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— Section C

briefs

Fugitive waives extradition

After arresting William M. Ward, 33, for traffic violations on Friday, July 5, in Prestonsburg, a hit from NCIC/LINK informed police that he was a fugitive from justice from Suwannee County, Florida.

According to court records, Ward, who has a Pikeville address, was arrested on July 5, by Lt. Shawn Roop of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, in Prestonsburg for traffic violations. Roop then learned that Ward was wanted by Florida officials.

Records show that a warrant was issued for Ward's arrest on Sept. 19, 2001, by the Suwannee County Circuit Court. Ward was accused of violating the conditions of his probation when he signed out of the Probation Restitution Center in Jacksonville, Fla., at 5:40 a.m., to go to work and failed to return.

Ward was placed on probation on June 24, 1997, for charges of four counts of grand theft and one count of felony criminal mischief.

Ward was arraigned in Floyd Circuit Court on Monday, when a waiver of extradition was filed.

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2 DAY FORECAST



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

Woman attacked, raped in Dixie home

by RALPH B. DAVIS
MANAGING EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — No arrests have been made following the Independence Day discovery of a Goble Roberts woman who had been raped and severely beaten in her home, and her family is

offering a reward for information leading to a conviction.

The woman was discovered at her residence at Dixie Heights Apartments around 12:30 p.m. Thursday by her boyfriend. She was found naked and unconscious in her floor, disoriented and with slurred speech.

The victim's daughter took her to Highlands Regional Medical Center, where she was held and treated for four days. The hospital performed rape tests, the results of which were turned over to the Prestonsburg Police Department, the daughter said.

The victim was covered in

bruises following the attack.

"She was beaten from her eye to the tops of her feet," the daughter said.

The victim herself, who was interviewed by The Floyd County Times, sported a black eye and displayed several of the bruises along her arms and shoulders.

When asked if she remembered the incident, she replied, "Very, very little."

The victim said she cannot remember the attack or identify anyone who committed it. The only thing she said she remem-

(See ATTACK, page six)



photo by Kathy Prater

Casey D. Johnson, the son of Atha and Felisha Johnson, of McDowell, was ecstatic after receiving a laptop computer from the Dream Factory of Eastern Factory.

FACTORY MAKES ANOTHER DREAM COME TRUE

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

McDOWELL — Casey D. Johnson, the son of Atha and Felisha Johnson, of McDowell, was full of questions as Jennifer Greathouse, secretary of the Dream Factory of Eastern Factory, pointed out a few highlighted features of a brand-new laptop computer that the organization recently presented to the young boy. Casey, who is confined to a

wheelchair, has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).

"DMD is the most common and severe form of inherited muscular dystrophy," said Felisha Johnson, "this disease can strike anyone at any time of their life, it can happen to anybody. In Casey's case, it happened, suddenly, 3 years ago. If there is one thing we would like to do, that is to

(See DREAM, page six)

Hospital, union remain hopeful as workers vote on contract

by JARRID DEATON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — As a Friday deadline nears for Highlands Regional Medical Center, the hospital is preparing for a possible strike. But both sides say they are cautiously optimistic that such preparations will prove unnecessary.

Talks between Highlands and representatives of the Service Employees International Union

District 1199 began on July 1, with a vote scheduled for today.

Negotiations have been ongoing in an attempt to prevent the strike from occurring.

The main issues of the meetings are wages and the hospital's use of temporary workers.

Kathy Rubado, public relations director for the hospital, is optimistic about the meetings.

"The negotiations are going well," Rubado said.

While the strike can be avoid-

ed with the negotiations, the hospital is preparing for the situation if the Friday deadline is not met.

"We have staff in town ready to provide care if we need them," Rubado said.

Kathy McCormick, administrative organizer for SEIU, also appears to be cautiously optimistic.

"I am very pleased with the way that we and management are

(See HIGHLANDS, page six)

Mother gets 5 years for running over child

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The woes of drinking and driving were evident Tuesday, in Floyd Circuit Court, when Joyl R. Middleton, 27, of Grethel, pleaded guilty to second-degree assault for backing her car over her 3-

year-old child last November.

In exchange for her plea, prosecutors will recommend that Middleton spend the next five years behind bars.

According to Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner, the incident occurred late at night at Mink Branch, on Mud Creek, where Middleton, her 3-

year-old child and Jelinda Williams were attempting to go up a steep hill when Middleton's car stalled.

Turner said that Williams testified that when Middleton started to back off the steep incline, Williams decided to take the child

(See MOTHER, page nine)

Ross won't seek another term

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

The chairman of the Floyd County Board of Education, the Rev. Johnnie E. Ross, says that he has, after much anguish, decided to not seek reelection to the board this fall.

Ross said that the decision was one that he had spent many hours struggling with.

"Ultimately," he said, "I made a decision based on family. It's an ecclesiastical sort of thing, you know — for every-

thing there is a season. I have a lot on my plate right now. We're remodeling our house, our church is undergoing remodeling, I'm in the middle of pulling together an educational center for children ages 3-4 that will be housed in our church, I serve on other boards such as the David School board, which is extremely important work to me. I firmly believe in the concept of the David School, that those that

(See ROSS, page six)

District fares poorly in results; students do better after school

by RALPH B. DAVIS
MANAGING EDITOR

As is the case in standardized test results, the Floyd County school district scored near the bottom when compared with its counterparts statewide in most non-academic data released Monday by the state Department of Education.

But in spite of all that, it appears Floyd County students are performing remarkably well in making the transition to life after high school.

The "transition to adult life" statistics released Monday were the only among non-academic

(See DATA, page nine)

Dropouts sink three schools

by RALPH B. DAVIS
MANAGING EDITOR

Most of Floyd County's high schools are officially out of the running for earning reward money as part of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System, regardless of how they score when test results are released in the fall.

That's because of how they fared in non-academic data released Monday by

(See SUNK, page six)



photo by Amanda M. Arnett

On Monday, Greg C. Clark, an eight-year veteran of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, was promoted to lieutenant by Sheriff John K. Blackburn. Clark will supervise eight officers in the sheriff's department.

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Odds and Ends

■ **EAU CLAIRE, Mich.** - The Young Gun was a little better than the Pellet Gun. Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause - a 12-time winner of the annual Cherry Pit Spitting Championship - was defeated by his eldest son, Brian "Young Gun" Krause on Saturday. Brian Krause, 24, spit a cherry pit 61 feet, 2 inches to beat

his 48-year-old father, who topped out at 55 feet, 10 inches. Rick Krause's youngest son, 19-year-old Matt "BB Gun" Krause, was third with a distance of 45 feet, 2 1/2 inches. "This is the first time we ever did that," Brian Krause said of the one-two-three finish. Brian's son, Braden Krause, won the under-5 division with a

spit of 14 feet, 4 inches. The Krauses have come to embrace their status as pit-spitting royalty. Rick Krause appeared for his turn to spit wearing bright red tights and riding a sparkling purple motorcycle as rock music played in the background. He also signed "Pellet Gun Krause" trading cards and

posed for photos with fans prior to the contest. "Cherry pit spitting is like a good sneeze. They're both therapeutic," said Herb Teichman, owner of the event's site, the Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm.

■ **STOLLINGS, W.Va.** - Sally Wall is more than a waitress. She's a fixture at Morrison's Drive-In, so popular with customers that the establishment offers \$1 gift certificates with her picture called "Sally Dollars." "She's been here so long, I thought she'd die right there on the curb," said Bob Mayhorn, Morrison's owner and the son-of-law of co-founder Leonard L. Reffeitt. But Morrison's soon will lose its star waitress. Wall turns 75 on Aug. 13, and she has decided it will be her last day on the job. After 47 years, she is putting away her order pad for good.

"She's fantastic," Mayhorn said. "She's great for public relations. I'll probably have to hire two people to replace her. Everybody in town knows Sally. When people pull up, she orders for them. She knows what everybody wants." Wall began working at Morrison's in 1955, when the drive-in's best-known offering, hot dogs, cost 20 cents each. She said she could not begin to count how many hot dogs she has served, but that customers still take home gallons of Reffeitt's sauce. "I could tell you some funny stories," she said, "but I'd probably get sued."

■ **MUNCIE, Ind.** - A man was charged with bigamy after his wife found his name in a newspaper listing of marriage licenses. Leo D. Youngblood, 26, was charged last week with bigamy, a felony carrying a 1 1/2-year prison term. An initial hearing was set for Thursday in Delaware Circuit Court. Youngblood married Rebecca J. Copley on April 10 while still married to Michelle Youngblood, according to prosecutors. Michelle Youngblood reported the second marriage to police after she saw her husband's name in the marriage license listings.

■ **ST. LOUIS** - In case anyone in Tom Bauer's ward wonders if the alderman is a Democrat, the politician's donkey should be a giveaway. And if Bauer has his way, he'll ride Dan the donkey all the way into another term in the city's 24th Ward. Bauer walks or rides the 4-year-old pet donkey more than three miles a day through the neighborhood, often getting a

double take or two. Dan has replaced Bauer's beloved Scotty, a 10-year-old donkey that died unexpectedly last summer while Bauer was vacationing. Scotty had been a neighborhood fixture, carrying Bauer door-to-door as a campaign gimmick on behalf of Bauer or another Democrat the alderman backed. Bought in Paris, Tenn., Dan also is being groomed to one day hit the campaign trail for Bauer, running for re-election next spring, or for other Democrats running locally before then. To Bauer, 57, campaigning with a donkey is easy. All the questions are about the animal, not on Bauer's platform. Donkeys are "extremely affectionate, fun to interact with but so terribly stubborn. That aspect makes it difficult," Bauer said last week, coaxing Dan into his hay-lined stall inside the garage.

■ **CHARLESTON, S.C.** - The starting pitcher said it felt like playing in a cemetery. It was so quiet he could hear the beer and peanut vendors in the stands. The Charleston Riverdogs lost 4-2 to the Columbus RedStixx on Monday night as the Class A Tampa Bay Devil Rays affiliate padlocked the gates and kept hundreds of fans outside Joe Riley Stadium. This was "Nobody Night" - a promotion designed to set the record for professional baseball's lowest attendance. "I understood what was going on, but you know, a couple of guys said, 'We're professional athletes, it kind of stinks not to have fans there the whole time cheering you on,'" Riverdogs pitcher John Vigue said.

Only reporters, scouts and employees were allowed into the game. Fans were turned away and sent just outside the ballpark to a party where discounted food and beer were offered. Hundreds gathered outside the main gate, waiting to come in once the game was declared official after the fifth inning and the attendance was recorded as zero. Bob Quirin, 57, of Millstadt, Ill., wasn't thrilled to see only four innings. "I don't think it's a real good idea," he said. "I thought it was kind of silly."

■ **EVERETT, Wash.** - The recorded telephone message to 160 prospective Snohomish County Superior Court jurors was clear: Report for orientation at 5 a.m. sharp. The message also was wrong. It was corrected Sunday evening to give the correct time, 8:30 a.m., but by then many had quit checking the call-in phone message. About 70 arrived Monday morning to find that the room where they had been told to go was unlit, unheated and - except for themselves - unoccupied. "It wasn't funny sitting around a cold, dark room," said Alix O'Donnell. "We were peeved," said Diane Halverson.

Finally, the court staffer who made the mistake appeared and tearfully apologized, receiving applause from many of those who had showed up 3 1/2 hours early, Halverson said. "She felt very bad," she said. "Her apology, people felt, was heartfelt." County officials did not identify the employee. The blunder occurred Friday

while the county's regular jury coordinator was on vacation, said Val Stone, assistant court administrator. She said she corrected the message as soon as a friend told her of the error. "We screwed up, made a big mistake," Stone said. In the future, she said, more than one person will check the jury voice message.

■ **HARRISBURG, Pa.** - No matter how much some people treat their pets like children, the law doesn't allow a divorced couple to have joint custody of a dog, a state appeals court ruled.

Anthony DeSanctis worked out an agreement with Lynda Hurley Pritchard when they divorced in 2000 that dealt mostly with the future of Barney, a dog Pritchard had gotten from an animal shelter two months before the couple separated in 1996. The agreement said the dog was Pritchard's, but set up an arrangement that allowed DeSanctis to visit him, according to court records.

In March of 2000, however, Pritchard moved from Chester County to Bucks County and no longer made Barney available for DeSanctis to visit. In a decision released Friday, the Pennsylvania Superior Court agreed with the Chester County Court of Common Pleas that the law cannot treat the dog like a child. "Despite the status owners bestow on their pets, Pennsylvania law considers dogs to be personal property," Justice Frank J. Montemuro wrote.

He said he agreed with the trial courts that DeSanctis was seeking a court order that is "analogous, in law, to a visitation schedule for a table or a lamp." The court noted that DeSanctis still had a legal recourse: He could sue for breach of contract, but all he could get would be the dog's monetary value.

■ **TACOMA, Wash.** - Gail and Bill Brooks hope whoever stole their parrot is annoyed enough with his noise to be having second thoughts. The owners of the Pet Pavilion have collected nearly \$3,000 to offer as a reward for the return of Bonzo, a 10-year-old African gray parrot they raised from birth and brought with them when they moved from Florida.

Bonzo, less than a foot tall and worth about \$2,000, vanished from the Brooks' emergency animal care and boarding operation June 23 while they were on vacation in Hawaii. African grays are not rare and have a typical lifespan of 50 years in captivity and 75 years in the wild. Bonzo is uncommonly noisy, Gail Brooks said. "Whoever stole him is probably getting tired of him asking, 'Where's Bill?'" she said. "It really is like having a child in the house when he's here." Bonzo readily sings a version of the song "Bingo" using his own name and squawks "Bonzo pretty, Bonzo smart" and "Night, night" at bedtime. Other routines include "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too" from the "Wizard of Oz" and "A parrot's life for me" from the Pirates of the Caribbean ride at Disneyland.

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Wilkinson remembered as a fighter, friend

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT - Former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson was remembered as a fighter for things he believed in and a loyal friend Tuesday at a ceremony bereft of most of the trappings of his former office save for a Kentucky flag draping his coffin.

Wilkinson died Friday at age 60 after losing a battle to cancer.

Wilkinson grew up in Casey County with a special appreciation of the power of government to help people, said Danny Briscoe, once one of his closest political advisers.

"He grew up with the history and the tradition," Briscoe said. He took that with him to the office when he won a stunning election in 1987.

Wilkinson loved the job as much as anyone who has ever been governor, Briscoe said.

But his term was marked by turmoil. Wilkinson tangled with the General Assembly almost constantly. He often defied traditional power brokers.

"By and large, he enjoyed fighting and he got into a lot of them," Briscoe said.

One of those fights, however, eventually produced the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act - KERA - generally considered one of the most significant

milestones in Kentucky in the 20th century.

"He was a fighter for education," said his predecessor, former Gov. Martha Layne Collins.

He also created the Kentucky Lottery and built roads to areas long neglected by the state in southern, eastern and western Kentucky especially.

His former press secretary, Doug Alexander, said many politicians get criticized for neglecting their promises. Wilkinson was no ordinary politician.

"Wallace got criticized for doing exactly what he said he would do," Alexander said.

There was another side to Wilkinson, recalled Palmer Young, the former president of Kentucky Christian College, who first knew him as a youth.

"If Wallace Wilkinson was your friend, you could mark it down," said Young, who also led a prayer at Wilkinson's inauguration. "He would always know you. He would never, never leave you."

Wilkinson was a close husband to his wife, Martha, whom he met at age nine, and a loving father to his two sons, Glenn and Andrew, said the Rev. Jim Bird of the Broadway Christian Church.

Bird recalled the joy Wilkinson had with his sons,

riding, hunting, fishing and traveling. "Your dad was a man's man," Bird told the sons, who sat in the front row, flanking Martha Wilkinson.

The funeral program was titled a "Homegoing Celebration" and Bird said Wilkinson's life was one to be celebrated.

"For you see, Wallace lived; he lived. He didn't walk through this world, he marched," Bird said.

Wilkinson's fall was nearly as spectacular as his rise.

Unable to win a constitutional amendment to seek a second term, Wilkinson returned to the college textbook company that had formed the basis of his business empire. But a failed attempt to create an online book company led to a very public bankruptcy. Creditors claimed Wilkinson hid millions and eventually many of his possessions were sold away.

His lymphoma, first diagnosed in 1991 near the end of his term, returned in a particularly aggressive form early this year. By May he was hospitalized and he died July 5.

The funeral brought out a collection of friends, political figures, members of the Wilkinson administration and even some business associates.

Gov. Paul Patton, who ordered state flags flown at half-staff Tuesday, was an honorary pallbearer. Former Gov. Ned Breathitt attended, along with Jack Foster, Wilkinson's education secretary, and L. Rogers Wells, the former secretary of the Finance Cabinet.

Charles Wethington, whom Wilkinson helped install as president of the University of Kentucky attended, as did Donald and Dudley Webb, the Lexington developers.

Even though he frequently feuded with them, legislators attending included House Speaker Jody Richards and Democratic floor leader Greg Stumbo.

Wilkinson's family was offered the opportunity to have a service in the Capitol, but declined. His burial was also private.

Wilkinson kept outsider status even while in office

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT - Wallace Wilkinson came into Kentucky politics as an outsider and stayed that way through his term and after, trying to bend to his will a system that often defied him.

The former governor, who died Friday after battling cancer, came into office with "about the same perspective as most people who've been totally running their own show and own business. He was just pretty much used to calling all the shots," said former Senate President John "Eck" Rose. "That works in business. It doesn't always work in government."

Predictably, Rose and other leaders of the General Assembly soon found themselves butting heads with a pugnacious governor who could turn on the charm or heap contempt.

Wilkinson seemed to relish confrontation. In a book he wrote after leaving office, Wilkinson said he deliberately fought with the General Assembly because it had been gaining power at the expense of the executive branch.

"I came into office understanding that I would have to put up a fight for some of the things

I wanted," Wilkinson wrote. "All this talk about 'working with the General Assembly' actually was nonsense. ... From a practical standpoint, I really had no other option than to enter into open political warfare with the legislature."

The conflict robbed Wilkinson of some credit for what is arguably the greatest change in Kentucky government in the last half-century - the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act.

Richard "Smitty" Taylor, who was Wilkinson's chief of staff for much of the administration and is now a prominent lobbyist in Frankfort, said Wilkinson has yet to be given proper credit for his role in education reform.

As a candidate in 1987, Wilkinson issued a minutely detailed white paper on education that called for a redesign of public schools and a rethinking of how they should operate.

He proposed giving special help to schools in high-poverty districts, rewarding schools that did well and holding all schools accountable for their performances - all of which was eventually incorporated in KERA.

"I don't think Wallace ever got the credit he deserved for education reform," Taylor said. "If you go back and look at his plan for education, it is a mirror for KERA."

But Rose, who left the General Assembly after 1998,

(See STATUS, page seven)

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Viewpoint

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— Joseph Conrad

Guest View

Medicaid requires better planning

As simply a stopgap measure, the state's reimbursement payments to health care providers seems an acceptable solution to dealing with a projected shortfall in Medicaid.

At some point, however, the state must come up with a long-range plan to deal with a Medicaid system where costs are spiraling out of control and resources are nowhere close to keeping pace. A shortfall of more than \$216 million is expected by 2004.

In an effort to save \$60 million over the next calendar year, the state plans to lengthen its payment schedule to medical providers. As it stands now, the state makes Medicaid reimbursement payments for services provided every seven days. That payment schedule will be expanded to every 14 days, and will eventually go to 21 days by next year.

The problem with this plan is that it only provides temporary relief. While businesses may defer payments as long as possible to help alleviate cash flow problems, the shortfalls facing Medicaid are more than a bump in the road caused by a struggling economy.

The state's payment plan resembles how it has chosen to handle revenue shortfall in other areas, plans that lacked foresight and merely passed the problem along to other entities.

In this case it's the medical providers who will feel the brunt. Earlier this year, the pain was felt by local school districts forced to lay off teachers when the state required them to pick up insurance costs on federally funded employees.

And over a seven-year period in the late 1980s and early 90s, the taxpayers were asked to bear the burden as refund checks were delayed five times so the state could balance its budget.

We understand that government's role is to look out for the best interests of all Kentuckians, not just a handful, such as pharmacists or teachers. At the same time, these problems can be attributed in large part to poor planning.

Legislators have talked for years about the need for tax reform but have been unable to develop an acceptable plan. In the meantime, they have continuously cut revenue streams that some estimate will leave the state more than \$2 billion short of revenues needed to meet routine needs by the end of this decade.

Better planning will be needed to address Medicaid problems.

— The Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro



Guest Column

Kentucky can prevent a \$2 billion deficit

by RICK GRAYCAREK

The Kentucky General Assembly adjourned this May without passing a state budget. Kentucky can survive without a budget for only so long. Unfortunately, failing to act will only make our fiscal condition worse. Kentucky faces a \$2 billion budget deficit by 2010 unless services are cut or taxes raised, according to a report released by the Kentucky General Assembly and prepared by a legislative consultant. The report received extensive media coverage. However, neither the House nor the Senate moved to include any of the consultant's recommendations in the state's biennial spending plan. Instead, the elected officials choose to bicker over a \$9

million campaign finance appropriation.

In addition to ignoring the report's finding, the General Assembly failed to act on a plan to modernize Kentucky's revenue system. Opponents blocked even the most minor tax adjustments — both increases and decreases — that would streamline or modernize Kentucky's tax code.

Nearly all of Kentucky's legislators acknowledge Kentucky's difficult fiscal situation. So why was nothing done to address the budget shortfall either during the regular session or the special session that followed? Kentucky's looming \$2 billion budget deficit should be reason enough to modernize our tax system. But there are plenty of other reasons as well.

First, revenues will continue to decline. The Commonwealth has not adjusted its revenue plan to reflect the dramatic economic changes of the past two decades.

Economic activity has shifted

from primarily consumable goods like automobiles and steel to mostly untaxed service activities like fast food, accounting and advertising. Our state government collects fewer revenues per dollar of economic activity today than it did just 10 years ago. The legislature should address this problem by examining ways to equitably expand the sales tax base. For example, just capturing revenues lost to catalog and internet sales would net an estimated \$84 million a year. Second, individual incomes will stagnate. Despite the tremendous economic growth of the 1980s and 1990s, Kentuckians' annual pay still lags behind the rest of the country. For 2000, the average annual pay in Kentucky was \$28,800. The national average was \$35,300 or \$6,500 more. In hourly terms, more than one in four (28 percent) of Kentucky's employed wage and salaried workers earned \$7.15 per hour or less in 2001.

In addition, a recent report by

the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that the poorest Kentuckians had the slowest income growth between 1978 and 2000. Every other income group experienced double-digit growth. The poorest Kentucky workers' incomes rose by only 8.6 percent. Because lower-income persons tend to spend more of their income than other persons, encouraging and supporting work is one way to address this issue. A state earned income tax credit modeled on the federal government's credit is one option. It promotes work by letting low-income persons keep more of their incomes. It also provides a fiscal stimulus through higher consumer spending. Third, poor people will become poorer. Kentucky's individual income tax disproportionately burdens lower-income persons. In fact, a working person earning just \$5,400 this year will owe the state money.

(See GUEST, page twelve)

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Letters

Display still growing

Thank you, Floyd County Times and Loretta Blackburn, for the article about the veteran's display at Sam Blankenship's Edward Jones Office. It is very gratifying to recognize our relatives and neighbors who so gladly fought so we may remain free.

We found only one correction, a very minor one. It should be Robert (Itch) Branham instead of Robert Brown.

Many pictures and articles have been added to the display since the article. We are privileged to have a picture and a flower arrangement of Col. Ruby Bradley, an Army nurse and prisoner of war in World War II and Korea. She was the most decorated lady

to have served in the military. She was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on July 2 with full military honors. Thanks to her nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Moon) Bradley for loaning them to us.

Mrs. Roberta Crider brought pictures of her three brothers, the Laffertys, made during World War II. Also look for the picture of a young Ishmael Greer and E.B. May Jr. and his brother Bill, donors of the history May House.

June Cooley, office manager, will accept your pictures and calls through the month of July. Take time to stop by and pay tribute to all our servicemen and women.

Thank you, and God bless all veterans and their families.

Jeanne Blankenship
Prestonsburg

Not coming back

The following letter was also sent to Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin, the Prestonsburg Police Department, Gov. Paul Patton and Holiday Inn Guest Relations.

On Saturday, May 25, my three brothers and I traveled from Pennsylvania and Ohio to decorate graves in Johnson County. We then checked in to the Holiday Inn in Prestonsburg and had a late lunch before going golfing at Stone Crest Golf Course. The course was spectacular and the management there was extremely courteous and polite, just like everyone else we had met in Johnson and Floyd counties.

After golf, we wanted to

have a couple of beers to relive our good and bad shots on the golf course. We decided the best place to do that would be at the Holiday Inn lounge, so we wouldn't have any requirement to drive after consuming alcohol.

The lounge had a karaoke night and my younger brother John wanted to sing, but couldn't quite get up the nerve. After several beers and a full day of activities, we headed back to our rooms to get some sleep (our average age is 55) and end a nearly perfect day. The "nerveless" younger brother sang "Under the Boardwalk" as we walked back to the room. Since we were in the hallways of the Holiday Inn complex all the way back to our rooms, he kept his voice at or below the levels of a

(See LETTERS, page twelve)

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.

Health Extra

Vaccine tests aim to fight deadly diarrhea worldwide

by LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON - From Missouri to Mexico, Virginia to Venezuela, doctors are giving thousands of babies two experimental vaccines hoping to stop a type of diarrhea that kills more than 600,000 children worldwide each year.

It's a difficult quest: The first rotavirus vaccine was pulled off the market in 1999 after a lifethreatening side effect struck some U.S. babies, making American parents cautious about testing new, hopefully safer, versions. But doctors in developing countries, where rotavirus hits hardest, are telling public health experts they're

desperate for protection.

"This is a disease that's democratic. Every kid in the world gets it. Every kid in the world could benefit from a vaccine that's safe and effective," says Dr. Roger Glass of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Drug giants Merck & Co. and GlaxoSmithKline now are testing two rotavirus vaccine candidates in a total of 12 countries; Merck's testing includes U.S. babies. In addition, the CDC is working with scientists in India on their own version.

Rotavirus, an intestinal infection, is the leading cause of severe diarrhea in young children. It can rapidly kill, as the sickest children become dehy-

drated from 10 to 20 episodes of diarrhea in a single day.

Each year, 3 million U.S. children, mostly babies and preschoolers, get rotavirus. Good medical care here means few deaths - roughly 40 a year - but 65,000 are hospitalized. Rotavirus costs the nation more than \$1 billion annually in medical bills and parents' lost productivity.

The death toll is much worse in developing countries - about one child in every 250 dies of rotavirus, Glass says. "They're so dehydrated they wither up like a flower, their eyes sink," he recalls of his days treating rotavirus in Bangladesh.

The last attempt at a vaccine ended in 1999, when American

Home Products pulled its RotaShield off the market after a year of sales left 20 U.S. infants with a lifethreatening bowel obstruction. It was a very rare side effect - hitting one in 10,000 vaccine recipients - but deemed too great for Americans because so few babies here die of rotavirus. Many developing countries complained that RotaShield could have saved at least 100 of their children's lives for every case of bowel obstruction.

Now scientists are developing vaccines they hope will prove safer. Each is made from a live strain of rotavirus, but not the monkey strain used in RotaShield - the theory, still unproven, is that that may be a

key safety difference.

-Merck's version is a mix of cow and human strains, the types thought to cause most of the world's rotavirus illnesses. Merck says in early studies, babies had none of the fever and very little of the viral spread in the intestines that often accompanied RotaShield - promising safety signs. Now final Phase 3 testing has begun here and in Finland, Belgium, Germany, Puerto Rico and Jamaica, aiming to enroll at least 60,000 babies, hopefully enough to rule out the side effect.

Merck won't say how many have been vaccinated so far, but "enrollment has not been as enthusiastic as for RotaShield" because U.S. parents and pedia-

tricians remember the frightening bowel problem, says Dr. David Matson of Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va., a lead investigator.

-Glaxo's version is a single human-only strain culled from an American baby who never had symptoms, suggesting the immune system is spurred enough by this mild infection to protect. Glaxo notes the human strain has never been linked to bowel obstruction, but studies must prove that safety.

Glaxo now is completing Phase 2 trials in Singapore, Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela, and plans final testing in tens of thousands of babies mostly in

(See **VACCINES**, page seven)

Owensboro plant will make AIDS, cancer vaccine

The Associated Press

OWENSBORO - An Owensboro biomedical facility will soon begin producing a vaccine that treats both cervical cancer and AIDS.

Large Scale Biology Corp. signed an agreement on Monday with South Africa's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town to collaborate on the development and manufacture of the vaccines.

They would be produced at Large Scale's Owensboro plant and delivered to the University of Cape Town for human clinical trials, said Ed Rybicki, a professor at the university, told The Messenger-Inquirer of Owensboro.

"If the clinical trials are successful, we would produce (vaccines) for the U.S. market in Owensboro," said Large Scale chairman Robert Erwin.

Large Scale, based in Vacaville, Calif., specializes in using plants to create proteins used in the manufacturing of drugs and enzymes.

The Owensboro facility currently has a contract with Growers Research Group of Monterey County, Calif., to produce an antimicrobial enzyme designed to wipe out several plant diseases; an agreement with Phylogix Inc., a

Scarborough, Maine, biotech company, to grow hyacinths to create a product to protect and repair tissue damage caused by chemotherapy; and a Large Scale-developed drug for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The new vaccines will be extracted from specialized tobacco plants, called *Nicotiana excelsiana*. The company patented the species earlier this year.

Erwin said there are no health risks associated with growing the vaccines in tobacco plants.

"It is a very, very safe process," he said.

Large Scale has not announced a timetable for commercial production of the vaccines. The South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative has set a goal of having "an affordable, effective and locally relevant HIV vaccine" by 2010.

Preclinical testing will take one to two years, Erwin said.

Nearly 75 percent of the estimated 40 million people who have HIV/AIDS live in Africa, the United Nations estimates. About 4.74 million victims live in South Africa.

Monday's agreement gives the University of Cape Town rights to the sale of vaccines in Africa. Large Scale gets those rights for North America and Europe. And the two groups will share the rights in the rest of the world.

Rybicki said the agreement "brings appropriate technology to South Africa to enable the development of cost-effective vaccines for Africa."



Left to Right: Retha Shepherd, Dorothy Salyer, Gail Stewart, Tracy Patton

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SPECIAL SINGING

Everyone Welcome!



Council seeks more input on plan to bill for fire runs

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG

During its Monday meeting, the Prestonsburg City Council agreed to send a proposal to bill insurance companies for emergency runs back to committee for further investigation.

The city's finance and revenue committee had suggested billing residents' insurance companies for responding to certain fire situations.

The discussion concerning the proposed procedure for billing was declared as being for insurance companies only. Mayor Jerry Fannin said that the city had planned to bill only those residents who have insurance. Otherwise, the department would not generate a bill.

Fannin said that certain insurance policies have a maximum of \$500 coverage, and it seems that while 15 percent would be retained by the company filing for the coverage, the rest would

help compensate the fire department for expenses incurred.

Councilman Roy Compton said he had received calls from people who were concerned that their insurance premiums would rise. Compton and Councilman Billy Ray Collins voiced their intentions to avoid the proposal if it would cost citizens money.

Fannin suggested that before the council acts, they should receive input from insurance agents who could answer questions concerning premium increases.

The motion to accept the proposal died and it was sent back to the finance and revenue committee until more information can be obtained.

Compton asked for an update on the Holland house located on Graham Street, which some residents have termed an "eyesore," to which Larry Adams, fire marshal, responded that the city is doing everything it can legally do to get the house torn down.

"We are not stalling," said Adams. "These things just take time."

Adams had issued an Order to Remedy on May 15, giving owners Clayton and Carol Holland 30 days to remove or repair the house. On June 14, Janet M. Hall, general counsel

for the Department of Housing Buildings and Construction, sent the Hollands a letter acknowledging receipt of their appeal, but informing them that it was not filed in a timely manner. She wrote that Adams had been notified that the May 15 Order to Remedy was final and

could be enforced.

City Attorney David H. Neeley said that the city had received the final word and procedures to remove the house could start one week following the cease of work on the house.

Another concern voiced by Collins was that of the exit from U.S. 23 onto University Drive. He suggested that the council request lighting for that area because it was hard to see at night. He also commented on the lack of lighting at the exit to

Highlands.

Tom Harris, Prestonsburg Public Works, complimented the Prestonsburg Fire Department on the Fourth of July fireworks display. Fire Chief Mike Wells said that the extra help from the Floyd County Rescue Squad and the Department of Public Works made everything better. He said that all firefighters had done a terrific job and he wanted to thank the city administration for paying the bill.

Judge's house target of burglary

by JARRID DEATON
STAFF WRITER

MARTIN — The Kentucky State Police are asking for help concerning the break-in and burglary of a residence belonging to a Floyd County judge.

According to Det. David Maynard, the Martin home of Circuit Judge Danny Caudill was

burglarized on Tuesday, July 2, between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

"We have absolutely no information as of yet," Maynard said.

According to Maynard, a white female driving a dark colored car is usually in the area at a roadside sale near the area where Caudill's home was burglarized.

"She could have seen someone drive up to the house, or noticed someone suspicious in the area," Maynard said.

Anyone with any information should contact Det. David Maynard at the Kentucky State Police, (800) 222-5555.

Attack

bers is seeing three silhouetted figures. She said that during the attack she was held by two of the attackers while a third raped her, and that they took turns.

The victim's daughter said her mother has lived in the apartment since April and has had trouble before, but nothing of this magnitude. She said one man has been seen looking in her mother's windows and that he had grabbed her on one occasion.

At other times, the victim and daughter say they have returned to the apartment to find the doors unlocked, although they distinctly remembered locking them before they left.

When the victim was discovered, both of her phones were left off the hook and the doors to her apartment had been locked from the inside. Her daughter

believes her mother may have locked the doors out of instinct after the attack.

The Times was unable to press time to contact any of the officers working on the case. Prestonsburg Police Chief Darrell Conley said he had been on vacation and could not comment because he knew none of the details about the case.

The victim's family is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the attack. They are asking anyone with information to contact either the Prestonsburg Police Department at 886-1010 or Kentucky State Police at (800) 222-5555.

The Floyd County Times does not disclose the identities of victims of sex crimes.

Ross

struggle with life's circumstances be provided with the opportunity to succeed... There is just a lot going on and I had to make a decision in regard to where my attentions were most needed."

Ross went on to say that he feels strongly that his service to the Floyd County school system was "some of the most rewarding work I have ever done." Ross also admitted that serving on the board "was, at the same time, some of the most frustrating work I have ever done." That said, Ross maintains that his decision to not seek reelection "has nothing to do with the system."

"I have been very honored to have served with this board, and with this particular board, which is composed of some of the best people I have ever met," Ross said. "One of the greatest honors I have ever received was when I realized that the voting public had enough confidence in me to elect me to the position... that they entrusted me to travel that road to improved education with them, or for them."

"What I didn't realize, initially, was the sheer magnitude of the level of difficulty of the work, and of the time-consuming nature of the work. The amount of time it takes to simply prepare for the meetings, then attend the meetings, and then do the follow-up work. I have spent long hours away from my family and I have decided that I need to be there for them."

Ross said that he was already struggling with the decision of whether or not to run for reelection when he realized that his daughter, Kari, would be unable to attend the family's annual vacation retreat.

"I realized then," he said, "that I had not realized last year that Kari would not be with us this year. She just graduated high school and is already off to school this summer. The time went by too quickly. I have other, younger, children and I don't want the years to fly by like this again."

Ross was adamant when asked if he had plans to remain involved with Floyd County's educational system once his term expires in January of next year.

"Yes," he replied emphatically, "I will stay involved. I would

still like to see more institutional change, change that would directly involve our classrooms. I would like to see decisions being made based on a personal aspect and not for political gain. I would like to see site-based councils not falling to political pressures."

When asked if he feels that politics remained a viable force in the county's educational system, Ross replied, "Let's just say this: As the Apostle Paul said, evil lies close at hand. Every time something good is out there, there is a force that lies in wait to try to derail that good."

"And I will say this, I have a great deal of trouble understanding why, with a budget of more than \$50 million, we can't do a better job of educating 7,200 kids."

Ross offered words of support for the present administration of the county system, saying, "I believe that one of the best decisions that occurred during my service to the board was the decision that was made in regard to the hiring of Dr. Fanning." Ross said he believes Supt. Dr. Paul Fanning's "plow mule" style of leadership denotes a thorough nature and a nature that is not rash to making important decisions.

Ross also supported the past leadership of former board chairman Terry Dotson.

"Terry may not have realized it, but his example of how a board meeting should be conducted was a wonderful learning tool for me," Ross said.

"I will stay involved," Ross concluded, "and I would, at some point, like to believe that I will be back. This board has had many successes and has made many, many tough decisions. I feel that the future of our kids has been made a bit brighter. I will continue to serve until January and, you know, no decision is ever final, but I don't see me changing this one anytime soon. But, I will be paying attention."

Ross was appointed to the Floyd County Board of Education in 1997 and was elected to the post by public vote in the following general election. He serves as the pastoral head of the St. James Episcopal Church, located on University Drive in Prestonsburg.

Sunk

the state Department of Education, particularly in dropout rates.

While the non-academic data make up only a small portion of CATS scores, the state requires schools to maintain a combined dropout rate of less than 5.3 percent during the 2000 and 2001 school.

Of the county's four high schools, only Prestonsburg remains in the running after dropout rates were released. PHS showed rates of 4.3 percent for 2000 and 4.37 percent for 2001, for a combined rate of 4.34 percent.

Allen Central High School just missed the cutoff, scoring a combined rate of 5.38 percent. The school had a dropout rate of 4.43 percent in 2000, but that jumped to 6.33 percent in 2001.

South Floyd High School was another school which remained in the running in 2000, but lost out in 2001. That school had a dropout rate of 4.73 percent in

Dream

encourage everyone to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association, they are fighting to find a cure for this, and other, neuromuscular diseases."

Felisha also said that Casey "is crazy about his laptop. He's very particular about who touches it."

The Dream Factory of Eastern Kentucky works to grant the dreams of critically ill children. If you know a child who may be made happier by the granting of a dream by this organization, contact Jerome Greathouse, president, at (606) 886-0556, or write to the following address: The Dream Factory, P.O. Box 47, Auxier, KY 41602. Donations and volunteers are always appreciated.

Highlands

working together. Obviously, like any set of negotiations, nothing is going to be perfect, but we are moving forward and hope to avoid another strike," McCormick said in a statement issued Tuesday.

Voting on the contract will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will finish at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday with an announcement of the results at a candlelight vigil.

Continued from p1

2000, but that jumped to 6.36 percent in 2001, to make the school's two-year rate 5.51 percent.

Betsy Layne High School, meanwhile, was out of the running from the very beginning. The school posted a 7.38 percent dropout rate in 2000, only to be followed by a 9.41 percent rate in 2001. The school's two-year rate was 8.34 percent.

All four school ranked in the bottom half of the state's 234 high schools in 2001. Prestonsburg was 141st, Allen Central was 202nd, South Floyd was 204th, and Betsy Layne ranked sixth from the bottom at 229th.

Home Owners CORNER



by Stan Stumbo & Voncel Thacker

SAFER PROPANE TANKS

If you own a gas grill powered by a propane tank, you should be aware that your old tank may no longer be refillable. As of April 1, 2002, a code change stipulates that all 4- to 40-pound propane tank valves must be equipped with an overflow protection device (OPD). This device addresses the dangers of leaking due to overfilling. While about half the states have adopted the new code, most major propane suppliers will no longer fill non-compliant tanks. The OPD valve can be identified by its three-lobed design, which the non-OPD valves do not have. Older non-OPD tanks can be outfitted with the new code-compliant valves, but the cost may well exceed the cost of a new tank.

Whether your state has or has not instituted the new requirements for propane tanks, it makes safety sense to use the new, safer tanks. HINDMAN PROMART can provide the do-it-yourselfer with a full range of hardware, supplies, and tools he or she needs to complete the next project like a professional. Here at #1 Pro St., Hindman (785-3151), we look forward to having you become one of our steady customers. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7-5:30; Sat., 7-2. Most major credit cards accepted. Count on us for your total building supply needs.

HINT: The easiest way to replace an obsolete tank with an OPD-equipped one is through a cylinder exchange program.

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Happy Birthday!
John M. Stumbo, III

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

CAP to break ground for multipurpose headquarters

In a major step toward realizing its goals, Christian Appalachian Project will break ground on a new building in Hager Hill.

Plans were announced in 2000 to move CAP headquarters from Lancaster to Hager Hill in an effort to better serve those in need. On Monday, July 22, at 10 a.m., officials will take shovel in hand to mark the groundbreaking of the new

headquarters. The event will take place at the site of the building project, adjacent to the current CAP offices in Hager Hill.

To help celebrate the event, Stella Parton, who partnered with CAP during the filming of her release "Up in the Holler," will attend the ceremony. In addition, local, state and national officials will be on hand, and the community is invited to

attend.

The new building, a 20,000-square foot multipurpose unit, is scheduled to be completed by next year.

When finished, it will be much more than administrative offices for CAP. The building will feature a museum, theatre and interdenominational chapel. The museum will house Christian Appalachian Project history and memorabilia, along

with interactive displays of Appalachian culture and heritage.

Local documentaries will be featured in the theatre, along with a wide array of activities expected to attract local talent, including artists and students. The whole complex will seek to capture the heart and soul of Appalachia and to benefit the community through the facilities and services offered by this addition to the Johnson County area.

According to Ben Prewitt, vice president of planned giving, the building will be more than just an office for CAP employees.

"Over half the facility will be for community use," Prewitt said. "The museum will be a focal point for tourists who wish to rediscover Appalachia's

(See CAP, page ten)

Status

said the legislature was mostly responsible for the reform law.

Wilkinson, Rose said, "has to be given at least some credit for working with the legislature when it became apparent we were going to do something."

Even a legislative ally, state Rep. Jim Callahan of Wilder said he was not sure how much credit Wilkinson should get for KERA.

But there is another version, which is that Wilkinson held firm in favor of broadening the sales tax to services, an idea that even some legislative critics said later would have been a far more fiscally enlightened approach than the additional 1 cent that was added to the tax.

Gov. Paul Patton, who called Wilkinson, "my friend," mourned his death and paid tribute to his administration.

"His courage and leadership, when faced with the inadequacies of funding for Kentucky schools, will be his legacy and has forever changed the future of Kentucky," Patton said.

Taylor remembered his old boss as "very enthusiastic, very popular" and a "dedicated, hard worker but somewhat difficult to work with."

"He was a little tough to get close to. He had difficulty delegating responsibilities because he was very hands-on," Taylor said.

Wilkinson's "people skills" worked better in a crowd than one-on-one, Taylor said. "In a closed room, he was probably more of a hard-nosed businessman instead of a compromiser."

Callahan, who as a northern Kentucky mayor first met Wilkinson, noted that the former governor was "small in stature," a fact that many believed contributed to his pugnacious nature.

"He had a unique personality," Callahan said. "He always

dominated with a very firm voice."

Callahan said he appreciated Wilkinson's directness.

"I'd rather deal with someone like that rather than someone who was wishy washy," Callahan said. "I liked the guy personally."

Wilkinson engendered similarly strong feelings on a personal level.

"I just thought the world of him. Still do. It's just a sad, sad day for me," said Homer Belcher, an Owensboro grocery who was recruited into politics by Wilkinson and grew to be a close friend. "He treated everyone so well down here. He was a

people person."

Indeed, Wilkinson was viewed differently in Kentucky outside the Lexington-Louisville areas. He championed a bond issue to improve roads in northern, eastern and southern Kentucky, notably U.S. 127 to his Casey County home. He began a program to take his administration's top officials to far-flung areas, calling it "Capitol to the Counties."

"Owensboro loved him and he loved Owensboro," Belcher said.

Associated Press Writer Charles Wolfe contributed to this story.

Continued from p3

Three Rivers dedicates mental health program

LOUISA - Three Rivers Medical Center was the site of a recent celebration. In recognition of National Mental Health Month, more than 200 invited guests attended the rededication of the hospital's psychiatric unit.

After 10 years of providing care to more than 2,500 residents of the Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio region, the program has been renovated, expanded from 15 to 19 beds, and renamed Transitions Mental Health Program.

Those participating in the ribbon cutting included Dr. Emmanuel Eze, Transitions medical director; Greg Kiser, CEO; state Sen. Walter Blevins Jr.; Lawrence County Judge-

Executive David Compton; Brenda Hamilton, CNO; Patricia Stinnett, Transitions director; Amanda Hall, Transitions nursing director; Michelle Napier, chair of the hospital's board of trustees; Louisa Mayor Mike Sullivan; Mike Saul, regional vice president of Horizon Mental Health Management; and Robin Johnson, Horizon regional marketing director.

"I want to reaffirm our commitment to quality patient care," said Dr. Eze, "and I want to assure all of you that we will continue working toward even further expansion of what has become a regional center for mental health services."

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CINEMA 3	 MR. DEEDS Mon.-Sun. 7:00, 9:00; Fri. (4:00) 7:00, 9:00; Sat.-Sun. (2:00, 4:00) 7:00, 9:00 PG-13	CINEMA 8	 REIGN OF FIRE Mon.-Sun. 7:05, 9:15; Fri. (4:15) 7:05, 9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:05, 4:15) 7:05, 9:15 PG-13
CINEMA 4	 MINORITY REPORT Mon.-Sun. 7:30, 9:30; Fri. (1:45) 7:30; PG-13	CINEMA 9	 HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION Mon.-Sun. 7:15, 9:15; Fri. (4:15) 7:15, 9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:15, 4:15) 7:15, 9:15 R
CINEMA 5	 SCOOBY-DOO Mon.-Sun. 7:30, 9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:30) 7:30, 9:30 PG	CINEMA 10	 Power Puff Girls Movie Fri. 4:30; Sat.-Sun. 4:30 Rated PG

Vaccine

Continued from p5

Latin America, because it hopes to sell first in developing countries.

The CDC culled yet another strain from babies in India who never became seriously ill, and is working with an Indian biotechnology company to test a resulting vaccine there.

The competition should speed a vaccine to market and eventually force down prices, crucial if developing countries are to benefit, says CDC's Glass.

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Many Kentucky waterways are polluted

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON — Many Kentucky creeks and rivers are polluted with unsafe levels of fecal coliform that could make swimmers sick.

The fecal coliform, a bacteria in human and animal waste, found in the waterways suggest the presence of untreated or poorly treated sewage and the presence of infectious diseases, particularly diarrheal illnesses.

Hank Graddy, an environmental activist, said the situation doesn't seem to be getting any better.

"It's really hard for me to see any improvement," he said Saturday after looking at results of water testing by the state and by volunteers.

Some of the state's 2002 numbers look better than those in 2001, he said, but that was because May 2001 was an especially wet month.

Pollution counts often are higher after rain because that is when sewer lines are more likely to be overwhelmed, faulty septic tanks flushed, and animal waste washed into creeks.

Graddy, a Midway lawyer, started volunteer pollution-monitoring programs several years ago that now cover several river basins.

The state Division of Water recently put out its annual list of waterways that are unfit for skin contact. The list included the North Fork of the Kentucky River, the Upper Cumberland River, a small portion of the Licking River, and the broad ban on waterways "in and

directly below urban areas."

Other tests, including those conducted by volunteers and the University of Kentucky, show that pollution is more widespread than the state warnings suggest.

In the Bluegrass region, for example, high fecal coliform counts have been found in Elkhorn, West Hickman and Jessamine creeks.

There could be a number of causes, including malfunctioning septic tanks, overflowing sewer lines, domestic animals, and straight pipes that run directly from bathrooms to creeks.

"A lot of the potential pollu-

tants in an urban environment will get to a creek faster and not be caught by vegetation or grass or whatever," said Lindell Ormsbee, interim director of UK's Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment.

The biggest push in cleaning up creeks and rivers has been in eastern Kentucky, where failing septic tanks and straight pipes are most common.

The effort is being coordinated by Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment, or PRIDE. The organization was

started five years ago by U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., and Kentucky Natural Resources Secretary James Bickford.

PRIDE has found 36,000 straight pipes and bad septic tanks in a 40-county area, exec-

(See POLLUTE, page twelve)

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Dropouts keep state's public schools from earning rewards

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Nearly 60 of Kentucky's 235 high schools won't be eligible to earn cash rewards for improved test scores, because too many of their students dropped out of school in 2000 and 2001.

Under the statewide Commonwealth Accountability Testing System, schools with dropout rates of more than 5.3 percent in that two-year span can't get the rewards given to schools that improve test scores.

The Kentucky Department of Education released data on dropout, attendance and retention rates on Monday. It also attempted to measure how many students make a successful transition to adult life by attending college, enlisting in the military or working.

Those numbers will make up a small piece of overall test scores. But the dropout penalty is supposed to make sure that

even successful schools don't ignore dropouts.

Dropout rates are counted by the number of students who leave school in one given year.

The nonacademic data is collected from 2001, although the test scores are from 2002.

Statewide, there was a small decrease in the dropout rate, from 5.1 percent in 2000 to 4.79 percent in 2001.

In other findings:

■ Dropout rates for African-Americans and Hispanics continue to greatly exceed those of white students. Although black rates and white rates both decreased slightly, Hispanic rates climbed from 6.65 percent to 7.4 percent.

■ Boys continue to drop out at a much higher rate than do girls, 5.73 percent compared to 3.80 percent.

■ Although ninth-grade retention rates improved slightly, students are still most likely

(See REWARDS, page twelve)

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Golf

Continued from p1

young life. During the first few weeks of play on the new Floyd County course only the front nine holes were open for play, this was partly due to a few minor cosmetic touches needed to finish the course. Nobody involved with the massive construction project wanted to cut corners in order to get the course open for play.

StoneCrest offers one of the most breathtaking views in all of the United States as you stand on tee box after tee box and look at the mountaintop scenery for miles and miles.

The natural beauty of Maggie Mountain is one great advantage of playing a round of golf at StoneCrest, but the most overlooked aspect has to be the never ending hard work of the course maintenance

crew. Ask any of the employees of the maintenance department if they have an easy job and one will quickly learn of the long days and hard work involved in keeping the course in top shape.

One of the more important tasks of the ground crew is to keep the 60-70 sand traps throughout the course well groomed and in playing condition, this is handled by sometimes 2-3 truckloads of sand brought into the course and then the maintenance crew has the tough assignment of equally distributing the sand in each and every trap. Another very important task is to keep the greens from being dried up and burnt from the intense summer heat which is accomplished by a very strict watering schedule for each green.

The course has very modern equipment to handle the day to day requirements of the course maintenance, and the crew are trained in the proper operation of the equipment. Probably the most scenic hole on the course is the par 3 17th hole, the hole measures 184 yards from the blue tees, and is a tough par 3.

The tee shot requires an approach over a pond in front of the green, and bunkers sit on both sides of the putting surface. The 17th hole is a perfect

example of the great upkeep throughout the 18 holes as the tee box is in perfect condition and the bunkers are well maintained. The green is cut short and is void of any problems, which makes for a beautiful and challenging hole. StoneCrest has hosted several tournaments already in its first year of operation, and the course will be the site of the women's state am tournament at a later date.

This past Monday, the course hosted the Prestonsburg Blackcat Golf Scramble and the tournament was won by the foursome of Nathan Haney, Mike Haney, Steve Conley and Robert Chaffin with an astounding score of -21 under par. The second place team was Jim Rose, Josh Kidd, Randy Kidd and Duran Newsome with a -20 under par total. The StoneCrest maintenance department is headed by Mr. Brian Balsh who oversees the course upkeep and helps make the course the gem it is. As you take time out for a round this summer at StoneCrest and you see Mr. Balsh or one of the many employees of the maintenance crew, take a minute and pat them on the back and say thanks for a job well done as they deserve it.

KCC

Continued from p1

taking 1st place at -15. Jay Cobb's team from

Somerset finished second at -13, while Herman Owens' team from Knott County finished third at -10 (won on scorecard tiebreaker).

"The scramble was very successful with 11 teams competing," said Thornberry, a member of the winning team.

Reds

Continued from p3

so, too. "He made some mistakes," Boone said. "He gave up some hard-hit balls. We hit some balls real good, too, but they were right at people."

Boone would like to see Hamilton (3-6) come back from the break and find the form he had early in the season, when he was 3-2 and the Reds won seven of Hamilton's first nine starts.

"I hope he's better than what we've been seeing," Boone said.

"He makes a lot of mistakes — one an inning. His stuff is fine."

FIRST HALF IMPROVEMENT:

Reds 13 wins better than a year ago

The Reds go into the All-Star break with a 46-41 record, their best in three years. A year ago, they were 33-54 at the break.

Here are Reds' first-half records for the past eight years:

- 1995—43-25;
- 1996—39-43;
- 1997—38-48;
- 1998—39-50;
- 1999—49-36;
- 2000—43-44;
- 2001—33-54;

2002—46-41.

KEARNS SCRATCHED:

Jammed finger keeps him out
Outfielder Austin Kearns was a late scratch from the Reds' starting lineup Sunday because of a jammed right index finger.

Russell Branyan started in place of Kearns, batting sixth, and Adam Dunn moved from left field to right field.

Branyan doubled and scored in his first at-bat. He was 2-of-3 and scored a run.

Kearns pinch hit in the eighth and flied out to end the inning. He leads all National League rookies in RBIs (29), doubles (13), on-base percentage (.386)

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Willard Speedway gears up for trailer giveaway, other special events

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

WILLARD — Carter County's Willard Speedway held another successful night of racing on Friday night with racing battling it out for top money in seven different classes.

The top feature event of the night was a wing sprint event feature with \$3,000 total purse money being handed out. When the checkers fell, the No. 71 of Bill Krayleh was victorious, followed by Doug Heck in second and Chuck Waddell in third. Willard resident Terry Hicks, driving for Fred Weaver, finished fourth. Stephen Caproni (16) finished the race fifth.

Earlier in the night, Hicks won the Super Street feature race. Keith Anderson was victorious in the 4-Cylinder race and Bill Dement claimed a second-straight Modified feature win.

Carter County's Harlan Ferguson (1-F) won the Bomber feature and Richard Horton (R4) was tops in the Road Hog class.

A trailer giveaway will be held this Friday night. Each person entering through the gates at Willard Speedway will

receive three free tickets. Later in the night the trailer, donated by Diamond Gate Trailers of Grayson, will be given away to some lucky race fan or race car driver.

Much to the liking of many Willard Speedway race fans,

the exciting sprint cars will make a return to the only Eastern Kentucky track currently running the machines some time in August. A demolition derby will be held at Willard on Labor Day, September 2.

Rosters

Continued from p1

Classic have been announced and several area players are included. The first annual event will take place Saturday night at the Pikeville College Gymnasium. The doubleheader tips off with the girls' game at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and the boys' game scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 each.

The Boys Purple Team, which consists of players from the 15th and 16th regions, includes Matt Belcher (East Ridge), Chris Conn (Rowan County), Marques Dawson (Rose Hill), Paul Terry Fleming (Shelby Valley), Michael Hall (South Floyd), Steven Kidd (Elliott County), Mark King (Rose Hill), Adam Rice (Paintsville), Donnie Grigsby (Raceland), Barry Sanders (Pike Central), Ryan Williams (Morgan County), Justin Woods (Johnson Central). Coaches for the team are Rick Mayes (Elliott County) and Rodney Rowe (Shelby Valley). The Girls Purple Team, with players from the same two regions, includes Desiree Cassidy (Lawrence County), Kim Helton (Greenup County), Amanda Hensley (Belfry), Brittany McClave (Boyd County), Joanna McNerlin (Boyd County), Kellie Jo Moore (Sheldon Clark), Amber Roberts (Lawrence County), Ashley Russell (Pike Central), Amber Scott (Allen Central), Amanda Shepherd (Magoffin County),

Natasha Stratton (Betsy Layne) and Mikki Womack (East Carter). The Girls Purple Team is coached by Pete Fraley (Boyd County) and Tammy Tussey (Pike Central).

The Boys Gold Team (13th and 14th regions) includes Dewayne Hatton (Powell County), Matt Haynes (Cumberland), Courtney Johnson (Breathitt County), Jeremy Jones (Powell County), Isaiah Mills (Corbin), Travis Neace (Perry Central), Ryan Raleigh (Breathitt County), Frankie Sizemore (Red Bird), Kyle Stacy (Knox Central), Tewayne Willis (Perry Central) and Chris Wilson (Evarts). The team is coached by Breathitt County's Chris Baker and Red Bird's John D. Wilson.

Players representing the 13th and 14th regions on the Girls Gold Team are Tanya Amburgey (Knott Central), Brittany Campbell (Hazard), Chasity Fox (Whitesburg), Jessie Hayes (Rockcastle County), Anna Ingle (Bell County), Brandy Lockard (Powell County), Sydney Music (Whitley County), Mandy Patrick (Whitley County), Laura Osborne (Cawood), Brittany Phipps (Fleming-Neon), Heather Taylor (Whitley County) and Savanna Wynn (Cawood). The team is coached by Cawood's James Burkhardt and Knott Central's Rick Gibson.

Hunting


Continued from p1

- Paul Hagans, 606-285-0176, or
- Gerald Jones, 606-886-8656.

The event is being held in preparation for the Youth Hunt and Jakes Day at the German Bridge Campground August 16-17. The German Bridge Campground gathering is a traditional event which has become very popular over the years.

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LRM Network of Kentucky Girls' Basketball 2002

by LOUIS MEADOWS
LRM ANCHOR

I just got through nosing around on the KHSAA Website—looking for new coaching changes. There are several of them. Not included in this discussion are changes previously announced in my newsletters.

Probably the most high profile one I could find happens at Hazard. Bill Fannin, who stepped away from the girls'

game a couple of years ago to coach the boys at Hazard, is returning to the girls this coming season. Fannin led the Hazard girls' team to three straight 14th Regional Championships (95-96-97).

In fact, in 1997, Fannin's Hazard team, led by Charlotte Sizemore and Carolyn Alexander, won the Sweet Sixteen, going 37-1 (the only loss to Montgomery County in the championship game of the Berea Christmas Tournament).

Hazard also won the Class A State that year, becoming only the second school to win both the Sweet Sixteen and the Class A State in the same year. Nicholas County won both in 1993.

I haven't talked to anyone about this, but another high profile coaching situation, according to the KHSAA website, is that Jimmy Chapman is becoming head coach at Hopkinsville. Hopkinsville did not have a girls' coach listed all last year on the KHSAA site, so I don't really know if Chapman coached there last year or not. If it is the same Jimmy Chapman of which I am aware, he retired last summer from Todd Central after coaching there for years. I am thinking he is coming out of retirement after one year to take the job at Hopkinsville.

Other new coaches listed: Wayne Wiggins at Simon Kenton, Justin Schommer at Danville, Chad Rudd at Bourbon County, Brian Garrett at Jackson City, Andy Groves at McLean County, James Segar at St. Francis, Amber Crice at Ballard Memorial, Janet Jones at Barbourville, Troy Williams at Calvary Christian, Jennifer Hobson at Dayton, and Ed Mulligan at Doss. Richard Dooley is moving up from assistant at Spencer County to head coach, replacing Stan Waller.

Coaching positions still open (or if they have been filled, they have not been announced):

- Henry County
- Pulaski
- Southwestern
- Louisville Southern
- Taylor County
- Franklin Simpson
- Todd Central

Belfry eliminates Prestonsburg

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — The Belfry 15-16-year-olds scored an 11-7 victory over Prestonsburg, thus eliminating one of the Floyd County representatives from tournament play.

Prestonsburg struck first, putting a run on the board when Michael Morrison scored on a Jarred McGuire double. John Mark Stephens and Jason Hughes struck out to end the top of the first for Prestonsburg.

In its half of the first inning, Belfry placed three runs on the scoreboard. Leading 3-1 heading into its second at-bat, Belfry added two more runs.

Stephens, pitching for Prestonsburg, got help from his team in the top half of the third inning. McGuire walked and scored and Stephens also scored.

The Belfry bats remained alive in the bottom half of the third inning. The Belfry squad, which had the longest road trip of any team in the tournament, plated four runs in the bottom of the third inning to go ahead for good.

After giving up a single run in both the fourth and fifth innings, and holding its opponent scoreless in the sixth inning, Prestonsburg gave a hard charge in the seventh inning, scoring three runs before having two outs to battle against. Kyle Wicker singled and McGuire and Stephens both walked and scored to give P'burg the three runs in the game's final at-bat.

The loss eliminated Prestonsburg from the tournament.

Morgan County strikes early, beats Beaver Creek

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — Beaver Creek's dream of an 11-12-year-old Area title didn't come true this year, despite the hopes of so many in Floyd County.

Beaver Creek had its tournament season come to an end Saturday when Morgan County scored a 20-6 victory.

"We were asleep," said Beaver Creek Manager Dexter Conley. "I think some of the boys stayed up to late and weren't awake. I thought we had the best chance to win but we blew it."

Morgan County, the host team on the scoreboard Saturday, scored the first run of the game when leadoff hitter Heath McClain, after reaching base on a walk, scored. Then Joel Nickell hit a double, later scoring. Number three hitter Tyler Adkins brought players in to score when he blasted a home run. In all, Morgan County came across with five

runs in the first inning.

Trailing 5-0, Beaver Creek countered with two runs in its home half of the first inning. The first inning ended for Beaver Creek when Adkins, the Morgan County pitcher for the game, got Dave Sizemore on a strikeout.

Beaver Creek pitcher Alex Hammonds went to the mound in the second inning looking to subdue, or at least slow down the Morgan County bats. Unfortunately for Beaver Creek, it never happened. Morgan County got seven runs in the second inning. The seven-run second inning would almost equal Morgan County's

highest single inning total for the game. It added eight more runs in the an extended third inning. Adkins added his second home run of the game in the third inning.

Beaver Creek got three runs back in the second inning. Conley, Hammonds and Landon Slone scored in the inning. Conley got Beaver Creek's only other run in the fourth inning after reaching on an error. Conley relieved Hammonds on the mound. John Bryant then relieved Conley.

Tyler Adkins went the distance on the mound for Morgan County.

Rodebaugh one-hits Paintsville, P'burg wins

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — Prestonsburg Little League got one of its best wins in recent memory Thursday night. The Prestonsburg 11&12-year-old All-Stars, behind the strong pitching of 12-year-old hurler

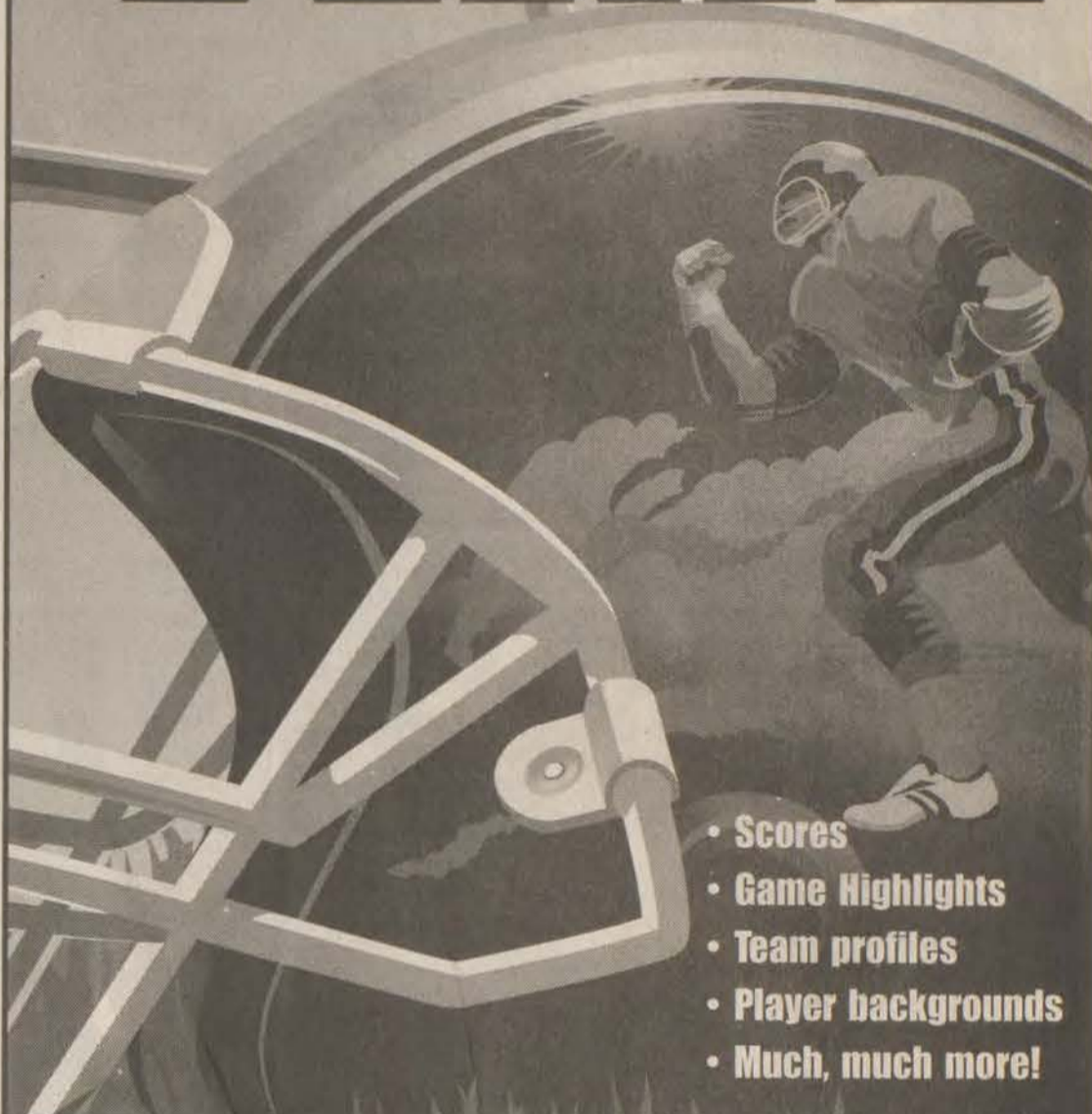
Josh Rodebaugh scored an 8-2 win over host Paintsville, thus eliminating the perennial power. In all, Rodebaugh recorded 15 strikeouts and allowed just one hit in the win. Paintsville's lone hit of the game was fourth inning double off the bat of Austin Lyons, who came into the game off the bench.

Brandon Holbrook scored Prestonsburg's first run of the game in the second inning after reaching base on a double. Leading 1-0 in the third, Prestonsburg plated more runs. Rodebaugh helped his cause in the inning by belting a home run. Billy Robinson and Travis Welch added a run apiece in both the third and fourth innings, as did Seth Setser.

Rodebaugh went the distance for Prestonsburg, while J.D. VanHoose and Chase Richardson split time on the mound for Paintsville. VanHoose and Mark Minix accounted for Paintsville's only two runs of the game. Each player reached on a walk and scored.

Finishing the game strong, Rodebaugh struck out the last three Paintsville batters he faced.

IT'S ALMOST TIME



- Scores
- Game Highlights
- Team profiles
- Player backgrounds
- Much, much more!

Check out the Floyd County Times for your best in Local High School Football coverage!



Floyd County Health Dept. RABIES CLINIC SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2002

Sponsored by the Floyd County Health Department

9:30-10:00 a.m.	Dwale Post Office	Dwale
10:05-10:35 a.m.	Allen Happy Mart	Allen
10:40-11:10 a.m.	Banner Post Office	Banner
11:20-11:50 a.m.	Stanville Post Office	Stanville
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Velocity Market	Betsy Layne
12:35-1:05 p.m.	Happy Mart	Harold
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Shop-A-Lot	Mouth of Toler Creek
3:15-3:45 p.m.	Newman's Market	Mouth of Branham's Creek
3:50-4:20 p.m.	John M. Stumbo Elementary	Grethel
4:25-4:55 p.m.	Mud Creek Clinic	Grethel
5:15-5:45 p.m.	Adkins Quick Stop	Honaker
5:55-6:25 p.m.	Dana Post Office	Dana

Rabies Vaccinations (Dog or Cat):
\$5.00 per animal

Dog "6-Way" Vaccinations
(Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parainfluenza/Parvo/Corona):
\$5.00 per animal

Cat "4-Way" Vaccinations
(Panleukopenia/Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/Pneumonitis):
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Squads: \$20.00 per girl
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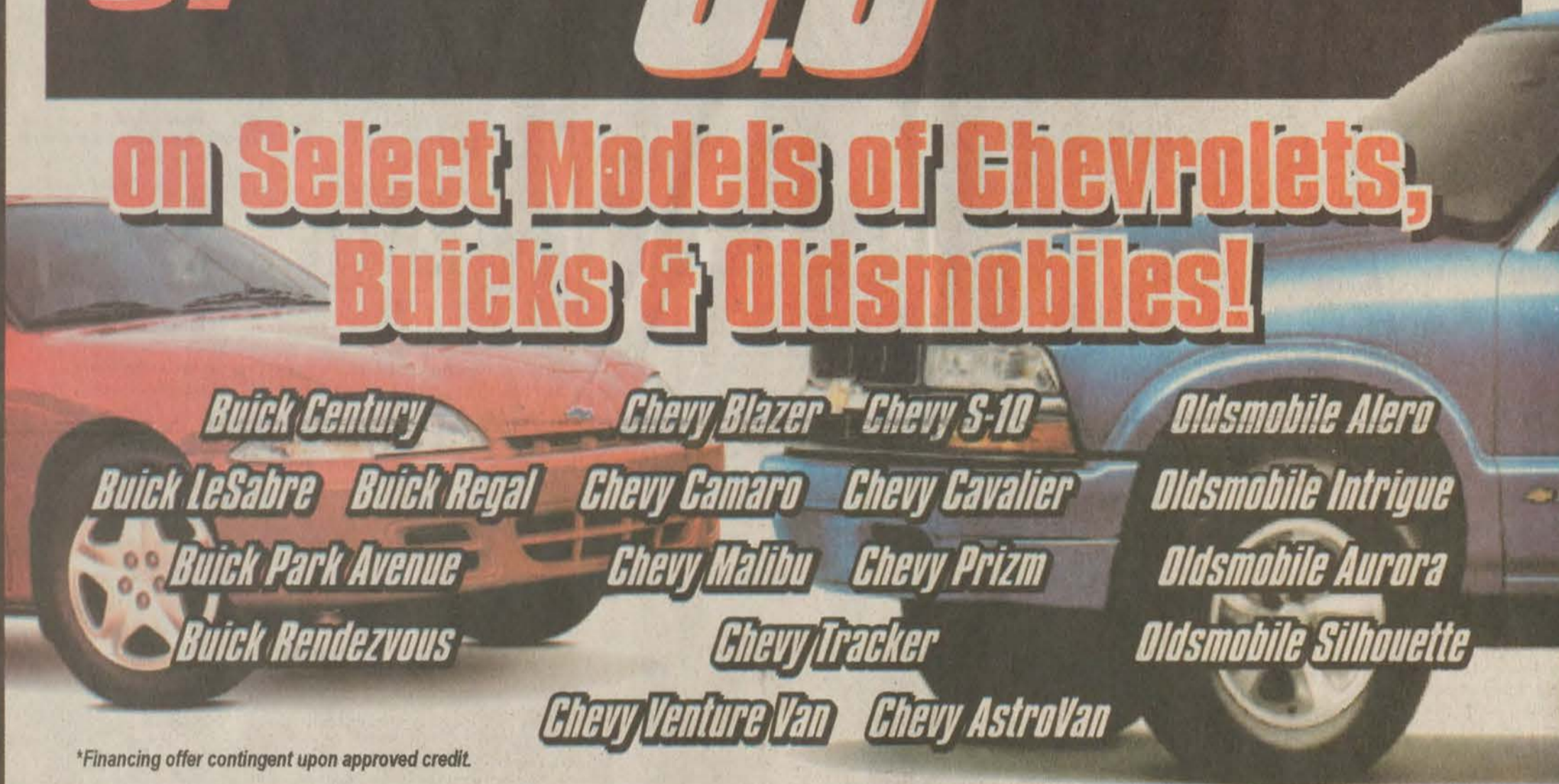


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Summer Food Safety Tips

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services wants this cookout season to be safe and healthy, and is providing the following food safety tips for Kentucky families.

"During the summer months, a great number of families and gatherings will be cooking out and preparing foods for meals," said Guy Delius, Assistant Director of the Division of Public Health Protection and Safety. "With the hot summertime temperatures, extra food safety precautions should be taken."

The Cabinet's Food Safety Branch wants to remind Kentucky cooks of some general food safety tips in hopes of ensuring safe, healthy meals. Always important, is to be sure all ground beef or hamburgers are thoroughly cooked with no pink inside, and heated to an internal temperature of the meat to at least 155-160 degrees F. **DO NOT SERVE OR EAT UNDERCOOKED HAMBURGERS.** Remember not to put the cooked burgers back on the same plate the raw burgers were on, without washing the plate properly. Be sure to keep your hands clean, don't cross contaminate hands or sur-

faces, **COOK** foods thoroughly, keep food contact surfaces clean, wash raw fruits and vegetables, don't let foods stay at room temperature and refrigerate foods promptly after the meal.

Anita Travis, Manager of the Food Safety Branch says during potluck gatherings, people should be especially conscious of these food safety tips. A potluck is where different individuals make foods for a common event and share each other's meals. As these events sometimes feed multiple persons or families, one mistake can cause problems for many. Each cook should follow these keys to food safety to provide safe meals at gatherings:

WASH HANDS

Before eating, before preparing food, after using the bathroom, handling raw meat or poultry, changing diapers, and after handling pets. Use soap, warm clean water to wash and a paper towel to dry hands.

CLEAN AND SANITIZE FOOD CONTACT SURFACES OFTEN

Sanitizing may be accomplished by using a solution of

regular household bleach and clean, warm water (1 tablespoon per 2 gallons of water approx. 100 ppm) as a final immersion sanitizing rinse or by spraying or swabbing washed and rinsed surfaces.

SEPARATE: DON'T CROSS CONTAMINATE

Separate raw from ready to eat foods; use a different utensils and cutting boards or plates between raw and cooked foods or, wash, rinse and sanitize the utensils/plates after contact with raw meat, poultry and seafood.

COOK: HEAT AT LEAST TO THESE PROPER TEMPERATURES

- Fish and Meat (hot dogs) 145 degrees F.
- Ground meat, fish, 155-160 degrees F. **BURGERS (NO PINK INSIDE)**
- Poultry, 165 degrees F.
- Pork 150 degrees

- F. ■ Eggs-yolk and white firm 155 degrees F.
- Left-overs (reheating) 165 degrees F.

CHILL: REFRIGERATE PROMPTLY

- Don't leave potentially hazardous foods out of temperature before or after cooking:
- Refrigerate within 2 hours (Left-overs) to 41 degrees F. or below.
- Freeze 0 degrees F. or below.
- **WASH** Fruits and Vegetables: Remember to wash raw fruits and vegetables including melons and cantaloupes, prior to consuming.

Dr. Rice C. Leach, Commissioner for the Department for Public Health said, "It's as easy as keeping hot foods hot, cold foods cold and keeping your hands, foods and food equipment clean."

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"Quilts of The Mountains 2002", exhibit opens at the MAC

Sponsored by the FLOYD COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE, A Division of the University of Kentucky - College of Agriculture AND THE MOUNTAIN ARTS CENTER...

Lobby Hours

- 9 am to 6 pm Monday Through Friday
- 10 am to 4 pm Saturday

Or, Visit the Exhibit Before

NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2001

The Mountain Arts Center and the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office is very pleased to present a beautiful representation of quilts from this region...on display in the lobby of the Mountain Arts Center. The quilts are a colorful sampling of some of the exquisite work that is done in this area by quilt artisans.

Varied designs and techniques are represented. Some quilts have been completed recently, and others have been lovingly handed down as family treasures. Theresa Scott, Cooperative Extension Agent helped coordinate the show.

In addition to the quilts, the Art Gallery will be filled all Summer by local artists/photographers.

Plan a visit to the MAC and see the beauty that has been created by local artisans.

Korner

Continued from p1

said. She asked, "Don't you guys have these in Kentucky?"

"No," I replied. "Our drive-thrus are mostly restaurants or the occasional cigarette outlets."

It is an awesome idea though, having a grocery drive-thru. We pulled between these huge refrigeration units that held milk, cheese, eggs, etc. This young girl walks out and up to Lora's window and says, "Hi wha-cha need?" Pretty neat I thought. Lora told her, the girl goes and gets it, brings it to the van, Lora paid her, she said she'd be right back with her change, and we were on our way back home without having to get out of the van once.

I was impressed! Talk about an express lane, this one was definitely express!

'Til next week, hope OUR grocery stores get an idea, and may God bless.

Colmenares named All-American Scholar

The United States Achievement Academy recently announced that Alexandra Colmenares, of Bowling Green, Ky, has been named an All-American Scholar.

The USAA has established

A Drug Problem

I had a "drug" problem when I was a young person and teenager.

I was "drug" to church on Sunday morning.

I was "drug" to church on Sunday night.

I was "drug" to church on Wednesday night.

I was "drug" to Sunday School each week.

I was "drug" to Vacation Bible School.

I was also "drug" to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those "drugs" are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in every thing I do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin. If our children had this kind of "drug" problem more often, America would be a better place.

-Anonymous

the All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3, or higher, grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor, or other qualified sponsor are accepted. These scholars then become eligible for other awards given by the USAA.

Alexandra, who attends Warren Central High School, was nominated for this national award by her school counselor, Mr. Tolbert. She will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, a national publication.

The Academy selects students for this award based upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors. Once awarded, the students may then be recognized by the USAA for other honors.

Alexandra is the daughter of Toni Kay Ranier Edwards, of Bowling Green. She is the granddaughter of Phyllis H. Ranier, of Prestonsburg, and Peggy Spradlin Vital, of Coral Gables, Florida. She is also the niece of Harry Alan Ranier, of Prestonsburg.

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Critter Corner: The class klutz



■ Interview Manor's "Prissy."

By Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, DVM

Each time I look at a new class of beginner obedience students and their dogs, I am transported back for a few moments to the time that I was standing in their shoes, an unruly German Shepherd at my side, not knowing what to expect.

I started my foray into training dogs because of that Shepherd, an animal shelter adoptee who was huge, clumsy, slightly aggressive, and, I am convinced, afflicted with some sort of attention deficit disorder. To make things worse, I am a total klutz, and dyslexic to boot. We were undoubtedly the worst pair Chuck Justice ever tried to work with.

Chuck's classes were reminiscent of marine boot camp; his intention was to turn out students and dogs ready to enter the competition obedience ring. Every movement was supposed to be choreographed, precise and smooth. A set of

instructions might go something like this: "Begin by placing your dog in Heel Position at your left side. Slide your right hand to the hasp of the collar and apply pressure upward; at the same time, place your left hand over the dog's hips and apply pressure downward. Say the word 'Sit' as you do this, and praise your dog. Fan-fold your lead and hold it with both hands so there is a moderate amount of slack between you and the dog. When I say 'Forward', I want you to say 'Heel', step forward on your left foot and encourage the dog to come with you. We will be moving in a counter-clockwise circle."

I spent the first three weeks hopelessly tangled in my six-foot leash. Since Fritz stands almost level with my waist, I had more slack than I knew what to do with. The fact that he doesn't weigh much less than me didn't help either. "Heel Position" refers to the dog keeping the area between his shoulder and head pretty much parallel to the

handler's left leg. Keeping Fritz' entire body somewhere in my general vicinity was about the best that I could hope for. Occasionally his mind even wandered back to what we were doing. My hands were sore and sometimes bleeding by the end of each class, and I was often in tears on the way home.

I don't think Chuck realized at first that I wasn't kidding about the dyslexia or using it as an excuse. While everyone else was working on perfecting their technique, I was still trying to sort out left from right. I walked into fences, tripped over my own feet, fell flat, and once knocked Pat down during a heeling exercise. (Everyone else had turned in the correct direction).

Clockwise and Counter-clockwise were (and still are) a nightmare. Eventually a friend who is similarly challenged told me he imagined the entire training area as the face of a clock with the kennel building at 12:00. That helped; from there I only had to mental-

ly let the clock run a few seconds to figure out the direction. Anyway, by that time Chuck had started to point and add, "Carol, that means THIS way!" to his directions.

Fritz and I eventually made it through that first class. We failed miserably, but we made it through. Pat took Fritz through a second time, and failed again - Fritz was just as happy and just as goofy and knew about as much at the end of the second class as he did at the beginning of the first one. (Now, years later, when asked to sit, he still gives me a dumbfounded look that says "Wait, I think maybe I know that one.")

Meanwhile, I signed up for another class with Casey, my Chow-Golden Retriever mix. We won a trophy and a blue ribbon at graduation, and I was hooked. From then until Chuck's sudden death several years later, I took

(See CRITTER, page D10)

Poison

morning train, stuffed in a heavy canvas bag and — rain or shine — was thrown off as the train sped by. I'm glad to still have memories of the times I personally had the opportunity to tote the bag from the tracks to the tiny Thealka Post Office. I'm glad to have the memory of standing in the cramped quarters outside the little window with the iron bars while our post-

mistress, Alta Lee Preston, called off every name on every letter that had been in that little canvas bag.

I have great memories relating to the post office. Hopefully, the postal service will not suffer too much from sneaking in little rate hikes here and there. It sure would be too bad if when our grandchildren are our age, they may never even remember hav-

Continued from p1

Hand

began to toss the creatures, one by one, back into the salty waters from which they had come. A man, happening by, halted his walk to remark to the youth that his efforts would ultimately prove to be fruitless because "there are millions of starfish, you can't possibly save them all." The boy, according to the tale, paused to consider this remark and then bent over, picked up another starfish, and as he prepared to toss it back into the ocean replied, "Yes, that's true, but I can help this one."

It is this sentiment that embodies the spirit of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

"We are looking for volunteers, for children, and for support funding," said Margaret Rice, program director. "Community involvement is what it's going to take to get this program off the ground."

The organization looks to serve those children ages 6-14 who are in need of mentoring and adult friendship throughout a six-county area of the Big Sandy region. Volunteers may choose from one of two programs offered, one, a community-based program, and the other, school-based.

The community-based program pairs children with volunteers who meet with them to participate in a variety of activities such as shopping or participating in sports, to visiting the library, seeing movies or just talking. The

idea is to offer friendship on whatever level the child is in need of.

The school-based program consists of a one-hour, once a week visit to the child during school hours. "The idea is not to take on the role of teacher, or principal, or to use the time to monitor the child's school work. Again, we are offering friendship. Just check in, see how things are going. Share a lunch, play a little basketball, visit the school library, it doesn't matter. What matters is the support," Bliss said.

The school-based program operates on a referral basis and will be available to Floyd County students this fall.

Rice urges community members to volunteer to befriend a child like Michael. "Michael was so thrilled with the ceremony. He was thrilled with the fact that the mayor was present to support us, he was just so excited that it brought tears to my eyes. This program is wonderful, the good feeling that it offers to those who become involved," she said.

"And," she continued, "it's the kids. It's all about the kids."

"I like my big brother," said Michael, "he takes me swimming, fishing, bike riding. He takes me to Wal-Mart. I don't know what I'd do without him."

And as for Michael's big brother? He had only this to say, "He wears me out." With a grin and a friendly hug for Michael, he

added, "He's fun to be around."

For more information about the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Big Sandy, telephone Margaret Rice at 886-1211, or visit her at the organization's office located on Front Avenue, just above Billy Ray's Restaurant.



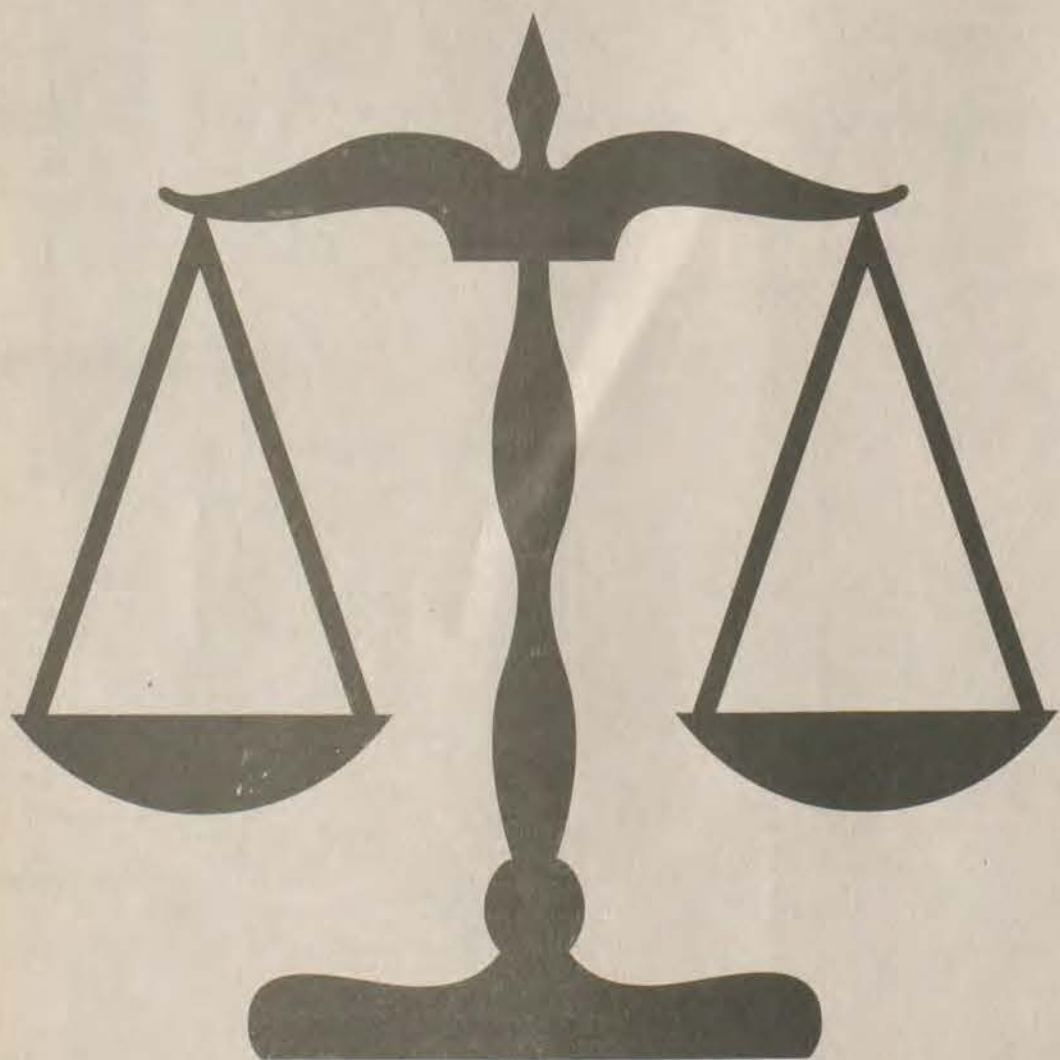
Continued from p1

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SCHOOL

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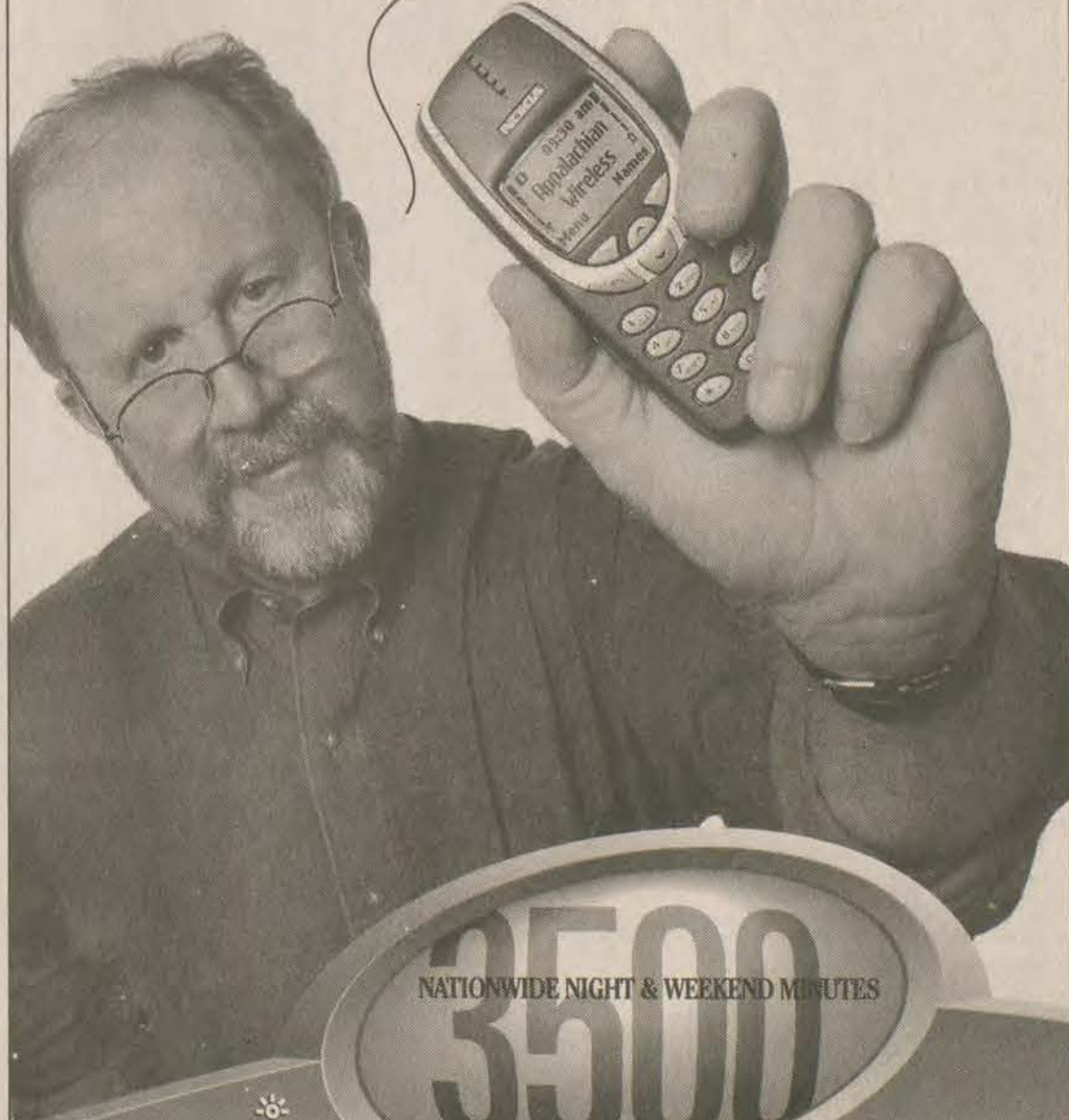


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Table with 4 columns: Address, Name, Phone Number, and Amount. Lists various residents and their associated information.

Table with multiple columns containing names, addresses, and numerical values. The table is organized into several vertical sections, likely representing different geographic areas or property types. Each entry includes a name, a street address, and a corresponding numerical value, possibly a tax amount or property value. The entries are densely packed and cover a wide range of names and addresses.

Table with multiple columns containing names, addresses, and numerical values. The table is organized into several vertical sections, likely representing different geographic areas or property types. Each entry includes a name, a street address, and a corresponding numerical value, possibly a tax amount or property value. The entries are densely packed and cover a wide range of names and addresses.

Table with multiple columns containing names, addresses, and phone numbers. The table is organized into several vertical sections, likely representing different neighborhoods or districts. Each entry typically includes a name, a street address, and a telephone number. The text is dense and spans the entire page.

Table with multiple columns containing property addresses, owner names, and numerical values. The table is organized into several vertical sections, each containing a list of property records. The columns represent different data points for each property, such as address, owner name, and a numerical value, likely a tax amount or sale price. The records are sorted in ascending order of the numerical value within each section.

Main table containing property listings with columns for address, owner name, and price. The table is organized into multiple columns and rows, listing various properties across the county.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 22231 through 22548.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 22554 through 22564.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 22581 through 22594.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 22596 through 22644.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 22650 through 22853.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 22906 through 23062.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 23083 through 23416.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 23438 through 23499.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 23570 through 24028.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 24052 through 24404.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 24407 through 24469.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 24453 through 24464.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 24407 through 24469.

Table with 3 columns: Address, Name, and Value. Contains property listings for addresses 24407 through 24469.

2001 FLOYD COUNTY UC

Table with 4 columns: BILL# NAME, ADDRESS, TAX DUE. Contains property listings for addresses 126C through 601C.

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Table with 4 columns: BILL# NAME, ADDRESS, TAX DUE. Contains property listings for addresses 360 through 870.

