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The Floyd County Times

The Times

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75 Years INSIDE

- Section S

briefs

W.Va. man killed in wreck

PIKEVILLE — A West Virginia man was killed early Sunday when his vehicle ran off a highway and overturned, police said.

Steven J. Thomas, 32, of Kermit, W.Va., lost control of his vehicle as it was southbound on Kentucky 199 in Pike County, according to Kentucky State Police. The vehicle struck a fence and overturned, police said.

Thomas was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash occurred at 3:45 a.m. EST. The crash remains under investigation, police said.



Saturday's winds helped sweep flames throughout the roof and top floor of a fire at a four-unit apartment building in Prestonsburg. The blaze left two families homeless.

Fire destroys Prestonsburg apartments

by SHELTON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A two-story Front Avenue apartment building caught fire this past weekend and has left some families homeless for the holidays as a result.

According to Prestonsburg Director of Public Safety Mike Omerod, no one was injured in the fire but the structure itself is most likely beyond repair.

Omerod said Monday that his department is looking into the possibility that the fire could have been electrical in nature.

"We're looking at the possibility that the fire was electrical," said Omerod, "but we won't know anything for sure until Larry (Adams) has a chance to look at it when he gets back."

Prestonsburg Fire Chief Larry Adams was on holiday leave for the week, Omerod said, and had not initiated a full investigation as of Monday.

City firefighters and police responded to the fire around 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning and had the fire under control just after noon, two hours later, Omerod said.

"We had about five police officers out there and about 10 firefighters who we feel all

done a good job," Omerod said. "The wind was a problem for us, though. It was pretty windy Saturday morning and there were two structures on either side of the house."

Omerod said the two homes to the left and right of the burning apartment building quickly became a concern due to

their close proximity, but efforts to keep the flames a good distance from the surrounding homes were successful.

"There was no damage, other than a little smoke smell inside the homes," said Omerod.

The converted apartment

"My ultimate concern when I heard about it was to sure that the people got out okay, because you can replace structures and things, but you can't replace people."

— Owner Judy Skaggs

In the midst of tragedy, victims find reasons to be thankful

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — While it may be a sad Christmas for the tenants of an apartment building destroyed by fire Saturday in Prestonsburg, the "double tragedy" did not produce any physical injuries and a community responded with the spirit of giving.

The building, located at 145

North Front Avenue in front of the Floyd County Health Department, contained four apartments, three of which were rented. The fire erupted sometime after 9:30 a.m. after Brian Chaffins, a tenant from the upstairs apartment, had already left for work.

Chaffins said that he returned home after receiving a call that his apartment was on fire to find his mother, Rhonda Castle, in nothing

but a robe, and his stepfather, Paul Castle, in a pair of pants and a pair of shoes.

"A man off the street gave him a shirt," said Chaffins.

"We don't even know who he was and didn't have a chance to thank him," said Rhonda Castle.

Rhonda Castle's mother, Betty Sizemore, said that the rescue squad

(See **THANKFUL**, page three)

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 34 • Low: 18

Thursday



High: 35 • Low: 16

For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com

'Santa' Hunter gives presents to 400 kids

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — "It's the way it makes you feel," said Den Hunter in reference to his county-wide, week-long, gift-giving spree that landed him in Prestonsburg on Friday.

Hunter, a member of the legal services board, was giving out gifts to Genevieve Williams, coordinator at LINKS, and Larry H. York, director of Appalred, who were collecting them for the children of volunteers at LINKS.

Hunter said that over 100 gifts,

(See **SANTA**, page three)



photo by Loretta Blackburn

Den Hunter, left, was handing out gifts to Genevieve Williams, on Friday, who was collecting them for the children of volunteers at LINKS. In the background, Hunter's helpers, Patricia and Shawn Collins, bag the gifts for delivery.

Native's ornament adorns White House tree

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — To accommodate first lady Laura Bush's Christmas tree theme "All Creatures Great and Small", a Prestonsburg High School graduate, Marshia Hall, was "honored" to create a ceramic quail for the White

House tree.

Now a resident of Tuolumne, Calif., Hall is a Summerville Elementary School art teacher and one of 157 artists working under the California Arts Commission. Gov. Gray Davis was asked by the White House staff to choose 10 to 12 of the artists to design an ornament for the White House Christmas tree.

As reported in the Union Democrat of Tuolumne, Calif., Hall was chosen to create a quail for the tree that she said would be adorned in birds indigenous to the United States.

Although honored to make a contribution to the capitol build-

(See **ORNAMENT**, page three)

Hall chooses trial over plea

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Although Judge Danny P. Caudill informed him that his age and health condition would make him eligible for parole in one year, Oley Hall, 60, of Beaver, said Friday that he would rather go to trial than enter a guilty plea.

Hall appeared in Floyd Circuit Court on Friday for a pre-trial conference, at which time the judge asked him if he understood that he would get a substantially longer sentence

(See **HALL**, page three)



photo by Loretta Blackburn

A bailiff wheeled Oley Hall, 60, of Beaver, into Floyd Circuit Court for a pre-trial conference on Friday, a which time he opted to go to trial instead of entering a guilty plea.

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Odds and Ends

■ **ELLSWORTH, Kan.** — Some of Santa's helpers wear prison stripes.

Inmates at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Kansas are helping to make the holidays a little brighter for needy kids. The inmates are making old bikes as good as new for youngsters whose families can't afford to buy them.

Prison officials say by Christmas Eve, the inmates will have rebuilt about 275 bikes. Since 1999, more than 500 used bicycles have been given makeovers. The bikes are donated to service and nonprofit groups for distribution to the kids.

And at the Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, Conn., about a dozen inmates use scraps of fabric from the prison's clothing shop to make rag dolls for needy children.

They are learning to sew for a program that makes mattresses and other items for private industry like prisons, hotels and hospitals. With the leftover material, they make the dolls.

"We have no use for the scraps," said Michael A. Kiczuk, industries supervisor.

■ **CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — A downtown businessman has decided to share some of his good fortune with others a dollar at a time.

Mike Jeffcoat, 42, a corporate furnishings consultant, taped 300 \$1 dollar bills to his office window Friday along with a note: "Please take only what you need. Remember others."

Many in the crowd took nothing, while some took a few bucks for a cup of coffee, Christmas presents or a bus ticket. It was all gone in 35 minutes. Jeffcoat said he believed

wallpapering the window would allow people to grab what they needed without much hassle.

As he hung money, Jeffcoat said one stranger gave him \$20. The man didn't have singles and wanted to help. Others gave a few bucks.

Sharmel Shirley, 23, and Sadaka Kimble, 24, split the final \$41. Shirley needed to pay a power bill. Kimble's daughter needed diapers. Both women said they've been out of work for four months.

"Money just flapping in the wind," Shirley said. "It was like, 'Wow!'"

■ **LEXINGTON** — At age 103, Ayers Alley is still spreading holiday cheer.

The centenarian was among Kiwanis Club members who spent part of Saturday ringing the bell at the Salvation Army kettle at a local grocery store.

"We say he's the world's old-

est bell ringer, but we can't prove it," said David Bowles of the Salvation Army.

Alley was born in Pound, Va., on Sept. 26, 1899, and worked most of his life as an accountant in Kentucky, for Consolidation Coal and Greyhound Bus Lines. He's outlived his three sisters, a brother and his son. His living family includes his wife, Esther, 82, and daughter, Judy, 53.

"She's my dance partner," he said of his daughter, who lives in Atlanta. "We dance like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers."

Alley's father lived to 102, his mother to 103, and his great-grandfather made it to 120, he said.

"My parents didn't take a vitamin in their lives," he said. "I take a whole lot of them. Maybe I'll make it to 120, too."

■ **ENFIELD, Conn.** —

When books go missing at the Enfield Public Library, Henry Dutcher doesn't just send out late notices. He calls the police.

The library director did just that in the case of Thomas Hoey, who checked out more than \$400 worth of library items last summer and didn't bring them back, even after the library repeatedly wrote letters and called.

Hoey has since skipped town. But there's a warrant for his arrest and if police ever catch up to the 60-year-old library patron, he will be charged with misdemeanor larceny. He is the first, and so far, only citizen to be charged in Enfield for failing to bring back his overdues.

For about a year now, the Enfield Public Library has called on the police to solve its cold cases: books, CDs and movies missing for months, even years.

The approach has worked. Since January, the library has recovered hundreds of missing items, worth more than \$7,000. It's material that would have otherwise disappeared forever, Dutcher said.

"You don't let Winona Ryder steal thousands of dollars out of a department store," he said. "I'm not going to let anyone steal hundreds of dollars out of the town library."

■ **OSHKOSH, Wis.** — A campus renovation project has some smokers fuming.

The smoking lounge in the Reeve Memorial Union at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will be replaced by a massage therapy studio.

Jason Pinnow, who heads the Reeve

Union Board, said the plan wasn't too popular at first.

"Right away it kind of got some heat," he said. "But after people started thinking about it more and realizing this could be of benefit and a possible revenue-maker for the union, it settled down a bit."

The change capitalizes on the move to a more mall-like Reeve Memorial Union. The multimillion-dollar renovation that opened up last school year featured such amenities as a stadium-seat lecture and movie theater, a revamped bookstore, a

coffee shop, a student credit union and a kiosk for renting camping and adventure gear.

Pinnow said the departure of the smoking lounge leaves some unresolved issues regarding the union's smoking policy. As it now stands, smoking is allowed in the building, but that policy will be debated in January.

■ **O'FALLON, Mo.** — A father who chaperoned a fourth-grade field trip while dressed as a woman has told the school dis-

(See **ODDS**, page six)

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 25 — Christmas Day — the 359th day of 2002. There are six days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 25, 1818, "Silent Night" was performed for the first time, at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

On this date:

■ In 1223, St. Francis of Assisi assembled one of the first Nativity scenes, in Greccio, Italy.

■ In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, N.J.

■ In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito. (Hirohito was formally enthroned almost two years later.)

■ In 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire opera over radio for the first time: "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck.

In 1941, during World War II, Japan announced the surrender of the British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong.

■ In 1946, comedian A.C. Fields died in Pasadena, Calif., at age 66.

■ In 1977, comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88.

■ In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising.

■ In 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist super-

power that had already gone out of existence.

■ In 1995, singer Dean Martin died at his Beverly Hills home at age 78.

Ten years ago:

U.S. Marines delivered wheat to a refugee camp in Bardera, Somalia, setting off a small riot among the Somalis; American and French troops also took control of Hoddur.

Five years ago:

Richard Bliss, a field technician for Qualcomm Inc. accused of spying in Russia, arrived in San Diego after Russian authorities were persuaded to let him return home. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld announced plans to fold his highly successful NBC sitcom "Seinfeld" at the end of the season.

One year ago:

From Mazar-e-Sharif to Kandahar in Afghanistan and the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Arabian Sea, American forces celebrated Christmas with carols, touch football and turkey dinners. In his traditional "Urbi et Orbi" message, Pope John Paul II turned his thoughts at Christmas to children — Palestinian, Israeli, American, Afghan and African — declaring that humanity's hope depends on helping them.

Today's Birthdays:

Singer Tony Martin is 89. Actor Dick Miller is 74. Actress Hanna Schygulla is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 58. Actor Gary Sandy is 57. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 56. Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 56.

(See **HISTORY**, page six)

St. James Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve Service

at 8:30

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State may make safety requirements recommendations for well users

by **ROGER ALFORD**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ **PIKEVILLE** — Environmental regulators may recommend safety precautions for rural residents who could be at risk from potentially explosive water wells.

The action is being considered in the wake of a jury verdict that awarded \$270 million to an eastern Kentucky man who was badly burned when his well house exploded.

"What we're looking at is putting out some guidelines," said Mark York, spokesman for the Kentucky Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. "We'd be looking at just making some recommendations to people who have well houses, that they should consider adding ventilation to prevent the accumulation of gases."

For years, local and state officials have pushed for municipal water lines in eastern Kentucky because of concerns that pollutants, both bacterial and chemical, in ground water could make people sick with long-term exposure. This is the first hint that wells might pose a more immediate risk by filling structures with explosive gas.

"Apparently, this happens from time to time," York said. "How often this happens, I don't think we've kept track of that."

Fairon Johnson of Dema

claimed in his lawsuit that explosive gas had traveled through an underground water aquifer and seeped into his well from a nearby natural gas well. When he flipped a switch to turn his pump on, the gas exploded.

Pikeville attorney Gary C. Johnson, who represented the Knott County man, said people are at risk of similar injuries throughout central Appalachia, including rural portions of West Virginia and southwestern Virginia.

Fairon Johnson received second-degree burns in the explosion. He spent eight days in a hospital burn unit, and has since recovered. The jury ordered Equitable Resources and Kentucky West Virginia Gas to pay him the huge award, the largest jury verdict ever awarded in Kentucky. The gas companies are appealing the verdict.

The gas companies contend that the explosion in the water well house on June 5, 2000, was caused by naturally occurring gas in the small building and was not related to the nearby gas well. Patrick Kane, spokesman for the company, said Tuesday that Equitable would not comment further.

The case focused attention on an environmental problem that needs to be addressed by the state regulators and the natural gas industry in Appalachia, Gary Johnson said.

Gary Johnson, no relation to the plaintiff, said the company had removed the steel casing from natural gas wells, allowing waste gas, brine and salt water to seep into the fresh water aquifers. The attorney said the practice has been widespread across the region, which he said means other residents could be injured in the same way Fairon Johnson was.

Gary Johnson said the state should go much further than issuing an advisory.

"It's the old head in the sand deal," he said. "You ignore the problem and tell landowners to take protective action. The absurdity of it."

The attorney said legislation is needed to require that all abandoned natural gas wells be sealed off to prevent the seepage and the potential for additional explosions.

"The jury rendered a verdict that should have gotten somebody's attention," Gary Johnson said. "Instead of listening to this community and paying attention to the people in this community, and find out why decent human beings would render this type of verdict, our state government has chosen to ignore it."

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Multi-million dollar gift could be found under the tree

by MARGERY BECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — Nestled this year among the wrapped boxes of sweaters, neckties and toys typically found under the Christmas tree could be an unexpected gift: a lottery ticket worth nearly \$300 million.

A drawing for the multi-state Powerball lottery will take place Christmas night. Since no one picked the winning numbers Saturday, the prize goes to an estimated \$280 million — Powerball's third-largest jackpot and its largest Christmas Day jackpot since its start in 1992.

Figuring deductions for a lump-sum cash option and taxes, a single winner of the Christmas

Day jackpot would receive about \$92 million.

That kind of money could buy 920,000 Charter Club cashmere hooded sweaters at Macy's, 681,481 Brioni silk ties at Neiman Marcus or 4.6 million Rapunzel Barbie dolls at Toys "R" Us.

The jackpot amounts are driven by ticket sales, so it's impossible to predict exactly how much the jackpot will be by Christmas Day, said Nebraska Lottery spokesman Brian Rockey. But from Wednesday to Saturday, the jackpot grew by \$54.5 million to \$217.8 million — nearly \$3 million more than anticipated.

"It would certainly make for a jolly Christmas," Rockey said.

In Nebraska, sales could be boosted by a Christmas advertising campaign that promises a complimentary holiday card and envelope to put under the tree for those who buy \$10 or more in Nebraska lottery tickets. The ads market lottery tickets as "great gifts for the holidays."

"Usually during the holidays, we see sort of a drop off in sales because people are off their normal routines," Rockey said.

But the ads coupled with the idea of a multimillion-dollar gift under the tree could boost sales this year, he said.

Typically, scratch tickets are the gift-giver's lottery ticket of

choice, Rockey said.

"With the Powerball jackpot growing, that may outweigh the instant-gratification factor of scratch tickets," he said.

At least one other state is pushing lottery tickets for Christmas. Lottery officials in Pennsylvania, which joined the Powerball lottery in June, are running a holiday-themed television commercial with singer Ray Charles promoting Powerball.

West Virginia is taking a different approach. Instead of promoting the ever-growing jackpot, lottery officials there are running television ads urging players not to overspend on tickets.

"It only takes a dollar," West Virginia Lottery spokeswoman Libby White said.

The jackpot is harder than ever to win, since the pool of numbers drawn increased by four in October when South Carolina joined as the 24th state to sell Powerball tickets. Kentucky is also among the states participating in Powerball. Players pick five numbers out of a pool of 53 for the

first five numbers in the game and another number — the Powerball — from a pool of 42. Tickets cost \$1 each, and the odds of winning are about one in 120 million.

If a winning ticket is drawn Dec. 25, it would not be the first Christmas Day jackpot.

In 1996, Hugh and Janice Robinson of Hailey, Idaho, were the winners of a \$48.3 million Powerball jackpot drawn on Christmas Day. At the time, they opted to keep their jobs as a chauffeur and supermarket clerk and take annual payments of \$1.74 million over 20 years.

Robinson declined to comment on his life since then.

"It's taken five years to settle down, and I really don't want to get back in the spotlight again," he said.

The highest Powerball jackpot was \$295.7 million, won July 29, 1998, by group of factory workers in Ohio. That figure is dwarfed by the highest lottery prize of all — a \$363 million Big Game jackpot, won May 9, 2000, by two players in Illinois and Michigan.



The Floyd County Health Department held a Christmas dinner on Monday in Prestonsburg. The department recently received an award for being the most improved health department.

Health dept. celebrates holiday, distinction

by JARRID DEATON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Health Department had more to celebrate than the holiday during a Christmas dinner Monday.

The department received an award from the Commission of Public Health Dec. 11 that named them as the most improved health department.

According to Thursa Slone, who accepted the award for the department, the recognition is deeply appreciated.

"The award commended us for the ability to rebound after the loss of home health, for our role in leadership, our clinical efficiency and an update of our charting system," Slone said.

Slone also hopes for future improvements in the health department.

"Although we have always had a good health department, our goal is to make it the best in the state," Slone said.

Slone also said that construction for a new health department building is scheduled to start sometime in early January.

Guest

Continued from p4

our own experiences and events overseas, it is that the only effect guns have on crime is to make people worse off when they aren't around. Gun control may provide catchy sound bites at election time, but it misses the target by a long shot.

Scott McPherson is policy advisor at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Virginia.

Hall

Continued from p1

if he went to trial and was convicted. From his wheelchair, Hall said that he did understand, however he appeared confident in his choice to go to trial.

A Floyd County grand jury handed down an indictment in September in which Hall was charged with a trafficking charge that was enhanced to a class B felony due to being in possession of a firearm while selling Demerol.

Hall was previously indicted on four counts of trafficking, two of them class D felonies and two of

them class C, and a trial was set for October.

Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner previously stated that the superceding indictment enhanced one of the class C felonies to a class B because the police said that Hall sold the Demerol while in possession of a firearm.

Hall faces 10 to 20 years for two counts of trafficking in Lortab, class D felonies, one count of trafficking in Demerol, a class C, and one count of trafficking in Demerol while in the possession of a firearm, a class B felony.

'Santa'

Continued from p1

with names on the tags, had already been delivered throughout Floyd County that morning and when he finished, which he hoped to do by Christmas, he would have delivered over 400 presents.

Hunter's daughter and son-in-law, Betsy and Earl Stanley, had donated the inventory of a store they closed and that, with the help of other caring people, he was able to buy a large number of gifts. He expressed gratitude to those who had helped him make this event possible.

"You see what old Santa Claus has been doing," said Hunter.

Santa's helpers, Patricia and Shawn Collins, were with him on Friday as they headed off to Betsy Layne to deliver the personalized packages. He said that his son, Douglas Hunter, had delivered over 100 gifts and his daughters,

Betsy Stanley and Sheila Deal, had delivered Thursday to Branham's Creek, Mud Creek and Toler Creek. It appears to be a family mission for the Hunters, who seem to enjoy giving to the needy, sharing those feelings with each other.

Helping Hunter with his list, Williams said that she was referring all the families that contacted her office for housing assistance. Hunter vowed that he would do his best to deliver all the gifts by Christmas.

Hunter, who admitted he has a weak spot for "kids, old people and coal miners," said that he had won three awards for his contributions to the needy, but "the awards are not important. It's the people."

Thankful

and fire department woke her daughter and son-in-law, who had been asleep in the apartment at the time the fire erupted.

"If the fire department and rescue squad had not responded so quickly, we may have died," said a grateful Rhonda Castle.

Castle said that she and her husband had attended two Christmas parties the night before and had planned on sleeping all day. When she heard Prestonsburg Fire Department firefighter William Marsillett knocking at the door, she went to the hallway and saw smoke in the living room and yelled to her husband.

"The house is on fire!" said Castle.

She said that Marsillett told them that they had to get out of the house and they managed to flee

with their dog and cat, but nothing else.

Chaffins said they are currently staying at his grandmother's house at Goble Roberts and that he was heart broken over the incident that claimed his home so close to Christmas.

"Seeing my mom and stepdad's stuff destroyed got me more than anything," said Chaffins.

A first-floor tenant, Michael Gibson, said that he came home around 11:30 a.m. to find the fire department fighting the fire that was consuming his apartment. Gibson said that he also lost everything, including his daughter Tess Gibson's Christmas presents.

Gibson was out on Monday attempting to replace the gifts that were consumed by the flames of a fire that he thinks started in the

basement of the building. He was happy to have found his cat "Mon Amie" — French for "My Friend" — but was worried about "Rudy," another cat that had not shown up as of Monday. Lynn Bradford, Gibson's girlfriend, said that the neighbors were looking for the cat and they were hopeful that they would find her.

Another first-floor apartment was only recently rented to tenants while a fourth apartment was empty according to Judy Skaggs, owner of the building. Skaggs, who is currently in her Florida home, said that her husband, Jim Skaggs, was still at their Johnson County home when the fire erupted and was on the scene after she contacted him.

Judy Skaggs said that her main concern was the tenants' safety and that she had "praised God that no one was hurt."

"Buildings and things can be replaced, but people can't be," said Skaggs.

Skaggs said that they had insurance on the building but the tenants were responsible for insurance on their belongings, which Gibson said he did not have.

Sizemore said that the Castles were also uninsured with the exception of a recently purchased computer. However, Sizemore said that this "double tragedy," made in reference to the incident's untimely occurrence, was met with assistance from friends, family, neighbors and churches. She said that local churches; the city of Prestonsburg, which employs Paul Castle; Jerry's, where Brian Chaffins works; and Appalachian Wireless, where Rhonda Castle is employed, had come to the rescue.

"You don't know who your friends are until something like this happens and they come in and help you," said Sizemore.

Rhonda Castle said that she is especially grateful to Paula Goble, who brought her clothes to wear while she was standing on the sidewalk watching her apartment burn.

"I hope the others get help like we have," said Castle with concern for her neighbors.

"The people were remarkable," said Castle in reference to the fire department's help in rescuing her car keys and jewelry from the burning building. She voiced gratitude to Bob White, who saw the flames while driving by and reported the fire.

She said that she and her husband had been together for eight years and lost everything that they had worked for.

Fire

Continued from p1

building itself was another story. Omerod said damages to the second story and roof of the building were extensive. The fire ate at the structure and resulted in much of the roof collapsing while the bottom story, although saved from the flames, was marred by substantial smoke and water damages.

The owner of the building, Judy Skaggs, of Johnson County, said three of the four apartments were rented as of Saturday morning, adding that she and her husband and co-owner of the home, Jim Skaggs, had been recently working to remodel the fourth.

Skaggs, who said she and her husband purchased the house in March 2001, told The Times Monday that her husband was at the scene of the fire Saturday to make sure that tenants had places to go.

Jim Skaggs was traveling to Florida Monday to join his wife for the holidays and was not available for comment.

"One of my tenants called and said it was just burning to the ground," said Skaggs, adding that she still is aware of the full extent of the damages and whether or not efforts would be

made to repair the house. "So what I envisioned was a pile of rubble."

Skaggs added that her first concerns were far from financial.

"My ultimate concern when I heard about it was to be sure that the people got out okay," said Skaggs, "because you can replace structures and things, but you can't replace people."

One of the families who lost their home due to Saturday's fire was Paul Castle and his wife Rhonda, who lived in an upstairs apartment. Castle has been a city employee for six years with the recycling crew of the Prestonsburg public works department, according to Omerod.

"They lost everything," said Omerod, "I think he's staying with his mother-in-law right now and we've offered to help in any way possible — we told him he's like family to us — but Paul said he's never took anything in his life."

Monday afternoon the effects of Saturday's fire could be seen. Half-charred toys lay on ash-covered front steps and a mattress, apparently tossed during the fire, still lay in the yard. A useless "for rent" sign remained posted near the front door.

"I'm sure my insurance company will be doing an investigation and so will the fire department," Skaggs said, "but without being there I can't really say what our next move will be."

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Viewpoint

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.

Worth Repeating ...

"Men are conservatives when they are least vigorous, or when they are most luxurious. They are conservatives after dinner."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our View

'Class warfare'

"Waging class warfare" is an accusation often and easily thrown at people who object to federal tax and spending policies that favor the wealthy. Sometimes that accusation has the ring of truth, but sometimes it better fits those who make it than those it is meant to describe. Now is one of those times. Consider these recent developments and then decide: Who is waging class warfare on whom?

■ President Bush recently informed federal workers that waging the war on terrorism would mean they couldn't have their 4.1 percent wage increase next year and would have to settle for 3.1 percent. Bush also reinstated annual bonuses of up to \$25,000 for political appointees in the federal government. The bonuses had been scrapped by President Bill Clinton, who concluded they were used mostly to benefit political cronies of the White House.

■ Last week the Treasury Department proposed new rules for pensions that would protect employers from claims of age discrimination in converting traditional pension programs into a new type. Those new pensions would mean reduced benefits for many older workers and reduced costs for companies.

This week it was disclosed that the man Bush has chosen to implement those rules, John Snow, will enjoy a pension of \$2.47 million per year from CSX Corp. until he dies. In computing Snow's pension, CSX will credit him with 44 years of service, though he has been with the company just 25 years. The pension also will be paid not just on his salary, but also on bonuses and the value of 250,000 shares of stock the CSX board gave him. Snow is hardly alone among American chief executive officers in these pension arrangements.

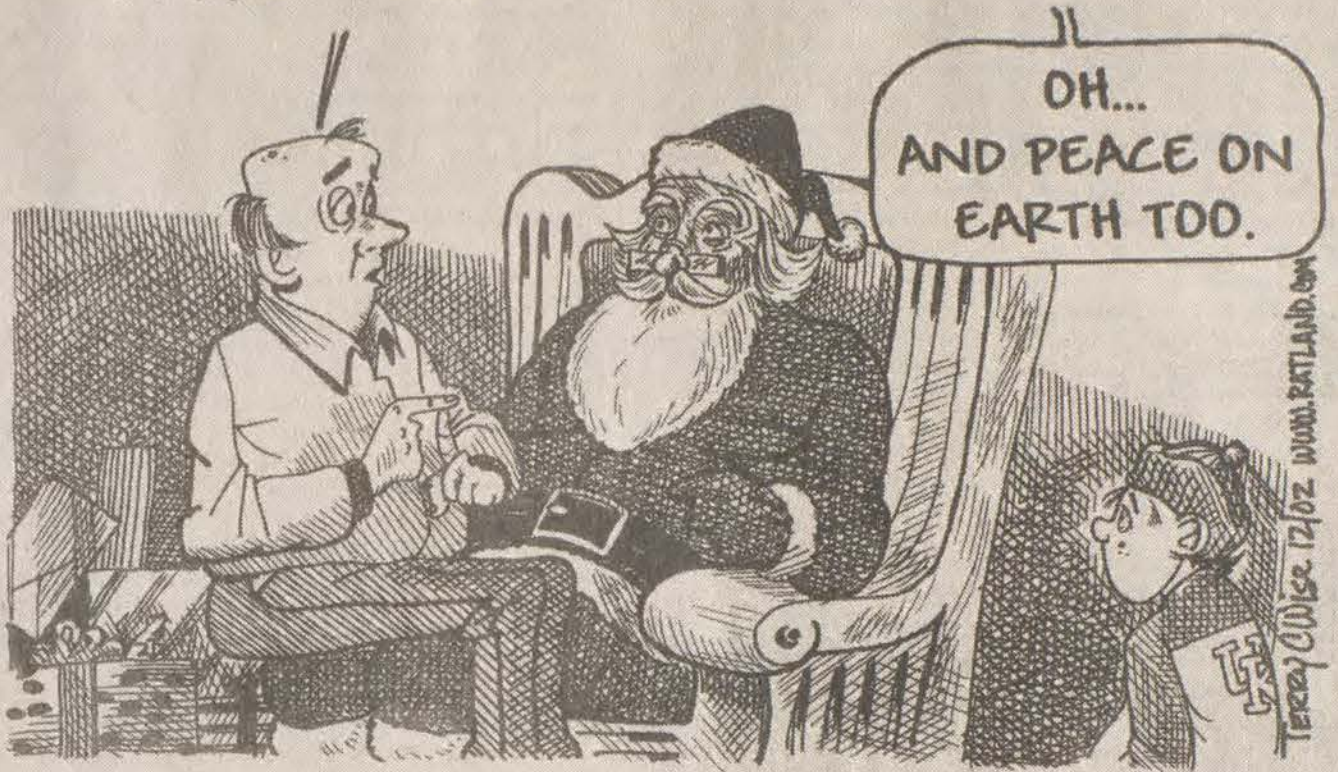
■ Did we mention that Snow's total compensation rose 69 percent between 1997 and 2001, while the value of his company's stock was losing 53 percent of its value?

Snow's not alone in that, either. Executive compensation has been going through the roof, especially in troubled firms. This week, in fact, a bankruptcy court rejected a \$50 million compensation package for a new CEO for WorldCom, where thousands have lost their jobs and investors have lost billions.

What has happened to average workers? Not much. A 2001 study by the National Bureau of Economics Research — a group with a sterling nonpartisan reputation — found that between 1970 and 1999, an average American worker's salary increased just \$3,342 in 1998

(See VIEW, page five)

... AND A RAISE... AND A GOOD STOCK MARKET IN 2003... AND MY 401 K BACK.



Guest Column

Gun control misses the target

by SCOTT McPHERSON

In the aftermath of the Washington-area sniper killings, editorial pages and ambitious politicians alike are clamoring for more gun-control laws. This is hardly surprising, given that the professed connection between guns and crime is practically an article of faith.

But what if guns really have nothing to do with violent crime? What if even the most restrictive gun-control measures don't work, or even make things worse? The facts suggest that may be closer to the mark.

Gun-control proponents have long pointed to countries such as England as evidence for their claims. Look across the Atlantic, they say. England doesn't have the crime and violence that the United States has. Surely this must be related to the low availability of firearms. America should learn from its more civilized cousins.

However, not only does that assertion now appear to be a misfire, but it purposely avoids comparisons that show the "guns cause crime" fallacy for what it is. It also keeps Americans from pursuing real solutions to the crime problem. This mixture certainly provides firepower for the gun-control agenda, but it will con-

tinue to make for terrible public policy.

Let us look at England then. Since the British government banned virtually all private gun ownership in 1997, crime has skyrocketed. Violent crime has more than doubled in the last five years. England's overall crime rate actually leads Western nations — including the United States.

Even the UK's historically low homicide rate is under fire. While violent crime has been falling for the past 10 years in America, murders in England are increasing. Twenty years ago there were 8.7 homicides in the United States for every homicide in England, a startling disparity that gun-control supporters never failed to celebrate as proof of their cause. Today, that ratio has dropped to as low as 3.5 to 1, but the gun-control movement is strangely silent about that.

Something else gun-control zealots conveniently omit from their discussion of crime and violence is Switzerland. In that peaceful little mountain country the average household contains three guns, comparable to the situation in Texas. From the age of 20, Swiss males are required to keep an assault rifle for purposes of national defense. The Swiss government actually sells surplus military rifles to the citizenry, and a permit to carry a concealed handgun is easily obtained. Despite that nation's "love affair" with firearms, Switzerland enjoys the lowest crime rate in Europe.

If guns cause crime, someone forgot to tell the Swiss. If gun control is the answer to violence, someone forgot to

tell the English.

Back on this side of the pond, towns like Kennesaw, Georgia, put gun-control arguments to the test, and again they are shown to be of a very low caliber. For the past 20 years, residents of this Atlanta suburb have been required by law to keep a gun in their home. The result is two decades of steadily falling crime rates, over and above national and state trends.

The research of award-winning criminologist Gary Kleck suggests that as many as 2.5 million times per year — about 5,000 times per day — Americans use guns to defend themselves. In fact, private citizens kill more felons than the police. Yale Law School senior research scholar John Lott showed in his book, *More Guns, Less Crime*, that states allowing their citizens to carry concealed handguns have lower rates of murder, rape, and assault.

The truth is, armed citizens discourage crime, and disarmed people are easy prey for violent thugs. Instead of promoting the same failed paradigm of the last 30 years, perhaps it would be wiser for gun-control advocates to investigate other reasons for America's crime "epidemic." A likely candidate is our highly destructive war on drugs, which breeds a large and vicious criminal class, misdirects police resources, and fills prisons with nonviolent drug users while returning violent criminals to the streets.

If we have learned anything from both

(See GUEST, page three)

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Prestonsburg is pretty

We just wanted to take a minute and compliment you on your beautiful city. The Christmas decorations all over town are so nice. I'm sure a lot of hard work and planning goes into this.

The other night, we came down and drove through Archer Park, which is very beautiful also. We enjoyed the welcome sign, where the lights look like the river flowing under the bridge.

Not only does your city look pretty at Christmas, but all year with the flowers for the different seasons. You sure take a lot of pride in making it so pretty.

We visit often, as our daughter and her family have lived there for years. They are Jerry, Sandra and Bridget Bellamy.

Happy holidays.
Clay and Marie Blevins
Pikeville

Job Corps thanks Toys for Tots helpers

The Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center was the drop-off point for the Toys for Tots program this year.

Toys for Tots is sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and serves the nation's neediest children.

I would like to recognize the following businesses for their help in our efforts:

Radio stations WMDJ, WQHY-WDOC, WDHR, WXLR and WSIP for their public service announcements.

The Floyd County Times, the Appalachian News-Express and The

Paintsville Herald for their advertisements.

Mayo Technical College, Morehead State University Big Sandy Campus and all locations for First Commonwealth Bank for collecting toys.

Ms. Deborah Burchell, center director, and Mr. Thomas Rainey, finance and administration director of the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center, for allowing me to store the toys at the Center and allowing me to donate the time to this worthy cause.

Ms. Carlotta Shannon and our Culinary Arts Class for making cookies and candy for businesses who helped.

And last but not least, the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center staff, who were so generous in their giving.

Our success would have been impossible without the help of these people.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve came to the Center to pick up the toys on Dec. 16 and went to many homes in our area to deliver toys to needy children before they returned to the Lexington office. The Lexington office serves 16 Kentucky counties, including Floyd.

Once again, thanks, everyone, and merry Christmas.

Teresa L. Carroll
Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center

Not the whole story

I am writing in response to the recent letter that addressed the issue of kids repeating grades for sports. In that letter Mr. Charles Scoville of Ivel said he "had learned more than he wanted

(See LETTERS, page five)

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.

Letters

to know about this issue." I am speaking as a parent who has a son repeating this year. While Mr. Scoville has made good points in his letter, he does not know everything about the issue.

Our school does have four kids who have repeated a grade, but not one of the their parents has ever suggested that their children will be the next Michael Jordan. Each boy is now 14 and in the seventh grade.

Let's dive deeper. If we investigated all the schools, we may find that the stereotypical idiot jock is not always the case. For example, I don't think UK football great Jeremy Caudill ever fell into a B average (though I do not know if he repeated a grade) but he is an example of parents pushing their kids to excellence. Mr. Scoville pay attention, Jeremy Caudill may be drafted as a pro next year.

Granted, that is rare, but out of the four sets of parents at our school, I know for a fact that three of the students were on the honor roll before they repeated. Those students are still there.

Of those three sets of parents, our goal in repeating our sons has nothing to do with their futures as a Chicago Bull or Los Angeles Laker. Instead, we are teaching our sons the value of hard work, the concept of developing your skills both academically and athletically and the concept of time invested well equals success whether on the court or in the job market.

We are also teaching them that hard work pays off. Each son wanted to repeat himself. They all chose to sacrifice a year in their lives to improve themselves. Furthermore, each has been taught that collegiate academics can be accessed without cost if they strive for excellence through athletics. Now that opens another gate of argument that of "too much emphasis is put on athletics in a child's life." If they are reaching for impossibility, this statement is true but these kids are reaching for a gratis college education. That translates to no student loans, no grants, and no

debt to hold them down as they enter their lives.

While some of what you said was true, don't box us all in. The key ingredient is that not all of us see our past dreams relived in our sons and daughters, because I never played ball for any school. You are misinformed. My son and at least two others make straight A's (something I never did.) We are teaching them that the academic institutions of this world look upon their academic successes as well as their athletic prowess.

It is my God-ordained duty to teach my son to strive for excellence. Your judgment upon our desires for our children matters not because each will go on to touch many more lives than

you and I could ever count.

My son is being raised to live like a Christian. Christ himself taught that whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your strength, soul and might. (Everything includes sports.)

Our children may not be the future of professional sports but they will raise children of their own knowing the value of hard work and sacrifice, both of which have been lost on a fat and lazy America.

Americans annually dish out tons of money to the poor and disadvantaged to be used in academic institutions. We give millions out to our country's laziest generation. Most of these peo-

(See LETTERS, page six)

View

dollars, to \$35,864. During that same period, the average total compensation of the 100 top American CEOs increased 2,800 percent, to \$37.5 million per year.

To put it another way, Graef Crystal, a watcher of compensation trends, found that in 1973, major CEOs were earning about 45 times what their average workers earned. By 2002, CEOs were getting almost 500 times what their workers were earning.

The White House is floating trial balloons on a new approach to tax cuts for next year which would argue that the affluent bear too much of the federal burden and low-income Americans too little. In order to make this argument, the White House focuses exclusively on the income tax. It argues that payroll taxes - paid to finance Social Security and Medicare - are not taxes at all, but fees. This, of course, would skew the tax picture dramatically because the payroll taxes take an especially big bite out of the incomes of less-wealthy Americans.

That argument is going to be a hard sell, a devious word game. What should make it even more difficult are the statistics on wealth accumulation in the United States, which belie the notion that

onerous tax burdens are impeding the wealthy.

Statistics developed by the Federal Reserve show that between 1993 and 1998, the net worth of households declined 76 percent for the bottom 40 percent of households. Net worth of all other segments grew, and for the top 1 percent, the growth in wealth was 42.2 percent.

The results of that growth are stunning. Fed figures show that in 1998, the top 1 percent of wealthiest Americans held 38.1 percent of the nation's net worth. The top 10 percent held 70.9 percent. The bottom 40 percent held not even one-quarter of 1 percent.

This is not an argument for soaking the wealthy, nor for paying CEOs peanuts. The accumulation of wealth serves very important social and economic purposes in this nation. And all workers benefit from having talented, well-compensated CEOs at the helm of their companies.

But aren't things getting more than a bit out of hand when a CEO earns 500 times what an average worker gets, and when the Bush administration is talking about shifting the tax burden down the income scale? Again, just who is waging class warfare on whom?

— The Minneapolis Star Tribune

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Obituaries

Card of Thanks

We, the family of the late Bill DeLong of Blue River, Ky., would like to thank each and everyone who helped in any way during the passing of our loved one. A special thank-you to all who sent flowers and food and comforted us in so many ways. We thank the church family at the Middle Creek Baptist Church for opening their doors and hearts for us; thanks to the ministers, Vernon Slone and Eugene Haney, for their comforting words, the Floyd County Sheriff's Department for the traffic control, and to the Hall Funeral Home of Martin, Ky., for the beautiful and efficient services.

THE FAMILY OF BILL DELONG

Card of Thanks

The family of James Dwayne Hall would like to thank all those neighbors, friends, and families, who helped during the loss of our loved one. Thanks to those who sent flowers, food, cards, or said prayers and comforting words. A special thanks to the Regular Baptist ministers for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and professional service.

THE FAMILY OF JAMES DWAYNE HALL

Card of Thanks

The family of Helen Virginia Boyd would like to thank all those friends, neighbors, and family, who helped them in any way upon the passing of their loved one. Thanks to those who sent food, flowers, prayers and words of comfort expressed. We deeply appreciate you all. A special thanks to the Old Regular Baptist ministers for their comforting words, Little Salem Regular Baptist Church, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and professional service.

THE FAMILY OF HELEN VIRGINIA BOYD

Clifford Hunter

Clifford Hunter, age 75, of New London, died Monday morning, December 23, at his home after a lengthy illness.

He was born November 20, 1927, in Trace Branch, Floyd County, Kentucky, the son of the late J.B. and Rebecca (Spurlock) Hunter. He grew up in the Trace area. As a young man he had worked in the local coal mines and was a mail carrier on horseback for the Blue Moon, Kentucky area. He and his new wife, moved to New London in 1948, where he worked for 27 years at the E. Bigelow Co. in New London as a fireman. He had also worked for 12 years at the Rockwell Corp. in Wellington until his retirement in 1988. He was a member of the Fitchville Church of Christ. He was a devoted father, grandfather and friend to many. He enjoyed traveling, bowling, fishing, and gardening.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elouise (Hall) Hunter; a son and daughter-in-law, Cordell and Mary Hunter of New London; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Ron Hamilton of New London; three sisters, Ocie Hall of New London, Dorothy Carpenter of Grove City, Ohio, and Delphia Hall of Printer, Kentucky; six grandchildren and five step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by three sons, Glendale Hunter, Kevin Hunter and Otis Hunter; a daughter, Alma Faye Hunter; five brothers, Columbus, Oliver, Arnold, Erman and Tennessee Hunter; and a grandson, Jason Hunter.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, December 27, at 1 p.m., at the New London Church of Christ, 130 Third St., with Pastor Charles Mead and Earl Parsons officiating.

Burial will follow at the Fitchville Cemetery, under the direction of Eastman Funeral Home.

(Paid obituary)

Jesse Laferty

Jesse Laferty, age 98, of Allen, husband of the late Zeldia Lou Samons Laferty, passed away Friday, December 20, 2002, in the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

He was born January 23, 1904, in Endicott, (Edgar), the son of the late William Laferty and Sarah Burchfield Laferty. He was a retired railroad worker (oiler and packers), and was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include three sons, Herbert Dean Laferty of Allen, Donald Rudolph Laferty of Clearfield, and Herman Keith Laferty of Cub Run; three daughters, Maxine Thacker of Wurtland, Valerie Hall of Allen, and Sarah Glennis Lowe of Palm Coast, Florida, 16 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild and several step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Jesse Laferty were conducted Monday, December 23, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin, with Clergyman James Edward Robinson officiating.

Burial was in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Pallbearers: Neil Laferty, Donnie Laferty, Larry Laferty, David Hall, Jim Thacker, Daryl Laferty, Denny Laferty and Keith Laferty.

(Paid obituary)

Eugle Martin

Eugle Martin, age 70, of Hilliard, Ohio, died Thursday, December 19, 2002, at her residence. She was a member of the Bellevue Baptist Church, Bellevue, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Dora Bentley; brothers, Sam and Virgil Bentley; and sister, Polly Bentley.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, John Lewis Martin; children, Rick Martin, Vicki Caudill, and Tim Martin and families; grandchildren, T. J. Caudill, Ashley Caudill, Andrew Martin, Karly Martin, Katlyn Hobby, Tyler Hobby, and Gareth Martin; brothers, Vernace, Don, Ron and Tom Bentley; a sister, Janice Salyers.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m., Saturday, December 21, with Elders Roy Smith, Hubert Caudill and Charles Smith officiating.

Interment was in Kingwood Memorial Park, under the direction of Tidd Funeral Home, 5265 Norwich St., Hilliard, Ohio.

Flowers will be graciously accepted, or in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice, at Riverside and Grant.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Irene J. Reitz

Irene J. Reitz, age 74, of Drift, passed away on Sunday, December 22, 2002, in the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital after an extended illness.

She was born March 3, 1928, at Drift, the daughter of the late Lester and Lizzie Miller Judd.

She was a homemaker and a member of the Salisbury United Methodist Church, and the Drift Women's Club.

She is survived by her husband, Belford Reitz of Drift; one step-son, Belford Reitz Jr., and wife, Barbara, of Blaine, Minnesota; one step-daughter, Peggy Lattery and her husband, Bill; one sister, Josephine Hobson of Winchester; four nieces, Sue Brown, Cathylene Hukle, Carol Whitlock and Irene Wilson; six nephews, Benny Hobson, Jack Hobson, Johnny Judd, Mark Judd, Tommy Judd and Lester Judd.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 24, at 1 p.m., in the Hall Funeral Home in Martin, with Ted Shannon and Bobby Lawson officiating.

Burial was in the Drift Cemetery, at Drift.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Hall Funeral Home.

(Paid obituary)

In Loving Memory of Stacia Paige Collins age 2, of Honaker, Ky.



Our dear little great-granddaughter has been taken from us in a car accident.

We loved her so much and miss her more each day.

It seems as if I can hear her little voice saying, "Mamaw, let's go outside and sit on your big steps."

Our Little Angel is gone from us, but will always be in our hearts.

**Her Great-Grandparents,
Bobby and Zelma Lawson
Harold, Kentucky**

Continued from p2

including jeans and shoes.

During a board meeting earlier this month, a man whose wife teaches at Castlio said in defense of the father that the man had been volunteering at school and attending parent-teacher conferences for at least eight years while dressed as a woman.

"No one has said a word. No one has had a problem with him until now," said Marty Hodits, 54.

Odds

He regrets creating a stir.

"He went on the trip because his daughter asked him to go," said Superintendent Dan O'Donnell of the Francis Howell district, which includes Castlio Elementary School fourth-graders who took the Oct. 18 trip. "If he had known it would have caused this much of an uproar, he wouldn't have gone."

The father's identity has not been revealed, and he has not spoken publicly.

Parents complained to the school board after the man, during a class outing to Jefferson City, apparently wore a woman's hairstyle, makeup and apparel,

Continued from p2

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History

Singer Barbara Mandrell is 54. Actress Sissy Spacek is 53. Singer Annie Lennox is 48. Reggae singer-musician Robin Campbell (UB40) is 48. Country singer Steve Wariner is 48. Singer Shane McGowan (The Popes) is 45. Actress Klea Scott is 34. Rock musician Noel Hogan (The Cranberries) is 31. Singer Dido is 30. Country singer Alecia Elliott is 20. Moose (Eddie the dog on "Frasier") is 12.

Thought for Today:

"Were I a philosopher, I should write a philosophy of toys, showing that nothing else

in life need to be taken seriously, and that Christmas Day in the company of children is one of the few occasions on which men become entirely alive." — Robert Lynd, British essayist (1879-1949).

Letters

Continued from p5

ple will drop out before graduating because they have no sense of self-worth or do not know the value of sticking it out. They will fall short of their potential.

Basketball is a tool. Repeating a grade is a lesson in sacrifice. If you were one of the few who got playing time you would realize that playing time came at the expense of many other missed opportunities. The values of this repetition and of the game of basketball will never leave our kids. They see the value of hard work and its rewards every day. Many will see a brighter future ahead than most kids ever dream of.

You question the honesty and the ethics of repeating a child; I question those who do not want the best for their children. The best does not mean giving them everything they want but it means teaching them to do the best they can with their God-given abilities. The Bible says train up a child in the way they should go and they will never depart from it. We are training our sons that true success comes at a sacrifice and from our own blood, sweat and tears, not on the coat tails of our parents.

We have the right to use our academic intuitions to insure the success of our children. That is what they are there for. We have the responsibility to push them into excellence.

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SECTION

B



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- Adams C-Team • page 3B
- Lifestyles • page 1C

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY'S GAMES	Whitesburg 85 Allen Central 66 Cumberland 60 Belfry 55 Mountain Schoolboy Classic Paintsville 48 Shelby Valley 46 Pike Central 71 Tug Valley, W.Va. 65 52nd Annual Pikeville Invitational	Whitesburg 85 Allen Central 66 Jenkins Holiday Classic	Belfry 65 Phelps 60 Mountain Schoolboy Classic Boyle County 66 Pike Co. Central 65 Harrison County 63 Prestonsburg 48 Johnson Central 88 Cumberland 64 Pikeville 70 Tug Valley, WV 59	Trigg County 73 June Buchanan 35 A&W/Long John Silvers Invitational Whitesburg 101 Cordia 89 Jenkins Holiday Classic Hazard 75 Estill County 64 South Laurel 81 East Carter 63
SATURDAY'S GAMES	Alien Central 89 Letcher 47 Jenkins Holiday Classic			

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MARTIAL ARTS

Craft earns black belt

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUXIER - Prestonsburg Elementary fourth-grader Jonna Craft is not the ordinary elementary school student. Earlier this month she earned her first-degree black belt in taekwon-do. Craft earned the belt earlier this month and was presented with the belt on Sunday, Dec. 8 in a ceremony.

Craft is now one of the youngest black belts in Eastern Kentucky. She is a student at Family Academy of Arts and the daughter of Kenni and Mike Gambill.

Craft began her taekwon-do studies in June of 1999. Mike Gambill, here step-father, also serves as her instructor.



■ Jonna Craft

AUTO RACING

STARS Series announces banquet date

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - The STARS Battle of the Bluegrass DirtCar Series presented by Arizona Sport Shirts 1st Annual Awards Banquet will be on Saturday Night, January 25, 2003 at the Continental Inn in Lexington at 6:30 p.m.

The top-10 drivers in the final point standings will be honored with awards and point fund money. Eddie Carrier Jr of Leburn is the 2002 STARS Battle of

(See STARS, page three)



photo by Jamie Justice

Michael Hall scored his 2,000 point Friday night in a loss in Louisville to Elizabethtown. More on South Floyd's play in the Jeffersontown tournament will appear in Friday's edition.

JCHS wins Mtn. Schoolboy Classic

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BELFRY - The Mountain Schoolboy Classic title now resides in Johnson County. Over the weekend, Johnson Central rolled to the tournament crown, beating Phelps and then Cumberland in the tournament finals to win the event.

Johnson Central beat Cumberland 88-64 in convincing fashion in the tournament's championship game.

Junior guard Mike Walters scored 24 and senior teammates Brandon Wheeler and Chris Hurt each had 20 points apiece in the win. Johnson Central (6-0) goes into the Christmas break with an unblemished record.

"We've played and beat some good basketball teams early on," said Johnson Central head coach Les Trimble. "The kids have worked really hard."

Matt Haynes led Cumberland in scoring with 19 points. Eddie Creech finished with 11.



(See JCHS, page three) ■ Hurt

- Tigers win battle of undefeated teams -



photo by Steve LeMaster

Paintsville junior Shane Simpkins dished a pass off to an open teammate.

Collins' bucket leads Paintsville past Valley

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

ROBINSON CREEK - Senior Adam Collins is quickly establishing himself in the lore of Paintsville High School basketball. Friday night he came up big again. Collins hit a lay-up with 1.8 seconds left, giving the visiting Tigers

a 48-46 victory over Shelby Valley. The host Wildcats (4-1) led Paintsville by 14 at the half, but went cold in the second half, to the tune of a 21-2 measure.

Senior guard Adam Rice, a player who hit several timely shots for his team, scored 14 to lead Paintsville to the win.

Forward Paul Terry Fleming

paced Shelby Valley with a game-high 17 points.

Collins and Ryan Jarrell each had eight points apiece for Paintsville. Junior Peyton Conley finished with seven points and Stuart Rutledge added six. Shane Simpkins and Auxier resident

(See VALLEY, page three)

PIKEVILLE INVITATIONAL

Pike Central falls in finals

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE - Senior Justin McCurry missed the mark on a jumper as Pike Central fell 66-64 to Boyle County in the 52nd Annual Pikeville Invitational Tournament championship Saturday night at the T.W. Oliver Memorial Gymnasium.

"We could've quit," Pike Central head coach David Rowe said of his team's 10-point deficit with 4:47 remaining in the game. "Our kids hung in and fought to the end. Obviously, a win would've been nice, but I'm really pleased with our effort over the past two days."

Barry Sanders, Adam Prater and Bobby Mullins combined for 55 points to lead the Hawks.

Mullins scored a team-high 25 points. Barry Sanders followed with 18 and Prater added 12. McCurry chipped

(See FINALS, page three)

BETSY LAYNE

Lawrence Co. 72, Betsy Layne 55

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE - Lawrence County visited Betsy Layne Friday night, and Steven Driver quickly made his presence known.

The Bobcats trailed 40-26 at the half, after taking the first period by a final count of 20-19.

Betsy Layne edged the visiting Bulldogs 16-15 in the final quarter before falling, 72-55.

Sheldon Clark transfer Adam Brown aided Driver with 11 points for victorious Lawrence County. A balanced Lawrence County attack saw seven different Bulldogs score.

Brandon Hall led the way for Betsy Layne with 14 points. Bobo Hamilton and Jordan Kidd each finished with 10

(See BOBCATS, page three)



■ Hall



■ Newsome

Kurkowski selected for USTA Team

TIMES STAFF REPORT

After three months of competition and thousands of miles of travel, the training and preparation has paid off for Collins Kurkowski. Kurkowski was selected as a member of the United States Tumbling and Trampoline Team. The USTA

(See USTA, page three)



■ Collins Kurkowski

PRESTONSBURG

Harrison Co. 63, Prestonsburg 48

TIMES STAFF REPORT

quarter, fell 63-48.

CYNTHIANA - Prestonsburg traveled to Harrison County for a second consecutive Saturday game this past Saturday. Unfortunately for the Blackcats it was a second consecutive Saturday game loss. Prestonsburg, after playing even with the host Thoroughbreds through one

The two teams came out of the first quarter tied at 14. Harrison County led 32-21 at the end of the first half. Harrison County then outscored Prestonsburg 23-14 in the third quarter. Prestonsburg took the last period, 13-8 but ultimately fell short.

(See P'BURG, page three)

Implosion to end Cinergy's reign

by ED TAYLOR
SPORTS EDITOR

It is Christmas and Merry Christmas everyone!

While those 58 living Hall of Fame members are preparing to meet with Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig to discuss and get their personal response to the consideration of reinstating Pete Rose in baseball, the house that Rose help build will be come tumbling down when a

construction crew will plant explosions throughout the stadium and bring in down in, what they say, will amount to about 30 seconds.

Cinergy will give way to the new home for the Reds, the Great American Ball Park, for the 2003 season. I sure would like to be on hand when all this takes place. It should be quite a sight to look upon.

Back to Rose, it seems that maybe Mr. Selig has opened a can of worms he now wishes he hadn't in considering the reinstatement of Rose. Some old-timers are hollering foul when it comes to the possibilities of his return to the game.

But says here, Rose will be reinstated and some team will

hire him as their manager just for all the publicity and fan interest it will draw — for awhile. One of the stipulations for reinstatement has been that Rose will admit that he betted on baseball and the Cincinnati Reds, who managed before being banned for life in 1989.

If you ask me, it all lies in Rose's corner whether he makes it back to the game he has given so many years to. If he did actually bet on the game, they have the evidence he did, then he needs to come clean and make things right before reinstatement is possible. Rose has been an arrogant player who feels that baseball owes him something. Baseball owes him nothing! I enjoyed

watching him as a player but I do not believe he should ever be allowed to manage again, anywhere.

WATCH THE PHILLIES IN '03

The Philadelphia Phillies are serious about contending for a pennant and World Series ring next season and caught a big fish when they obtained Kevin Millwood from the Atlanta Braves, the team they will have to beat for a divisional title. Millwood was an 18 game winner for the Braves this past season and is sure to become the ace of the Phillies staff. Philadelphia just missed signing former Braves ace, Tom Glavine, as a free agent.

Had they landed Glavine along with Millwood, everyone else would have been playing for second place in their division.

REDS MEET ARBITRATION

The Cincinnati Reds tendered contracts to six players who were eligible for arbitration. Aaron Boone, Danny Graves, Bruce Chen, Ryan Dempster, Scott Williamson and Jason Larue will be with the Reds during the 2003 season. Wonder what that cost them?

Boone is rumored to be headed to shortstop this coming season to make room for Brandon Larson at third base.

Larkin, could play some outfield for the Reds as the Reds brass would like to have Larson's bat in the lineup every day. I think so too. Larkin is not going to hit, although he is still a good defensive shortstop.

Wow, can you believe this? The Chicago Cubs signed former Red, Shawn Estes to a \$3 million contract for the 2003 season. Unbelievable. Has ownership lost their minds dishing out money to players who are not even worth the minimum salary.

Hey, what happen to Brian Mohler? Did I miss something while at the beach?

Until Friday, good sports everyone and be good sports!

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Down Payment: \$999	Down Payment: \$499	Down Payment: \$0
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Sec. Deposit: \$0	Sec. Deposit: \$0	Sec. Deposit: \$0
Down Payment: \$999	Down Payment: \$499	Down Payment: \$0
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Reed Column: So, this is Christmas

by **BILLY REED**
TIMES COLUMNIST

As I was getting ready to write my Christmas column, there was a knock on my office door. "Come in," I said, somewhat grumpily. I groaned when I saw that my visitor was my nemesis and longtime sparring partner, the Ghost of Christmas Past.

"What do you want?" I said. "Well, Merry Christmas to you, too," the spirit said.

He was dressed, as usual, like Robert Young on the 1950s TV show, "Father

Knows Best": Cardigan sweater, button-down shirt, necktie, slacks and loafers. He smelled like Old Spice. He had a pipe in one hand, the sports page in another.

"You're here to gloat about how much better Christmas was in the old days," I said, accusingly.

"Dear boy," he said, "ghosts don't gloat. We just don't let you forget. In my case, it's hardly my fault that during your lifetime, Christmas has strayed so far from its roots and its meaning that it's now mostly a holiday to worship

crass commercialism."

"Look," I said, "I'm trying to write a sports column."

"Sports ... Bah, humbug," said the ghost in disgust. "I recently tried to have a talk with Barry Bonds. I couldn't get past his agent. All I wanted was an autograph. The agent said I should leave a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$100. He would see if he could get me one by Christmas."

"Times have changed," I said.

"He meant Christmas, 2004, you idiot!" screamed the Ghost

of Christmas Past.

"In the old days, professional athletes were a lot more generous with their time, especially at Christmas. They actually cared more about giving than receiving."

"Give me an example," I said.

"Ted Williams," said my tormentor. "He established the Jimmy Fund in Boston to aid young cancer patients. It's still going. And athletes were never too busy or inaccessible to visit veterans' and children's hospitals."

"Greed is a terrible thing," I said with a sigh.

"Tell me about it," said the ghost. "I don't know which are the worst role models — athletes, pop-music groups, or movie-TV stars."

"Explain yourself," I demanded.

"They all make so much money that it's obscene," the spirit said. "This leads them to think the manners and laws that apply to most people don't apply to them. So many of them do drugs, drive under the influence, beat up their spouses, and engage in other forms of anti-social behavior."

"And instead of rejecting it, kids think it's cool," I said.

"You're not as dumb as you look," said the Ghost of Christmas Past. "And look at all the garbage that Santa Claus is forced to cart into homes every Christmas. Videos and CDs that glorify violence and sex. Hip-hop CDs that are an insult to anyone who likes music. Baggy clothes that make boys look like street bums, and revealing outfits that make girls look like hookers."

"Kids aren't any worse today that they were when I was a kid," I protested.

"You're right," said my visitor, "but the influences on them are. And parents are too busy with their own careers to deal with it. They turn the job of raising their children over to teachers, who end up being little more than social workers and police officers."

"Surely you have to admit that there are some positive role models," I said.

"You're right," said the ghost. "I give high marks to Tiger Woods, Allan Houston, Tubby Smith, Tom Hanks, Ashley Judd, Oprah Winfrey, Cal Ripken, Sammy Sosa, and many others. But these days, if you're too nice, you're not cool."

"I can't argue with you," I admitted. "I remember when we all rooted for the guys in the white hats and booed the villains. Now it seems to be just the opposite."

"Not seems to be," said my guest. "It is. And you media people have something to do with it. The only thing you love more than building up heroes is tearing them down. No wonder the stars and the public have become so cynical about the media."

"I was waiting for you to get to that," I said. "When in doubt, blame the media. Hey, it's not our fault that today's fans worship freaks and jerks."

Today's journalists are more honest than those who used to ignore Mickey Mantle's drinking, Marilyn Monroe's promiscuity, and Elvis Presley's drug addiction."

"I'll grant you that," said the spirit. "But whatever happened to boundaries and civility? They're as dead as Trigger, and the media is just as guilty as the rude athletes and ill-mannered entertainment stars."

"You're depressing me," I

said.

"Just trying to remind you that Christmas, and life, was better in the old days," said the ghost, smugly. "In those days, there were such things as manners and good taste. The English language was something to be respected, not butchered."

"I've got a sports column to write," I said.

"I'll be on my way, then," said the Ghost of Christmas Past. "I hope Santa brings the sports world a return to the days when cheaters and law-breakers were condemned instead of glorified, when pro athletes were involved in their communities, when humility and politeness were the rule instead of the exception, and when TV and money weren't such almighty gods."

As he turned to leave, I wished him a Merry Christmas.

"The same to you and your readers," he said. "I'm going to jump into my '57 Thunderbird and head for Pete Rose's house. He should be especially glad to see me this year."

To contact Billy Reed send e-mails to BReedII@aol.com

Adams C-Team wins Karen Pack Invitational Tournament

TIMES STAFF REPORT

McDOWELL — The Adams Middle School Blackcats C-Team won the first Karen Pack Invitational Tournament with a hard fought 34-20 victory over McDowell in the finals on

Saturday afternoon.

The Blackcats played their trademark aggressive full-court defense and never trailed in the game. The Blackcats were led in rebounding by Kyle Hall and Seth Setser who each grabbed nine boards. All of Hall's

rebounds came in the second half. Jody Tackett and Allen Craynon led a very balanced scoring attack with nine and eight points, respectively. Chris Schoolcraft scored seven points, Setser added six points, and Austin Gearheart and Matt Sword rounded out the scoring for the Blackcats with two points each.

Tyler Mitchell led McDowell in scoring with six points, Marty Dye added five points and Shannon Turner netted three points. Kyle Howell, Chad Patrick and Brandon Marson all scored two points each to round out the scoring for McDowell.

The Blackcats reached the finals by defeating Betsy Layne 39-16 on Friday night. Once again the Blackcats used full court pressure and a balanced scoring attack to defeat the Bobcats. On Friday against Betsy Layne, Jody Tackett led the way with 15 points. Austin Gearheart, Allen Craynon and Chris Schoolcraft all scored six points each while Seth Setser added three points, Matt Sword netted two and Stephen Patrick scored one point.

In winning the Karen Pack Invitational Tournament, the Blackcats improved to 9-2 on the

USTA

Continued from p1

National Team is composed of the top female and male tumblers in the nation. The accomplishment and honor becomes more tremendous, when considering that the young athletes is 10 years of age and the youngest member on the team.

Kurkowski is also a member of the AAU National Team. She performed with the team during opening ceremonies of the Junior Olympic Games held in Knoxville, Tenn. during July and August. During the Games, she went on to capture four gold medals and was honored with All-American status in trampoline and double-mini trampoline. The status is given to the athlete with the highest scores during the Games.

Kurkowski is the new National Champion in tumbling and double-mini trampoline after winning two gold medals at the USTA Championship held in Moline, Illinois during June. She recently performed with the USTA National Team in Houston, Texas, and will travel to Galveston, Texas and on to Mexico with the team in February 2003.

Kurkowski is the daughter of Kim and David Pack of Pikeville and John Kurkowski of Michigan. She is the granddaughter of Sharon and Carson Akers of McDowell and the great-granddaughter of Leviathan Jones and the late Edgar Jones of Prestonsburg.

Bobcats

Continued from p1

points in the loss for the Bobcats. Jordan Scarberry chipped in eight points for Betsy Layne (2-4).

Betsy Layne's Nathan Newsome and Brandon Kidd each had four points apiece in the setback.

Betsy Layne is next in action Friday night in Florida against Father Lopez (Fla.). A 7 p.m. tip time is scheduled.

LAWRENCE CO. (72) — Parsons 9, Muncy 3, Driver 44, Lewis 2, Compton 1, Endicott 2, Brown 11.

BETSY LAYNE (55) — Simon 1, Daniels 2, Hamilton 10, Scarberry 8, J. Kidd 10, N. Newsome 4, B. Newsome 2, B. Kidd 4, Hall 14.

STARS

Continued from p1

the Bluegrass Champion and Bobby Wolter Jr of Lexington is the 2002 BPM Performance Products Rookie of the Year. Other special awards will be passed out during the ceremony as well.

The Continental Inn is

located at the corner of U.S. Highway 60 and New Circle Road. The address is 801 New Circle Road. Tickets are priced at \$30 per person and must be purchased by January 18, 2003. There will be a buffet style meal. Everyone is

invited to this banquet, but seating is limited and tickets are sold on a first come first served basis.

To order tickets for the banquet please contact the STARS Battle of the Bluegrass office at 859/271-4501, e-mail at bolatmodeltour@aol.com or write to STARS Battle of the Bluegrass, 1100A Centurian Road, Lexington, Ky. 40517.

OF LOCAL INTEREST:

The STARS Battle of the Bluegrass DirtCar Series presented by Arizona Sports Shirts is scheduled to return to both Thunder Ridge Raceway in Prestonsburg and 201 Speedway in Sitka in 2003.

Valley

Continued from p1

Steven Jones finished with three and two points, respectively.

Kelsey Friend chipped in nine points for the host Wildcats.

Philip Akers added eight points for Shelby Valley.

Paintsville will return to the hardwood on Thursday in Lexington in the Fifth-Third Holiday Classic against Wayne County. The game will be held as part of the tournament at Lexington Catholic High School. Tip-off is set for noon.

PAINTSVILLE (48) — Rice 14, Rutledge 6, Collins 8, Simpkins 3, Conley 7, Jarrell 8, Jones 2.

SHELBY VALLEY (46) — Akers 8, Fleming 17, R. Tackett 3, Kiser 5, Friend 9, P. Tackett 4.

Finals

Continued from p1

in six and Jared Slone finished with three.

Pike Central made good on 24 field goals and shot 16-of-22 from the charity stripe.

"We had our chance to win the game, but it just didn't fall," Rowe continued. "We have to limit our turnovers and handle the ball better. As a team, we can't afford to play catch-up late in the game."

"This is just the start of a four tournament stretch that expands well into the new year

for us."

Jacob Tamme, a star performer for Boyle County on the gridiron, tossed in a game-high 32 points to lead Boyle County. Derek Vonckx followed with 18 and Josh Slone tallied 15. Adam Tamme finished with a point.

Boyd County hit 22 field goals, including six three-point baskets. They also hit 16-of-24 free-throw attempts.

Pike Central (3-3) will play Apollo in the Hoopin' It Up Classic in London on Friday.

2, Adams 4.

PHELPS (39) — McCoy 17, Gentry 4, Daniels 6, Daugherty 4, Mayhorn 6, Hardin 2.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

JOHNSON CENTRAL (88) — Walters 24, Hurt 20, Mollette 6, Wheeler 20, Woods 2, Adams 4, Music 5, Hatfield 3, Callis 4.

CUMBERLAND (64) — Creech 11, Haynes 19, Battle 7, Smith 7, Sturgill 11, McIquhan 7, Maggard 2.

JCHS

Continued from p1

The loss dropped Cumberland to 5-5 on the season.

Tournament host Belfry took the consolation game, beating Phelps (0-7) 65-60.

Zane Smith scored 25 points to lead Belfry en route to the consolation prize. Doug Howard scored 16 and Chase Preece added 13 for Belfry (3-3).

FIRST ROUND

JOHNSON CENTRAL (71) — Walters 23, Hurt 2, Mollette 2, Wheeler 15, Woods 2, Whitaker 3, S. Music 4, Stapleton 5, Hatfield 3, N. Music 6, Fairchild

Early Times \$16 ⁹⁹ 1/2-gal.	Doral Cigarettes \$16 ⁴⁹ ctn + tax
J & J Liquors Betsy Layne • 478-2477	
<small>SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide.</small>	

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Lift, cycle, run, climb & paddle your body to great health and fitness.

MOUNTAIN BIKE SPECIALS

Trek 800 was \$239 Now \$199
Trek 4100 was \$299 Now \$269

All K2s and Cannondales are on sale.

Layaway now for Christmas!

1 Year Gym Membership \$29.95 per month

Old Town Guide 147 and 160 in stock!

Wishing you the best and brightest of holiday seasons

The families of Big Sandy RECC wish your family a warm and bright holiday season. We look forward to serving you in the New Year.

Big Sandy RECC

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative





The Floyd County Times

wants to encourage and acknowledge excellence in the Floyd County Area. The Floyd County Times is conducting its annual ballot of readers so they can let us know whom they consider to be best in the county. Winners receive a certificate suitable for framing and will be featured in a **SPECIAL SECTION** in March titles...

Reader's Choice

BEST IN FLOYD COUNTY

- Area Attraction _____
- Church _____
- Civic Club/Organization _____
- College _____
- Community Festival Event _____
- Dining Atmosphere _____
- Elderly Care Facility _____
- Elementary School _____
- Entertainment _____
- High School _____
- Hospital/Medical Facility _____
- Local Band _____
- Middle School _____
- Place to camp out _____
- Place to lose weight _____
- Place to meet friends _____
- Place to spend Saturday night _____
- Place to take out of town guests _____
- Place to work _____

BEST FOOD

- Barbecue _____
- Biscuits _____
- Brand of Soft Drink _____
- Burgers _____
- Catering _____
- Chicken _____
- Chili _____
- Chinese Food _____
- Decorated Cake _____
- Desserts _____
- Donuts _____
- Fish and Seafood _____
- French Fries _____
- Fresh Meat for Grilling _____
- Home Cookin' _____
- Hot Dogs _____
- Ice Cream _____
- Kid's Meal _____
- Mexican Food _____
- Onion Rings _____
- Pizza _____
- Roast Beef Sandwich _____
- Salad Bar _____
- Sandwiches _____
- Shakes/Malts _____
- Steaks _____

BEST PEOPLE

- Accountant _____
- Attorney _____
- Bank Teller _____
- Employed at _____

- Barber _____
- Employed at _____
- Boss _____
- Employed at _____
- Building Contractor _____
- Bus Driver _____
- Car Salesperson _____
- Employed at _____
- Chiropractor _____
- City Employee _____
- Club President _____
- Coach _____
- Employed at _____
- Dental Hygiene _____
- Employed at _____
- Dentist _____
- Electrician _____
- Employed at _____
- EMT/Paramedic _____
- Firefighter _____
- Funeral Home Attendant _____
- Employed at _____
- Furniture Sales Person _____
- Employed at _____
- General Physician _____
- Hairstylist _____
- Employed at _____
- Heating/Air Service Room _____
- Employed at _____
- Insurance Agent _____
- Employed at _____
- Jeweler _____
- Law Enforcement Officer _____
- Loan Officer _____
- Mechanic _____
- Employed at _____
- Nurse _____
- Employed at _____
- Optometrist _____
- Employed at _____
- Painter _____
- Paper Carrier _____
- Employed at _____
- Pastor/Priest _____
- Pastor of _____
- Pharmacist _____
- Photographer _____
- Physical Therapist _____
- Employed at _____
- Plumber _____
- Employed at _____
- Politician _____
- Principal _____
- Employed at _____
- Radio Announcer _____
- Employed at _____
- Real Estate Agent _____
- Employed at _____
- School Teacher _____
- Teaches at _____

- Secretary _____
- Employed at _____
- Store Cashier _____
- Employed at _____
- Sunday School Teacher _____
- Teaches at _____
- Surgeon _____
- Employed at _____
- Sunday School Teacher _____
- Teaches at _____
- Surgeon _____
- Employed at _____
- Waitress/Waiter _____
- Employed at _____
- Veterinarian _____
- Employed at _____

BEST PLACE TO PURCHASE

- Athletic Shoes _____
- Auto-Body Repairs _____
- Bath Towels _____
- Bed Linens _____
- Cabinets _____
- Carpet _____
- Dairy Items _____
- Dress Shoes _____
- Film Developing _____
- Frozen Foods _____
- Health & Beauty Aids _____
- Home Health Care Needs _____
- Home Mortgage Loan _____
- Kids Clothing _____
- Men's Clothing _____
- Perm _____
- Pet Supplies _____
- Produce _____
- School Supplies _____
- Seafood items _____
- Shoe Repair _____
- Snack Food _____
- Stereo _____
- TV-VCR Repair _____
- Used Automobiles _____
- Vinyl _____
- Women's Clothing _____

BEST BUSINESS

- Antiques/Collectibles _____
- Appliances _____
- Artwork/Framing _____
- Athletic Supply _____
- Auto Parts _____
- Bait/Tackle _____
- Beauty Salon _____
- Bookkeeping/Tax _____
- Building Supplies _____

- Car Dealership _____
- Car Wash _____
- Commercial Printer _____
- Concrete _____
- Construction/Remodeling _____
- Convenience Store _____
- Crafts _____
- Daycare Center _____
- Deli _____
- Dry Cleaners _____
- Electrical Supplies _____
- Electronics _____
- Eyewear _____
- Exterminating _____
- Farm/Agriculture _____
- Financial Institutions _____
- Financing _____
- Floor Coverings _____
- Florist _____
- Funeral Home _____
- Furniture _____
- Garage _____
- Gas Station _____
- Gifts _____
- Grocery Store _____
- Guns/Ammo _____
- Hearing Aids _____
- Home Decorating _____
- Insurance Agency _____
- Janitorial Service _____
- Jewelry _____
- Landscaping _____
- Laundromat _____
- Manufacturing _____
- Mine Supply _____
- Mining Company _____
- Mobile Home _____
- Motel/Hotel _____
- Motorcycles/ATV _____
- Music Store _____
- Newspaper _____
- Office Supplies _____
- Oil Changes _____
- Pawn Shop _____
- Pharmacy _____
- Plumbing _____
- Real Estate Agency _____
- Rental Items _____
- Restaurant _____
- Retail Store _____
- Security _____
- Sewing/Alterations _____
- Tanning Salon _____
- Tire Store _____
- Tools & Supplies _____
- Truck Dealership _____
- Upholstery _____
- Videos _____

Ballot Rules:

1. Only ballots from the Floyd County Times will be counted. No copies accepted.
2. Businesses nominated have to be in the Floyd County area and individuals nominated have to live and work in Floyd County.

3. Entries may be mailed to The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 (Please allow 7 days for mail delivery) or drop off at our office at 263 South Central Avenue.
4. All entries must be at The Floyd County Times by Wednesday, February 12, 2002 (mailed or delivered).
5. Limited to 5 copies per person available for sale at front desk, up to normal press run copies. No extra forms will be printed.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!

Schools, Churches, Clubs...anyone...do all you can do, see that your favorite people and places win! It's part of the fun! Remember, vote as many times as you wish using an original ballot. No copies of this ballot will be accepted. **Winners to be in the Wednesday, February 26, edition of the Floyd County Times.**

Features Editor
Kathy Prater
Phone: (606) 886-8506
Fax: (606) 886-3603

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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



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CRITTER CORNER

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POISON OAK

The gift of giving

When I was growing up, being poor wasn't something kids thought much about, so I doubt that any of us realized the true plight of our state. As a matter of fact, if LBJ hadn't declared war on our poverty 20 years later, I may never have realized that I had once lived in it. Consequently, even at



Clyde Pack

Christmas time, and even though we were all, in fact, as poor as church mice, as best as I can remember,

none of us kids were ever aware that we were considered poor in most circles of society.

The ironic thing about it all is that I can remember several of our Sunday School classes at the Thealka Free Will Baptist Church trying to help the poor. (What a shape these folks must have been in to appear poor to us.) What we'd do was bring canned food to church so the deacons, my dad being one of them, could pack and deliver boxes to a few needy families.

I guess that was my first real experience in enjoying the gift of giving. All I knew was that it sure made

(See OAK, page three)



photo by Kathy J. Prater
LEFT: Carlos and Norma Neeley say they wanted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear, so they decorated their home and Christmas tree in a holiday teddy bear theme.



photo by Kathy J. Prater
ABOVE: This interesting fellow is one of the highly collectible Raikes Bears, designed by artist, Robert Raikes. Raikes bears are unique due to their hand-carved, wooden faces.

A teddy bear's Christmas

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

According to an oft-told tale, the sweet-faced teddy bear that we have all come to love came to be through a political cartoonist's desire to publicize the fact that President Theodore Roosevelt once refused to shoot a captive baby bear during a hunting excursion along the Mississippi-Louisiana border.

The incident took place 100 years ago, in the year 1902. Roosevelt had traveled to the area in an effort to settle a boundary dispute between the two states. His hosts during the trip, knowing that Roosevelt was an avid outdoorsman, took him bear hunting. When the hunting turned out to be poor, a member of the hunting party captured a small bear and tied it to a tree - inviting the president to take aim.

Roosevelt, according to cartoonist Clifford Berryman, "drew the line" in two ways during that memorable visit - first by settling a border dispute, and second, by refusing to shoot a captive animal. In fact, Roosevelt not only refused to shoot the bear cub, he also ordered that it be freed at once.

Berryman's cartoon appeared in the November 16, 1902 edition of "The

(See BEARS, page three)



photo by Kathy J. Prater

The Neeley's are proud owners of this "Princess Di" bear, which serves as a reminder of Princess Diana's life. The bear's eyes and accessories are of the trademark sapphire blue color of the Princess' much-coveted engagement ring. This elegant bear resides atop a beautiful grand piano in the Neeley's home.



photo by Kathy J. Prater

And here we have the grandest bear in the bunch - the "Editor Bear" presented to yours truly upon the end of a truly grand afternoon.

Dewey Lake shelter reservations to be taken

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Dewey Lake will be taking shelter reservations for 2003, beginning Thursday, January 2, 2003, at 7:30 a.m. These include the three shelters located in the Downstream Recreation Area and the one located in Picnic Hollow above the dam. The price of a shelter is \$50/per day, which reserves it from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

During the first day of taking reservations, we accept phone calls only. Walk-ins will be accepted beginning Friday, January 3, 2003. Phone calls will be taken from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you call before 7:30 a.m., DO NOT leave your information on the answering machine because we DO NOT take reservations from these.

When calling to reserve a shelter, have your information ready along with a pen and paper to take down any information needed. You should have two dates you are interested in, in case one is already reserved.

Kim's Korner: Christmas on a deadline



Kim Little Frasure

T'was just before Christmas and all through this place, The ad staff is runnin' like they're in a rat race. Rod's making rounds, from Hazard to here, Oh, the pressure, it's mounting, ever so clear. Lo and behold if Sherry Kinzer didn't yell "Come on, ad department, those insertion orders or else!" Patty just sat there, shakin'

her head, As if she were sayin', poor ad staff, they're dead. A smoke break was needed and really quick. And David showed up, flickin' his Bic. Heath's veins are popping, for the ad copy is late, He's mad as a wet hen, but deadlines we HATE. Jenny's rackin' her brain to up the classifieds And how we hope she does

for it helps our hides. Jay, get us more legals, somehow, some way, We need those numbers, you know what they'll say. The phones are a ringin' and drivin' poor Melissa insane, And Joy, God love her, has everybody hollerin' her name. Willie and Hannah and Cindy, too, Are workin' like beavers to push this ad copy through.

Mr. Goble's a proofin' as fast as he can. Loretta, Sheldon, Jarrid and Kathy have some secret plan. Rita's pounded the pavement for the Children First, Steve's wantin' another sports page - OUCH, that hurts. Teresa and Danny are lookin' for a break, But Kim's tryin' to push (See KORNER, page three)

School Happenings

ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Center distributes school activity calendars and newsletters on the last day of each month to all students. Parents please be advised to be watching for these informational materials as a way of staying informed with your school's happenings.

Health Records Update: Parents who have health records to bring in to the school may bring them to the Youth Services Center any weekday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Homework Hotline - 886-9314 - Homework information available from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. Updated each day after 4:00 p.m.

Center is open each day from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. or later by appointment. For more information about the center or any listed activities, call 886-9812. Center coordinator, Michelle Keathley. Assistant coordinator, Sheila Allen. Center offers services to students regardless of income. Center telephone: 886-9812.

ALLEN CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

*Each Monday, 8:30-9:25 a.m., "Respect Class," for 7th grade girls.

Collect Food City receipts and turn them in to home room teachers.

ALLEN ELEMENTARY AND FAMILY RESOURCE YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

Call Allen Elementary Youth Service Center at 874-0621 to schedule your child's

6th grade entry physical, Hepatitis B vaccination, immunizations, and WIC appointment.

G.E.D. classes offered-FREE-each Friday, beginning 8:30 a.m. and lasting through 11:30 a.m. Instructor: Linda Bailey

BETSY LAYNE ELEMENTARY

The Family Resource Youth Service Center provides services and referral services to all families regardless of income. The center is located in the middle building of the Betsy Layne Elementary School. Office hours are Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Open enrollment for After School Child Care is available through the Family Resource Center. Service hours are 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Contact the center at 478-5550. Contact persons are Brian Akers and Charlotte Rogers.

CLARK ELEMENTARY

A nurse from the Floyd County Health Dept. is in the center weekly. Please call to schedule an appointment. The center is currently scheduling Hep B immunizations and physicals for students who will enter the 6th grade in the upcoming school year, kindergarten entrance exams and TD boosters for sophomores. Also scheduling appointments for WIC services. These nursing services are available to anyone in the community.

The Clark Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are

located in the Clark Elementary School building and can be reached by calling 886-0815.

DUFF ELEMENTARY

School is collecting Food City receipts that will be used toward receiving free computers and other educational items. Please send your receipts to school with your child or drop them off at the Family Resource Center, or the school's front office. Any help with this valuable school project is very appreciated.

MAY VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Floyd Co. Health Dept. is at the school each Wednesday. Services include 6th grade physicals and immunizations; WIC; well-child physicals; Kindergarten and Head Start physicals; blood pressure checks; and more. Must call the FRC at 285-0321 for an appointment. Donna Samons-Bartrum, FRC Director.

MCDOWELL ELEMENTARY AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

School is collecting Food City receipts. Have your students turn receipts in to their homeroom teachers. Community members may also turn receipts in to school office. Help McDowell Elementary receive computers, audio visual equipment, etc. through the "Apples for Students" program.

SBDM Council meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. FRC Advisory Council meets first Thursday of each month in FRC office at 5:30

p.m.

GED classes are held in FRC each Monday and Wednesday from 8-11:30 a.m. Classes are FREE. Please bring paper and pencil. Instructor, Teresa Allen, David School.

Parents of fifth-graders should call now to have their child scheduled for school physicals and immunizations. A series of three HEP B vaccines are required for entry into sixth grade next fall. Students should begin the series now in order to be ready by next fall. Call 377-2678 for appointment.

Floyd County Health Department Nurse Joy Moore, is at the center each Monday to administer immunizations, T.B. skin tests, well-child exams, WIC, prenatal and post-partum services, and school physicals. Call 377-2678 for an appointment.

PRESTONSBURG ELEMENTARY AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

PES is collecting Food City receipts. Have your child turn in receipts to their homeroom teachers. Community members may also turn in receipts to the school office or Family Resource Center.

MCCC services available at the center. Call for additional information.

Center is open weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

After School Child Care, 3-6 p.m., school days.

Call 886-7088 for additional information regarding the Prestonsburg Elementary Family Resource Center or its programs.

SOUTH FLOYD YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Jan. 10 - First aid and safety classroom presentations.

Jan. 14 - Epidemics classroom presentations.

Jan. 21 - Nutrition classroom presentations.

Jan. 24 - Genetics and Heredity classroom presentations.

Jan. 28 - Peer pressure/conflict-resolution classroom presentations.

Jan. 31 - Drugs and Addiction Prevention & Awareness classroom presentations.

Walking track open to public (except during special event).

Center has a one-stop career station satellite station that is available to the community, as well as students.

Anyone interested in Adult Ed may contact the center for information.

All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus, Room 232, and see Mable Hall.

The center is located on the South Floyd campus in room 232. For more information call 452-9600 or 9607 and ask for Mable Hall, ext. 243, or Keith Smallwood, ext. 242, or Donna Johnson, ext. 153.

THE DAVID SCHOOL

Adult Education Class Schedule - Fall 2001:

Monday - McDowell Family Resource Center, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Call 377-2628. Instructor: Theresa.

Betsy Layne Youth Service Center, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Call 478-3389. Instructor: Chrissy.

MSU Prestonsburg Campus, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 886-2405.

Instructor: Chrissy.

*Tuesday

-Allen Elementary Family Resource Center, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 874-0621. Instructor: Chrissy.

-St. James Episcopal Church, 5-8 p.m. Instructor: Chrissy.

-Auxier Family Learning Center, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Instructors: CAP.

*Wednesday

-McDowell Family Resource Center, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Call 377-2628. Instructor: Theresa.

-Betsy Layne Youth Service Center, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Call 478-3389. Instructor: Chrissy.

-MSU Prestonsburg Campus, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 886-2405. Instructor: Chrissy.

*Thursday

-Allen Elementary Family Resource Center, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 874-0621. Instructor: Chrissy.

-St. James Episcopal Church, 5-8 p.m. Instructor: Chrissy.

-Auxier Family Learning Center, 1-4:30 p.m. Instructors: CAP.

WESLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

School is participating in Food City "Apples for Students" program. Please send your register receipts to school with your student, or drop them off or mail them in to school office at: P.O. Box 454, 103 Methodist Lane, Allen, KY 41601.

Weekly Chapel Services, each Wednesday morning, 10 a.m.

(See SCHOOL, page three)

YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from
The Floyd County
Times,
10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and
60 years ago.)

Ten Years Ago

(December 23, 1992)

Wheelwright City Commissioners voted Monday night to suspend Police Chief Charles Harmon and part-time police chief Rodney Newsome without pay because of civilian complaints and alleged internal policy violations. The commission voted 3-1 in favor of the suspension pending the outcome of an investigation and a due process hearing for the two men...After nearly 30 years of planning and four years of construction, the first leg of a new and improved Route 23 between Prestonsburg and Paintsville is open for business. Floyd County's eight-mile segment of the 13-mile bypass was unceremoniously cleared for traffic Monday, two months ahead of schedule, giving an early Christmas present to some Prestonsburg merchants and hundreds of coal truck drivers. Denton Billiter, superintendent of the Pikeville office of the state Transportation Cabinet, said Monday's opening of the Floyd County section effectively eliminated a bottleneck at the road's intersection with Route 114, where construction has caused headaches for motorists and financial woes for merchants in two Prestonsburg shopping plazas. The intersection, Billiter added, was not expected to be completed before late January, but was completed two months ahead of schedule. He credited the diligent efforts of road contractors for speeding up the construction project...Floyd County's solid waste problems are mounting, and time is running out for county officials to develop a plan to address those issues. At Friday's Floyd County Fiscal Court meeting, Floyd County Attorney Jim Hammond and Judge-Executive John M. Stumbo said state officials are making it virtually impossible to develop a plan. "Everything we submit (on the landfill) the state turns down," Hammond told the court. "The state not only wants us to develop our own solid waste plan, they want us to develop one for the entire region. Because of a new time frame we can only operate the present landfill until June 30, 1995. They (state officials) come out in public and say it's our fault. There's a possibility

we can turn our present landfill into a transfer station." Natural Resources Cabinet co-director Phillip Shepherd said Tuesday that the county's request to accept waste at the landfill until 1995 will be denied. Shepherd added that Hammond's comments that the state wanted Floyd County to develop a regional plan were, in part, accurate...The Pikeville post of the Kentucky State Police, on Monday began executing 89 arrest warrants, netting at last count 74 suspected drug offenders, at least three of whom are Floyd County natives. Post commander Captain Robert Forsythe said Monday that the undercover operation was the result of more than six months of investigation. Cooperating in the sting, Forsythe said, were the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Pikeville City Police Department and the Pike County Sheriff's Department. The majority of those arrested were charged with trafficking in illicit substances, including cocaine, LSD, marijuana and various prescription medications, Forsythe said. Although Forsythe said that most of the arrests were made in the Pike County area, the Kentucky State Police arrest report includes three Floyd County residents: Darryl Lawrence, 24, of Ivel, Patty S. Bray, 26, of Grethel, and James E. Hall, 20, of Grethel...There died: Amanda Leah Whitaker Tufts, 87, Monday, at Morningview Care Center, Sunbury, Ohio; Robert Kinsley, 22, of Arkansas Creek at Martin, Monday, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Marie Mulkey, 73, of Concord, Michigan, formerly of Floyd County, Sunday, at Foote Hospital in Jackson, Michigan; Dave Roop, 78, of Weeksbury, Sunday, at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington; Leonard Martin, 84, of Lexington, Tuesday, at Central Baptist Hospital; Anna Mae Harris, 69, of West Prestonsburg, Tuesday, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital; Marie Cole Woodrum, 58, of Ripley, West Virginia, formerly of Printer, Sunday, at Pittsburgh Presbyterian University Hospital; Charles Douglas Bellamy, 85, of Weeksbury, Friday, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Z.L. "Pete" Newsome, 64, of Warsaw, Virginia, formerly of Kentucky, Thursday, at the Rappahannock General Hospital, Kilmarnock, Virginia.

Twenty Years Ago

(December 29, 1982)

Promising better police protection at less cost to the city, Prestonsburg Police Chief Jim Curtis sought city council approval, Monday, for scheduling changes that he said would give him more flexibility in deploying the city's 11-member force. He came before the council with his request only because his plan would lengthen one officer's work week and so increase her pay check, the chief explained. Otherwise he would consider the scheduling change using his own prerogative, he said. Curtis did not disguise the fact that the planned change is likely to be unpopular, among rank-and-file officers, however, since it reduces their opportunities for overtime earnings and eliminates what the police chief described as "mini-vactions" built into the present schedule. A program that stood to benefit about 600 elderly persons in Big Sandy area nursing homes appears likely to be lost because of an internal squabble in the agency that was supposed to manage it, officials of the Big Sandy Area Development District confirmed Tuesday. The Big Sandy ADD was the topscoring applicant among seven which sought and four which were awarded funding under the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program administered by the state Human Resources Cabinet. But the actual recipient of the grant—amounting to about \$5,500 in "seed money" for a six-month period—was the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP), a Lancaster-based organization headed by Floyd County Catholic pastor, the Rev. Ralph Beiting...The skeletal remains of 53-year-old Zelma Anderson were found last Thursday afternoon, almost five months after her disappearance from the McDowell area, and now authorities are seeking to determine the cause of her death. The body was found by two McDowell brothers, Norman Dye, 16, and Paul Dye Jr., 15, while they were picking up coal at a deserted stripmine site. Their discovery ended a continuing search for the missing woman. She was

last reported seen alive on the afternoon of August 2, and when she failed to return to the home of her sister, Mary Anderson, the search for her whereabouts began. The strip-mine where her body was found lies between the home of Mary Anderson and that of another sister, Mrs. Rose Floyd, and was on a pathway between the two residences...Proprietors of a Betsy Layne restaurant may be the first to test a state law that allows churches to veto liquor licenses for nearby businesses. Kenneth and Betty Robinson, owners of the Back Porch restaurant, said this week they have asked the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to reactivate their application for a license to serve beer and wine to their customers. Their bid for the license was initially turned down after members of the nearby Church of God filed an objection under a Kentucky statute that allows a church to block a liquor license application if the establishment seeking the license is located within 200 feet of the church. The law gives schools similar veto powers...There died: Mrs. Maudé Hagans, 94, of Langley, last Thursday, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Jesse L. Lafferty Sr., 75, of Prestonsburg, Friday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Ernest L. Roop, 66, of Marshall, Michigan, Sunday; James Henry Hillman, 80, Sunday, at his home at Estill; Miss Jennie Dillion, 69, of Water Gap, Tuesday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Edward Lykins, 66, of Richmond, formerly of Stanville, Tuesday, at the Patty A. Clay Hospital in Richmond; Cecil Earl Gore, 55, former Wheelwright resident, Sunday, at his home in Grundy, Virginia; Minda Bates Halcomb, 87, of Prestonsburg, Saturday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Leonard Jones, 84, of Banner, Tuesday, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Millard Ratliff, 63, of Chillicothe, O., formerly of Blue River, last Wednesday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Clarence Harold Slone, 50, of Hindman, Tuesday, at his home; Mrs. Mary Case Blevins, native Floyd woman and a resident of Route 2, Pikeville, Saturday at Mountain Manor of Pikeville.

Critter Corner: How to wrap presents with a puppy



"Lucie." This little cutie was just "hanging around" waiting for Santa to appear when the jolly old elf arrived and decided there was nothing in his bag that could equal the charm of this little "Dachsie"! Lucie is seven months old and belongs to Margaret Gray, of Prestonsburg.

by Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, DVM

(Editor's Note: It's a busy time, and we can't seem to locate the latest "Critter" submission, so we thought we'd pull out something from our file that received rave reviews in times past. Hope you and all your loving pets have a wonderful Christmas!)

- Gather presents, boxes, paper, etc. in middle of living room floor.
- Get tape back from puppy.
- Remove scissors from older dog's mouth.
- Open box.
- Take puppy out of box.
- Remove tape from older dog's mouth.
- Take scissors away from puppy.
- Put present in box.
- Remove present from puppy's mouth.

- Put present back in box after removing puppy from box.
- Take scissors from older dog and sit on them.
- Remove puppy from box and put on lid.
- Take tape away from older dog.
- Unroll paper.
- Take puppy OFF box.
- Cut paper, being careful not to cut puppy's foot or nose that is getting in the way as she "helps."
- Let puppy tear paper remaining to be cut.
- Take puppy off box.
- Wrap paper around box.
- Remove puppy from box and take wrapping paper from her mouth.
- Tell older dog to hold tape so he will stop stealing it.
- Take scissors away from puppy.
- Take tape older dog is holding.
- Quickly tape one spot before taking scissors from

- older dog and sitting on them again.
- Fend off puppy trying to steal tape and tape another spot.
- Take bow from older dog.
- Go get roll of wrapping paper that puppy ran off with.
- Take scissors from older dog who took them when you got up.
- Give pen to older dog to hold so he stops licking your face.
- Remove puppy from present and hurriedly slap tape on to hold the paper on.
- Take now soggy bow from puppy and tape on since the sticky stuff no longer sticks.
- Take pen from older dog, address tag and affix while puppy tries to eat pen.
- Grab present before puppy opens it and put it away.
- Clean up mess puppy and older dog made playing tug-of-war with roll of wrapping paper.
- Put away rest of wrapping

supplies and tell dogs what good helpers they are.

Maybe I should give a copy of this to my family and in-laws to help explain why their gifts are always so lopsided and have so much pet hair stuck in the tape!

Here's another seasonal goodie. The only problem is that I like this so much that when I hear an instrumental version of this song, these are the words I remember!

WINTER WONDERLAND
Dog tags ring, are you listenin'?

In the lane snow is glis-tenin'.

It's yellow, not white - I've been there tonight,

Marking up my winter wonderland.

In the meadow Dad will build a snowman,

Following the classical

design,

Then I'll lift my leg and let it go, man,

So all the world will know that it is mine-mine-mine!

Smell that tree? That's my fragrance.

It's a sign for wanderin' vagrants:

"Avoid where I pee, it's my property!"

Mark it up as my winter wonderland.

Straight from me to the neighboring fenceposts,

Flows my natural incense smell as it boasts:

"Stay off of my turf, this small piece of earth,

marked up as my winter wonderland."

Mark it as my winter wonderland!

Yes, mark it as my winter wonderland!

"Merry Christmas, all!"

Bears

Continued from p1

Washington Post," where it was seen by Morris and Rose Michtom, two New Yorkers who owned and operated a candy and stationery store. Inspired by the cartoon, along with the president's compassion for the bear cub, the Michtoms designed a toy bear that looked sweet and innocent,

and placed it in their store window, dubbing it "Teddy's Bear."

"Teddy's Bear" became an instant hit that eventually led to making the teddy bear one of the world's best loved novelty items.

Carlos Neeley, an avid teddy bear collector, said that he wanted to do something special to commemorate the 100th "birthday" of the teddy bear, so he gathered his collection together and arranged them, top to bottom, all along his Christmas tree...and around, and underneath, and in various positions all throughout his sunroom.

Neeley owns teddy bears in all sizes, adorned in a wide variety of colorful and whimsical costumes. There are a set of Raikes bears, designed by California artist, Robert Raikes, who hand-carves the unique wooden faces of his bears; there are bears dressed in "Nutcracker" costumes, pajamas, sweaters, and even their "Sunday best." There are even sophisticated bears dressed in smoking jackets and royal attire.

"I don't know," Neeley said, "I just love teddy bears, and I thought it would be fun to decorate with them for the holiday. After all, I may not be here for the next 100th anniversary."

School

Continued from p2

W.D. OSBORNE RAINBOW JUNCTION FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

■ TBA- Recycling program, all grades.

■ Anyone interested in receiving cleaning supplies for the 2002-2003 school year may visit the center and fill out an application to see if they qualify.

■ "Lost and Found" located in the Center. Parents need to pick up their children's items within two weeks. Any items not claimed within two weeks, becomes the property of the FRC.

■ Rainbow Junction Family Resource Center is located in the W. D. Osborne Elementary School. Hours of operation - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or later by appointment. Call 452-4553 and ask for Cissy or Karen. Parents/community members free to visit any time.

Wellness

Act Like a Kid: During the holiday season, even though the weather is cooler, take time to enjoy the great outdoors. Each session, nature brings new things for us to enjoy. So take a walk or a hike with family and friends to appreciate the beauty of Kentucky. After a meal on a holiday afternoon take the time to visit a local park. Treat the family pet to a walk around the neighborhood. Go to a local tree farm and walk the fields to pick your favorite tree. Gather holly, greenery and natural materials to make homemade holiday decorations.

Even grown-up activities can provide a workout. Cleaning and decorating or walking at the mall

to buy gifts are good ways to fulfill your obligations and stay active. Try playing some holiday tunes for your dancing and listening pleasure. If the weather permits, working in the garden is guaranteed to energize your winter outlook.

Take Time to Be Well: The holidays are the perfect time to think about how to do less, better. If an activity does not offer meaning or add enjoyment to your celebration, consider eliminating it from your schedule. Be sure to consider the feelings of family and friends, and be willing to compromise as you evaluate which holiday activities are most important. Try to create your own

Oak

Continued from p1

me feel good to bring a quart of blackberries or some apple jelly that Mom had canned and add it to the pantry of items to be distributed.

Korner

Continued from p1

inserts for there's budgets to make.

Ralph's so busy he can barely look up,

He's covered in copy clear up to his butt,

Johnny's a runnin' the press day and night,

And that Julie works like a brute, I'm tellin' you, it's a sight!

Please hurry, Santa, we need some relief.

No inches or budgets to have to meet.

Just one day, to relax muscles so tight,

Merry Christmas, you all,

And to all a good night!

Anyway, poor or not, Christmas in a coal camp was always a special time. Although I can't remember Dad and Mom ever exchanging gifts, my little brother, Joe, and I most always managed to get something real nice, which Mom had usually ordered from Montgomery Ward.

Remembering those days just reminds me that it might be helpful to us all if we'd stop spending money we don't have for things we don't need in order to impress people who don't matter.

Thanks to the Christmases of my youth, I know for certain that there are still some things of value that money just can't buy. Maybe, without either of us realizing it at the time, my parents gave me the only gift I ever really needed: warm memories of Christmas.

May your Christmas be warm, too.

Healthful holiday recipes

by THERESA SCOTT

Here are some easy ideas for your next party. They are healthful recipes that can be complemented with some in-season fruits and vegetables, assorted low-fat cheese and crackers and light desserts. All the food recipes can be successfully frozen up to two months ahead, then thawed and cooked until done.

Remember food safety issues when preparing and serving food. Proper handwashing techniques, and correct refrigeration and cooking temperatures are essential during the preparation and storage of all foods. Don't let foodborne illness ruin your party.

Hot Cranberry Spice

2 qt. cranberry juice or
1 qt. cranberry juice + 1 qt. apple cider
1 tsp. whole allspice
2 cinnamon sticks

In a large saucepan, mix all ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for half an hour or longer. Serve hot! Yield: 16 1/2-cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 72 Calories, 18 g. carbohydrates, less than 5 mg sodium.

Garbanzo Spread

1/2 onion, chopped

2 Tbsp. olive oil
1/2 bunch Parsley, finely chopped
1 tsp. dried basil, crushed
1/2 tsp. dried oregano, crushed
1/4 tsp. ground cumin
1 clove garlic, minced or 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
Juice of 1 lemon
3 c. cooked garbanzo beans (chickpeas), mashed
2/3 c. sesame seeds, ground (optional)

Saute onion in oil until soft. Add parsley, basil, oregano, cumin and garlic, cooking just long enough to soften parsley. Thoroughly mix cooked mixture with remaining ingredients. Pack into a bowl (or salad mold) and chill overnight. Unmold into serving plate and garnish with parsley. Serve with crackers or celery sticks. Flavors will be enhanced if the spread is prepared 24 hours in advance. Yield 48 1-Tbsp. servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 34

Calories, 1 g protein, 3 g. carbohydrates, 2 g fat, 1 mg sodium.

Stuffed Mushrooms

12 large, 2-inch diameter mushrooms
2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
2 Tbsp. finely chopped celery
2 Tbsp. margarine
1 c. whole-wheat bread crumbs
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. sherry
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/8 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. dried basil, crushed
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/4 c. parmesan cheese

Wipe mushrooms with damp cloth and remove stems. Chop stems finely. In a small skillet, saute mushroom stems, onion and celery in margarine. In a bowl, combine bread crumbs, lemon juice, sherry, garlic powder, pepper, basil, parsley and Parmesan cheese. Combine with cooked mixture and mix well. Stuff mushroom caps and place on

non-stick sprayed baking sheet. Bake at 400° 15 minutes, then broil until nicely browned. Serve warm. Yield: 12 appetizers.

Nutritional Analysis: 47 Calories, 2 g protein, 3 g carbohydrates, 3 g fat, 3 g cholesterol, 65 mg sodium.

East Point Masonic Lodge to elect 2003 officers

East Point Masonic Lodge 657 F.A.M. will be having an election of officers on Friday, December 27, at 7 p.m., to elect 2003 officers. All Master Masons of East Point Lodge are urged to attend.

New Arrivals

Pikeville Methodist Hospital

October 29:
A daughter, Morgan Paige, to Tonya and James Damron; a daughter, Makenna Hope, to Lisa Jo and Harold Kidd; a son, Isaiah Wayne, to Suzanne and Wayne Coleman.

October 31:
A daughter, Kayla Nicole, to Teri Renee and Jerry Lee Daniels; a daughter, Syd'ee Morgan, to Kristie and Gary Watkins.

November 1:
A son, Michael Harold, to Donna Faye and William Michael Lipp; a son, Paul Michael Ryan, to Laura and Michael Ray Charles; a daughter, Mallory Lakin, to Theresa and Lee Roberts.

November 2:
A son, Timothy Luke, to Dianna Lynn and Timothy Wayne Thacker.

November 3:
A daughter, Cassidy Lane, to Regina and Jeffrey Eckle.

November 4:
A son, Griffin Chase, to Belinda Beth Ratliff.

November 5:
A son, Adam Marcus, to Mark and Andrea Blankenship; a son, Hunter Ray, to Edward Ray and Katrina Ann Blankenship.

November 7:
A daughter, Laiken Leigh Layne, to Lisa Donetta Griffith and Ronald Eugene Layne.

November 8:
A daughter, Haley Morgan, to Ashley Marie and Adam Blankenship.

November 9:
A daughter, Kateleene Sierra, to Tomi R. Preece.

November 10:
A daughter, Savannah Renee, to Bryon Ellis and Angie Renee

November 20:
A son, Braxton Keith, Victoria Dawn and Douglas Keith Sayers; a son, Dalton Ray Thomas, to Leslie Renee Ashley and Larry Kent Smith.

November 21:
A son, Kyle Patrick, to Belinda Kay and Deron Kyle Elkins; a son, Jakob Samuel Clayton, to Melinda and Matthew Robert Stump; a son, Nathan O'Ryan Collins to Dorothy Rebecca Stanley and Joseph Blaine Collins.

November 22:
Twins, Michael Jesse and Mitchell Shane Coleman, to Ethel Elizabeth Adkins and Michael Joseph Coleman; a son, Jakob Cole Workman to Bobbi Jo and Wesley Workman; a son, Timothy Lee Johnson II, to Melanie and Timothy Lee Johnson.

November 23:
A daughter, April Grace Cummins, to Helena Louise Gibson and William James Cummins; a son, Cleatus Dalton, to Melissa Marie and Cleatus Samuel Burke.

November 25:
A daughter, Savanna Sha Kidd to Brandy Nicole Ratliff.

November 26:
A son, Jayden Adam Bain, to Anita A. and Jason Sword.

November 27:
A daughter, Makenzie Jade, to Breanne Leigh and Kenzley Roy Conley.

November 28:
A son, Jacob Riley, to Lisa and Gregory Gibson; a daughter, Charleston Lashae, to Tiffany April and Richard Shane Robinson; a son, Samuel Dalton, to Mary Susan Cook; a son, Nathaniel Dean, to Tabitha Nicole and Bradley Dean Cumutte; a daughter, Rachel Denise, to Frances Marie and Douglas Curt Tackett.

November 29:
A son, Brett Austin, to Melanie

and Dennis Michael Harmon; a daughter, Emily Grace Baker, to Lisa Reed and Jason Parrish Baker.

November 30:
A daughter, Courtney Nicole, to Michelle and William Reynolds; a daughter, Abagale Sydney, to Diana and Christopher Phillips; a daughter, Emily Lynn Musick, to Sarah Elizabeth Maynor.

December 3:
A daughter, Randa Leigh Ann, to Devonna M. Thacker; a son, Eihan Blake Coleman, to Ashley Burke.

December 5:
A daughter, Haley Grace, to Christy Lynn and Shannon Drew McKinney; a daughter, Constance Love, to Tawanna Lynn and David Thomas Huffman; a daughter, Haleigh Nicole, to Tabitha Renee and Clay Douglas Maynard; a daughter, Morgan Jade, to Bonnie and William Carroll II.

December 6:
A daughter, Teanna Rayshea, to Bertha Lynn and Teddy Ray Wallace.

December 7:
A son, James Austin, to Lanna and James Blackburn.

December 8:
A daughter, Emily Nicole, to Jill Dotson-Bryant and Randy Lynn Bryant; a son, Isaiah Chandler, to Vikki Lea and Clifford Adkins Jr.

December 10:
A son, Dalton J. Quenton, to Mary Etta and Mickey Conn; a son, Trent Douglas, to Georgia A. and Phillip Robinson; a daughter, Haleigh Dawn Johnson to Jessica Young.

December 11:
A son, Dalton Trace Dye, to Amanda Leneal Howell and Benjamin Franklin Dye; a son, Isaac Paul, to Tracy and Christopher Stephens; a son, Jeremy Andrew, to Tiffany Brooke and Jeremy Dale Adkins.

Business/Professions

License tax won't go into effect until 2004

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — A judge has ruled that a potentially significant tax increase for some Kentucky corporations will become effective in 2004 rather than next year.

Franklin County Circuit Judge Roger Crittenden issued the ruling Friday in a lawsuit involving Kentucky's corporate license tax, and a follow-up written order could be issued within a week.

The case stems from a class-action lawsuit filed in 2000 by Illinois Tool Works against the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet, challenging the tax on a company's capital.

Certain Kentucky companies with subsidiaries may compute their license tax on a consolidated basis, while non-Kentucky companies may not. In a Dec. 5 ruling, Crittenden declared that provision of Kentucky tax law unconstitutional because it allows some Kentucky companies to pay less tax than out-of-state companies.

The longstanding license tax is \$2.10 per \$1,000 of capital employed in the business. In basic terms, a company's capital for purposes of the license tax is

the result of assets plus capital stock, less certain debts.

But companies can reduce the capital to be taxed by subtracting loans that parents and subsidiaries make to each other by consolidating the tax returns of the parent company and its subsidiaries. Filing separate returns means the intercompany loans add to each company's capital, making the total license tax greater as a whole.

The judge struck down Kentucky companies' ability to file consolidated license tax returns, putting them on equal footing with out-of-state corpo-

rations.

The ruling "has the effect of requiring many companies with headquarters in Kentucky to pay substantially more license tax than they had paid in the past," said Joseph Ardery, a Louisville attorney and partner with Frost Brown Todd, who was once part of the lawsuit. "For some companies with a lot of subsidiaries, this could mean a lot of money. For some companies, taxes could double, or more."

Crittenden also ordered the Revenue Cabinet to issue two years' worth of refunds to out-of-state companies included in

the class.

The tax is "for the privilege of doing business in Kentucky," said Mike Kalinyak, an attorney for the Revenue Cabinet, which said that for this year, through the end of June, the tax generated about \$117.5 million.

Debra Eucker, a legal spokeswoman for the Revenue Cabinet, said the ruling could trigger increased tax revenue.

Non-Kentucky corporations that do business in the state only through a partnership or as the sole member of a limited liability company are exempt from the license tax.



Kathy Stumbo, left, Floyd County Chamber of Commerce Vice-President, joined David Tackett, right, Chamber President, in welcoming Beth Ann Walker, center, owner, Country Dell & More, to Chamber membership and as a participant in the Chamber Bucks Gift Certificate program.

Online store lets Bush backers wear/show their support

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — For the Republican faithful on his holiday list, David Von Savage browsed an online store devoted to George W. Bush.

His enthusiasm spurred a buying spree costing him a couple

thousand dollars. The GOP chairman in Cape May County, N.J., bought party workers mugs, hats, cufflinks, money clips and tote bags — all emblazoned with references to "W."

"Since it's Christmas time, as a chairman it's a good idea to give something to the base of the organization that has some meaning," Von Savage said.

In a society that showcases its favorite sports teams, celebrities or hobbies on clothing and other paraphernalia, the George W. Bush Online Store takes that trend to another level.

The Bush store offers about 60 products — from baby bibs to silver tumblers — that show support for the nation's 43rd president.

Its creator is Ted Jackson, a Louisville businessman, GOP marketing maven and campaign manager to U.S. Rep. Anne Northup, a Republican who recently won her fourth term in a Democratic-leaning district.

"We like to show and display what is important to us," Jackson said. "It's a badge that people wear."

For Jackson, the venture combines his zest for marketing and Republican politics. The Spalding Group, a subsidiary of English Emprise, has supplied campaign materials to the last five Republican presidential campaigns. The firm also works with GOP candidates from city halls to Congress to develop campaign logos, brochures and Internet sites.

The Bush store offers range of merchandise lines meant to appeal to professionals and the "hard hats" Bush refers to in speeches. Some products look ahead to Bush's expected re-election campaign in 2004.

One line features an urban look with black-and-white merchandise emblazoned with "W The President." Another line displays a Western style, with shirts cowboy hats, bandanas and belt buckles branded with a "W '04" logo.

There's also the "Interstate W'04" line that stamps a road sign logo shirts, caps, golf balls, beach towels, mousepads, cufflinks and other knickknacks.

Those wanting to leave no doubt about their views of Bush can choose merchandise that proclaims "I Stand With President Bush."

Some products are tailored for those too young to vote.

A children's line includes baby bibs and infant rompers. A popular item for youngsters has been a red-white-and-blue football jersey with the No. 43 and Bush's name emblazoned on the back.

The online store started shortly after Bush formally started his campaign for the White House. Jackson said the site stayed up after Bush won the disputed election, and orders have been steady since.

Jackson hasn't talked to Bush or his staff about the online store.

"The White House doesn't look at the items and sign off on what we do," he said. "This is entirely our own independent effort."

But there is an "appropriateness issue" to consider, Jackson said. So don't expect a line of Bush boxer shorts.

Jackson won't disclose sales figures, but said orders sometimes reach 100 or more in a day

from across the country.

Sales surged in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and again this fall as Bush campaigned for Republican candidates across the country, Jackson said. He expects another uptick in sales when the 2004 presidential campaign heats up.

Jackson said the merchandise gives regular folks a way to say, "Hey, I believe President Bush is doing a great job and I want everybody to know it."

American politics has long been "personality driven," said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

He said the man who lost the popular vote in 2000 has now eclipsed his father in popularity.

"Among Republicans, George W. Bush is very close to the class of Ronald Reagan rather than the one defined by his father," Sabato said. "He has the same name, the same looks and some would say the same inarticulateness, and yet Republicans revere this Bush much as they did Ronald Reagan."

Von Savage scoffed at any notion the online store commercializes the presidency.

There's nothing keeping Democrats from showing similar support for their presidential favorites, but "if there's not enough passion to wear a (Dick) Gephardt or (John) Kerry hat, that's not our problem."

On the Net

George W. Bush Online Store:
www.georgewbushstore.com

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Building Lots—Floyd County Pleasure Creek, 100x100	Mus Creek Acreage 2 Lots on Daniels Creek	Reduced to \$27,500 \$9,900 \$15,000 ea.
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MAYS BRANCH (PRICED TO SELL)—Build your dream home in this well established neighborhood! 6+ acres of land with room for 2 or 3 house sites. Desirable location!

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PRESTONSBURG—Nice 3-bedroom, 2-bath manufactured home located on E. Hughes St. 1-car carport. Call Jo Bentley. (107681)

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PRESTONSBURG—This home is larger than it appears. 2-story brick/vinyl with 4 to 5 bedrooms and 4 baths. Large rooms throughout w/extra building lot for another house, pool, or recreation area! To see this one, call Trent Nairn. (107872)

MELVIN—A really nice older home with 3 bedrooms, a large remodeled kitchen w/appliances. This home has been very well taken care of. Approx. 2 acres. Call Jo Bentley. (107937)

AUXIER—Very nice 2-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home. Nice level lot, 12x24 above-ground pool w/deck and privacy fence. Ceramic tile in kitchen and bath, oak cabinets. Call Sheryl Pack. (108064)

GOBLE BRANCH—Hidden Jewel Super beautiful 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 1.5-story home. Pine floors, ceilings, and walls. Must see to appreciate the beauty of this home. Call Lynette Fitzer. (108113)

U.S. GOVERNMENT FORECLOSURE SALE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2003 AT 2:00 P.M.
AT THE SITE OF THE BELOW DESCRIBED PROPERTY
HOUSE AND LOT LOCATED AT
197 ROSE DRIVE - PRESTONSBURG
IN FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY

This is a three bedroom vinyl siding home on public water and individual sewer. It is well located in a quiet neighborhood. It consists of a living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and a laundry nook. This property is considered suitable for the Rural Development Program. This would be an excellent buy for an investor interested in rental property or for resale after repairs.

The minimum acceptable bid for this property is \$30,150.00.

Payment of the current year's property taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, January 9, 2003, at 2:00 pm, at the property site, at 197 Rose Drive, Prestonsburg, in Floyd County, Kentucky, in order to raise the sum of \$53,461.83 principal, together with interest credit subsidy granted in the amount of \$11,850.26, plus interest in the amount of \$8,118.00 as of June 21, 2002, and interest thereafter on the principal at \$915.180 per day from June 21, 2002, until the date of judgement, plus interest on the judgement amount (principal plus interest to the date of judgement) at the rate of 1.81%, computed daily and compounded annually, until paid in full and for the costs of this action, pursuant to judgement and Order of Sale, being Civil Action No. 02-62 on the Pikeville Docket of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, entered on August 28, 2002, in the case of United States of America vs. Luther Johnson, Stanlord & Associates, L.L.C., and M.Neil Price, Jr. d/b/a Price Business Services, the following described property will be sold to the highest and best bidder:

A certain tract or parcel of land located on Big Branch of Abbott Creek off the new U.S. Rt. No. 23, in Floyd County, Kentucky, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 24" buckeye tree; Thence N 29 08' E 145.04 feet to the center of a water well; Thence N 29 08' E 7.00 feet to a stake on the edge of the county road; Thence S 64 01' E 60.87 feet to a stake on the edge of the county road; Thence S 78 19' W 48.89 feet to a persimmon tree; Thence S 52 17' E 39.12 feet to an apple tree; Thence S 56 41' E 78.45 feet to an elm tree; Thence S 07 56' E 20.53 feet to a mulberry tree; Thence S 19 25' W 136.78 to a 30" buckeye tree; Thence S 32 28' W 30.45 feet to an elm tree; Thence S 70 54' W 70.34 feet to a twin buckeye tree; Thence N 31 37' W 120.81 feet to a stake; Thence N 51 40' W 106.32 feet to the point of beginning. This description was taken from a survey dated May 26, 1973.

Being the same property conveyed by Deed dated November 23, 1993, recorded in Deed Book 372, Page No. 418, in the Floyd County Clerk's Office.

TERMS OF SALE: Ten percent (10%) of the bid price (in the form of a Certified Check made payable to the U. S. Marshal) on the day of sale with good and sufficient bond for the balance, bearing interest at the rate of 1.81% per annum until paid, due and payable in thirty (30) days following the date of sale. Upon a default by the Purchaser, the deposit shall be forfeited and retained by the U. S. Marshal as a part of the proceeds of the sale, and the property shall again be offered for sale subject to confirmation by the Court.

This sale shall be in bar and foreclosure of all right, title, interest, estate claim, demand or equity of redemption of the defendant(s) and of all persons claiming by, through, under or against them, provided the purchase price is equal to two-thirds of the appraised value. If the purchase price is not equal to two-thirds of the appraised value, the Deed shall contain lien in favor of the defendant(s) reflecting the right of the defendant(s) to redeem during the period provided by law (KRS 426.530). Under Law, the purchaser is deemed to be on notice of all matters affecting the property of record in the local County Clerk's Office.

Inquiries should be directed to:

THOMAS W. KEETH, Community Development Manager
Rural Development
Prestonsburg, Kentucky
Phone: 606-886-2545

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

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100 - AUTOMOTIVE 110 - Agriculture 115 - ATVs 120 - Boats 130 - Cars 140 - 4x4s 150 - Miscellaneous 160 - Motorcycles 170 - Parts 175 - SUVs 180 - Trucks 190 - Vans	200 - EMPLOYMENT 210 - Job Listings 220 - Help Wanted 230 - Information 250 - Miscellaneous 260 - Part Time 270 - Sales 280 - Services 290 - Work Wanted	310 - Business Opportunity 330 - For Sale 350 - Miscellaneous 360 - Money To Lend 380 - Services 400 - MERCHANDISE 410 - Animals 420 - Appliances 440 - Electronics	445 - Furniture 450 - Lawn & Garden 460 - Yard Sale 470 - Health & Beauty 475 - Household 480 - Miscellaneous 490 - Recreation 495 - Wanted To Buy 500 - REAL ESTATE 505 - Business	510 - Commercial Property 530 - Homes 550 - Land/Lots 570 - Mobile Homes 580 - Miscellaneous 590 - Sale or Lease 600 - RENTALS 610 - Apartments 620 - Storage/	Office Space 630 - Houses 640 - Land/Lots 650 - Mobile Homes 660 - Miscellaneous 670 - Commercial Property 690 - Wanted To Rent 700 - SERVICES 705 - Construction	710 - Educational 713 - Child Care 715 - Electrician 720 - Health & Beauty 730 - Lawn & Garden 735 - Legal 740 - Masonry 745 - Miscellaneous 750 - Mobile Home Movers 755 - Office 760 - Plumbing	765 - Professionals 770 - Repair/Service 780 - Timber 790 - Travel 800 - NOTICES 805 - Announcements 810 - Auctions 815 - Lost & Found 830 - Miscellaneous 850 - Personals 870 - Services
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APARTMENTS FOR RENT
1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms
 at Highland Heights Apts. in Goble-Roberts Adm., and at Cliffside Apts. on Cliff Road, Prestonsburg. Close to PCC and Jenny Wiley State Park. Computerized learning centers offer social/educational programs for children and adults. All utilities included at Highland Hgts., utility allowance at Cliffside. Call (606)886-0908, (606)886-1819, (606)886-1927, TDD: 1-800-648-6056. CHAP, Inc., DBA Highland Hgts. & Cliffside Apts., does not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or handicap. EOE

The FLOYD COUNTY TIMES does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertisements. Ads which request or require advance payment of fees for services or products should be scrutinized carefully.

AUTOMOTIVE
110-Agricultural
685 Case International Farm Tractor, w/ new loader, 1700 hrs. like new. 886-8366.
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130-Cars
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140-4x4s
2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4. Loaded, 1 owner, 29,000 miles with warranty. \$15,950 606-523-6214.*

1996 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4, 606-454-0817.*

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160-Motorcycles
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180-Trucks
81 CHEVROLET STEPSIDE, 355 engine, completely rebuilt for racing. \$2200 OBO. 874-1235

190-Vans
2000 TOYOTA SIENNA, XLE, 1 owner, has warranty, loaded. 39,000 miles. \$16,950 606-523-6214.*

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210-Job Listings
WORLD'S BEST MONEY MAKER!! Earn \$500.00 per Sale!! Simple & Easy!! Call 1-800-761-2688 ext.3352-P www.worldsbestmoneymaker.com <http://www.worldsbestmoneymaker.com>

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Financial

350-Miscellaneous

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380-Services

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MERCHANDISE

410-Animals

FREE PUPPIES: TO GOOD HOME. Mother is small Collie. 285-5003.

420-Appliances

1 DEEP FREEZER LIKE NEW, 2 refrigerators. also 1 Side by side refrigerator, with ice maker. 2 gas ranges, 1 electric range, will trade to washer & dryer. 2001 Suzuki 4x4 500 priced right. 886-1046. Ask for Jim.*

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REAL ESTATE

530-Houses

CUSTOM BUILT BRICK HOME, near finished, 4 B.R. 3 bath, 2 car garage, approx. 3400 sq. ft. 1/2 acre lot, near Cedar Trace in Prestonsburg city limits. For more info 606-432-1985.*

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550-Land & Lots

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570-Mobile Homes

1994, 14X76, 2 B.R. 2 BATH, located across from Highlands Regional on 156 Oakwood Drive. 886-0973 after 5 p.m.*

590-Sale or Lease

FOR LEASE LARGE LOT FOR BUSINESS will build to suit. Rt. 80 close to Mtn. Enterprise. 886-8366.

RENTALS

610-Apartments

1 ROOM EFFICIENCY Apt. No Pets, \$275 mth, \$150 dep. Winchester Apt. 874-454-5577. All utilities paid. Laundry room.

2 B.R. 1 1/2 Bath, Townhouse in Prestonsburg. Washer & dryer hookup, \$425mth + utilities. 886-9406.*

1 B.R. APT. FOR RENT: call 874-2644 or 874-9174.

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2 B.R. Duplex, stove, refrig, Central H/A. W/D hookup, City limits at Rt. 23 & Rt. 80, \$425 month. + util. \$250 dep. 1 yr. lease. No pets. 237-4758 or 886-7237

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1 B.R. FURNISHED APT: Prestonsburg, off street parking. \$450 mth, \$200 dep. utilities paid. Washer & Dryer. 886-0010.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT Apartments Available Immediately 1 & 2 BR apts. Free processing fees PARK PLACE APARTMENTS Rt. 114, Prestonsburg Section 8 welcome. Call (606) 886-0039 E.H.O

NEW 2 B.R 1 1/2 BATH TOWNHOUSE, also 1 B.R. Apt. furnished or unfurnished. No pets. Located in Prestonsburg. 886-8991.*

GREETINGS FROM LIGHTHOUSE MANOR, Terry & Sharon Smith. We have apartments for rent that are efficiency apartments, all utilities paid. For more info call 606-886-2797.

620-Storage/Office Space

SPACE FOR RETAIL OR OFFICE, on North Lake Drive Prestonsburg, 886-8366.*

650-Mobile Homes

For Rent: At Emma, clean nice setting, 2 B.R. 1 Bath, mobile home, den, Big porch, maintenance of large yard included. \$350 mth. + deposit & utilities. Cross Emma bridge, straight ahead turn right. First black top road on right, end of road. visitation after 6:30 p.m. only.*

2 B.R. MOBILE HOME.: total elect. Located between P'burg & Paintsville. No pets. 889-9747 or 886-9007.

2 B.R. Mobile Home at Harold. \$375 mth. + dep. 606-478-4597.

SERVICES

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710-Educational

GED Get your HS equivalency diploma with our easy home study course 1-800-569-2163 ext 310

745-Miscellaneous

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750-Mob. Home Movers

ed with permits, 10 years experience 5 miles west of Prestonsburg on Rt. 114, Mtn. Parkway. Call 886-6665

TURNED DOWN FOR SOC. SECURITY/SSI? Free consultation. Call 1-888-582-3345. No fee unless we win your case.

765-Professionals

790-Travel 3495, 24/7. FREE PALLET: Can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

790-Travel

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY Claim NOTICES 812-FREE Denied? We Specialize In Appeals and Hearings. FREE CONSULTATION. Benefit Team

830-Miscellaneous

Services, Inc. Toll-free: 1-888-836-4052

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FLOYD CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION NO. II C.A. NO. 01-CI-00423 FAMILY BANK, FSB PLAINTIFF

VS.

MARGIE MAYNARD, MICHAEL VANASCO, AND BRENDA COLLINS VANASCO DEFENDANTS

AMENDED NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

BY VIRTUE OF Partial Summary Judgment and Order of Sale of the Floyd Circuit Court entered on the 15th day of July, 2002, in the Floyd Circuit Court, in the above styled action, in the principal sum of \$13,761.33, together with interest, costs and fees, 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 9th day of January, 2003, at the hour of 9:15 a.m., the following described real estate located in Floyd County, Kent-

Meeting Dates for 2003, are as follows: January 9 (2nd Thursday) April 10 (2nd Thursday) July 10 (2nd Thursday) October 9 (2nd Thursday)

FLOYD COUNTY 911 EXECUTIVE BOARD 361 N. LAKE DR. P.O. BOX 1441 PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653 886-0926 OR 1-800-279-3191

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Meeting Dates for 2003, are as follows: January 9 (2nd Thursday) April 10 (2nd Thursday) July 10 (2nd Thursday) October 9 (2nd Thursday)

\$500 REWARD Lost Boxer, Fawn color with white chest & white tips on feet. Last seen in Cliff area of Prestonsburg call 886-7065 or 424-7065.

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COMMON-WEALTH OF KENTUCKY FLOYD CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION NO. 1 C.A. NO. 01-CI-01178
BANKERS TRUST COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOUSING TRUST X C/O FIRST NATIONAL MORTGAGE PLAINTIFF

VS.
WOODY E. BURCHETT, KATHY BURCHETT, COMMUNITY TRUST BANK FKA PIKEVILLE NATIONAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY AND COUNTY OF FLOYD DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

BY VIRTUE OF Judgment and Order of Sale of the Floyd Circuit Court entered on the 21st day of November, 2002 in the Floyd Circuit Court, in the above styled action, in the principal sum of \$18,049.54, together with interest, costs and fees, 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 9th day of January, 2003, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., the following described real estate located at 220 Westminister Street, Prestonsburg, Floyd County, Kentucky, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an iron stake in the middle of the drain approximately 75 feet SSW of the Prestonsburg Water Storage Tank; thence in a southern direction in a straight line a distance of 113 feet to an iron stake; thence an easterly direction in the straight line up the hill for a distance in a straight line up the hill for a distance of 144 feet to an iron stake; thence a northerly direction in a straight line a distance of 111 feet to an iron stake in the center of the drain thence with the center of said drain down the hill to the place of beginning, same being a distance of 136 feet down the drain.

Being the same property conveyed by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Woody E. Burchett and Kathy Burchett, his wife, by deed dated April 29, 1991, and recorded in Deed Book 346, Page 702, in the records of the Floyd County Clerk's Office.

TERMS OF SALE:
 (a) At the time of sale, the successful bidder, if the other than the Plaintiff, shall either pay cash or \$5,000.00 of purchase price, with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days, and required to execute a bond with good surety thereon for the unpaid purchase price of said property, if any, bearing interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from the date of sale until paid,

having the force and effect of a Judgment.
 (b) The property shall be sold subject to any easements and restrictions of record in the Floyd County Clerk's Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America and/or the record owners thereof.

(c) The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all Floyd County and City of Prestonsburg, Kentucky, real property taxes for the year 2002, and all subsequent years which are not yet due and payable. Any and all delinquent Floyd County and City of Prestonsburg, Kentucky, real estate taxes will be paid from the sale proceeds.

(d) In the event the Plaintiff is the purchaser of the above described property for an amount equal to, or less than, its first lien, it shall take a credit against said lien for the amount of the bid and no bond shall be required of the Plaintiff, and it shall only be obligated to pay court costs, the fees and costs of the Master Commissioner and any real estate taxes assessed against the real estate.

Any announcements made on date of sale takes precedence over printed matter contained herein.

PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL:
 Hon. Lori R. Leach Lerner, Sampson & Rothfuss
 P.O. Box 5480
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5480

WILLIAM S. KENDRICK
 Master Commissioner
 P. O. Box 268
 Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653
 (606) 886-2812

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE PURSUANT TO APPLICATION NUMBER 836-5416, RENEWAL

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that DS Energy, Inc., P.O. Box 2864, Pikeville, Kentucky 41502, has applied for renewal of a permit for an underground coal mining operation, located 0.90 mile west of Woods in Floyd County. The proposed operation will disturb 1.55 surface acres and will underlie 853.86 acres, and the total area within the permit boundary will be 855.41 acres.

The proposed operation is approximately 0.25 mile East from KY 194's junction with KY 1428, and located adjacent to Cow Creek.

The operation is located on the Lancer U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Coal-Mac, Inc., Dick & Faye Burchett, America Frasure and John Gordon Goble. The operation will underlie land owned by Jimmy Joe Burchett, Charles & Darwin Burchett, Brad & Sally Goble & Marwood Land Co.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140

South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, No. 2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

COMMON-WEALTH OF KENTUCKY FLOYD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION II C. A. NO.: 02-CI-01/88
PRINCIPAL RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE INC. PLAINTIFF

VS.
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF STEVE BREWER DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF PENDING LITIGATION LEGAL NOTICE

The above action has been filed against the unknown spouse of Steve Brewer, whose last known address is 11 Pinebluff Cove, Harold, Kentucky 41-635, and others. The purpose of this suit is to enforce a mortgage due and payable to the Plaintiff by Steve Brewer and others. The unknown spouse of Steve Brewer may claim an interest in the subject property. If you believe that you are the unknown spouse of Steve Brewer, you should contact the Hon. Michael R. Brinkman, attorney for the Plaintiff, PO Box 5480, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45201-5480, or via telephone at (513) 241-3100 to obtain further information concerning this lawsuit.

This the 23rd day of December, 2002.

ADAMS & HARRIS
 107 S. ARNOLD AVENUE SUITE 102
 PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653

JOHNNY RAY HARRIS
 WARNING ORDER ATTORNEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Housing Authority of Prestonsburg does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment of, or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status.

Telephone 606-886-2717 OR 800-648-6056 - (For Hearing Impaired) The Housing Authority of Prestonsburg has decent, affordable rental housing located in the Prestonsburg area for all qualified applicants. Rent is based on income. For more information, please call 606-886-2717 or 606-886-6423, or stop by the offices located in the complexes at Green Acres, North Lake Drive, and Dixie in the Goble-Roberts Addition, in Prestonsburg, KY. We do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Prestonsburg Housing Authority would like to remind anyone who may be making excavations

near or on the Housing Authority property, that it is necessary to report to the Housing Authority before doing any work, and to report any incident of gas odor in the Housing Authority community.
 Phone Numbers of persons to contract:

Prestonsburg Housing Authority (606) 886-2717
 Daytime Hours 8:30-4:30
 After Hours: Donald Nelson, Maintenance Supervisor

(606) 454-1603
 Charles Shell, Maintenance Staff (606) 454-1604
 Brenda Harris, Executive Director (606) 886-2519

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is a Notice of a Divorce complaint being commenced against Ronald Gillis Goodson, by Plaintiff Angela Jean Goodson, in Forsyth County, North Carolina, in the General Court of Justice District Court Division with file#02 CVD 5751.

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SALES REP.

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REBATE	-\$3,000.00
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REBATE	-\$3,000.00
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'02 Dodge Intrepid	\$12,995	'99 Ford Ranger	\$7,995
'02 Chevy Silverado	\$24,995	'99 Ford Contour	\$6,995
'02 Olds Alero	\$12,995	'99 Chevy Monte Carlo V6	\$8,595
'02 Nissan Pathfinder	\$23,995	'99 Pontiac Grand Prix GT	\$10,995
'02 Chevrolet 1500 4x4	\$18,995	'99 Plymouth Breeze	\$5,395
'02 Chevrolet Trailblazer 4x4	\$23,995	'99 Dodge Ram 1500 Ext. Cab	\$12,995
'01 Dodge Neon	\$7,995	'99 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4	\$12,995
'01 Chevy Lumina	\$9,995	'98 Chevy Blazer 4x4	\$12,995
'01 Dodge Intrepid ES	\$10,995	'98 Nissan 4x4 Pickup	\$9,995
'01 Ford Ranger Pickup	\$12,995	'98 Buick Regal (leather)	\$9,495
'01 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup	\$13,995	'98 Chevrolet Monte Carlo	\$6,395
'01 Chrysler PT Cruiser	\$12,995	'97 Chevy Cavalier	\$3,195
'00 Dodge Ram Ext. Cab	\$13,995	'97 Chrysler LH5	\$6,495

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Wednesday, December 25, 2002

FLOYD COUNTY TIMES

Fiscal Court Lets Big Mud Contract

HANDER'S BID OF \$37,000 LOWEST OF THOSE FILED

Fiscal Court Plans Road And
Pur Other Sections
Of County

WILL USE COMPANY

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice to Postal Workers
Concerning Distribution

IDENTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED SLAYER FAILS

Man Arrested As Suspect
But Early Release
From Inmate

SLAYER LEFT BY LANE

JANE COLLINS KILLED ON JOHNS CREEK

Identity of slayer En-
quiring Warmie Chase
Is Suspected.

Estimate 5,000 A Vaccinated on Bec

PRIZE OF \$250

TYPHOID THRO IS STEMMED BY RED CROSS AID

Health Centers Are
Established in Five
Towns

BEAVER ROAD SURVEY BEGIN

Contract May Be Let
For Road Soon After
July 1.

FORTY-FIVE PASS TEACHERS' EXAM

P. D. ... and ...
Rank First and ...

APPROXIMATELY 115 ...
IS BEING ...

LOCAL KIWAN ...

'Loving what he does from now and then'



Jim Goble takes some typesetting pointers from his father, Times co-founder H.L. Goble, early in his career.



H.L. "Printer" Goble, one of the founders of The Times, sets type on the model 14 "Bluestreak" linotype machine in the early 1950s.

Goble has been at 'The Times' 67 out of 75 years

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER



James Edward Goble, 83, in Prestonsburg, said that he could remember standing on a stool at 8 years old to clean the brass printing rules and more than 60 years later, he is still with The Floyd County Times as an avid proofreader.

Goble was born to Henry Lafayette and Erma Huff Goble on May 19, 1919, in Prestonsburg. His father was instrumental in the establishment of the Floyd County Times in 1927.

Goble started officially working part-time when he was still at Prestonsburg High School in 1935 and has worked as a printer, pressman and linotype operator.

Goble said that he had only one other job and that was shortly after graduating from Prestonsburg High School in 1937. He worked for a period of approximately 18 months in 1937 and 1938 for The Pike County News. He officially retired from The Floyd County Times on Sept. 30, 1989, but still continues to work as a proofreader.

Goble and Marie Prater were married on Sept. 19, 1941, and he says they are still happily married after 61 years. They have one son, Charles Edward Goble, and three

daughters, Katherine Lynn Schornak, Ella Louise McCray and Erma Lana Slaughter. Goble has three grandchildren, Michael Jerome Schornak, Benjamin Joseph Slaughter and Paul James Slaughter.

Goble's outstanding stability is evident in other areas of his life as well. He has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg for 67 years and has been a long-time elder of the church, as well as a former member of the Session, local church governing body, which he served as clerk for many years. Goble also previously served as Sunday school superintendent for several years and still sings in the senior choir.

Goble has been a member and previously the master of Zebulon Lodge No. 273, F&AM, for 56 years and has served as secretary for the lodge for 43 years. He is a dual member of East Point Lodge No. 657 F & AM, which he has served as an officer, and is a 50 year member and past high priest of Prestonsburg Chapter No. 182, Royal Arch Masons. He is also a member of Ted Adams Lodge of Research and the York Rite bodies, both in Paintsville. Goble is a past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F&AM, has served as a member of the credentials and publicity committees of the Grand Lodge and has recently served as the Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge. He has served the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons as committee member of chapters under dispensation, as a member of the bylaws committee, has previously served as president of Jenny Wiley Chapter No. 3528, AARP, and has been serving as secretary/treasurer for several years.

Goble's loyalty and perseverance has been an asset to the Floyd County Times, as well as to the community he lives in, and to the many people his selfless service benefits.

— History of the Floyd County Times —

75 YEARS

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

In its 75 years of publishing, The Floyd County Times has missed only one issue, when 27 inches of floodwater crept into the building during the 1957 flood. The issue was half completed when the water overtook the staff's efforts, but was finished and put on shelves at the first available opportunity.

To date The Floyd County Times has been flooded three times and burned twice since opening its doors in 1927. It was on Friday, June 17 of that year that the first issue was printed, and since that time — through floods, fires and some changing of hands — The Floyd County Times has maintained a set course.

For well over half a century the backbone of this endurance was Times Editor Norman Allen. Allen was the editor when the first issue rolled off the press in 1927.

Allen, at the helm with partner H.L. Goble, who was the business manager and printer/lino-type operator, began his long relationship with the paper at its first office located on Court Street in Prestonsburg.

The resolve that was to become the driving force behind the newspaper was tested early when one year later, in 1928, a fire destroyed the building. Allen, stifled briefly but not defeated, managed not only to reopen, but to expand.

On June 1, 1928, with new partner C.B. Latta Sr., Allen bought out the rival Prestonsburg Post from A.C. Harlowe for \$7,000. Harlowe had owned and

edited the Post since 1914. A move was made to the old Bargain Store building and the presses were running again.

It would be a mere nine years later when another deal and relocation would bring The Times to its present location on what was then Third Street.

In 1937, Allen bought out his

Through the years, Allen and his children continued their enduring commitment to publishing a comprehensive county-wide newspaper. Adjusting to changes in the business, such as the switch in 1972 from laborious movable type to offset printing, Allen established the paper he helped build. Allen's children, David,

Allen's daughter and assistant, Barbara, who would ultimately inherit her father's position as publisher.

The new position came to her tragically, however, after Norman Allen died on March 24, 1986.

The long-time editor and his wife, Alka, were returning from Lexington when Allen lost con-

publisher for about two years before retiring and selling the paper to Smith Newspapers Inc., a company established in 1972 by Fort Payne, Ala. native Ben M. Smith. The company was incorporated under the new title of Floyd County Newspapers Inc. in a deal finalized on June 17, 1988. In those negotiations Smith Newspapers acquired 100 percent of The Times, which was, at that time, the state's largest selling weekly, as well as one-third ownership in Kentucky Highlands Inc., which operated the Prestonsburg plant where the paper was printed.

Smith, which also owned the Appalachian News-Express at that time, would place current News-Express publisher Marty Backus at the helm as both publisher and president of Floyd County Newspapers Inc.

The Times continued under the Smith flag until 1998, when it was sold to Community Newspapers Holding Inc. (CNHI).

The Times remains under the ownership of CNHI with Rod Collins as publisher. Collins is also publisher of fellow CNHI paper, The Hazard Herald.

The Times, which has won numerous editorial and advertising awards, including recognition in 1990 as the state's best multi-weekly paper, has endured much through its 75 year history as a staple business in Floyd County. The newspaper Norman Allen pushed to become a voice "of and for Floyd County" has progressed and grown with the ever-changing technology that keeps newspapers on the cutting edge, updating each year and moving ahead in commitment and quality.



partner and made the move to Third Street. One year later, in 1938, H.L. Goble's son, James E. Goble, joined the newspaper staff and remains at The Times today as a proofreader. H.L. Goble's other sons — John H. and Charles A. — also followed him in the printing business. H.L. Goble continued to work at The Times until his death in 1953.

Barbara, Sharon, Paul Neil and Quentin, became intimately involved in the newspapering business.

Both Sharon and Quentin worked briefly with their father and then moved on while David became advertising manager and Paul Neil became a photographer and refined his skills as a dark-room expert. But it would be

control of the car near Campton and plunged over a lakeside embankment. Allen suffered a broken jaw in the accident, while his wife sustained several serious injuries as well. After nearly a month at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington, Allen died at the age of 83.

His daughter, Barbara Allen Heinze, would work as Times



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Surviving History

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER



The first issue of The Floyd County Times was distributed on June 17, 1927, and offered 10 front page stories, as well as an announcement and call for local editorials written by Floyd County citizens.

Prize money in the amount of \$10 worth of gold was also offered to the Floyd Countian who performed the best work as a correspondent, bringing news from their area of the county to the attention of the newspaper.

The stories making up that first issue, which ran \$1.50 for a one-year subscription, were varied and give us an interesting glance at what was happening in the county 75 years ago.

Three of the 10 front page stories that ran Friday in the summer of 1927 dealt with murders.

Among those stories are reports of contract letting for the Beaver Road, as it was then called, which was to run, according to surveys at time time, for a distance of approximately 20 miles from Allen to Lackey.

In a related story, the Floyd County Fiscal Court accepted a bid of \$37,000 from T. Ranier for construction of five or six sections of highway to be initiated along Bug Mud Creek.

A story was included to report to anxious Floyd Countians that the typhoid threat spreading across the state was to be "stemmed" by aid from the Red Cross. The Red Cross established five health centers in as many towns to deal with the infectious threat. It was totaled that nearly 5,000 persons had been inoculated against the disease.

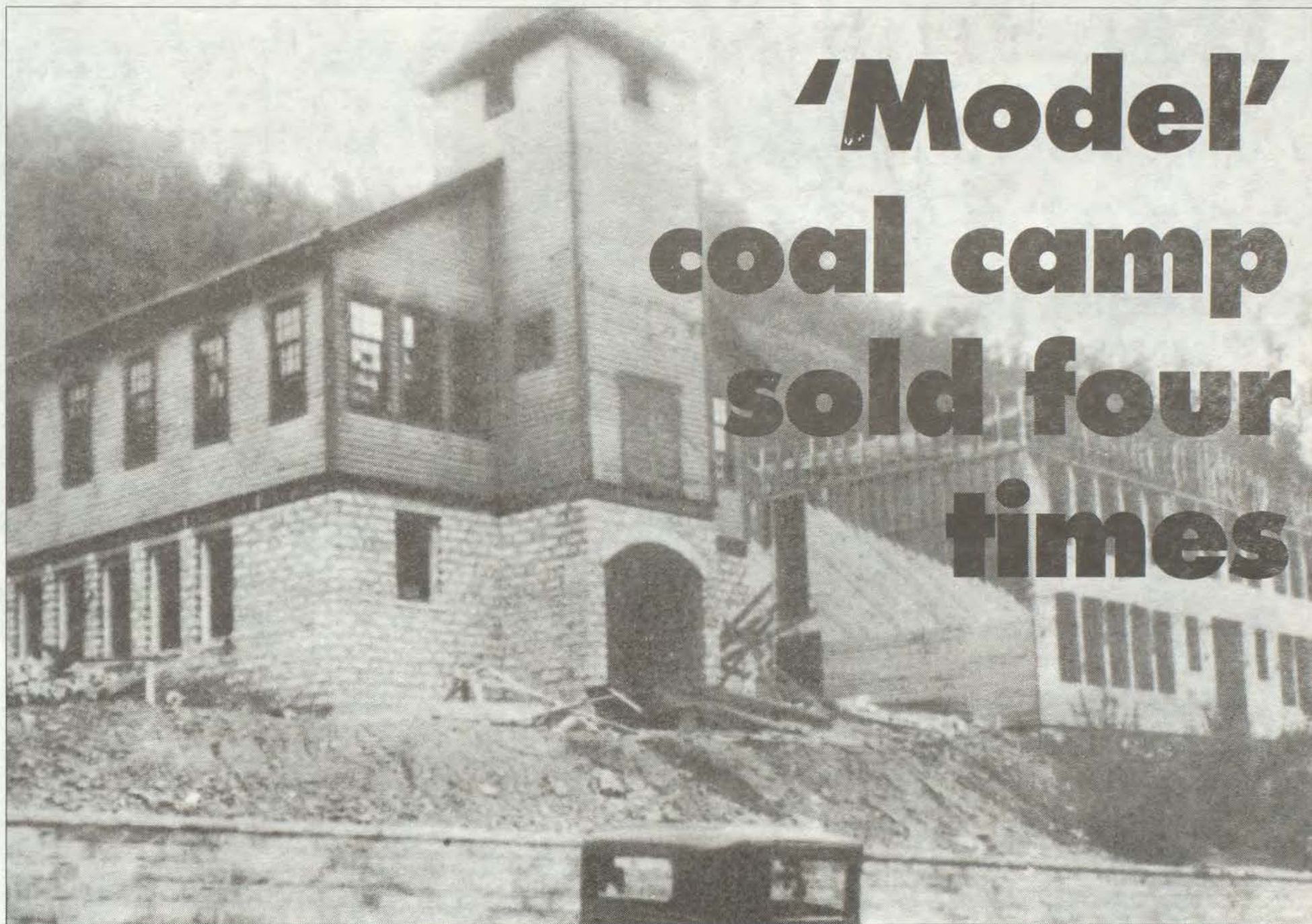
Three of the 10 front page stories that Friday in the summer of 1927 dealt with murders.

One reported the death of Jack Collins, a Johns Creek man, who was killed instantly when an unknown slayer shot him in the chest with a shotgun. Warnie Cline was accused of the Collins murder and later arrested, but escaped from custody while being transported by mule to Prestonsburg. Collins' killer was, at that time, still unknown.

Another murder-related story that ran in the paper's first issue dealt with a two-year-old murder case. An unidentified man was brought from Kansas to be questioned about the 1925 death of Floyd Countian Homer Bayless, reports said. It was hopeful at the time that the line of questioning would help authori

See **HISTORY**, page 16

1930 to 1979:



'Model' coal camp sold four times

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

In 1930 the small town of Wheelwright, then owned and operated as a mining town by Consolidated Coal Company, received a shock when the founding company sold its mining rights and the tiny town that had sprung up around it to Chicago-based steel manufacturer, Inland Steel, Inc.

Inland Steel found the metallurgical qualities of the coal seams a desirable enough temptation to extend their efforts further into Eastern Kentucky. The company would eventually mine coal in Virginia and West Virginia, as well as Kentucky.

But, the initial shock aside, the deal would prove to be an especially good one for the workers and residents of

Wheelwright.

Inland Steel was quick to place strong-willed visionary E.R. "Jack" Price as manager of coal properties. Price, a welfare capitalist, would approach those duties and also make large strides in forming a small town into a thriving, self-sufficient community.

Price felt it was a good investment to be interested in community welfare and improvement, in addition to his work toward ensuring mine safety and efficiency.

From this belief, Price engaged Inland Steel to modernize its coal operations and properties. He worked just as hard on improvement of roads through paving and the renovation of existing homes as he did overseeing mine operations. The result was a success and

improvement spread across the community of Wheelwright. Before long the mining town boasted its own library, hospital, hotel, nine-hole golf course, movie theater, bowling alley and department store.

And so Wheelwright grew.

For over 30 years the once small coal camp continued to prosper under the close and watchful eye of Price. Wheelwright was coined a "model" mining town and was recognized across the nation as a the leading example for the potential of a well-run mining community. In time, it would be commonly referred to as "the town that Jack built."

But with the mid-1960s came a trend in the coal industry that saw the cost of coal plummet. Numerous strikes had cut production and in January 1966, Inland Steel sold its "model" town and its

mines to Island Creek Coal Company. The shock this time around would be felt county-wide, as well as by Wheelwright workers and citizens.

After announcement of the sale, Inland spokesmen said their decision was based on the ability to now mine coal for the production of coke, a key ingredient in the steel making process, in their home state of Illinois. This technological advancement, coupled with a dramatic drop in the cost of transporting mined coal to their plants, were the key factors given at the time.

At the time Inland sold their holdings to Island Creek Coal Company, their operations supplied 40 percent, or about 1.6 million tons, of the 4 million

See **COAL CAMP**, page 22

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1933: Five killed in election

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

It goes without saying that local school board meetings today may get out of hand from time to time. There just seems to be something about school-based agenda items that can force tension and bring the worst out in people.

But never has a school-related meeting veered more out of control than during the 1933 Prater Creek school trustee election.

That election, held Saturday, July 6, 1933, in a schoolhouse at the head of Prater Creek, according to accounts at the time, pitted what became two factions against one another, both supporting their own candidates. The

results of such a standoff left five people shot to death and six others wounded in a bitter battle.

Left dead that summer afternoon were Wilburn Conn and Wayne Click. Green Conn, Mimms Conn and his son, Millard Conn, died the following day from gunshot wounds sustained during the shootout. Mimms Conn's other son, Lawrence Conn, was shot through the bowels during the battle and was also reported to be in a "dying condition" at the time.

The two men vying for the trustee position were Arnold Robinette and Sol Sammons, and it was Sammons who was in the lead with two votes when two people showed up to submit their ballots.

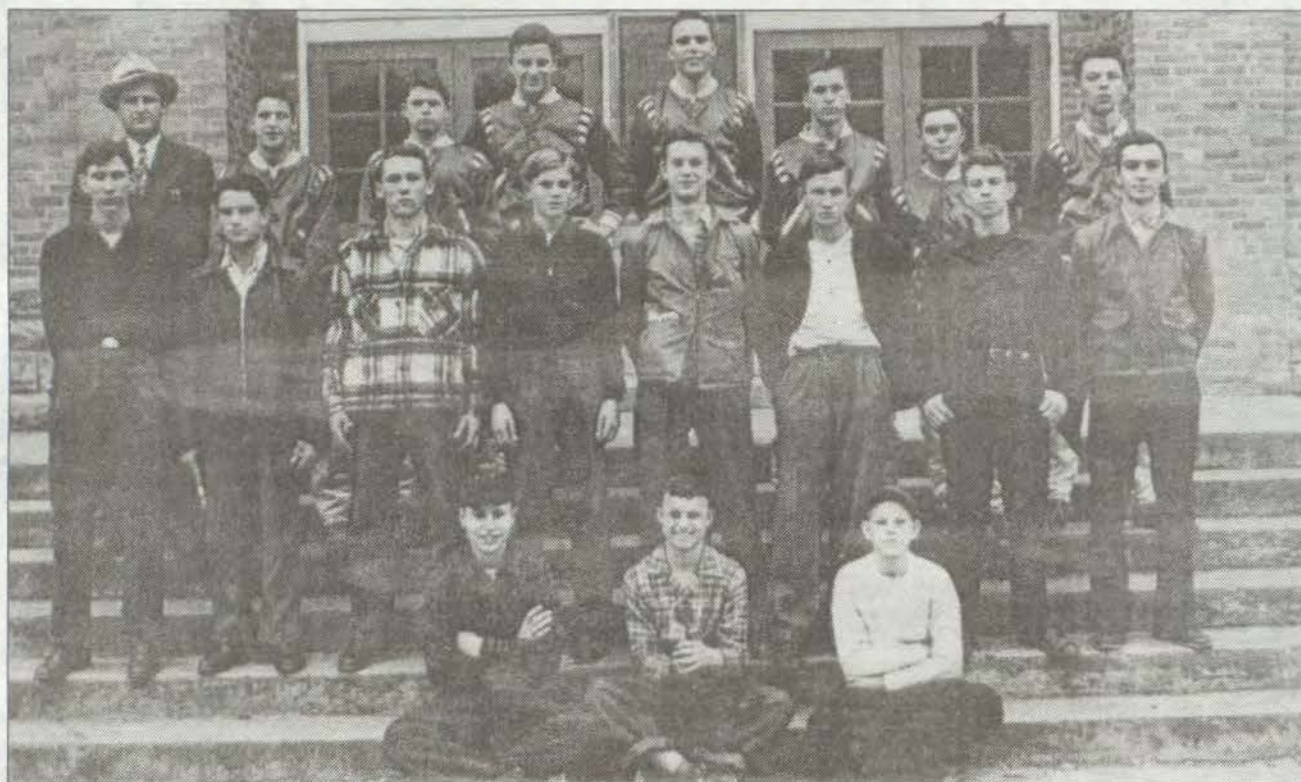
Apparently making their intentions

to vote for Robinette very clear upon arrival, which would have brought the election to a standstill, Green Conn, a key supporter for Sammons, stepped in and announced that the polls were about to close.

Immediately, persons from both groups grabbed at the poll results. This, in turn, gave way to a physical altercation, which quickly exploded into the bloody exchange of gunfire.

Witnesses at the time said there was no sign of drinking at the election site but that there had been ill feelings between the two groups. It was reported that the two sides had combined to spend approximately \$500 in the school district.

See **KILLED**, page 22



1948: Blackcats take state baseball crown

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Before 1948 there had never been a Floyd County sports team to win a state championship event.

The Prestonsburg Blackcats base-

ball team had come close four consecutive years as regional champs with a chance to compete in the state tournament, but had not produced a trophy.

That would change on June 10, 1948, when that season's Blackcat baseball team, led by Coach John R.

Eibner, traveled to Parkway Field in Louisville and returned to Floyd County the state baseball champs of Kentucky.

En route to the championship game, the Blackcats first defeated rivals Ft. Knox, then Central City and finally Newport Catholic in the final game by a score of 12 to 3.

In the first inning, the Blackcats slammed Newport's star pitcher, scoring six runs and creating a lead they would sustain throughout the rest of the game.

Standout Blackcat pitcher Howard

See **CROWN**, page 23

THE FLOYD COUNTY TIMES

and

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1949: Dewey Dam paves way to flood control, tourism

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Completion of Dewey Dam on July 22, 1949, provided flood control and formed Dewey Lake. Both would later become the centerpiece of Floyd County only state park, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.

The park, built to highlight Dewey Lake and give Floyd County a boost in tourism, was completed in 1954 and has since provided local, state and out-of-state visitors with any number of recreational options. The park offers boating, fishing, skiing, camping and many other activities.

In 1962, May Lodge was dedicated by former Prestonsburg resident and Kentucky Gov. Bert T. Combs. Named for Andrew Jackson "Jack" May, a local politician who served as 7th District Congressman from 1930 to 1946, the lodge would be followed two years later with completion of an outdoor amphitheater on July 11, 1964.

However, these developments, which have led to one of the county's biggest tourism attractions, could not have been made possible without completion of Dewey Dam.

Built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the dam, which is named for Navy Admiral George Dewey, is an impressive achievement in construction, standing 118 feet high and stretching 913 feet long. It was constructed along Johns Creek and remains operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Likewise, without the dam there would be no Dewey Lake. Formation of the lake has given Jenny Wiley State Resort Park a centerpiece, the livelihood of any successful park. Each summer the local resident who may be passing through the park will quickly find themselves slowed behind visitors from all areas who have stopped, camera in hand, to capture a setting sun gleaming red-orange across the calm surface of Dewey Lake.

The lake, which is also maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has 1,100 acres of surface area, is 18.5 miles long and has a copious 52 miles of shoreline from which to fish or boat or just enjoy a leisurely picnic. Visitors who travel to visit the lake and park each year number in the thousands, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and ultimately area residents as well, have additional interests in the dam.

The Dewey project was, and remains, part of the integrated flood reduction system which the Corps operates for the entire Ohio River Basin. Ideally, when the lakes in this system are operated in conjunction as a storage system, flood crests along the Ohio are significantly reduced.

Consideration for the condition of the lake and park was never more clearly illustrated when on April 20 of this year an estimated 200 bags of trash were removed from the lake and surrounding shoreline during what was termed, Operation Clean Sweep.

1949: Unsolved murder stunned Prestonsburg



by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Eastern Kentucky has seen its share of blood spilled due to murders, and Floyd County has contributed its fair amount to that list, including what was coined then as the most brutal murder to date, the vicious death of Muriel Baldrige on July 27, 1949.

The investigation of the murdered Prestonsburg High School cheerleader that

resulted the following year was, perhaps, one of the most bizarre in the county's history.

Indicted for double charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection to the slaying were two Prestonsburg residents, one of whom was a well-known and respected member of the Prestonsburg Board of Education.

Lon S. Moles, a 60-year-

See **MURDER**, page 10

1957: Flooding destroys much of Floyd County

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Mention floods in Floyd County and a few may remember the waters that overtook Prestonsburg in 1929, and many will recount the flood of 1977. The August floods last year may stand out for others. But, by far, the biggest response will be stories from the first week of February 1957.

During that first week, following several days of rain which filled the Big Sandy River, the river overflowed and drenched Floyd County in mud and water to a degree that has not since been paralleled.

Compared at the time to the county's first major flood in 1862, the 1957 flood saw the Big Sandy River spill over onto scores of towns, including Martin, Allen, Betsy Layne, Tram, Mare Creek, Emma, Dwale, Harold, Lancer, Prestonsburg and others. Thousands of homes were destroyed and thousands of people were homeless and without food as a result of the extensive flooding which covered the county from Bowman to Prestonsburg.



The city of Martin alone estimated cost damages of about \$1.2 million, while Allen guessed its costs to be approximately \$500,000.

One resident, Glenn Spradlin, who was then a cashier at First Guaranty Bank in Prestonsburg, speculated that it would take the county no less than 25 years to fully recover

from the devastation of the flood. Spradlin and other employees of the bank were busy with cleanup of their own after seeing water seep into the bank vault and leave \$5,000 in damages.

At Martin, five miles from the banks of the Big Sandy, the floodwaters covered parking meters and stood 10 feet deep in streets. It was reported that every business in the town had

been destroyed, as well as 80 percent of the homes. Two stores reported damages of about \$80,000 each.

Water streamed into the Martin Theater so completely that a boatsman swung in, rowed up to the screen and then back out again, according to reports.

See **FLOOD**, page 10

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Murder

■ Continued from p9

old member of the local board of education and veteran C & O freight agent, was indicted on Feb. 4, 1950, along with fellow Prestonsburg resident E.K. Dotson, for the murder of Muriel Baldrige.

Before the two could even post bond, a venue change to move the impending trial out of the county was entered. The trial would take place later in Pike County, where both Moles and Dotson were being held under separate bonds of \$15,000.

The story of Baldrige's murder is one that many PHS graduates would later hear in whispers and tales bordering on folklore.

On Monday, June 27, 1949, Baldrige joined two friends as they walked home from a carnival that had taken place that evening. Near the West Prestonsburg bridge, the two left Baldrige, who reportedly said she wasn't afraid to walk by herself.

Her body would be discovered early the next morning beside the riverbank a little more than 50 feet from the home of her parents and just over 30 feet from the Dotson's home.

The young cheerleader's head was smashed in — the damage a result of five fatal blows to the head, authorities later concluded. Officials later said she had been struck near the bridge and apparently dragged the length of a small walking path near the river's edge. Her necklace was found hung in a small peach tree that had been uprooted, possibility from being clutched during a struggle.

Numerous reports were given by nearby residents who heard screams coming from the direction where Baldrige was found, including a report from Dotson's home.

The days following found over 50 people questioned, including Baldrige's close friends and others.

According to court reports, Dotson himself was later questioned under "truth serum" and elicited no information concerning the murder.

The indictment to include Moles came with evidence that would be submitted during a four-day trial. The evidence seemed overwhelming and was entered into trial by the Commonwealth's Attorney office backed by 11 eleven testimonies in the very first day of trial.

One of the more damning witnesses against Moles at the time was admitted bootlegger Clyde M. Godsey and his wife. The Godseys testified that Moles had arrived at their house near midnight on the

See MURDER, page 14

Flood

■ Continued from p9



Disturbing accounts from citizens attempting to overcome the destruction of the flood began to mount as the days passed.

Martin Hammond and his wife, trapped in their store, struggled to keep their necks above water until finally getting the attention of upstairs neighbor Bill Martin, by tapping overhead pipes with a knife. Martin, hearing the tapping from beneath him, used a boat to rescue the couple.

Patients were transported from Our Lady of the Way Hospital to the McDowell

Memorial Hospital, which was having troubles of its own having caught fire three times and was saved only by help from volunteer townsmen.

Hall Brothers Funeral Home in Martin was forced to burn coffins in the days following the spilling of the Big Sandy. Johnny Hall pointed out that the water line in the building was shoulder high.

All of Allen between Route 80 and Beaver Creek was flooded with the exception of only five homes. Many people put out by the flood

sought refuge in nearby vacant houses without food or water. Some of those families waited out the flood in this way for two days and nights.

Allen resident Galloway Lafferty and his family escaped to safety in the attic of their home. They listened as the water in the rooms below knocked around floating furniture.

The flood did not stop with homes and businesses. U.S. 23 broke apart from the force of the waters at the mouth of Cold Water Branch and could allow only one-way traffic even a week after the waters had subsided.

Once the Big Sandy River returned to normal and Floyd County reemerged, muddy and beaten, from beneath the waters, it was estimated that the total cost of damages rested at \$20 million, not including another \$12.5 million county officials estimated for damages to bridges and other public losses.

The American Red Cross helped in the rehabilitation process and spent upwards of \$300,000 toward that effort.

The magnitude of the loss endured by Floyd Countians prompted U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper to request flood control work for Prestonsburg. He asked the Corps of Engineers to begin plans on dam control and protection work within a week after the flood hit.

In all, 2,214 Floyd County homes were affected during the flood.

1958: Floyd County's darkest moment

by SHELTON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 28, 1958, perhaps the greatest tragedy to ever touch Floyd County occurred when a school bus carrying 47 Prestonsburg Grade School students plunged into the Big Sandy River. Twenty-seven people — 26 students and the driver of the ill-fated bus — perished in the accident and left a county stunned.

The tragic accident, still considered the most signif-



See MOMENT, page 11



Doris Faye Burchett



James Edison Carey



Glenda May Cisco



Kenneth Forrest Cisco



Paulette Cline



Sandra Faye Cline



Linda Darby



Emogene Darby



James Edward Goble



John Spencer Goble



Anna Laura Goble



Jane Carol Harris



Margaret Louise Hunt



John Harlan Hughes



Bucky Ray Jarrell



Katie Carol Jarrell



Marcella Jervis



Montaine Jervis



Thomas Roosevelt Jervis



Kathryn Justice



James L. Meade, Jr.



Rita Cheryl Matney



Joyce Ann Matney



Nannie Joyce McPeck



James Thomas Ousley



Randy Wallen



John Alex Derosett

Moment

Continued from p9

icant school bus wreck in our nation's history, happened just after 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Reports at that time said the driver, 27-year-old John Alex Derosett, was en route from the Emma-Cow Creek section of the county when his bus collided with a wrecker also traveling the area near Knotley

Hollow, about three miles south of Prestonsburg. The school bus, according to eyewitness accounts at the time, veered slowly across U.S. 23, teetered momentarily on the edge of the bank and then dropped 50 feet into the rain-swelled Big Sandy.

Led by Prestonsburg student

Bill Reedy, who was later credited with managing to open the emergency hatch in the rear of the bus, 20 students escaped through the back of the bus before the river water took the bus under. Those students either swam or were helped to safety.

Twenty-seven others were

imprisoned within the bus as it made its way into the cold February waters.

Immediately the search for the submerged bus, and ultimately the 27 victims, began. The search for the bus itself ended the following Sunday at approximately 2 p.m., when workers pulled it from the

water. Involved in the efforts were a host of agencies and officials. Parents of those missing lined the riverbank and watched as workers pulled the bodies of the students who had not managed to escape before the bus sank.

See **MOMENT**, page 14

FLOYD COUNTY TIMES

A Progressive Paper for Progressive People
PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY, FREDERICKSBURG, KY. 40325
ESTABLISHED 1880

Fiscal Court Lets Big Mud Contract

HUNTER'S BID OF \$27,000 LOWEST OF THOSE FILED

Court Plans Road Aid For Other Sections of County

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The fiscal court today let a contract for the construction of a road in the northern part of the county. The bid of J. H. Hunter, of the Watson community, was the lowest of those filed, amounting to \$27,000.

IDENTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED SLAYER FAILS

Man Arrested As Sheriff Early Bought From Kansas

SLAYER NOT AT LARGE

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The identification of a man arrested as the slayer of a woman in the Watson community failed today. The man, who was arrested in Kansas, was brought to the county jail here.

JAKE COLLINS IS KILLED ON JOHNS CREEK

Identity of Slayer Uncertain; Warnie Cline Is Suspected.

PRISONER ESCAPES

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The slaying of Jake Collins on Johns Creek was the result of a fight between him and a man who is suspected to be the slayer. The slayer's identity is uncertain.

Estimate 5,000 Are Vaccinated on Beaver TYPHOID THREAT IS STEMMED BY RED CROSS AID

PRIZE OFFER

\$10 in Gold Bowed for Best Correspondence Work.

In order to stem the typhoid threat in the county, the Red Cross has vaccinated an estimated 5,000 people. A prize offer of \$10 in gold is being made for the best correspondence work.

BEAVER ROAD Contract May Be Let For Road Soon After July 1

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The fiscal court today let a contract for the construction of a road in the northern part of the county. The bid of J. H. Hunter, of the Watson community, was the lowest of those filed, amounting to \$27,000.

APPROXIMATELY \$115,000 IS BEING SPENT ON SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THIS COUNTY

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—Approximately \$115,000 is being spent on school buildings in this county. The money is being raised by the county government.

DRILLING ACTIVE IN LOCAL FIELD

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—Drilling is active in the local field. The county government is providing the necessary equipment and personnel.

CAPTURE SLAYER AT WHEELWRIGHT

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The slayer of a woman in the Watson community was captured at Wheelwright. The slayer is now in custody of the county sheriff.

HUNTER IS SHOT FOR GROUNDHOG

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—A hunter was shot for killing a groundhog. The groundhog was found in the Watson community.

LOCATING WATSON'S REMAINS

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The remains of a man who was killed in the Watson community are being located. The remains were found in the Watson community.

PIPE LINE WORK GIVES EMPLOYMENT FOR 500 MEN.

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—Pipe line work is giving employment for 500 men. The work is being done in the Watson community.

W. D. Steele and Wife Rank First and Second

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—W. D. Steele and his wife ranked first and second in a contest. The contest was held in the Watson community.

WATSON'S BID OF \$27,000 LOWEST OF THOSE FILED

WATSON, Ky., Aug. 15.—The bid of J. H. Hunter, of the Watson community, was the lowest of those filed, amounting to \$27,000.

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Moment

■ Continued from p11

By the evening of that Sunday in 1958, authorities had accounted for 20 of the 27 missing victims. It would be 71 days later, and with the help of hundreds of National Guard members, before the last of the seven remaining victims would be recovered.

It was while the search for the missing seven continued that the community of Prestonsburg and surrounding cities and counties, as well as neighboring states, would come together in efforts to find the victims and offer help to those who lost children in the accident.

At one point during the efforts, when it seemed the National Guard, which started with 500 members and cut that number to 176 as the days turned into weeks, would pull out, locals formed a committee aimed at continuing the search until the seven remaining victims were found. Perhaps responding to this commitment,

then-Gov. A.B. Chandler reversed the decision of his subordinates and ordered National Guard members to continue their search of the river.

As much attention was given to the families grieving the loss of their children. Hardly a week after the bus made its fatal plunge into the waters of the Big Sandy, a fund drive for the victim's families was underway and quickly gaining ground. The fund drive, spearheaded by then Rural Highway Commissioner J.B. Wells, who appealed to fiscal courts statewide to donate \$100 each, had, in a matter of days, grown to \$25,200. Within another week, that amount was \$37,218. Funds were given to the newly-formed Prestonsburg School Disaster Committee.

The pictures of each of the 27 victims of that Feb. 28 tragedy are displayed outside the Prestonsburg Grade School's auditorium.

Murder

■ Continued from p10

ight of the murder (authorities had placed Aldridge's time of death to be around 10:30 a.m. the same night, less than two hours prior). Godsey's wife said under oath that Moles had arrived at her home to buy a pint of whiskey. He testified that he had asked her not to turn the lights on but, she told court, to make change for a \$20 bill. Mrs. Godsey told police later that she had seen bloodstains on Moles' shirt upon turning the light on.

Approximately four hours later Godsey said Moles returned to buy a second pint and to ask if anyone else had bought whiskey that night. Testimony at the time reported that Godsey claimed Moles asked the husband and wife to remember that he had never been there."

The link for investigators was the discovery of an empty pint of whiskey found along the verbank near the murder scene. It was the same brand the Godseys claimed Moles had purchased.

In addition to this evidence, several others testified during Moles' trial to have noticed scratches along his arms in the days following the murder.

A local gas station owner claimed under oath that Moles had brought his vehicle in to have the seat covers changed only days after the murder. The station owner told investigators there had been a stain on one of the seats but he couldn't be positive as to its nature. He added only that Moles later disagreed with him about when the seat covers had been changed, claiming it had been nearly a month before the murders.

1963: Mountain Parkway links Eastern Kentucky to the world

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Access to and from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky had long been a burden to which most in the area had simply grown accustomed, albeit with some sense of frustration. However, Former Gov. Bert T. Combs would do his part in whittling away at that limitation by spearheading efforts that resulted in the completion of the Mountain Parkway in January 1963.

The first four-lane, divided highway to penetrate the hills of Eastern Kentucky, the Mountain Parkway, was officially opened to travelers on Jan. 14, 1963, after two years of construction and countless hours of lobbying from Combs and others. Those involved with the project stressed that the highway would open more than just efficient routes for Eastern Kentuckians, but also opportunities.

Many would now agree. The opening of this area to Lexington and interstates 64 and 75 changed the perspec-

tive of a people, as well as their ability to more readily access other areas of the state. For instance, younger generations were suddenly able to travel with more ease to schools in such places as Lexington, Richmond and Morehead. In one fell stroke, the Big Sandy Valley opened up, via a modern, high-speed link, to the long-distant Bluegrass area.

The parkway became, upon its completion, the second toll road in the state. Toll fees for the 43 miles of new roadway from Winchester to Campton were 80 cents, or 1.8 cents per mile. Another 38 miles from Campton to Salyersville would be added to the parkway later. This section was two lanes.

Toll fees would later be done away with, however. Booths — both automatic collection and manned — were removed from the four-lane section in 1985, and from the two-lane section the following year.

In the decade prior to the removal of the toll booths, another change had

occurred. In the late 1970s, a move was made to spotlight the efforts of mountain Gov. Bert T. Combs, the man who, in a very real sense, made the addition of the parkway a reality. It was at this time, over a decade after the opening of the highway, the parkway's name was expanded to include and honor Combs. Auxiliary plates bearing the former governor's name were added along the tops of the circular signs already in place along the parkway to commemorate the designation, officially making the Mountain Parkway the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway.

During the conception of the idea for a first ever turnpike leading from the mountains and after its completion, the parkway itself had been, and remains, an important connector route. But it also serves as a major feeder route as well, funneling traffic from cities and towns in Floyd County as well as other mountain locations such

See **PARKWAY**, page 16

1964: PCC opens doors and opportunities

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Although surrounding counties had already established institutions of higher learning — Alice Lloyd in Knott County and Pikeville College in Pike County, to name a couple — the development was one that evaded Floyd County until the University of Kentucky brought the opportunity of affordable and local college education into the county seat of Prestonsburg in 1964.

After approval from the board of trustees at the University of Kentucky to include Prestonsburg as the site for a community college and once several plans for construction had been realized, Prestonsburg Community College opened its doors to students on Sept. 3, 1964.

Registration leading up to the opening was testimony to the fact that Floyd Countians, as well as prospective students from surrounding counties, were more than ready to take advantage of the chance to further their education locally.

According to reports weeks prior to the first day of classes, there had already been hundreds register to begin classwork. By July 28, more than a month before the doors were to open, there were 244 registered students, leading college officials to confidently assume that breaking the 300 mark would be a foregone conclusion.

Thought was given as well to students

who may have already begun their college careers with the inclusion of night classes and extension classes for sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as graduate classes.

It was totaled by the end of July that 16 scholarships were already in place for some students. The scholarships were made possible through contributions from area individuals and firms, mostly from Floyd County. Also, committees quickly formed in surrounding counties to approach the same goal.

Those in Floyd County who were interested in helping in this endeavor were directed to contact members or officials of the college or to speak with the chairman of the scholarship committee at that time, W.J. Reynolds Jr., of Allen. Each scholarship grant was \$250, with the single exception of a \$300 grant awarded to McDowell resident, Marcia Ward.

Personnel for the college, which included Director Henry A. Campbell and his assistants, as well as teachers such as English instructor and Pineville native Thomas C. Knuckles.

Workers with Meade and Kendrick contractors, who were applying finishing touches on what would ultimately be a one-year, \$900,000 project, assured Campbell and others that they would be prepared to move on well before classwork was slated to begin.

See PCC, page 16

Murder

Continued from p14

Further damaging to Moles' contention of innocence in the murder was the match of his shoes with prints found along the riverbank. Further, it was well-known that Baldrige often stopped at the nearby C & O offices where Moles worked to use the telephone, something she would have been comfortable with, considering her father George Baldrige was also an employee with the company.

During his trial, Moles contended that he had been at home asleep at the time Baldrige was killed.

Moles' defense would later put the accused murderer's wife on the stand. With proper documentation to

support her complaints of arthritis, Mrs. Moles said she had been awake most of the night on July 27 dealing with related pain. She testified that Moles had been asleep beside her the entire time.

The Commonwealth, which had been asking for the death penalty against Moles in the case, would be made to settle for a "not guilty" verdict. The decision came from a jury consisting of 10 men and two women who deliberated just under two hours before returning the decision.

The jury's decision to find Moles not guilty of Baldrige's murder resulted in Dotson's case being dismissed and left literally thou-

sands of Prestonsburg residents without closure to what had been, for many of them, their first true exposure to brutal murder.

During early court proceedings against Moles and Dotson, it was reported that upwards of 1,000 spectators were present in the upstairs circuit courtroom for the two men's change of venue hearing.

At the time the trial came to a close, there was reportedly \$2,000 reserved in a fund operated by citizens determined to find Baldrige's killer.

With Moles' acquittal and the dismissal of charges against Dotson, the case was never solved.

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203	Mission Bed	\$715/\$745
204	Gullet Antique Bed	\$860/\$880
205	Sleigh Bed	\$825/\$865
206	Pencil Shaker Bed	\$770/\$800
207	Wrap Around	\$1,050/\$1100
208	Windsor	\$700/\$725

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Number	Description	Price
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4456	Single Ped. Round Oval	\$650
4848	Single Ped. 48" Round	\$595

Added leaves \$40 each Tulip Ped. add \$45 per pedestal

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Number	Description	Price
6070	5 Leg (turned) Two leaves	\$660
4456	4 Leg (turned) One leaf	\$605

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Number	Description	Price
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Number	Description	Price
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PCC

■ Continued from p15

By the end of August, Prestonsburg Community College had 324 students who had applied for registration. By the first day of classes, Sept. 3, in spite of what Campbell viewed as some possible confusion about registration dates, nearly half of those students showed up ready to begin work. The registration deadline was extended in light of this to allow time for the remainder to register by week's end.

The first semester was viewed as a general success, according to Campbell, who was happy to report that enrollment maintained through those first few months, and the school continues to be a convenient alternative for hundreds of prospective students each year.

Parkway

■ Continued from p14

as Pikeville, Paintsville, West Liberty, Hazard and Irvine, among others, to other parts of the state and beyond. But perhaps most significant were the changes the parkway precipitated in the economic growth of the eastern portion of the state.

Opening of the Bert T. Combs Mountain Parkway more than doubled Kentucky's turnpike mileage, expanding what was, at the time, 38 miles of turnpike to a much more impressive 81 miles.

At its opening in 1963, total costs for the building and construction of the highway rested at an estimated \$39 million.

History

■ Continued from p4

ties better find the man's killer, Sherman Early.

A brief story, running two paragraphs at the bottom right of the front page, notified citizens that a Louisville man, John Bush, had been arrested while working at a mine in Wheelwright. Bush had been wanted for murder in Louisville.

In one tragically comic story, it was reported that Kelly Kendrick was shot on Cow Creek when he was mistaken as a groundhog. "Hoot" Shepherd turned himself over to authorities after three boys were arrested as suspects in Kendrick's death, confessing that he had been the shooter.

The first issue of The Times also

1977: Flooding tests preparations, exposes weaknesses

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

It goes without saying that Floyd County has had its share of flood problems, a disturbing trend that began with the flood of 1957 and was most recently capped off by the devastating flood waters that swept the county in August of last year.

But arguably one of the most significant floods to drench the county occurred during the first

week of April 1977.

It was in the spring of that year, 20 years after the 1957 flood prompted the construction of floodwalls and brought disaster preparation to the attention of the county, that the Big Sandy River spilled from its tributaries.

The most affected sections of the county were the Martin-Allen and Betsy Layne-Harold areas. Water rose higher in Martin than the mark that had been set in 1957, while business

owners struggled to save as much as possible from buildings where deep water had destroyed most of the inventory.

The Beaver Creek area was also hit hard, with only those living in higher areas avoiding damages. The same was true for the lower sections of Allen, Dwale, Betsy Layne, Stanville and other communities along the river.

Residents along Big Sandy tributaries — Middle Creek,

Bull Creek, Beaver Creek, Cow Creek, Mud Creek and others — were dealt blows primarily from backwaters.

The floodwalls built in Prestonsburg shortly after the 1957 flood saved the central part of Prestonsburg. Waters reportedly crested at just half a foot below the floodwall line, which rested at 47 feet, but Lancer and parts of southern Prestonsburg and West Prestonsburg suffered damage comparatively less than the rest of the county.

When all was said and done, floodwaters overtook a 15-county area and damaged or destroyed more than 9,000 homes. In Floyd County, the number of homes affected stood at 1,158, according to surveys completed by HUD officials.

Millions of dollars in damages spurred help from Red Cross representatives and others. The Red Cross alone contributed \$4 million across the 15-county region to the relief of flood victims, \$297,586.95 of which went directly to Floyd County.



1979: The year coal went bust

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

The 1970s saw more Eastern Kentuckians become quick millionaires than any other period in the state's history. This was due almost entirely to a huge demand for coal that led many ambitious persons to seek riches in the coal industry.

But that "boom", as it was referred to then, would just as swiftly go "bust" and leave Floyd Countians, and a good many others throughout the state, suffering emotional and financial whiplash.

The trend in coal popularity was arguably born of a 1973 oil embargo initiated by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The embargo forced an

energy crisis and generated a large increase in the demand for coal.

Eastern Kentuckians — many of whom had been working 9-to-5 jobs — responded promptly and within months from that time were able to have their own mining operations.

Upstart mines would bear the names of sons and daughters, old loves or a favorite hunting dog. The possibilities were as endless as the potential owners.

The 1973 oil embargo was certainly the key event which thrust coal production and prices into this lucrative profit range, but Kentucky had been growing as a coal producing state long before this move. In fact, by 1972, Kentucky was listed as the nation's number one coal producing state — a position the state would

hold, in spite of unsettling decline, until 1988 when it was replaced by Wyoming.

Eastern Kentucky, which contributed its coal resources from the Appalachian Basin Coal Field, would boast 35,902 underground and surface miners — nearly four times more than the western portion of the state, which employed a little more than 11,000. The total number of employed miners in Kentucky would top out at 47,190.

These numbers reflect the state's coal mining employment for the year 1979. Matching the decline in coal demand and prices, figures would drop steadily over the next 20 years. By the year 2000, the total number of miners working in Kentucky would sink to 15,500.

But perhaps the most telling figures can be found in comparing enrollment of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the powerhouse union which formed in 1890 and became one of the largest unions in the country.

At its peak six decades ago, the UMWA towered with over 700,000 members. Membership now stands at a comparatively meager 30,000.

By the mid-1980s, Kentucky's time in the sun had passed and the rush of the energy-intensive steel industry was over. The number of mines and miners were declining, while mechanization and technology was on the rise.

With the unveiling of President Bush's coal-oriented energy plan in May of last year, coupled with the

Sept. 11 attacks roughly four months later, which saw coal become America's secure fuel for electric energy, the coal industry has enjoyed something of a rebirth.

However, the revival may go largely unnoticed by most Kentuckians due to labor shortages.

The cause for the shortage has been heavily debated. Coal operators say that emigration and lack of education about the technological improvements are to blame, while unions disagree, blaming, among other things, an age-bias in hiring.

Whatever the case, an upswing in the coal industry would be welcomed by many who are quick to remember what effect such a trend had on the lives of Eastern Kentuckians only a few decades ago.



1981: Allen parts store is scene of mass murder

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Mass murder is a term not often used here in our small corner of Eastern Kentucky. But in the fall of 1981, those two words were on the lips of quite a few Floyd Countians.

It was in October of that year that a 70-year-old Printer man left his horrible mark on Floyd County history and spearheaded nothing short of a massacre at an Allen parts store.

Shortly after noon on Friday,

Oct. 16, 1981, William O. "Okie" Bevins, entered Mountain Truck Parts at Allen welding a semiautomatic rifle and left shortly after having killed five men and injuring three others.

According to reports at the time, the slayings stemmed from an argument between Bevins and one of the five victims, 28-year-old Roger Click, which occurred earlier the same day.

Click's wife later told authorities

See ALLEN, page 18

1982: Brown's Produce relocates to Louisa

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Much like any couple hoping to start a solid business shortly after the Great Depression, George and Mary Jane Brown began with a central idea.

The man and wife decided coal miners from local mining communities in the Big Sandy Valley would find a store at which to buy groceries or items for packing a lunch to be a handy alternative. It was with this in mind that the couple opened Sandy Valley Produce on their farm in Richardson, their humble version of this idea.

For a time the Browns provided the area communities with poultry, eggs and ham, among other items, and did

well. Their success, in fact, afforded them to chance to expand their business beyond the borders of their small, family farm. When the opportunity presented itself, the Browns began to consider a move to match the growth of the store.

Three years later, in 1942, when the Brown family moved their small produce store to Prestonsburg it could be considered that few would have imagined the small, family-owned business to have stayed in the city for 40 years. More surprisingly, few might have anticipated that, after four decades, the company, by that time known as Brown's Produce Company, would move again — this time to Lawrence County.

In 1982, Brown's Produce Company decided its thriving business had finally outgrown

the building space afforded them in Prestonsburg and pulled up roots with an eye toward Louisa. Once in Louisa, the company also changed names for a third time, taking on the now more familiar name, Brown's Foodservice.

Although it may not have been the county's biggest employer, Brown's was certainly thought to be one of the biggest, if not *the* biggest, private company in the area when it left. Its expansion in 1952 to include several options for customers had given the city another employment boost as jobs opened anew to match the company's growth. For 30 more years, Brown's would continue to grow and continue to multiply the number of Floyd Countians under their employment.

Today, the company continues to service businesses in Floyd County, running each day and providing businesses big and small alike with any number of items. But one can only look to the company's 75,000 square foot, Louisa-based storage facility, coupled with a service area spanning countless cities and towns across four states, and wonder what could have been.

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1982: The Mud Creek Clinic is born

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

Well over 100 Floyd Countians pass through the small town of Grethel and stop at the Mud Creek Clinic each day to see a doctor, have a prescription filled or maybe to have an x-ray.

And each of these people may well pass the small office just to the left of the examination room entrance and notice a well-kept lady bent studiously at her desk, lost in paperwork or a pressing telephone call. Some may even wave to her or say hello, without fully realizing the impact this one woman has had on the lives she has

touched.

Most will simply know her as the director of the clinic, a nice lady always ready to give a smile and a kind word — a hard working professional. But even this flattering admiration falls short in describing what Eula Hall's contribution has meant for the people of Floyd County.

The singlemost significant contribution Hall has given her fellow Floyd Countians has been the formation of the Mud Creek Clinic. Her strides in making the Grethel health care facility a well-rounded institution for furnishing preventive health care services to area residents has affected the lives of

countless people and placed her in the Kentucky Women's Hall of Fame, an honor bestowed upon her in 1987.

Although the clinic was opened at its present location in 1982, Hall's efforts began much sooner than that. It was in 1973 the Pike County native initiated her healthcare crusade from her own home in Grethel, calling the new enterprise Mud Creek Clinic. Hall moved into a trailer adjacent to her old home at that time and would continue in this fashion for nine years until the opening of the new clinic. At this time Hall became the clinic's social director

See **CLINIC**, page 24

Allen

■ Continued from p17

that her husband had left their home, which was near the parts store, saying he was going to "call the law."

Click would be shot six times and die while attempting to place the call.

Four others were killed in Bevins' wake. Michael Halbert, 28, of Martin, who was part owner of the store, was shot twice and killed. Rufus Hamilton, 42, of Ligon, was killed after being shot seven times. Jarvey Hamilton, 27, of Grethel, died after sustaining three gunshot wounds. And Roger Hatfield, 34, of Mohawk, W.Va., died in the killing spree after being shot eight times by the aged gunman.

Once the smoke cleared, officials found that 26 .30 caliber bullets were fired into the five victims, all of whom, according to the state examiner at the time, had been shot while incapacitated on the floor of the parts store.

Reports from those who had managed to escape told a vicious story of Bevins firing a hail of bullets and then systematically killing "anything that moved" in the aftermath.

One witness, Charles May, who had the unfortunate timing to enter the store minutes after Bevins' arrival, said the killer asked him if he recognized him. May quickly explained that he did not, a move he later said very likely saved his life.

Another witness, store employee Julian Patrick, said that after the initial attack was

1996: Voters experiment with county commission

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

In 1996, 450 citizens of Floyd County began an organization with the purpose of changing the county's form of government.

By 1998, the group, which called itself "Power to the People" in a host of advertisements leading up to the election in November 1996, saw the goals for making that change become a reality. Floyd County citizens voted for the move from a magistrate form of government to a commissioner form.

The change meant that rather than four magistrates sitting on the fiscal court along with the county judge, there would be only three county commissioners. The county districts would be redrawn and trimmed from four to three.

The best thing about the new

commissioner form, argued Power to the People spokesman Bobby Dean Stumbo, of McDowell, was that, during the general election, all county citizens would vote for all three commissioners, putting, he said, more power into the hands of the county as a whole.

Stumbo and crew were not without opposition, however.

Current magistrate at the time, Jackie Edford Owens, District 2, placed one advertisement after another in the newspaper as well as buying time on local radio stations hoping to curtail the move for a new government system.

Owens argued that neighboring Johnson County, which was then running under the commissioner form of government and remains so today, was "going

See **VOTERS**, page 23

See **ALLEN**, page 19

Allen

■ Continued from p18

over, he was met with the working end of the 18-inch barrel of Bevins' rifle jutting from behind a work shelf. Patrick was questioned in the same way and then told that if he ever detailed anything about what had happened, he would be killed.

Three others were injured as a result of Bevins' actions that fall afternoon. Left wounded were Ron Bryant, 24, of Hueysville, who was listed in serious condition shortly after the incident at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington; Roy Dale Wright, 23, of Emma; and Anderson Newsome, 42, of Ligon.

Police arrested Bevins at his home later that day, where they reported he was sitting calmly on his front porch. He was jailed locally, but quickly moved to London for safekeeping.

Upon his arrest, Bevins offered to both police and court authorities the same account that he would maintain throughout the trial to come, that he had no memory of the occurrence.

Bevins told officials he had been injured in a dynamite explosion in 1963 which had caused him to suffer memory lapses since that time.

He would later secure notable defense lawyer Lester Burns to represent him in the case, which saw him faced with five counts of

capital murder and three additional counts of first-degree assault. But Burns, although eager to take the case, would not be able to counter the prosecution's strong case against Bevins.

Also against Bevins was a 51-year-old conviction against him for killing Harry Music in 1929. That murder, which investigators pointed out afforded Bevins a life term at that time, would have happened more than a quarter of a century before the alleged dynamite injury and consequent "memory lapses." However, the indictment against Bevins on the 1929 conviction could not be found in state archives.

A good deal of time was spent by prosecutors in explaining that Bevins' close attention to ensuring that everyone present at the parts store that Friday afternoon was either dead upon his departure or unable to identify him later was a possible attempt to tie up loose ends after shooting Click, perhaps his original target.

The Commonwealth Attorney's office sought the death penalty against Bevins and was awarded a guilty verdict in a trial held out of county. Burns argued early on that a fair trial for Bevins in Floyd County would have been nearly impossible. However, the elderly Bevins would die on death row in 1989 before the sentence could be carried out.



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2001: Suspect confesses to grisly store murder

by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

When third-shift worker Bonnie Jean Fraley Hall arrived to work at the Cardinal Country Store at Watergap on the night of July 11, 2001, she couldn't have known she would never walk through the front door of her home or see her children again.

For the middle-age convenience store clerk, this would be her last shift.

Authorities would find her body early the following morning, shot twice from behind at close range and left in a back storage room of the store.

James Austin Gunnels, 22, would later be arrested and charged with her murder. Police would tack another charge of first-degree robbery to the list of offenses, alleging that Gunnels took an undetermined amount of cash from the store's register.

Gunnels was arrested without incident roughly four hours later at a relative's home on Wilson's Creek. Police charged the Dwale man with theft by unlawful taking when officials recovered Hall's vehicle from the relative's home after the alleged shooting.

Months later an additional rape charge would be added when continued investigative efforts revealed strong enough evidence to support that Gunnels allegedly raped Hall as well.

Long before the three charges of murder, rape and robbery were stacked against

Gunnels, there was a buzz around the Commonwealth Attorney's office of a move to ask for the death penalty against the suspected murderer and rapist. With the addition of the rape charge, coupled with the murder and robbery offenses,

Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner would publicly announce his office's intentions to ask that Gunnels, a Floyd County native who was no stranger to the penal system, be put to death for Hall's murder.

A look at Gunnels' background revealed that he had served time for numerous offenses, including robbery. He had escaped once while assisting on a prison work program and had been released from prison just one month prior to Hall's death at the Watergap store.

Based on the allegations, the decision to grant Gunnels probation proved fatal for Hall when, during the early morning hours of July 11, 2001, Gunnels allegedly raped and then killed the 36-year-old mother of three.

One witness later told The Times during an interview that she entered the store apparently just before Hall was murdered and noticed Hall and a man standing at the counter who she later identified as Gunnels. The lady recounted a cryptic message Gunnels allegedly conveyed to her while waiting for change. "We're just killing time," the woman claimed Gunnels said to her.



Gunnels

See **SUSPECT**, page 21



2002: Republicans end 45-year drought



by **SHELDON COMPTON**
STAFF WRITER

In a county and state filled to the brim with registered Democrats, a Republican traditionally has very little chance gaining political office.

But you can't tell James "Allen" Williams that.

This past November, Williams, a 29-year-old Mud Creek resident, challenged incumbent commissioner Ermal Tackett for a seat on the fiscal court representing District 4 and won.

The upset made Williams the first member of the GOP to sit on the fiscal court since 1957, when Edgar Howell, of Harold, also represented District 4. Howell, who now lives in Marion, Ohio, served two terms on the court after first being elected in 1949.

Williams will also be the youngest member of the court.

The victory came just as the Floyd County Fiscal Court system returned to a magisterial form of government. The court returned to the magistrate form in 2000, following four years

of a commissioner system, which had been voted for, among other reasons, to help increase the chances of getting a Republican official on the court.

During the one election that was held during the time that the fiscal court existed under the commissioner form of government, a Republican failed to gain office. Once the system returned to the form of government that supposedly hindered the GOP's chance for a representative, a young face to represent that party emerged.

Once the vote count was in, it was determined that Williams defeated Tackett by a vote of 1,532 to 1,228, impressive in light of the fact that Floyd County hasn't placed a Republican in that office in 45 years.

In fact, the last year a GOP served in any Floyd County office was in 1957. Both Howell and the late Gorman Collins Sr. served in that year. Collins served as sheriff.

Williams later attributed part of his victory in the election to what he estimated to be 80 percent Democratic votes, adding that there just weren't that many registered Republicans in the county.

Thirteen years prior to the 2002 election, Williams said his father, Keith Williams ran against Tackett and was beat by approximately 300 votes.

Alan Williams would beat Tackett by 314 votes.

Williams also said that his determination to run a clean campaign also helped him overcome the odds during the election.

The University of Kentucky graduate and forestry worker stated early on that his intentions were to run a clean campaign and rely on persistence to carry him.

Signing on to run for the magistrate position a mere two days before deadline after his father declined the GOP's invitation, Williams later said his entire campaign cost about \$900.

Suspect

Continued from p20

The months following Gunnels' arrest would prove to be strange and morbid at times. The suspected killer would write a number of letters to both the commonwealth attorney's office and the judge overseeing preliminary hearings in his case.

Gunnels would later add The Floyd County Times to his mailing list, sending the newspaper a letter detailing the alleged murder. Included in the letter was a full confession and a death threat, both mirroring the

letters Gunnels had sent to his prosecutors and the judge considering his case.

Gunnels has since undergone a number of psychiatric evaluations which have found him competent to stand trial. The trial, however, will not be held in Floyd County.

Gunnels' lawyers sought a change of venue in the case, arguing that the accused killer could not receive a fair trial in Floyd County as a result of the intensive media coverage which has followed the case.

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P185/70R14	\$71.96	\$62 ⁰⁰
P175/65R14	\$77.12	\$67 ⁰⁰
P215/70R14	\$85.87	\$74 ⁰⁰
P195/65R15	\$88.46	\$77 ⁰⁰



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	WAS	NOW		WAS	NOW
P185/70R14	\$66.64	\$46 ⁰⁰	P185/65R14	\$70.56	\$61 ⁰⁰
P195/70R14	\$67.36	\$51 ⁰⁰	P205/70R14 ^{XNW}	\$72.59	\$63 ⁰⁰
P195/65R15	\$78.20	\$55 ⁰⁰	P215/70R14 ^{XNW}	\$75.13	\$65 ⁰⁰
P185/75R14 ^{XNW}	\$65.50	\$57 ⁰⁰	P185/65R15	\$75.62	\$66 ⁰⁰
P175/65R14	\$68.14	\$59 ⁰⁰	P215/65R15	\$77.53	\$67 ⁰⁰
P195/75R14 ^{XNW}	\$67.77	\$59 ⁰⁰	P235/75R15 ^{XNW}	\$83.22	\$72 ⁰⁰



GOODYEAR INTEGRITY

	WAS	NOW		WAS	NOW
P175/70R13	\$50.84	\$43 ⁰⁰	P195/75R14 ^{XNW}	\$57.44	\$50 ⁰⁰
P185/70R14	\$51.93	\$45 ⁰⁰	P195/70R14 ^{XNW}	\$58.97	\$51 ⁰⁰
P175/65R14	\$60.79	\$46 ⁰⁰	P215/75R14 ^{XNW}	\$61.50	\$53 ⁰⁰
P185/70R14 ^{XNW}	\$52.50	\$46 ⁰⁰	P215/70R14 ^{XNW}	\$63.62	\$55 ⁰⁰
P195/70R14	\$53.80	\$47 ⁰⁰	P205/65R15	\$63.39	\$55 ⁰⁰
P185/75R14 ^{XNW}	\$55.52	\$48 ⁰⁰	P225/75R15 ^{XNW}	\$68.19	\$59 ⁰⁰



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Killed

Continued from p6

It would later be agreed upon that Millard and Ike Conn did the bulk of the shooting during the battle.

Ike Conn, who was taken to the Beaver Valley Hospital in Martin after the shooting with a wound in his right thigh, was arrested by Floyd County Sheriff B.F. Sturgill under a \$10,000 bond and charged with the murders of Mimms and Millard Conn.

Shortly before dying, Mimms Conn told those attending his bedside at Martin that when the shooting began, he took no part. Instead he maintained that he hid behind a door and watched Ike Conn shoot several people before turning to fire upon him.

Mimms Conn's son, Lawrence, was also quoted at the hospital, where he told interviewers that Ike Conn shot him while he begged for his life, his revolver still in its holster.

Hayden Howell, a sup-

porter of Robinette's who was shot in the back during the fight, gave a brief description of what happened from his own hospital bed.

"When this happened," Howell was reported to have said, "Millard Conn shot Green (Conn) in the back as Green started to pull his pis-

tol. Then the shooting was almost continuous. There were 30 to 40 men and women in the room and I saw the men fall on every side of me."

Had the poll run smoothly, the elected school trustee would have been given the

See **KILLED**, page 24

History

Continued from p16

gives us an opportunity to get a look at what was going on in the early school system of our county.

One article reports that 45 teachers had recently passed their exams. Among those prepared to enter the classroom were a husband and wife team who finished first and second during the testing — W.D. and Lena Steele, of Betsy Layne. It was also reported that as of Friday, June 17, 1927, approximately \$115,000 was spent on schools throughout the county.

From the gruesome murder account to a brief article detailing the Kiwanians' most recent trip to Tennessee, The Times, behind the ambitious and hardworking typewriter of Norman Allen, was there to cover the events. Seventy-five years later, reporting the stories important to Floyd Countians remains the top priority.

Coal Camp

Continued from p5

tons of coal used annually by Inland Steel in the production of coke. It was estimated that during the 35 years Inland owned their Wheelwright properties and mines a total of 48 million tons of coal was mined from the property.

Inland Creek, which was, at the time, one of the biggest coal producers in the nation, made clear their plans to continue working most of the roughly 800 people employed by Inland Steel. These plans were in place for approximately 10 months when the community of Wheelwright was sold again.

In November, less than year after their own purchase, Inland Creek sold their property rights to a group of Floyd County men who made up the corporation, Mountain Investments Inc. for \$1.3 million.

Mountain Investments Inc. was composed of four men: J.C. Wells, of Wayland, president; Burl Spurlock, of Prestonsburg, chairman of the board; John Allen, of Prestonsburg, secretary; and John Allen Jr., of Prestonsburg, treasurer.

Conveyed in the transaction were 334 residences, 17 business properties, the company-owned utility system — which included water, gas, sewage disposal, power, TV cable and telephone systems — the town clubhouse, swimming pool and library, which marked the town as a showplace among U.S. mining communities.

Mountain Investments later underwent the

dents.

As for mining rights, Inland Creek retained these in the deal, saying then the coal operations should run at the same level, if not better than before. The coal company pointed to increases in production as testimony to this statement.

These predictions would echo painfully in the minds of Wheelwright families, who depended almost entirely on the stability of coal mining for a livelihood, when in the early 1970s Inland Creek Coal Company suspended their mining efforts indefinitely.

Mountain Investments Inc. sold the town, yet again, in 1979 to the state agency, Kentucky Housing Corporation. Despite the state agency's efforts to remodel homes and preserve the once great stature of the town, the decline of the coal industry and scars left from being jostled around for several decades were more than could be mended.

Today remnants of the Wheelwright of the late 1930s and '40s can be seen — an abandoned theater, a dilapidated city hall, a renovated swimming pool, a small community of houses along the stretch of land that was once the company golf course — but the town itself is little more than a casualty, a fallen soldier.

Perhaps the citizens of Wheelwright — a proud people who can speak of days when things were better — are all that remains of that time of prosperity. And maybe it won't matter. It would be that, in the end, their resiliency will have kept their presence in Inland Creek.

Voters

Continued from p18

broke" and was "looking to raise taxes."

Despite the ad campaigns and other attempts to win over county residents, on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1996, 6,962 Floyd Countians cast votes to make the change. Opposing the vote were a steeply outnumbered 4,467 who voted against the change.

Absentee voters also showed they were ready for a change with 234 voting for implementation of a commission form of government, winning with ease over the 118 who voted in opposition.

Early figures, calculated through exit polls, estimated that 30 of the county's 42 precincts voted in favor of the commission form.

Roughly 50 percent of registered voters participated in the election.

The local group which spearheaded the change was fairly reluctant to cite specific details they found bothersome with the magistrate government, saying only that the people of Floyd County needed better roads and changes in the water and sewer systems. The group maintained that

county money was being spent on what they viewed as secondary priorities, such as the construction of racetracks.

Elmer Lee Johnson, one of the more vocal citizens who supported the switch, characterized the vote by saying the vote reflected that the people of Floyd County were ready for a change.

Those in favor of the change touted the change as a victory for the people; those opposed stuck to their guns and continued to point out problems, but the debate would end when, in November 2000, Floyd County returned to a magistrate government.

The vote to scrap the commission form of government was nearly a complete reversal of the 1996 vote to adopt.

Whereas 4,467 voted to stay with the magistrate form in 1996, in 2000 a defeated 4,592 wanted to keep with the commissioners on the fiscal court. Also similar to the vote four years earlier, nearly 50 percent of registered voters visited the polls.

The key difference in the two elections could be said to

be the contrast in enthusiasm.

In 1996, newspapers and radio stations were pummeled with conflicting ads from both sides of the argument. The people of Floyd County were represented by a local group who spoke against the government already in place. The days leading up to the vote in 2000 were comparatively quiet, with both sides keeping more or less to themselves.

The reversal again faced the fiscal court with the task of redrawing districts again, this time to carve out a fourth district to accommodate the return of the magistrate county government.

Once all votes were accounted for, statistics revealed that 57.38 percent of Floyd County residents who voted on the government issue in 2000 elected to replace magistrates alongside the county judge, while 42.62 percent were still happy with the 1996 switch.

Last year, Jackie Edford Owens, the magistrate who fought the change in 1996, was reelected to his position as county magistrate following the 2000 vote.

Crown

Continued from p6

Burchett, who had been a key player in the team's previous two state tournament victories, helped pad the comfort zone by pitching a seven-hit game and enabled Prestonsburg to never feel threatened during the contest.

Another significant team member was left-fielder Bill Goble, who got on base nine of the 12 times he went to the plate. But Goble received more than his share of help on the offensive end as the team, as a whole, finished with a .402 overall batting average, displaying the power that had afforded them a successful regular season.

A collective glance at the three state tournament games between both Ft. Knox and Central City, as well as Newport Catholic, reflects the dominate stand the 1948 championship team maintained

despite their four failed attempts in the state tournament in previous years.

In the three tournament games combined, the Cats scored an impressive 35 runs, treating all opposing teams impartially — 14 hits and 13 runs against Ft. Knox, 12 hits and 10 runs against Central City and 15 hits and 12 runs against Newport Catholic in the championship game.

Then-Louisville Courier-Journal sports editor Earl Ruby wrote later that members of the 1948 team were "great prospects."

"The professional leagues," wrote Ruby at the time, "will hear from some of the boys in this meet."

In addition to bringing home to Floyd County its first state trophy, the champion Blackcats were invited to attend the Southeastern invita-

tional high school baseball tournament in Lakeland, Fla. The Blackcats were knocked out of the tournament in two straight losses, dropping their first game 6 to 5 to the Decatur (Ga.) Bulldogs, and their second game 9 to 3 to Avon Park, Fla.

The 1948 state high school baseball championship is, to date, the only state championship event won by a Floyd County team.

Members of that championship team were: Claude Hopson, Kyle Chaffins, Clyde Lafferty, Lewis Williamson, Stewart Lafferty, Roger Spradlin, Leon Childers, Quentin Allen, Amon Childers, Everett Burkett, Edward Garber, Henry Lewis Mayo, Bill Goble Jr., Paul Harmon, Howard Burchett, Set Branham, Don Willis and Charles Graham Porter.

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Norman Allen, Times publisher and editor for over half a century, looks over a copy of the The Times announcing the discovery of the Salk vaccine against poliomyelitis. He was pictured here in 1954 behind his trademark manual typewriter, having already been at helm of the paper for nearly three decades.

Killed

■ Continued from p22

responsibility of finding three teachers for the Prater Creek school. Sammons had already announced his plans to place Woodrow Conn, Richard Hall and

Green Conn Jr. in the positions.

During the school elections of 1933, Floyd County was not the only county to have reported

killings. One man was reported to have been killed during a school trustee election in Breathitt County and two were wounded in Lawrence County, as well.

Clinic

■ Continued from p18

and has remained firmly at that post since then.

The 75-year-old Hall, who reportedly lived for 30 years in an abusive marriage, did not break free from those constraints in order to help others break free from medical constraints until she was a middle-aged woman. Her dream of a clinic that would help tend to health problems while at the same time aiding in the elimination of at least some aspects of social injustice in Eastern Kentucky was made possible through her intelligent use of a single federal grant.

It was this grant which helped fund what has now become some people's primary source for medical assistance.

Hall has reflected through numerous interviews that she often keeps in mind her poverty-riddled life growing up on Greasy Creek as one member of a sharecropper's family who struggled with the everyday task of managing flour and beans for supper. It was from these experiences,

Hall said, she gleaned her preoccupation with the crippling abyss presented those without money.

In addition to providing alternatives for medical treatment to Floyd and surrounding counties, Hall also includes in her list of priorities efforts to collect clothing for needy children and other donations.

The Mud Creek Clinic is

today a fully functioning medical clinic, complete with a medical staff, trained nurses, dental and pharmaceutical departments, x-ray capabilities and a host of other services. The comparatively small, brick building in Grethel has been visited by a number of local, state and national figures, including a trip made in the fall of 1998 by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson.

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