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LITTLE LEAGUE

- Page B1

briefs

Mine owners fined for violations

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — Operators of C&C Mining Inc., which operates the a mine in Hueysville, were ordered to pay a \$58,000 fine on Monday after having been found guilty of not following proper safety procedures.

The ruling was handed down by United States District Judge Danny C. Reeves at the U.S. Courthouse in Pikeville following charges brought against the company after an investigation by officers of the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Agents of C&C, Clark and Carl Johnson, appeared before Reeves to accept their sentence after being found guilty of not providing a proper ventilation plan for the mine, as well as failing to require water service in case of fire to the mine's fire suppression system.

Punishment for the crime includes a three-year probationary period for the company and a mandatory special assessment penalty of \$250.

Luv manager's lawsuit dismissed

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A lawsuit against a mobile home sales chain filed by one of its former managers, who was fired after killing an alleged intruder on company property, has been dismissed.

Michael Kirk shot and killed Ronnie "Tom" Dillion, who was allegedly broke into one of the model homes at Ivel Luv Homes lot where Kirk was manager. According to a complaint filed by Kirk, he was told when he was later fired that he was being dismissed for bring a weapon to work.

Kirk filed the complaint six weeks ago against CMH of Kentucky, which responded last week with a letter saying that the lawsuit should be dismissed because it was improperly served.

Judge Danny P. Caudill heard the matter Friday in circuit court and ruled that the suit be dismissed because it was never

served against the company's headquarters in Louisville.

The Kirk Law Firm, which represents Michael Kirk, responded Monday by filing its own motion, in which they claim that they were never apprised of the

(See DISMISSED, page three)



Tuesday was the first day of summer, and many youngsters cooled off by taking a dip in the Archer Park swimming pool. The forecast for the rest of the week calls for continued sunshine and rising temperatures, capping off around 90 degrees by the weekend.

photo by Tom Doty

New state laws go into effect

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky law enforcement officials are hopeful that new legislation requiring people to show picture IDs and sign their names when buying medication containing pseudoephedrine will become a useful instrument in their arsenal against methamphetamine.

"Without controlling pseudoephedrine, it's going to be really hard to get our arms around the meth problem," said David James, head

of the Kentucky Bureau of Investigation — an arm of the attorney general's office. "Now that we have some controls on the pseudoephedrine, it will help law enforcement across the state better protect the citizens."

The law went into effect Monday. It requires that medication containing pseudoephedrine — a key ingredient in meth — be kept behind counters and that only pharmacists or technicians sell them. Private purchases are capped at no more than 9

(See LAWS, page three)

Auctions held for two businesses

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two restaurants seized by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in April are getting facelifts.

Restaurant operators from Floyd, Johnson and Martin counties turned out Thursday for content auctions at BLK Enterprises, also known as the Red Light

Diner, and the Pizza Palace Fun Center in Prestonsburg.

Buyers purchased equipment, inventory, fixtures and miscellaneous items from the Red Light Diner at an auction hosted on the premises by American Way Realty auctioneer Jim Gambill.

Local businessman Kenny Pennington, owner of the Hillbilly Market and the Highlands Center complex on

Route 321, purchased the Pizza Palace Fun Center. Pennington said yesterday that he expects opening of his new restaurant, Hillbilly Pizza, on July 1.

Operations ceased at the businesses in April, after they were seized by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The businesses collectively owe \$131,666.96 in 1999 state

(See AUCTIONS, page three)

Trial date set for woman accused of hiding teen

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Maytown woman who is accused of hindering law enforcement efforts to find a missing teen will go to trial in September.

Sabrina Blakeman, 39, will face charges of hindering an investigation and endangering the welfare of a minor for sheltering a teen

girl who was found at her Maytown home last March, after the child was reported missing for four days.

The Floyd County Sheriff's department visited Blakeman after getting a tip from the child's father. They found several teens at the residence, even though it was a school day, and asked if the missing teen was among the

(See TRIAL, page three)

Group urging locals to give a 'second chance'

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Second Chance Volunteers, working with the Kentucky Organ Donor Association, met last week at the Mountain Arts Center to go over plans for the National Transplant Games, which will be held in Louisville.

The tournament, hosted by the National Kidney Foundation, is held to "show the world that transplantation works," said Charlotte F. Wong, educational coordinator for KODA.

Wong said participants from all over the world, including city council member and kid-

ney recipient Don Willis, will compete in Louisville for titles in all major world sports.

It is an emotional time, Wong said, particularly when organ donor families, those whose deceased loved ones are now helping organ recipients live, walk through the stadium during the opening ceremony.

Second Chance is currently boosting an initiative to raise money to pay for athletes to attend the tournament. They are teaming up with a national fundraiser, selling arm bracelets, modeled after those pushed by Lance Armstrong, with "Donate life" written in

(See DONATION, page three)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today
Mostly sunny
High: 84 • Low: 58

Tomorrow
Mostly sunny
High: 88 • Low: 61

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

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Dotson looks to bring training home

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — For five years, honor guard instructors have been traveling to Florida and California to provide training to fire and police department officials. Now, one of the group's members intends to bring the train-

ing to Floyd County. Prestonsburg Fire Chief Gary Dotson returned to Prestonsburg on Flag Day, June 14, from a week-long honor guard training class in Riverside, Calif. Dotson, a director for the Association of Honor Guard Instructors, performed more than 300 military funerals at the Arlington

National Cemetery during his service with the "Old Guard" in Washington, D.C., in the 1980s.

He joined three other instructors in Riverside this month to teach fire and police personnel the basics of honor guard procedures.

(See TRAINING, page three)



Officials held honor guard training for fire and police officials in California this month. The training will be available in Floyd County this year. Pictured are Ron Dorsy, Manatee County EMS, Steve Coffin, Sarasota Fire Rescue, Prestonsburg Fire Chief Gary Dotson, and Adam Ronstalt, Corona Police Department.

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(3) Country Gravy

Odds & Ends

■ **LONDON** — British potato farmers are getting steamed over the use of the term "couch potato."

A group of about 30 farmers demonstrated outside Parliament Monday to publicize their bid to remove the term from the Oxford English Dictionary, arguing that the description of slothful TV addicts harms the tuber's image.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the term "couch potato" as "a person who spends leisure time passively or idly sitting around, especially watching television or video tapes."

The British Potato Council says the phrase makes the vegetable seem unhealthy. It wants the expression stripped from the dictionary and replaced in everyday speech with the term "couch slouch."

"The potato industry are fed up with the disservice that 'couch potato' does to our product when we have an inherently healthy product," said Kathryn Race, head of marketing at the British Potato Council.

John Simpson, chief editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, said the expression first appeared in the 1993 edition.

"Inclusion is based on currency of the term rather than on the basis of what people want us to put in the dictionary," he said. "When people blame words they are actually blaming the society that uses them."

■ **FREMONT, Neb.** — Jerry Wedergren and Joanne Todarello McComb have gotten married — 53 years after they first became engaged.

Wedergren, of Fremont, and Todarello McComb, who grew up in Grove City, Pa., first met in 1951 at a dance in Washington, D.C., when she worked for the government and he was stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md.

They dated and became

engaged in June 1952 in Long Beach, Calif., where Wedergren was stationed aboard the USS Toledo.

Separated during the Korean War, Joanne broke the engagement, and both married other people in the 1950s and had children.

Joanne's husband, Thomas McComb, died in 1997. Wedergren's wife, Patricia, died in 2000 in Fremont.

Lonely after his wife's death, Wedergren decided to search for Joanne and he eventually found her in New Jersey. They talked frequently by telephone, and in August 2001 they met in Omaha, though Joanne was slow getting off the airplane.

"I said to myself, 'By God, she got cold feet,'" Wedergren said. "She was the last one off the plane."

In June 2002, 50 years after their first engagement, they set another wedding date. They would have married earlier, they said, but they knew Joanne would lose her government pension if they had. A change in federal law erased that worry, and they made wedding plans. The ceremony was Friday.

"He's still that same, sweet gentleman," Joanne said. "I think this is something that should have happened. I'm thrilled it finally did."

■ **WEST DES MOINES, Iowa** — A man who police say took restaurant managers to the cleaners over fake dry cleaning bills has been arrested and authorities wonder how many times the alleged scam worked.

Michael Bagwell, who was using the alias Mark Laskowski, carried his dry-cleaning bill to seven suburban Des Moines restaurants earlier this month, police said.

Bagwell went into the Lone Star Steakhouse the first week of June and told the manager that his wife had been in the week before and that a waitress had spilled iced tea

on her. He presented a dry cleaning bill for \$25.90 and the restaurant's manager, Nicole Graham, apologized and paid the bill.

She became suspicious when Bagwell couldn't remember the ZIP code for his home address, so she watched out the window as he left and saw him go across the road to Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, where he asked the manager to pay the bill.

Bagwell was arrested June 4 after police received calls from Lone Star Steakhouse and Famous Dave's. Police found 14 fake dry cleaning bills in his car, along with identification cards with Bagwell's photograph and four other names.

The investigation also has spread to Illinois, Georgia and Louisiana.

Police said Bagwell also told officers his name was Mark Matherne, the name of a man released from a Georgia jail in 2004. Bagwell was charged with theft, perjury and stealing Matherne's identity.

■ **CHICAGO** — It sounds like the ultimate recipe for road rage: A ticket for parking at a meter that was installed after you park your car.

But that's what happened in Chicago last week, where a handful of motorists returned to their vehicles and found parking meters — and tickets — that weren't there when they parked.

According to a spokeswoman for the city's revenue department it was all just an innocent mistake. Efrat Dallal said the vehicles were parked on a stretch of roadway where the meters were temporarily removed during street construction. Then, she said, the meters were put back and the vehicles parked in front of them were ticketed.

But some motorists wondered if that was the case after at least one of the tickets was apparently postdated several

hours after it was placed on a car.

"The city is strict enough in its parking restrictions already," said Vince Tessitore. "Chicago gets plenty of revenue ticketing people by legal means without having to be deceptive."

Police department spokesman Dave Bayless said the department employee, whom he said is a traffic aide and not a sworn officer, said she mistakenly put the wrong date on the ticket.

Whatever happened, none of those ticketed on that short stretch of West Illinois Street last Tuesday night will have to pay up, Dallal said.

■ **HANOI, Vietnam** — All that glitters is not ... edible?

A restaurant in Vietnam's capital has been ordered to stop putting gold into its meals until authorities test the metal's purity and consult with experts about potential health risks, the official newspaper Vietnam News reported Monday.

Gold isn't on the Health Ministry's list of necessary nutrients, nor is it listed as an approved spice or food additive, the report said.

The Kim Ngan Ngu Thien, or "golden feast," restaurant opened in January, offering dishes mixed with small amounts of gold, which it claimed enhanced the food's nutritional value.

In Asian nations such as India, Japan and China, gold has long been regarded as a restorative or as a treatment for diseases such as smallpox, skin ulcers and measles. In Japan, gold foil is added to tea, sake or food.

However, evidence of the metal's effectiveness is largely anecdotal and official health bodies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration do not support such claims.

Despite the lack of medical proof, owner Nguyen Phuong Anh's restaurant has attracted about 100 diners a day since its opening, the paper said. The sparkly metal isn't gratis, however. Gold comes with a 15 percent surcharge.

■ **UNICOI, Tenn.** — A couple here celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary the same way they did in 1955 — with the father of the bride presiding over the ceremonies.

Edward and Barbara Schell renewed their vows in front of Barbara's father, William Blanding II. Blanding turned 99 in January.

"Well, we feel pretty lucky," Barbara said after Saturday's ceremony. "People change so much over the years, but we've been able to face the compromises."

The elder Blanding has been an ordained minister in the Methodist church for more than 80 years, and is one of the longest-serving Methodist ministers in the country. He began preaching at 17 and got his first ministry in 1930.

Edward and Barbara met in 1954 at Michigan State University at a campus function.

"We've been lucky," she said. "I think luck has a lot to do with it."

■ **TAHOE CITY, Calif.** — Some people want to turn their back on the city's 80-year-old Fanny Bridge.

The bridge, which derives its name from tourists who lean over to view fish below, is in its last stage of life and probably is beyond repair, said Jennifer Hannum, associate transportation planner for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

"I would like to keep the bridge," Hannum said. "But it doesn't look like that's going to happen."

The two-lane Highway 89 bridge spanning the Truckee River is one of the most congested areas at Lake Tahoe. About 15,600 cars cross the bridge daily and that number soars to 26,500 at peak periods. Pedestrians add to the problem.

The bridge could eventually be closed to either motorists or pedestrians under options being explored by agency officials. They also are considering building a highway bypass to reduce traffic in the area.

"Fanny Bridge has 10 years of life in it," Hannum said. "It's probably beyond repair, no matter if there's a bypass or not."

■ **FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.** — Cumberland County authorities arrested a man who they say found a fertile spot to grow some illicit herbs — his grandmother's garden.

Cornelius Shaw, 30, is charged with manufacturing marijuana that he allegedly grew in his grandmother's backyard, the sheriff's department said Sunday. He was arrested at her house Friday and was freed on \$3,000 bond.

An off-duty sheriff's deputy discovered the weed patch when he was at a yard sale.

Tom Zilg glanced into the yard next door and spotted what investigators later established was 25 marijuana plants with a street value of \$25,000, according to a department news release.

Investigators said Shaw told his grandmother he was growing tomatoes, and she had no idea what he was really up to.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 22, the 173rd day of 2005. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 22, 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa officially ended; 12,520 Americans and 110,000 Japanese were killed in the 81-day campaign.

On this date:

■ In 1611, English explorer Henry Hudson, his son and several other people were set adrift in present-day Hudson Bay by mutineers.

■ In 1870, Congress created the Department of Justice.

■ In 1911, Britain's King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

■ In 1938, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch at Yankee Stadium.

■ In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

■ In 1944, President Roosevelt signed the Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

■ In 1969, singer-actress Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

■ In 1970, President Nixon signed a measure lowering the voting age to 18.

■ In 1987, actor-dancer Fred Astaire died in Los Angeles at age 88.

■ In 1993, former first lady Pat Nixon died in Park Ridge, N.J., at age 81.

Ten years ago: House and Senate Republicans announced agreement on a compromise seven-year budget-balancing plan that would cut taxes by \$245 billion and slow spending for Medicare, Medicaid and dozens of other programs. Riot police stormed a hijacked jumbo jet in Hakodate, Japan, freeing all 364 people on board and capturing a lone hijacker.

Five years ago: The state of Texas executed Gary Graham for the 1981 killing of a man in a

holdup outside a Houston supermarket; Graham insisted to the end that he was innocent. Independent Counsel Robert Ray ended his investigation of the 1993 firings in the White House travel office, issuing no indictments but saying he'd found "substantial evidence" that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton played a role in the dismissals.

One year ago: Islamic militants beheaded Kim Sun-il, a South Korean hostage who'd pleaded for his life in a heart-wrenching videotape; he was the third foreign hostage decapitated in the Middle East in little over a month. A federal judge approved a class-action sex-discrimination lawsuit representing 1.6 million female workers against Wal-Mart. Mexican newspaper editor Francisco Ortiz Franco was shot to death in Tijuana. Former President Clinton's memoir, "My Life," was officially released. Child poet Mattie Stepanek, a prominent voice for muscular dystrophy sufferers, died in Washington, D.C., at age 13.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ralph Waite is 77. Singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is 69. CBS News correspondent Ed Bradley is 64. Actor Michael Lerner is 64. Fox News correspondent Brit Hume is 62. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 61. Singer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 61. Actor Andrew Rubin is 59. Actor David L. Lander is 58. Singer Howard "Eddie" Kaylan is 58. Singer-musician Todd Rundgren is 57. Actress Meryl Streep is 56. Actress Lindsay Wagner is 56. Singer Alan Osmond is 56. Actor Murphy Cross is 55. Actor Graham Greene is 53. Actor Chris Lemmon is 51. Actor Tim Russ is 49. Rock musician Garry Beers (INXS) is 48. Actor-producer-writer Bruce Campbell is 47. Rock musician Alan Anton (Cowboy Junkies) is 46. Actress Tracy Pollan is 45. Rock singer-musician Jimmy Somerville is 44. Rock singer-musician Mike Edwards (Jesus Jones) is 41. Actress Amy Brenneman is 41. Actress Paula Irvine is 37. Rock singer Steven Page (Barenaked Ladies) is 35. TV personality

Carson Daly is 32. Rock musician Chris Traynor (Helmet) is 32. Actor Donald Faison is 31. TV personality/actor Jai Rodriguez is 26. Actress Lindsay Ridgeway is 20.

Thought for Today: "To understand is hard. Once one understands, action is easy." — Sun Yat-sen, Chinese statesman (1866-1925).

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Auctions

Continued from p1

and federal taxes. Kuss filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on March 8 and individual Chapter 13 bankruptcy on April 6. Her former attorney, Toyray Adams, later filed a motion to dismiss the bankruptcy, arguing that it was filed as an emergency and that his services were retained to resolve Kuss' tax debts.

U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee Phaedra Spradlin, who did not return inquiry calls, filed a motion to convert the Chapter 11 bankruptcy to Chapter 7, allowing the governmental seizure, on April 13. Spradlin argued that Kuss did not provide proof of insurance, failed to set up "Debtor in Possession" bank accounts and failed to appear for her Initial Debtor Conference on March 29. Kuss filed an objection to the seizure, making allegations against her attorney, who withdrew from the case.

Kuss' objection to the auctions and a renewed motion to dismiss the case was submitted at a U.S. Bankruptcy Court hearing prior to the sale Thursday. Barbara Curtin Kenney, attorney for the Finance and Administration Cabinet, said in a subsequent response that that dismissal of the case would be unfair because "it is time for creditors to be paid and cut our losses."

"Rebecca Spegal's (sic, but signed Rebecca S. Kuss) 2003 and 2004 Kentucky Individual Tax returns shows no wages/salaries on line 7 and no dividends on line 9 from BLK Enterprises Inc.," Kenney wrote. "Only rents in the amount of \$24,000 to herself to pay the mortgage(s) are shown on her tax returns. She and her husband (not the corporation) are the legal owners of the real property. Partnership incomes of \$273 (2004) and \$1,515 (2004) are shown for this entity. If all she can do by owning the three corporations is to pay rent to herself to pay the mortgages, then

these are not viable businesses which can repay their creditors."

Kenney, responding to Kuss' argument that she was trying to repay the debt, wrote, "given her [Kuss'] past history with the Commonwealth, there will be no pay agreements with these three businesses."

M. Clark Jesse, a Taxpayer Services Specialist II in the Division of the Department of Revenue, filed an affidavit about the tax account of BLK Enterprises for the purpose of this hearing. Jesse said the restaurant was listed in "OSCAR," a computer system used by the Department of Revenue's Division of Collections that contains delinquent taxpayer cases, on May 10, 2002. Jesse said that Kuss, who signed taxes as Becky Spegal, informed the Department of Revenue that the business never operated and that the accounts were closed on July 19, 2002. The business reactivated on June 4, 2003, Jesse swore, and has remained in OSCAR since that time.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court filings indicate that an auction of the equipment, inventory, fixtures, and miscellaneous items of the Hock Shop will be sold on the premises of the Court Street Bingo Parlor next month. Guns, hunting and sporting equipment and miscellaneous items will be sold on July 2. Musical instruments, electronics, appliances and miscellaneous items will be sold on July 9. Tools, jewelry and miscellaneous items will be sold on July 16.

Spradlin and Kuss did not return inquiry calls. Bob Deprez, who works with a mortgage company for Kuss' Red Light Diner property, was unavailable for comment.

Gambill would not disclose the amount of money collected during the auctions.

Laws

Continued from p1

grams, which is about 300 tablets, per month. It does not apply to the liquid and gel forms of the drug.

The bill also would make it a felony for someone to make meth with a child nearby. And anyone caught with at least two ingredients or pieces of meth-making equipment could be convicted of meth manufacturing.

The legislation was one of 158 new laws — from the official demise of public campaign financing to a designated state beverage — that the 2005 Kentucky General Assembly created. The bulk of them took effect Monday.

While authorities are looking at the new meth law as a way to get the upper-hand on drug manufacturers, some people are bracing for what they consider an unnecessary intrusion into their personal privacy.

Being able to track who is buying large quantities of drugs containing pseudoephedrine could prove to be a valuable law enforcement tool, James said. It will allow police and other investigators to monitor who is buying the drug and where, he said.

But Beth Wilson, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Kentucky, said there are not "appropriate checks and balances" to guard against abuse of the new system. Better safeguards are needed to ensure the information is viewed only for legitimate law enforcement reasons, Wilson said.

"We have never been a country that supported a fishing expedition by law enforcement, and that's exactly what this does," Wilson said.

Other states that have implemented similar laws, such as Oklahoma, have witnessed up to a 40 percent reduction in the presence of meth labs, Kentucky State Police Commissioner Mark Miller said. That kind of benefit outweighs any personal privacy issues, Miller said.

"Security always requires some inconvenience and it requires some concessions in

terms of ultimate privacy," Miller said. "But I don't see this as being an abridgment of their privacy at all."

Mac Bray, a pharmacist and owner of the Medicine Shoppe in Frankfort, said he moved the medication behind the counter a couple of weeks ago. So far, it hasn't posed a problem and customers have had "very little" reaction to the new rules, he said.

"It's not been a big deal," Bray said.

Mike Bradley, who owns a grocery store without a pharmacy in nearby Stamping Ground, said he expects to lose about \$15,000 in sales per year. The law unfairly excludes grocers from being able to sell the product, Bradley said. Now customers will be forced to buy pseudoephedrine in neighboring towns, he said.

"It's unfair competition," Bradley said. "If they had just banned it from the whole state, then we all would have been on a level playing field."

Among the other laws that took effect Monday were:

■ Milk is now Kentucky's official state beverage.

■ Certain documents pertaining to homeland security are now exempt from public disclosure under the state's Open Records Act.

■ Kentucky's public financing of gubernatorial campaigns ended. The system was only used in the 1995 governor's race and had not been funded in subsequent years.

■ Electioneering is now banned within 300 feet from voting booths. A federal court struck down Kentucky's previous law outlawing electioneering within 500 feet of voting booths.

■ Public schools will now close on primary election days. Previously, schools closed only on general election days.

■ School boards may now issue high school diplomas to Vietnam veterans who were honorably discharged from the military.

■ Restaurants in Kentucky can't be sued for causing people to become obese.

Trial

Continued from p1

The child and Blakeman allegedly lied to the officers and said the adolescent was not at the residence.

Deputy Jeremy Shepherd thought he recognized the missing teen among the group and asked the girl who she was but was given a false name, which Blakeman allegedly verified. Shepherd contacted Prestonsburg High School later and found that the name he had been given matched that of a student who

was still in school that day. He went back to Blakeman's home with Sgt. Greg Clark and made the arrest.

Later, Sheriff John K. Blackburn gave a statement about the arrest and included a caveat for adults who may be tempted to lie to officers.

"She [Blakeman] told us that the teen wasn't there," Blackburn said. "It's never a good idea to lie to a police officer conducting an investigation, especially when children are involved."

Dismissed

Continued from p1

Friday court date.

Their response includes affidavits from the attorneys for Kirk and copies of the letters sent out by the Paintsville firm, Tinker and Spurgeon, which is representing CMH. They claim that they didn't receive the letters informing them of the court date until Friday and that by then it was too late to attend the hearing, which was held at 9 a.m. They further note that the letters that were sent were dated for June 15 by the postage machine used by Spurgeon and Tinker but that the letter itself states that it

was mailed June 14.

The response from the Kirk Law Firm has asks Judge Caudill not to implement any ruling on the matter until they have a chance to respond to it. They further state that they have an argument ready and request a new hearing be scheduled so that they can argue the merits of their case.

Donation

Continued from p1

English and Spanish.

The bracelets, which cost \$2, are available for clubs and civic organizations to sell. All proceeds benefit "Team Kentucky" and the money raised in this area will be divided between the people who attend from this area, Wong said.

Second Chance is also selling a "Second Chance Cookbook," compiled by organ donor families, recipients and affiliates of KODA. Nearly 500 recipes have already been submitted for the book, and several more are on the way, Wong said.

The book also serves as an educational tool, with organ donation information scattered throughout. The cookbook, priced at \$10 will go on sale in October, in time for holiday shopping, Wong said.

Second Chance will also raffle off a five-day Carnival Cruise this Christmas Eve. The prize includes a "premium level cabin for two," valued at \$1,700, and \$500 spending money. The winner can upgrade the prize package to a seven-day cruise, Wong said. Tickets, which are on sale now, are \$10 and available through Second Chance Volunteers.

Those wanting additional information about purchasing or selling these fundraising items

can also contact Wong at (859) 278-3492.

Following these announcements, members continued the meeting Thursday with a volunteer network training session. Attendees learned how to raise awareness about organ donation through giving or participating in presentations at schools, churches, or other organizations. Wong travels all over the state to give day-long presentations and said she's always looking for organ donor recipients who would tell their stories.

Pikeville resident Andy Blackburn, a former Kentucky West Virginia Gas employee, says he would not be alive today had he not obtained his kidney transplants.

Blackburn, who has a hereditary kidney disease, received his first transplant in 1990 and another in 1998.

"When you've been on dialysis for a couple of years, that's your low point," he said. "It's something that keeps you alive. The transplant gives you a new outlook on life. Somebody lost their life to give me life."

Blackburn said he struggled through dialysis five hours a day, three days a week prior to his transplant. He thanks his organ donor regularly, on behalf of himself, his new life, and his

family. His daughter was 10 years old at the time of his first transplant.

Wong said when she started with KODA four years ago, there were 420 people on the organ donor waiting list in Kentucky. Now, she says, more than 680 people are waiting.

"The numbers are growing," she said. "We've got to do more to spread awareness."

One area needing more communication revolves around the question about who is eligible to be a donor, Wong said. People routinely believe that they are too old or take too many medications to donate their organs. With medical advancements surfacing every day, Wong said people should, "Let the doctors do their job and let's talk about donation today."

KODA operates two transplant centers in Louisville and Lexington.

"We are the only procurement agency for the entire state of Kentucky," Wong said. "Ninety-five percent of our job is to place and procure organs ... You all know why. We've got to do more to save lives."

The next Second Chance meeting is scheduled for July 26 at 6 p.m. at the MAC.

Training

Continued from p1

The training allows these individuals to form their own honor guards that are used in a "dignified and respectful manner" at patriotic events, memorial or funeral services, and parades.

Dotson said honor guard services give family members and departments the venue to pay their final tribute and respects to the fallen men or women. Students in Riverside learned how to properly execute the appropriate honors for fallen firefighters or police officers.

Those participating learned flag etiquette, how to march, how to properly carry a casket and how to conduct the three-

volley tribute which utilizes guns as opposed to the 21-gun salute that uses military cannons to recognize specific military ranks. They also discussed burial customs and traditions that surround different religions.

The class, held at the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center, ended with a mock funeral at a Riverside cemetery.

Dotson said area police, fire, and rescue personnel have expressed an interest in having the training in Floyd County.

Dotson, who has taught the class in Florida for the past five years, will travel to Florida this year to pick up a casket donated by Bruce Sessler, of Roberts Funeral Home. That casket will be used for training in Floyd County.

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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 ...

"Speak out in acts; the time for words has passed, and only deeds will suffice."

— John Greenleaf Whittier

Guest View

Get serious about identity theft

We're hearing more and more about personal financial information falling into the wrong hands. Usually, it is hackers breaching the computers of companies handling our valuable financial data. Sometimes, financial identities are stolen, costing victims an average of about \$1,200 and 600 hours to repair. Much of the time, damage is limited to a few fraudulent charges on stolen credit cards.

Late last week, MasterCard International announced that 40 million credit card numbers — including MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover cards — had been stolen from CardSystems Inc., one of the companies that processes merchant requests for credit card authorization. It was, by far, the largest such breach to date. ChoicePoint, LexisNexis, Time Warner, Bank of America, the University of California Berkeley, Boston College and a host of other institutions have fallen victim to scammers, hackers or worse.

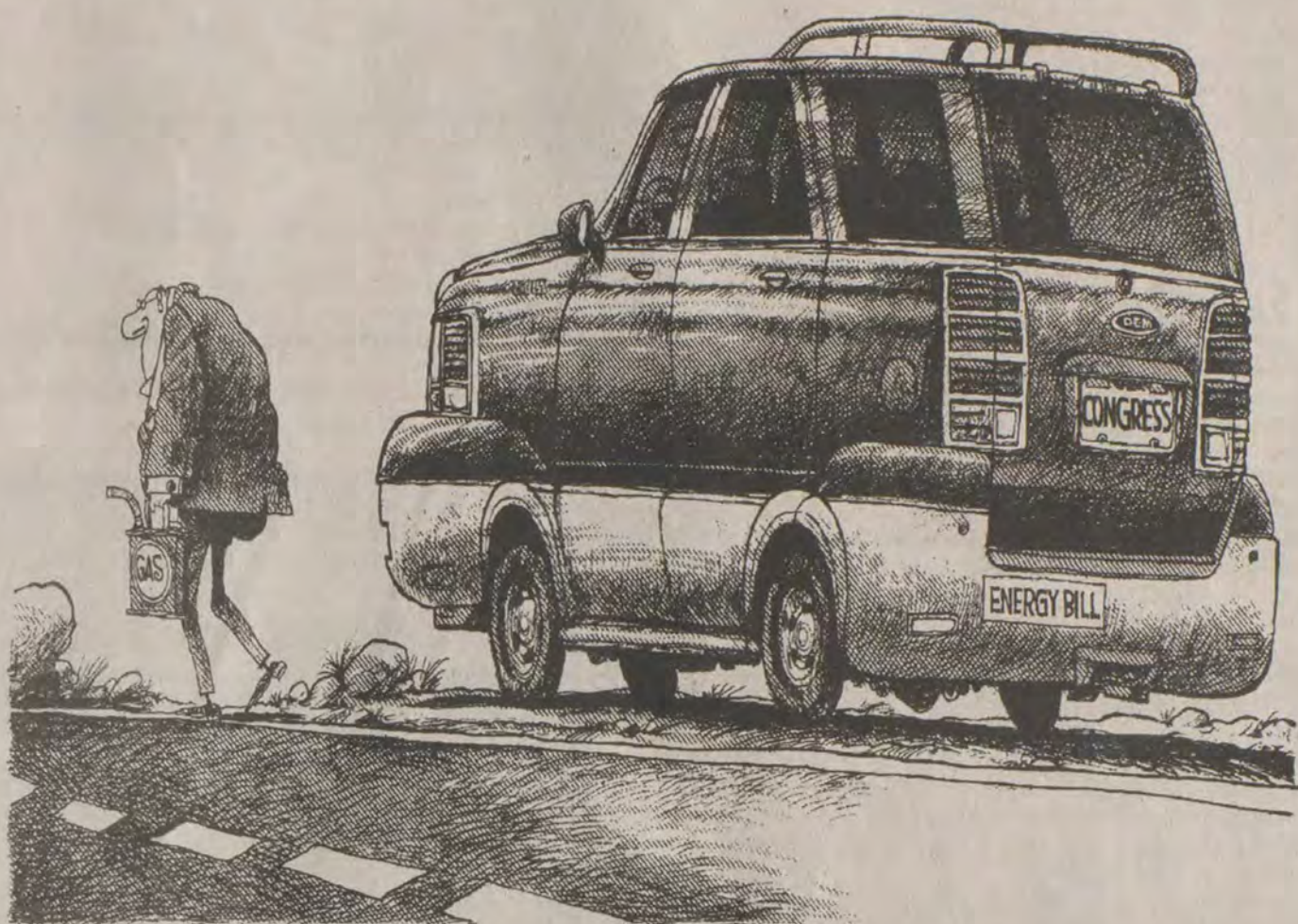
In the case of the Tuscon processing center for CardSystems, MasterCard International says 68,000 accounts have had fraudulent charges posted on them. CardSystems discovered the breach on May 22. It occurred late last year. No other personal data, such as Social Security numbers or addresses, were taken.

While banks are held accountable under federal law for breaches to their systems, third-party companies such as CardSystems, which only processes the transaction between purchaser, merchant and the card-issuing bank are not covered. Further, once a credit card number has been stolen, the safest way to stop further use is for a bank to issue a new card. But that costs banks about \$35 per card. In the case of the CardSystems breach, replacing all 40 million cards would cost banks more than \$1 billion. Banks figure that since few compromised numbers are used by hackers and other criminals, the cost isn't worth it, so they simply pass the costs to merchants.

With nearly 10 million Americans falling victim to identity theft a year, Congress has stepped in with modest privacy legislation, but most of the tough measures have come from the states, particularly California. The state allows all residents to freeze their credit, which blocks everyone — including the individual — from seeing credit reports until the block is released. Also, it was California law that required ChoicePoint and LexisNexis to notify consumers of the theft of their financial information. California clearly has done a good job of protecting consumers' privacy. But some of the responsibility falls to individuals. Privacy rights experts say consumers should reduce the amount of mail coming into their homes containing account numbers and the like. Shred just about anything with your name, address and account numbers. And safeguard Social Security numbers.

Meantime, consumers must keep pressure on Congress to prevent — or at least reduce the risk of — identity theft. As we are constantly reminded, our financial data and thieves' ability to steal it, aren't stopped by state lines.

— The San Diego Union-Tribune



Capitol Ideas

State government still churning, despite personnel investigation

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — While an ongoing attorney general's investigation into Gov. Ernie Fletcher's administration's hiring practices occupies some attorneys and information technology employees, state government seems to be plugging away at its usual pace.

Taxes are still being collected, checks are still going out and roads are still being built. Even the state attorney general's office is still going about its other business — such as monitoring consumer fraud, investigating drug dealers and rendering open records opinions.

"We've done everything we can to

keep this from distracting us," Fletcher told reporters last week.

Attorney General Greg Stumbo began the investigation last month, looking into whether the administration based hirings within the state Merit System on politics rather than applicants' qualifications. The system is supposed to be free from political influence.

A special grand jury in Franklin County last week indicted three top Transportation Cabinet officers — acting Secretary Bill Nighbert, Deputy Secretary Jim Adams and Commissioner Dan Druen — on misdemeanors. They won't be arraigned until next month. Each faces allegations that he conspired to have the cabinet's deputy inspector general fired because he was a Democrat.

Fletcher has charged that the entire investigation is based on politics and has claimed it's targeted at the 2007 governor's race. Stumbo has disputed Fletcher's claims.

But Fletcher says he's tried to keep his administration focused on fulfilling its daily operations.

"Obviously we're concerned because we have worked to bring a change of culture to Frankfort," Fletcher said. "Certainly that's caused some concerns that we've had with this investigation. But there's no question it requires a bit of manpower."

Still, aside from attorneys — many of whom were hired specifically to handle the probe — and a handful of employees directly involved in the investigation, most other government employees' duties seem unhindered.

For instance, Fletcher has been making public appearances throughout the state, and signing proclamations and executive orders. Earlier this month, he appointed his former general counsel John Roach to the Kentucky Supreme Court. Then Fletcher snatched Chief Justice Joseph Lambert's former chief of staff, Jim Deckard, to replace him.

At the Transportation Cabinet, the agency that's been at the center of the investigation, administrators are trying to move forward, spokesman Doug Hogan

(See IDEAS, page nine)

Letters

Paving trail an outrage

Down here in North Carolina, 600 miles from the greatest state, I am outraged for my fellow Kentuckians.

If I were a novelist instead of a non-fiction writer, I could possibly understand why the culprits are weaving a plot to eradicate the name of our most renowned pioneer, Daniel Boone.

First, it was changing the name of the Daniel Boone Parkway. I dissented at the time. Now comes the paving of the Little Shepherd Trail, where Boone trekked close by Pine Mountain. Paving over such a rustic, gorgeously scenic, geographically ideal place is, in a word, insane, without logic.

I admit the personal part — help it get there, wrote about it, even went to Harlan and environs and made speeches about this wonderland.

Let's stand up against this type of opportunism and/or plain ignorance.

If I'm over-reacting, I'm glad. If I'm wrong, I'm gladder.
Paul R. Jordan
Youngsville, N.C.

Thumb prints would improve licenses

I am writing in reference to The New York Times article of May 4, 2005, printed in the Nation section of The Courier-Journal. This article stated that the U.S. Congress was very close to passing a supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq, to which an unfunded federal mandate for state driver's license bureaus would be attached. This mandate would set very strict rules for all state motor vehicle departments in their issuance of driver's licenses and photo IDs.

A reference was made to the high cost (\$500 million) of adopting these measures nationally. Well, the good news for Kentucky taxpayers is that the cost to our state should be minimal. Kentucky has already adopted virtually every stipulation set forth in the bill. This is an issue on which Kentucky has been in the forefront, almost as a model for other states. We have been fighting for years to bring about the changes needed to secure this vital sector of our bureaucracy. Capturing and holding digital images, proof of address, verification of social security number, proof of citi-

zenship, and for legal aliens setting the expiration of their license or photo ID to coincide with the expiration of their INS authorization to be in this country are all measures already in place in Kentucky.

It seems to me that the next step we make must be a move to take advantage of the improved technology available to us. For instance, thumb print scans have proven to be extremely reliable in identifying an individual. Widespread use of this system would virtually eliminate identity theft, when the theft is of a pre-existing record. It would also serve as a deterrent to terrorists. Delay in implementing this and other new technologies is based on reluctance by all parties to incur the initial cost of conversion, especially so in what are already lean budget years. This is why I believe the federal government should subsidize these programs under the terms of the Patriot Act. It is clear to me that these expenditures would very quickly be offset by the relief given to merchants and customers who have losses every year from fraud and theft that number in the billions of dollars.

However, we must remember that the technological sword cuts two ways. The criminals also have access to improved

(See LETTERS, page nine)

Letter Guidelines

Letters to the Editor are welcomed by The Floyd County Times.

In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable. Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

Opinions expressed in letters and other voices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. Send letters to: The Editor, The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 391, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653.

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Protesters face coal association president with slurry dinner

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON — About 175 protesters assembled at a park in Lexington to protest a coal industry practice known as mountaintop removal, and at one point offered a dinner of coal slurry to the state coal association's president.

The protest was organized by Mountain Justice Summer at Triangle Park, and was highlighted by a speech from Patsy Carter, whose daughter was killed in May 2000 in a crash with an overweight coal truck. "She was taken from me out of greed," Carter said. "I will fight for the rest of my life" to keep overweight coal trucks off the roads, she said.

Carter was one of about 20 speakers at the 90-minute rally.

The protesters were met by 150 people connected to the coal industry who had gathered outside the office of the Kentucky Coal Association to support mountaintop removal mining.

A comical moment occurred when four of the protesters decided to confront coal association president Bill Caylor.

In April 2004, during an event at the University of Kentucky, Caylor said there was nothing toxic in the 300 million gallons of coal slurry that flooded streams in Martin County in 2000. Caylor said that he would eat the coal waste

to prove that it was only dirt.

Some of the protesters made up a dinner of the slurry, taken from Martin County, and took it to Caylor Friday. Caylor took a tiny bit of the slurry and touched it to his lips.

Caylor later said the slurry was bland. "It's no more than dirt," he said. "They allege it's

toxic, but it's not."

Mountain Justice Summer — a coalition of environmental groups from Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia — is staging numerous nonviolent protests this summer to press for abolition of mountaintop removal coal mining.

Report news to
886-8506

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Children and Grandchildren of
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**June 25th, at 2 p.m.,
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Hope to see lots of relatives, friends, neighbors.

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Calendar

Continued from p8

Prestonsburg, from 6-8 p.m. Childcare will not be provided. For more information, contact Dedra Stone, adoptive parent liaison, at 432-4110 or 422-7927, or email to: doslone@eastky.net.

PARENTS! - Contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. to find out about child care services in your area, the STARS for KIDS NOW licensing standards program, and how you can earn an income by staying home with your own children while caring for the children of others. Find out more by calling Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or 888-872-7227 (toll free).

East Kentucky S.T.A.R.S. Homeschoolers - Will hold monthly meetings at the Paintsville Recreation Center. For more information, call Trudy at 889-9333, or 297-5147. Everyone welcome.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Each Wednesday, from 7-8 p.m., in the Atrium Conference Room, 2nd floor, May Tower, Pikeville Methodist Hospital. For more info., contact Chris Cook at 606-433-1119 or christopher-cook@hotmail.com.

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Obituaries

Adis Irva Stamper Akers

Adis Irva Stamper Akers, age 88, of Vevay, Indiana, widow of Everett Akers Sr., formerly of Martin, passed away Saturday, June 18, 2005, at the Swiss Villa Living Center, in Vevay, Indiana.

She was born February 17, 1917, in Jackson, the daughter of the late Burt Stamper and Ellen Lucas Stamper. She was former Welfare Case Worker for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Survivors include three sons: Donald Akers of Florida, Lonnie Akers of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Everett Akers Jr., of Martin; one daughter, Linda Bergen of Vevay, Indiana; two brothers: Walter Stamper and Harlow Stamper, both of Ashland; nine grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Samuel Burt Stamper.

Graveside memorial service for Adis Irva Akers will be conducted Thursday, June 23, at 11 a.m., at the Davidson Memorial Gardens, in Ivel, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home, in Martin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. (Paid obituary)

JoAnn Crider Livingston

JoAnn Crider Livingston, 66, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, June 19, 2005, at the Prestonsburg Healthcare Center.

Born August 12, 1938, in Johns Creek, she was the daughter of the late Woodman Crider and Marie Crider Goble. She was a retired prison guard for the state of Florida; and a member of the Brandy Keg Freewill Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walt Livingston.

Survivors include two brothers: William Jacob Crider and Charles A. Crider, both of Prestonsburg; and nieces and nephews: Debra Lynn Stanley, Mark Crider, Connie Carr, Randi Jarrell, Randy Crider, Lorie Foley, Ricky Crider, Mandy Jefferson, and Brandy Fitzpatrick.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Randall Crider.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, June 22, at 11:30 a.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Roger Music officiating.

Burial will be in the Salyers Cemetery, at Middle Creek, in Prestonsburg, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Oscar Cole

Oscar Cole, 71, of West 9th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio, died Wednesday, June 15, 2005, at University Hospital of Cleveland.

He was born January 3, 1934, in Floyd County, the son of the late Arthur Lee and Myrtle (Tackett) Cole, and had been a resident of the Ashtabula Harbor since 1951.

He loved to spend time with his family and grandchildren, and enjoyed playing cards, hunting, and Cleveland sports, especially the Browns and Indians.

Survivors include two sons: Michael (Rhonda) and Ronnie (Wilma), both of Ashtabula; one daughter, Sharon (Greg) Newsome of Ashtabula; a daughter-in-law, Patty Cole of Ashtabula; 13 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; three sisters: Alma Gayheart of Ashtabula, Wanda Aumend of Florida, and Pearl Waltari of Washington; and two brothers: James Foster Cole of Washington, and Frank Cole of Ashtabula.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Elaine (Vance) in 1997; one son, Oscar Duane Cole; one grandson, James Dean Cole.

Services were held at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 18, at the Pentecostal Church of God, 2201 Cook Road, Ashtabula, with Rev. Kenneth Roberts officiating.

Burial was in Saybrook Cemetery, under the direction of Ducro Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Obituary available at www.ducro.com (Paid obituary)

Geraldine Marie Watson

Geraldine Marie Watson, died Thursday, June 16, 2005, in Henderson, Nevada.

She was born in Van Lear, Johnson County, December 19, 1917, the daughter of Thomas and Grace Vanhoose Watson. She was a longtime resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was employed by Western Savings and Loan.

She is survived by her brother-in-law, Lynn Burr of Henderson; a sister-in-law, Lillian Watson of Paintsville; and her nieces and nephews: Linda Findlay, Jeffery L. Burr, Rodney T. Burr, Tracy West, Amy Kirk and their spouses; a niece, Marsha Heedrick, her spouse, and two children of North Carolina; and 25 great nieces and nephews, of Henderson.

She was a kind, loving and generous lady, who will be greatly missed.

She has donated her body to the University of Utah, School of Medicine.

Arrangements, were handled by Palm Mortuary. (Paid obituary)

Thomas J. Fannin

Thomas J. Fannin, 53, of Findlay, Ohio, passed away at Birchaven Retirement Village, Findlay, on Sunday, June 19, 2005, following an extended illness.

Born on July 24, 1951, in West Prestonsburg, he was the son of the late Thomas E. and Melda S. (Baldrige) Fannin.

He is survived by his twin sister: Mable D. (Shane) McCulloch, of McComb; and sisters: Sue (Jerry) Sheldon of McComb, Wyn (Tom Scarberry) Preston, and Amber (Jon) Opperman, both of Findlay; and brother John (Lynn) Preston of Ashland. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

He was a graduate of Findlay High School in 1970. Tom worked many years for Blanchard Valley Hospital in the maintenance and dietary departments. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. He enjoyed making bracelets, playing guitar and drums, and was in several bands when he was younger. He also enjoyed jokes, and making people laugh with his impersonations of Jerry Lewis, Richard Nixon, John Wayne, and everyone's favorite, Elvis.

Visitation was held Tuesday, June 21, from 2-4 and 6-8 pm at Rounton Funeral Chapel, and will be held on Wednesday June 22, from 9-10 a.m., with services immediately following the morning visitation. Graveside services will be held at Trinity Memorial Cemetery, Findlay, with Michael Thompson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the Greater Northwest Ohio Diabetes Assn. Inc., 200 W. Pearl St. Findlay, OH 45840.

Condolences may be made to: www.RoutsonFuneralChapel.com <<http://www.routsonfuneralchapel.com/>>

Rati "Dude" Stumbo

Rati "Dude" Stumbo, 91, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, June 16, 2005, at her residence.

Born March 28, 1914, in McDowell, she was the daughter of the late David and Peggy Gayheart McCown.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Judge Henry Stumbo.

Survivors include one son, Jack Stumbo of Prestonsburg; a daughter, Yvonne S. Jones of Prestonsburg; a sister, Edith Judd of Waverly, Ohio; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers: Claude McCown, Bert McCown, and John McCown; and three sisters: Niza Ward, Verlie Tuttle, and Catherine.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, June 19, at noon, at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Chuck Hall officiating.

Entombment was in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, in McDowell, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Active pallbearers: Stan Stumbo and son, Dale Stumbo, David H. Stumbo, Brett and Mike McCormick.

Honorary pallbearers: Nancy S. Basart, Nancy P. Tackett, Carlos H. Wells, Marge Osborne, Shirley Branham, and Evelyn S. Goble. (Paid obituary)

Ashland Salisbury

Ashland Salisbury, 89, of Langley, died Friday, June 17, 2005, at his residence.

Born November 11, 1915, in Floyd County, he was the son of the late George B. and Mae Moore Salisbury. He was a retired Kentucky West Virginia Gas Co. employee, a U.S. Army World War II veteran, a member of D.A.V. Chapter 128, at Garrett, and a member of the Wilson Creek Old Regular Baptist Church.

He is survived by Joyce Dudley Salisbury, his wife of 55 years.

Other survivors include two sons: Harold Salisbury of Langley, and Tony Salisbury of Prestonsburg; three daughters: Judith Halbert of Langley, Sherry Shepherd of Allen, and Renee Salisbury of Langley; two brothers: Dempsey Salisbury of Findlay, Ohio, and Haster Salisbury of Parkman, Ohio; a sister, Tava Terry of Langley; 13 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters: Havel Ison, Harriett Lawson, and Anna Mae Taylor.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, June 19, at 2 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with ministers of the Old Regular Baptist Church officiating.

Burial was in the Moore Cemetery, Turkey Creek, Langley.

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Zola Campbell Gayheart

Zola Campbell Gayheart, age 80, of Garrett, widow of Joe Gayheart, passed away Monday, June 20, 2005, in Richmond.

She was born May 30, 1925, in Mousie, the daughter of the late Sam Campbell and Birdie Gibson Campbell. She was a retired clerk for Campbell Store at Garrett, and a member of the Garrett First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her son, Bob L. Gayheart of Richmond; two sisters: Lucille Francis of Garrett, and Erma Triplett of Kendallville, Indiana; and three grandchildren: Adam Gayheart of Frankfort, Joseph Tyler Gayheart of Hawaii, and Whitney Elizabeth Keogh of Lexington.

Funeral services for Zola Gayheart will be conducted Thursday, June 23, at 1 p.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Clergyman Randy Osborne officiating.

Burial will follow in the Campbell Family Cemetery, in Mousie, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

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Pastor: Rev. Bob Damron Phone 874-9526

Card of Thanks

The family of Larry Isaac wishes to thank the Wheelwright Baptist Church for their kindness shown to us upon the passing of our loved one. We also want to thank everyone for any expression of love in our time of loss.

THE FAMILY OF LARRY ISAAC

Card of Thanks

The family of Betty Elaine Hall would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the relatives, friends, and neighbors who helped to comfort us during our time of loss. A special thanks to the Regular Baptist ministers for their comforting words, the Little Nancy Regular Baptist Church 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 kind and professional care.

THE FAMILY OF BETTY ELAINE HALL

Card of Thanks

The family of Gwendolyn Martin Barnett would like to express a sincere appreciation to all the relatives, friends, and neighbors, who helped to comfort us during our time of loss. We would like to thank all those who sent food, flowers, and words of comfort expressed. A special thanks to Rev. Gene Strange for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and efficient service.

THE FAMILY OF GWENDOLYN MARTIN BARNETT

Card of Thanks

The family of Edward "Ed" Kidd 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 Clergyman Tracy Patton for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home of Martin, Ky., for their professional and courteous service. All your thoughts and prayers were a great comfort to our family.

THE FAMILY OF EDWARD "ED" KIDD

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Visit The Floyd County Times website for news, weather, and sports from around the region and around the world.

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Community Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your item to The Floyd County Times office, located at 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg; or mail to: The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or fax to 606-886-3603; or email to: features@floydcountytimes.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits.

Dwale Homecoming fund raiser, 2005

The Dwale Homecoming fund raiser, 2005 will be held July 8th, at the Dwale shelter, at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Bring a pie and join the fun.

Lewis Family Reunion

To be held June 25, at the Pines Building, Jenny Wiley State Park. Call Harold Lewis, at 297-5114 for more information.

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center

Kid's Summer Camps
Quilting Camp - June 20-24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; learn to make a pillow and lap quilt.
Sewing Camp - July 18-22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; learn to make your own purse.
Fee: \$10; most supplies and a snack provided.
More info., call 886-0709.
Camps for ages over 8; limit 12 per class.

Jarrell Family Reunion

Will be held Sunday, July 3, at the Mountain Christian Academy School gym, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend. Please bring own drinks.

Lindsey Wilson College to hold open registration

Lindsey Wilson College Extended Programs, located on the BSCTC campus, will be holding open registration for new students from now throughout August. Earn a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services or a Masters with a specialization in Mental Health Counseling. Contact Shelia Wallen at 606-454-8834 or wallens@lindsey.edu for further details.

Floyd County area Veteran's History Book to be published

All Floyd County families are invited to submit information and biographies of their veteran family members. Deadline for submitting information is July 15. For more info., write to: Kentucky Veteran's Book Committee, c/o NavaJo Austin, 7914 KY 114, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

Free Children's Drama Workshop

A free children's music and drama workshop will be conducted on the BSCTC-Prestonsburg campus, for children age 8-12, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3-5 p.m., beginning June 28. The workshop will be conducted by Laura Ford Hall and will culminate in a public performance on August 2.

Donations needed

For upkeep of Newman Cemetery, located near United Baptist Church. Donations may be mailed to: Jeffrey Lynn Hall Curry, P.O. Box 232, Hi Hat, 41636. Make checks payable to Newman Cemetery.

HRMC Community Calendar

June 30 - Living Well with Diabetes Support Group, Meeting Place A & B, Medical Office Bldg., 5-6 p.m.
For more info., contact the

Highlands Educational Services Dept. at 886-7424.

Joy Service at Christ United Methodist, Allen
June 26 - Special singing by Morgan Chapman, 6 p.m.

PHS class of '95

It's been 10 years! The PHS class of 1995 is planning a reunion. If you are a classmate, or know a classmate's whereabouts, email to: angelapoter1995@yahoo.com

ACHS Class of '95

It's been ten years, classmates! And a reunion is being planned for the weekend of August 13. Please email the planning committee at: rebelsclassof1995@hotmail.com or, contact Amy Adams Osborne at 358-2947 or Misty Lynn (Bush) Isaac at 358-9184 if you are interested in attending or have questions or ideas to share.

PHS Class of '84

The Prestonsburg High School Class of 1984 is seeking members of the class for a 20/21st year reunion, scheduled to be held this coming July. If you are, or if you know of, a former classmate, please email to: phs_class_of_1984@yahoo.com, or call 606-638-3941.

Neighborhood Watch

The Mud Creek Neighborhood Watch group will meet the third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend meetings.

BLHS High School Reunion

Classes of the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. To be held Saturday, June 25. For info., call Joe Hinchman at 874-2821 or Marvin Williamson at 478-3310.

BLHS Class of 1955

Reunion to be held on Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25. For information, call Marvin Williamson at 478-3310 or Gene Davis at 874-2873.

Attention: BLHS Class of '85

It's been 20 years! Reunion is being planned. If you are a classmate, or if you know of a classmate's whereabouts, please email addresses to Debbie Hall Parsons or Gwen Cecil at: [d ochalliparsons@charter.net](mailto:dochalliparsons@charter.net)

Over 50? Need a friend?

Then check out our Friendship Club for seniors. Share a meal, see a movie, take a walk, have a chat. Meet with other seniors on Friday, June 24, at 6:30 p.m., at Hardee's Restaurant, in Prestonsburg. Come on out, and let's talk. For more info., call 889-9620. The Friendship Club is not a dating service.

Free Body Recall classes

Free Body Recall Exercise Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 11 a.m. at the old R & S Building. Classes are offered by the Floyd County Health Department. Call the health department, 886-2788, for more information.

'Earn While You Learn'

The Big Sandy Area C.A.P. office is taking applications for its "Senior Training Program." You must be 55 or older to apply. In Floyd, call 886-2929; Johnson, call 789-6515; Magoffin, call 349-2217; Pike, call 432-2775; and in Lawrence, call 638-4067.

Interested in new job training?

Are you a senior citizen on a fixed income struggling with soaring medical bills and living expenses? Could you use some extra spending money but don't

know how to get back into the workforce?

If you are at least age 55, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) may be able to help. Earn extra money, learn new skills, and help your community at the same time! To find out more, call: 886-2929.

External Diploma Program

Kentucky residents age 25 and older can earn a high school diploma by demonstrating skills learned on the job or in raising a family. Flexible scheduling is provided and confidentiality maintained. Classes are held at the Carl D. Perkins Rehabilitation Center, in Thelma, Mon. thru Fri., with evening classes on Thursday. EDP classes are also held at the Mullins Learning Center, in Pikeville, on Tuesdays, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Andy Jones at 606-788-7080, or 800-443-2187, ext. 186, or Linda Bell, at ext. 160 to make an appointment.
GED classes are also available.

Floyd County Extension Homemaker Club Meetings

Allen: 1st Monday, 11 a.m., at Christ United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Cliffside/Prestonsburg: 3rd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., at Cliffside Community Room.

David: 1st Monday, 1 p.m., at St. Vincent's Mission.

Martin: 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m., Martin Church of Christ.

Evening Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office.

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown First Baptist Church.

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Extension Office.

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Extension Office.

South Prestonsburg: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Home of members (call 886-2668 for info.)

"Looking For a Support Group?"

Alzheimer's Association Care-giver Support Group - Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church (near Jerry's Restaurant), at 6 p.m. For more info., call Dana Caudill at 886-0265, or Jane

Bond at FCHD.

Alzheimer's Association, East-ern KY Regional Office - 24-hour Helpline, call 1-800-272-3900 for emotional support, local resources, and other information.

MS Support Group - Meets third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Seton Complex, Martin. Offers group support for MS patients and their caregivers.

Overeater's Anonymous (O.A.) - Meets each Monday, at 3:30 p.m., at the St. Martha Catholic Church, Water Gap Road. For more info., call 886-2513.

US TOO! Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group - For all men with prostate cancer and their families. Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, Paintsville.

Community Weight Loss Support Group - Meets Thursday's at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings being offered as support to anyone needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

Domestic Violence Hotline - 24-hour Crisis Line manned by Certified Domestic Violence counselors. Call 886-6025, or 1-800-649-6605. Remember, "Love Doesn't Have to Hurt."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children - Free, confidential assistance for unplanned pregnancy concerns. Talk with someone who cares about you and your baby. Call 1-800-928-5242.

Disabled? - You may be eligible for grant money to assist in your daily living. For an application or more information, call 886-4326.

A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky) - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care), foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To be held the first Monday of each month, at the Department for Community Based Services office, 1009 North Lake Drive,

(See CALENDAR, page ten)

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Health Extra

Medicaid budget looms out of control again

The Associated Press
FRANKFORT — Kentucky's Medicaid program, which has threatened to careen out of financial control in recent years, is facing another huge shortfall next year, officials said.

Dr. James Holsinger, secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, on Monday blamed the federal government for a big chunk of the estimated \$675 million shortfall expected in the coming fiscal year.

The state's portion of that cost would be about \$215 million.

Medicaid shortfalls have come regularly in recent years as the number of people on the state-federal program for

health care services has risen steadily along with the cost of medical care.

"We are now facing a true Medicaid crisis in Kentucky — one that requires us to look at every option available to us to preserve Medicaid for the neediest, most vulnerable people we serve," Holsinger said.

"We are examining every option in the hope of avoiding potentially painful changes to the Medicaid program," he said. "We must have an open discussion about the situation now facing Medicaid."

Holsinger said cutting services or the number of people eligible would be the last resorts to balance a Medicaid budget. Adding co-payments — charging Medicaid recipients a fee for some of the ser-

vices — is a likely option, Holsinger said.

The agency will review services Kentucky offers that are not mandated by federal rules, such as dental, vision, hearing and some mental health coverage. Holsinger said the state will not stop paying for prescriptions, which also is optional. At about \$800 million, that's the most expensive part of the program.

State Sen. Julie Denton, R-Louisville, chairwoman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, said she has been briefed about the problem.

Denton said she understands that Medicaid's problems worry people who depend on it. "It's a scary proposition," she said.

The \$4.7 billion annual program, which pays medical bills for 691,000 poor or disabled Kentuckians and for long-term care for the elderly, broke even this year — barely — thanks to a last-minute \$95 million infusion from the state

legislature in March. Advocacy groups say they understand that cabinet officials have little choice, but they remain wary of upcoming changes.

"For someone not to get glasses or proper dental care,

that is a quality-of-life issue," said Anne Marie Regan, of the state office of legal services. She added that even though additional fees of \$3 don't sound like much, those costs can mount up quickly for Kentuckians on fixed incomes.

OLW honors Brenda Francis



Brenda puts forth great effort to exhibit Our Lady of the Way Hospital's Core Values — reverence, integrity, compassion and excellence.

Francis is Our Lady of the Way Hospital's financial aid clerk and a self-proclaimed "people person." This title lends itself well to her position and her personality.

Brenda was just 13 when she became a candy striper and first shared her talents with Our Lady of the Way Hospital. In 1997, Brenda began as an employee with Our Lady of the Way Hospital working her first five years in the Registration Department.

"I enjoy my job as financial aid clerk and love helping people," Francis said. "I always want to do my very best for every person I encounter."

Our Lady of the Way Hospital is a member of Catholic Health Initiatives, a national non-profit corporation based in Denver, Colo. The Catholic Health Initiatives health system is located in 19 states, includes 68 hospitals; 44 long-term care, assisted and independent living and residential facilities; and five community-based health organizations. Catholic Health Initiatives represents more than 67,000 employees and consolidated annual operating revenues of \$6.1 billion. It is the second largest Catholic health system in the United States.

MARTIN — Our Lady of the Way Hospital recently honored Brenda Francis as the winner of the Waneta P. Newsome Employee Recognition Award.

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Porter named 'Kentucky Colonel' and 'Kentucky Admiral'

Steven G. Porter, PPA Cert., Master Photographer, attended the Kentucky Professional Photographer's Association's annual convention, held January 28-31, 2005, at the Marriott Hotel and Northern Kentucky Convention Center, in Covington.

During this convention, the Governor of Kentucky honors select members of the Kentucky Professional Photographer's Association with two of the state's most prestigious honors, the Kentucky Colonel Award and the newly appointed Kentucky Admiral Award.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher presented Porter with not



only the Kentucky Colonel Award, but the Kentucky Admiral Award also. Only a handful of people in the entire nation have been honored with the receipt of both of these awards.

The title "Kentucky Colonel" has been around since 1813, when the Kentucky Militia had just returned from a highly successful "War of 1812" campaign that resulted in control of the Northwest being returned to the United States. Early Colonels actually served military roles.

However, in the latter part of the 1800's, the position took on a more ceremonial function. At this point in time, the "new" organization was to be called the "Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels." Some of the early Kentucky Colonels included such famous figures as Mae West, Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, W.C. Fields, Bob Hope, Jerry Lewis and even Pope John Paul II.

The Kentucky Professional Photographer's Association was founded in 1943, and is the premier provider of educational opportunities and fellowship among professional photographers in Kentucky. Its mission is to educate its members by providing opportunities to enhance photographic skills and abilities through lectures, demonstrations, hands-on experiences and print competition. These opportunities occur in the atmosphere of friendliness and warmth in an organization which lives through its members and supporting suppliers. Through these efforts, the quality of photography available to the consumer will be improved and the quality of life for the photographer will be elevated.

Porter is one of 14 professional photographers in the entire state of Kentucky who has achieved the status of "Master of Photography and Craftsman" degree, and one of four professional photographers in the entire state of Kentucky with the "Master of Photography, Craftsman" degree and is also PPA certified.

Porter owns and operates Porter Studio, located at 28 Porter Drive, in Prestonsburg. Studio number is 874-8935.

Critter

what was actually a hot spot! A common feature of all hot spots is that they produce the kind of intense itching that crosses over into pain. I think they must feel like that area of poison ivy that you just can't stop digging at, even after your mother tells you to leave it alone. Soon it is a raw, soupy mess that still itches, but hurts to scratch.

Animals with hot spots are miserable, and in warm moist weather the condition can become lethal if flies lay eggs in the damaged areas. Fly eggs look like masses of small, flat, yellow grains of rice. These can hatch within a matter of hours into maggots that burrow into and destroy the surrounding tissue. The presence of a hot spot

is an indication to call your vet. When we are presented with a patient with a hot spot, our first goal is to relieve the itching, so the animal will stop mutilating itself. Usually some combination of antibiotics, steroids, and/or antihistamines is needed to provide relief. Sometimes we have to sedate the animal and shave the hair for several inches around the area to allow air to get to the affected tissues and let them dry. An Elizabethan collar may be needed if nothing else will keep the animal's tongue away.

Once the crisis is over, so to speak, we turn our attention to trying to find out what caused the problem in the first place. Often we never know what it was. In

general, we try to get some good flea control in place and try to minimize the number of flies and mosquitoes in the pet's environment. We ask the owner to do some detective work to determine whether the animal seems to be allergic to anything.

Some animals seem much more prone to skin problems in general, and hot spots in particular. Longhaired animals may benefit from having their hair clipped short in the summer for better air circulation to their skin.

If your pet should develop a hot spot, hopefully you will be able to recognize what is going on. You should realize that there is no need to panic, but that it does warrant a trip to the vet before it becomes serious.

Continued from p1

Residents enjoy activities at Prestonsburg Healthcare Center

Ms. Virginia Linton, shown above, a resident of Prestonsburg Healthcare Center, proudly displays a handmade quilt she recently completed. Virginia, along with several other residents, participated in a learning activity conducted by center activity director, Cheryl Lafferty, in which they engaged in constructing lap quilts for themselves, and other, center residents.

transformed into a meaningful experience for the residents.

For more information about Prestonsburg Healthcare Center, and about how you can

become a volunteer and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have given much, call the center's activity director at 886-2378.



Colorful balloons brightened the day for Riverview residents as they kicked off the week of celebration with a balloon lift-off.



Peacie Warren was honored as the healthcare center's "Oldest Mother."



Ernest Stephens took a liking to a miniature horse who paid a visit on Western Day.

Fun week at Riverview

National Nursing Home week was observed May 6-12 at Riverview Healthcare Center, Lancer. Residents and staff celebrated with a balloon lift-off, a Mother's Day luncheon, 50's Day, Western Day, and more.

volunteer, or to learn more about the services offered at the

healthcare center, call 886-9178. Melissa Allen, Director.



Bob Crum dressed up in his best Western gear for a day of fun.



Vivian Stambaugh enjoyed looking "cool" in her sunglasses and bandanna for 50's Day.

Slone completes MSU program

Jamie R. Slone



Jamie Ratliff Slone recently completed a four-year master program in University Studies at Morehead State University. Jamie achieved this accomplishment while working full-time as a teacher in the Floyd County School System, part-time as a counselor,

and serving as a full-time wife, mother and homemaker.

Her family wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication she has exhibited and the sacrifices she has made in working toward her educational and career goals.

Let us show off your family pet!

Our pet photos file needs replenishing, and we know that you have lots of precious pics to share with us, so, please, send them along! And while you're at it, help Dr. Carol get her creative thoughts jumpstarted by sending along a few questions about "pet things you've always wanted to know but have been afraid to ask"!

You can send both pictures and questions to: Kathy Prater at the Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, or you may e-mail to: features@floydcountytimes.com.

Send questions only to Dr. Carol at: 1768 KY Rt. 7, Estill, KY 41666, or e-mail to: carolbcac@tiusa.net.

We will be waiting to hear from you!

COLORING PAGE



HEADY TASK! Let's see, 25 models and 25 hair-styles, which is the right one for me? How many persons do you find pictured?

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

	O	U	N	D
D		N	C	E
B	A		O	N
S	N	A		L
L	U	N	G	

DOUBLE ENTRY CITY WATCH

ONE letter is needed to complete each word in the diagram at left, and thus reveal the name of a major European capital. Definitions:

1. U.K. monetary unit.
2. Macarena, for one.
3. Munchausen's title.
4. Slug's relative.
5. Respiratory organs.

Replace the aforementioned letters in accord with the following definitions and you will discover an alternate South American capital:

1. Hale and hearty.
2. Cone-hat wearer.
3. Morning menu item.
4. Traffic tie-up.
5. Swordsman's maneuver.

What are the two cities?

Paris, France, and Sucre, Bolivia.

NAME GAME! What's in a name? Perhaps another name. See if you can add four four-letter first names of persons to identify these countries: 1. Argen— 2. Den— 3. Hun— 4. Paki—

1. Tina, 2. Tina, 3. Mark, 4. Stan.

45 A GO-GO! Let's see if you are quick at figures. How quickly can you insert the following eight numbers — 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 16 — at right, so that the numbers present in each five-square row total exactly 45?

Hint: Numbers now in place in each of the four five-square rows total 27, which means that missing numbers must total 18.

There are various ways of inserting numbers to comply. Give it a try.

	/	1	/	
/	8		5	/
4		9		14
/	13		10	/
	/	17	/	

Top row across: 15, 1, 16; next: 8, 12, 5; next: 4, 11, 9, 7, 14; then 13, 6, 10; bottom: 2, 17, 3—will do it. Other ways will work, too.

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