







# Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

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

— John Greenleaf Whittier

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.

## Our View

### Costly and sickly

At first glance, Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton's proposed overhaul of the U.S. health care system appears to be a vast improvement over the scheme she pushed to disastrous results in 1993 and 1994.

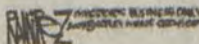
The New York senator would create universal health care by requiring businesses with more than 25 employees to offer insurance and by giving tax credits and other incentives to smaller businesses to offer coverage. Individuals not covered by work would have to buy their own coverage, with tax credits for the less affluent. Insurers would not be allowed to reject applicants on the basis of pre-existing conditions, but would benefit from the fact that millions of younger, healthier Americans who often forgo coverage would have to buy policies.

Clinton emphasizes that people who like their current health plans wouldn't have to change a thing — one of many contrasts she draws with her old scheme to underline her newly moderate approach.

Unfortunately, this amounts to a slick sales pitch and little more. A closer look at her plan quickly reveals many basic problems — starting with the price tag. The estimate of an annual cost of \$110 billion is preposterously low. Consider this one point alone: Under Clinton's plan, if an individual's income tax credit isn't large enough to pay for his or her insurance bill, the government picks up the difference. But because of tax cuts for lower-and middle-income families — the ones you never hear about — fully 40 percent of Americans pay no income tax at all. So their tax credits wouldn't cover a dime of their bills. Instead, their bills would be paid by people who actually pay income tax. Seen in this light, Clinton's plan — for all her talk of "shared responsibility" — actually amounts to a vast, costly new entitlement program.

Beyond that, Clinton's scheme shares the same fundamental flaw as the similar proposal pushed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — a flaw likely to yield radical results. She would allow businesses to drop their coverage if they pay an in-lieu tax. For political reasons — it would never pass Congress otherwise — this tax would have to be far lower than the 14 percent of payroll that U.S. businesses now pay for health benefits. So her plan would create a powerful incentive for employers to hand their coverage responsibilities to the federal government. Given that nearly half of all U.S. health care is already government-controlled, this incentive would put us on a back-door route to a de facto single-payer system. Another aspect of her plan also makes it likely we would end up with such a system: Its regulations governing insurers — what they must cover, how much they are allowed to charge, how they deal with patients — are so sweeping that they make insurers indistinguishable from public utilities. And so the end result would be a health system overwhelmingly dominated by the government — a weird U.S. hybrid of the socialized medicine that Clinton professes to disdain. We agree with the senator that our health system needs to be more humane and rational. But as troubled as our system may be, we should be wary of change for change's sake — because Congress and the next president could easily make things much worse. That certainly would be the case were Hillary Clinton's plan to be enacted.

— The San Diego Union-Tribune



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## Guest Column

### September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

by SANDY MIMS  
UNITE COUNSELOR  
FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS



Sandy Mims

It is a time to celebrate the progress that has been made in gaining back that which was lost. Most media outlets tend to focus on the negative aspects of alcohol and drug addiction to the point where many believe that recovery is not possible. This false belief is repeated more times than not when working with someone suffering from alcohol and/or drug addiction. Recovery is possible.

It is commonly believed that relapse is part of recovery and that ultimately, for many, recovery is not possible. However, according to Bill Urell, research has shown that approximately 33% of individuals achieve permanent abstinence from their first

serious attempt at recovery. Furthermore, approximately 33% achieve long-term abstinence after a brief period of relapse. With the remaining 33% having chronic relapses that eventually end in death from their chemical addiction. These statistics should give new hope to those beginning recovery and to their families.

If you are beginning recovery or are in recovery below is a check list that may help you realize how far you have come in the recovery process.

(This information is reprinted from the "Phases of Recovery" website.)

- We accept responsibility for attitudes, actions and behaviors.
- We know the difference between needs and wants.
- Start making choices to help ourselves and others.
- Start living in reality and give up our fantasies of addictive thinking.
- Become aware that failure is evidence of learning and progress.
- Our sense of humor and laughter returns.
- We can offer love and forgiveness to others, and more importantly, to ourselves!
- Our ability to listen to others and hear what they say and mean returns.
- We return to our sense of what is really important, our value system.
- Our ability to make good, rational decisions returns.
- We become positive about ourselves and become capable of sharing it.
- We set realistic goals, and initiate positive action to achieve them.
- We become willing to admit and correct our mistakes promptly.
- Have a conscious contact with our own Higher Power on a daily basis.



## No Child Left Insured



### 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 objection-

able. 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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Pam Parker, a nurse practitioner at Highlands Regional Medical Center, helped assist those in need of medical care on an annual mission trip to Peru.

# Local medical professionals volunteer time treating villagers in Peruvian jungle

by JENNIFER LAWSON  
STAFF WRITER

In hopes of improving life for those less fortunate, 10 Eastern Kentuckians traveled to Peru this past spring as part of a medical mission team.

Joining up with two people from Florida and 18 from Peru, the teams first arrived in Iscosazin, deep in the Amazon jungle, then commuted to Villa America, a jungle accessible only by four-wheel-drive vehicles, where a temporary clinic was formed. This town was chosen specifically by Arthur

Ivey, an American missionary living in Peru who felt this town was particularly in need of medical help. Despite the four-wheel-drive vehicles, travel was still difficult due to the severity of the rough roads, causing it to take 11 hours to go a mere 120 miles.

While the clinic lasted only four days, the team saw 1,030 patients and treated a range of medical problems from routine things that are often seen in the United States, such as high blood pressure and arthritis, to more exotic problems, including parasitic diseases and

snake bites. Other treated medical conditions included lots of headaches from the heat and eye problems from chronic exposure to dust and the sun's glare.

While children only stay in school until they are needed by their parents — each day children as young as 8 and 9 forage in the jungle for food along with adults — many were treated for machete wounds. Despite all of the people seen, there were no cases of diabetes treated, something that doctors consider to be extremely common

among Eastern Kentuckians.

"These people only eat fruit and veggies, they walk everywhere, and don't know what salt is," said medical director John Furcolow, M.D. "And if they did know what it was, they wouldn't be able to afford it."

While the mission team usually stays in the same town the clinic is established in, due to lack of space, the team was lodged in a "hotel" approximately 50 minutes from the clinic.

(See PERU, page twelve)

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# Poll: Kentuckians split over McConnell's support for war

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Kentuckians are split over whether Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell should support the war in Iraq, but a majority approve of his job performance, according to a new poll.

McConnell's approval rating was at 54 percent, 28 percent disapproved of how he's done, and 17 percent did not have an opinion, according to The (Louisville) Courier-Journal's Bluegrass Poll. Meanwhile, 44 percent said they thought McConnell should oppose President Bush's Iraq war policy, 42 percent said he should support it, and 14 percent were undecided.

McConnell, who is the top-

ranking Republican in the U.S. Senate, had the same approval rating the last time the poll was conducted in February. The poll was conducted between Sept. 13-18, surveyed 812 adults and had a margin of error of 3.4 percentage points.

The latest numbers reflect McConnell's strength heading into his re-election campaign next year, chief of staff Billy Piper said.

"On overall terms, it's good to see that his favorable rating is holding steady," Piper said. "And it's probably of note that his disapproval rating is so low, given that the only ads on the air since February have been ads critical of Senator McConnell."

So far, McConnell does not have a Democratic opponent for his 2008 race.

McConnell has not aired his own ads, but anti-war groups have aired television ads in Kentucky critical of the senator's support of Bush's policy in Iraq.

Still, the poll found the percentage of people who disapprove of McConnell increased by five points since February.

Louisville resident Arlene Morse, 67, said she "somewhat approves" of McConnell's job performance and was "grateful" for what he's done in office. Morse said

she wished McConnell didn't support Bush's war policy but said it was his job to back the president.

"That's why Republicans elected him leader and that's what he's been working for his whole political career," Morse, who said she is a Democrat, told the newspaper.

Among Democrats, 47 percent of those surveyed said they approved of McConnell's job performance to 40 percent who disapproved. But on the Iraq war, 60 percent of

Democrats who participated said McConnell should oppose Bush and 28 percent said he should support the war.

Barbara Jewell, a 73-year-old registered Republican from Louisville, said McConnell has represented Kentucky's interests while in Washington. Jewell said she thought McConnell's support of Bush on the war was also correct.

"I think it behooves us to support our president, I don't care who he is," Jewell said. "You've got to support him in the decisions he's making."

Ernest Yanarella, a political science professor at the University of Kentucky, said the poll showed that the Iraq war may not hurt McConnell politically as some other Republicans have been.

"At least on the issue of Iraq, the senior senator from Kentucky can probably ride it out with the president on this over the next couple of years while not suffering significant political damage and remaining a strong ally of the president," Yanarella said.

## Wreck

Continued from p1

An autopsy is scheduled to take place in Frankfort.

Gunnels was transported to St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, W.Va., where he is listed to be in stable condition.

Assisting at the scene were Sgt. Steve Spurlock, Tpr. David Watkins, Det. Mike Goble and the David Fire Department. The accident remains under investigation by accident reconstructionist Eddie Crum.

## Police ask for public's help in finding fugitive

by JENNIFER LAWSON  
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — A man wanted in Magoffin County has been spotted in the Floyd County area and Kentucky State Police Post 9 is asking for help in finding him.

John Smith, 53, was indicted over a year ago and is wanted for receiving stolen property. According to communications supervisor John Hunt, Smith was allegedly caught over a year ago in a stolen car by Tpr. Jason Dials. Since he was indicted, officials have been unsuccessful in finding and arresting Smith.

"We've exhausted every avenue and are now turning to the media and public for help," said Hunt.

Smith is described as a



John Smith

white male with blonde hair and blue eyes. He stands 6 feet, 1 inch tall and weighs 220 pounds.

Anyone with information concerning Smith's whereabouts is asked to contact KSP at (606) 433-7711 or toll-free at (800) 222-5555.

## Prestonsburg to buy Auxier Water

by JENNIFER LAWSON  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Effective immediately the city of Prestonsburg has agreed to purchase Auxier Water Company.

After an executive session that lasted over an hour, the Prestonsburg City Council voted to accept an offer from Auxier Water Company and purchase the company in its entirety.

According to a resolution, David M. Ellis, superintendent of the utilities commission, is authorized to submit an application for the acquisition indebtedness and provide any other documents that may be required.

Despite several attempts, neither Ellis, commission member Eddie Cambell, nor Mayor Jerry Fannin could be reached for additional comments and details as of press time.

## Coaches

Continued from p1

spokesperson and fellow team member, that Akers is "not just a coach to us ... she helps us to strive to be the best we can at everything in our lives."

Board chair Jeff Stumbo informed the group that the board would respond to their comments at a later time, following further discussion of the issue.

## Airport

Continued from p1

trophies will be awarded. There is no entry fee for any of the shows.

Airport Day is something that continues to attract a larger crowd each year, according to Cox, as last year's event attracted nearly 1,500 people.

"This event is so fun to do," said Cox. "It makes me proud to show off what a wonderful

facility and area we have here."

Except for the airplane rides, all events are free of charge.

"We just want people to grab a lawn chair and come up and stay all day," said Cox.

For more information, call the airport at (606) 298-5930.

## Board

Continued from p1

meetings will be scheduled to help develop plans of action to assist in further improvement.

Interim Supt. Ronald "Sonny" Fentress said that although he recognizes the gains that have been made, "My understanding is that it is still 'No Child Left Behind' and it is our responsibility to see to this."

Hughes and Webb said that each school is currently developing plans of action toward academic achievement.

Also, in other business, Allen Central Middle School was recognized by Fordham

University, in New York, as a finalist in the 2007 National School Change competition. Only six schools in the nation were recognized as winners, so the distinction of being named a finalist is deemed a great honor.

Solomon Kilburn, a teacher at Prestonsburg High School, was also recognized for his achievement in being named one of 20 recipients of the 2008 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award. Kilburn will now go on to compete for the 2008 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award.

## Tax

Continued from p1

of 34.0 cents per \$100, up from 29.8 cents last year.

According to Schoolcraft, the rates aren't just "made up," but rather calculated by an automatic worksheet which is provided by the Department for Local Government.

A second reading of the ordinance will be held today at 3 p.m.

Another matter discussed at the meeting was the policies and procedures followed by the Prestonsburg Police Department. According to police chief Mike Omerod, though it is required to continuously renew and update policies, the last Kentucky Model policy was modified nearly 10 years ago and last wrote locally in 1999. Though it has been determined that of the 33 policies and 10 orders, there are 12 that are critical. Upon Omerod's suggestion, a committee that will consist of both members of the police department and city council will be

formed to analyze the issues and begin training the officers on the new policies.

A group of council members will also be joining with the police department and road crew to discuss alternate routes that can be used for approximately 12 weeks beginning Dec. 1, when the downtown intersection of Court Street and Lake Drive is being redone in hopes of taking care of flooding issues.

An economic development plan that was first initiated in 2005 for Floyd County by Big Sandy Area Development District will once again be revisited per the request of council member Morris Copley.

The council also voted to set trick or treat night for Tuesday, Oct. 30, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting is set for Oct. 8.

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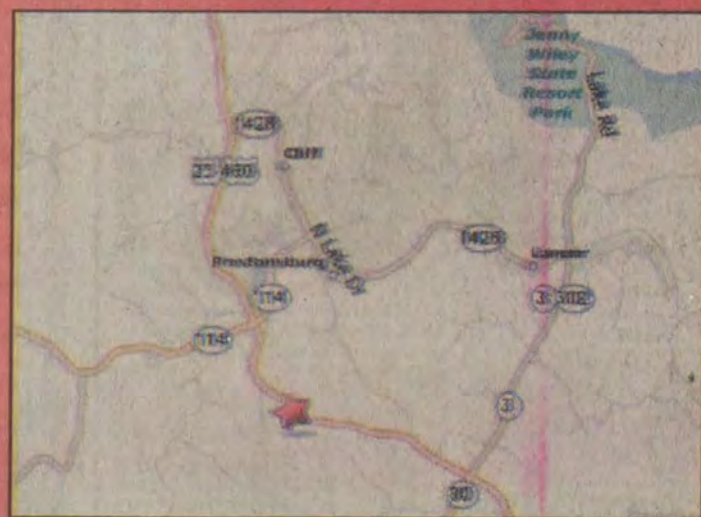
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# Kentucky inmate challenges execution method

by **BRETT BARROUQUERE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Ralph Baze admits he shot a sheriff and a deputy 15 years ago in eastern Kentucky. But he doesn't want his death sentence carried out with the three-drug formula commonly used in lethal injections across the nation.

Baze, 52, had been scheduled to be put to death Tuesday until the Kentucky Supreme Court issued a stay of execution earlier this month. Now the U.S. Supreme Court has decided to hear his appeal, agreeing to review the first direct challenge to the constitutionality of how 37 states conduct executions.

"Nobody has taken the time

to look at the facts," Baze told The Associated Press in an interview before his execution was halted.

Baze and fellow death row inmate Thomas Clyde Bowling Jr. sued the Kentucky Department of Corrections in 2004, claiming the state's lethal-injection method violated the 8th Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Death penalty foes have argued that if the condemned prisoner is not given enough anesthetic, he can suffer excru-

ciating pain without being able to cry out.

The inmates lost that challenge, and the Kentucky Supreme Court upheld that decision. But the state Supreme Court delayed his execution while he appealed.

Baze, a heavyset man with graying blonde hair, had multiple scrapes with the law before landing on death row. He was being served with warrants for receiving stolen property when he shot Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and

Deputy Arthur Briscoe.

These days, Baze spends 23 hours a day in his cell at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, in far western Kentucky.

When he does get a chance to speak to someone from outside the prison, Baze talks a lot and talks fast. He becomes animated, his blue eyes growing wide and his voice rising, as he claims the 1992 shootings were in self-defense. He says the officers fired first.

"I get loud when I get

upset," said Baze, who is visited periodically by two of his daughters.

A third daughter recalled a frequently absent father who was "pretty fun, but he was just as dangerous as he is now."

"All the fun stuff you can think of a kid getting hurt doing, that's the stuff we did," said Chantillie Baze of northern Ohio, who last spoke with her father more than a decade ago. "He's in my thoughts, but not fondly."

The younger Baze believes her father is guilty, but has convinced himself otherwise.

"I believe he truly believes he's innocent or justified," she said. "I think he's guilty as the day is long."

Ralph Baze, whose execution has been stopped twice, said if he eventually loses in court, he will go without a fight.

"I've never tried to hide, good or bad, any of it," Baze said. "I'll take my punishment."

## ABC director facing DUI charge resigns

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — The head of the state's Office of Alcoholic Beverage Control said he didn't feel like he posed a danger to anyone when he was arrested on a drunken driving charge over the weekend.

Chris Lilly, who was appointed executive director of the ABC last year, was arrested Saturday night, according to a police citation. Lilly resigned from his post on Sunday.

"I didn't feel like I was a danger on the road," Lilly told WKYT-TV in Lexington. "I'm just sorry."

Lilly, 51, of Nicholasville, was pulled over on U.S. 27 south of Lexington because his Ford Explorer was missing a headlight, and because he was weaving and driving slowly, the Nicholasville police citation said. Lilly smelled of alcohol, lost his balance during a sobriety test and recorded a Breathalyzer reading of 0.181, the citation said.

Lilly sent a one-sentence letter of resignation to Environmental and Public Protection Secretary Teresa Hill on Sunday, advising her that he would leave the job immediately.

Hill has accepted his resignation, said Mark York, spokesman for the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, which includes Alcoholic Beverage Control.

"We will be looking to put someone in there probably on an interim basis," York said.

York said he didn't know if Hill had asked Lilly to resign.

"I don't know the substance of the conversation," York said Monday.

Jessamine County Jailer Cecil Moss said Lilly posted a \$1,000 surety bond early Sunday. He was scheduled to appear in Jessamine District Court on Oct. 18, Moss said.

Before heading up the ABC, Lilly was the commissioner of the state's Department of Public Protection and the executive director for the Office Of Charitable Gaming.



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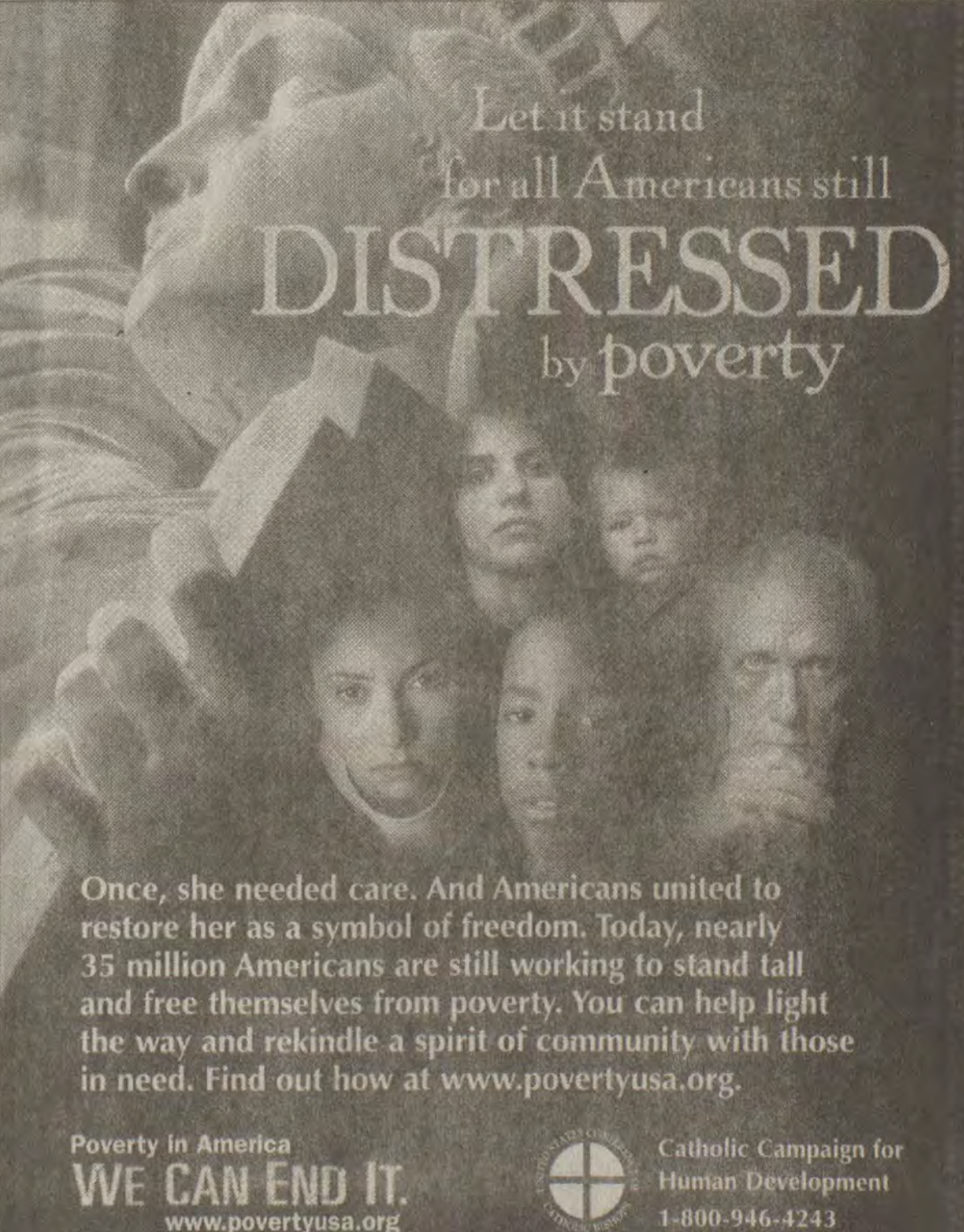
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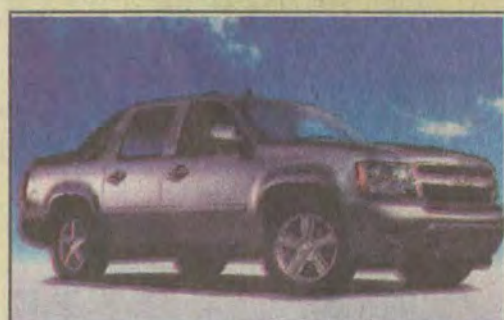
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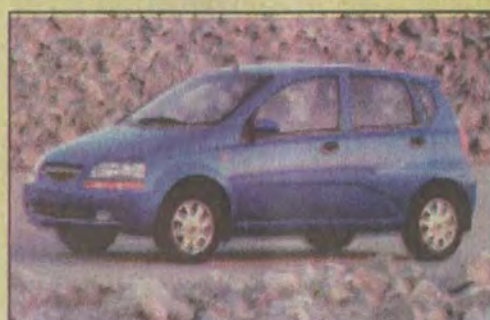
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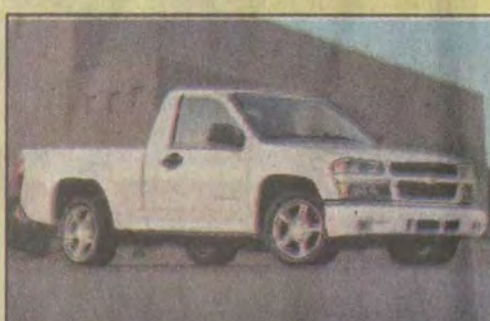
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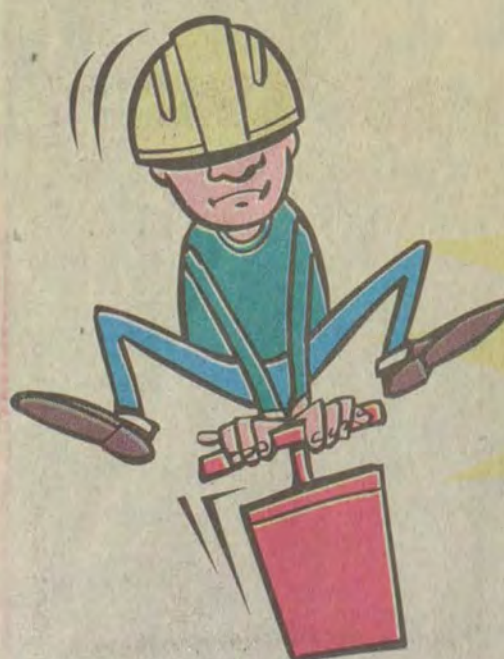
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WEDDINGS



**Nelson-Gearheart**

Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Missy Nelson, of Dwale, are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Alicia Michelle, to Mr. David Ashley Gearheart, the son of Ashland Jr. and Linda Gearheart, of Prestonsburg. Miss Nelson is a 2004 graduate of Prestonsburg High School. She is currently pursuing a degree in nursing at Big Sandy Community and Technical College. She is the maternal granddaughter of Bennie Lynwood and Gwendolyn Lafferty, of Allen, and the great-granddaughter of Gretchen Lafferty and the late Bennie Lafferty, also of Allen. Her paternal grandparents are the late John and Josephine Nelson, formerly of Dwale. Mr. Gearheart is a graduate of Morehead State University. He is presently employed as manager of Meade's Kentucky Wholesale, in Allen. He is the maternal grandson of Don Conley, of Prestonsburg, and Maxine Conley, of Allen. His paternal grandparents are Ashland and Florabel Gearheart, of Prestonsburg. The couple will wed in a ceremony that will take place on Saturday, October 6, 2007, at the Christ United Methodist Church, in Allen. A reception will follow at the Wilkinson-Stumbo Convention Center, located in Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, in Prestonsburg. Following a honeymoon cruise to the Cayman Islands and Mexico, the couple will return to reside in Prestonsburg.



**Compton-Spears**

Ms. Valerie Compton, the daughter of John and Minnie Walker, of Prestonsburg, and Mr. Johnathan Spears, the son of Bobby and Dora Spears, of Auxier, are happy to announce their recent marriage. The candlelight ceremony was performed in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, at Mt. Valley Wedding Chapel, on September 7, 2007, at three o'clock in the afternoon. Friends and family joined the happy couple on this special occasion. Johnathan is employed by Coal Equipment of Pikeville. The new bride is employed by Wal-Mart of Prestonsburg. The couple, who wish to take this opportunity to thank friends and family for their love and support, reside in Floyd County.



**Hamilton-Moore**

Mr. Lanny Hamilton, of Printer, along with Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Joe Moore, of McDowell, are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Amber Brook and Robert Lloyd. The couple will exchange vows on Saturday, September 29, 2007, at half past five o'clock in the afternoon, at the McDowell First Baptist Church, in McDowell. The gracious custom of an open church ceremony will be observed.

BIRTHDAYS



**Happy Birthday, Rachel!**

Rachel Kate Gayheart turned four years old on August 29, 2007. Rachel celebrated her special day with all her friends and her little brother, Adam, at KIDDIE-LAND Daycare. She is the daughter of Jackie and Tammy Gayheart, of Drift.



**Happy Birthday, Ashlee!**

Ashlee Maree Bellamy celebrated her third birthday on September 17, 2007, with friends and family at her home where everyone enjoyed her "Strawberry Shortcake" theme party. Ashlee is the daughter of Scot and Jenny Bellamy. She is the granddaughter of Patti and Terry Bellamy and the great-granddaughter of Mildred and Bill Bellamy. She is also the granddaughter of the late Mars and Thelma Robinson.



**Look who's 1!**

Jacob Moore turned one year old on September 17, 2007. Jacob is the son of William Moore and Courtney Tackett, of McDowell. He is the grandson of Donald Moore and Kathy Howard, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Dr. Dicky and Kathy Tackett, of Minnie. He is the great-grandson of Willie and Opal Moore, of McDowell.



**Congrats, Ali!**

Best friends since way back when, Elizabeth Baldrige, right, was ecstatic to wish PHS Football Homecoming Queen Ali Hackworth, left, a big "Congratulations!" when she was honored with the coveted title on Friday night, September 14, 2007. Elizabeth is proud of "the little red-headed fireball" and wishes her a great senior year!

**Roberts-Campbell to Wed**



Larry and Sandra Roberts of Banner, are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Amber Brittany, to Jimmy Wayne Campbell, the son of Elzie and Jerry Campbell of Abbott. Amber is a 2001 graduate of Betsy Layne High School, and a 2006 graduate of BSCTC with a degree in Respiratory Therapy. She is currently employed at Pikeville Medical Center. Her maternal grandparents are Junior and Loretta Conn of Banner. Her paternal grandparents are the late Harmel and Lurlie Roberts of Toler. Jimmy is a 1989 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and is currently employed at Prestonsburg City Utilities. His maternal grandparents are Virginia and the late Carlos Artrip of Martin. His paternal grandparents are the late Will and Susan Campbell of Watergap. The wedding will be held Saturday, the 29th of September, at 5:30 in the afternoon, at StoneCrest Golf Course, with a reception immediately following the ceremony, with an open invitation. After their honeymoon the couple plan to reside in Prestonsburg.

**Need pet pics ASAP!**

Critter lovers take notice! Our Critter Corner pics file has become dangerously near empty. Please, send your pet's favorite photo ASAP to: features@floydcountytimes.com, or to The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653, Attn: Kathy Prater, or just swing by and drop a couple off the next time you're in town! Along with photos, please leave pet's name, owner's name, place of residence and "fun facts" about your pet's favorite habits/activities.

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Science

Continued from p5

through and get on the balloon."  
 "We pretty much figured that that test had failed," Harrison laughed, "and began again."  
 Eventually, Harrison himself, once confident in the fabric's resistance against reptile fangs, wrapped the material around his own leg and allowed a venomous snake to bite him.  
 "It worked," he said. "It's strong stuff."  
 Visitors to the center can learn about Stephanie Kwolek, the inventor of kevlar, and the miraculous material when they visit the science center between now and December 31.  
 Director Eric Thomas invites everyone out to see the "Invention at Play" exhibit and to visit the science center's

planetarium for informational programs and entertaining laser light shows.  
 Also, "Star Parties" are back at the center, with the next scheduled event to be held on Saturday, October 6, at 7 p.m., atop the Stone Crest Golf Course. Rain date will be October 13.  
 Star lovers may also want to join the science center's Astronomy Club. The club meets monthly, at 7 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month.  
 For more information on Star Parties or the Astronomy Club, call Kate Zylland at 889-0303.  
 To learn more about the "Invention at Play" exhibit and planetarium shows, call center staff at 889-0303 or visit their EKSC website at www.wedo-science.org.