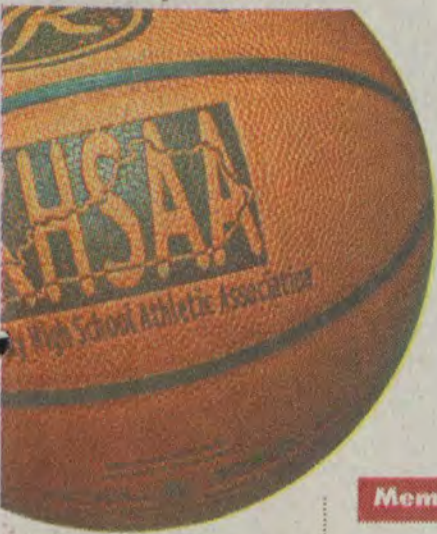


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BLACKCATS vs. RAIDERS

briefs

Abuse sentence delayed

Times Staff Report

PRESTONSBURG — Sentencing for a Floyd County man facing a sexual abuse charge has been continued until the end of the month, Circuit Judge John David Caudill ruled last week.

Christopher R. Lawson, 27, of Martin, was not sentenced as expected during motion hour Friday, a move, officials said, to coordinate his sentence with a Pike County case.

Lawson, originally indicted in July 2004 and charged with first-degree sexual abuse, was arrested Oct. 27, 2003, by Kentucky State Police Trooper Chris Collins after a complaint was filed against him by another Martin resident. He now faces a first-degree attempted rape charge and is charged as a persistent felony offender, which could lend him a stiffer penalty during sentencing.

According to the arrest citation, Lawson allegedly attempted to force a female to have sex with him at the strip job on Arkansas Creek, which is located about two miles outside of Martin.

Caudill rescheduled the sentencing hearing for Jan. 28.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today  
Snow showers  
High: 38 • Low: 28

Thursday  
Evening snow  
High: 39 • Low: 20

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

inside

- Opinion.....A4
- Obituaries.....A9
- Sports.....B1
- Lifestyles.....B6
- Classifieds.....B9



Man leads police on high-speed chase

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two men were arrested Saturday after allegedly leading authorities on a high-speed pursuit from Floyd to Perry County.

The driver, Brandon S. Fletcher, 18, allegedly endangered the lives of police officers when he exceeded speeds of 120 mph during the chase, which lasted all of 12 minutes, officials reported.

"That was the fastest trip I ever made to Perry County," said arresting officer

Dennis Hutchinson, of Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement.

Hutchinson said he was sitting near the Martin BP on Route 80 at approximately 12:30 Saturday morning when he clocked Fletcher's vehicle speeding by at 80 mph. "I hit the blue lights and he slowed

down, but then he kicked back and back on the road we went," Hutchinson said. "At one dip he was at 120 mph or more."

While in pursuit, Hutchinson, accompanied by officer Thomas Gearheart, called

(See CHASE, page three)



One day before its grand opening, Food City opened its doors for the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce's "Business After Hours" open house. The new supermarket will open its doors to the public at 10 a.m. today.

photo by Mary Music

Man's death being investigated

Times Staff Report

HUEYSVILLE — Kentucky State Police is investigating the death of a Hueysville man who died in his home this weekend.

Officials say that Walter Scott Stone II, 24, died of a possible drug overdose while sleeping at his Sage

Allen Branch home early Sunday morning. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Floyd County Coroner Roger Nelson at approximately 5:50 a.m.

Preliminary examination of the body did not rule out a cause of death, Nelson said.

According to him, microscopic

and toxicology tests should be completed in three to six weeks to determine the cause of death.

No foul play is suspected, said Scott Hopkins, information officer with Kentucky State Police.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

One arrested after car flees roadblock

by TOM DOTY STAFF WRITER

Sgt. Gary Tackett and Deputy Delmas Johnson, of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, made an arrest Sunday night when they spotted a driver act suspiciously as he was nearing a checkpoint.

The checkpoint was set up on Route 979 and was being conducted by Kentucky State Police Trooper Brad Hamilton. Tackett and Johnson were watching traffic proceed through the area when they spied a vehicle make U-turn about a quarter-mile away, in an apparent attempt to avoid the roadblock.

They opted to follow the vehicle and flashed their blue lights on it, which prompted the driver to take off. They pursued the vehicle onto Evergreen Lane, where it stopped and the driver and a passenger exited and continued to flee on foot.

(See ARREST, page three)

Jailed Knott judge-exec gets out of prison next week

by ROGER ALFORD ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE — An Eastern Kentucky politician is scheduled to be released from prison next week, but it was unclear Tuesday whether he would return to his \$65,000-a-year job as judge-executive.

Knott County Judge-Executive Donnie Newsome, who has served 16 months for vote buying, is scheduled to be released from a federal prison in Manchester next Tuesday.

Newsome was originally sentenced to two years and two months in prison, but had time shaved off for testifying against two other men charged with election fraud. One of those men was described by prosecutors as the kingpin in a vote-buying conspiracy.

Steven Reed, an attorney representing Newsome, said nothing precludes his client from going back to work as Knott County's top government administrator as long as the appeal of his conviction is

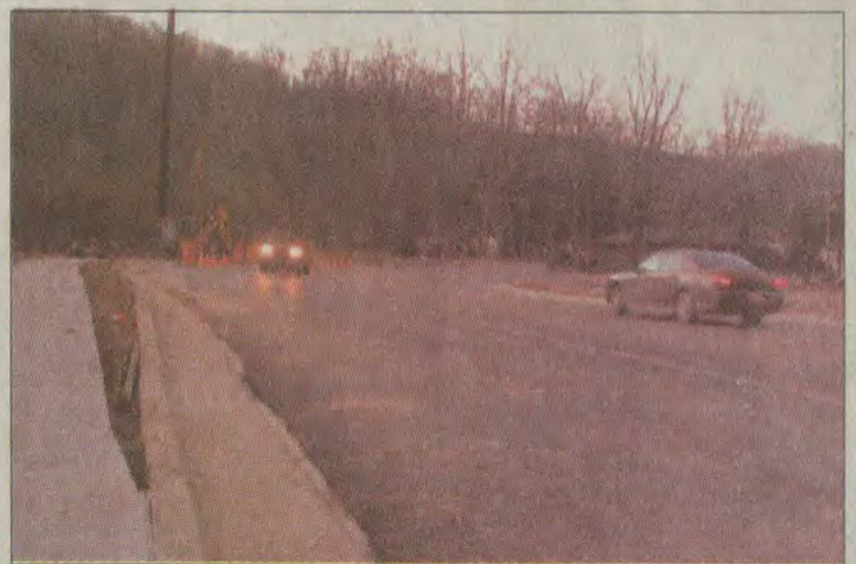
pending. However, Reed said he's not sure Newsome will choose to do that.

"I'm currently in discussion with Mr. Newsome regarding the legal ramifications of his options," he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Taylor declined to comment on whether Newsome should resume his duties. "That's not within my purview," he said.

Deputy Judge-Executive Mac Combs, who has been

(See JUDGE, page three)



After months of construction, all of University Drive in Prestonsburg was reopened to traffic Tuesday. Work crews spent nearly a year widening the road and rerouting its intersection with North Lake Drive.

photo by Mary Music

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# Odds & Ends

■ WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealanders are feeling sheepish over a new postage stamp that shows an ewe with powerful, curled horns — horns that in real life are found only on a ram.

Merino ewes, the type depicted on the stamp, have tiny stumps of horn if any at all,

opposition National Party lawmaker Katherine Rich pointed out Tuesday.

"The stamp is an absolute impossibility," she grumped.

The subject is not being taken lightly in New Zealand, famous for its beautiful meadows full of gamboling lambs and the fact that its 40 million

sheep vastly outnumber its human population of 4 million.

The stamp shows the female sheep with two lambs.

"Given the sheep is a major icon of this country, you'd think they would have at least passed the stamp design by someone with knowledge of agriculture," Rich said.

The stamp's designer, artist Samuel Sakaria, admitted taking artistic license. "The males have the curly horns," he said. "I thought just to add a bit of a dynamic I'd just add in the male equivalent as opposed to the female."

■ PETOSKEY, Mich. — John and Jennifer Dallos have quite a handful with their twins. But things are going to get a lot busier very soon.

Jennifer Dallos is expecting triplets in June.

"We're pretty much shocked," John Dallos said. "We have been up on this cloud, just in a haze. You lay down at night and wonder, How are we going to be able to do this? But you just know it's going to be great."

John and Jennifer Dallos, 31 and 28 respectively, hadn't even

planned on having another baby. But they were open to the idea of another child.

"We did have two the first time, so we thought that maybe it wasn't in the cards for us to have more kids," Jennifer Dallos said. "We thought, if it happens, it happens."

Jennifer Dallos did not use fertility drugs.

"When we found out she was pregnant, we thought it would be nice to have another child," her husband said. "We didn't expect to have three."

Without using fertility drugs, the odds of having identical twins are about one in 250 births, said child care author Dr. Vincent Iannelli. The chances of having triplets without the help of fertility drugs are about one

## Today in History

**The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2005. There are 346 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** Fifty years ago, on Jan. 19, 1955, a presidential news conference was filmed for television for the first time, with the permission of President Eisenhower.

On this date:

- In 1736, James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, was born in Scotland.
- In 1807, Robert E. Lee, the commander-in-chief of the Confederate armies, was born in Stratford, Va.
- In 1809, author Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston.
- In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.
- In 1861, Georgia seceded from the Union.
- In 1944, the federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads following settlement of a wage dispute.
- In 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India.
- In 1970, President Nixon nominated G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court; however, the nomination was defeated because of controversy over Carswell's past racial views.
- In 1977, in one of his last acts of office, President Ford pardoned Iva Toguri D'Aquino,

an American who'd made wartime broadcasts for Japan.

- In 1981, the United States and Iran signed an agreement paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.
- Ten years ago:** Russian troops regained control of the presidential palace in Grozny, the capital of the breakaway republic of Chechnya.
- Five years ago:** Michael Skakel, a nephew of Robert F. Kennedy, was charged with bludgeoning to death 15-year-old Martha Moxley in Greenwich, Conn., in 1975, when he also was 15. (Skakel was later convicted, and is currently appealing.) A dormitory fire at Seton Hall University in New Jersey killed three people and injured 62. Bettino Craxi, Italy's longest-serving premier during the postwar years, died in Tunisia at age 65. Actress Hedy Lamarr was found dead in her Orlando, Fla., home; she was 86.
- One year ago:** John Kerry won Iowa's Democratic caucuses, while John Edwards placed second; Howard Dean, who finished third, delivered a fist-pumping, bellowing concession speech that was viewed as politically damaging. A freighter capsized near the western Norwegian port of Bergen, killing 18.
- Today's Birthdays:** Actress Jean Stapleton is 82.

Actor Fritz Weaver is 79. Actress Tippi Hedren is 75. Former PBS newsmen Robert MacNeil is 74. Movie director Richard Lester is 73. Singer Phil Everly is 66. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 63. Actress Shelley Fabares is 61. Country singer Dolly Parton is 59. ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 58. Singer Harry McGilberry is 54. Singer Dewey Bunnell (America) is 53. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 52. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 50. Actress Katey Sagal is 48. Reggae musician Mickey Virtue (UB40) is 48. Actor Paul McCrane is 44. Actor William Ragsdale is 44. Tennis player Stefan Edberg is 39. Rock singer Whitfield Crane (Ugly Kid Joe) is 37. Singer Trey Lorenz is 36. Actor Shawn Wayans is 34. Rock singer-musician John Wozniak (Marcy Playground) is 34. Actress Drea de Matteo is 33. Actress Marsha Thomason is 29. Actress Jodie Sweetin is 23. Actor Logan Lerman is 13.

**Thought for Today:** "Love is not consolation, it is light." — Simone Weil, French philosopher (1909-1943).

■ STATELINE, Nev. — A Pennsylvania man is pretty happy he didn't stop to eat before hitting the slots here.

Stephen Phares was on a ski vacation when he hit a \$1.3 million jackpot Saturday night at Harveys Casino and Resort.

Phares, 42, said he wanted to go get dinner but was prodded by friend to play a progressive Wheel of Fortune MegaJackpot machine.

Now, he said, "I'm very happy we played."

The home mortgage branch

manager from Holland, Pa., said he's not sure what he'll do with his winnings.

He said he'd like to invest in Lake Tahoe property. But he also sees his windfall as a chance to help others.

(See ODDS, page seven)

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**Chase**

Continued from p1

ahead to the Hazard State Police, requesting them to place spike strips on the roadway to flatten the tires of the vehicle.

Fletcher drove a mile or more after his tires were flattened, Hutchinson said, then he slowed down and crashed into Gearheart's cruiser, causing at least \$2,000 in damages to the left front fender area.

Fletcher, who was taken to the Hazard ARH Hospital and released, was charged with 19 offenses related to the incident. He pleaded not guilty in district court yesterday to four counts of wanton endangerment, drunk driving, speeding 26 miles or more over the limit, reckless driving, two counts of failing to wear seat belts, no insurance, no registration receipt, not using a

turning signal, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, improper lane usage, and two counts of first-degree criminal mischief.

District Judge James R. Allen scheduled a preliminary hearing in the case for Jan. 26. Fletcher still remains incarcerated under a \$10,000 cash bond.

The passenger and owner of the vehicle was also charged by Gearheart Saturday. His citation had not been filed in district court as of yesterday.

Hutchinson said the men were both intoxicated and that they had been smoking marijuana. Both had been to Marlow's, he said, and claimed to have eluded authorities because they were "scared."

**Arrest**

Continued from p1

The officers lost the men but recovered the passenger from the vehicle 90 minutes later. He had entered a garage to hide but spooked the owner. The subject locked the garage from the inside so the owner phoned the authorities, who surmised that the man hiding in the garage could be the same one they had been chasing on foot in the Harold area.

Along with Deputy Glenn Wolfe they arrested the man, who turned out to be Tommy Shepherd, 30, of Paintsville. It was quickly established that Shepherd was wanted by KSP for his alleged role in a drug bust KSP made two months ago

that involved manufacturing methamphetamine. Shepherd was allegedly able to flee more successfully on that night when Trooper Chris Hicks was overcome by fumes emanating from Shepherd's vehicle which allegedly also contained the makings for meth.

Shepherd was lodged in the Floyd County Detention Center and charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, alcohol intoxication and fleeing police.

Authorities suspect that Billy Shepherd, brother of Thomas Shepherd, was driving the vehicle. He is also wanted on several warrants.

**Judge**

Continued from p1

managing the office in Newsome's absence, said local residents are happy that Newsome is getting out of prison.

"They definitely are, and I am, too," he said.

Combs said he believes Newsome will return to work after spending some time with his family.

Newsome, who was sentenced in March on two counts of buying votes and one count of conspiracy to buy votes, will remain on probation for three years after his release.

Despite his conviction, Newsome has continued to draw his salary as Knott County judge-executive.

In Kentucky, state law dictates that even convicted felons can't be removed from office until their appeals are exhausted. Newsome is appealing his conviction.

An FBI investigation into the 1998 primary election in Knott County, which Newsome won, resulted in 12 previous election fraud convictions.

Newsome testified in the election fraud trial of Pikeville businessmen Ross Harris and Loren Glenn Turner, who were accused of

helping finance a scheme to buy votes.

"He came to us with an offer that he had information that we may be interested in," Taylor said.

That information, which he provided in his testimony against Harris and Turner, was that the men gave \$25,000 in illegal contributions to his re-election campaign in 2002.

Harris was convicted on one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and to buy votes, three counts of mail fraud and one count of structuring withdrawals from a bank account to avoid federal reporting requirements. Turner was convicted of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and two counts of mail fraud.

They are scheduled to be sentenced March 14.

Taylor said Newsome's cooperation in the trials of the Harris and Turner warranted the reduction in his sentence.

**Settled**

Continued from p1

cial, Carole Combs, who allegedly told one parent, after several complaints, that she didn't believe her and that she was tired of hearing the complaints.

The suit stated that an aide, Marty Mullins, 33, was responsible for abusing the students through physical force, name-calling and locking them in a bathroom.

Criminal charges against Mullins were filed in District

Court in August and were passed on to a grand jury. Those charges are still being investigated and have not been presented to a grand jury yet.

When contacted about the matter Supt. Dr. Paul Fanning mentioned that he had no idea a settlement had been reached in the case. Though it happened on Friday he had yet to hear about it by Tuesday afternoon, though he did note that other media groups had also contacted him.

**Fall**

Continued from p1

Slone and John M. Stumbo Elementary Principal Deresa Ray are also cited in the suit.

Boyd, represented by Pikeville attorney Glenn Martin Hammond, alleges that she "was caused to fall" while she was walking on the sidewalk of the school to attend a ball game. The accident was the result of an "unreasonable and dangerous condition," the suit alleges.

Boyd allegedly sustained severe injuries as a result of the fall and has continued to

suffer because of the accident.

She says that Fanning and School Principal Deresa Ray should have known of the pending dangers on the sidewalk.

She seeks compensation and trial by jury.

Fanning would not comment as to the nature of the suit yesterday.

Work was completed last year to reconstruct the school's gymnasium into a \$2.4 million "state-of-the-art" facility.



Leslie Shepherd, of Van Lear, holds up her prize for winning The Times' movie trivia contest. The next contest will be announced shortly in "Movies From the Black Lagoon," which runs on Sundays in Lifestyles.

photo by Tom Doty

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# Viewpoint

Amendment 1

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

Worth Repeating ...

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."

—Woodrow Wilson

## Our View

### Embarrassing and costly

Knott County Judge-Executive Donnie Newsome is supposed to be getting out of prison next week, which will allow him to do something he hasn't been able to do the 16 months he has been behind bars — work in the office a jury said he obtained fraudulently.

We have to give Newsome credit for one thing: He is not one to give up easily. Despite being convicted of buying votes during his 2002 re-election campaign, Newsome has refused to resign his tainted office.

Other officials facing a similar situation might find such a feat daunting, but Newsome pressed on and managed to continue drawing his taxpayer-funded salary the entire time he sat in prison, even though the bulk of the responsibility for running the office had to fall to his assistant.

Had the events of this shameful story not transpired in our own backyard, we would have a difficult time believing it. Surely such hijinks couldn't happen, at least not today. Surely such antics could only take place in one of Mark Twain's tall tales.

Surely not.

How can this happen? Well, in addition to Newsome's own apparent arrogance and disregard for his county's taxpayers, state law is also to blame. In Kentucky, a public official who is convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison is not forced to resign until after all of his or her appeals are exhausted.

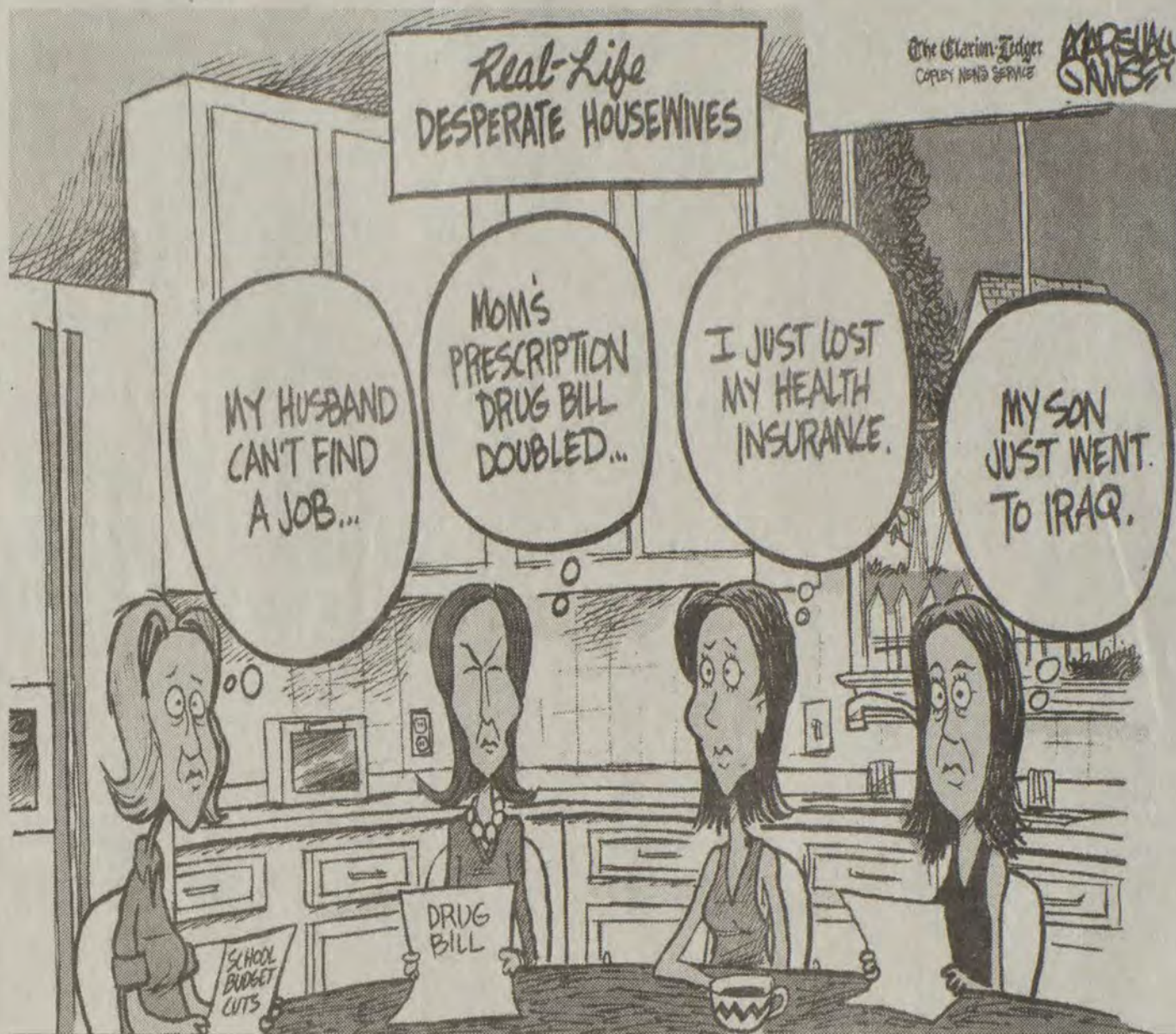
But guilt or innocence is not really the question. Even an honest politician wrongfully convicted of a crime cannot carry out the duties of his or her office while sitting in a jail cell. Even if Newsome's conviction is later overturned, the people of Knott County were still cheated because they paid him for 16 months of public service he could not perform.

Obviously, this is a problem, and it is one that will repeat itself unless something is done. Because the criminal appeals process is so long, cases like Newsome's could become the standard, rather than the exception.

We believe there could be a simple solution. The legislature should act, this year, to mandate that an office is vacant the very minute its occupant is convicted of a felony. If that officeholder is later proved innocent on appeal, then he or she should be entitled to full repayment of salary and benefits for the remainder of the term he or she was forced to forsake.

Addressing this embarrassing problem is the right thing to do, both morally and fiscally, and it will prevent our state from being held up as a laughingstock in the future.

—The Floyd County Times



## Capitol Ideas

### Eliminating tax expenditures could equal fairness

by MARK R. CHELLGREN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — The Fletcher administration last week began its statewide sales tour for changes in Kentucky's tax code.

"We need a simpler tax system," Gov. Ernie Fletcher told a crowded ballroom at Northern Kentucky University. "We need a fairer tax system."

Others in the administration, from Lt. Gov. Steve Pence to chief of staff Stan Cave, will carry similar messages. But as with all things, simplicity and fairness, especially when it comes to taxation, are in the eye of the beholder.

The late Rep. Joe Clarke of Danville, who was chairman of the House tax and budget committee for two decades, used to joke about most people's approach to tax policy: "Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax the guy behind the tree."

What there is a shortage of, right now, is anything to debate.

Fletcher has not yet said what his tax proposal will be, though he has indicated it will look much like the plan presented to the 2004 General Assembly. Similarly, a collection of public interest groups who gathered at the Capitol last week to promote a different approach to tax changes — more on the rich and

businesses and less on the poor — also have not put their plans to paper.

But if anyone wanted to look, a blueprint for a simpler version of the tax code is produced every other year by the state budget office.

The document is called the "Tax Expenditure Analysis." It is a compilation of each "exemption, exclusion or deduction from the base of a tax, a credit against the tax, a deferral of a tax or a preferential tax rate."

"Tax expenditures reduce revenues below what would be received if the tax were applied uniformly and broadly to all potentially taxable activity...." the document goes on.

According to the most recent report, the various tax breaks that apply to the corporate income tax alone cost the state an estimated \$183.3 million during the 2003 fiscal year when total receipts from the corporate tax were \$430.6 million.

Breaks from the sales tax in 2003 amounted to \$2.2 billion when total receipts were only \$2.3 billion.

Some of the breaks from the sales tax are broad based and have been extensively debated in the legislature.

For example, food is not subject to the 6 percent sales tax. The report said that will mean \$427 million less for the

General Fund this year. Residential utilities are not subject to sales tax, though local governments can levy what amounts to a sales tax. Even so, the state is missing out on \$176.2 million this year, as a result, the report said.

The sales tax exemption for prescription drugs means \$251 million goes uncollected.

But other breaks from the sales tax are more obscure and have been added over the years largely at the behest of special interests.

Big industry won an exemption from sales tax on equipment used in pollution control in 1974. The state is missing out on \$13.9 million as a result.

Motion picture companies that produce in Kentucky do not have to pay sales taxes, even though that means only \$100,000 in lost revenue — or savings to the company.

Sales by 4-H Clubs are exempt, meaning the state gets \$100,000 a year less than it might.

Even sales of twine and wire used for baling hay and straw are exempt. It means the state doesn't collect \$30,000 that it might otherwise.

Mark R. Chellgren is the Frankfort correspondent for The Associated Press.

## Letter

### Rails to Trails invites crime

I met with Keith Lovan, chairman of the Kentucky Rails to Trails council, Friday, Jan. 8, 2005, at the Big Sandy Area Development District, along with Judge-Executive Daniel of Johnson County, Judge-Executive May of

Magoffin County and Judge-Executive Warrix of Breathitt County, as well several members of the Big Sandy ADD and others.

There is a reason why Kentucky ranks 47th in "Rails to Trails" development — Kentucky citizens do not want "Rails to Trails", especially people that own property next to the railroads right-of-ways.

Sept. 7, R.J. Corman, the owner of the only railroad that currently runs through Magoffin and one of the railroads in

Breathitt and Johnson counties, filed with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) is the federal government agency that controls railroad issues and licenses railroads) to abandon that railroad. R.J. Corman is obligated to make as much money for their railroad as they possibly can and the railroad got very little business from their shippers.

Now the Kentucky "Rails to Trails"

(See RAILS, page eight)

### Abortion doesn't solve problems

Even now, as we observe "Sanctity of Human Life Week," radical abortion advocates continue to hammer away at the argument that ending abortion will cause all manner of social problems for our nation.

There is something wrong

with this picture. Forty years ago they were clamoring that legalizing abortion would solve all our social problems. But today, after more than 30 years of legal abortion, and over 40 million children killed, every single social problem we faced when we began this grisly business is considerably worse.

We have more teenage pregnancies, forced abortion, more hunger, welfare, divorce, adultery, child and family abandonment, more women and children living in poverty, more child and

spousal abuse, more deadbeat dads/moms, more gangs, more drugs, more killings/suicides, more sexually-transmitted diseases (more than 25 categories now, several lethal), more high school dropouts, abortion-related cancers, more homelessness, and a generally more fractured and violent society.

So where's the payoff? The only answer for the abortion industry is that stopping abortion will make these problems worse. In short, they're asking us to ignore

the fact that these problems got worse when abortion was made legal, and blindly accept that they'll get worse if abortion is made illegal.

It is utterly preposterous. Perhaps it's time we acknowledged that killing people is a bad way to solve social problems. It's morally indefensible, and it apparently doesn't work. Moreover, it's the ultimate act of selfishness. After all, no one ever volunteers to die to solve a social problem, they only insist that others do!

Danny Stamper  
Pikeville

American Heart Association  
www.americanheart.org

## The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE  
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653

Phone: (606) 886-8506

Fax: (606) 886-3603

www.floydcountytimes.com

USPS 202-700

Entered as second class matter, June 18, 1927, at the post office at Prestonsburg, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879. Periodicals postage paid at Prestonsburg, Ky.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:

In Floyd County: \$53.00

Outside Floyd County: \$63.00

Postmaster: Send change of address to:

The Floyd County Times

P.O. Box 390

Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

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# Health Extra

## FDA advisers debate safety of allowing over-the-counter sales of cholesterol drug

by LAURA MECKLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BETHESDA, Md. — Many Americans would reduce their chances of heart disease if a cholesterol drug now available only by prescription were sold over the counter, federal health advisers were told.

The drug also might wind up in the hands of patients who aren't supposed to take it, came the retort.

An advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration began meeting Thursday to consider a request to sell a low-dose version of the cholesterol drug Mevacor directly to consumers for the first time. A recommendation was expected Friday.

Allowing over-the-counter sales for Mevacor would put a new sort of medication on drugstore shelves. Unlike treatments for coughs, colds and allergies, Mevacor is meant to prevent future heart disease, rather than treat existing symptoms. And while a cough or cold is apparent, the only way to know one's cholesterol level is to be tested.

Sponsors say over-the-counter Mevacor would help get needed treatment to millions of Americans who are at moderate risk of heart disease or need to lower their cholesterol but are not taking helpful drugs.

"It's clear millions of Americans ... are not yet receiving treatment after many years now at this," James McKenney, chairman of the industry-funded National Lipid Association, told the panel Friday. "Maybe it's a good idea to give consumers the opportunity to be more involved in their own health care."

Part of the problem is consumer attitudes, said Jerry Hansen, a vice president at Johnson & Johnson-Merck

Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co., a joint venture set up to market over-the-counter versions of drugs whose patents were expiring.

He said many patients would benefit from Mevacor today but don't want to take a prescription drug because "they generally feel that a prescription is for someone who is sick." He said, over-the-counter drugs are for "someone who is healthy, like themselves."

Opponents worry that selling Mevacor directly could encourage patients to skip necessary doctor visits, where they might get important advice about changing diet and exercise.

"Individuals may lose sight for the need for lifestyle changes if they believe taking a pill will suffice," said Dr. Boisey Barnes of the Association of Black Cardiologists.

And there are questions about whether consumers will accurately determine whether the drug is right for them.

To answer that, Merck and partner Johnson & Johnson conducted a pair of studies. One tested whether consumers would understand the label; the other simulated a real-world situation and recruited potential users into a mock pharmacy to see who would buy and use the drug.

According to the label proposed by the drug companies,

Mevacor is only meant for men 45 and over and women 55 and older whose LDL — low-density lipoprotein, or "bad" cholesterol — count is between 130 and 170. They should also have at least one risk factor for heart disease, such as smoking, high blood pressure, family history of heart disease or an HDL — high-density lipoprotein, or "good" cholesterol — count of less than 40.

The study of label comprehension found that only 1 percent of people who said they could start using Mevacor "right away" were appropriate candidates for the drug.

The mock pharmacy found that of all the people who actually took the drug, just 10 percent met the label's criteria.

The companies used a looser standard in counting who took the drug appropriately. For instance, in the mock pharmacy study, they counted people who said they had talked with their doctors before taking the drug even though they didn't meet the criteria on the label. Under this definition, Merck said, 55 percent of those who took the drug did so appropriately.

The panel also heard concerns that women who are pregnant might take the drug. At issue was whether the label advising against it was sufficient to prevent that, and how signifi-

cant the risk of damage to the fetus really is.

Also of concern is that people with liver disease, some of whom don't know they are sick, could be hurt if they take the drug.

There are also financial implications to the decision, although the FDA is not allowed to consider them. If the drug is sold over the counter, health insurance will no longer pay for it, shifting the cost from insurance companies to patients.

Mevacor was the first of the statin drugs, which lower cholesterol by limiting the buildup of artery-clogging fat deposits, reducing the risk of heart attack by about a third. Some \$14 billion in statins were sold in the United States last year.

The application was filed by Johnson-Merck whose officials have said they would charge about \$1 for each daily 20-milligram pill if over-the-counter sales are approved.

The FDA turned down a similar application for over-the-counter Mevacor in 2000.

## Students spend little time getting exercise in P.E. classes, even as childhood obesity grows

by COLIN FLY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lisa Lewis, a health professor, heard her two sons talk about how bad their high school P.E. class was, so she went to see for herself.

"It's been terrible," she said. The teacher was a basketball coach, and "that's basically all they did — play basketball between 40 and 50 kids." Many students just stood on the sidelines of the disorganized game.

Physical education experts say there's little accountability for P.E. teachers in most schools. They say the classes are often poorly run, and students don't spend much time in them anyway.

Nearly one-fifth of all high school P.E. teachers don't have a major and certification in

physical education, according to the most recent numbers from the National Center for Education Statistics.

Often the instructor is a coach more interested in winning games than in producing healthy students, experts say.

"That stigma that a coach cares more about the team than his physical education class does exist," said George Graham, professor of kinesiology at Penn State University.

"When a teacher or coach is doing that, it's really up to the principal to get in there and say, 'We want to win ball games, but the kids in P.E. deserve a good education too.'"

The lack of respect for P.E. also appears in the number of students required to take it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports

(See EXERCISE, page seven)

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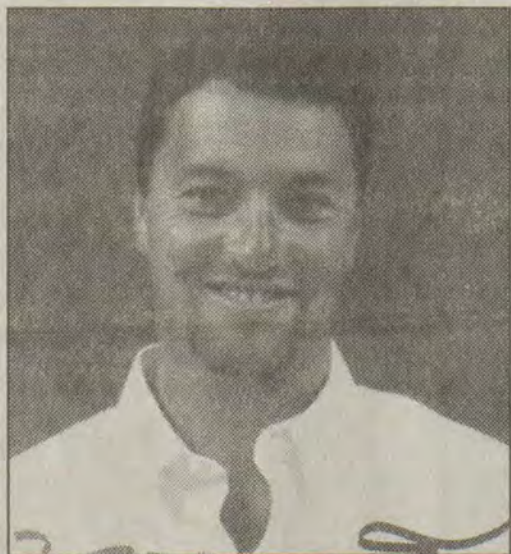


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A Program to help  
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Life's Challenges

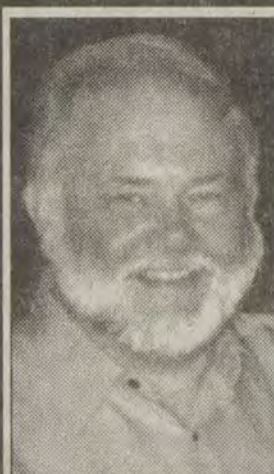
## Douglas Ray Hall

Floyd Circuit Court Clerk



*Happy Birthday!*

*From your staff.*



### BE CAREFUL HOW YOU LIFT THOSE PACKAGES!

Lifting heavy or awkward packages correctly is important, even for young people. However, as you become older, the potential for damage often increases. The elderly are more apt to sustain a back injury while lifting, because of decreased flexibility and strength. The best way to pick up a heavier object is by relying on the legs. Bend at your knees, not your back, so that your legs do the lifting.

Carry objects close to your body at about waist level. If possible, set the package down on a surface between shoulder and knee height to avoid lifting it over your head. Do not twist at your waist. Instead, turn by pivoting your feet. Be careful moving heavy things when you are tired. Fatigue can cause you to move more awkwardly. Heavy loads pose the greatest risk, so know your limitations. Do not attempt to lift something beyond your ability.

Carrying bulky packages can also put added strain on the shoulders. The rotator cuff is primarily made up of four muscles that help support and move the shoulder joint. The muscles form tendons that surround the joint and move it front, up and back during regular daily activities. Lying over the tendons is a fluid-filled sac or bursa that helps lubricate and cushion the shoulder. The rotator cuff can become inflamed or even tear when misused through repetition or strain. Limit moving heavy objects or repetitive shoulder motions without warming up first, and rest the shoulder whenever possible. Correct posture is not an option when it comes to safe lifting. Use it every time.

Brought to you as a community service by Dr. Philip Simpson  
1938 Ky. Rt. 321 — Across Highway from New Social Security Building — 886-1416

## AN OPEN LETTER

TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF MARTIN, KENTUCKY:

The vast majority of citizens, property owners, and businesses in Martin oppose the hauling of dirt, debris, and all hillside materials through the town of Martin. The mud, dirt, and atmospheric contamination caused by this activity will ultimately cause the following:

- 1) Many businesses will be forced out of town — making Martin a ghost town for years before the project would be completed.
- 2) Many citizens with lung and health conditions will be adversely affected, not to mention the school children and hospital patients.
- 3) The large and heavy trucks moving regularly through town will cause a safety problem for citizens and all who need to come to visit the businesses, post office, school, and hospital. Also, the citizens whose homes are located on the highway and their children.

We need parking spaces to remain on Main Street so that business customers, visitors to the town, those who need to go to the post office for daily mail, those who visit the schools, and above all to accommodate the elderly and handicapped that need to park on our streets.

The streets are already full of water when it rains. Why does the mayor allow these conditions to exist? This only complicates and worsens the conditions of our town and streets if the Army Corps is allowed to haul their dirt and materials through town. There are alternate routes available and other solutions to the problem without running people and businesses out of Martin.

We oppose this plan to destroy Martin and will take action to prevent it with every legal and appropriate way!!

### MARTIN CONCERNED CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Pete Grigsby, Jr. Jack Holthouse  
Rick Caudill John Perry  
Dr. Richard Salisbury Roger Marsilette  
Bobby Paul Tackett

# Obituaries

## Nancy Lou Hall

Nancy Lou Hall, 54, of Hi Hat, died Sunday, January 16, 2005, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Born December 27, 1950, in Floyd County, she was the daughter of the late Estill and Carrie Webb Newsome. She was a homemaker and a member of the Tackett Fork Freewill Baptist Church at Beaver.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Hall.

Survivors include four sons: William Michael Hall of Hi Hat, Bobby Hall Jr., of Beaver, and James Jamie Hall and John Christopher Hall, both of Price; two daughters: Debbie Gail Hall and Lola Lynn Hall, both of Price; two brothers: Clines Newsome of Beaver, and James Tackett of Michigan; three sisters: Laura Mae Hamilton of Pikeville, Shirley Fogle of Price, and Yvonne Renfro of Ohio; nine grandchildren; one great-grandson; and eight step-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Timothy Hall; a brother, Bob Webb; and two sisters: Lizzie Adkins, and Vassie Webb.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, January 20, at noon, at the Tackett Fork Freewill Baptist Church, at Beaver, with Larry Tackett officiating.

Burial will be in the Tackett Cemetery, at Melvin, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.

Visitation is at the church, with nightly services at 7 p.m.

(Paid obituary)

## Sam Martin Jr.

Sam Martin, Jr., age 66, of Martin, husband of Marguerite Hall Martin, passed away Monday, January 17, 2005, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

He was born November 19, 1938, in McDowell, the son of Nora Newsome Martin, of Prestonsburg, and the late Sam Martin. He was a construction manager, a member of the Allen Baptist Church, the Wayland Masonic Lodge, the Oleika Shrine, and served on the Floyd County Board of Health, Housing Authority Board.

In addition to his wife, and mother, he is survived by one son, Sam Martin, III, of Martin; one daughter, Violet Elizabeth "Beth" Rowe of Prestonsburg; one brother, Julius C. Martin of Prestonsburg; one sister, Phyllis Grigsby of Minnie; three grandchildren: April Dawn Martin, Celina Elizabeth Rowe, and Robert Dustin Martin Rowe.

Funeral services for Sam Martin Jr., will be conducted Thursday, January 20, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Clergyman Arnold Turner Jr., officiating.

Burial will follow in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, at McDowell, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation is after 3 p.m., Wednesday, at the funeral home with Masonic services at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Allen Baptist Church building fund, P.O. Box 541, Allen, Ky. 41601.

(Paid obituary)

## Aster Hunter

Aster Hunter, 92, of Cow Creek, Prestonsburg, died Monday, January 17, 2005, at King's Daughters Medical Center, Ashland.

Born November 22, 1912, in Floyd County, he was the son of the late Lack and Ella Clark Hunter. He was a retired C&O Railroad, employee, and a member of the Cow Creek Freewill Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Amma Mae Blackburn Hunter.

Other survivors include two sons: Tony Hunter of Ivel, and Aster Hunter Jr., of Prestonsburg; six daughters: Norma Hampton, Ollie Collins, Shirley Blair, Loretta Hunter, and Esther Blair, all of Prestonsburg, and Brenda Auxier of Paintsville; one brother: James Hunter of Prestonsburg; and eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sons: David Arnold Hunter and Marvin Thomas Hunter; one brother, McKinley Hunter; and two sisters: Virgie Goble and Nannie McCoy.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, January 20, at 11 a.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Nathan Lafferty and John Kenneth Burchett officiating.

Burial will be in the Hunter Cemetery, Cow Creek, Prestonsburg, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

## Denzil (Stud) Martin

Denzil (Stud) Martin, 50, of Drift, died Saturday, January 15, 2005, at the U.K. Medical Center, in Lexington.

Born June 22, 1954, in Martin, he was the son of Dennis Martin of Drift, and the late Ada Osborne Martin. He was a disabled coal miner.

In addition to his father, he is survived by one son, Denzil Ray Martin of Drift; one daughter, Tiffany Nichole Martin of Prestonsburg; his ex-wife, Pauline Martin of Prestonsburg; his companion, Velma Henson of McDowell; a step-son, Michael Steven Henson of McDowell; four brothers: Tanzil Martin of Ashland, Ohio, Merlin Martin of Martin, Wade Martin of Drift, and Eddie Dean Moore of Oriental, Ohio; and three sisters: Reba Judd, Donna Setser, and Freda Martin, all of Prestonsburg.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by one brother, Rasher Martin.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 18, at noon, at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Ted Shannon officiating.

Burial was in the Martin Cemetery, Stumbo Hollow, in Drift, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

## Walter Scott Slone II

Walter Scott Slone II, age 24, of Hueysville, husband of Jerrica Banks Slone, passed away Sunday, January 16, 2005, at his residence.

He was born August 11, 1980, in Pikeville, the son of Walter Scott Slone of Wayland, and Vivian Lee Coker of Nashville, Tennessee. He was the step-son of Vicky King Slone. He attended the United Methodist Church, at Wayland.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two brothers: Charles Nevan Slone of Garrett, and Byron Francis Slone of Florida; his paternal grandmother, Marie Slone of

Wayland; his maternal grandparents, Earnest and Douglas Sanders of Weeksbury, and many aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by one brother, James Robert Slone; and his paternal grandfather, Kermit Slone.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, January 19, at 11 a.m., in the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Clergyman Brad Tackett officiating.

Burial will follow in the Bradley Cemetery, at Wayland, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

## Alice Goble Baldrige pallbearers listed

Pallbearers for the funeral of Alice Goble Baldrige, who died Thursday, January 6, 2005, were, active: John Preston, Steve Clark, Mike Murphy, John H. Gray, Johnny Ison, Danny Flannery, Nick Halbert, Warren Halbert, Hearl Dudley, Teddy

Shepherd, and Jimmy Castle.

Honorary pallbearers were: Edward Goble, Charles Goble, Connely McCray, Clifford Schornak, Earl Warren, Willie "Red" Clark, Bill Robinson, Paul Hagans, Ray Prater, and Ernel Hicks.

## In Appreciation

We would like to express our gratitude for all the sympathy and compassion shown to us during the illness and upon the passing of our loved one, Allice Goble Baldrige. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will always be remembered.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to Mildred, Geraldine, Ella, Melva, Verna, the Rev. Robert Varney, the pallbearers, the Maytown First Baptist Church, the Hospice of Big Sandy, and Nelson-Frazier Funeral home.

The Family of Alice Goble Baldrige

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## Iuca Esta Hamilton

January 30, 1908 -  
December 20, 1994



A poem written by  
"Mom-Mom"

What a friend we have in mother, who will all our secrets share.

We should never keep things from her, tell her all and she'll be there.

Oh, what tender love she gives us, when in sorrow or despair.

Tell her gently, whisper softly, she will listen, she'll be there.

Day by day as she grows older, she's the nation's guiding star.

Don't forget the prayers she taught us, you will need them where you are.

Though her hair has turned to silver, send her flowers sweet and fair.

Drop a card or send a letter, she'll be waiting, she'll be there.

When her eyes have closed in slumber, gently kiss her icy brow.

Fold her hands upon her bosom, she will rest in Heaven, now.

When your days are dark and dreary, and your cross is hard to bear,

Do not let your memory fail you, think of Mother, and she'll be there.

Sadly missed,  
but loved and thought  
about every day,  
HER FAMILY

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PSA

## Card of Thanks

The family of Oma May Hughes would like to thank all family, friends, and others, who helped during the illness and passing of our mother. Thanks to caregivers, Lois Evans and Yvonne Newsome for their years of dedication. Thanks to the staff at HRMC and at Riverview Health Care Center during her time there, and thanks to Dr. Roger Jurich for his care. We would also like to thank all those who had us in their prayers, those who sent flowers, and food, and those who consoled us by their presence, and with their words of comfort. A special thank-you to Randy Johnson, clergyman, and to Larry Brown and Barbara Meek for the music. We also would like to thank Carter Funeral Home for its efficient service.

THE FAMILY OF OMA MAY HUGHES

## Card of Thanks

The family of Peachie Reffitt Pitts would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the loss of our loved one. We appreciate all the food, flowers, prayers, and all the acts of kindness shown to our family. A special thanks to Veronica Bolden and Hershel Baldrige for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home of Martin, Ky., for their kind, professional, and courteous service.

THE FAMILY OF PEACHIE REFFITT PITTS

## Card of Thanks

The family of Cecil Ousley would like to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation, all those who helped in any way during the recent loss of our loved one. Thank you all so much for the food, flowers, prayers, and all the acts of kindness shown to our family. We especially want to thank the Old Regular Baptist ministers for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for providing dignified and courteous service.

THE FAMILY OF CECIL OUSLEY

## Card of Thanks

The family of Sarah B. Vance would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all those friends, neighbors, and loved ones who helped to comfort us during our time of sorrow. Thanks to all those who sent flowers, food, or just spoke a kind word. We would like to send a special thanks to Clergymen Red Alley and Shane Akers for their comforting words, the Little Rosa Regular Baptist Church of the New Salem Association for all the kindness shown to our family, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their caring and professional service. All your thoughts and prayers will never be forgotten.

THE FAMILY OF SARAH B. VANCE

## Card of Thanks

The family of Patricia Jean Saylor Duncan would like to express our appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the loss of our loved one. We thank you for the flowers, food, and all the kindness expressed. A special thanks to Clergyman Clinton "Buddy" Jones for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and to the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and professional service. All your acts of kindness were a great comfort to our family.

THE FAMILY OF PATRICIA JEAN SAILYOR DUNCAN



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Exercise

that in 2003, only 28 percent of high school students nationwide attended a daily P.E. class, but 38 percent watched television for three hours or more each school night.

While 71 percent of the nation's freshmen were in P.E. at least one day a week those numbers drop to 40 percent by the students' senior year.

Participation varies widely by state. In Tennessee, only 18 percent of seniors were enrolled in a P.E. class, while New York has better than 90 percent participation.

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education says Illinois is the only state that requires daily physical education K-12, while Alabama requires it for K-8.

In California, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, New York, South Carolina and Vermont, accountability standards are being developed for health and physical education programs.

"Unless we hold physical education teachers accountable for the fitness of the student ... there's no way to evaluate who is good or who is bad because we're more concerned with math and reading," Lewis said. "There needs to be some sort of minimal national fitness standard — that would be a very easy thing to establish."

Some schools have done just that like the Victor Central School District just outside Rochester in Victor, N.Y.

Superintendent Timothy J. McElheran said his teachers are held to specific goals and judged like any math or science teacher would be.

"It's no longer the coach with the whistle around his neck," he said. "Our physical education teachers are highly trained professionals."

Victor's nationally recognized program includes rock-climbing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, archery and

aerobic dance as options for students.

"They take what they're doing very seriously," he said.

Not all do, and a new federal education law doesn't give schools much incentive.

"The thought in some schools is, 'If we eliminate P.E., then they will have more time to do better educationally,' but there's nothing to suggest that's the case," Graham said.

"Kids — just like adults at work — need breaks and they need time on their own."

Lewis has seen the poor state of physical education not only in her sons' school, but also at Middle Tennessee State University where she works. The school recently dropped requirements for health and P.E. from the core curriculum.

MTSU general education director Bill Badley said the P.E. requirement went from four hours to zero when the

school decided to add classes to the core curriculum while lowering the total number of classes needed to graduate.

Lewis wasn't able to stop the changes at MTSU, but she was able to make a difference at her sons' school.

"I went to the class and actually helped the physical educator," Lewis said. "The non-athletes, they're the ones who need it most."

NASPE president Dolly Lambdin said the cuts in secondary schools and colleges intensify the problem that begins at a young age.

"Whatever belief we teach (children) in elementary school, middle school and high school, those beliefs will carry over in college," she said. "We can't continue the model (that) we have to fix things later. It doesn't work on your car and it doesn't work on your body. Physical maintenance is the key."

Continued from p5

Odds

in 8,100.

**CLEARFIELD, Pa.** — Kate Stelnick may weigh only 100 pounds, but her appetite is remarkable.

The college student from Princeton, N.J., is the first to meet a restaurant's challenge by downing its six-pound hamburger — and five pounds of fixings — within three hours.

Stelnick didn't eat for two days to prepare for the chal-

lenge. "I felt very full, but I was too excited that I actually ate it to notice," Stelnick said.

Stelnick, 19, made the five-hour drive to Denny's Beer Barrel Pub with two friends from The College of New Jersey on Wednesday, after they saw pictures of the monster burger, dubbed the Ye Old 96er.

Denny Leigey Jr., the owner of the bar 35 miles northwest of State College, had offered a

two-pound burger for years and conceived of the six-pounder after his daughter went to college and phoned him about a bar that sold a four-pounder.

But nobody had finished the big burger in the three-hour time limit since it was introduced on Super Bowl Sunday 1998. In addition to the meat, contestants must eat one large onion, two whole tomatoes, one half head of lettuce, 1 1/4 pounds of cheese, two buns,

and a cup each of mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, relish, banana peppers and some pickles.

Stelnick did it all in two hours, 54 minutes.

Leigey said he was pretty sure somebody would meet his burger challenge, though he didn't have a petite woman in mind.

"I wouldn't have made it if I didn't think it was possible," Leigey said.

Continued from p2

Man pleads not guilty to perjury charge

The Associated Press

**LEXINGTON** — An Eastern Kentucky man convicted of mail fraud last year pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to a perjury charge.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment against Loren Glenn Turner, 51, of Pikeville, earlier this month, alleging that he committed perjury last April while testifying

before a federal grand jury. That grand jury was investigating complaints of election fraud in eastern Kentucky.

Turner will stand trial on the perjury charge on March 7.

Turner was convicted in September of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and two counts of mail fraud in an alleged scheme to buy votes in a Pike County judicial race. His

boss, Pike County businessman Ross Harris, was convicted at the same time of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and to buy votes, three counts of mail fraud and one count of structuring withdrawals from a bank account to avoid federal reporting requirements.

They are scheduled to be sentenced on the mail fraud charges on March 14.

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<p><b>Cinema Four • PG</b>                  OPENS FRI. 1/21    <b>ARE WE THERE YET</b>                  Mon-Sun, 7:10-9:20;                  Fri. (4:20), 7:10-9:20;                  Sat-Sun. (2:10-4:20), 7:10-9:20</p>	<p><b>Cinema Nine • PG-13</b>                  HELD OVER    <b>WHITE NOISE</b>                  Mon-Sun, 7:00-9:25;                  Fri. (4:25), 7:00-9:25;                  Sat-Sun. (2:00-4:25), 7:00-9:25</p>
<p><b>Cinema Five • PG-13</b>                  HELD OVER    <b>ELEKTRA</b>                  Mon-Sun, 7:15-9:25;                  Fri. (4:25), 7:15-9:25;                  Sat-Sun. (2:15-4:25), 7:15-9:25</p>	<p><b>Cinema Ten • PG-13</b>                  HELD OVER    <b>THE AVIATOR</b>                  Mon-Sun, 8:15 only;                  Fri. (5:00), 8:15;                  Sat-Sun. (1:30-5:00), 8:15</p>



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Rails

Continued from p4

group is confident they will control the railroad right-of-way left behind, once the railroad tracks have been removed. This, despite the fact that over 80 years ago when the railroad first acquired the railroad right-of-way, the agreement was, once the railroad stops using the land, the full use of the land would go back to the owners of the land and their successors. You would be right to assume that once the railroad is no longer using the land they were once granted for railroad purposes only, the use of the land would then go back to the adjoining property owners.

However, the Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group believes they now are more entitled to the use of this land than even the actual property owners. The way this happens is through an STB rule called "rail banking," where with the permission of the railroad, the Kentucky "Rails To Trails" group can legally take the land from the actual owners of the land for a trail as long as the railroad has the right to build a track back on the same right-of-way sometime in the future if they decide to, a very remote possibility. The owners of land can complain and threaten lawsuits all they want, but fact of the matter is the only one that can be sued once the trail has been granted is the federal government,

which has proven to be an impossible task for adjacent property owners.

Contrary to the wishes of the people that own property adjoining the railroad, the Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group is moving full steam ahead with plans for removing the railroad and forcing on Magoffin, Breathitt and Johnson Counties residents the very expensive and potentially crime ridden Kentucky "Rail to Trails" project. Once the counties are the operators of the trail, the counties will have to come up with millions of dollars to build and maintain the trail.

The Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group paints a rosy picture for the trails. Some "Rails to Trails" handout folders show two little girls skipping hand in hand down the trail. The Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group doesn't want you to know about the huge liability the counties will assume, the tons of lawsuits, the huge property devaluation along the trails and yes, the crime associated with the trails.

Crime rates along trails are much higher than you will be led to believe by the Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group. The National Association of Reversionary Property Owners, (NARPO) a website dedicated to protecting the rights for property owners,

keeps track of the crime along trails nationwide. Just the month before R.J. Corman filed before an abandonment of their railroad, the NARPO website reported on the crimes committed on "Rails to Trails" nationwide. From August 9 to August 17 there were 14 crimes committed on the trails. From August 2 to August 9, there were 19 crimes. From July 26 to August 2 there were 19 crimes. From July 20 to July 26. Six days before, another 10 crimes and this goes on and on. You can see the actual local newspaper accounts on the NARPO website.

One trail often used as an example as a good trail is the Monon Trail in Indianapolis. I know the Monon railroad very well. I was the first contractor to start the removal of the Monon railroad in 1979.

One published report says, "This week on the Monon Trail, Channel 6 News (an Indianapolis TV station) wonders, we wonder, how much crime goes on around the Monon. The Indianapolis Police Department gave us some numbers. Now, since no one keeps exact numbers

about crimes committed on the Monon Trail, the closest they could give us is crimes committed within a quarter-mile of the trail. And here's what we found out. Police tell us that during the first five months of 2004, between Fall Creek and 6800 North, there was a lot of crime around that popular trail. Police count 143 cases of what they consider property theft, 120 assaults, 57 burglaries, 46 stolen cars, 18 robberies, four rapes and two homicides."

Grant you, the Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group will argue this isn't Indianapolis, this is Magoffin, Breathitt and Johnson counties in Kentucky, low crime areas. Even so, the question is, is the Kentucky "Rails to Trails" group inviting even half the crime as Indianapolis is experiencing, acceptable to your community?

This is not fear mongering; these are facts. I suggest if you think that the Kentucky "Rails to Trails" program is harmless to the community, don't take my word for it, go to the National Association of Reversionary Property Owners website and get the

facts for yourself. The best way to fight this crime being invited to your community, the NARPO website suggests, is find out which of the government officials is promoting the trail. Call the officials and let them know your community doesn't want more crime. This could be a change the community may have to live with for a very long time.

I have been in the railroad

business for more than 30 years and have been involved in railroad right-of-way issues since the early 1980s. If you want to help protect your community, contact me at (606) 663-5463 or email me at steveallen@allenrailroad.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Steve Allen  
Stanton

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Marcie was born in Taylor, Michigan and she has been a resident of the Floyd County area for the last 26 years. She attended Morehead State University. Marcie's seven years of accounting experience will be helpful in assisting her customers.

Marcie has also been involved in community projects such as: Cancer Relay for Life and Hillbilly Days.

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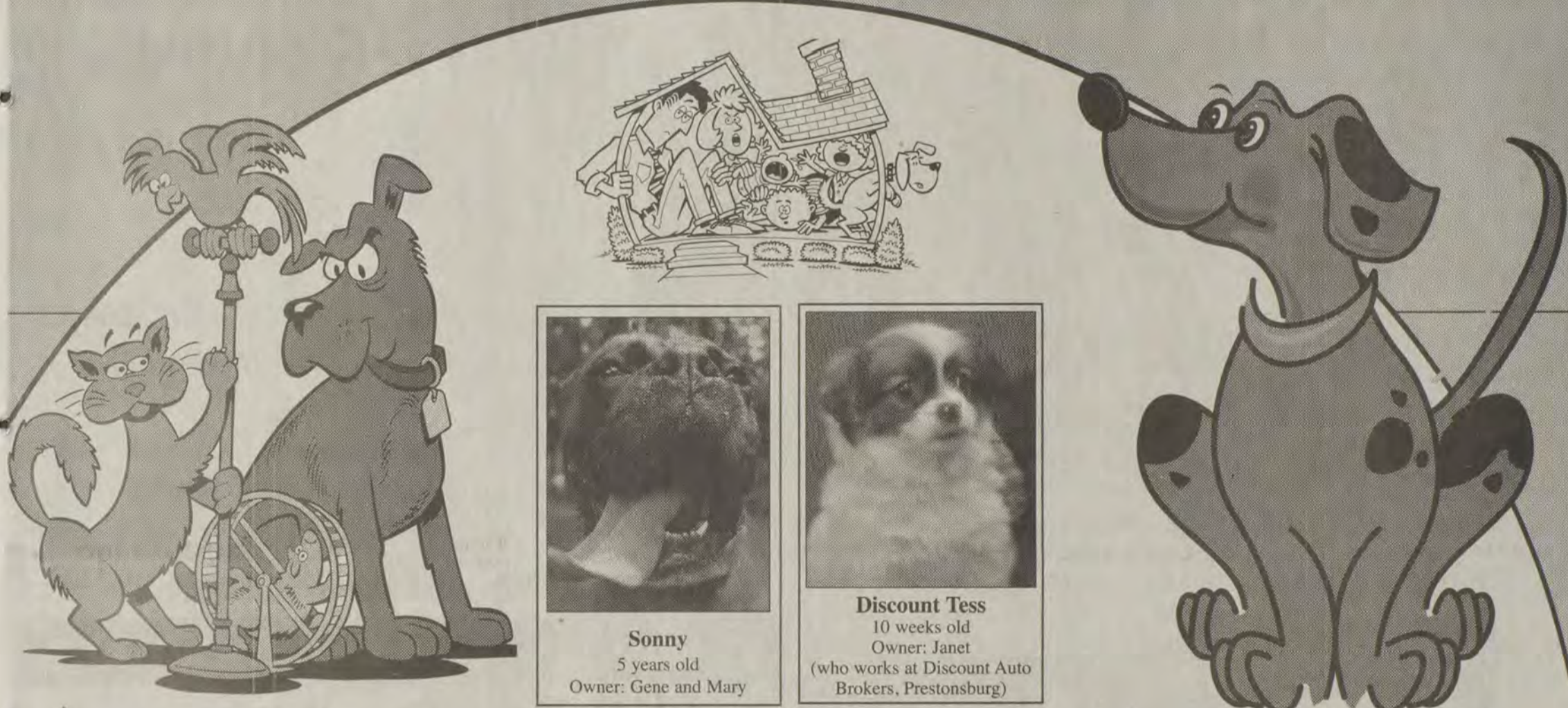






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and Guillermo  
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Jason Johnson  
Wheelwright, KY



**Lucky & Rennie**  
Lucky is 13 years old.  
Rennie is 10 years old.  
Charles & Bonnie Johnson  
Weeksbury, KY



**Foxy & Trixy**  
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Billy Newsome  
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**Bandit Tackett**  
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Shawn  
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Darema Tackett  
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**John L.**  
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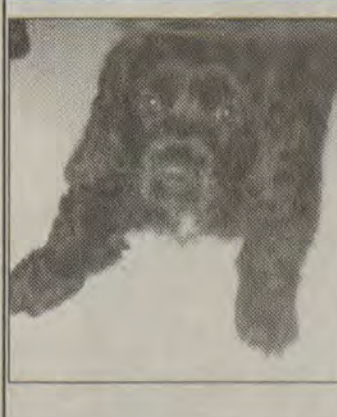
**Levi**  
6 1/2 years old  
Chris Davis  
Berea, KY



**Dotty**  
1 year, 8 months  
Angel Tackett &  
Brian Newsome  
Wheelwright, KY



**Murphy Dotson**  
10 months old  
Orville Dotson  
Prestonsburg, KY



**Sophie**  
1 1/2 years old  
Hollie & Fred Gray  
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**Lucky and Rennie**  
Ages 13 and 10  
Charles and Bonnie Johnson  
1537-Caleb Fork  
Weeksbury, Ky.



The new Food City Superstore opens its doors today at 10 a.m.

photo by Steve LeMaster

## New Prestonsburg Food City set to open

PRESTONSBURG — Shelves are stocked in preparation for today's opening of the new Food City Superstore in Prestonsburg.

Customers will get their first look at the 40,000 square foot facility (located on Route 1428/University Drive) when the doors open this morning.

"We have certainly enjoyed serving the residents of Floyd County through our existing location and we're very excited to be bringing a new state-of-the-art Food City to Prestonsburg," said Steven C. Smith, president and chief executive officer of K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., Food City's parent company.

The new store includes a bakery/deli, complete with a hot food bar and sit-down café, and Food City Floral Boutique, offering a large assortment of fresh-cut and silk floral arrangements, bouquets, a variety of gift items and staffed

with a floral designer seven days a week.

The new store also includes a video department stocked with the latest releases and classic favorites, seafood and expanded meat departments, featuring top quality meats and certified Angus beef. Expanded grocery, frozen food, produce and health and beauty care departments are included as well.

The new Prestonsburg location offers the added convenience of a Food City Pharmacy, where a registered pharmacist will be on hand to meet prescription needs and answer health related questions. And, customers can stop by the Food City Gas N' Go for top quality gasoline at highly competitive prices.

"Our shoppers can count on the same top quality products, courteous service and competitive pricing they have come to expect from Food City, with

added selection and services," says John Cecil, executive vice president store operations.

Customers will be able to move quickly through the checkouts, thanks to six traditional lanes and two express lanes. And the location is the first in Kentucky to feature an attractive new interior design concept, featuring large department signage and a new store-wide color scheme.

"The location's enlarged departments will allow for enhanced variety and selection and greater ease maneuvering through the store," commented Wick Hayton, district manager. "Our customers are really going to enjoy shopping this new state-of-the-art facility".

Headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, K-VA-T Food Stores operates 89 retail food outlets throughout the tri-state regions of Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee.

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In the upper right photo is a black eight-year-old chihuahua, a housebroken female who is extremely friendly, despite suffering from fleas at the moment. The lower left picture is of two of a litter of six-week-old kittens, who are now eating soft food on their own.

The Floyd County Animal Shelter is located at Sally Stephens Branch in west Prestonsburg. The shelter is open from 10:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 10:00 to 3:00 Saturdays, and can be reached by phone at (606) 886-3189.

This ad paid for by Pillersdorf, DeRossett and Lane Law Offices in Prestonsburg, reachable at (606) 886-6090 or at 1-800-725-4861.

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# Safety measures can prevent home heating fires

FRANKFORT — Recent house fires involving children in Western Kentucky and an elderly woman in a south-central city prove that warming your home in the winter can become tragic because of heating equipment failure and human error. But preparation and maintenance can save lives by preventing or providing early warning of a house fire.

Last month in Munfordville, a father and his 11-month-old son died from carbon monoxide and smoke inhalation as result of an early morning fire from a wood stove.

Later that same day in a Bowling Green house, a 6-month-old boy died and his 7-year-old brother was injured in a fire that local officials say was likely caused by an overloaded circuit and an electrical heater.

And in Greensburg last week, a gas heater ignited an 81-year-old woman's nightgown. She suffered fourth-degree burns over most of her body and died.

After a week of mild weather, families may be turning up the heat this weekend to combat the cold. Next week's lows are predicted in the single digits.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating equipment is the nation's No. 1 cause of home fires during the winter months. Such fires are preventable with proper maintenance and preventative measures, said Patrick Flowers, a regional coordinator of the Weatherization Program, part of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

"No matter your heating system, always make sure your home

has working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors," he said.

Some families remove batteries during cooking or forget to replace them regularly. "Test the detectors monthly," Flowers said. "It's a basic early warning system that too often fails because of human disregard."

When fires start overnight in a home where there is no working smoke detector, families - especially those with children, senior citizens and people with disabilities - face a greater risk of injury or death.

The NFPA recommends changing detector batteries yearly.

"Preparation and education could have kept so many of these tragedies from occurring," said Kentucky State Fire Marshal Al Mitchell. "Kentucky firefighters partner with community businesses to provide free smoke detectors to nursing homes and citizens who can't afford to purchase them for their homes. Constant awareness and education are the keys to decreasing accidents and fatalities."

Low-income Kentuckians can get help to heat their homes safely and efficiently from the state Weatherization Program, which inspects heating systems and insulation and checks for various household safety issues.

"Safety is the No. 1 priority of our inspectors," Flowers said. Even homes that don't meet eligibility requirements will get a smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector, he said.

The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services fund the program through the cabinet, which partners with 22 of the

state's 23 community action agencies (CAAs) and the Louisville Metro government to administer the work in every county. Local weatherization teams, contractors or utility crews will do the work.

The program helps 2,200 households and 5,000 Kentuckians each year.

Flowers said weatherization coordinators remind families with space heaters to allow proper clearance. "We go into homes where there is furniture, carpet or piles of clothes right next to the system," he said.

Storing fuel inside the house is another common mistake, Flowers said.

A power failure introduces a new set of safety concerns.

"If you're burning candles and running an emergency heater, a main concern is oxygen deprivation," he said.

Any fuel-burning appliance or device can produce high levels of carbon monoxide, and the potential for poisoning is greater in the winter when homes are tightly sealed.

If possible, choose appliances that vent fumes to the outside. But if your gas or kerosene heater is unvented, use proper fuel and carefully follow device instructions. Don't sleep in an enclosed space with such space heaters.

For more information about and eligibility requirements for the Weatherization Program, log onto <http://cfc.state.ky.us/help/weatherization.asp>.

Follow these heating tips from the American Red Cross and the National Fire Protection Association to protect your family this winter.

## Fireplaces

■ Have your chimney inspected by a professional every year. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a fire if the chimney is not properly cleaned.

■ Always protect your family and home by using a sturdy screen when burning fires.

■ Remember to burn only wood — never burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out of the chimney and ignite a neighboring home. Never use flammable liquids in a fireplace. If you are purchasing a factory-built fireplace, select one listed by a testing laboratory, and have it installed according to local codes.

## Wood Stoves

■ Be sure your wood or coal stove is labeled by a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow manufacturers'

recommendations for proper use and maintenance.

■ Chimney connections and flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned if necessary.

■ Burn only wood, and be sure the stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot coals. Be sure to check with your local fire department and check local codes before installation.

## Space Heaters

■ Place space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything combustible, including wallpaper, bed-

ding, clothing, pets and people.

■ Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed.

■ Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters.

■ Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated. Unventilated gas space heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms must be small and well-mounted. Never use liquefied-petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies indoors.

■ Don't dry wet gloves or other clothing over space heaters. Make sure everyone knows this is a fire hazard.

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Michael & Cheryl Lafferty  
Jordan & Nathan

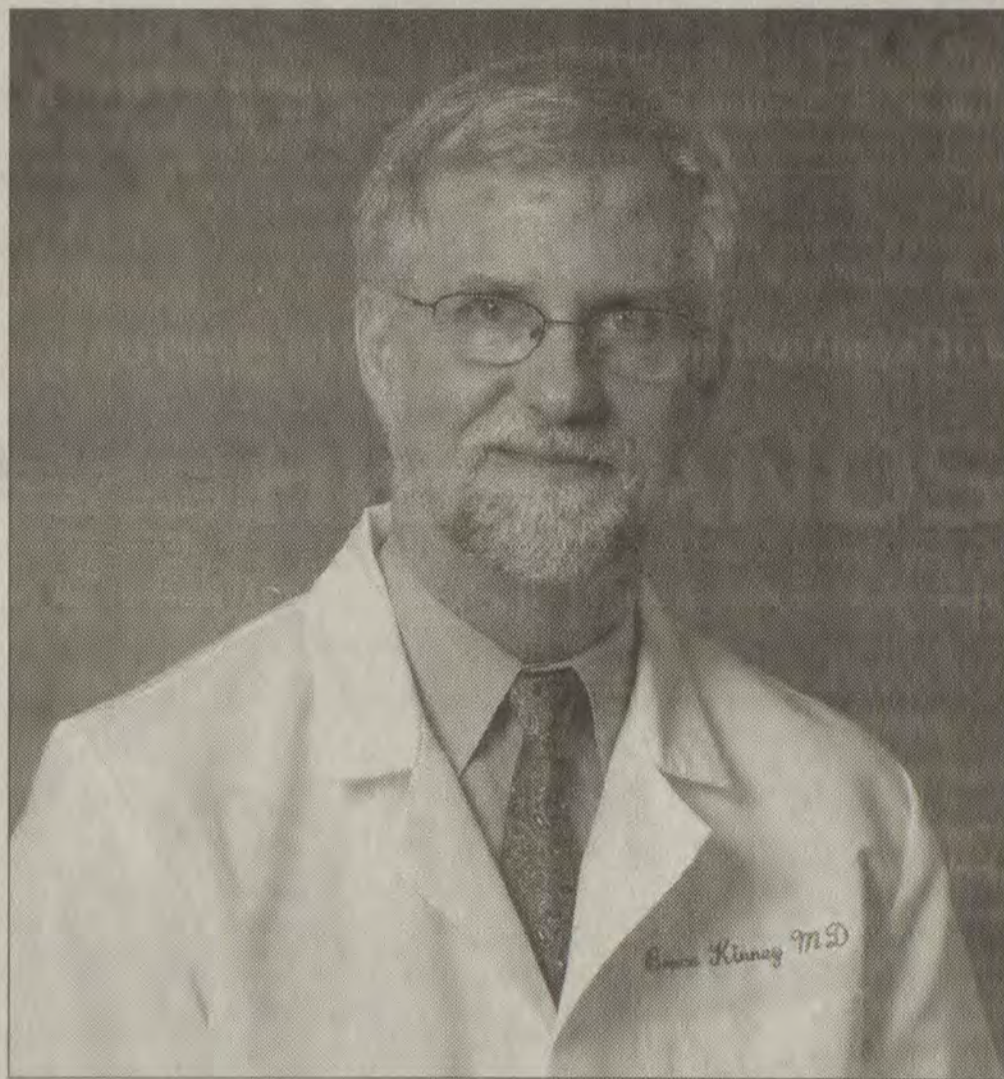


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the last time  
someone  
tacked a  
television ad  
to their  
refrigerator?

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2003 Pontiac Grand Am GT Sunroof, nice wheels. \$11,995.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$10,995.00</b>	2004 Pontiac Grand Prix GT2 Sunroof, leather, CD, wheels, nice. \$16,600.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$15,600.00</b>	2003 Toyota Matrix 1-owner. \$13,295.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$12,295.00</b>	2004 Toyota Corollas \$13,695.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$12,695.00</b>	2002 Toyota Corolla \$8,295.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$7,295.00</b>
2004 Toyota Highlander 4x4 3rd. seat, Limited. \$26,300.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$25,300.00</b>	1999 GMC SLT 1500 Z71 4x4 Ext. Cab V8, loaded. \$17,995.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$16,995.00</b>	2003 Toyota Tacoma \$11,700.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$10,700.00</b>	2004 Buick LeSabre Low miles. A must to see! \$14,995.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$13,995.00</b>	2005 Chrysler Town & Country Nice ride. Vacation ready! \$19,995.00 -\$1,000.00 <b>\$18,995.00</b>
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Auto, V6, sunroof, loaded  
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**Now \$17,995**

**New Chevrolet Tracker LT 4X4**  
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Was \$24,464



**Now \$17,995**

**2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS 4X4**  
17" alum wheels, OnStar, keyless entry, trailer tow  
Was \$33,479



**Now \$24,995**

**2005 Chevrolet Avalanche 4X4 Z71**  
5300 V8, OnStar, loaded. Several in stock  
Was \$40,599



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**2005 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71**  
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Was \$49,039



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Was \$10,995

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**1999 GMC Sonoma SLS X-C 4X4**  
A/C, alum wheels, red  
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4 spd, auto, A/C, CD  
Was \$13,495

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**2003 Buick LeSable Custom**  
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**Now \$13,950**

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Was \$19,850

**Now \$16,980**

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Stk# 000000, A/C, pwr win/locks/steering, cruise, tilt, white  
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**2001 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4X4 X-C**  
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Was \$23,409

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# Lifestyles

## SCHOOLNEWS

- South Floyd Youth • page C2
- Clark Elem. • page C2
- Duff Elem. • page C2

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## YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from The Floyd County Times, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years ago.) page C2

## INSIDESTUFF

- Births • page C3
- D.A.V. • page C3
- MAC Matinees • page C4

### POISON OAK

## Sounds from the attic

Just to prove it pays never to give up on the daily paper before every article is at least briefly scanned, I just stumbled onto a bit of trivia that I found very interesting. Did you know that if termites enter your basement below the frost-line, they can continue feeding



Clyde Pack

all winter long? Well, they can, so don't say you haven't been warned. I'm not particularly concerned about wintertime termites, but from past experiences suffered at the hands (make that jaws) of these minikin vermin, I've some definite opinions about termites in general. Like, it ought to be a law that they should be required to use jackhammers, especially since they don't have yellow trucks to drive around, or little flagmen to delay traffic; if we could hear them, at least we'd know they were there. As it is, though, the little critters can literally eat us out of house and home without our even suspecting they're within a hundred miles of us.

Despite the feeling of nauseousness at their discovery, we were fortunate, if one can by any stretch of the imagination say that finding termites can be termed fortunate. Anyway, a random check of our property was prompted a few years back by a neighbor's finding his house all but

(See OAK, page three)

## BLHS student honored with WYMT-TV academic scholarship

Casey McMillan, a Betsy Layne High School student, has been selected from among 88 nominees throughout KHSAA Regions 13, 14, and 15, to receive a \$1,000 WYMT-TV Mountain Classic Scholarship. The scholarship, based on academic and scholastic achievement, is made possible by proceeds and dona-



Casey McMillan



photo by Kathy J. Prater  
Traveling from Cow Creek to John's Creek in her father's wagon as a young child, the author, accompanied by her parents, came upon many scenes of rural life.

## A Wagon Ride is Bumpy

by Imogene Caldwell

My daddy, Glen, was a fox hunter. And if there was anything he ever loved any better than Mother, it was his fox hounds.

Daddy would travel miles away from home to meet up with his long-time fox hunting buddies to embark with them on races that would last sometimes two nights in a row, or longer.

Now, when I was a little girl - maybe 10 years old or so - Daddy let Mother and me go with him to Uncle Floyd's house on Upper John's Creek, to a hollow called Gulnare. This was all the way up into Pike County.

Daddy made a big wooden box that would fit into the back of his wagon. That's where he put old Cloie and Old Jake, his fox hounds. The hounds would ride all the way to Gulnare on this trip with Daddy, Mother and I to Uncle Floyd's and Aunt Polly's house.

Mother packed us a lunch to eat along the way and we also took along a few pillows to sit on (those wagon seats were hard and bumpy). We took a quilt to put over our legs and feet.

Daddy had the horses fed and hitched to the wagon by four o'clock that morning. Mother had prepared a breakfast of ham and red-eye gravy and hot biscuits. I didn't mind having to get up so early (three o'clock) that particular September morning because we were going on an adventure that not many little girls would ever experience.

We were soon on our way - a long time before daylight still, but we were already traveling. The dogs were all excited and my heart was in my throat. Mother's eyes were sparkling and her smile kept getting broader as we pulled out of the barn yard and headed down the creek to a narrow little road that went across the mountain and down the other side to Home Branch,

on Buffalo Creek.

The ride across that mountain was one I'll always remember. Sometimes the wheels had to roll over rocks and then drop down into ruts and then back up again. We held on to the sides of the wagon seat with all our might.

Daddy held the reins in both hands to steer the horses and his feet on the brakes because if the horses stopped for a second, the wagon would roll backwards. He had to let the horses rest often and when they stopped, you could see their sides go in and out and the breath coming from their nostrils. Daddy knew how much his team could take and he watched them closely so as to not let them get too tired.

That's how the first part of our journey went, but soon we were going down the other side of the mountain road. The brakes were working, the horses weren't pulling, Mother was laughing, and I was as happy as a lark.

It was daylight now and I could see all the things around me. Smoke coming from chimneys, chickens flying down from their roosts, men standing in their yards - stretching and looking toward the sky to see what sort of day was beginning to dawn.

Mother was looking everywhere, Daddy was calling hello to all the people and I was feeling hungry.

From here on, the road was mostly in the creekbed. The horses stopped every now and then to take a cool drink of water and Mother would take a ham and biscuit sandwich from the big basket - one for Daddy, one for me, and one for herself.

We would all take a drink of water from the big gallon fruit jar that Mother had brought along, and soon we would be on our way again. We traveled up banks, down again into the creek, then around the side of the hill -

(See WAGON, page four)

### KIM'S KORNER

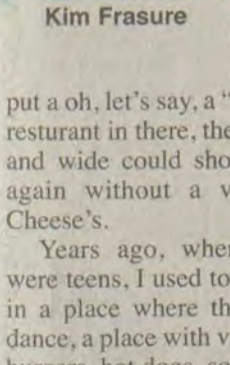
## Dreamin' along

Recently, during a conversation with the Sales Reps. here at the paper, they were asked to present their "wish list" for their department for 2005.

For the most part, their wishes were reachable, while others were definitely dreams.

Taking that dream concept further, discussions led to what would be absolutely awesome in this town, or even the entire county. For instance, wouldn't it be just awesome to see our empty business spaces FULL?

Take the Winn-Dixie building beside Wal-Mart. Imagine if someone were to



Kim Frasure

put a oh, let's say, a "Chuckie Cheese" restaurant in there, then not a parent far and wide could shop Wal-Mart ever again without a visit to Chuckie Cheese's.

Years ago, when our daughters were teens, I used to dream of putting in a place where they could go and dance, a place with video games, hamburgers, hot dogs, something for them to do other than pile up in some local parking lot to socialize - or sneak off and travel the distance to West Virginia just to hit the dance floor.

A true honest-to-goodness place for "Teens" to have some good, clean fun.

I remember a conversation held recently in regard to the skate boarders we all see frequently around town. There have even been complaints about these kids skating on the sidewalks, and in the streets. Wouldn't it be nice if they had their very own special place with ramps and such, where they could practice their talent - and skating is a talent regardless of what

(See KORNER, page three)

### CRITTER CORNER

## Defining the Problem

by Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, DVM

"Only 42% of cat guardians and 39% of dog guardians are aware of the pet overpopulation problem". Can this possibly be true? I found this quote from the Massachusetts SPCA survey of 1993, and it reinforced an article I read somewhere recently. The article basically said that people who work with animals all the time don't realize that many pet owners, let alone John Q. Public, have no idea that a problem even exists.

If that's true, then it means that much of what we say falls on deaf ears, because the average person may have no concept of the scope or even the existence of pet animal overpopulation. I am probably preaching to the choir here, because most people who

take time to read this column already know what's going on. But maybe, just maybe, someone who would normally never read this is sitting in a hospital lobby, or in a parking lot waiting to pick the kids up after practice, or is killing time before the ballgame comes on TV. For whatever reason, someone may be reading a pet article for the first time. This one is for you.

Please stay with me. This is depressing, this is heartbreaking, but this is real. Ignoring it will not make it go away. In fact, the only way for us to get control of the problem is to understand it. So I am not going to go into graphic details; I just want to present the facts. Trouble is, the numbers are so high that it is difficult to

(See CRITTER, page three)



This is "Chopper." Chopper is a two year old Beagle owned by William Miller, of Prestonsburg. The family writes: "Chopper is loved very much by his family. He loves to play fetch and dig holes in the yard."





School

p.m., Monday thru Friday.  
 ■ For additional information, call 874-8328. Summer office hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Floyd County Adult Ed Class Schedule**  
 ■ BSCTC, Prestonsburg campus: Mon., Wed., Fri. - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tue., Thur. - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contact: Jason Cassell - 886-3863, ext. 67219. Room m207 (second floor, Library).  
 ■ Auxier Lifelong Learning Center: Tue., Thur. - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: Lucille Fuchs - 886-0709.  
 ■ Martin Extended Educa-

tion Service Center: Tue., Thur. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Vanessa Tackett - 285-5111.  
 ■ Wayland EESC: Mon., Wed. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Vanessa Tackett - 358-3400.  
 ■ Wheelwright: Mon., Wed. - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Penny Fell - 452-4324.  
 ■ McDowell: Tue., 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
 ■ For more information about Adult Education class schedules, contact the David School at 886-8374. All classes and materials free of charge.

Critter

make them seem real. Until you have seen them first-hand, it is hard to think of them representing individual animals.  
 Did you know, that in the United States, we kill around 350 healthy, adoptable animals EVERY MINUTE? Now don't go blaming the shelters for that. Those animals are the lucky ones. They were given a chance for adoption, and many found new homes. As for the others, they were cared for and well-fed and their lives were humanely ended. We don't have statistics on the others that were abandoned, lost, or otherwise unaccounted for. Litters of puppies are set off beside the road. (Sometimes this is done by misguided owners who fantasize that they will toddle off to find good homes. Other times it is done by a person who just wants them out of sight and out of mind.) Barn cat populations get out of hand and go feral. Roaming dogs join up to form packs that are more wild than domesticated. Many of these animals live short, miserable lives and meet a violent death.

endured the sound of roaring cats fighting and mating under the house, you've been affected directly by the problem.

So, now that you're aware of this, what can we do about it? Obviously, responsible care of our own pets is the first step. Don't let them roam, and have them fixed. In fact, spaying and neutering as many animals as possible is the single most effective thing we can do—shut down those kitten and puppy factories!

Public education is important, too. So now that you're conscious of the problem, make others aware—talk about what you can do to help. Call your local shelter, rescue organization, vet's office, or just the neighborhood "cat lady". You'll be surprised at the number of ways you can be of assistance. They can put you in touch with programs and organizations you may not have even known existed. You don't have to scoop poop or deal with injured or homeless animals if it distresses you too much. You can help with a fundraiser, drive your elderly neighbor to the vet to keep her cat's spay appointment, drop off a book of stamps or some copy paper to the SNOOP folks. You might be able to transport a furry passenger with you on your next trip for the TRAIN organization. Buy a Spay/Neuter license plate for your vehicle instead of a regular one. Borrow a live trap and help the man down the road catch the feral cats he's been feeding so he can have them fixed (so they don't turn into 420,000 felines!)

If we know about a problem, we can face it, and if we face it we can fix it. It's going to take time and it's going to take cooperation, but we can do it. We have to, if we call ourselves humane.

I ask for the privilege of not being born... not to be born until you can assure me of a home and a master to protect me, and the right to live as long as I am able to enjoy life... not to be born until my body is precious and men have ceased to exploit it because it is cheap and plentiful

author unknown

Korner

you may think, just try it sometime and you'll see. Archer Park was an idea brought up in this particular conversation, for an area for these skate boarders to have fun. And why not, it would get them out of the streets and off the sidewalks and give them a place just for skate boarding. Okay, we're really dreaming here! While we're at it, let's

dream some more - how about a Red Lobster, or a Friday's, or maybe a Rally's? And how come we don't have a Shoney's or a Bob Evans? Where's our JC Penny's? We've got the spaces. How nice it would be to see them all full and prospering. Oh, to dream! Til Next Week - May Your Dreams Come True, God Bless!



D.A.V. Chapter 18 raise flag at Highlands Terrace

A flag raising ceremony was conducted on December 7, 2004, at Highland Terrace, in Prestonsburg, by the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18. The flag was sent

to the housing complex to resident, Eleanor Robinson, from Congressman Harold Rogers. The flag sent to Mrs. Robinson was flown over the U.S. Capitol on September 10, 2004.



Pajama Day at BLES

Mrs. Miller's kindergarten class at Betsy Layne Elementary recently celebrated "Pajama Day" by wearing their pajamas

to school where they enjoyed an afternoon treat of hot chocolate and a special reading of the book, "The Polar Express."

Shown here in their p.j.'s are: Back row, left to right - Morris, Johnathon, Dustin, Bradley, Seagar, Brandon, Jordan, Brit-

tany, and Kimberly. Front row, left to right - Brianna, Jamie, Macie, Austin C., Sabrah, Talissa, Cheyenne, and Dereck.

Oak

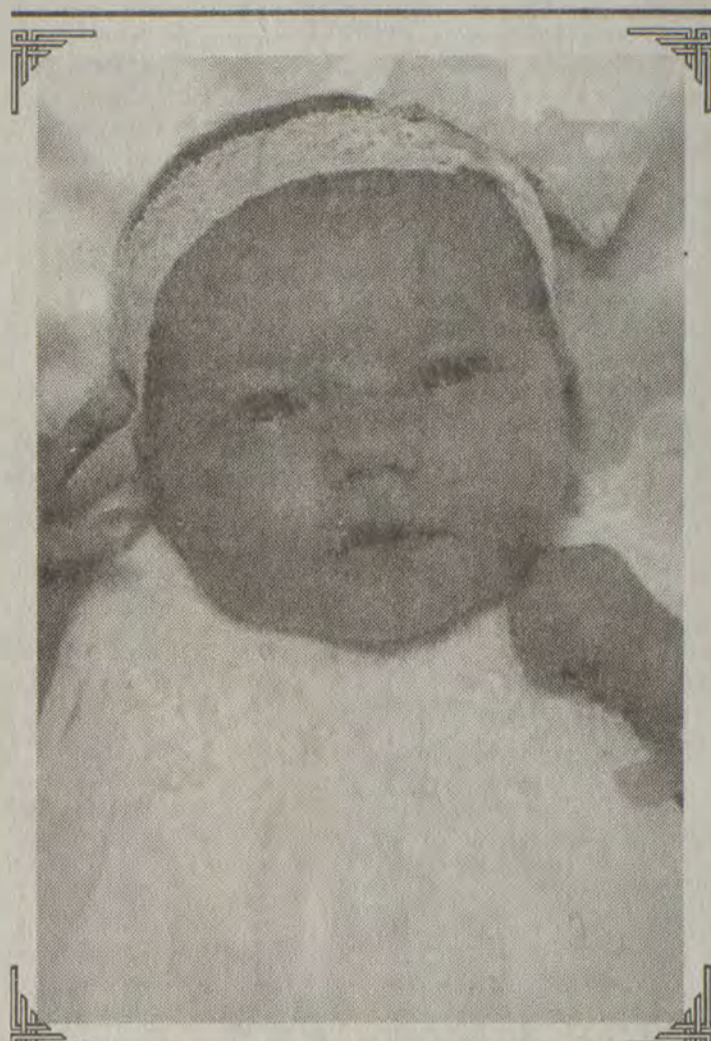
devoured. Our damage wasn't all that bad, but the subterraneans did have a good start on the hors d'oeuvres of our dwelling, and appeared to be about ready to begin the main course.  
 We got a few estimates and hired an exterminator. Hopefully, the healthy dose of chemicals he applied quelled their appetite for pine and particle board. It all makes you wonder, though, just what other unseen creatures lie hidden away to which the home-

owner is subject to fall prey. After having seen what lives beneath the floorboards and inside the walls, I'm afraid to imagine the number of creatures of unknown name and description that might have taken up residence in our house. Furthermore, I can only guess the source of the scratch, scratch, and scurrying in the attic above my bed that is audible only at 2 a.m., when the house is perfectly quiet and I'm suffering from

insomnia. "It's just the house settling," I tell myself. I'm not very convincing, though, and deep down what I'm thinking as I stare upward into the blackness is that it's a family of large possums, or ever worse, a pack of industrial-strength rats running back and forth in celebration of finding a new home, while all the time contemplating just how long it'll take for them to gnaw

through the ceiling. With daylight, however, the scurrying begins to sound a tad more benign, actually resembling sounds expected from perhaps a single, tiny mouse. Maybe someday I'll climb up there with a flashlight and see if I can find a dropping or two and, once and for all, identify those pesky little nocturnal visitors. Then again, since I probably couldn't tell who dropped what, maybe I won't.

Births



Welcome, baby girl!

Taylor Nicole Hamilton was born on January 4, 2005, to proud parents Toby and Shonna Hamilton, of Galveston, at 6:28 p.m., at the Pikeville Medical Center. She weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz., and was 21 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Larry and Joy Hall, of Printer, and Ernest and Emma Hall, of Galveston. She is the niece of Brandy and Aaron Tackett, Jodi and Jim Adair, Leigh Ann Hamilton, Brian Hall, Jamie Hall, and Chris and Katrina Hall, who are all overjoyed with her arrival. She is the newest little cousin of Brooklyn Nicole Tackett.



Welcome, baby boy!

Alex Joseph Begley was born on November 10, 2004, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, to proud parents Larry Joe and Rhonda Begley, of Lackey. He weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz. He is the maternal grandson of Donald and Freeda Horne, also of Lackey. His paternal grandparents are Larry and Suzette Begley, of Hazard. His family is overjoyed with his arrival.



Graduates beauty college

Leigh Ann Hamilton recently graduated from the East Kentucky Beauty College, Pikeville. Leigh Ann is the daughter of Joy and Larry Hale, and the late Phillip Hamilton. She is currently residing in Lexington, where she is furthering her career by studying the art of color specialization. Her family sends a warm congratulations on her achievements!





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Office Space for Lease in the heart of downtown Prestonsburg. Entire first floor of the historic Harkins Law Office building, located on corner of W. Court Street & S. Arnold Avenue. Approximately 2,000 sq. ft.: 5 offices, including 1 with a private entrance, 1 reception/lobby, 1 walk-in safe, 1 storage room, and 2 baths. Contact: Robert R. Allen (606) 886-6460 or 226-6460.

Brain Freeze Clue Hoodoo? You do. You do if you get this clue. Go find where the limestone grows up tall, Where the rocks make a window in the wall, And send me a pic of the stick they call, Thor's Hammer.

Jerry's RESTAURANT Prestonsburg HELP WANTED: Waitresses, dish-washers/busboys, cooks. Paid vacation, health insurance available. Uniforms furnished. No phone calls, please! Apply in person.

Employment Opportunity Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center has an opening for an Independent Living Advisor. Education and Experience Requirements: High School Diploma and One Year Experience in Counseling or Social Work. Competitive benefits package including Medical, Dental, Sick Leave, Paid Vacation, Tuition Reimbursement, Paid Holidays, and 401-K. Qualified candidates should submit résumé to: Human Resources Department Carl D. Perkins Job Corps 478 Meadows Branch Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653 Fax: 606-886-6073 Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/D

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Mountain Manor of Paintsville is accepting applications for a full-time position as an Assistant Director of Nursing (DON). Experience requirements are Registered Nurse (RN) and three years in Long Term Care. Benefits include paid vacation, paid holidays, and paid sick leave, paid life insurance, health insurance, and 401K. Applications will be taken at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Kentucky 41240, for qualified candidates, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





# Kid Scoop.com

## This Week: Germs

© 2005 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 21 No. 4



## It's Sneezin' Season!

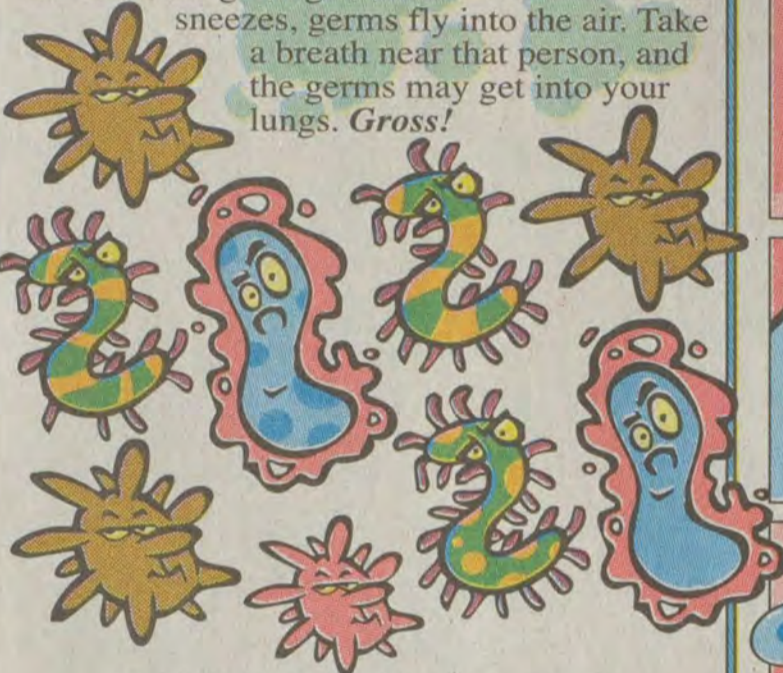
Have you noticed kids and teachers absent from school? Most likely they have come down with a cold or the flu. Colds and the flu are caused by germs.



What is a rhinovirus? It's the name of the germ for the common cold!

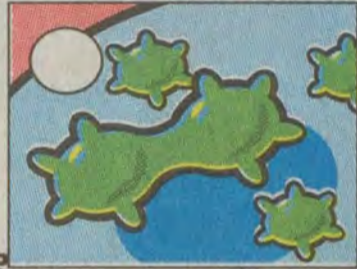
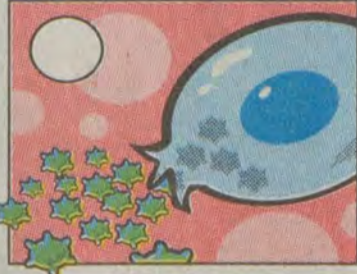
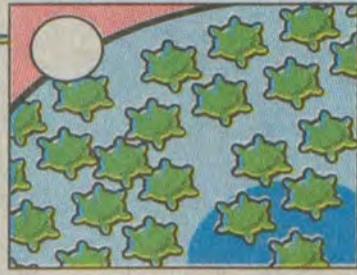
### Just how do germs get inside the human body?

When you touch a germ, it clings to your hand. Then when you touch your mouth, eyes or nose, the germ slips into your body. Or if you touch some food, the germ moves onto the food, and when you eat the food, the germ gets inside. When someone sneezes, germs fly into the air. Take a breath near that person, and the germs may get into your lungs. *Gross!*



Find the two identical germs.

Standards Link: Health: Students understand how diseases are transmitted.



Number the pictures in order to show how a virus germ makes you sick.

### How a Germ Makes You Sick

Germs that cause colds and flu are called viruses.

1. When a virus germ gets inside your body, it finds a healthy cell and digs its way inside.
2. Then it begins to multiply. One virus germ becomes two. Two become four. Four become eight.
3. Soon the cell is full of hundreds of virus germs.
4. The germs break out of the healthy cell.
5. Each germ finds another healthy cell and begins multiplying. Soon there are millions of virus germs in your body.

Use the germ code to find out what you should do if you catch a cold.



Get lots of rest, drink lots of fluids and eat healthy foods.

Extra! Extra!

### Healthy Hunt

Look through today's newspaper to find:

- Three things that are good for your health
- Five words that describe how you feel when you are healthy
- Five words that describe how you feel when you are sick

Standards Link: Health: Students recognize healthy practices.

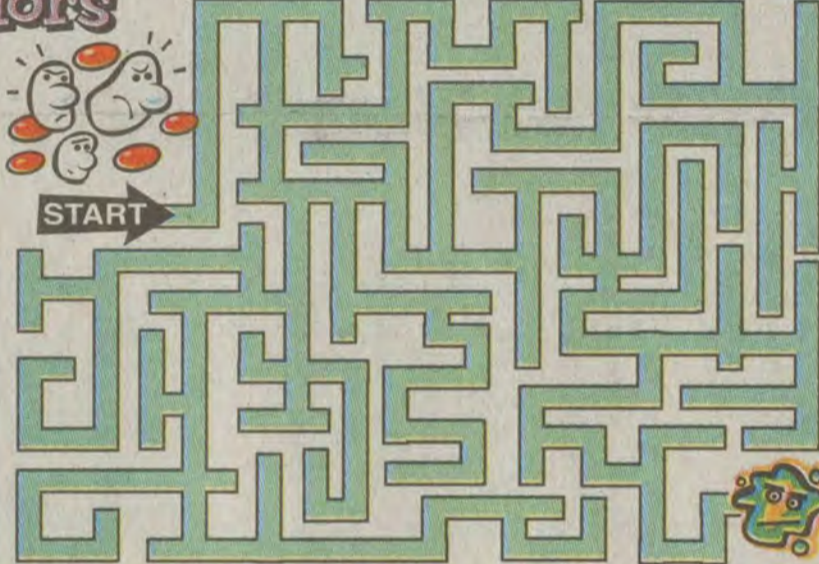
### The Germ Warriors

Even though a virus germ makes you feel sick, you often feel better in a few days. Your body has a team of germ fighters that work hard to keep you well.

What are these germ fighters? **White blood cells.** They fight any germs that get inside your body. Most of the time they kill the germs before they make you sick.

Help the white blood cells find their way to the germ.

Standards Link: Health: Students understand how the body works to protect itself.



### Tips for Staying Well

This cold germ doesn't want you to know how to stay well and has taken some words out of the tips. Can you find where each one belongs?

1. Wash your \_\_\_\_\_ frequently using soap and water.
2. Keep some antibacterial hand \_\_\_\_\_ in your desk to use when you can't get to a \_\_\_\_\_ to wash your hands.
3. Stay away from people who are \_\_\_\_\_ or coughing. Ask them to cover their \_\_\_\_\_ with tissues when they sneeze or cough so the \_\_\_\_\_ get thrown away with the \_\_\_\_\_.



Standards Link: Students understand ways to prevent diseases.

### Double Double Word Search

RHINOVIRUS  
WARRIORS  
COUGHING  
CELLS  
TISSUES  
GERMS  
BREATH  
CLINGS  
SICK  
COVER  
VIRUS  
COLD  
WHITE  
SOAP  
LUNGS

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

C O E T I H W G L S  
S U R I V O N I H R  
T D S Y R I V T D O  
R I G E H M A L L I  
E R S G S E O U S R  
V G U S R C N M I R  
O O I B U G R R C A  
C E L L S E M S K W  
C L I N G S S O A P

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### BEYOND Kid Scoop

#### Cause and Effect

Find an article or ad that describes a health problem. What is the cause of the problem? What is described as a solution or "cure" for the problem?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students recognize cause and effect in writing.

### Why isn't there a joke about germs here?

ANSWER: We don't want it to spread all over town!

## Weekly Writing Corner

### Germs Make Me Sick

I hate being sick, do you? Here are some tips. First, wash your hands a lot. Next, you should cover your mouth while sneezing. Finally you should eat healthy food, so you can stay strong.

Sean,  
4<sup>th</sup> grade

Germs make you sick. Some ways to prevent from being sick are washing your hands, covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough and washing your hands afterwards. Being sick is not fun because you can spread it and some times you have to miss school. Try not to get a cold or the flu.

Breanna  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade

One thing to do to avoid getting sick is to make good choices for your body. Also make sure that if you are sick, you stay away from as many people as possible so that you don't make other people sick. If you are sick, I hope you feel better soon.

Tess  
6<sup>th</sup> grade

Wash your hands before eating. Eat healthy food instead of ice-cream. Wear inside slippers to keep your feet from being cold. Wear a jacket when leaving the house. (Even if you have to go to your next door neighbors' house)

Main point: Stay away from sick children at your school or at home!

Paul  
5<sup>th</sup> grade

To avoiding getting sick, wash your hands before and after every meal. Never sneeze onto your hand, always sneeze into your elbow. Don't put your hands near your face. Lastly, drink lots of fluids and get lots of rest! By doing all of these things, it's not very likely that you will get sick.

Amber,  
5<sup>th</sup> grade

To stay in good health you should eat good and healthy foods like fruits and vegetables. Also to stay in shape, you can drink good stuff like milk and healthy smoothies.

Jesse  
5<sup>th</sup> grade

## Write On!

### Germs Make Me Sick

Deadline: Feb. 13, 2005  
Published: Week of March 13, 2005  
Send your story to:

Germs Make Me Sick  
P.O. Box 390  
Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653

Please include your school and grade.

# Sponsored by The City of Prestonsburg

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Mayor Fannin  
and  
City Council

# BRAIN FREEZE

# Day of Discovery



Written by Bob Rouse  
Illustrated by Frank Yates

**CHAPTER 2**

The story so far: Faced with losing their school, a team of students and their teacher try to win a scavenger hunt. The prize: a rap star's school-sized mansion!

**Last week's clue:**

You gotta travel to the capital city of insurance, I'll get you there for free — you have my assurance. Then send me back a photo of two houses side-by-side. In each of them a famous writer used to reside. One thing the famous books they wrote did insure. Was that the treatment of black citizens was in for a cure.

"Where can we get a copy of today's paper?" Mr. Sanchez asked excitedly, and then answered himself. "I'll go to the school library!"

"It's OK, Mr. Sanchez," Myron said, holding a copy of the Limestone Ledger. "We get papers delivered here."

"Of course we do," said the principal. "Let's look for the clue — it will be front-page news!"

Ms. Roosevelt was at her computer, reading FreeZee's e-mail. "Check 'Personals' in the classified ads, Mr. Sanchez. But FreeZee wants us to form a scavenger hunt team first," she said as she hit the "print" command. "We're to draw the names of four fourth-graders."

"What about adult supervision?" Mr. Sanchez asked excitedly. "And parents' permission?"

"I'll get permission for the kids," Ms. Roosevelt said calmly. "FreeZee wants me to lead the team. We'll start next week, while the school is closed for repairs."

The following Monday, Ms. Roosevelt and four fourth-graders gathered in a meeting room at the Twin Rivers Airport. As instructed, they had no luggage and no money.

"Is there a special plane to take us?" Myron asked. He was still giddy over making the team.

"Are we supposed to wear the same clothes the whole time?" asked Nathan, who took a break from soccer to be on the team. "I sweat a lot, you know."

"Do we get to meet FreeZee?" said Latisha as she scooted her chair away from Nathan's. "He's the main reason I want to do this."

As Latisha spoke, the door opened and in walked FreeZee himself, followed by another man carrying two armloads of backpacks.

"Weep no more, my lady," the rapper said to Latisha. "You all are in for a big time."

FreeZee's friend delivered a backpack to each student and to Ms. Roosevelt. A sixth backpack was left at FreeZee's feet.

"Cool! My name's on it," Latisha said as the kids examined the gold, stitched letters on the black backpacks.

Amber Tally, a girl with long red hair who hadn't said two words since the group gathered, pointed at the extra backpack. "Somebody else?" she asked (in two words).

"That bag goes with the team," FreeZee said. "It's your toolbox, loaded with a laptop, camera phone, and other gadgets."

"Hey, I've got a cell phone, too" Myron said, fishing it out of a backpack pocket.

FreeZee flashed a big grin. "Yeah, y'all have phones for calling home, cool clothes with my logo, and personal stuff — even deodorant," he said, looking at Nathan. "I'll get you fresh clothes at every stage of the game — as long as you keep winning."

Ms. Roosevelt looked at her students. "Boys and girls, if winning keeps me from doing laundry, I say, 'Go team!'"

"One more thing," FreeZee said. "I'll be in the studio sometimes while you're traveling, so I've asked my main man, Sluppy D, to keep an eye on y'all. Slup?"

FreeZee's friend stepped forward. A pale man, he had small, purple sunglasses and a soul patch on his chin (and poor posture, Ms. Roosevelt noted). "Hey yo kids, I'm your man behind the scenes," he said and then narrowed his eyes. "So let's keep it that way. You got my number in your phones. Y'all be cool."

"Don't get so excited, bro," a laughing FreeZee said, turning to the team (while handing Ms. Roosevelt a credit card). "You'll have money to get you places and a computer for research, but use your own brains to solve the clues. Get me the answers before 9 p.m. If you get brain freeze, the game is over. Have fun!"

With that, FreeZee and Sluppy D left.

During the next half-hour, the students broke down the clue.

"Capital city of insurance — that's Hartford, Connecticut," Nathan said with confidence. "My mom went there for training, and it's the state capital."

Myron gave up trying to find an Internet link on the laptop, but Latisha plugged in a wireless network card she

found in FreeZee's toolbox and logged on. "How'd you do that?" Myron asked.

"It's a WiFi world," Latisha replied.

Ms. Roosevelt watched as the four students crowded around the laptop screen, shouting out ideas.

"Search for 'Hartford' and 'author!'"

"And 'house!'"

"No, use 'home.'"

While Nathan and Ms. Roosevelt bought plane tickets to Hartford, the others surfed the Net — and solved the clue.

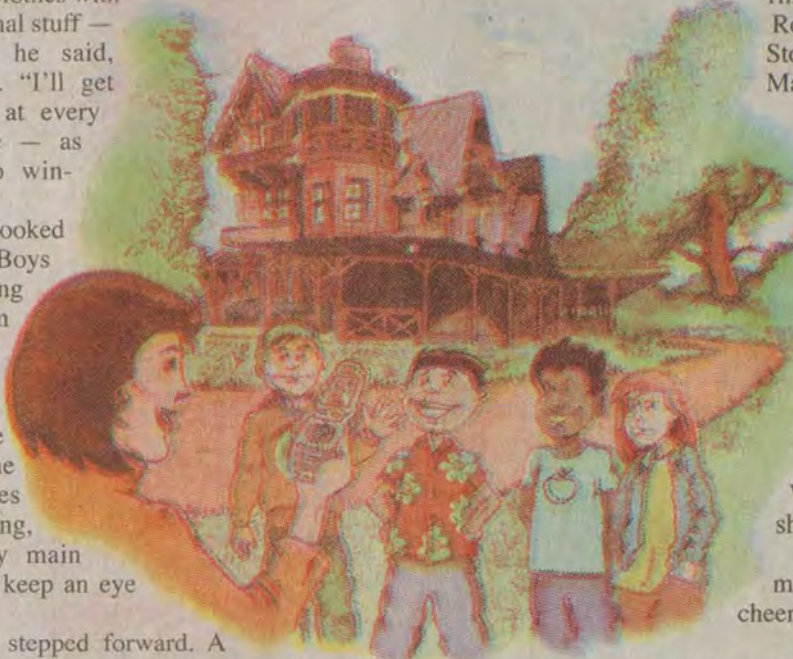
As they boarded their flight, Myron shared the students' findings with Ms.

Roosevelt: Harriet Beecher Stowe lived next door to Mark Twain in Hartford.

"In *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Ms. Stowe showed the world how awful slavery really was, and so did Huckleberry Finn, but in a different way," Myron said. "Mark Twain's book came out 33 years after *Uncle Tom's Cabin*."

"What'd you do, like, memorize those Web sites?" Amber asked, shaking her head.

"Um, yeah, pretty much," Myron answered cheerfully.



It took the team less than an hour to get from the Hartford airport to the two houses on Farmington Avenue. Ms. Roosevelt used a camera phone to send a picture of the houses to FreeZee's phone, along with a text message describing the location and the authors' names. It was 5:15 p.m.

Within minutes, FreeZee sent a reply message: U GOT IT. NU CLU N TDA'S HC. GLHF.

"Whaaat?" Ms. Roosevelt yelped. "What's this?"

Each week, a rap clue for the story's scavenger hunt will appear in *The Floyd County Times*. Look for it in today's Classifieds section.

Bob Rouse and Frank Yates both work for the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. For classroom activities to use with this story, go to [www.kypress.com](http://www.kypress.com).

Brought to you by: LG&E Foundation and Kentucky Press Association

CLIP & SAVE EACH CHAPTER IN YOUR CHAPTER BOOKS, AVAILABLE FROM THE FLOYD COUNTY TIMES



**HEADS UP!** Our artist says there are at least 17 faces in this drawing. Turn it every which way to find them.

**SO BE IT!** Find a country whose name begins with each of the following two-letter words: 1. SO\_\_ 2. BE\_\_ 3. IT\_\_  
Time limit: 30 seconds each. 1. South Africa (or did you say Somalia?), 2. Belgium, 3. Italy.

**TWO ARMS!** Numbers 1 through 9 are to appear in the arms of this windmill, right, so that the sum in each direction will be 23. In addition, numbers at tips of the arms also are to total 23.

Each of the digits 1-9 is to be used just once.  
Hint: Number at center is necessarily a low one. Use a high number and it's 23 skiddoo.  
How quickly can you find an arrangement that produces the suggested result?  
Place 1 at center; 8 and 7 in respective top tips; 2 and 6 in respective bottom tips.



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### MOVING IN CIRCLES CRITTER-WISE

OUR explorer friend, at left, finds himself in an unusual setting — surrounded by names of real or imagined long-ago critters.

While these names are not readily apparent, they may be found by adhering to an every-other-letter spelling pattern. Their individual whereabouts are as follows:

- Outer circle: Pterodactyl, Megatherium.**
- Middle circle: Behemoth, Mastodon.**
- Inner circle: Gryphon, Mammoth.**

Starting with initials, and proceeding via alternate letters, see if you can spell out names. Use up all letters in the process.



Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

# My Kid Scoop™

Vol. 4 No. 4

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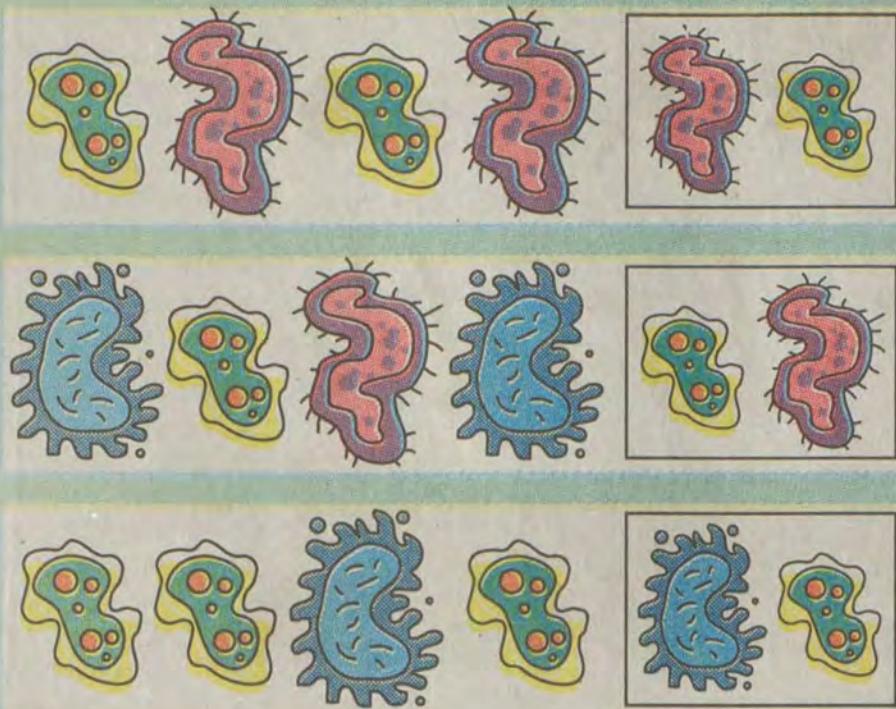
Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Buddies:** Spell your child's first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

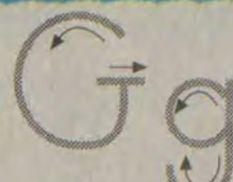
## Germ Patterns

Circle the Germ that comes next in each row.



## My Letters

G is for Germs  
g is for germs



**Learning Buddies:** Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter G. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the G sound like the word germs?

## My Numbers

How many ?  
germs



How many ?  
gingerbread men

**Learning Buddies:** Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

## My Rhyme Time

Georgie Porgie, Pudding and Pie,  
Kissed the girls and made them cry.  
When the boys came out to play  
Georgie Porgie ran away.

## My Sentence

**Learning Buddies:** Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.



Germs are \_\_\_\_\_



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Letter Identification</b> With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter G in germ.	<b>Math Play</b> Point to the number 5 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.	<b>Hand Wash Game</b> Look through the newspaper to find and cut out five hands. Glue the hands onto a sheet of paper. Everytime your child washes his or her hands, cross out one of the hands on your picture. Give a reward after washing five times.	<b>Safety Search</b> Look through the newspaper for things your child comes into contact with (such as cars and appliances) and places your child visits (such as streets, stores, parks). Discuss safety tips for each picture.	<b>Big G, Little g</b> On one page of the newspaper search for an uppercase letter G and a lowercase letter g. Draw a line to connect the two. Can you find more uppercase and lowercase G-g pairs?	<b>Young and Old</b> Continue practicing opposite concepts by looking for pictures of people that are young and those that are old. Also look for plants and animals that are young or old. Make a "Young and Old" picture.	<b>Sorting</b> Look through the newspaper and cut out pictures from the newspaper. Have your child sort the pictures into two groups called: "Things We Touch" and "Things We Don't Touch."



**My Kid Scoop** comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill.  
**Step by Step Success** 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

## Wishing Well®

8	5	4	8	2	6	8	7	2	7	2	5	3
O	E	B	V	S	A	E	S	E	E	E	X	S
7	2	7	2	8	2	5	7	4	5	8	2	8
R	K	V	K	R	N	T	E	E	R	C	O	O
5	3	5	4	7	8	7	5	2	7	3	6	5
A	T	P	L	O	M	T	A	W	H	A	S	Y
2	3	7	4	5	2	5	6	8	3	5	7	3
L	T	E	A	C	E	H	U	E	U	E	R	S
2	3	2	3	2	6	3	5	8	7	8	6	3
D	C	G	H	E	N	A	C	O	S	B	N	N
6	5	8	3	8	6	3	6	3	6	8	4	6
Y	K	S	G	T	O	E	U	S	T	A	T	L
4	8	6	8	6	4	6	4	8	4	8	4	4
E	C	O	L	O	D	K	N	E	E	S	W	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## Rational Numbers

by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.



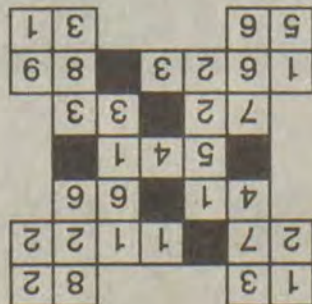
### ACROSS

- Digits of 19-Across reversed
- Seven less than 16-Across
- Digits of 12-Across reversed
- Three times 2-Down
- One-half of 3-Across
- Six less than 12-Across
- The first digit is the sum of the other digits
- Six times 1-Down
- Six more than 5-Across
- Three times 11-Across
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- Ten less than 8-Across

### DOWN

- Ten less than 4-Down
- The second digit is the sum of the other digits
- The first digit is the sum of the other digits
- One-third of 10-Across
- Ten less than 15-Across
- Four hundred more than 6-Across
- Sixty less than 3-Down
- One-half of 12-Down
- 18-Across minus 8-Across
- Seven times 1-Across

Rational Numbers answers



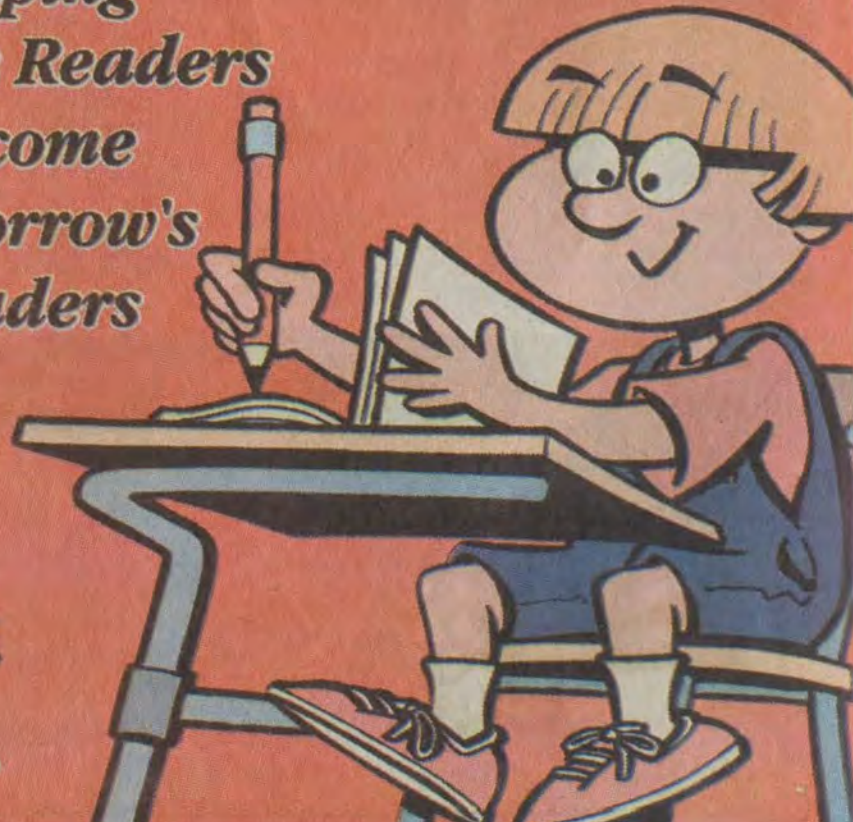
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# World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE & TECHNOLOGY

## Who was Sojourner Truth?

Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree around 1797 in New York. She was one of the earliest female abolitionists. Abolitionists believed that the United States should eliminate slavery. Sojourner was passionate in her support of the abolitionists because she herself had once been enslaved.

## A case for freedom

In the 1820s, a young Sojourner had escaped from her New York owner after being treated brutally and sold away from her family. By the 1840s, she had become a powerful speaker against slavery. Many in her audiences were moved to tears by accounts of what black slaves endured at the hands of cruel masters. She told of slaves forced into submission by beatings — sometimes with spiked sticks or chains — and how, as a teenager, she had been taken into a barn by her master and tied up by her wrists. He then tore the shirt from her back and whipped her until she bled.

She also spoke of the poor, cramped living conditions many slaves endured — they were crowded into cabins with no privacy. Often they were overworked, starved and wore threadbare clothing. Audiences heard Sojourner describe the humiliation of the auction block, where black men and women were often stripped to stand before buyers. They would be searched for signs of whip or shackle marks — indicating that they had been repeatedly punished. Slaves would be inspected like livestock. Their teeth, muscles and other body parts were examined according to what the buyers' needs were.

## A special calling

In 1843, Isabella took the name Sojourner Truth, believing she had received a message from God, and became a traveling preacher.

Sojourner was self-educated. Her speeches revealed great love and knowledge of the Bible.

Her quick wit gave her the ability to turn unkind words from others against them. Facing a heckler who told her that her anti-slavery talk was heeded as much as a flea bite, Sojourner said, "Perhaps not, but Lord willing, I'll keep you scratching."

Sojourner had many political causes. President Lincoln honored her at the White House in 1864 for her efforts. She strongly supported women's right to vote. During the Civil War, she gathered supplies for the black volunteer regiments. She was appointed to the National Freedman's Relief Association in 1864, where she worked to improve conditions for black Americans.

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*"Children, who made your skin white?  
Was it not God?  
Who made mine black?  
Was it not the same God?  
Am I to blame, therefore,  
because my skin is black?"*



Frederick Douglass William Lloyd Garrison John Brown

## The abolitionists

Frederick Douglass was one of the leaders of the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery before the Civil War.

Douglass was asked by the American Anti-Slavery Society to tour and lecture. He became recognized as one of America's first great black speakers. In 1847, he began publishing the *North Star*, an anti-slavery newspaper.

William Lloyd Garrison was publisher of the *Liberator*, an anti-slavery newspaper. In the very first issue he stated, "I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation... I am

in earnest — I will not equivocate — I will not excuse — I will not retreat a single inch — and I will be heard."

For more than three decades, from 1831 until after the end of the Civil War in 1865, Garrison wrote eloquent, passionate anti-slavery articles and spoke out for the rights of black people in America.

John Brown would not be deterred from his mission of abolishing slavery.

On Oct. 16, 1859, he led 21 men on a raid of the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va., with a plan to arm slaves with the weapons he and his men seized. He was thwarted by local farmers, militiamen, and Marines led by Robert E. Lee. Within 36 hours of their attack, most of Brown's men had been killed or captured.

Horace Greeley held great influence over public opinion before and during the Civil War, and used his newspaper, *The New York Tribune*, for this purpose. At first he believed that the differences between the North and the South could be settled peacefully. Shortly before the war, Greeley dropped his pacifist role. After the war began, he disagreed with Lincoln's conduct of it and urged emancipation of slaves before Lincoln was ready to make that step.

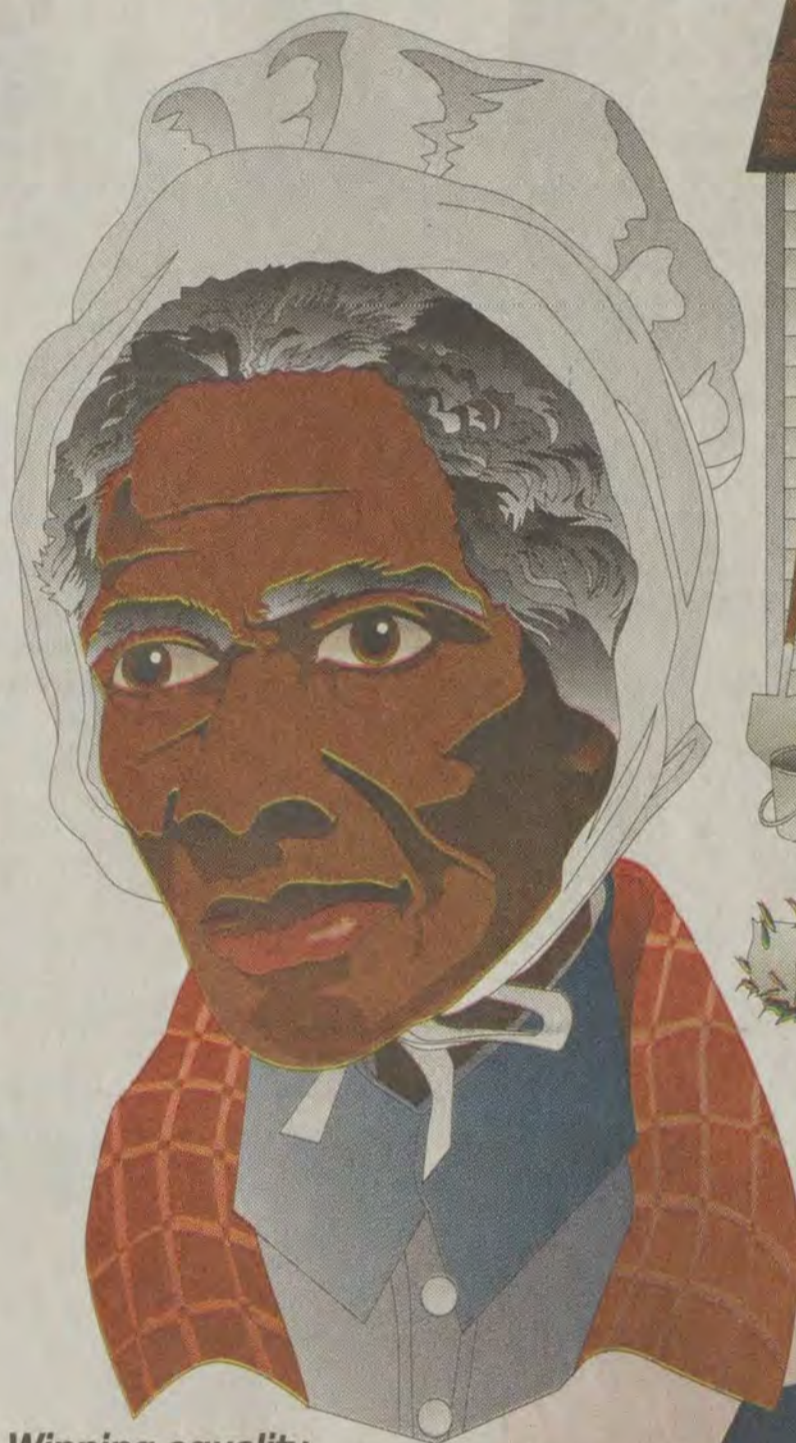


Horace Greeley

Sojourner's grave in Battle Creek, Mich.

# Sojourner Truth

Courageous Voice for Freedom

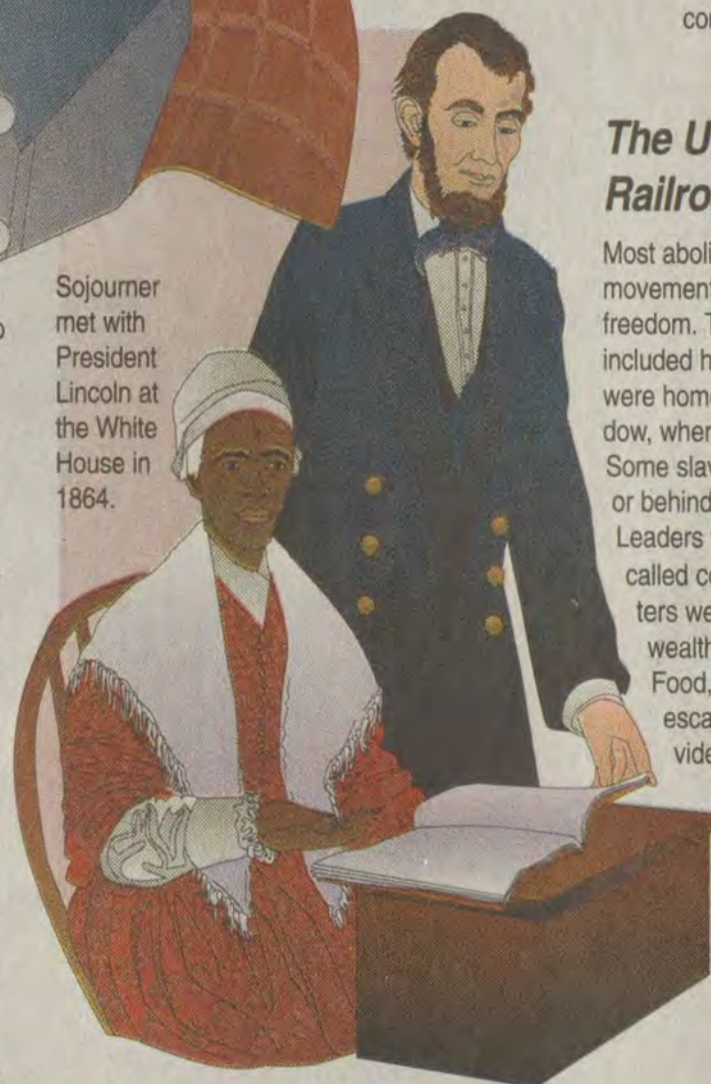


Many slaves were forced to live in crowded, unsanitary conditions.

Cotton plantations were one of the main reasons slaves were owned in the South before the Civil War. Harvesting cotton (left) was hard, time-consuming work.

## The Underground Railroad

Most abolitionists endorsed a secret movement that helped slaves to freedom. The Underground Railroad included hidden routes. Stations were homes with lights in the window, where a safe hiding place was. Some slaves were hidden in barns or behind secret wall passages. Leaders who knew the way were called conductors. Station masters were free people of color or wealthy white benefactors. Food, shelter or money for the escaping runaways was provided along the way. From 1800 until the end of 1865, more than 40,000 slaves made their way along the Underground Railroad to freedom.



Sojourner met with President Lincoln at the White House in 1864.

## Accomplishment

Sojourner lived long enough to see her people brought to freedom. But she never stopped her efforts to win equality for them. Up until her death, she continued to speak out for her race. She died in 1883 and was buried in Battle Creek, Mich.



LEARN ALL ABOUT HUMAN BEAUTY IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF **WORLD OF WONDER**  
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