should such a faraway foundation give money to an organization that local people won't support?

Marty Childers, JWT's new managing director, shared with me the other day some of the bills he has to find money to pay. The information would be a reality check for

Judy, Mickey and friends.

- Payroll for cast and crew: \$238,000 (most of which comes back into the local economy, since the employees spent their checks here)

- Housing for cast and crew: \$25,000
- Insurance: \$15,000+
- Marketing and advertising: \$40,000
- Royalties: \$500 to \$800 per performance (Check how many performances of each Broadway-originated show, and do the math.)

Those figures don't include money for building sets and making costumes, maintaining the sound system, and hundreds of other expenses that will crop up.

Childers says he hopes to raise \$175,000 from individuals and corporate donors this season.

I know how he can do it. You get out your checkbook and make a contribution—it's tax deductible.

Hey, let's put on a show!

Things to Ponder

Tattoos: Body talk

by Mable Rowe Lineberger, Ph.D.

A guess is that anyone aware of his surroundings has really seen the increase in how all ages are expressing their ideas and feelings permanently in their body—art.

Being of curious nature, some questions might be: Where did it all come from? Why would anyone want to do that? (especially since a reasonable goal should be to have as little pain and discomfort as possible in all ways)

Even though there seems to be an increase in tattooing, a lot of basic information could not be found across several searches. The greatest portion was a list of locations tattoos are done and pictures of what different choices would be.

A major "piece of information" was from "Tattooed Brazil and Other Worlds," written by Toni Marques (1997). The following is a summary of the historical aspects of tattooing and is presented from the viewpoint that somebody said, "We need to know a little bit about a lot of things."

According to Marques, one of the first mentions of tattoos, by Brazilian anthropologists and also foreign visitors to Brazil, was by Henri Estienne, a European explorer.

He wrote in 1512 about his exhibiting Brazilian natives at the French Court, who were decorated with scars and blue tattoo marks on their faces. Some natives had blue lines from their ears to their shins.

An account of competitiveness was described by a missionary in 1577-78. Natives performing cannibalism were being honored; after eating, the natives returned home and rubbed black powder into bloody incisions on their chests, arms, and thighs, which made them indelible. The natives with the most scars, the number of victims sacrificed, received the greatest respect.

By the way, another way that history repeats itself is that the number of notches always rewards the "John Wayne-type of male competitions." It is also noteworthy that the natives used various "instruments" to make their tribal patterns, i.e., rodents' teeth, diamonds, palm tree thorns, fish teeth, and mammals' teeth with soot placed into the wounds. Reportedly, tribes have been found in the 1990s that continue similar practices.

A more recent historical perspective was given in a

book about tattooing in Brazil in 1908, commonly done by convicts, laborers, sailors, soldiers, street vendors, and "other members of the lower classes."

At that time, European tattooing was depicted as: "French tattooing is varied, expressive and artistic. English tattooing is monumental, exuberant, and extravagant. German tattooing is monotonous, with a perfection that is almost mechanical."

Brazilian tattooing was much more modest and less spiritual than European tattooing with simple ornaments and naive designs—names in banners, figure of a crucified Christ, and Saint George killing the dragon.

In another Brazilian book of 1908, several different types of tattooing were described. An unexpected tattoo of a black deity was found on a sorcerer and was supposedly the first historical mention connecting tattooing, not usually practiced by blacks, and the religion of blacks.

The Turkish Muslims tattooed magical amulets and charms, while other groups tattooed magical symbols and icons on their chest and arms.

This second author included his finding 30 children, 10 to 12 years old and working for an "outlaw boss," doing tattoos, using a bottle of ink and an instrument made of three needles attached to a wooden stick. Reportedly, mother's milk was used to remove the tattoo.

During the early 1960s, modern tattooing really began in Brazil, supposedly by a Danish self-taught artist—"a wild guy. He drank a lot and used drugs." At the same time, surfing became popular in Rio and well known, handsome surfers getting tattoos helped the business prosper.

One of the first female tattooists had a "high class (business)... in a very good neighborhood in Rio... got to tattoo the golden youth: the educated kids from good homes... there are also people tattooing in the streets, reportedly exchanging tattoos for sex, drugs, a CD or anything."

In addition, tattoos were described in featured songs of the day so that it became a mass phenomenon, even up to the 1980s. Everyone wanted a tattoo. However, they reportedly were not interested in native Brazilian tattooing, but preferred American Indians or tribal designs from Borneo.

Marques ended his findings about tattooing the following way: "Tattooing for me is a declaration of love for life. Because it communicates that every single day of your entire life, you look at it and understand what it talks about. It talks about love." What do you think?

Space

lems," Anderson said.

Bobby Owens, a senior construction management major from Sturgis, said the team had a difficult time building the device until the last day.

"Making all the parts work together was the hardest," Owens said.

After all the problems were solved and the competition was over, the team members were in awe that they did so well. It was just a matter of waiting until the next day to see how they scored.

"It was nice to see them win, but the object of the contest was not winning, but experience," said Walter Boles, the faculty adviser.

Experience was just what they got. It was Wendell Wilson's first plane ride.

"I had been out there before, so this time it brought back memories of the trip," said Wilson, a sophomore computer science major

from Wheelwright.

"I hope they carry away a lifetime memory," Boles said.

A memory no students or alumni will soon forget is having an Eastern flag launched up in a space shuttle because the team won the competition.

"That's the icing on the cake," Anderson said.

The team will try to get to the launch in August. They will also receive a letter from a commander saying the flag is in space.

All of the team members hope to attend the next competition two years from now.

"If I'm around, I'll definitely do it," Owens said.

Even though Wes Harris, a junior construction management major from Harlan, will be graduated by then, he still plans on going to watch Eastern compete.

According to Boles, it is an accomplishment to get to the com-

Continued from p1

petition because of the cost factors and getting a device to work.

"I was very proud to see Eastern compete at a national level with the caliber of other students in the competition," Boles said.

With a score of 74 out of a 100, Eastern blew the other schools away. The University of Washington scored 60 points, earning second place. North Carolina State University scored in the 20s, leaving them in last place, according to Boles.

"It's an accomplishment to have something working," Boles said.

Four other schools tried to get to the competition, but could not because of financial or technical difficulties.

"I felt like our time and effort was worthwhile," Wilson said. He is the son of Linda June Wilson of Wheelwright and a 1998 graduate of South Floyd High School.

Goal

hoping no one would show.

I was elected coach. I said we would run 14 miles. We would skip building up slowly and jump ahead a couple of weeks. We were going from running six miles a day straight to 14-mile-a-day runs.

The race the day before had taken more out of us because of the extra effort of competition. Rex had to drop out after 11 miles because of knee pain. He had to drop out permanently the week before the marathon and have knee surgery.

John and Rex ran together. Lisa and I ran at our pace. We all ran from Allen Central toward Garrett, one mile and back, then continued to the pump station below Maytown. We returned following the same course we had traveled, except we were on the opposite side of KY 80, a four-lane highway.

I have a terrible phobia of dogs. There was the daily encounter with a Doberman and another large dog. Rex always tried to get what he considered docile beagles to bark at us as we passed. The dogs got very upset at his barking and would run down the hill, ready I knew, to chew off my legs.

Age-wise, Lisa is 26 and a teacher, and her husband John, 31. Rex is 44, and I was over the hill.

The high speed of traffic, coupled with cold temperatures made for very cold running conditions. We didn't care how we looked. We just wanted to be warm. When we got to our turnaround where our bottles of water were waiting, most often the plastic bottles were slushy with ice.

We would begin our runs slowly with all of us together for the first four miles, then John and Rex would pull slightly ahead. Lisa and I developed a close friendship running together, because we shared not only being behind, but we would also talk of our teaching and work experiences. While running, you try to set a pace that will allow you to run and talk.

You would think that a long distance runner would lose lots of weight. We had been running 3.5 to 6.5 miles at a seven-and-a-half minute mile pace during the heat of spring and summer, and you do lose weight.

But during marathon training, we would run at a nine-minute mile pace. We needed to eat all the carbohydrates and water we could consume, and this was a winter marathon.

The carbohydrates, such as pasta and potatoes, convert into sugars and give your body a fast recovery. So, by running at a slower pace and consuming lots of carbohydrates, you gain weight.

You must be careful what you eat, when you eat, and how much you eat. Runners develop a shallow look after doing lots of long distance running. They look tired and, put simply, they often look awful. After six weeks of daily running, we experienced grueling pain in our hips, knees, ankles, and all other joints; the pulling of ligaments, muscle spasms, getting home and grabbing an ice bag and placing it on painful joints; the agony of sleeping with an ice pack between your knees or on top of your hips; sitting in a chair with the bottom of your foot on an ice pack, trying to ease the pain enough to endure another day of running.

You get addicted to running, but not to the pain. You get what is called a "runner's high." In high school sports, they call it "getting your second wind."

You don't really get a second wind. It's the endorphins or pain killers in the brain that kick in and you feel great for four to six hours.

We would run from Garrett on KY 80 to the BP station at Martin and back. Aside from the danger of traffic, there's the problem of individuals shouting out their windows at you. Some come as close as they can to see if they can recognize you.

Running on a slanted road shoulder, such as we did on KY 80, destroys your knees and hips and causes other injuries. We needed Band-Aids to cover our nipples because they got sore from rubbing our shirts. Udder cream helped this problem.

I developed a corn between my little toes on both feet because they overlapped slightly. We kept a good supply of glucose tablets with us. We let them dissolve in our mouths about every 15 minutes to replenish energy.

What to wear was another torture. Whatever the outside air temperature, it's going to feel 20 degrees warmer after you get started. If the temperature is 40 degrees when you begin running, it is going to feel like 60 degrees after half a mile.

In rain, it is easy to slip and fall, and in a thunder storm, there's always the danger of lightning. I don't want to leave out the spraying you receive when each car passes during and after a rain. Your eyes stay bloodshot from the constant dust blowing from the roadway. After the sixth week, we had built up our weekend running distance to 20 miles.

There is no running the week before a marathon. We would need to let our bodies recover from the stressful demands we had put on them.

We had pre-registered for the marathon. Now came the time to make a decision. Could we run and finish a 26.5 mile marathon? We were all by nature competitive individuals. We knew in our minds we would demand more effort of ourselves and run faster in a marathon than our training effort.

Ten miles outside of Xenia, Ohio, the evening before the race, it began a cold flatlander's gusty wind, with snow. The temperature was 27 degrees. We needed to purchase more cold weather running gear. During the evening, the snow was covering the ground, and the temperature had dropped to 20 degrees and was getting colder.

Because of anxiety, I couldn't sleep. We were getting up at 5:30 a.m. The temperature was 10 degrees at 5:30 a.m. and flakes of snow were falling. We found a place to eat. It was filled with veteran marathoners having breakfast. Pancakes and waffles stacked at least six layers, completely covered their plates. Lisa had a piece of toast. John and I had a spoonful of scrambled eggs, toast and water. The temperature rose to 12 degrees, with a wind chill of 14 below. Many experienced marathon runners had decided not to run. Were we crazy to try?

We were off at the firing of the starter's gun. I thought my fingers would freeze stiff, even wearing two pairs of gloves. Warm blood began flowing into them after five miles. I then threw away one pair of 99-cent gloves.

I began eating a glucose tablet every 15 minutes. There was a water table every two miles. Everyone would grab a cup, take a sip while running and throw the remaining water down.

After the turnaround, everyone who had given us water was waving, encouraging us not to fall. There was ice on the course and several runners had slipped and fallen.

Lisa and I were doing well at the 12-mile mark. I decided it was time to pick up the pace. At the 16-

Continued from p1

mile mark, I felt an unbearable pain in my right calf muscle. It was a cramp that felt the size of a golf ball. I was in terrible pain.

At the 18-mile mark, I was beginning to have pain in my hip joints, and I was tiring. I still had eight-and-a-half miles to go. The cramp in my calf returned about every five minutes and I would scream in pain.

I was now at the 22-mile mark, the farthest I had ever run. I was in unbelievable pain and very tired. My legs felt like rubber. My brain kept telling me to stop. My heart said keep going.

I tried to place myself mentally somewhere else, and I visualized someone or a place in front of me to keep me going. I would say this step is for you. I would try to run one step at a time, trying not to think of the miles to go, but, of course, mile markers let you know this.

I was now at the 25-mile mark, the point every marathoner says is the hardest point. You want to stop for just a moment. You are in such pain and you are so tired, but you keep going.

I saw the marker saying .5 mile to the finish line. I tried to pick up the pace just a little, but it was so painful, I could hardly lift my legs, but I saw the finish banner ahead.

I wanted to shout with happiness. I was screaming and hollering out loud, but it was from pain. I got within 200 meters of the finish line and began to sprint. I wanted to pass a younger runner at the finish line. I beat him by a step.

I went through the chute trying to remove my tag. Some people placed a large medal on me, saying I made a great run. I just wanted to begin and finish without stopping and I had done that. More important, I had accomplished one of my goals—running a marathon before my running days end.

We took a shower and had a five-hour drive home. I could sit down, but I could hardly get up. We stopped every 45 minutes, got out and walked around to relieve the pain.

The next day I was in more pain than the day before. I could hardly walk. I pretended I was fine, but I could not get in or out of an automobile without help.

This lasted a week. It took a full month to recover from the marathon. I lost six pounds running the marathon. Lisa and John lost four pounds each.

I again say thanks to those who I thought of, who gave me the heart not to stop. Just don't quit, I could hear them say. I said then that I ran two marathons at once—my first and last.

However, we finished the marathon on March 5 this year. I came in fourth. Lisa came in second, and John came in ninth. We all ran the course about 10 minutes faster than last year, the timer's watch said. We had two additional runners this year, Les Ramsey of Jackson and Gail Faria of Paintsville.

Bill Francis grew up at Garrett, retired from the University of Kentucky and lives at Mousie. He is director of development for Knott County. Write him at P.O. Box 453, Hindman, KY 41822.



In ancient Greece, a boxing match began with two boxers standing face to face, their noses touching.

NEW ARRIVALS



Carley Chantal Hyden

Keith and Apryl Chantal Hyden of Prestonsburg announce the birth of their daughter, Carley Chantal, on February 26, 2000, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. She weighed seven pounds and was 20 inches long. Her maternal grandparents are Carl Layne of Martin and Shirley Sisco of Prestonsburg, and her paternal grandparents are the late Alex and Ruby Hyden, formerly of Blue River. She is the great-granddaughter of Eliza Sisco of Eastern and the late Winfrey Sisco, and of the late John and Jenny Hyden, Ella and Oscar Miller, and Earl Layne and Clistie Rea.



Chelsie Makensie Merion

Scott and Rhonda Merion of Maytown, announce the birth of their daughter, Chelsie Makensie, on February 12, 2000, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She weighed six pounds, 13.7 ounces, and was 20-1/2 inches long. Her maternal grandparents are Rondel and Priscilla Prater of Hueysville, and her paternal grandparents are Derwin and Brenda Merion of Maytown.



Devin Floyd Davis

Kevin and Susan Davis of Hippo announce the birth of their son, Devin Floyd, on December 13, 1999. He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Paul and Anne Faulkner and Floyd Dean and Patty Sue Davis, all of Hippo.

ANNIVERSARIES



Celebrate 50 years

Bud and Chrissie Hagans celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 18, 2000, at Maytown Methodist Church, with their children and other family members. They were married in Martin in 1950. He is retired from Ashland Oil, and she is a homemaker. They have five children: Judy Allen of Indiana, Janie Vanderpool of Louisville, and Nelson, Larry and Jerry Hagans, all of Maytown.

Painting

The nominators trace her involvement with the Mud Creek Clinic from the time it was in her own home until today, when the clinic has its own building, providing not only medical care, but also a pharmacy, dental services, a food pantry and clothing bank. She serves as social services director and food pantry director for the clinic and has been a long-time chairperson of the former Mud Creek Water District.

She has chaired the Kentucky Black Lung Association, EKWRO Health Committee and has served on the board of the Betsy Layne Senior

Citizens, as well as many other boards and committees.

The honoree holds an honorary doctoral degree from Trinity College and has been cited by Family Circle Magazine, Christian Woman Magazine, Wonder Woman Foundation, Common Cause, Berea College, and several other organizations.

She is a former recipient of the Floyd Countian of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce.

Her portrait joins that of 28 other women who have been recognized since 1978.

In addition to Hall, the latest portraits are of the late Dr. Claire Louise Caudill, Morehead physician for 50 years; the late Josephine Henry, who spoke out for women's rights; the late Anna Mae Clarke, a distinguished military leader; Mary T. Meagher Plant, Olympic Gold Medal winner; the late Dr. Louise Southgate, a northern Kentucky physician; and former Governor Martha Layne Collins, the state's only woman governor.

The portraits were done by Paula Jull, a Kentuckian now teaching in Pocatello, Idaho.

Continued from p1

Math teachers to convene

The Eastern Kentucky Council of Teachers of Mathematics Executive Committee will have its 12th annual spring conference on Thursday, April 27, at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park's May Lodge and Wilkinson-Stumbo Conference Center.

The theme this year is "Algebra and Geometry Connections." Conference check-in will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the foyers of both the lodge and the conference center with all grade level sessions starting at 4 p.m.

Dinner will be served in the conference center at about 6 p.m. The after-dinner speaker for this year's conference will be prominent educator and current Interim Deputy Commissioner of Education for Kentucky, Dr. Lois Adams-Rodgers.

Session speakers include Brenda Blackburn, Brenda Mullins, Bernadine Isaacs, and Stanton Watson. All sessions will contain hands-on activities with appropriate technology.

A registration form for the conference must be completed by each individual who plans to attend and returned with appropriate fees by Monday, April 24. Early registration is encouraged.

Fees for the conference are as follows: \$25 for teachers, non-teachers and administrators and \$5 for students. Administrators will be awarded four conference hours of Leadership Development Credit.

Additional information including registration forms can be obtained by contacting John D. Sammons at Prestonsburg Community College or Denise Gibson at Pippa Passes.

Goodman graduates from Sullivan College

Patricia Goodman graduated from Sullivan College in December 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, with a concentration in accounting.

Goodman is a 1994 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and a 1997 graduate of Prestonsburg Community College.

In March of 1997, after enrolling in Sullivan College's "2 + 2" program located on the campus of PCC, Patricia completed her bachelor's degree through Sullivan College in less than one year.

Patricia is the daughter of Martha Kidd of Prestonsburg and John Garrison of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Patricia resides in Prestonsburg with her husband Sam and their daughter Abigail. She is currently employed by Prestonsburg Community College as the staff support associate for the Business and Related Technologies Division.

Patricia is currently pursuing her Master of Business Administration degree at Morehead State University and plans to sit for the CPA examination in May of this year.

Local student honored

Lesley Wells, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wells of Auxier, has been named to the "A" Honor Roll at Georgetown College for the 1999 fall semester, announced Academic Dean Dr. Keon Chi.

Students named to "A" Honor Roll must earn 12 semester hours and have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher.

Georgetown College is a four-year, private liberal arts institution affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The college has been named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 159 national liberal arts colleges.

Piarist school announces first semester honor roll

Two Piarist School students received perfect 4.00 grade point averages (GPA's) for having straight "A's" during the third quarter. Six other students received First Honors for having GPA's above 3.70 and 11 students received Second Honors for having GPA's between 3.25 and 3.70.

The two students with all A's are junior Nora Traum of Prestonsburg, and sophomore William Jones of Langley.

Students receiving First Honors are senior Chastity Ison of East Point; junior Thomas Greene of Prestonsburg; sophomores Bonnie Cleary and Morgan Caldwell of Prestonsburg; and freshmen Balin Loftus of East Point, and Sarah Tan of Hazard.

Students receiving Second Honors are seniors Jonathan Joshi of Sitka and Tai England of Hi Hat; juniors Mathew Goeing of Melvin, Brett Hall of Wayland, John Layne of Martin, and Tabitha Nunemaker of Hager Hill; sophomores Kari Ross of Prestonsburg and Heidi Caudill of Allen; and freshmen Molli Hall of Paintsville; Sarah Hill of Prestonsburg and David Hicks of Martin.

The Piarist school is a tuition-free, private, college preparatory high school located on KY 80 in Martin. The next entrance exam for students entering grades nine and 10 next year will be held on Saturday, April 15, at 9 a.m. at the school. For more information, call 285-3950, or e-mail: piarist@kih.net.



Students in Connie Parsons' kindergarten class at Prestonsburg Elementary shared in a Thanksgiving Feast for the month of November. Parents and visitors were encouraged to attend. Pictured is Royce Compton in her "Pocahontas" outfit.

Youth News

Forensics students qualify for state

Each February, students from the Appalachian Region of the Kentucky High School Speech League, which includes the counties of Floyd, Morgan, Pike, and Rowan, compete for the honor of going to state. The competition is split into two divisions, senior and junior.

The Senior Division competition was held February 5, hosted by the Adams Middle School Forensics Team. Five schools competed. South Floyd High School won first place in the team sweepstakes, with Prestonsburg High School placing second and Pikeville Independent High School placing third.

The juniors had their opportunity to qualify on February 12. Seven junior division schools competed at the Regional Tournament hosted by

Adams Middle School. Adams Middle School won first place in the team sweepstakes, while Betsy Layne Elementary took second and Clark Elementary placed third. The Forensic team of John M. Stumbo Elementary School received an Honorable Mention.

Parents, students, and coaches worked very hard toward their goal. Community members also got involved by participating in the judging. All state qualifiers were to travel to Western Kentucky University to compete for top honors. The Junior Division competition was scheduled for March 10-11, and the Senior Division competition, March 17-18.

—Submitted by Stephanie Stamper
K.H.S.S.L. Appalachian Regional Manager



South Floyd High School took top honors in Senior KHSSL competition. Sherry Bailey is the coach.



Adams Middle School was the regional winner in Junior KHSSL forensics. Their coach is Stephanie Stamper.



Prestonsburg High School, coached by Vickie Pack, placed second in Senior KHSSL competition.



Betsy Layne Elementary took second place in Junior KHSSL competition. Debbie Bradley is coach.

Forensics students brave the snow



On Saturday, January 29, most people were snuggling up in a warm blanket. However, that was not the case for the 11 Forensics teams who braved the cold weather and traveled to Adams Middle School for the Blackcat Millennium Invitational. These schools represented Floyd and Perry counties, as well as two schools from Fayette County. Forensics is a Speech and Drama program in which students practice good speech habits as well as learning acting, improvisational and speech writing techniques. The tournament was hosted by the Adams

Middle School Forensics Team. Students choose from 13 varied categories to compete and then perform their piece for three judges to earn the right to proceed to Finals. Only six are permitted to advance in each category. All students who participated deserve a "pat-on-the-back" for their dedication and hard work. Submitted by Stephanie Stamper, Coach—Adams Middle School Forensic Team

Youth News

Conservation office gives awards

The Floyd County Conservation District has announced winners in its Conservation Writing and Art contest.

In the writing portion of the competition, 12 schools participated with 880 entries. Ten schools participated in the art portion, with 758 students submitting entries. In the newly formed kindergarten art portion, five schools participated with 187 entries.

A total of 1,825 entries were made. County winners in writing are Courtney M. Hall, Allen Central Middle, first place; Daniel Knauz, Betsy Layne High School, second; Kimberly Williams, Adams Middle, third.

Top honors countywide in art are Josh Rodebaugh, Prestonsburg Elementary, first; Vincent Ganzon, Mountain Christian Academy, second; Lakeesha Shepherd, Duff Elementary, third.

Kindergarten art winners countywide are Cody Akers, Stumbo Elementary, first; Haley Donohoe, Wesley Christian, second; Bethany Grubbs, McDowell Elementary.

THE WINNERS, BY SCHOOL, IN THE WRITING COMPETITION ARE:

Stumbo Elementary School: Della Tucker, first place; Samantha Newsome, second.

Wesley Christian School: Verlin Crider, first.

Allen Central Middle: Courtney M. Hall, first; Ashley Gunnell, second; Kalyn Bailey,

third.
South Floyd High School: Amy Morgan, first; Crystal Johnson, second; Sara Johnson, third.

Mountain Christian Academy: Ryan Thornsberry, first; Sean Leslie, second.

Allen Central High: Erin Majakey, first; Eva Duncan, second.

Opportunities Unlimited: Nathan Sturgill, first; Nathan Slone, second; Dara Ousley, third.

Betsy Layne Elementary: Brentton Kane Akers, first; Garred Ross Cline, second; Melanie Kinzer, third.

Betsy Layne High: Daniel Knauz, first; Eric Keathley, second; Brett Hunter, third.

Prestonsburg High: William Holbrook II, first; Rodney Porter, second; Amanda Calhoun, third.

Allen Elementary: David Joseph, first; Sabrina Shortridge, second; Mandy May, third.

Adams Middle: Kimberly Williams, first; Austin May, second; Brooks Herrick, third.

ART WINNERS, BY SCHOOL, ARE:

Stumbo Elementary: Heath Keathley, first; Heath Tackett, second; Ashley Johnson, third.

Betsy Layne Elementary: Casey Parsons, first; Stephanie McKinney, second; Corey Parsons, third.

Wesley Christian: Kate Herrick, first; Brad May, second.

Allen Elementary: Jessica Fraley, first;

Megan Goble, second; Janie Elliott, third.
Prestonsburg Elementary: Josh Rodebaugh, first; Wesley Jordan Hall, second; Nathaniel Stephens, third.

Clark Elementary: Tiffany Smith, first; Del Shepherd, second; Kayla Roberts, third.

Mountain Christian Academy: Vincent Ganzon, first; David Leslie, second; Courtney Gullett, third.

Osborne Elementary: Tom Johnson, first; Terri Slone, second; Martha Hall, third.

Duff Elementary: Lakeesha Shepherd, first; Casey Owens, second; Christian Francis, third.

May Valley Elementary: Megan Spradlin, first; Audrea Ousley, second; Brandy Jarrell, third.

KINDERGARTEN ART WINNERS BY SCHOOL ARE:

Stumbo Elementary: Cody Akers, first; Allison Boudle, second; Brice Harris, third.

Wesley Christian: Haley Donohoe, first; Holly Donohoe, second.

Prestonsburg Elementary: Elmily Hammonds, first; Hayley Slone, second; Rheagan Wills, third.

McDowell Elementary: Bethany Grubbs, first; Alexis Reid, second; Dustin Tackett, third.

Duff Elementary: Makenzie Paige Smith, first; Jeremy Conley, second; Dylan Shepherd, third.

Allen Head Start



Allen Head Start was visited by Respond Ambulance Service and Nurse Joy Moore on Thursday, March 9. The class theme for the week was community service workers. Lee Castle showed Andrew Hall how to use a stethoscope. The class talked about safety and other health issues. They learned about the ambulance and nursing jobs.

MCA announces honor roll

Mountain Christian Academy announces the third quarter Honor Roll. To achieve honor roll status a student must have a 3.0 GPA. To obtain high honor roll, a student must have all A's with an average of 94 percent or above.

Third Grade, High Honor Roll—Kandice Scalf, daughter of Dwayne and Lisa Scalf; Rebecca Rose, daughter of Doug and Vicki Rose; Devin Burchett, son of Jack and Kathy Burchett; Maegan Leslie, daughter of Larry and Lynn Leslie; Lindsey Thacker, daughter of Steve and Renee Thacker; Taylor Moak, son of Tom Moak and Joann Harvey; Julia Burchett, daughter of Chuck and Kay Burchett; Elizabeth Davis, daughter of Brett and Virginia Davis.

Honor Roll—Braden Coleman, son of Ralph Jr. and Melissa Coleman; Christian Smith, son of Thomas and Robin Simpson Smith; Whitney Hackworth, daughter of David and Jennifer Hackworth;

Elizabeth Kilburn, daughter of Solomon and Matilda Kilburn; Matthew Tackett, son of Marty and Christina Tackett; Staci Carriere, daughter of Kenneth and Angie Carriere; Jackson Osborne, son of Marty Osborne and Julie Paxton; Matthew Tackett, son of Marty and Christina Tackett; Amanda Ousley, daughter of Dewey and Melissa Ousley.

Fourth Grade, High Honor Roll—Vincent Ganzon, son of Rudy and Jackie Ganzon; Shilpa Sachdeva, daughter of Rakesh and Seema Sachdeva.

Honor Roll—Taylor Clark, son of Eddy and Robin Clark; Courtney Gullett, daughter of Greg and Janeah Gullett; Lindsay Maggard, daughter of Richie and Michelle Maggard; Zachary Parsons, son of Barry and Sherry Parsons; Robin Warrix, daughter of Bobby and Valerie Warrix; Jarred Tackett, son of Devon and Melissa Tackett; William Hogg, son of Stephen and

Juanita Hogg; Zachary Hamilton, son of Sandra Stapleton and Lanny Hamilton.

Fifth Grade, High Honor Roll—Jacob Moak, son of Tom Moak and Joann Harvey; Lincoln Slone, son of Ronnie Slone and Benita Riley; Mikka Riley, daughter of Jeff and Libby Riley.

Honor Roll—Myranda Elliott, daughter of Andy and Myro Elliott; Joshua Ousley, son of Phillip and Debbie Ousley; Katelyn Lemaster, daughter of Paul and Janie Lemaster; Dustin Rowe, son of Bobby and Beth Rowe; Kendra Sammons, daughter of Dewey and Pamela Sammons; Whitney Austin Bradley, daughter of Randy and Polly Bradley; Burke Garner, son of Jerry Garner and Jennifer Patton.

Sixth Grade, High Honor Roll—Sean Leslie, son of Keith and Teresa Leslie; Jennifer Adams, daughter of Tim and Sharon Adams; Stephanie Williams, daughter of Steven Williams and Greta Howard;

Ryann Thornsberry, daughter of Gary and Lisa Thornsberry.

Honor Roll—Matthew Porter, son of Tim and Donna Potter; Jessica Adams, daughter of Tim and Sharon Adams.

Seventh Grade, High Honor Roll—Molly Burchett, daughter of Blake and Becky Burchett; Caitlin Clark, daughter of Eddy and Robin Clark; Samantha Farthing, daughter of Stephen and Emma Farthing.

Honor Roll—Sarah Hall, daughter of Harold and Madge Hall; Jessica Pate, daughter of Terry Pate and Mary Bailey.

Eighth Grade, Honor Roll—Matthew Francis, son of Bill and Demetra Francis; Lora Gibson, daughter of Terry and Gladys Gibson; Tessa Shepherd, daughter of Donald and Pam Shepherd; Nikita Thornsberry, daughter of Ricky Thornsberry and Renee Thornsberry; Shawna Peters, daughter of Johnny and Billie Peters.

Program helps schools earn \$25 million in ca\$h!

(NAPSA)—At a time when school budgets and school needs seem to be moving in opposite directions, one manufacturer of family-aimed products is doing something to help. In just four years, the Box Tops for Education program has paid schools more than \$25 million in cash.

Box Tops for Education is a fundraising program that focuses on simplicity and flexibility. Students, parents, faculty and community members clip box tops from participating products and bring them to school.

The box tops are sent to General Mills and the school receives a check, equivalent to 10 cents for each box top redeemed. Schools can earn up to \$10,000 per program year and the money can be spent on anything the school wants or needs.

Enrolled schools receive a complete program tool kit (written in both English and Spanish) so schools can build their own, comprehensive fundraising campaign.

The program not only empowers schools to raise much-needed cash, it also provides an opportunity to get communities involved in

supporting schools by promoting team building among students, parents, communities and educators.

During the 1998-99 school year, nearly 60 percent of all US K-8 schools were enrolled in

Barbeque products. More than 50,000 K-8 schools are currently enrolled in the program.

General Mills, maker of products such as Cheerios, Wheaties, Trix, Fruit Roll-Ups, Yoplait Yogurt and Lloyd's Barbeque Buckets, proudly celebrates the 4th anniversary of the Box Tops for Education program.

The program is open to any accredited public, private, parochial or military school, K-8, in the United States and Puerto Rico that has a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt designation.

It is also available to accredited home school associations, K-8, in the United States and Puerto Rico that have a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt designation and have 15 or more students.

Box Tops for Education urges parents to contact their child's school to make sure it is enrolled in the program. Schools can enroll by visiting www.boxtops4education.com or by calling toll-free: 1-888-799-2444 or fax toll-free: 1-800-353-1341 or mailing to General Mills Box Tops for Education, Enrollment Office, P.O. Box 8998, Young America, MN 55551.



Beth Vaughn, a Prestonsburg High School senior, participated in the 'Read Across America' week, when she read to Connie Parsons' kindergarten class at Prestonsburg Elementary, on March 2, honoring Dr. Seuss' 96th birthday.



Ron Vanover, supervisor of recreation at Jenny Wiley State Park came to Allen Elementary and did classroom presentations on "Birds of Prey."



Students in Phyllis Allison's kindergarten class at Prestonsburg Elementary pose for a picture on their way to sing for the residents at Mt. Manor Nursing Home. The students are Tearra Colgan, Leanna Goble, Hayley Slone, Hannah Hackworth, Ariel Ferrari, Victoria

Hampton, Chelsea Yielding, Brittany Hayden, Kierstin Woods, Emily Hammonds; (back) Michael Watkins, Drew Diddle, Kendall Jones, Chad Ousley, Evan Bays, Zachary Meade, Andrew Adams, Mick Roberts, Donovan Lewis, and Cierra Sammons.

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

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1 BR APT.: Furnished, all utilities paid. Located near hospital at Martin. \$150 per wk. or \$500 per month. 285-0650.

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CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Inc., has an immediate opening for a full-time Medical Transcriptionist. **Job Qualifications:** Minimum of five years experience in medical transcription; Medical terminology and knowledge of Microsoft word preferred; must type at least 70 wpm. **Job Requirements:** Responsible for typing of daily radiology reports; history and physicals; op reports; discharge summaries; consultations and specialty clinic notes. Qualified candidates should apply at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 910, Martin, Kentucky 41649, fax: (606) 285-6422 or call (606) 285-5181, extension 3330. **Deadline for applications: Friday, March 31, 2000.**

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The Floyd County Times

SELL



TOMORROW



inside

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PLANTING



Ask a lawn care expert

(NAPSA)-Question: We just moved into our first home and have a small yard. What kind of mower should we buy?

Answer: Consider a manual reel, push-type lawn mower which is easy to use and maintain. Reel mowers don't have spark plugs, gas or oil, or pull-cords, so they always start on the first try. They are lightweight making them easy to push, lift and store, and they emit no pollution, which is good for the environment.

Reel mowers are cost-effective, too. The average mower is under \$100, compared to around \$300 for the average power mower.

Along with the great savings, reel mowers provide a great cut by shearing grass blades to seal in nutrients. Power mowers cut by tearing or ripping the grass leaving it vulnerable to disease and allowing moisture to escape, leading to unhealthy, brown grass.

Question: Our town recently banned bagging grass clippings due to a shortage of landfill space. What should we do with them?

Answer: Use a mulching mower and leave your clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings are made up of water, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium—the same nutrients found in commercial fertilizers. By leaving clippings on the lawn, you are returning water and the nutrients back to the grass as they decompose. Clippings also serve as a mulch preventing evaporation and keeping your lawn cooler. In addition to the horticultural benefits, leaving clippings on the lawn can save you up to 50 percent of mowing time by not having to bag and dispose of grass clippings.

Again, consider using a reel, push-type lawn mower, manufactured by American Lawn Mower Company/Great States Corp. By design, manual push-type reel lawn mowers naturally mulch by snipping the grass, and dispersing it in a fine spray that decomposes quickly.

Question: My neighbor mows his grass every three or four days which seems excessive. How often should we mow our grass?

Answer: Lawns should be mowed frequently, especially in very active growth times. A simple rule of thumb is to mow as often as necessary to only remove one third of the grass blade. Removing more than one third at once stops root growth and weakens the grass.

For more information about lawn care or reel mowers, call American Lawn Mower Co./Great States Corp. at 1-800-633-1501 or visit the company's website at www.reelin.com.

Confessions of an 'educated' gardener



by Willie Elliott
Staff Writer

Linda and I finished a class on gardening at Auxier recently. (The center is offering some classes that may interest you. Visit or call to find out what is being taught.)

I know some of you are thinking, "No way Willie went to a garden class. And if he did, he's fak-

ing it. He's too lazy to work in a garden."

I'm not lazy. I'm just unmotivated.

Besides, who said anything about working in a garden? I simply said I went to a gardening class. I didn't promise to turn into Farmer Brown overnight.

(My idea of gardening is going to Winn Dixie and picking out what I need for that week. Well, actually, I have it easier than that — Linda picks out the groceries. I simply go along for moral support and to look cute. Any snide remarks will be duly noted and kept for future reference.)

But, back to gardening. From time to time, Linda thinks out loud about how she is going to lay her garden out. She's going to use what is called the square-foot method. This method is supposed to be easier than a conventional garden, but it still sounds like a lot of digging to me.

She's excited about the whole thing and, of course, I wait with bated breath to break my back

preparing soil. I have no idea what a bated breath is, but people use it all the time so it must be a good expression.

So we plan our garden. We talk about what we will plant, how much we will plant and who will do the work. (OOPS! I didn't mean to write that.)

I plan to give it my best effort and hope we can bring our produce in under \$20 a pound or the price of a gallon of gas (whichever is cheaper).

I enjoyed the class, but I got a little discouraged to find that there are so many things out there that are just waiting for us to plant a garden — so they can eat it. I did like the tip on taking care of slugs — feeding them beer. I suppose it kills them and they don't really care.

I got a six pack and told Linda, "One for the slugs — five for me." I really didn't say that, but it would be a good line if I did drink beer.

And we learned some important sounding words. Linda and I

go around talking about vermiculite as if it is the name of one of our children.

I shouldn't have said that. Someone out there will name their son Vermiculite Jr. I tried to pull a fast one on Linda by saying something about perculite, and she said, "Willie, there is no such thing as perculite."

"Well," I said, "there should be."

And, of course, there is Bud Lite, but that is for the slugs. I can't wait until this summer so I can go out and proudly proclaim to the slugs: This Bud's for you.

You probably will see me roaming the garden section of Wal-Mart, Lowe's and other places that pander to the home gardener. What a difference a year makes.

This time last year you most likely would have found me in the junk food section — now I will be looking for seeds to start healthy vegetables. Maybe I will get something for the slugs — just kidding.

Miniature gardens get a big hand from small tools

(NAPS)-Probably the biggest challenge miniature gardeners face is how to maneuver in small spaces. The challenge of adding a miniature water garden, a model railroad layout, water ponds and waterfalls to your backyard landscapes can be great.

Fortunately, a wide range of tools designed for small gardening tasks are now available. These tools can also handle such miniature construction jobs as digging drainage ditches, building track beds, splitting rocks, laying stones and contouring the tiny landscape. The tools, called MiniGroundbreakers® Landscaping Tools, make tackling the miniaturized construction jobs required by these specialty gardens easier.

A spokesman for V&B Manufacturing company says these tools, which vary in length from 16 to 26 inches, have multi-tasking toolheads that help the gardener work in various size spaces and from different positions without changing tools.



Short handled and lightweight, the tools—a Mini-Tiller™, a Mini-Planter™ and a Mini-Pick™—are designed with a "hammer swing" action that permits the tool head to do most of the work. Because of the multi-purpose tool heads, they are considered ideal as "start-to-finish" tools with each tool providing a deep-digging mattock blade in combination with specific purpose head for planting, trenching or tilling.

The contractor-grade tools all feature corrosion-resistant tool heads with a rectangular fit to the handle that prevents loosening and twisting on impact. More information about these miniature garden tools is available by calling V&B at 800-443-1987 or by visiting the company's web site at www.hammer-net.com/releases.htm.

Consumers need beware of chemical sales

With spring planting season here, farmers and gardeners will be looking for products that are cheap and will help protect their crops from weeds and insect pests. But before making that "perfect purchase" of chemicals over the telephone or Internet, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture recommends a

little research.

Each year, the Department's Division of Pesticides receives complaints about telephone solicitations, with internet suppliers also gaining in popularity. Often the products being sold are in no way comparable to the products that can be purchased locally.

"A good rule of thumb is, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," said Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith. "These salespeople often exaggerate the value of their prod-

(See **CHEMICAL**, page 3)

String Trimmer Extends Gardening Ability

(NAPSA)-Looking to be armed and ready for spring clean-up action, summer maintenance and fall clean-up? Weekend yard warriors now have a new weapon in the battle against Mother Nature's green growth.

Clean-running 4-cycle trimmers can help gardeners keep the yard looking its best without making a lot of noise or fumes.

The trimmer, Ryobi's new curved shaft TrimmerPlus 825R, comes equipped with a 26cc, 4-cycle, AC2 engine. That means the engine is 80 percent cleaner than comparable 2-cycles and runs on gasoline only, instead of a gas-and-oil mix. This type of engine is quieter and at the same time gives gardeners more power. And, it is 100 percent compatible with Ryobi's patented TrimmerPlus attachment system.

The unit features a .080-inch dual line string trimmer head with a 15-inch cutting path, a variable speed throttle and an adjustable J-Handle.

The curved shaft makes it a snap to trim even the most hard-to-reach areas, and it includes the patented SpeedSpool line release system that dispenses a pre-measured line of string with a single tap.

Ryobi's advanced-design engine can be operated in all positions, including upside down, without affecting performance. 4-cycle engines use less fuel, are easier to start and require no gas and oil mixing. It runs exceptionally clean, meeting all current and proposed California and United States emissions regulations well into the 21st century.

But the really cool thing about this trimmer is all of the other outdoor jobs you can tackle with TrimmerPlus attachments.

Available TrimmerPlus add-on attachments include an edger, cultivator, blower, pruner or snow thrower.

To learn more about this quiet but powerful new string trimmer, visit Ryobi's interactive website at www.ryobi.com. Or you can call Ryobi Outdoor Products at 800-345-8746.

Postscript...



y Pam Shingler
Senior Editor

Green genes

I've always been a gardener, if not in reality, then at least in my dreams.
I inherited a green thumb. Like generations before me on all sides, I innately know how to grow things, pampering at the right time, giving the green things — edible and floral — permission to flourish.
I claim no credit. It's simply genetic.
It was my job, from toddler on, to pour dip-pers of water from a bucket into the little holes where my grandmother placed tomato and pepper and cabbage plants.
It was my job to drop bean seed into the thin, long ditches and to stick tiny onions into soft earth. My job to scatter lightweight lettuce seeds onto finely ground dirt.
No matter the size of the yard where we lived, Mammaw made room for a garden that fed us through the dark, cold winter. (Even

today, opening a jar of home-canned beans in the middle of January is like setting free a hot August day.)

Mammaw anointed me, probably before I could say no. She introduced me early to the joy of holding dirt in my hands and of digging holes in the earth with my bare toes.

Of course, I reached an age when gardening was not something I wanted to be associated with, but I could not deny nature for long.

I have learned, though, that having a green thumb is not always enough to make a garden grow.

When I was newly married in Athens, Georgia, my husband and I prevailed on our landlords to give us a little patch of ground for a garden. They gave us a piece on the farthest end of their sizable plot.

We planted the standard: tomatoes, onions, beans, cabbage and squash.

Thank God for squash.

It was a particularly dry, blistering summer

and we were so poor we couldn't afford a water hose, nor the extra water bill. For a while we carried buckets of water out to our remote patch, but the oppressing heat, often in the 90s well into night, proved too much for us.

Midway through the growing season, we gave up. We got an onion or two, a few scrawny tomatoes, perhaps a mess of beans.

But the squash flourished without our help. The beautiful blossoms opened up, then closed around the succulent, yellow vegetable.

I boiled squash, I fried it with onions, I baked it with brown sugar, I grilled it with pieces of tough shish kabob beef, I put it in casseroles with other vegetables in a cream base.

We ate squash most every day for two months and had enough to share with friends and co-workers. If we'd had a freezer, we would have frozen it for eating later.

(See **GREEN GENES**, page 4)

Post-drought lawn renovation from University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

The drought and heat of 1999 damaged numerous Kentucky lawns. Most turf damage occurred on south or southwest-facing slopes, on lawns with heavy clay or very shallow soils, to newly laid sod that was not watered sufficiently, and in the shade of some water-loving trees.

The problem was compounded by the drought continuing throughout the fall, thus preventing fall seeding or renovation during the normally optimum time for seeding grasses in Kentucky (August 15 through September).

If a lawn area has some turf but the stand is thin, maybe 10 plants per square foot, reseeding may not be necessary. Also, if reseeding was attempted last fall and some grass is present, reseeding again may not be necessary. But, you will need to 'grow-in' the grass by applying nitrogen. Apply about 1#N/1000 ft.

For normal lawn maintenance, we do not usually recommend this spring nitrogen but with young or thin turf, the roots cannot take up enough of the inherent soil nitrogen for 'grow-in.'

Renovation Timing. A dormant or winter seeding can be successful but the best spring seeding time is from about mid-February through March. Germination will not likely occur prior to about March 20, but this varies considerably. The earlier it germinates, the better stand you will likely get.

Spring freezes do not

hurt young seedlings. Early establishment is important to get maximum cover prior to weed growth and to get maximum root growth prior to high summer temperatures and drought.

Caution—crabgrass herbicide?

Crabgrass pre-emerge herbicides are normally applied between mid-February and mid-April. If

you plan to reseed, don't use the normal herbicide and timing. Even broadleaf weed herbicides applied shortly before or after seeding may reduce seedling establishment.

Here are some options for seed establishment while minimizing crabgrass competition:

1) Siduron (Tupersan) is the only crabgrass pre-emerge herbicide that can be applied when seeding. It will delay crabgrass for about four weeks; then to get season-long crabgrass control, another pre-emerge application must be used in mid to late spring.

2) After the young grass has grown sufficiently to

have been mowed one or two times, any of the crabgrass pre-emerge herbicides can be applied. If the pre-emerge herbicides can be applied before crabgrass begins to germinate (usually around May 1-15), then you should have successful crabgrass control.

3) If crabgrass has already begun to germinate prior to applying a pre-emerge herbicide, consider these options:

■ Apply the pre-emerge herbicide and shortly thereafter, apply a post-emerge crabgrass herbicide such as MSMA, Acclaim Extra or Drive. The combination of

(See **DROUGHT**, page 5)

Chemical

■ Continued from p2

ucts or claim they are comparable to the well-known chemical brands. But most of the time, the pesticide can be purchased locally at a cheaper price."

Consumers should request a company's name, address, telephone number, procedures for returning a copy of the product's label and other literature available before purchasing any product over the telephone or internet, said John McCauley, director of the Division of Pesticides.

"Often, a consumer's best bet is to look no further than their local store," McCauley said. "That's usually where you're going to find the good price."

McCauley warns consumers to not be taken in by deals with such slogans as "Buy it today, it won't be available tomorrow," or "if not now, never." Consumers should not accept cash-on-delivery purchases unless it is a purchase they have approved, he said. Frequently, solicitors will contact a consumer and send the product whether ordered or not, McCauley said. "Be safe and send it back," he advised.

For more information, on how consumers may protect themselves or to register a complaint, contact the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Pesticides at (502) 564-7274.

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The greenhouses at the Mountain Comprehensive Health Care Green House are filled with flowers, shrubs and vegetable plants as workers prepared for the spring planting season. Pat Preece looks over some broccoli plants in the vegetable section. (photos by Willie Elliott)



Gardening class on tap

A two-session vegetable gardening class is planned at the Auxier Lifetime Learning Center for April.

Ray Tackett of the Floyd County Extension Office will conduct the classes from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays, April 10 and 17.

The fee is \$2. To register, call 606/886-0709. The center is located at the old Auxier school.

Green Genes

Years later, in Arkansas, I dug up a small patch of ground next to my garage. The yard had a tough grass cover that made a wonderful lawn, but was the devil to pay as a garden.

It took me days to overturn the grass and to get down to the rich dirt. I truthfully don't think a tractor could have destroyed the roots of that grass.

I spent hours upon hours in the hot sun trying to save my tomatoes and lettuce and onions from being strangled to death by the fast-growing greenery. I finally ceded the fight.

A few years ago, living on a hillside acre at Williamsport in Johnson County, I was excited at the prospect of having a lush garden. In mid-winter, the sun

shown brightly on the long row where I intended to set out my plants come spring.

I could tell the dirt was fertile. The neighbors had once stacked wood there for burning in their fireplace, but it turned out to be unsuitable and they had let it rot, turning its nutrients back into the earth.

In fact, the dirt was so malleable, I was able to turn it over easily myself.

I started seeds inside, on the generous ledge of a perfect picture window that faced east.

When the time came, I was ready to plant. Unfortunately, my green thumb could not compensate for my lack of forethought.

As the trees on the hill above my garden and on the hill

across the narrow road budded out and leafed, the sun could no longer penetrate my garden. Only for an hour or two in the mornings did any strands of sunlight manage to break through.

Light is simply not enough for tomatoes and other vegetables. They need the direct light of the sun to flourish. By placing them where I did, I doomed them to remain spindly and underdeveloped.

Fortunately, I had planted four or so tomato plants in a circle in the middle of the yard, where they were able to dodge the shadow of the wooded hills, and those plants richly rewarded me from June to late September.

Mamma knew enough

about planting to know that you don't put your garden far from the house, that you must be ever vigilant, and selfish even, in keeping the weeds from your tender vegetables, and that great stretches of sun are imperative to a garden's growth, like the warmth of love to a child.

I didn't pick those things up from her. I had to learn them on my own. The green thumb is inheritable. The rest, I suppose, is like life, the sum total of your experience.

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Call 886-8506**

Continued from p3

Drought

■ Continued from p3

the pre-emerge and post-emerge products should give several weeks of crabgrass control.

Use only the above-suggested post-emerge herbicide applications. They are only effective when crabgrass is very young (one-three leaf stage of growth). These products will not prevent additional germination from occurring in June and July, therefore additional post-emerge applications may be needed.

When controlling crabgrass with MSMA, or a similar product such as DSMA, two applications are needed seven to 10 days apart in order to get good crabgrass control. Severe discoloration or kill to the desirable turf can be expected if more than the recommended rate of the herbicide is applied, if applied when the daytime temperature exceeds 85°F, and when the turf is sprayed during drought stress.

■ Grass selection

Most old lawns were originally established with Kentucky bluegrass, but within the last 15-20 years, most seeded lawns and some sodded lawns have been established with turf-type tall fescue. Also, some fine leaf fescue lawns have been established in shady sites and we have some turf-type perennial ryegrass lawns.

For the newly seeded area to blend with the surviving portion of the lawn, it is best to seed the same grass species that is already present. This poses a problem with Kentucky bluegrass lawns because Kentucky bluegrass germinates very slowly in the spring, has very low seeding vigor, and often the shallow-rooted grass will not survive the following summer.

If bluegrass is seeded, good moisture must be provided during establishment and also during the following summer.

Many Kentucky bluegrass lawns already have numerous tall fescue clumps or have other serious weed problems. It certainly would be preferred to seed tall fescue into these lawns. In fact, it would be better to renovate the entire lawn with tall fescue, not just the bad spots. See UK publication AGR-51 for whole lawn renovation.

Here are some varieties and seeding rates for each species. For a more extensive list of recommended varieties, see UK publication AGR-52 or web site www.uky.edu/Agriculture/ukturf.

- Tall fescue: 6#1000 feet
Apache II, Crossfire II, Falcon II, Houndog V, Rebel Jr., Southern Choice
- Kentucky bluegrass: 2#1000 feet:
Total, Eclipse, Glade, Midnight, Rugby II.
- Perennial ryegrass: 4#1000 feet:
Brightstar II, Pennant II, Prelude II, Premier II.
- Fine fescue: 2#1000 feet:
Banner III, Brittany III, Shademaster II, Victory II.

■ Renovation method

Broadcasting seed on a soil/organic surface is seldom successful, even if you broadcast it over snow or on frost-heaved ground. To get good establishment, you must have good soil seed contact. Consider the following methods:

Slit Seeding/Power Seeding: Many commercial lawn companies renovate lawns with power seeders, i.e. a self propelled machine that cuts slits through the surface organic matter and into the soil, then drops seed into the

slits.

These power seeders can sometimes be rented from rental companies, however they are not easily maneuvered on sloping lawns. When seeding with tall fescue or perennial ryegrass, it is best to seed about 1#1000 sq. ft. for each pass across the lawn.

Additional seed can be broadcast on the surface, then followed by an additional pass over the lawn with the power seeder. This gives improved soil: seed contact and better over all coverage.

Vertical mowers/dethatchers. Dethatching machines can also be rented and used to loosen the dead grasses/weeds, and also used to make shallow grooves in the soil surface. The dethatcher may need to cross the area several times, in different directions, to disturb the soil sufficiently. Use dethatchers equipped with blades or knives; those equipped with spring-tines will not give sufficient grooving and loosening of the soil surface.

If a large amount of organic material or thatch is dislodged by the thatching machine, it should be removed and discarded. A small amount of organic matter left on the surface will act as mulch and help conserve moisture.

After dethatching, evenly broadcast the seed over the lawn, then go over the lawn again with the dethatcher or a hand rake. This will help to get better seed-soil contact.

Topdress seeding: Small areas can be renovated by hand raking some of the dead organic matter off the surface, broadcasting the seed, then covering the seed with about 1/8th of an inch of good garden soil, sand or peat.

Core seeding: Renovation is seldom successful when an aerifier (coring machine) is used to make small holes in the lawn and seed is then broadcast over the surface. A very small portion of the seed makes good soil-seed contact. If using a coring machine, traverse the lawn several times, making 20 to 30 holes per square foot. With soil cores redeposited back on the surface, improved soil-seed contact is made and the renovation can be successful.

Sodding: The quickest repair method is to remove the dead sod with a sod cutter or hoe, loosen the soil surface, lay the sod and water. A sod cutter can often be rented and quality tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass sod can be purchased at some garden centers or local sod farms.

■ Post-renovation management

• **Water:** For quickest establishment, water immediately after seeding and keep the surface moist until germination is complete. Drying winds and intermittent rainfall can be severe enough during some spring seasons to cause failure if irrigation cannot be applied.

• **Fertilization:** Spring seedlings will seldom develop into mature plants unless extra nitrogen is applied soon after germination. Apply about 1#N/1000 ft. Although this nitrogen may increase crabgrass competition, it is necessary to get root growth and plant maturity.

• **Mowing:** Do not let new seedlings grow tall prior to initiating mowing. If you are normally mowing the lawn at two inches for example, mow the new grass at that same height. Never scalp new seedlings, i.e., do not remove more than about 1/3 of the grass height with each mowing.

A.J. Powell, Jr.
U.K. Turf Extension Specialist



Nettie Hall, who lives in the Middle Branch section of Floyd County, checks to see how much her peas have grown. With her is grandson Brandon Meade. (photo by Willie Elliott)



"20-Pound Wonder" Celebrates 20 Years In The Garden

The Mantis Tiller's small size and light weight has helped it to become one of the world's most popular power gardening tools.

Call it the Swiss Army knife of garden equipment. It's small, it's durable, it efficiently does an impressive array of jobs and it doesn't cost a lot of money.

It's the Mantis Tiller/Cultivator. And during the past 20 years, it has become one of the most popular power gardening tools in the world with more than 700,000 tillers sold.

This powerful little tiller and its optional attachments have been used to cultivate soil, weed gardens, dig furrows, aerate and dethatch lawns, edge borders, dig holes for planting trees and ornamentals, and even trim hedges in every state in the USA and every province in Canada. Mantis Tillers are now used in countries ranging from Great Britain and Germany to South Africa and China.

When the Mantis Tiller was offered via mailorder to backyard gardeners in 1980, no one could have predicted how popular the little "20-pound wonder" would become. After all, tillers had always been big, heavy equipment behemoths that required Arnold Schwarzenegger-sized muscles to maneuver. By comparison, the Mantis Tiller looked like a toy.

But gardeners knew a great tool when they saw it. They loved the little red tiller because it was easy to use and featured high-quality craftsmanship and a powerful commercial-grade engine.

Best of all, it provided a handy way to till garden plots and effortlessly weed around trees and landscaping. By the mid-1980s, Schiller-Pfeiffer (the Pennsylvania-based manufacturer of the tiller) was assembling the Mantis Tillers as fast as it could.

Why did the Mantis Tiller so quickly become a favorite among gardeners? Quite simply, it did exactly what the product ads said it would—take much of the back-breaking work out of America's favorite leisure activity.

"Most power tillers are simply too big for suburban gardens," said Bob Bell, president of the Mantis Division of Schiller-Pfeiffer.

(See **CELEBRATE** page 7)



(NAPSA)-Visit any home improvement center, nursery or garden center and it's easy to see what the hottest trend is in gardening these days—container gardening.

With the increasing availability of large containers, container rose gardening is becoming more and more popular. All-America Rose Selections (AARS) offers the following guidelines for starting a contain-

Hottest Trend In Gardens

er rose garden:

■ Most varieties of roses can be grown in containers, even climbers. For full-size roses, choose a container at least 18 inches in diameter and 14 inches deep.

■ Decay-resistant wooden tubs and boxes, terracotta or glazed pottery, plastic pots and even the new decorative fiberglass pots make good rose containers.

■ Whatever style of pot you choose, be sure it provides adequate drainage. Roses will die if allowed to continuously stand in water. There should be several holes in the bottom and cleats or feet to keep the container from sitting in water.

■ Plant roses using a ready-made soil-free mix or a growing medium composed of sandy

loam and organic matter such as peat moss.

■ Soil in containers will dry out more quickly and retain fewer nutrients than ground soil. Therefore, it is very important to keep the soil evenly moist at all times and feed regularly with liquid or time-release fertilizer.

■ Roses like at least six hours of direct morning or mid-day sun. Good air movement (but not direct wind) is also important to keep foliage dry and discourage disease.

■ Roses in containers are more susceptible to damage from extreme cold. In areas where the temperature is likely to drop below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, move containers to a frost-free cool location when winter begins.

To get the most enjoyment

out of your container rose garden, be sure to look for the AARS symbol when choosing rose plants. Only the most exceptional, care free, disease resistant varieties become AARS winners.

Three new varieties have garnered the coveted honor for 2000. Crimson Bouquet, as its name suggests, serves up bouquet after bouquet of deep, velvety red roses; Gemini shines with a constellation of color, blending rich cream with coral pink; and Knock Out will hit you with a continuous show of fluorescent cherry red blooms.

All-America Rose Selections is a non-profit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. For more information, visit www.rose.org.

Dow AgroSciences receives registration for SpinTor 2SC

Floyd County growers now have a new weapon in the battle against pests of cucurbit vegetables, legume vegetables and stone fruits.

SpinTor[®] 2SC Naturalyte[®] insect control from Dow AgroSciences has received Section 3 supplemental labeling for use on cucurbit vegetables, legume vegetables and stone fruits. SpinTor 2SC received expedited review by the EPA for registration under the Reduced Risk Pesticide Program.

Cucurbit vegetables include, but are not limited to, cucumbers, muskmelon, summer and winter squash and watermelon. Legume vegetables include, but are not limited to, succulent and dried beans and peas. Stone fruits include, but are not limited to, peaches, cherries, apricots, plums and plums.

Spinosad, the active ingredient in SpinTor 2SC, is derived from a naturally occurring soil organism and offers the best of popular sprayable technology. It combines the broad-spectrum insect control of many synthetic insecticides with the low toxicity and environmental characteristics typical of most biological products.

SpinTor 2SC, which works through contact, ingestion and ovicidal activity, is effective on a wide range of pests, including pickleworm, rindworm, melonworm, leafrollers, thrips, European corn borer, corn earworm, armyworms, leafminers and loopers.

Because it has a unique mode of action that is not cross-resistant with existing insect control technology, SpinTor 2SC is an effective tool in a resistance management

program.

Its flexibility to control target pests and preserve most beneficial insects, such as lady beetles, spined soldier bug and lacewings, makes it an ideal product to incorporate into integrated pest management (IPM) programs.

Web Brashear, product marketing manager with Dow AgroSciences, says the efficacy

demonstrated by SpinTor 2SC against targeted pests is as good as, or better than, any product currently on the market.

"SpinTor 2SC has a mode of action unlike any other currently available product. Because of this important attribute, growers now have a product to rotate with and manage resistance," Brashear says.

"With its rapid efficacy, low use-rates, unique mode of action and low impact on most beneficial insects, SpinTor 2SC offers a variety of benefits that can improve any pest management program."

SpinTor 2SC is also registered for use on leafy vegetables, cole crops, fruiting vegetables, sweet corn, potatoes and tuberous vegetables, citrus and apples.

New organic spray uses vegetable derivatives to kill insect pests

Keeping vegetable gardens and roses free of insect pests is a constant gardening challenge. Many sprays are effective on adult insect pests, but not on their eggs. Now there's a new insecticide made from plants for plants that effectively destroys insects in all stages of their life cycle—from eggs to adults.

Pyola[™], new from Gardens Alive!, is an organic broad-spectrum spray that combines pyrethrin, a popular organic insecticide derived from pyrethrum flowers, with canola oil extracted from rapeseed. The result is a powerful spray that kills insects and their eggs, yet leaves no long-term residue in the environment.

"So many times we hear gardeners complain, 'The insecticide label says the product will kill beetles. Well, I sprayed my garden but I seem to have more beetles than ever,'" said Niles Kinerk, CEO of Gardens Alive!. "The problem is often timing. Some sprays control adult insects, while others kill the larvae. Many oil-based sprays suffocate the eggs but won't have any effect on insects that have already hatched.

"Unless you can match up the spray to the intricacies of the pest's life cycle, you may be wasting

your effort—and you're giving insect pests more time to proliferate and damage your crops."

Since Pyola works on insect adults, larvae and eggs, it simultaneously attacks all stages of the insect's life cycle. Most targeted insects die quickly. Plus, Pyola has a repellent effect that actually discourages certain insects from feeding and laying eggs on sprayed plants.

Pyola is effective against many destructive insects including cucumber beetles, Colorado potato beetles, squash bugs, Mexican bean beetles, sawfly larvae and pear psyllids. In greenhouse tests, Pyola sprayed on poinsettia plants immediately reduced whitefly population from 312 nymphs to three nymphs. Similar studies demonstrated the repellent effect of Pyola on aphids.

Pyola can be used on virtually all types of plants, garden vegetables and fruit trees right up to the day of harvest. It can also be used on roses and other flowers, ornamental and shade trees, and in greenhouses and on indoor houseplants. Pyola is an organic product that contains no piperonyl butoxide

(See **ORGANIC**, page 7)

A dozen water right tips—Keys to lawn water conservation

Knowing how much water is applied to a lawn is important, but more important for conservation and a high quality lawn is how it is applied.

How you water your lawn may have a greater impact on conservation and your lawn's quality than how much water you use.

Turfgrass research scientists have documented that too much or incorrectly applied water more often damages home lawns than by not supplying enough water. Dr. James Beard, among the world's leading turf researchers, notes "It's man's decisions and methods con-

cerning specific cultural practices that create a high water use rate in certain turfgrass species not the plant itself."

Too much water or infrequent shallow watering creates weak and shallow roots as well as grass plants that are inviting to both disease and insects. To combat disease and insects, homeowners often turn to pesticides that create still more stress on the grass plants actually worsening the situation they hoped to improve.

To conserve water and maintain all acceptable lawn quality, the Turf Resource Center (a not-for-profit educational-oriented group based in

suburban Chicago) recommends the following 12 easy-to-follow steps:

- Mow as infrequently as possible with a sharp blade. Mowing puts the grass plant under additional stress and it will use more water. A sharp blade cleanly cuts the grass and it heals quickly while a dull blade tends to shred the tips leaving them open to disease and prolonged water lines.

- Mow higher than normal. Greater leaf surfaces hold plant liquids and shade the root zone. Never remove more than one-third of the leaf blade in a single mowing. Longer blades usually mean deeper, more efficient roots.

- Water and mow in the early evening or morning. Less wind and heat reduces stress on the plant and allows greater penetration and less run-off and evaporation.

- Water for deep penetration. Interrupt watering when puddles or run-off occur, allow the water to penetrate into the soil before restarting. Light, infrequent sprinkling may actually do more harm than good.

- Spot water. Drier areas near buildings that reflect heat and light or on slopes require more water than flat areas where water does not

on-off.

- Acrify or verticut turf. Increased penetration of water and air will place the water where it can be used by the grass plant.

- Use a soil probe. Test soil moisture with a probe or screwdriver. Water only when the soil is dry or the probe is difficult to push into the ground.

- Perform routine maintenance of in-ground and hose-end sprinklers. A single grain of sand can clog a sprinkler tip, or accidentally stepping on a sprinkler can change its alignment. Non-uniform and inefficient watering patterns require increased amounts of water.

- Change watering routines to match weather and plant requirements. Water after a rain if needed to maximize the availability and benefits of rainwater. Don't play the "set it and forget it" game with automatic sprinkler system.

- Match fertilizer to plant requirements. Extension agents or professional agronomists can recommend timing and amounts of fertilizer needed by each grass variety. This reduces waste and mowing needs as well as overly succulent, water-wasting growth.

- Increase disease and insect

control, with care. Drought stressed turf is more susceptible to pest problems, but too much pesticide will increase stress in the plant.

- Accept a less than lush lawn. Grass will naturally go dormant during periods of drought but will readily regenerate when water becomes available. Reduce traffic on these areas if possible.

Protecting the investment and environmental value of a home's lawn and landscape is important. While real estate studies have shown that a well designed and maintained landscape adds 15-20 percent to the value of a home, environmental benefits such as erosion control, cooling impacts and pollutant entrapment are also important.

Statements about lawn and landscape water use, as well as the potential water-savings that can be achieved through out-right bans on lawn watering tend to be exaggerated. This is particularly the case during times of severe drought or delivery problems. But homeowners with adequate knowledge and good cultural practices can protect their investment, the environment, and their right to water with proper watering practices.

Celebrate

■ Continued from p6

"Many gardeners don't have the strength needed to operate big tillers. But a 20-pound Mantis Tiller/Cultivator is easy to handle and operate for virtually all gardeners, and it's perfect for preparing soil for backyard gardens."

According to Bell, it's the patented tines that sets the Mantis Tiller apart from other tillers. These "serpentine" (curved) tines really cut through sod, tough soil and even vegetation. Other small tillers use "bolo-like" tines that may work fine on big, heavy tillers but are ineffective on smaller tillers.

Like the proverbial Swiss Army knife, the mighty Mantis Tiller can effectively perform a wide variety of tasks. Optional attachments quickly convert the Mantis Tiller into a border edger, furrower, lawn aerator, lawn dethatcher and

crevice cleaner. The tiller tines can easily be removed and any of the attachments quickly installed. And only Mantis offers a hedge trimmer attachment. Thus, one Mantis Tiller and its attachments can do the work of seven different power tools.

Over the years, Mantis Tiller has received many impressive official awards, including a Consumers Digest "Best Buy" award and a "Member Tested and Recommended" Seal of Approval from the National Home Gardening Club. The Mantis Tiller was also honored as the most-often praised garden power tool in the Organic Gardening Buyer's Guide 1996-1997.

For more information about the Mantis Tiller and other Mantis products call 1-800-366-6268 or visit the Mantis Website at

"Passport to the world of gardening" now available

A passport to the world of gardening (and perennial savings on mailorder gardening products) is now available to all gardeners who carry the new Gardening VISA® Credit Card endorsed by the Mailorder Gardening Association (MGA).

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participating mailorder gardening companies.

This unique MGA Gardening VISA Credit Card program offers card holders up to \$350 in offers that include free shipping and discounts on gardening supplies, gardening books, flowers, bulbs, seeds and more... A free mini-subscription to Horticulture Magazine is also included, along with a low introductory APR on balances transferred to the MGA Gardening VISA Credit Card. The card has no annual fee, and the available credit line can be accessed with the MGA Gardening VISA Credit Card, cash advance checks and at ATMs

worldwide.

Additional benefits include exclusive access to Palladian Travel Services®, travel specialists with insights into some of the world's best getaways. Every fare charged entirely with the MGA Platinum Plus™ VISA Credit Card comes with \$1,000,000 Common Carrier Travel Accident Insurance.

To learn more about the terms and costs associated with the card, or to apply for the MGA Gardening VISA Credit Card, call 1-800-523-7666 and use source code DN2V or visit the MGA's Website at www.mailordergardening.com.



The Mantis Tiller's small size and light weight has helped it to become one of the world's most popular power gardening tools.

Organic

■ Continued from p6

or strong-smelling petroleum distillates.

Pyola is available exclusively from the Gardens Alive! mailorder catalog. A 16-ounce bottle (that makes 7.5 gallons of spray) sells for \$14.95. A 32-ounce bottle (that makes 15 gallons) sells for \$24.95.

Gardens Alive! specializes in

environmentally responsible organic products for lawns and gardens. The Gardens Alive! catalog contains a wide variety of pest control products, composting products, organic plant foods, lawn fertilizers, weed controls, natural pet products and other useful home and garden items.

For more information or to request a free catalog, contact: Gardens Alive! 5100 Schenley Place, Dept. 11091, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025; (812) 537-8650, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or visit the website at www.gardens-alive.com.

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