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# The Times

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## Family of five loses home

by SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

At 6:40 a.m. Saturday morning, a fire burned a four-bedroom house in the Pageant Hills Apartment complex in Martin. The Martin Fire Department had the blaze under control after nearly three hours, but the house could not be saved.

The apartment was rented by Kimberly Sparks, a single mother of four children ranging in age from 9 months to 10 years, none of whom were injured.

"None of us were at the house

when the fire broke out," Sparks said. "When I got back, everything was gone. I have four children and everything I have is gone. Everybody's helping out, though. May Valley has been so much help. They bought my children books and clothes for school from Wal-Mart."

Along with May Valley Elementary, there have been several other groups and businesses helping the Sparks family. Joining with neighbors, family and friends, the city of Martin is taking up donations on behalf of the family. Heaven's Harvest Pantry

and Martin Church of Christ donated food, clothing, dishes and other household items. Glenn Patrick, a member of the AmVets in Martin, gave a cash donation for necessary items that may be needed.

The Housing Authority is waiting to hear from God's Appalachian Pantry in McDowell and the Christian Appalachian Project for additional help.

"We'll be relocating her and her children into a two-bedroom house until we can accommodate

(See FIRE, page three)



A Pageant Hills home occupied by Kimberly Sparks and her four children was completely destroyed by fire over the weekend.

photo by Sheldon Compton

### Ladycats rally past Magoffin



— Page 1B

### briefs

#### Pop machine break-in nets charges for father, son

Two Floyd County men were found guilty of mischief following a theft that occurred at a grocery store in the Hippo area.

Jack J. Burchett, 63, and James G. Burchett, 31, both of Hippo, were arrested on separate charges of first-degree criminal mischief and theft by unlawful taking.

According to an arrest report, the two men, who are father and son, were discovered removing bottles of soda from a soft drink machine that had been stolen from a local grocery store.

Reportedly, the two men were caught with 38 bottles of 20-ounce soft drinks that had been removed from the machine. They were arrested at the scene by Deputy Billy Jarvis, Deputy Clarence Elkins, and Lt. Ricky Thornsberry.

During a hearing held Monday, the two men pleaded guilty to reduced charges of second-degree criminal mischief and were ordered to pay \$1,000 each in restitution.

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With replacement of its Twin Bridges expected to last at least 16 months, Martin has become ...

## A town divided

by SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Martin are expressing mixed emotions concerning a state project to replace that city's Twin Bridges, which began this week.

Construction on the first bridge began Monday and is anticipated to last until November before being finished. The second bridge will be finished in May 2002.

The project is state funded and according to Robin Justice, resident engineer for the construction of the bridges, long overdue.

"The bridges are rusted at the connections which could cause a catastrophic break causing the bridge to fall," said

Justice. "That type of bridge is dangerous when these kinds of problems come up."

"I hate to see them go. They are landmarks around here," said Martin Mayor Thomasine Robinson. "However, with the flood project going through, Martin needs some changes."

Some of Martin's residents, though pleased to be receiving renovations to their city, are showing concern for safety as well as an understandable aggravation with having to detour around the project, which has cut the city in half.

Due to the construction, traffic will have to be rerouted onto Route 80, and without a traffic light to assist drivers, many citizens of Martin feel unsafe.

"If they would just come in and put a

temporary red light in that would let people get out on the highway safer," said Kenneth Shepherd, a Martin resident.

The temporary traffic light may come through for Martin residents. Robinson said she had called to see about getting a temporary light on Route 80 for the duration of the project and had been met with a favorable response.

"If people could take Route 80 and 23, that would relieve some of the congestion at that intersection," Justice said. "We know that it's inconvenient, but these bridges need replaced. We hate it, but there's just no way around it. We are working now to address the congestion problem in a meeting with the traffic

(See BRIDGES, page two)



## Former deputy arrested for DUI

Times Staff Report

A former volunteer deputy of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department was arrested last Thursday evening for driving under the influence of alcohol.

James Brandon Spencer, 25, of Calf Creek, was traveling south on KY Route 1428 in Prestonsburg when he lost control of the vehicle he was driving causing it to flip and come to a final rest lying sideways on the driver's side. The vehicle landed in a nearby ditch.

The accident occurred at approximately 9:23 p.m.

According to Officer Roy Roberts of the Prestonsburg Police Department, Spencer was wearing his seat belt and survived the accident with no serious injuries.

Roberts was able to verify that, according to the citation issued by Officer Steve Little at the scene of the accident, Spencer was operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. However, there was no note made of blood-alcohol content on the day that Roberts was contacted.

According to Lt. Ricky Thornsberry of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, Spencer had been serving with the department as a volunteer deputy, but has since resigned. Thornsberry was unsure as to the date of Spencer's resignation.

## Man petitions for school for blind

by KATHY J. PRATER  
STAFF WRITER

A Johnson County man is traveling the eastern Kentucky region on a mission that has been inspired by, in his own words, his "amazing" granddaughter.

Luther VanHoose, of Tutor Key, wants to bring a school for the blind to eastern Kentucky. The idea to begin work on this proposal came to him during Thanksgiving when his granddaughter was home on a holiday break from the school she attends in Louisville.

VanHoose's granddaughter, Marlana VanHoose, travels to Louisville each Sunday to spend her

week away from home in order to receive an education, and she returns home at the latter part of each week and on holiday breaks to be with her family much like many students from our area, with one significant difference. Marlana is not traveling to college, she is traveling to the Louisville School for the Blind. And, Marlana is not in her late teens or early 20s — she is 5 years old.

The difficulties faced by a family which makes such a decision as this can only be fully understood by those who have dealt with similar



Luther VanHoose

situations on a personal basis, VanHoose believes.

VanHoose said that when it is time for his granddaughter to leave, he hugs her and kisses her and tells her to be a good girl and then, "I have to get out of there," he said. "I can't hardly stand it, to know that she is going."

Talking with VanHoose, it is apparent that he loves his granddaughter very much and even though he understands the decision that his son was faced with in sending Marlana away

(See PETITION, page two)



VanHoose was spurred to action due to the experiences of his granddaughter, Marlana, who must leave home each week to attend school in Louisville. Despite being blind since birth, Marlana has taught herself to play the piano.

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## Petition

for her education, it is still a very difficult thing to do, to send a child so young away from home each week.

VanHoose said that initially Marlana had difficulty herself with the change in her lifestyle.

"She started to pull away from us," said VanHoose. "She didn't understand why we weren't around every day anymore."

VanHoose said that he began to question his son's decision to enroll Marlana in the school for the blind, wondering if it was having too great an affect on her emotionally. But, according to VanHoose, by Christmas, Marlana seemed to have adjusted and come to an understanding of how life was to be for her. VanHoose said that she now counts the days saying, "Papaw, I have to leave on Sunday," or "Papaw, I come home on Friday."

VanHoose said that his granddaughter was born blind and that at that time, the doctors in attendance estimated that she would not live past three months of age.

VanHoose said that Marlana came to live in his household, along with his son, when she was a mere 6 days old, and has continued to thrive ever since.

Marlana was able to spell "about 49 words by the time she was 2," said her grandfather, "and not just easy words either, words like 'elephant,' for instance."

"She also taught herself to play the piano," VanHoose went on to say. "She is amazing, just amazing."

VanHoose feels that children like Marlana often suffer from having their needs and talents overlooked by public school

systems which do not have the necessary number of specially-trained instructors or the necessary special teaching equipment.

VanHoose said that Marlana was initially enrolled in the Johnson County public school system but that due to this lack of qualified teachers and necessary training equipment, Marlana was not receiving the instruction necessary for her to excel.

VanHoose said that he has no animosity toward the public school system at all, that he realizes that they do what they can and that their resources are limited. That is why he has begun to petition the state to build a special school for the blind in the eastern Kentucky region.

A school of this nature would encourage trained individuals to take up residence in our area, VanHoose believes.

"If they knew they could live here and maintain jobs here, then they would stay," said VanHoose.

VanHoose said he has land he is fully prepared to donate to the state to be used as a construction site.

"What good is what I have if I can't enjoy my granddaughter?" said VanHoose.

According to information gleaned from the school systems of 16 counties in the eastern Kentucky region, there are 119 students in the eastern Kentucky region who have been determined to be visually impaired. Of this number, approximately 78 of these students live in the eight-county area of Floyd, Johnson, Letcher, Martin, Magoffin, Pike, Lawrence and Knott counties. And, further, VanHoose said that the number of visually impaired students

Continued from p1

seems to increase in those areas along the Big Sandy River.

The school that Marlana attends is serving approximately 65 students from different regions of the state and also students from Indiana. It is the only school of its nature in the state of Kentucky.

Looking at these figures, VanHoose feels that it is evident that a need for such a school in the eastern part of the state exists.

VanHoose said he has spoken with families who have children who are not receiving formal instruction because their local schools are inadequately equipped and the parents are reluctant to allow their children to board away from home.

"We don't want to lose our kids," is what they say to me," said VanHoose.

Other families who have contacted VanHoose have informed him that they moved away from the region in order to have access to specialized schools.

"A combination school for the blind and for the deaf is needed here," VanHoose attests. "The focus needs to be on the children. They can learn and they can be productive."

VanHoose said that he has collected over 5,000 signatures since November and that he has logged more than 7,000 miles in travel delivering his message within the same time period.

"But that's all right," said VanHoose, "I don't care about that. I just hope to see a cooperative effort between the state, our school system, and other families and individuals to help these special kids."

VanHoose said he will welcome any and all assistance from any individuals who want to gather to his cause. He may be contacted at (606) 789-4378 or at the following address: 387 Baker Branch, Tutor Key, KY 41263.

VanHoose has left petitions at various county offices and places of business throughout the area and hopes for the continued support of the regional community in this endeavor.

## Bridges

Continued from p1

engineer this afternoon."

Businesses in Martin will also feel the effects of the bridge projects. The detour means businesses such as Wholesale Auto Parts and Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, as well as Messer's Department Store, are going to have to adjust. In some cases, people will have to detour around Route 80 in order to get to some of the businesses near the bridge.

"Basically it's going to hurt us. Customers are just going to go somewhere else instead of coming around to us," said Brian Osborne, manager of Wholesale Auto Parts.

Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home will have to use a police escort in order to get onto Route 80. This, combined with the fact that the road closes directly in front of the funeral home, proves to be a problem.

These concerns become more important when considering the possibility of an 11-month project ahead and another soon after which will extend well into 2002. The occasional detour could become more and more difficult to endure for the citizens and business owners of Martin as the project gets fully underway.

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**BOE personnel**

# School system personnel changes told

The Floyd County Board of Education, at its January 22 meeting, were notified of the following personnel changes.

**■ Certified Hirings**  
Dewayne Johnson, physical education, Betsy Layne

Elementary School; Rebecca Mullins, English, Allen Central High School; Grace Reynolds, foreign language, ACHS; Christine Thacker, language arts, South Floyd Middle School; Ella Watkins, reading, Stumbo Elementary School.

**■ Certified Resignations**  
Lisa Blankenship, math/science, Adams Middle School.

**■ Certified Retirements**  
Gary Spears, teacher, Stumbo; Clementene Tackett, media specialist, South Floyd High School; Billy Newsome, special education, BLES.

**■ Certified Transfers**  
Rebecca Hicks, teacher, Betsy Layne High School, to Adams Middle.

**■ Certified Leaves of Absence**  
Madie Hall, unpaid medical leave; Teresa Rodriguez, family medical leave.

**■ Certified Substitutes**  
Certified: Sean Damron,

Jody Sword, Timothy Potter, Tiffany Compton, Marie Miller, Linda Howard.

Emergency: Jamie Lynn Short, Shawna Coburn, Rikka Bevins, Valeria Boyd, Amanda Compton, Jeremy Hall, Gary Evans.

**■ Classified Hirings**  
Health Aides: Agatha Mullins, Stumbo; Anna Clark, May Valley Elementary School.

Custodian, part-time: Roy Sammons, Prestonsburg High School.

Special Needs Aide: Roberta Little, ACHS.

Bus Drivers: Alice Stevens, Prestonsburg area; Martin Holbrook, Allen area (Head Start).

**■ Classified Transfers**  
Fair Bentley Jr., and Chad Hall, bus drivers, from Prestonsburg area to South Floyd area; Avonell Mullett, custodian to lead custodian, Prestonsburg High School; Roy Sammons, part-time to

full-time custodian, PHS; Vonetta Hancock, lead custodian, ACMS, to cook, Opportunities Unlimited; Don K. Prater, custodian, Osborne Elementary School to McDowell Elementary School.

**■ Classified Resignations**  
Diane Akers Greenleaf, office assistant, BLES; Mablein Steele, cook, BLES.

**■ Classified Leave of Absence**  
Shirley Boyd, family medical leave.

**■ Classified Substitutes**  
Cook and teacher aide: Anna Ousley, Sylvia Hughes, Kathy Ryan, Nancy Newsome. Custodian: John Robinson, Daniel Mowry, Donnie Hicks. Custodian and cook: Liza Young.

Custodian, teacher aide and cook: Angela Jones. Teacher aide: Jodi Terry, Jerri Marshall. Bus Aide: Nikki Bryant.

## Forget the dozen roses, give 709 rounds of golf

Give the gift of golf this Valentine's Day with the American Cancer Society's 2001 Golf Pass. The pass gives golfing sweethearts play at over 230 courses offering more than 300 rounds of golf. Several in the Floyd County area. The 2001 Golf Pass also offers free practice/range balls at driving ranges. Some restrictions apply.

The golf pass is valued at more than \$3,000, but you can get it for just a \$35 donation to the American Cancer Society. Your donation entitles the golfer to free or reduced green fees. Golf carts are required but not included.

The golf pass may be used through the end of 2001, with some exceptions noted on the pass. Take advantage of this opportunity and give your champion golfer a chance to play some great courses and help in the fight against cancer. The golf pass is a great gift for the golfer in the family, for a business associate or even a preferred client. Many companies purchase golf passes to give away as incentive gifts to employees.

For more information or to order your 2001 Gift Pass, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

# UK's impact reaches across Kentucky into Floyd County

From health care to business advice, from getting new recipes to completing post-graduate educations, Kentuckians from Paducah to Pikeville and Covington to Cumberland felt the impact of the University of Kentucky on their lives during the 1999-2000 academic year.

Residents of Floyd County also felt UK touch their lives. The county boasts 1,943 alumni of the state's flagship university, and it has 150 young people currently attending classes on its campus.

As the state's ninth largest economic enterprise, UK had an impact of nearly \$4.4 billion on Kentucky's economy through jobs, research, service and intellectual capital. Specifically, UK employs some 30,000 residents representing every Kentucky county, and is directly linked to

nearly 80,000 jobs in manufacturing, construction, technology and service.

Meanwhile, more than 440,200 patients relied on the UK Chandler Medical Center—which includes the UK Hospital, the Kentucky Clinics and the UK Children's Hospital—for their health care, including 4,725 Floyd County residents.

"UK continues to be a powerful force in Kentucky in a variety of ways. The university's professors provide advice to state officials on many diverse subjects of vital importance, ranging from building roads at lower costs to helping revenue officials evaluate tax rates," said Mark Berger, a UK economics professor and adviser to governors.

"UK's impact is so pervasive that people have come to take it for granted. They often don't realize how far UK reaches into their communities—and even into their own homes," he added.

In Floyd County, for example, local residents consulted with UK's Cooperative Extension agents on a broad range of issues on 20,036 occasions, seeking information on more healthy dinner recipes, household budgeting, and weather precautions important to both farmers and homeowners.

Across Kentucky, families using this service—the nation's third largest Extension service—reduced their healthcare costs by \$24 million. Meanwhile, farmers saw their revenues rise by \$25 million.

Business people in Floyd County made 154 inquiries for information about better methods of calculating future profits and improving competitiveness. The advice offered by consultants of UK's Small Business Development Centers resulted in an average annual increase of sales by its clients of nearly \$18,000.

Floyd County's men and

women who work in manufacturing plants may have benefited from increased job opportunities created by improved efficiency and productivity, if their employer used the consulting services of UK's Industrial Extension Service. This program, and UK's Lean Manufacturing Institute, advises nearly 350 companies a year on ways to heighten profitable operations, and most of these companies are in Kentucky.

UK's future economic impact also will extend into Floyd County, as coming generations seek their degrees both on the campus in Lexington and on the Internet via Kentucky's Commonwealth Virtual University. Better earnings, a more educated work force and a higher tax base—the evidence of real prosperity—can be expected.

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## Fire

Continued from p1

her with another four-bedroom," said Bruce Coleman of the Floyd County Housing Authority. "It's better than them having to stay with a family and be cramped and uncomfortable."

Sparks and her four children are currently living with her mother in the Pageant Hills apartment complex until another unit can be made available. Rita Wicker, also with the Floyd County Housing Authority, said she hopes to have the family moved into another unit soon and added that they too have helped through donations of clothing and food.

The actual cause of the fire is still not known and remains under investigation. The Housing Authority explained that the investigation is covering possibilities of arson, although arson is not suspected and is simply a routine part of the ongoing investigation.

**Elizabeth Arden**

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# Viewpoint

## Worth Repeating ...

"It is well to open one's mind, but only as a preliminary to closing it ... for the supreme act of judgement and selection."

—Irving Babbitt

### Amendment 1

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.

## Guest View

### Doing nothing would be wrong

You can look at it two ways: as a tourism development initiative or a public health effort. Either way, Gov. Paul Patton is on the right track with his proposal for "universal solid waste collection."

That means garbage pickup, in every Kentucky county.

What he did for Pike County as its judge/executive, Gov. Patton now wants to do for all 120 counties. Or, more precisely, for those in which some 300,000 homes don't have regular garbage collection.

Those also are the counties where the Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection has found most of the state's 3,000-plus illegal dumps.

The Governor's plan, let's face it, is an unfunded mandate, just like those regularly sent to Frankfort from Washington. But it also can be seen as good conservative theory at work. It will give local officials, who are closest to the problem, a chance to figure out how businesses and households should pay for garbage service.

There was no choice. Faced with a GOP Senate that would nail him for suggesting anything remotely resembling a new tax, and knowing that many legislators in his own party would be hard to persuade, the Governor decided to let county fiscal courts find the money.

Herewith, an irony: It is the very rural counties most in need of garbage collection that are represented in Frankfort by the smug naysayers who never would agree to raise revenue to pay for the Governor's program.

Then there's House Majority Leader Greg Stumbo, who thinks the Governor is being timid. Rep. Stumbo wants to pass a half-cent environmental impact fee (yes, it's a tax) on bottles, cans and fast food drink cups to fund a more comprehensive cleanup effort, which both he and the Governor want to implement.

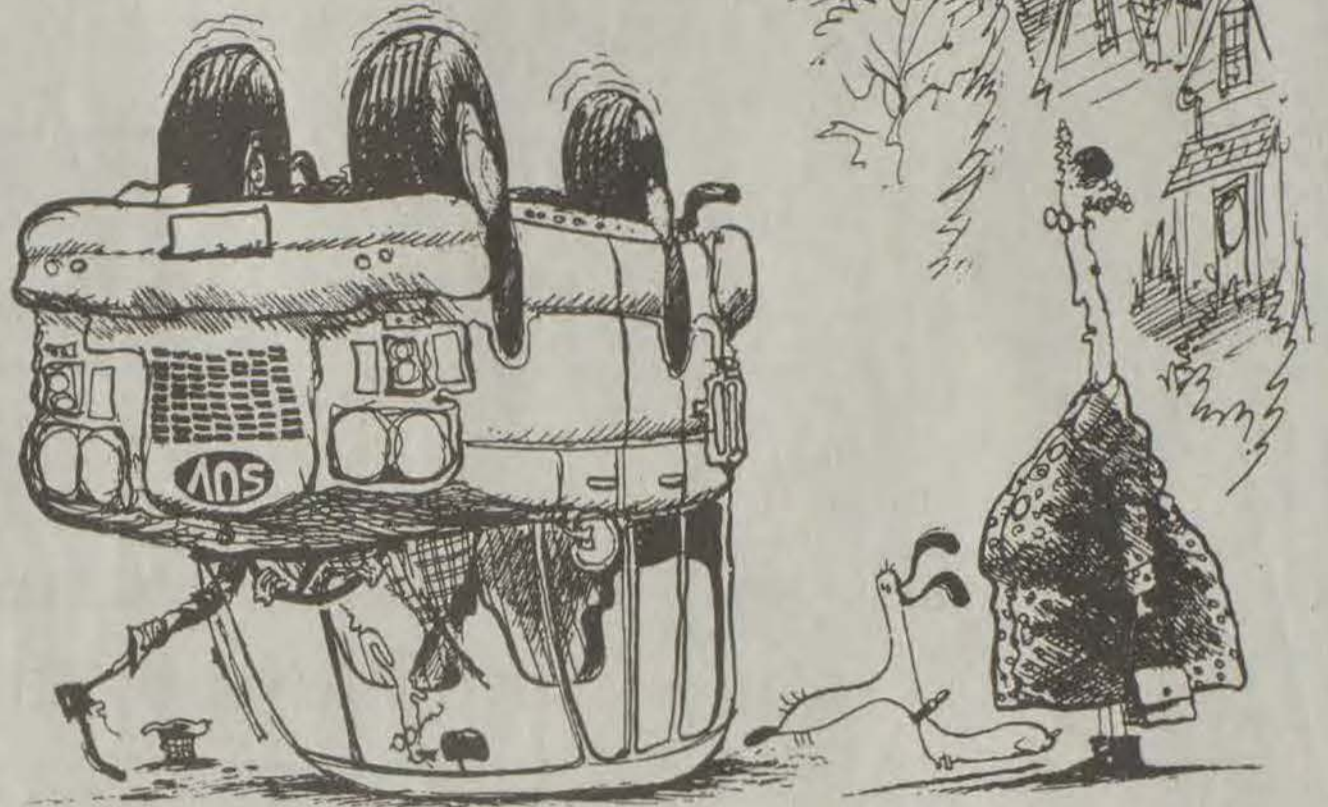
With a \$300 million budget shortfall looming, and a huge Medicaid funding problem to solve, the Governor suggests waiting a year on his \$30 million cleanup program. Rep. Stumbo says act now, to fund dump removal, road cleanup, environmental education, recycling programs and other aspects of a statewide cleanup.

Environmental advocate Tom FitzGerald has his own suggestion: push mandatory garbage pickup on counties by "linking it to a more aggressive enforcement posture toward closure of these old landfills . . . and providing a revolving loan fund program to capitalize the cost of closure."

The Governor is right. Rep. Stumbo is right. Mr. FitzGerald may be right. Only a failure to take bold action is clearly wrong.

—Louisville Courier-Journal

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"You SLAMMED the DOOR AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU HARLEY."

## Letters

### A challenge to the new board

Editor:

When I became a member of the Floyd County Board of Education three years ago, I didn't have any illusions about what I was getting into. I knew that most board members were elected with the help of local politicians and usually owed them or others until they left office. I also knew that the board members spend the largest amount of their time not on education, but struggling internally for power.

Although children were always used to justify anything that board members did, their real interest was in the power: who had the votes and what parts of the county would benefit from that power.

Being on the board in the past appeared to be like feeding in the trough. In order to eat, the strong pushed the others out. It didn't matter that it was children who suffered.

In a way, the members figured that there was a sort of fairness about it all. After all, what goes around eventually comes around. Those on the outside would eventually have their place at the trough.

The problem occurred when you went without too long. You wanted to make up for what you'd missed so you built big. That's why we have large, state-of-the-art schools just a short distance from older, run-down buildings.

I certainly also knew that the Floyd County board was not an enlightened place to be if you were a woman or someone with ties to education. Little value has been placed on teachers or women in the system. I remember sitting before the Floyd County board several years ago and watching board members read their board books as I received the Christa McAuliffe teaching award and going home that evening feeling terrible.

In the last couple of years, the board has evicted several teachers on fixed incomes because of their construction projects. Thirty years of service seem to mean nothing. We don't honor the service of dedicated teachers. "How can I go to work feeling good about myself when I know what we do isn't valued?" one teacher asked me recently.

Although 80 percent of the teaching force in Floyd County is made up of women, we have never had a woman superintendent and, unless things change, there is not likely to be one any time soon. When a woman in the system acquires the education to be more than a teacher or a supervisor, works hard, attends meetings, she is either locked in her position or is pushed out of the system.

For a long time, women were shut out of political office because of the power structure. Gradually, when women did seek office, it was often in a subordinate position. They were co-opted by politicians or political machines. Some women did little in their own campaigns. Key precinct people campaign on their behalf because it was assumed that women "just aren't good at that."

Once elected, the professional politicians assumed that they could control their votes. Of the three women that I know that have been on the board, all of them have been professionals with backgrounds and experiences that far exceed most of their male counterparts. They represented medicine, higher education and business, but none became board chairs. Two of the three, in fact, didn't stay on the board very long at all. Why? Because this has not been a board where women have traditionally been valued. The more assertive the woman, the less chance that she will survive on the board.

Look for women in leadership positions on this board. You won't find them. Watch the males' reactions to strong women. You'll see a difference between how assertive women and their male coun-

terparts are treated.

Just before the last board election, our new chair expressed the hopes that at least one of the new board members would be a woman, but one who was not too assertive or who would make people feel defensive. He did not set the same criteria for any male that might be elected.

As a board, we need to examine our biases towards women. I can honestly say as a woman that the biases are there and they are demeaning. Perhaps I just wanted to believe things had changed, but if I had any illusions, they were shattered at the board meeting at South Floyd High School last Monday night. It was obvious then that nothing had changed. It may, in fact, even be worse. The board did what it always does: It elected a new board chair and vice chair, both males.

It was also obvious that night that we're still a board divided into five districts. Read any of the board minutes. Count the amount of money that goes to the districts and you'll know who is in power and who is not. If you study the voting patterns, you'll see the commitments that have been made.

Even small amounts of money don't come without obligations, however. "You have to give to get," a board member told me when I first came on the board.

We can do better than that. I would hope that I serve on a board where each of us has the courage to vote for children, even if we are the sole "No" or "Yes" in the room. I would also hope that we will vote how we feel about the issues and not because we think that we can't win. We shouldn't change our votes simply because we think that we are out-voted. There is nothing wrong with disagreement.

I have tried to represent the interests of my district, but I have always tried to see the needs of all children in the county without thinking about political power. We can free ourselves of negative

political influence. We need to read, study and be knowledgeable on each issue before we vote and when we do cast our votes, do so with the best interest of children in mind, and mean it. That is the kind of board that I want to serve on.

Carol Stumbo  
McDowell

### A lack of responsibility

Editor:

Lots of problems in our great country stem from the fact that many of our citizens seem to be unable to accept responsibility for their actions. Consider the following:

"God bless America, land of the free, home of the blame. Let's see if I understand the state of personal responsibility in the America of the 1990s.

"If a woman burns her thighs on the hot coffee she was holding in her lap while driving, she blames the restaurant.

"If your teenage son kills himself, you blame the rock and roll musician he liked.

"If you smoke three packs a day for 40 years and die of lung cancer, your family blames the tobacco company.

"If your daughter gets pregnant by the football captain, you blame the school for poor sex education.

"If your neighbor crashes into a tree while driving home drunk, you blame the bartender.

"If your cousin gets AIDS because the needle he used to shoot heroin was dirty, you blame the government for not providing clean ones.

"If your grandchildren are brats without manners, you blame the television.

"And if your friend is shot by a deranged madman, you blame the gun manufacturer.

"God bless America, land of the free, home of the blame. Aren't we glad we live in

(See LETTERS, page five)

## The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

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## Letter Guidelines

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.

# Increases in assistance create opportunities for students

Significant increases in federal funding will expand opportunities for students to succeed in two-year colleges, said Dr. Michael B. McCall, president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).

Congress recently approved

and then-President Clinton signed the fiscal year 2001 appropriations bill that funds the U.S. Department of Education, among other programs. The legislation includes an 18 percent increase in federal funding for education.

KCTCS, which comprises 28 community and technical colleges, is in line to receive comparable funding increases in a variety of programs, such as tuition grants, assistance for low-income students, and aid for workforce training and adult education.

"In this centennial year of two-year colleges in America, it is appropriate that Congress and the president stepped up to the plate to provide funding that will assist our colleges in being even more responsive and accessible to students," McCall said.

"In KCTCS, our mission is to change the lives of students, but education occurs one student at a time. These significant funding increases give us ample opportunities to serve the needs of students."

The appropriations bill

included a \$450 increase in the Pell Grant, bringing the maximum to \$3,750. In the last six years, the Pell Grant maximum has increased \$1,410, or 60 percent.

The Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. Generally, Pell Grants are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree.

**Other highlights of the appropriations bill that will increase opportunities for students includes:**

■ **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants**—\$691 million, an increase of 9.5 percent. These grants are available to students who demonstrate exceptional need and are progressing toward a degree.

■ **Work study**—\$1 billion, up 8.2 percent. This program provides jobs for undergraduates and graduate students who have financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay educa-

tion expenses. The program encourages community service and work related to the student's course of study.

■ **TRIO programs**—\$730 million, up 13.2 percent. The TRIO programs are designed to identify promising students (Talent Search), prepare them to do college level work (Upward Bound), and provide tutoring and support services once they reach campus (Student Support Services).

■ **GEAR UP**—\$295 million, up 47.5 percent. GEAR UP is aimed at encouraging schools, colleges, universities, and community-based organizations to help low-income students stay in school, develop study skills, take appropriate college-prep courses, and have high aspirations to pursue collegiate-level studies.

■ **Campus child care grants**—\$25 million, up 400 percent.

For more information on financial assistance for students at KCTCS community and technical colleges, call 1-877-KCTCS-4U, ext. 1309, or contact the campus nearest you.

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## MAYO MOMENTS

by Linda Lyon

When you think about a college class you think of Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday scheduled classes. These classes meet regularly and usually last for one semester.

However, there are other types of programs offered at Mayo that allow flexibility and exploration of training on a more flexible schedule. Mayo Technical College offers a wide variety of classes that are not the standard daily scheduled fare. These classes are often categorized as Continuing Education.

Harold Burton coordinates the Continuing Education, Industry Training, Co-operative Education and other programs that fall into this wide category. He works with business and industry to determine the needs of the community and then structures training programs to meet those needs.

The classes are short term in nature, often taught in evenings or weekends, with specific objectives. These classes may result in certificates of competency where appropriate. They may or may not transfer into regular semester programs, depending on the content and scope of the class. The length of these classes depends on the content. Some are intensive and others are not. Each class is structured specifically to meet the needs of the students enrolled.

Types of short term classes you may find at Mayo TC could range from Introduction to Computers, Networking, Cisco, Word, Access, Excel, Car Maintenance, Carpentry, Electricity, Welding, First Aid/CPR, Hospital Medical Coding, and other industry specific programs.

If there is a need for specific training, Burton will work with all parties to meet that need. That is part of the mission of Mayo TC and has been part of its long tradition of service in this community.

To get more information on classes you might like to enroll in, call Harold Burton at 606/789-5321, ext. 225, or email him at [harold.burton@kctcs.net](mailto:harold.burton@kctcs.net). You can always find information on Mayo's webpage <http://www.mayotech.org>.

## Letters

Continued from p4

America? We can do whatever we want and give blame to someone else.

"Only in America."

We need to accept our responsibility when election time comes again. Let's vote against those who continually make all those promises just to get our votes. We ought to know by now that our fat cats are lying and there is no way we could believe them. I was told many years back that they would put water up Hunter Branch. They got it across the creek, then stopped. But I'm not the only one who has been lied to.

Our fat cats will use the taxes on our cars to get elected. They had that on the ballot, and we voted to take the taxes off our vehicles. What good did that do? They just made a fool out of us. I

don't see why our representative didn't do something for us. Seems like all he is interested in is adding more taxes so he can feather his own nest. He had better put his thinking cap on. He saw what happened in the last election, and it can happen to him.

I wish they would finish cleaning our creeks out. I paid to have it cleaned out at the end of my property. They left a tree laying in the creek. I wish they would have moved it. If they don't move it, I may have to call MacArthur Jacobs. I paid him before to clean it out. I don't want my field to wash out because I do raise a garden. Only in Kentucky can we be done like this.

Nora Martin  
Printer

## Donation helps Floyd County teens learn safe driving habits

A Kentucky car manufacturer has found a way to help reduce the alarming number of car accidents involving teen drivers, especially 16-year-olds, the most accident-prone and least experienced group of

drivers on our highways.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, maker of the Camry, Avalon and Sienna, has donated funds to purchase seven copies of AAA's Driver-ZED (Zero Errors Driving) teen driving program for Prestonsburg High School, six for Betsy Layne High School and five each for South Floyd High School and Allen Central High School. This interactive CD-ROM has gained popularity statewide among students, teachers and parents, and is now available to Floyd County students.

AAA's fun, interesting CD-ROM has 80 video driving sequences especially geared toward 16 and 17 year olds who are about to get a driver's license, a kind of "crash course in crash prevention."

According to the Kentucky State Police, in 1999, 16-19-year-olds were involved in 28,505 crashes in Kentucky. There were 151 fatalities in accidents involving teen drivers. Even though teens make up only 5.7 percent of all Kentucky drivers, they are involved in 21 percent of all crashes in the state.

"These terrible statistics must be reversed," said Dan Dickson, public relations manager for AAA Blue Grass/Kentucky. "AAA and many local civic organizations and businesses are doing something about it by contributing to a fund to place these teen driving CD-ROMs in every high school in central, eastern and southeastern Kentucky."

As funds are raised in each community, copies of Driver-ZED are being distributed to high schools in AAA's 47-county Kentucky territory.

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

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|-----------------|---|------------------|--|
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| <b>CINEMA 2</b> | The Wedding Planner<br>Mon.-Sun. 7:00, 9:10<br>Fri. (4:10), 7:10, 9:10<br>Sat.-Sun. (2:00, 4:10), 7:00, 9:10            | <b>CINEMA 7</b>  | VALENTINE<br>Mon.-Thurs. 7:10, 9:25<br>Fri. (4:25), 7:10, 9:25<br>Sat.-Sun. (2:10, 4:25), 7:10, 9:25                       |
| <b>CINEMA 3</b> | THE BALLAD OF JOHNNY AND MAE<br>Mon.-Thurs. 7:15, 9:15<br>Fri. (4:15), 7:15, 9:15<br>Sat.-Sun. (2:15, 4:15), 7:15, 9:15 | <b>CINEMA 8</b>  | O' Brother Where Art Thou PG 13<br>Mon.-Thurs. 7:05, 9:15<br>Fri. (4:15), 7:05, 9:15<br>Sat.-Sun. (2:05, 4:15), 7:05, 9:15 |
| <b>CINEMA 4</b> | THE YEAR OF THE HORSE<br>Fri. (8:00)<br>Sat.-Sun. (1:30, 3:15) 8:00   | <b>CINEMA 9</b>  | SAVE THE LAST DANCE<br>Mon.-Sun. 7:05, 9:15<br>Fri. (4:15), 7:05, 9:15<br>Sat.-Sun. (2:05, 4:15), 7:05, 9:15               |
| <b>CINEMA 5</b> | Traffic R<br>Mon.-Sun. 6:45, 9:20   | <b>CINEMA 10</b> | CAST AWAY<br>Mon.-Sun. 6:45, 9:20<br>Fri. (4:10), 6:45, 9:20<br>Sat.-Sun. (1:30, 4:10), 6:45, 9:20                         |

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# Community Calendar

**Calendar items will be printed as space permits**

**Editor's note:** As a service to the many clubs and committees that meet in our community, The Floyd County Times' Community Calendar will post meeting and public service announcements. Articles for the Community Calendar must be submitted in writing to The Times no later than 5 p.m. Monday for Wednesday's publication, 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday's publication, or 5 p.m. Thursday for Sunday's publication. These cannot be taken over the telephone.

**AARP Tax-aid service begins February 7**

Volunteers from Jenny Wiley Chapter No. 3528, AARP, will begin their tax-aid program of assisting elderly and low-income taxpayers with their income tax forms on Wednesday, February 7, at the Prestonsburg library.

The Tax-Aide service will continue every Wednesday, from 8:30-3, until April 11. This is a free service, provided by Jenny Wiley, AARP.

**Master Mason degree at John W. Hall Lodge**

Steve Fallons will receive the Master Mason degree at a meeting to be held Saturday, February 10, at John W. Hall Lodge No. 950, F&AM, Martin.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m., and dinner will be served.

**Evening program planned**

Camp Nathaniel in Knott County is hosting an evening of Christian Fellowship on Friday, February 23, beginning with dinner at 7 p.m. Featured guest is Gerrie Budgick, mother, grandmother, health care professional and author of "Victorious Victim." For information, call 606/251-3231.

**Business seminar for women**

Big Sandy Women's Business Symposium is a seminar being offered by the Morehead State University/Small Business Development Center for all women—homemakers, professionals, educators—in the Big Sandy area, on Thursday, February 22, at the May Lodge at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. The symposium will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with a registration fee of \$15 which covers the cost of a luncheon. Guest speakers will discuss "Renewing Your Spirit," "Balancing Family & Work," "Loans for Women in Small Business," and "Success Stories" from successful women entrepreneurs. To pre-register or get more information, call the Small Business Development Center at 606/432-5848.

**Maytown offers art classes**

The Maytown Lifelong Learning Center will offer classes in ceramics and basic drawing, beginning in mid-February. The ceramics class will run for six weeks, on Thursdays, with a choice of two times, 2 to 4 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$25. The basic drawing class is set for Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., for six weeks, and the cost is \$10. For more information, call 606/285-0539.

**Business workshop**

"Small business record keeping" is a free workshop for prospective and existing small business owners being offered by the Morehead State University/Small Business Development Center. The workshop will be conducted on Thursday, February 8, at the BB&T Bank Building on the North Mayo Trail in Pikeville. The time for the workshop is 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Lynette Schindler, CPA, will be the instructor for this workshop. Topics to be covered are

Managing Business Records, Handling Tax Payments, Analyzing Financial Statements, and more. For information, call the Small Business Development Center at 606/432-5848.

**Beekeeping workshop set**

Floyd County Cooperative Extension Service will hold its Spring Beekeepers Workshop and Bee Giveaway on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the office at 921 S. Lake Dr. in Prestonsburg. Tom Webster, extension beekeeping specialist, will demonstrate new products for disease and mite control. For information, call Ray Tackett, 606/886-2668.

**Oil painting class**

The Community Center for Lifelong Learning at Prestonsburg Community College is offering an oil painting class to the community. Local artist Tim Sizemore, is teaching the class, which will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Art Gallery on the Prestonsburg campus. Sessions begin on January 30, and continue through March 20. For more information, contact Karen Houston in the Community Center for Lifelong Learning, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 606/886-3863, ext. 258, or email Karen.Houston@kctcs.net.

**Pesticide training available**

Training in applying pesticide will be available from the Floyd County Extension Service in two separate sessions: February 6 at 1 p.m. and February 8 at 6:30 p.m. The training is free and open to the public. Each session lasts from 2-1/2 to three hours and will take place at the extension office, 921 S. Lake Dr., Prestonsburg. Call Ray Tackett, 606/886-2668.

**Strawberry plants available**

The Floyd County Extension Service is taking orders for strawberry plants. Available varieties are Earliglow, Surecrop and Tribute. Plants are sold in bunches of 25. Orders and money are due by February 25. Call Ray Tackett, 606/886-2668.

**Managing wildlife in your yard**

Backyard Wildlife Management is the topic of a workshop planned for February 5 by the Floyd County Extension Service. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the extension office at 921 S. Lake Dr. in Prestonsburg, Dr. Tom Barnes, wildlife specialist, will show how to manage your land to attract and maintain wildlife. Contact Ray Tackett, 606/886-2668.

**Concert**

"The first ladies of gospel music," the Perry Sisters, will be in concert with God's Men, Saturday, February 17, at 6 p.m., at Caney Creek Freewill Baptist Church, in Pikeville. Admission is free. Call 606-437-0116.

**Adoption fair**

Adoption providers from across the state will be represented at a free adoption fair, Sunday, February 18, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., at the University of Louisville Shelby Campus. The

event and workshops are free. For details and directions, call 1-800-928-4303.

**Gospel singing set for Maytown**

A gospel concert and chili dinner is planned for Friday, February 2, at the Maytown Lifetime Learning Center (old Maytown School). The event begins at 6 p.m. in the "Gathering Place" (elementary school lunchroom).

Featured groups will be Mountain Harmony and Bluegrass Gospel Boys. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family, with proceeds going toward restoration of the school building. For information, call 606/285-0539.

**Pikeville Methodist activities**

February 1: Lung Cancer Support Group, 6 p.m. Leonard Lawson Cancer Center conference room; re-organizational meeting for any lung cancer patient, support persons and family. 606/218-4992.

February 7: Look Good—Feel Better program, 9:30 a.m. at the Leonard Lawson Cancer Center. Women undergoing cancer treatments to help them apply cosmetics effectively and to teach them to fashion wigs and turbans, co-sponsored by American Cancer Society. 606/218-4992.

February 8: Community CPR, 9 a.m.-noon, PMH Education Center. To register, 606/218-3525.

February 12: ABC (After Breast Cancer) Support Group, 6 p.m., Leonard Lawson Cancer Center conference room. 606/218-4992.

February 16: Dr. Mary Fox, AIDS Update, 6-8 p.m., Education Center, 606/218-3525.

February 19: CCS (Colorectal Cancer Survivors) Support Group, 6 p.m. Leonard Lawson Cancer Center. 606/218-4992.

February 21: Look Good—Feel Better program, 9:30 a.m., Leonard Lawson Cancer Center for women undergoing cancer treatments to help them apply cosmetics effectively and to teach them to fashion wigs and turbans, co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society. 606/218-4992.

February 22: US TOO! Prostate Support Group and US TOO! Partners, 6:30 p.m., Leonard Lawson Cancer Center conference room. 606/218-4992.

February 26: Diabetes Support Group, 6 p.m., Education Center. 606/218-3513.

**Leadership KY enrolling**

Leadership Kentucky is accepting applications for its 2001 class. Each year, 50 participants are selected to attend seven monthly sessions dealing with such topics as health and human services, law and justice, the economy, politics, environment, leadership, history and education. Panel discussions, workshops, lectures, field trips and other activities are scheduled.

For information on applying, call 502/695-1102 or e-mail leaderky@mis.net. Deadline for applications is March 1.

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Prestonsburg, Kentucky

\$15.00 per person (Price includes luncheon)

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**Workforce development entities promote assessment system**

Six Kentucky communities and a youth program are piloting a job profiling and employee assessment system intended to develop workplace skills in demand by employers.

The pilots are sponsored by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Cabinet for Workforce Development through funding from Gov. Paul Patton's EMPOWER Kentucky initiative.

The pilots are using the Work Keys system, widely employed in the private sector to analyze jobs and assess employee skill levels. Work Keys is a product of ACT Inc., a nonprofit organization best known for the ACT college entrance exam.

"As employers assess what they need from employees, skill sets are becoming increasingly important. Businesses need employees

who can function well in a high-performance organization, and our partnership with state government in the Work Keys project will help develop those types of employees," said Dr. Michael B. McCall, KCTCS president.

"The Cabinet for Workforce Development provides a connection between Kentuckians looking for jobs and employers who need qualified applicants," said cabinet Secretary Allen D. Rose. "Work Keys gives us an excellent tool for making these connections. It also identifies areas in which individuals need to upgrade their skills for jobs they aspire to."

The pilots are underway in Covington, Hazard, Henderson, Lexington, Richmond and Somerset and in the Kentucky Youth Challenge program at Fort Knox. The system works like this:

- An assessment scores

people's skills in one or more of eight areas (applied math and technology, listening, locating information, observation, reading, teamwork and writing).

■ Jobs are analyzed for the skill levels necessary to perform the work in the same eight areas. In addition to profiles of specific jobs, Work Keys provides a database of levels needed for hundreds of different types of jobs.

■ The employee or applicant then has targeted instruction to improve skills in particular areas.

EMPOWER Kentucky has provided \$400,000 to cover the costs of assessment and instructional materials, an evaluation of the pilots and training on using the Work Keys system. The instructional materials, developed specifically to align with the Work Keys system, are being supplied by Worldwide

**Governor's meeting with President Bush 'productive, encouraging'**

Gov. Paul Patton joined 18 other governors in a meeting today at the White House with President Bush and administration officials to discuss the Bush education proposal.

Governor Patton said, "Like me, the president is very passionate about education. I'm encouraged that he chose to devote his first week in office to the important issue of educating our children."

Governor Patton characterized the meeting with President Bush as being a very cordial, productive meeting. Each of the 18 governors in attendance had the opportunity to discuss

the status of education in their respective states and engage in open dialogue on the Bush proposal.

Patton focused on and encouraged the president to increase federal funding to the area of special education, which is currently being underfunded by the federal government.

"While not getting a commitment on full funding for special education, I feel President Bush listened and will look seriously at increasing much-needed funding to aid states in providing the money needed to insure that our children with special needs are provided for," Patton said.

While there was general agreement on most aspects of the president's proposal, some reservations were expressed by the group on the subject of school vouchers. Patton added that it was his impression that the voucher part of the proposal would be an option for the states to decide, not a mandate.

The governor also had the opportunity to talk to new Secretary of Education Roderick Paige, who said he was very familiar with Kentucky's education reform programs and was impressed with the progress Kentucky has already made in the areas of accountability and assessment. Patton said he looks forward to working with Paige in the future on the important issue of education.

Interactive Network (WIN) from Kingston, Tenn.

For more information about the Work Keys system, employers can contact Donna

Davis of KCTCS at (859) 246-3100 or Nancy Laprade of the Cabinet for Workforce Development at (502) 564-6606.

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*by Stan Stumbo & Voncel Thacker*

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Feb. 14th - 18th  
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by CLYDE PACK

### About dozing rodents and stuff

Although Dubya's first week in office, pre-Super Bowl hype, and UK's football woes grabbed most of the headlines, there were a few other things in the paper last week worth noting. Well, maybe they weren't really worth noting, but I noted them anyway.

First was a story about a Dr. Antinori who, on a visit to Lexington, announced that he would attempt to clone a human being within the next year. I suppose the success of Dolly the sheep has led him to believe he can actually come up with a Molly the person.

When I first read about his claim, I'll have to admit I was skeptical. But then I saw him on TV giving an illustration of how he planned to pull it off. What he did was draw a big circle with a lot of little circles inside it.

Boy, that really sold me. Just kidding, of course. Actually, it was the dumbest thing I'd ever seen in my life. When I was growing up in Muddy Branch, all us kids had an apt description for people like that and someone would surely have described the good doctor as being "crazy as a bess bug."

Another item that took up way too much space involved a study that apparently concluded that animals dream. Dogs, cats, elephants, seals and kangaroos: if they sleep, they dream.

Actually, the animals in this particular experiment were four pink-eared, black and white laboratory rats. And, not only did scientists have enough gadgets hooked up to them that they were sure the little critters were dreaming, they're also pretty sure they know what the dozing rodents were dreaming about.

Next, they'll probably hook them up to a TV monitor and decide if they're dreaming in Technicolor.

I'm not really sure that my

(See POISON, page four)

### Small World



by AILEEN HALL

### Let It Snow

Old habits are hard to break and, almost since I can remember, I've been waking each day knowing there was something to do or some place to go. When it wasn't to school, it was to work. It was a schedule I have enjoyed and been slow to relinquish.

But much as I like going in some direction every morning, there are times when it's great to just look out the window and appreciate the comfort of a warm house. This is that kind of day. The snow is coming down and it's just beautiful. This column is written a few days in advance of publication as my editor likes anything other than up-to-date news to be available to her early. Anyway, by the time this runs, the sun may be shining and we might be having a heat wave, but today we're having a bit of a blizzard.

It makes me glad I put out more bird feed yesterday. The newest little feeder is in the shape of a small post office, and they haven't really taken to it yet, but I'm hoping they will soon find there is good news at the door in the form of bird seed.

There is also some corn at the squirrel feeder, but we have a lot of walnut trees and there are still so many

(See WORLD, page four)

# Lifestyles

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- Birthdays • C3
- Weddings • C3

January 31, 2001

SECTION • C

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Email: web@floydcountytimes.com

[www.floydcountytimes.com](http://www.floydcountytimes.com)

# SAVING THE PAST

## Professor committed to building Floyd County archives

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY PAM SHINGLER  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The person who seems most committed to and most active in preserving local history wasn't even born here.

A former Nebraskan, Dr. Robert Perry has adopted the history and culture of the Big Sandy Valley and has been made a member of the family by people who care about remembering where we came from and who we are.

Perry, one of the primary forces behind the restoration of the Samuel May House in Prestonsburg, is now establishing the Floyd County Archives, a collection of historical artifacts.

Perhaps most important is the growing collection of photographs. Perry has amassed about 3,000 pictures and is always on the lookout for more.

Using Wal-Mart's laser printing service, he makes copies of original photographs, allowing the owners of the pictures to keep them and, at the same time, share them.

Each photo is preserved in a plastic sleeve and filed under an appropriate category. For instance, the Big Sandy file is for photos depicting life along the river, including an array of steamboats, the last of which made its way through the shallow water in the mid-1930s.

Other files relate to communities around the county, old families, schools, and the like. One focuses on disasters, such as floods and the tragic school bus wreck of 1958.

Perry is particularly interested in increasing the representation from communities and families in the southern end of the county, along Mud Creek to Left Beaver.

The photos have become part of the embryo archives through Perry's doggedness. "I get them by going out and talking to people," he said, "getting to know them and following up on leads."

Two intriguing items that will eventually be on display are dresses dating to the early 1900s, each of fine linen with intricate brocade trim. They were presented by Margaret Spradlin, who has inherited many heirlooms from several relatives.

The donor's late father-in-law, Sam Spradlin, saved a number of copies of newspapers from the early part of the 20th century, including the Floyd County Times, the Big Sandy News from Louisa, and the Prestonsburg Post, which predated the Times.

The yellowed papers have been laminated so they can be read without crumbling. They are on display at the May House.

Also in the collection is a real "find" that was in the attic of the house when it became a public facility. Someone in the May family had apparently obtained and saved a window pane of heavy beveled glass from the old First Commonwealth Bank, which once stood near the intersection of Front and Court streets in Prestonsburg.

In line with research Perry is doing on the infamous "Bad John" Hall, he will soon

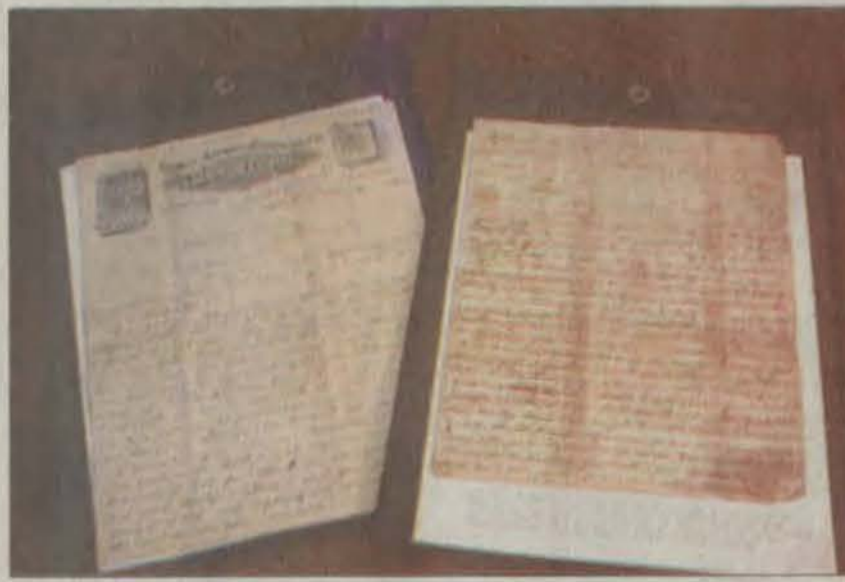
(See PERRY, page two)



■ Robert Perry



A window pane from the old First Commonwealth Bank building in downtown Prestonsburg was found in the attic of the May House and will be a part of the collection that will go on display.



Documents and letters, going back to the early days of eastern Kentucky settlement, are among artifacts in the May House collection.



Jenny Wiley is looking for Annie and friends

## JWT Seeking Talent

Jenny Wiley Theatre will have auditions in February for its 2001 summer season.

Performers, both professional and amateur, are invited to attend the theatre's local casting call Friday, February 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All auditions will be held at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg.

The theatre offers both paid and volunteer positions and employs professional theatre talent from across the nation. Scott Bradley, artistic coordinator, and Bob Bogdanoff, resident director, will be casting this year's shows, including "Annie," "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Taffetas," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and "The Legend of Jenny Wiley."

Performers are asked to prepare a song and a short monologue, and an accompanist will be provided. A capella singing is acceptable, but the auditioner must sing with piano to demonstrate ability to match pitch.

Tapes and pre-recorded accompaniments are discouraged, and no stereo or tape player will be provided. Some performers may be asked to demonstrate movement skills and/or be taught a short dance combination as part of the audition.

Jenny Wiley Theatre is particularly interested in seeing talented local girls, ages 8 to 13, for roles in "Annie." All roles, including Annie, are open and will be cast from these auditions. Any girls interested in the role of Annie should be prepared to

(See JWT, page three)



Yesterdays

Operators Association skidded, as expected, the first week in January, due chiefly to New Year's holiday, but it had not fully recovered by the week ending January 21... Born: to Mr. and Mrs. James R. Camicia, of Prestonsburg, a daughter, Margaret Ann, January 27 here; to Dr. and Mrs. Norman White, of Prestonsburg, a son, Norman II, January 21... There died: Mark Tackett, 70, of Virgie, formerly of Weeksburg, Jan. 22 at Pikeville; Jerry Tackett, 69, of McDowell, Saturday at the Pikeville; B. W. (Brack) Bentley, 85, Sunday at his home at Garrett; Hannah E. Meade, 72, last Wednesday at her home at Banner; Cynthia Sexton, 76, of

Banner, Sunday; Rhodia McGuira, 42, formerly of West Prestonsburg, Friday in Findlay, Ohio; Opal Jean Smith, 14, of Brainard, last Wednesday at Louisville.

**Fifty Years Ago (February 1, 1951)**

A steady fall of rain onto Monday night's snow threatened today (Thursday) to turn the Big Sandy valley's part of the nationwide "deep freeze" into a flood... The Floyd County Board of Education owns 127 separate tracts of land for school purposes, but few of these are of the area needed and being more and more demanded by state education authorities,

said County Superintendent Palmer L. Hall this week... Mrs. George Glenn Hatcher announced Saturday, January 27, her intention to seek the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State and succeed her husband in that office... "If a man isn't able to eat the foods he likes he's in mighty sorry shape — imagine going through life without being able to enjoy a fine big platter of bacon and eggs." That is the way Joseph N. Damillot, of Dayton, Ohio, described his tragic circumstances before trying HADACOL, according to an ad for the timeless elixir in the Times this week... Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McKee, of David, a son, Bobby Gale, Jan. 13; to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Music, of Prestonsburg, a daughter, Judy Irene, Jan. 24... There died: John C. Coburn, 79, of Little Paint, Friday; Lula Newsom, 38, Friday at her home at Bevinsville of tuberculosis; W. R. (Bogue) Crisp,

92, Monday at his home on Turkey Creek near Langley; Rebecca Boyd, 70, Jan. 24 at her home at Dana; Festus Reynolds, 69, Monday at his home at Ligon.

**Sixty Years Ago (January 30, 1941)**

After returning 152 true bills, from the examination of 218 witnesses, the grand jury of the Floyd Circuit Court ended nine days of work Wednesday with a final report in which it lashed out at roadhouses and enforce-

ment of the law in connection with their conduct... Following the adoption of a plan to subdivide the Big Sandy district of the Lonesome Pine Council, Boy Scouts of America, into four divisions, the first of a series of division organization meetings was held at the Valley Inn here, Friday evening... Floyd County's lime program will be discussed by County Agent S. L. Isbell in a broadcast Friday noon over WLW, it was announced Monday... Garrett's Black Devils defeated Wayland's

Wildcats, but not before staying off defeat on at least two occasions in the closing seconds of what was described as "the best tournament basketball game ever played in eastern Kentucky," Saturday at Wayland... Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Wicker, of Martin, a son, January 25... There died: Fanny Mayo, 63, Wednesday at her home at Hite; Kate Stephens Spradlin, Sunday at her home on Abbott Creek; John Nelson Kelly, 56, Monday at Martin; Ezra Akers, 45, formerly of Printer, January 20 in

Happy Birthday



100 years old

Ernie Shannon Cox, a resident of Logan Elm Nursing Home in Circleville, Ohio, formerly of McDowell and Drift, is celebrating her 100th birthday on January 31, 2001. She was born in Louisa on January 31, 1901, the second of 11 children of Harve and Molly Cartmell Shannon. She married Ulysses Cox on January 1, 1925, and they had two children, Corlida Cox Fullen and Claudis Cox, and four grandchildren. Her husband died in 1975 and her son in 1999. She has two brothers still living, William Shannon of Hampton, Virginia, and Rev. Ted Shannon of Drift, as well as one sister, Sally Shannon Rapp of Normandy, Tennessee.



Turns three

Kateland Elizabeth-Rose McDonald, daughter of Ted and Stephanie McDonald of Abbott, celebrated her third birthday on December 16, 2000. Attending her Princess Barbie skating party were her family and friends. She is the granddaughter of Jeff and Mary McDonald of Town Branch, and Calvin and Ann Sizemore of Martin. She is the great-granddaughter of Helena Nelson of Cow Creek, and the late Ted Nelson, and Merle and Deanna May of Martin. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Haime Warrix of Cow Creek, and the late Theodore Warrix, and Dean R. Merritt of Emma, and the late Wilma Merritt.



Is two

Wesley Dalton Slone, son of Virgil Jr. and Robin Slone of Hi Hat, celebrated his second birthday on December 10, 2000, at the Stumbo Park Convention Center, with friends and family. The theme of his party was Scooby Doo, with refreshments and games. He is the grandson of Virgil and Joyce Slone of Hi Hat, Charles and Rose Collins of Prestonsburg, and Jerry and Denise Robinette of Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is the great-grandson of Nancy Leedy of Hi Hat.

Weddings



Couple wed in Allen

Amber Raye Hall and Daniel Timothy Koger were married on Saturday, October 21, 2000, at the First Baptist Church of Allen. The candlelight ceremony was performed by Rev. Arnold Turner. The bride is the daughter of Stephen and Phyllis Hall of Allen, and the granddaughter of Ann Bentley of Allen, and the late Jimmie Bentley, and the late John and Marie Hall, formerly of Printer. The groom is the son of the late Imogene Roberts and Ray Koger, formerly of Harlan. The bride wore a white satin and lace dress, which she designed, and her mother's full length wedding veil. She carried a bouquet of yellow roses, and was given away by her father. The maid of honor was Allison Hamilton, and the matron of honor was Rosetta Johnson, both friends of the bride. Bridesmaids were Vernie Daniels, Heather Conn and Jennifer Combs, cousins of the bride. Junior bridesmaids were Samantha Patton, cousin of the bride, and Tatianna Slone, cousin of the groom. Flower girl was Krist-Ann Parsons, and ring bearer was Dylan Gage Parsons, both cousins of the bride. The bride's veil and train were carried by Natalie Mullins and Rebekah Mayo, cousins of the bride. Groomsman was Bobby Koger, and best men were Dustin Koger, brother of the groom, and River Stephen Ray Koger, the couple's son. Soloists were Lorabeth Spurlock, cousin of the bride, and Allison Hamilton. Organist was Tracie Jamerson. The three-layer cake with flowing fountain was made by Linda Porter. The photographer was Ed Taylor. A reception was given in the church fellowship hall by family members and friends, following the ceremony.



Parker-Everly

Nevelyn Norreen Parker, daughter of Vivian Garrett of Milton, and the late Hugh C. Parker, and William Roy Everly, son of John and Joyce Everly of Prestonsburg, were married May 20, 2000, at Cathedral of Christ the King in Lexington. Rev. Greg Schuler officiated at the ceremony. The bride is a graduate of Trimble County High School and Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. She is employed by Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals. The groom is a graduate of Paintsville High School and E.K.U. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. He is employed by Central Baptist Hospital. The couple lives in Lexington.

JWT

Continued from p1

sing the songs "Tomorrow" and "Maybe" from the score.

In addition, JWT is searching for a talented dog to play the role of Sandy in "Annie." Sandy candidates should be able to work well with children, learn and follow simple commands, and have a pleasant disposition.

Musicians are also invited to audition. The theatre is looking for woodwind doublers, trumpet, trombone, horn, bass, percussion, violin, cello, and keyboards. Area high school music students are invited to apply for the theatre's Musician Apprentice Program.

Jenny Wiley Theatre offers an opportunity to work in a professional theatre environment, and these auditions help extend that opportunity to the local community. For more information, contact the theatre at 606/886-9274.

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**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FLOYD CIRCUIT COURT**  
 DIVISION NO. II  
 CIVIL ACTION  
 NO. 99-CI-01079  
**LEADER MORTGAGE CORPORATION**  
 PLAINTIFF  
 VS:  
**NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE**  
**GREGORY R. TRUSTY AND MECCA WEBB TRUSTY AND COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD DEFENDANTS**

By Virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Floyd Circuit Court entered on the 27th day of September, 2000 in the Floyd Circuit Court, in the above styled cause, for the following amounts:  
 Principal \$83,139.84  
 Interest from 6/01/99 \$9,515.63  
 Late Charges \$447.36  
 Advancements for the Protection of the property, including taxes and insurance (negative escrow) \$4,007.37 Attorney fees (KRS 411.195) \$950.00

Total \$98,060.20 for which amount in rem judgment has been rendered in favor of the plaintiff and against the Defendant, Gregory R. Trusty, together with interest at the rate of \$10.80 per diem from the above date until paid plus costs herein and any sums expended by plaintiff for insurance, ad valorem taxes or for preservation of the real estate until date of sale, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Old Floyd County Courthouse Door, 3rd Avenue, Prestonsburg, Kentucky, (behind the new Floyd County Justice Center) to the highest bidder, at public auction on Thursday, the 15th day of February, 2001, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., the following described real estate, together with any and all improvements and appurtenances "hereunto belonging and the rents, issues and profits thereon, located at 599 Right Fork of Bull Creek, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, and more particularly described as follows:

**LOT NO. 9**  
 Beginning at an iron pin on a fence line, said point being common the southeast corner of lot no. 1 and western boundary line of the Elsie Gearheart tract. Thence leaving lot no. 1 and continuing with the Elsie Gearheart line a fence line S 19-21-13 E 91.08 feet to a fence post. Thence S 19-21-13 E 52.26 feet to the center of the Right Fork of Bull Creek. Thence leaving the Gearheart line and continuing up the creek S 61-57-4640 W 102.21 feet to the southeast corner of lot no. 2; thence leaving the creek and continuing with the line of lot no. 2 N 18-58-46 E 139.79 feet to an iron pin of the Southwest corner of lot no. 1; thence leaving lot no. 2 and continuing with lot no. 1 N 59-54-40 E 101.91 feet to the point of beginning and containing 0.33 of an acre.  
 Being the same property conveyed to Gregory R. Trusty by deed dated April 6, 1998 of record in Deed Book 417, Page 483 in the Floyd County Clerk's Office.

Pioneer Festival Committee will be meeting the first Monday of each month at 5 p.m. This meeting will be held at Prestonsburg City Hall.  
 This meeting is open to the public. Next meeting is the 5th.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 The Jenny Wiley Pioneer Festival Committee will meet the 5th day of February, at 5 p.m., at City Hall for all new members. Anyone wishing to become a part of the festival and/or serve on a committee, or you have an event or ideal—please come. Anyone wishing to be chairman of an event must be present. The following chairmen must be present:  
 Car Show Chairman  
 Beauty Pageant Chairman  
 Arts, Craft Chairman

**NOT RESPONSIBLE**  
 Upon and on this date after publication of this notice, I Bobby Joe Elliot, hereby declare

that I am no longer responsible for any debts incurred by Diana Lynn Elliot; further, no document bearing my name shall be effective unless presented by me personally.  
 Bob Elliott  
 110 Alex Kidd Drive  
 Honaker, KY 41639

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSING AUTHORITY COMPREHENSIVE AGENCY PLAN**  
 The Housing Authority of Martin is developing its Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and for review and comment at the following location:  
 Grigsby Heights  
 110 R. Griffith Drive #1101  
 Martin, KY 41649  
 The Authority's office hours are 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m..  
 In addition, a public hearing will be held on Friday, February 2, 2001, at the Grigsby Heights Community Room, 110 R. Griffith Drive #1101, Martin, KY 41649. Anyone requiring assistance for sight or

hearing impaired individuals may contact the agency at (606) 285-3681 (voice) or 1-800-247-2510 (TDD).  
 If you require special accommodations or translation service, please advise the Housing Authority of Martin, 72 Hours in advance. The Housing Authority of Martin is an Equal Opportunity Agency.

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 A public hearing will be held on February 15, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the offices of the Kentucky Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY for the purpose of An Examination By The Public Service Commission Of The Application Of The Fuel Adjustment Clause Of American Electric Power Company From November 1, 1998 through October 31, 2000.  
 Errol K. Wagner  
 Director of Regulatory Affairs  
 Kentucky Power Company  
 d/b/a  
 American Electric Power

**CABINET DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**  
 Sealed bids will be received by the Department of Highways in the Division of Contract Procurement and/or the Auditorium located on the 1st Floor of the State Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky, until 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time on the 16th day of

February, 2001 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read for the improvement of:  
 Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, Knott, Letcher, Counties, FE01 121 DW01 0000020: Cleaning and Sweeping on US 23, US 119, KY 3, KY 15, KY 80, KY 114, and KY 645 in Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, Knott, and Letcher Counties. Cleaning Roadway Drainage Structures on

US 23 and US 119 in Pike County and on KY 3 in Johnson and Martin Counties, all in District Twelve, a total distance of 167.458 miles.  
 Bid proposals for all projects will be available until 9:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, February 16, 2001, at the Division of Contract Procurement. Bid proposals for all projects will be available at a cost of \$10 each and remittance payable to the

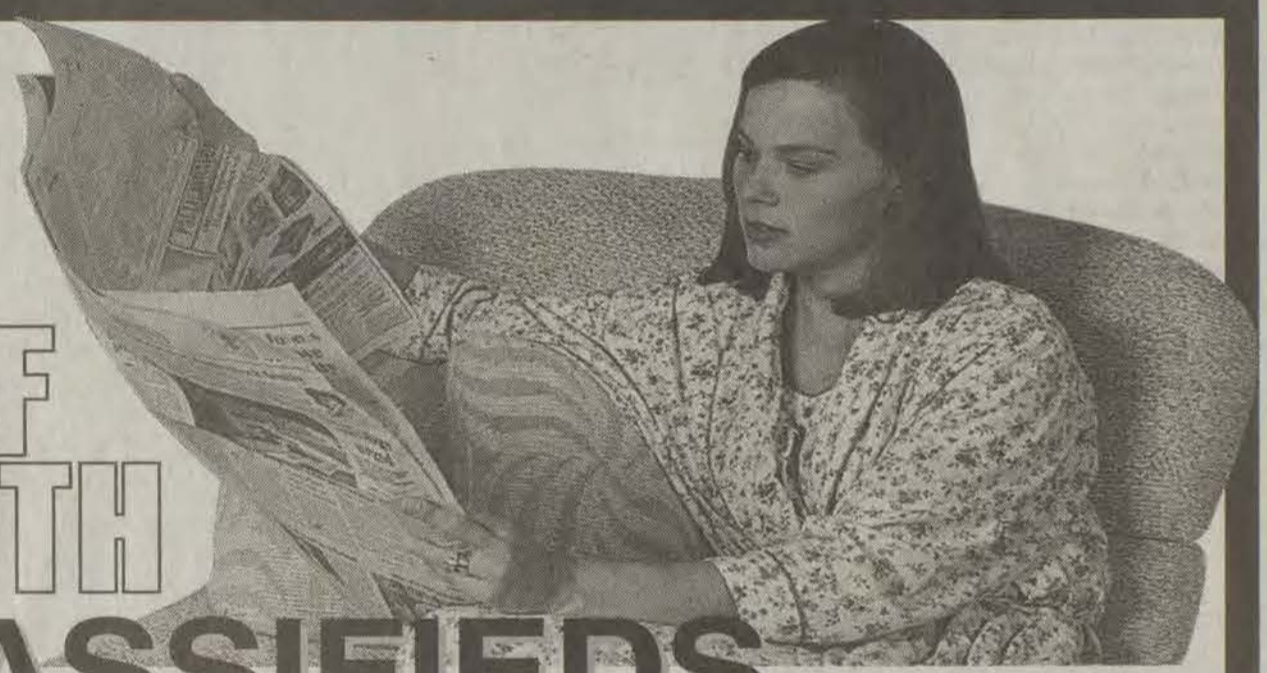
State Treasurer of Kentucky must accompany request for proposals (NON-REFUNDABLE). Bid proposals are issued only to pre-qualified contractors. Specimen proposals for all project will be available to all interested parties at a cost of \$10 each (NON-REFUNDABLE). Specimen proposals cannot be used for bidding.

**NOTICE (OF FINAL SETTLEMENT)**

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of the Floyd District Court, do hereby certify that the following Settlements of Estates have been filed in my office. Anyone desiring to take exceptions to said settlements must do so on or before February 28, 2000, at 9:00 a.m.

| Settlement | Case Number | Estate Of:            | Fiduciary          | Date Filed |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Final      | 99-P-00200  | Miles Whitaker        | Mildred Whitaker   | 12/20/00   |
| Final      | 96-P-00102  | Roy Gayheart          | Nannie Gayheart    | 12/29/00   |
| Final      | 98-P-00198  | Claud E. Webb         | Mary Susan Goins   | 01/03/01   |
| Final      | 00-P-00175  | Darwin Woods          | Sarah Woods        | 01/05/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00009  | Crisie Edith Burchett | Dorothy Harris     | 01/10/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00024  | Acie Tackett          | Erick Tackett      | 01/11/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00002  | Cledith Howard        | Nadine Howard      | 01/17/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00018  | Dianna Conn           | Verna Mae Conn     | 01/17/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00015  | Joe Morris Roberts    | Nancy Joan Roberts | 01/22/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00311  | Ada Fultz Mosley      | Darlene Wiggins    | 01/22/01   |
| Final      | 99-P-00001  | Samuel Hale           | Samuel S. Hale     | 01/22/01   |

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 The Jenny Wiley

# Something Different...

## Midwestern chili: An American classic

by DANA JACOBI

FROM THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Chili. Just saying the word conjures up images of cowboys around a campfire on the open Texas plain, and cooking fired by incendiary chile peppers. Pair it with "Cincinnati," however, and an urban view comes to mind, of Greek immigrants ladling a meaty mixture over spaghetti at chains of chili parlors named Skyline or Empress.

As chili gradually travelled east, a "San Antonio Chilly Stand" at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 helped introduce this muscular dish to the Midwest. Its fans carried it on to St. Louis, New Orleans and Cincinnati.

In 1922, the Kiradjieff family capitalized on this local enthusiasm, offering what has become known as Cincinnati Chili, served over spaghetti, at their Empress chili parlor. Additional branches and competing establishments soon dotted the city. At these popular hangouts, locals still order "a bowl of plain," "a four-way" (chili on spaghetti, topped with cheese and onions), "a three-way" (subtract the onion), or "a five-way" (add beans).

I love the way the springy strands of fully cooked spaghetti (this is one time the pasta should not be al dente) soak up the juices of the chunky chili heaped on top. The combination makes this dish a unique blend of regional specialty and blissful comfort food.

Since the beans are simmered with the meat in this version, rather than being layered over the chili, I call it "a four and a half-way."

### Cincinnati Chili

- 1 Tbsp. canola oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and finely chopped
- 8 oz. lean ground beef
- 1 Tbsp. ground chili powder or to taste (see Note)
- 1 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 15-oz. can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup diced tomatoes (with their liquid)
- 1 cup salsa

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

- 12 oz. spaghetti
- 3 oz. shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion (optional, for garnish)
- crumbled soda crackers (optional)

In a Dutch oven or deep medium saucepan, liberally coated with cooking spray, heat oil over medium-high heat. Saute onion, garlic and jalapeno until onion is translucent, about 4 minutes.

Add meat and cook, breaking it up with a wooden spoon until it no longer looks red, about 3 minutes. Stir in chili powder, cocoa, cumin and oregano. When seasonings are fragrant, in about 30 seconds, add beans, tomatoes and salsa. Simmer chili until liquid is reduced by half, about 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Meanwhile, cook spaghetti according to package directions. When tender, drain and divide spaghetti among four wide, shallow soup bowls or dinner plates. Ladle a quarter of the chili over each serving. Sprinkle a quarter of the cheese over each serving. If desired, pass one bowl containing the chopped onion and another with soda crackers, and let people serve themselves.

Note: If possible, use a chili powder that does not contain garlic.

Makes 6 servings, each containing 451 calories and 9 grams of fat.

"Something Different" is written for the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) by Dana Jacobi, author of "The Joy of Soy," and recipe creator for AICR's "Stopping Cancer Before It Starts."

## A stew warmed by Caribbean Spice

by DANA JACOBI

FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

"Creole" is a word often used to describe Caribbean cooking, a bold-flavored, "all mixed up" cuisine combining foods and flavors from many parts of the world. Long before Christopher Columbus discovered the West Indies, local peoples from Cuba to Trinidad, like the Caribs and Arawaks, made good use of native ingredients. Regional foods include cassava, guava, sugar apple, or sweetsop, and calabaza, a West Indian pumpkin. Transoceanic commerce later delivered mango, sugar cane and rice from Asia. Okra (also

known as "gombo" or "gumbo"), peanuts and ackee fruit arrived from Africa. A constant stream of immigrants from Europe, Asia and Africa continued to add flavors, ingredients and cooking techniques to the Caribbean melting pot of flavors.

Most Caribbean dishes are highly spiced, frequently with some combination of thyme, scallions, cinnamon, ginger and clove. From Jamaican Jerk to Trinidadian Pepper Pot, many are also hot. This is hardly surprising since peppers, including fiery Scotch bonnet chiles, are indigenous to the Caribbean.

This mildly hot pork stew melds Caribbean ingredients with origins in the Old World and the New. The pork reflects both local wild boar and the domesticated swine brought by the Spanish, and is joined by tomatoes, pineapples and peppers, all indigenous to the islands. Ginger came to the Islands from the Far East. Eventually, Jamaican-grown ground ginger was considered the finest quality.

Most often, I serve this stew over rice. When feeling particularly lavish, I cook the rice Jamaican-style, using coconut milk. (For this, I add a half-cup of canned coconut milk to the liquid while cooking the rice.) Though unsweetened, it adds an appealing touch of sweetness as well as tender richness.

### Caribbean Pork Stew with Pineapple

- 12 oz. boneless pork loin
  - 2 Tbsp. flour
  - 1 Tbsp. canola oil
  - 1 medium onion, sliced
  - 1 green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
  - 1 garlic clove, minced
  - 1 small chili pepper, seeded and minced
  - 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
  - 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
  - 1 8-oz. can sliced pineapple in juice
  - 1 large tomato, seeded and diced
  - 1/2 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
  - 3/4 tsp. salt
  - 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper
  - 3 cups cooked rice
- Trim all visible fat from meat. Cut it into 1-inch cubes. Toss meat with flour to coat it.

Generously coat a deep, medium skillet with cooking spray and set over medium-high heat. Brown meat, turning it to color on all sides. This takes about 5 minutes. Transfer meat to a plate.

Heat oil in pan. Saute onion, green pepper, garlic and chili pepper until onion is

translucent, 4 minutes. Return meat to pan. Add 1 cup water, Worcestershire sauce, ginger, salt and pepper. Drain liquid from pineapple into pan. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes.

Stack pineapple slices and cut them into 8 sections. Add fruit, tomato and cucumber to stew. Simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes. When liquid has thickened slightly and meat is tender, ladle stew over rice and serve. This stew keeps 2 to 3 days, covered, in the refrigerator.

Makes 4 servings, each containing 404 calories and 10 grams of fat.

"Something Different" is written for the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) by Dana Jacobi, author of "The Joy of Soy," and recipe creator for AICR's "Stopping Cancer Before It Starts."

## A Valentine's Day Dessert

by DANA JACOBI

FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

This Valentine's Day, treat yourself to a dessert glowing with the color of love and romance, ruby red kissel. Russians and Slavs have made this berry-based pudding, also spelled kisel, for perhaps a thousand years. Traditionally, this light, refreshing dessert is made from the juice of soft red fruits, like cranberries, strawberries, red currants, or raspberries, that are simmered, then strained and thickened with starch.

Readers of Scandinavian and German descent may know this dessert as "rode grode" or "rote grutze." In fact some food historians speculate that this colorful dessert was brought into Russia from the West. Versions of it are also popular in Poland and Bulgaria.

"Kissel" means "sour," and even after it is sweetened, you should be able to enjoy the natural tartness of the fruit. For thickening, cornstarch, potato starch, arrowroot powder or semolina can be used. I choose cornstarch because it is generally the most easily available. Depending on how much starch is used, kissel can be runny enough to spoon from a clear glass dessert dish or it can be firm enough to unmold like gelatin.

When kissed is served, it is usually accompanied by milk or cream to pour over the top. For a special occasion like Valentine's Day, though, I prefer adding a dollop of whipped cream or frozen dessert topping. The contrast between their rich

texture and the velvety kissel is positively sensuous.

Kissel can be made up to two days ahead, leaving you time on Valentine's Day for other pleasures. Fresh or frozen fruit work equally well. (This recipe calls for frozen berries because they tend to be more economical at this time of year.)

Since cranberries take longer to break down than the other fruits, I use cranberry juice in their place. Depending on whether the juice or the fruits are pre-sweetened, you can adjust the amount of sugar.

### Red Berry Kissel

- 10 oz. whole, unsweetened frozen strawberries (1/2 20-oz. bag)
- 1 10-oz. package frozen sweetened raspberries
- 1/2 cup cranberry cocktail juice
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 3 Tbsp. cold water
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract
- 1/2 cup milk to use as sauce (optional)

Place frozen berries in a deep saucepan. Add juice. Over medium-high heat, bring just to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until berries are very soft, about 20 minutes.

Pour berry mixture into a fine sieve held over a bowl. With a wooden spoon, rub until all berry pulp is pressed through sieve. Scrape strained berries on outside of sieve into bowl.

Rinse out and dry pot. Rinse 4 dessert dishes in cold water but do not dry them. Set aside.

Whisk berry mixture to combine pulp and liquid well. Return mixture to pot. Add sugar. Mix cornstarch and water in a small bowl. Stir mixture into berries. Add almond flavoring.

Over medium heat, cook mixture until translucent, stirring constantly. When mixture heavily coats spoon and thickens—about 1 to 2 minutes—remove from heat before it comes to a boil and pour into dessert dishes. When almost cool, refrigerate. To prevent surface skin from forming, cover bowls with plastic wrap, pressing it to touch the surface of pudding. Kissel can be made up to two days ahead.

Let kissel sit 20 minutes at room temperature before serving. If desired, pass a pitcher of cold milk to use as a sauce.

Makes 4 servings, each containing 139 calories and less than 1 gram of fat.

"Something Different" is written for the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) by Dana Jacobi, author of "The Joy of Soy," and recipe creator for AICR's "Stopping Cancer Before it Starts."

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