

# The T FLOYD COUNTY REGIONAL NEWS

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- PAGE A3

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## briefs

### Charges allege disability fraud

Times Staff Report

Charlotte Marie Bryant, of Shelby Gap, was indicted by a federal grand jury Thursday for allegedly attempting to defraud the federal disability program.

The indictment accuses Bryant of concealing resources, such as income and assets, to receive disability checks.

The charges, handed down by a grand jury in Lexington, allege that the fraud took place from August 1994 to February 2003. They go on to specifically accuse Bryant of hiding her husband's income from the Social Security Administration and failing to report that she owned property.

The investigation was conducted by the inspector general of the SSA and it will be tried in the U.S. District Court in Pikeville.

If convicted, Bryant could face penalties of up to \$250,000 in fines and up to five years in prison.

## inside

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2 DAY FORECAST

**Today**  
Rain, snow  
High: 43 • Low: 29

**Tomorrow**  
Partly cloudy  
High: 38 • Low: 27

For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see [floydcountytimes.com](http://floydcountytimes.com)

# Ethics panel ponders lax officials

by SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — County ethics commissioners returned to an old theme during a meeting Thursday in Prestonsburg when they were again faced with the task of gathering financial disclosure state-

ments from those required throughout the county.

Floyd County Ethics Commission Chairman John Rosenberg says the number of statements for the current year are short and even several from last year are still outstanding.

Elected officials, department heads and

those with procurement authority throughout the county are required by the ethics commission to provide an annual financial statement in response to a list of 10 questions mailed to them by the commission.

The disclosure form, which is a matter of public record, covers such areas as the person's occupation and sources of

income, the latter of which is normally left blank on most forms that are returned, according to commission member Peggy Bradford.

"A lot of them that do send one back don't even fill out the whole thing."

(See ETHICS, page three)



Employees of the Beverly Ann Coal Company in David have been working the past month to get the business operational. David May, who recently purchased the company which sat abandoned for several years, says he is currently negotiating with CSX to purchase 8 miles of railroad track from West Prestonsburg to David.

# Tourist train may be out, but coal may be back in

by MARY MUSIC  
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLE CREEK — The Mountain Harmony project, a plan to turn 9.1 miles of CSX railroad line extending from West Prestonsburg to David into a tourist attraction, may not make it past the hurdles it would take to get the project operational, officials reported this week.

CSX filed notice in January to abandon the stretch of railroad line

from West Prestonsburg to David, a fact which spurred interest in the community to turn that line into an excursion of scenic train line or trail that would run from the Mountain Arts Center through the Middle Creek Battlefield.

An environmental report issued by CSX Transportation said the line, historically used for coal shipments to and from Beverly Ann Coal Tipple at David, "would not be suitable for other public purposes" but that it could be used

in the future to transport "energy resources."

That, however, didn't hinder the interest of two entities who now wish to purchase the tract.

David Hall, resident vice president of CSX Transportation, says that CSX is currently negotiating with two parties interested in purchasing the line, and each of those negotiations is being handled by separate departments within the

(See TRAIN, page eight)

# Police foil plot to kill son-in-law

by SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

MAYTOWN — Police arrested a Pulaski County woman Thursday night at the Fish and Game Club at John's Branch and charged her for allegedly paying undercover officers to kill her son-in-law.

Floyd County Sheriff John K. Blackburn and assisting Prestonsburg police officers took Cheryl Lynn Kinslow, 56, of Eubank, into custody at 7:10 p.m. Thursday night after reporting that the Pulaski County resident paid an undercover officer a portion

of an agreed \$8,000 to kill her son-in-law, Daniel T. Hart, 46, of Westview in Breckinridge County.

The arrest was the pinnacle of a two-week investigation that was initiated after a local resident, whom police did not name, was contacted by Kinslow. According to police, Kinslow offered the resident \$8,000 to kill her son-in-law.



Cheryl Kinslow

Floyd County Sheriff John K. Blackburn said the resident then contacted his office about the call.

"This person told her (Kinslow) that he knew some

(See PLOT, page three)

# Drugs to be topic of local meeting

by SHELDON COMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Ernie Fletcher's Drug Control Policy Assessment teams will visit Prestonsburg and Pikeville next week to hold public input forums centered on substance abuse throughout the two communi-

ties, according to Jamie Neal, spokesman for Lt. Gov. Steve Pence.

Neal said the forums, which will be held on March 8 and 9 in Pikeville and Prestonsburg, respectively, will allow residents the oppor-

(See DRUGS, page eight)

# Judge grants stay of execution after killer makes accusations

by MARY MUSIC  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A man who was sentenced to die in two weeks was granted a stay of execution, with an order filed Thursday in circuit court.

Judge John David Caudill handed down an order to stay the execution of Donald Herb Johnson, 36, who entered an unconditional guilty plea to the brutal murder of Helen

Madden, 61.

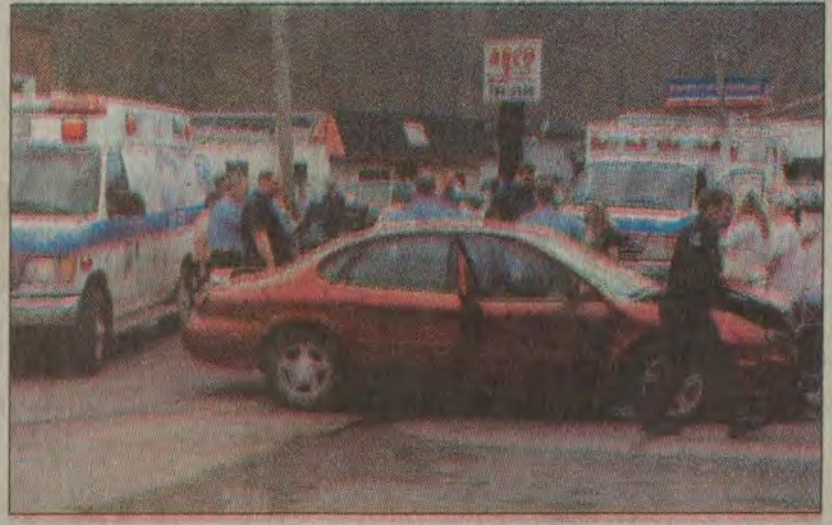
Madden was beaten, stabbed, raped, mutilated and tortured to death in the supply storage room of a laundromat where she worked, according to a Supreme Court order affirming a Floyd Circuit Court decision in the case in July. Her body was "so disfigured," the order says, that a coworker of 13 years could not identify her body.

In September 1997, Judge Caudill sentenced Johnson to

death for the murder of Madden, 15 years for burglarizing the laundromat, 20 years for first-degree robbery and 10 years for two counts of first-degree sexual abuse.

Johnson's lawyers appealed the case to the Supreme Court, who upheld Caudill's sentencing in the case. Gov. Ernie Fletcher signed an executive order Feb. 5, setting Johnson's execution for March 15, which

(See KILLER, page three)



A four-car accident on South Lake Drive in Prestonsburg sent two people to the hospital Friday afternoon and resulted in damages to vehicles parked nearby, as well as structure damage to an ambulance service building after it was hit by one of the vehicles.

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# Odds and Ends

■ **CANTON, Ohio** — Talk about leaving a bad tip at the restaurant.

A 22-year-old woman found the severed tip of a thumb in her lunch salad at Red Robin Gourmet Burgers.

Stark County Health Commissioner Bill Franks said a worker at the restaurant, in the Canton suburb Jackson Township about 70 miles south of Cleveland, was chopping lettuce Monday night when he cut off part of his left thumb, including part of the fingernail.

Employees searched for the fingertip, but could not find it. The area was cleaned and sanitized, but the lettuce was placed in a cooler and then used for salads on Tuesday.

"It wound up being served at lunch time Tuesday to a 22-year-old woman," Franks said.

She had eaten most of her salad when she put the fingertip in her mouth, Franks said.

She first thought it was a

piece of gristle, a health department report said.

Red Robin spokesman Dwayne Chambers said employees, in their haste to get the injured man to a doctor, failed to follow the chain's procedures and throw out all food in the area.

"We clearly had a breakdown," he said. "We are incredibly sorry about what happened."

Chambers said he spoke with the woman. "She obviously was pretty upset," he said.

■ **HOMESTEAD, Fla.** — A teenager stole a luxury sports car, barreled through a security gate at a motor speedway and then went four laps at 100 mph before he was arrested, police said.

Felipe Ramos, 18, stole the 2004 Infiniti G35 worth more than \$30,000 from a hospital construction site Wednesday after the driver left the keys in

the ignition, police said. The driver had been lent the G35 by a dealership while his car was being repaired.

He sped past guards, crashed through a security gate and then began doing laps at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, home of NASCAR and Indy car races, police said.

After doing four laps, Ramos either lost control or stopped. Track workers held him until police arrived.

"He must have wanted to get on the track pretty bad," speedway president Curtis Gray said. "Nothing like that has ever happened here before."

Ramos was charged with grand theft auto, burglary, criminal mischief and reckless driving, and was being held Thursday on \$17,500 bail.

The car incurred about \$3,000 worth of damage to the bumper, hood and lights, according to preliminary esti-

mates.

"Who knows what (Ramos) was thinking?" police Capt. Ed Bowe said. "It's kind of strange."

■ **KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — Harry Vanderford has a 10-year plan — to live until he's 110.

It's not that far-fetched, considering he just turned 100 and could conceivably walk the rest of the way.

Vanderford said after blowing out his birthday candles Wednesday that "my goal is to

make it to 110."

Vanderford says he eats plenty of spinach, carrots, broccoli and fruits, he doesn't use tobacco and he walks two miles three times a week.

He celebrated his 100th birthday with about 100 fellow mall walkers at Antioch Center, where he's walked laps for 30 years. At age 98, he cut back from three miles to just two.

"It's amazing that he's still out here walking," said mall walker Faye Sanderson. "He's an inspiration, encouraging to

the rest of us who are getting on up there."

The mall presented him with a plaque and a proclamation from Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes declaring Wednesday as Harry Vanderford day.

"Thank you so much," he said after the crowd sang "Happy Birthday." "I'm so glad you're all here. And I'm so glad I'm here."

Vanderford and his wife, Mabel, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary April 14.

## Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, March 7, the 67th day of 2004. There are 299 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.

### On this date:

In 1849, horticulturist Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Mass.

In 1850, in a three-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1875, composer Maurice Ravel was born in Ciboune, France.

In 1911, the United States sent 20,000 troops to the Mexican border as a precaution in the wake of the Mexican Revolution.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversation took place, between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles and the

Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was broken up in Selma, Ala., by state troopers and a sheriff's posse.

In 1975, the Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1981, anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed kidnapped American Bible translator Chester Allen Bitterman, whom they accused of being a CIA agent.

### Ten years ago:

The Supreme Court ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use" that doesn't require permission from the copyright holder. The U.S. Navy issued its first permanent orders assigning women to regular duty on a combat ship — in this case, the USS Eisenhower.

### Five years ago:

Movie director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70.

### One year ago:

Virtually every musical on Broadway shut down as musicians went on strike, and actors and stagehands said they wouldn't cross their picket lines; the walkout lasted four days.

### Today's Birthdays:

Photographer Lord Snowdon is 74. TV personality Willard Scott is 70. Auto racer Janet Guthrie is 66. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 64. Walt Disney Co. chief executive officer Michael Eisner is 62. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 61. Actor John Heard is 58. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 58. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 58. Singer Peggy March is 56. Football Hall-of-Famer Franco Harris is 54. Football Hall-of-Famer Lynn Swann is 52. Rhythm and blues singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 52. Actor Bryan Cranston is 48. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Ivan Lendl is 44. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 41. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 40. Singer-actress Taylor Dayne is 39. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 37. Actress Rachel Weisz is 33. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 30. Actress Laura Prepon is 24.

### Thought for Today:

"More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones." — St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582).

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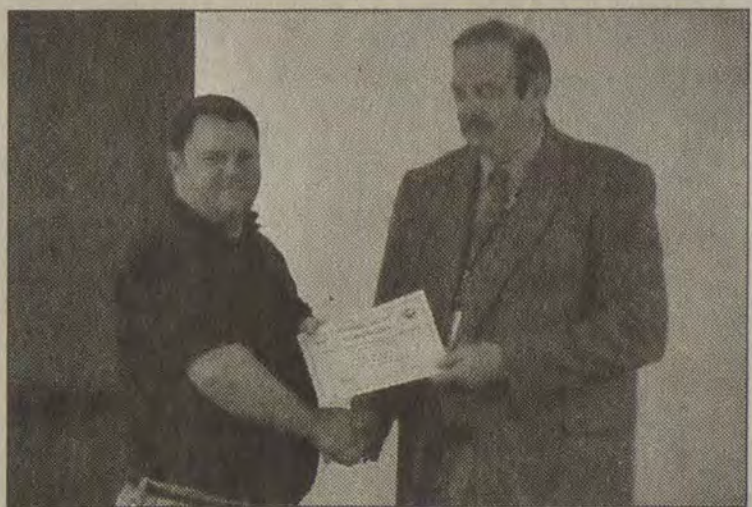
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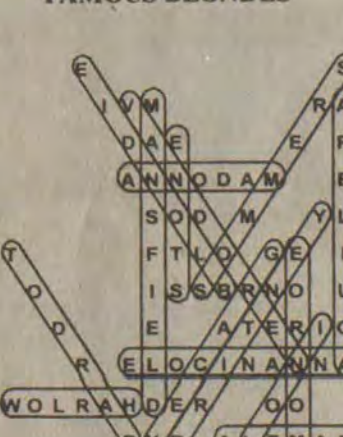
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Floyd County Emergency Management Director Jim Caldwell, top photo, left, and Deputy Director Bill Dotson, bottom photo, left, recently completed the "Principles of Emergency Management" course during training in Frankfort. The course introduces participants to fundamental principles of emergency management in an integrated local, state and federal system.

FAMOUS BLONDES



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STEAL	WRAP	ELO	ORE
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LATH	LOOP	OLD	CANT
BRA	HARE	BRAINED	DYE
EARD	ALE	EAST	SLOT
SRI	LANKA	HORSE	FACED
SESAME	COMPANY	FORTE	
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SPITE	ETUDE	CROR	SRTA
SEAT	RIGOR	TENG	TEAM



## Killer

Continued from p1

was stayed with Caudill's order Thursday.

Johnson's lawyers, assistant public advocates Susan J. Balliet, of Frankfort, and David Hershaw, of La Grange, filed a motion in circuit court Thursday to vacate and set aside Johnson's sentence.

They requested a new trial in the case, alleging that "startling" new evidence has come into view.

The 46-page order, which also includes an 11-page, first-person affidavit from Johnson, alleges, among many things, that Johnson only pleaded guilty to the charges because Caudill "promised" him a sentence of 25 years, without death.

"I never wanted to plead guilty," Johnson wrote in his affidavit. "But my attorney Mike Williams [who later withdrew from the case] kept hammering me and hammering me about it. He said he knew the judge would give me life without parole for 25 years. He said he knew from talking to Judge Caudill that Caudill wouldn't give me the death penalty."

Johnson alleges in that affidavit that Judge Caudill "looked [him] in the eye" and asked

"Would you take life without for 25?"

Johnson said he agreed to that "deal," in part, because his lawyer was "screaming" at him to plead guilty and threatened to pull out as his attorney, who "understood" that he had "cut a deal" with Caudill as well.

Johnson said he thought he was pleading guilty but mentally ill to the charges against him, and said in his affidavit that he would have "never" done so if circumstances were different in the case.

In the motion, Balliet and Hershaw also argue that Johnson was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic twice — in 1986 and 1987 — and had attempted suicide four times prior to his entering a guilty plea in the case, a fact which they say should have ruled him incompetent to do so.

In the Supreme Court ruling, Justice Lambert, in support of Caudill's handling of the trial, said that Johnson was found competent to stand trial in 1992 and 1994, three days before he pleaded guilty. No formal competency hearing was held in the case.

On Feb. 20, the motion says,

a "major break" occurred in the case when Johnson was able "for the first time to talk openly about the crime" with psychologist Dr. Robert Berland, who ruled that Johnson was legally insane at the time of the crime in 1989 and that he was incompetent to plead guilty in 1994.

The lawyers back up their allegations with a variety of information, including facts relating to Johnson's childhood, "the worst childhood ever," in which they claim he was abandoned by his mother, who left "all her children to founder in a sea of incest and brutality" by their father, Charlie Johnson, who is now deceased. As a child, they argue, Johnson lived in 15 different states, attended 27 different schools, and was sexually abused and beaten on numerous occasions by his father.

The motion says that Johnson has a "lifelong history of visual and auditory hallucinations," including hearing Native Americans in feathered head-dresses, animals (specifically a cat that comes to visit him in his jail cell) and hearing voices that instructed or demanded that he harm other people.

In 1987, the motion says,

Johnson came home from California to make amends with his father, who later disowned him and kicked him out of the house. Afterward, Johnson said voices instructed him to kill his father, but he resisted, knowing he "was slipping" and hitchhiked to the Appalachian Regional Hospital, where he was turned away.

On the day of the incident, Balliet and Hershaw explain in the motion, Johnson woke about noon and smoked marijuana with a friend. The voice came back, he said, so Johnson went to find his brother Dean for help.

His friend drove Johnson to the "edge of town" to look for his brother, when he was bitten by a dog, that, once again, prompted the voices to return.

Johnson said he was carrying a knife with him that he was hoping to customize for his brother, the same knife he used later that day to murder Madden.

Prior to entering the laundromat, Johnson says he went to B & G Lounge, where he drank 12 beers, smoked marijuana and unsuccessfully tried to call his brother and a cousin

who lived 40-to-50 miles away. The voices, he said, were "very intense" when he left the bar about 9 p.m. that evening.

Johnson says he went to the laundromat to try again to call his brother, but the line was busy, so he "picked up a broom" and started helping Madden sweep the facility.

Johnson then said he left the laundromat, at Madden's request, and returned once more to make another phone call.

"The voices were getting very intense at that point," Johnson wrote. "I tried calling Dean again, but the line was still busy. I told the lady I needed to find my brother, but she wanted me to leave so she could finish mopping and lock up ... I begged for just a few more minutes so I could call Dean one more time. But the lady just said 'Are you crazy? You've got to go.' She wasn't mad or nothing, but it seemed to me like she talked like my mom. And she asked me if I was crazy, and I got really mad. I lost it."

The voices, Johnson says, began "speaking in unison" and "commanded" him to take

Madden to the back room.

From that point, he says, his memory is "incomplete," but he remembers that during the murder, he was filled with various emotions like "love, hate, rage, silliness, happiness and joy."

Johnson says he laid on the floor beside Madden's bloody body for approximately 30 minutes before stealing \$270 and a down jacket from the laundromat. He threw his watch, later used to identify him, in a wastebasket and went to a nearby restaurant and ordered a hamburger, fries and Coke, which he ate with blood on his shoes and pants.

Johnson claims he heard no more voices until he was jailed.

"It's one of those things where you don't believe everything you read in the paper or in written form," Judge Caudill said Friday regarding the accusations against him. "It's really just part of the process to get the appellate process moving."

In addition to staying Johnson's execution, Caudill ordered Thursday that the commonwealth has 30 days to respond to Johnson's motion. Johnson then has 15 days to reply, according to that order.

## Ethics

Continued from p1

Bradford said. "They turn in it and leave out the certain questions about source of income and that sort of thing. They just mark it 'not applicable.'"

Such omissions are not to be taken lightly, said Rosenberg, who has suggested the commission pen a letter to individuals who have not provided a statement, asking them to do so and to also fill out the form in its entirety.

"They should be complete," said Rosenberg. "If it's not, it's wrong."

But the most obvious problem goes beyond several forms being incomplete. The commission spent the majority of the meeting wrestling with the problem of several officials who do not return the statements at all.

According to files kept by Bradford, several statements that were to have been provided to the commission in January have yet to be sent. Bradford also said that many of those individuals had also not provided statements from 2003, as well.

According to commission records, for the current year, only a handful of individuals have provided disclosure statements including, County Surveyor Teresa Hall, Road Supervisor Mike Jarrell, Sheriff John K. Blackburn, District 4 Magistrate Alan Williams, District 3 Magistrate Larry Foster Stumbo, County Clerk Chris Waugh and Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson and his wife, Donna Thompson, who filed for this year, but have not filed for 2003, according to Bradford.

Bradford said none of the elected constables throughout the county have returned statements and none of the officials at the detention center have pro-

vided the proper documentation, as well.

"The jail is usually very good about getting theirs in, so we could have a situation where they were misfiled," Bradford said, followed by supporting comments from Rosenberg, who said his had been misfiled last year, forcing him to submit a second statement.

Others mentioned during the commission meeting who have failed to provide statements for 2004 include District 1 Magistrate Gerald Derossett and ethics commission member Rev. Roy Cosby.

According to Bradford, the last time all the statements had been gathered was in 2002, adding that some had not provided statements since that time, including County Attorney Keith Bartley.

Bartley's name was brought up during the commission's meeting Thursday with no small amount of irony.

"Our county attorney Keith Bartley is one of the worst ones," Bradford said, laughing. "He hasn't filed for 2003 or 2004."

But, according to Bartley, his not filing was based on an understanding that if the information from his previous statements had not changed, then they could stand as his current statements.

"The information on my forms has been the same since the first time I filed," Bartley said. "But if it will satisfy them, I'll be glad to file another one. In fact, I remember there was some language in the letter I received to the effect that if the information was the same, then the other could be used."

Bartley also offered the commission some advice on collecting the statements.

"Not trying to blame anyone, but if they had just picked up the phone and called and told me they needed another statement, then I would have given them one," Bartley said.

Bartley had filed his statement by press time Friday.

The commission agreed Thursday to send out another round of letters to those who had still not provided disclosure statements and reserved the right to impose a fine of up to \$25 a

day, not to exceed \$500, for each day past deadline for the filing.

According to the commission's governing ordinance, those who refuse to provide the statement after the 30-day notice would then be subject to civil action, something Rosenberg said the commission would have no real decision in.

"I don't know that we have the authority to excuse them and not fine them," he said.

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## Plot

Continued from p1

people who could do it for her and set up a meeting time," Blackburn said. "That's when he called us to look into it."

What Blackburn said he and assisting officers were able to do was meet with Kinslow on two separate occasions.

The first meeting took place Feb. 24, but the alleged murder contract was not settled at that meeting because Kinslow was not prepared to make payment, investigating officers said.

Plans were then made to meet a second time and it was during this second meeting at the game club Thursday that Kinslow allegedly made a "down payment" of \$1,000 to Deputy Bob Caudill to kill Hart, according to the arrest citation.

During the investigation, police said they contacted Hart and told him of the alleged murder contract against him, adding that the Breckinridge County resident was "not surprised" by the news. As a precaution, the Breckinridge County Sheriff's Department, which cooperated with Blackburn on the case and

actually gave the warning to Hart about the alleged hit, provided additional patrols in the area during the two-week effort.

Kinslow was immediately taken into custody after police said she offered the \$1,000 and was charged with one count of criminal solicitation to commit murder. District Judge James Allen entered a not guilty plea on her behalf during arraignment proceedings Friday morning and fitted her with a \$250,000 cash bond.

The sheriff's department intends to take the case to the grand jury in the coming week and said they feel confident in their evidence, which includes video recordings of both meetings.

"We've got a strong case against her," Blackburn said, "and plan to go to the grand jury with it next week."

Kinslow had only recently moved to Pulaski County from Floyd County where she had lived in the Martin/McDowell area, police said.



# expression

Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of [achieving] a free society.

— Felix Frankfurter

## GuestView

### Govt. hooked on gambling

In a little more than two decades, legal gambling has spread from Las Vegas and Atlantic City to every state in the union except Utah.

Thirty-nine states have lotteries.

Casinos are operating in 29 states.

Seven states have "video lottery terminals" at racetracks or casinos.

Three-fourths of the U.S. population lives within 300 miles of a casino.

Americans spend more on gambling (more than \$600 billion a year) than they do on food (about \$400 billion).

One study found that 80 percent of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 had gambled in the previous year.

According to a Harvard Medical School study, compulsive gambling increased by 50 percent from the mid-1980s to the mid-'90s.

In 1999, the National Gambling Impact Commission, a blue-ribbon panel created to probe the social consequences of the explosion of legal betting, called on state governments to observe a moratorium on the expansion of gambling.

The commission said the nation had not had time to assess the social impact of the huge increase in pathological gambling associated with the proliferation of lotteries, instant lotto games, casinos, video poker and other forms of machine gambling.

Revenue-hungry governors and state lawmakers have turned gambling into the national pastime.

But it's still not enough.

Our elected representatives want to create even more gambling opportunities and more gamblers.

... Several years ago, representatives of the horse racing industry began pushing the legislature to approve slot machines at racetracks. Increasing the level of gambling at the tracks would "save" Kentucky's signature industry and relieve the state of its budget woes, racetrack officials said.

Now casinos are back again. State Rep. Larry Clark, D-Louisville, wants to make casino gambling available across the state. Clark's proposal would allow nine casinos, including one in downtown Louisville operated by Churchill Downs.

Clark and his allies have trotted out the same old lines used to turn America into a nation of gamblers.

Education will benefit, they promise. The casinos are for the children. Medicaid, economic development, local government — you name it — the gamblers will pay for it.

... Frequent gamblers pay a heavy tax for the politicians' unfulfilled promises of big gains in education, health care, etc.

Silvio Laccetti, a professor of humanities at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey, describes lotteries as a way to shift the tax burden from the affluent to poorer and more vulnerable citizens.

... Too many politicians are addicted to gambling revenue. It's becoming increasingly clear they won't stop expanding gambling until the gamblers have no more money to bet.

— *The Paducah Sun*



— Jim Davidson

### The rebirth of courtesy

It has been said that, "Manners are not like clothes ... something to be put off and on ... one set for home and work and another set for company. Our manners should be like the skin of our bodies ... something always with us ... a part of us, the same for all occasions and always to be kept clean and healthy."

These thoughts are printed on the back cover of a wonderful and useful little treatise titled, "The Courtesy Book" that was sent to me by Clayton and Sherry Yost, who live in Montezuma, Kan. These folks read my column in the Dodge City Daily Globe and were responding to one of my columns titled, "It's time to pull the plug."

It has long been my contention that acquiring a good, well-rounded education is one of the greatest assets that anyone can attain. Along with that statement I will also add that when it comes to educating students in our nation's schools, it is WHAT we teach them that will determine, in large measure, the success they achieve later in life.

It seems to me that if we do not endeavor to teach respect, manners

and courtesy as a foundation, then all the rest of what we do teach them will be compromise. A brilliant snob will not achieve the same measure of success as an average student who has a fine, cooperative attitude and has a deep love and respect for the rights and property of other people.

While I don't know them personally, it's obvious the Yosts are unusual people. The Courtesy Book was originally published by the Beckley-Cardy Company of Chicago in 1927. Since the book is out of print, they were able to secure the copyright and have reprinted it. Some time after the companion workbook was added and it has been used primarily by private schools across the state of Kansas. The reason these folks wrote to me was to ask for suggestions as to how they might be able to also get it used in the public schools.

Now, I ask you. Do you think we need to teach respect, manners and courtesy in our public schools? This is not to say that we are not already doing this, especially in some schools, but from my 20 years experience working as a consultant with

educators, I know they would welcome all the help they can get.

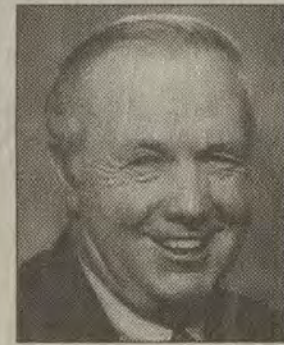
The Courtesy Book and companion workbook does not constitute a long, boring textbook approach, but rather some basic concepts that can be easily taught and reinforced. Remember, this book was written back in the 1920s so it embodies many of the customs and

ideals that were in vogue when life was much simpler and the focus on family was much stronger.

In the Foreword, written by Margery Rex of the Los Angeles Evening Herald, she states, "So that, if normal courtesies and conventions of etiquette are not taught at home, it becomes doubly necessary that the school strive to make amends. Else

it will happen in the crucible of the schoolroom and playground the mixture of good manners and bad will result in lowering the average rather than raising it. The father and mother first have most influence over the growing child, the school teachers next, and thereafter other older persons of distinction and accomplishments. Good manners should be the accompaniment of learning. They deserve to be incorporated as a course of study from kindergarten to univer

(See DAVIDSON, page six)



— beyond the Beltway

### Nader needs to get real

by Donald Kaul

Ralph Nader wasn't the main reason Al Gore lost to George W. Bush in 2000, not even a close second. (There are those, of course, who think that Gore didn't actually lose to Bush, but to them I say this: You can always tell the actual winner of a presidential election. He's the one flying in Air Force One.)

The big reason Al Gore lost was Al Gore. Faced with an opponent whose main qualification for office was a cocky strut to go with his smug smirk, Gore suffered a failure of nerve and ran a timid, defensive campaign (which might have sufficed if politics were beanbag, but it ain't).

Then there was Florida. The Republican majority in the state legislature there did its best to steal the election and when, despite their best efforts, it looked like the recount of ballots was going against them, they took their case to the U.S. Supreme Court which came through with an inventive interpretation of the Constitution to ensure a Bush victory.

Perhaps the most disheartening part of it was that the Democrats just stood there and let it happen, like citizens afraid to interfere with a mugging on the street.

So if Gore had run an even moderately competent campaign or he'd gotten an honest count in Florida — either one — he would be president today. But Nader mattered. It wasn't that he had such a great impact on the voting — he got fewer than 3 million votes out of more than 100 million cast — it was that in a virtual dead-heat, his impact was crucial.

In Florida, for example, even with all the chicanery, Bush won by a margin of only 537, while Nader was soaking up 97,488 ballots. Give but a small majority of those Nader votes to Gore and there's your election.

Yet Nader refuses to take credit for electing George Bush. Like Edith Piaf, the great French cabaret singer, he insists that he regrets nothing. He still sings the same old song: The Democrats, like the Republicans, are tools of corporate interests and both equally corrupt.

Corrupt they both may be, but equally? Get serious.

This administration and its co-conspirators in the Republican-dominated Congress have turned over the levers of power to corporate interests to a degree unseen since the railroad, mining and timber interests virtually owned the government in the latter half of the 19th century. On most important issues fac-

ing the country — health care, taxes, the deficit, the environment, international cooperation, regulation, abortion, separation of church and state, the makeup of the federal judiciary — the two parties offer a fairly stark choice. And Nader keeps saying that he can't see a difference? The man seems to have been blinded by the incandescence of his own virtue.

At this point there's no way of telling what impact Nader will have this fall; certainly not so much as last time. He has to get on ballots as an independent (not an easy task) and many of his former supporters, appalled at what their support hath wrought, have pulled away from him. They, like other progressives, simply want Bush beaten and they see Nader's campaign as yet another stone in the already heavy backpack John F. Kerry has to carry up the presidential hill.

Nader says that he doesn't think his candidacy will hurt the Democrats, that he will make the case against President Bush better than the Democrats can. Which means, I suppose, he'll be saying "I'm the only honest candidate; vote for the Democrat."

That doesn't make sense. If he's serious about making the case against Bush, why doesn't he just campaign for the

(See BELTWAY, page six)

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