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Volume 82, Issue 28 • 75 Cents

briefs

Audit finds nearly \$85K deficit in Magoffin SO

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — The state auditor's office has found a deficit of nearly \$85,000 for the 2006 fiscal year in an eastern Kentucky sheriff's office.

Auditor Crit Luallen says the deficit in the Magoffin County sheriff's office occurred because of poor oversight and inadequate record-keeping.

The auditor's office made recommendations to fix the problems. The Lexington Herald-Leader reports that Sheriff Randall Jordan said in his response that he would follow the recommendations and will "personally deposit money" for deficits and disallowed expenditures.

A woman answering the phone at the sheriff's office said Monday that Jordan would be out of the office until Thursday and couldn't be reached.

The audit found that Jordan bought three cruisers his office apparently couldn't afford and accumulated more than \$17,000 in bank overdraft fees and insufficient funds charges. The audit also said Jordan didn't send more than \$67,000 he withheld in taxes from employees' paychecks to the appropriate agencies and used it to run his office instead.

Meade drops out of House race

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

An expected May contest between Rep. Greg Stumbo and former seat holder Charles "Chuck" Meade was canceled this week when Meade announced his withdrawal from the race.

"The polls were showing that

I could win, but that I would have to go extremely negative," said Meade. "Our county has suffered enough. What we don't need at this point is another divisive campaign."

Meade, who was defeated in 2004 by James Brandon Spencer, had announced in December that he would run against Spencer in the 2008 primary. Spencer

resigned his seat in the House two weeks later, and threw his support behind Stumbo, whom he hoped would run for the vacancy.

In a press release this week, Stumbo said, "Allow me to thank Chuck Meade for this and for his demonstration of placing our community above political ambition. With these challenging bud-

getary times it is important that we focus on the important work rather than the distractions of a primary campaign."

Stumbo had been eyeing a challenge against longtime incumbent U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, but decided to return home to Floyd county and try to



Chuck Meade

(See MEADE, page ten)

SNOWY SATURDAY



photo by Jack Latta

A late-season storm early Saturday morning left the most significant snowfall on Floyd County this winter, bringing weekend life to a standstill.

FCSO caps busy week with drug arrests, escape attempt

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Sheriff's Office had a busy week after arresting several suspects for drug trafficking, and also one thwarting an escape attempt at the Floyd County Detention Center.

According to officials, Billy Joe Hunter, 29, of Prestonsburg, was allegedly part of a scheme to burglarize the pretrial office, stealing documents of which he then forged the signature of a Floyd County Circuit Judge. The forged document was reportedly an order to reduce the suspect's bond from

\$50,000 cash to a surety bond. Jail officials were reportedly suspicious of the document, and passed along their concerns to the pretrial release officer.

Hunter, who was being held in jail on 62 counts of identity theft, second-degree

(See ARRESTS, page ten)

Appeals court finds Allen election suit 'frivolous'

by JACK LATTA
STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Court of Appeals affirmed last week a local judge's decision in a 2006 case alleging voter fraud in the city of Allen's elections. "On behalf of the City of Allen, the Floyd County Board of Elections and those individuals named as parties, I am pleased to see that the Kentucky Court of Appeals has agreed with the decision of Floyd Circuit Judge John David Caudill," said County Attorney Keith Bartley.

Ned Pillersdorf, attorney for the plaintiffs, said, "I thought the decision was a bit illogical. They are basically saying there was a violation of the law, but to no consequence."

Pillersdorf said he plans to recommend to his clients to ask the Court of Appeals for a reconsideration, and failing that, to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

The controversy started after the November 2006

elections of the Allen city commissioners and mayor, as well as a measure to dissolve the city. Roughly 75 percent of the voters reportedly voted against the measure.

According to court records, the "crucial" challenge to the November 2006 elections was in the plaintiffs' belief that there were only 69 eligible voters registered in the Mouth of Beaver precinct, though during the trial, Allen City Clerk Bill Parsons and Floyd County Clerk Chris Waugh both testified that there were actually 123 registered voters.

According to Bartley, the plaintiffs' notion that there were only 69 eligible voters was based on the voter turnout in a previous election, and not the actual number of registered voters.

Pauline Bentley and Jerome Kinzer filed the lawsuit following the election and asked that the results of the elections for

(See ALLEN, page ten)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 56 • Low: 40

Tomorrow



High: 69 • Low: 45

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

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Smokers, businesses face higher taxes

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Smokers and businesses would shoulder much of the burden for balancing Kentucky's budget over the next two years under tax increases approved by a legislative committee on Tuesday.

The House Appropriations and Revenue Committee voted 20-9 to raise the state's cigarette tax by 25 cents a pack — a move that is expected to generate nearly \$200 million over the next two years to help erase a projected \$900 million budget deficit over the two-year budget cycle that begins on July 1.

Other tobacco products also would also be taxed at higher rates, as would air charters, armored car services, security services, commercial janitorial services and linen services. Combined, those taxes would generate an additional \$95 million.

Budget committee Chairman Harry Moberly, D-Richmond, said the increased taxes coupled with cost-saving provisions would generate some \$800 million over the next two years. One of the largest of those provisions calls for restructuring and refinancing general fund debts at lower interest rates, saving about \$300 million

(See TAXES, page ten)



photo by Jack Latta

Prestonsburg city workers began demolition work this week on several Arnold Avenue properties which had been condemned last May. According to Code Enforcement Officer Bobby Carpenter, the owner of the property will have six months to satisfy the lien, or the city will take action to foreclose on and sell the property to recoup its expenses.

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ACHS senior competes for Lindsey Wilson Begley Scholarship

COLUMBIA — A Floyd County resident competed in Lindsey Wilson College's 2008 Scholars Day, held Saturday, Feb. 23, at the college.

Allen Central High School senior Clinton Todd Turner was among 73 select high school seniors from four states who were invited by the college to compete for one of three John B. Begley Scholarships.

The son of Sherry and Stuart Robinson of Martin, Turner is a senior at Allen Central High School. He is a member of the Floyd County Youth Leadership Program, Beta Club, Math Club, National Honor Society, Rebels Against Destructive Decisions, Student Council, four-year member of the basketball team and two-year member of the track and field team. He participated in the University of Kentucky AMSTEM Program, is a volunteer teacher at vacation Bible school, a computer lab volunteer at a local community center and his author of a poem that will be pub-

lished soon nationally. Turner received the Algebra II Award, Pre-Calculus Award, World Civilization Award and won the "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child" essay contest.

The 73 Begley Scholars candidates submitted essays, interviewed with a three-panel committee and meet with the college's faculty and staff.

The Begley Scholars Program — which is considered to be one of the most prestigious scholarships in Kentucky higher education — was created in 1997 to honor John B. Begley, who served as the sixth president of Lindsey Wilson from 1978-97.

Begley Scholars receive a full-tuition-and-fees scholarship to attend Lindsey Wilson. The renewable scholarship — which includes tuition, room and board — is worth more than \$23,000 a year and more than \$100,000 over four years. Students are named Begley Scholars based on their academic ability and performance, leader-

ship, community service and extracurricular activities.

"You will all receive a world-class education if you choose to attend Lindsey Wilson," said Lindsey Wilson President William T. Luckey Jr. "The thing that makes this scholarship so distinctive is the experience you will have while a Begley Scholar. It's a world-class experience to go along with a world-class education."

This year's Begley Scholars will be announced in three to four weeks, according to LWC Director of Admissions Charity Ferguson.

Begley Scholars are expected to participate in at least two co-curricular activities simultaneously, assuming formal leadership in at least one of them.

Begley Scholars are also required to fulfill a service component and are expected to distinguish themselves as men and women of high moral character by living according to high personal standards and exercising good judgment daily.



Allen Central High School senior Clinton Todd Turner of Martin is joined by Lindsey Wilson College admissions counselor Eve Frederick at the college's 2008 Scholars Day.

Kentucky superdelegates being courted by Clinton, Obama

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — When Moretta Bosley's phone rings, it could be a Clinton or Obama calling.

As a Democratic superdelegate, the western Kentucky activist has been courted by relatives of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama in the historic struggle for their party's presidential nomination.

In recent weeks, Bosley has heard from Bill and Chelsea Clinton and from Obama's wife, Michelle.

"I'm a housewife and work at a restaurant," said Bosley, whose family runs a well-known Owensboro barbecue eatery. "I never dreamed that I would be in a position to know and meet presidential candidates."

If the Democratic race remains a tossup, a lot more Kentuckians will become familiar with Clinton and Obama. For a state best known for the Kentucky Derby, the hottest political horse race in

years could still be in doubt when Kentucky has its primary election May 20. Oregon holds its primary the same day.

"It's going to be a really exciting time in Kentucky," said state Democratic chairwoman Jennifer Moore, predicting both candidates will visit the Bluegrass state and fill the airwaves with commercials.

And it's something no one predicted when it appeared Kentucky's late primary would keep it from having any meaningful role in the presidential sweepstakes.

Now, "Kentucky may play huge in this thing," state Democratic Vice Chairman Nathan Smith said.

So far, Clinton has a slight edge over Obama in competing for Kentucky superdelegates, a group of party and elected officials. Nationally, the quest for superdelegates could be pivotal in deciding the nomination.

Clinton has been endorsed by Bosley and two other Democratic National Committee members from

Kentucky — Terry McBrayer and Joetta Wickliffe. U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth is backing Obama.

The state's two best-known Democrats — Gov. Steve Beshear and U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler — are undecided.

Beshear said he's keeping "an open mind" about his choice for the nomination.

Moore and Smith also haven't declared a choice.

McBrayer, a longtime Democratic strategist, said he thinks Clinton and Obama are running about even in Kentucky. He said Obama's stronghold is in Louisville while Clinton runs stronger in rural areas.

Kentucky's primary could end up as inconclusive as others, with both candidates splitting the state's delegates, McBrayer said.

Moore agreed that Kentucky is "up for grabs." Both campaigns have grassroots organizations in the state, but the key may be personal appearances in which they ask Kentuckians for support, she said.

"They are going to have to come to Kentucky," she said.

Bosley said she thinks Clinton has a clear edge over Obama among Democrats in western Kentucky. It's a combination of Clinton's experience and nostalgia for her husband's presidency.

"They look back to the happier times under Bill Clinton," she said.

Yarmuth, who represents a Louisville-area district, praises both Democratic candidates as "exceptional leaders," but said Obama "is the person who can best unite this nation and restore our image around the world overnight."

Meanwhile, the race to round up superdelegates remains hotly contested.

Moore, a superdelegate, said rarely a day goes by that she doesn't hear from at least one campaign. She said she's chatted once with Chelsea Clinton and has exchanged voice mail messages with Michelle Obama.

Smith said the Clinton campaign appears more aggressive in reaching out to superdele-

gates. "I definitely believe that she right now has a better handle on superdelegates," he said.

Smith said he had recent meetings with Obama and Clinton while the two campaigned in Cincinnati, and that he also hears from at least one campaign almost daily.

Bosley said the Clinton campaign had done its homework when former first daughter Chelsea called her.

"She is very knowledgeable when she talks to you, about who you are and what you do," Bosley said.

During their phone chat, Michelle Obama promised to include Bosley's son in her prayers, Bosley said, referring to her adult son who was hospitalized recently.

McBrayer said he doesn't worry that the drawn-out Democratic race will hurt party unity in the fall.

"If anything, it rejuvenates our party," he said. "I think there's more excitement in our party now than there has been in many years."

While Clinton and Obama wrangle in primary after primary, John McCain has locked up the Republican presidential nomination, allowing him to

start focusing on the fall campaign. State GOP Chairman Steve Robertson said that gives McCain an important head start.

"At the end of the day, no matter who the Democrats nominate, it's going to be a classic conservative vs. liberal matchup," Robertson said. "And I think McCain is going to have a very strong appeal in Kentucky."

McBrayer hopes both Clinton and Obama are on the ballot in November, with Clinton at the top of the Democratic slate and Obama as her running mate.

"It would be the dream ticket," he said.

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U.S. General Services Administration

Members of the Floyd County Health Assistants team were showcased at the Kentucky State School Boards Association Conference held in Louisville. Each year innovative and exemplary educational programs are invited to attend the conference and to be a part of the "Share Your Success Showcase". This year the Health Assistants Program, under the direction of Jennifer Martin, District Health Coordinator, was identified as one of those exemplary programs. The program has made a positive impact in the district with improved health and wellness among students. This past school year the program was highlighted in the "Kentucky School Leader" magazine. The article entitled, "How School Health Services Help Your Students and Your Bottom Line," identified several of the activities that are making important contributions to student health such as hearing, vision, and scoliosis screenings, Hand-Washing Month activities, as well as MRSA and influenza educational information. The KSBA Conference is an annual event that includes superintendents and board members from across the state of Kentucky. The "Share Your Success Showcase" demonstrates the best of the best and gives all schools districts the opportunity to take back with them new ideas that are working and impacting student learning.



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The Floyd County Animal Shelter PET OF THE WEEK

The people pictured are our Celebrities of the Week, Bobby Hughes, (girls left to right) Sabrina Mullins, Emily Holbrook, and Kim Kilgore.

These are four of the seniors that scored distinguished on state's standardized tests this year. There were only six in Floyd County, all of which were from Prestonsburg High School. The other two students are Whitney Caudill and Kayla Snodgrass; they were unable to be in the photo.

The puppies are: Rosco, Buster, Taz, and Roxie. Gender: 3 males, 1 female. Age: 10 weeks. Breed: Dalmatian and Lab mix. All of these puppies are the same breed. Their mom is a full stock Dalmatian. She was also at the shelter, but has been adopted.

The Floyd County Animal Shelter is located at Sally Stephens Branch in West Prestonsburg
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Local educators, students attend forum on youth issues

Educators from Floyd, Menifee, Johnson and Prestonsburg school districts joined a delegation of community leaders, youth and a representative from Big Sandy Community and Technical College for a panel discussion on the topic of "Youth: The Real Future of the South" Feb. 28 at a regional community forum in Prestonsburg.

Community representatives were asked to respond to three youth development approaches recommended by the Southern Growth Policies Board. The board, formed by governors of 13 Southern states in 1971, is seeking community input on how to strengthen and empower the next generation of leaders.

The three proposed approaches include: focus on youth development, realize the value of young people and build youth-friendly communities. The Eastern Kentucky panel recommended the first approach to the non-partisan public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, N.C.



Diana Ratliff, president of Leadership Kentucky, and Stuart Arnold, director of marketing and public relations for The Center for Rural Development, field questions from the audience at the last of four regional community forums on the topic of youth development. The meeting was held Feb. 28 at the Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg.

"The group chose Approach No. 1 because we felt youth development was important...and the (foundation) for all the other approaches," said Karen Harmon, children, youth, families at risk program assistant for the Lawrence County Extension Service in Louisa. "Adults need to step up and

help youth promote/develop leadership skills."

The youth development approach focuses on creating opportunities that help youth discover their talents and passions and develop the skills and confidence they need to realize their full potential.

Community recommendations will be submitted to the

Southern Growth Policies Board for consideration in developing policy recommendations in the 2008 Report on the Future of the South. The findings will be released to policy leaders at the 36th annual conference June 1-3 in Little Rock, Ark.

The Prestonsburg meeting, held at the Big Sandy Area

Development District, was hosted by The Center for Rural Development and Leadership Kentucky. They partnered with the policies board to sponsor a series of regional community forums during the month of February. Two other sessions were held at Area Development District offices in Russell Springs and London. A meeting in Hazard was canceled because of inclement weather.

The Center, based in Somerset, provides community leadership and economic development programs in the 42-county region of Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Leadership Kentucky is a non-profit educational organization based in Frankfort. It brings together a select group of people that possess a broad variety of leadership abilities, career accomplishments and volunteer activities to gain insight into complex issues facing the state.

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Cinema 1—Held Over
VANTAGE POINT (PG-13). Mon.-Sun. 7:15-9:30; Fri. (4:30) 7:15-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:30) 7:15-9:30.

Cinema 2—Held Over
SEMI PRO (R). Mon.-Sun. 7:10-9:25; Fri. (4:25) 7:10-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (2:10-4:25) 7:10-9:25.

Cinema 3—Held Over
10,000 B.C. (PG-13). Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:25; Fri. (4:25) 7:00-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:25) 7:00-9:25.

Cinema 4—Held Over
FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13). Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:15; Fri. (4:15) 7:00-9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:15) 7:00-9:15.

Cinema 5—Held Over
WITLESS PROTECTION (PG-13). Mon.-Sun. 7:15-9:30; Fri. (4:30) 7:15-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:30) 7:15-9:30.

Cinema 6—Held Over
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G). Mon.-Sun. 7:10-9:25; Fri. (4:25) 7:10-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (2:10-4:25) 7:10-9:25.

Cinema 7—Starts Friday, March 14
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G). Mon.-Sun. 7:20-9:20; Fri. (4:20) 7:20-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:20-4:20) 7:20-9:20.

Cinema 8—Starts Friday, March 14
NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13). Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:15; Fri. (4:15) 6:50-9:15; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:15) 6:50-9:15.

Cinema 9—Starts Friday, March 14
DOOMSDAY (R). Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:10; Fri. (4:10) 7:00-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:10) 7:00-9:10.

Cinema 10—Held Over
STEP UP 2 (PG-13). Mon.-Sun. 7:05; Fri. (4:20) 7:05; Sat.-Sun. (4:20) 7:05.

Cinema 10—Held Over
CHARLIE BARTLETT (R). Mon.-Sun. 9:20; Fri. 9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:05) 9:20.

Senate approves tourism bill

Sen. Brandon Smith, R-Hazard, explains a bill to encourage recreational tourism during a floor speech in the Kentucky Senate.



photo by Mike Suneri, LRC Public Information

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Senate has approved legislation aimed at boosting tourism throughout the state.

Sen. Brandon Smith, the bill's sponsor, says the proposal will open up new land for people who enjoy certain outdoor activities, such as hiking or riding all-terrain vehicles. Smith, R-Hazard, says Kentucky currently has a lot of land ideal for certain activities that is privately owned.

Smith says the plan is aimed at opening up private land for more people to use for things such as hunting, hiking, biking and horseback riding.

The measure cleared the Senate on a 34-0 vote Monday and heads to the House for consideration.

Turner awarded 2008 KIDS First Award

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky School Boards Association today recognized Senator Johnny Ray Turner, D-Drift, with the 2008 KIDS First Award.

The award was established to honor local and state leaders who work on behalf of Kentucky's public schools. Given annually to a Kentucky senator, representative, superintendent and school board member, the recipients exemplify the efforts of advancing the needs of children in the public policy arena.

"As an educator for 28 years, education has always been my top priority while serving in Frankfort," said Turner, who taught and coached in Floyd, Johnson and Magoffin counties. "It is an honor to be recognized for the work that I do, but I don't do it for recognition, I do it because education needs a champion. The education of our children is important for our future and it is our teachers who impact them with knowledge."

Floyd County Board of

Education Chairman Jeff Stumbo nominated Turner for his work on behalf of schools statewide and particularly in eastern Kentucky. Stumbo said that Turner has sponsored successful legislation that has made schools safer, improved drug abuse prevention and expanded affordable housing opportunities for certified school employees.

"Senator Turner is deserving of this award. He understands the challenges faced by teachers and the needs in the classroom. He is always seeking opportunities where the state can assist local school districts to positively impact education," said Senator Ed Worley, D-Richmond, Senate Democratic Floor Leader.

Turner, who represents Floyd, Breathitt, Letcher and Knott counties, has been a member of the State Senate since 2001. He currently serves on the Appropriations and Revenue, Education, Health and Welfare, State and Local Government, Rules and Committee on Committees.



State Sen. Johnny Ray Turner received the 2008 KIDS First Award for his work on behalf of Kentucky schools.

Supplemental educational services providers sought

FRANKFORT — Groups and individuals who wish to become Supplemental Educational Services providers may apply for consideration beginning Thursday, March 20.

The application window for prospective providers will open on that day. Applicants may become approved to provide tutoring to some students in Kentucky public schools, depending on students' eligibility. Eligible students are those who attend schools that are served by federal Title I (No Child Left Behind) funds and have not made adequate yearly progress for at least two consecutive years.

Local organizations that regularly provide services to students are encouraged to apply to become providers. There is a great need for providers in the state's rural districts.

Tutoring can be in-home.

online or in community centers, churches, schools or other locations. The services must be provided outside the regular school day, including before and after school, weekends and holidays.

Application forms and information will be available on the Kentucky Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.education.ky.gov> on March 20. Type in "SES" in the search box on that page.

There are two opportunities scheduled to provide information and assistance with completing the application. An informational meeting will be held on Friday, April 4, in Elizabethtown at the Hardin County school district central office and a second session held on April 11 in Lexington at the Fayette County school district central office. Registration for these sessions is free.

Potential providers interest-

ed in either of these sessions should contact Annika Nicholson by e-mail at anna.nicholson@education.ky.gov or by phone at (502) 564-3791 to reserve space.



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Sunday Matinee—Open 1:00; start 1:30

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Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

"He who praises you for what you lack wishes to take from you what you have."

— Don Juan Manuel

Amendment 1

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Guest View

Strengthening product safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's muscle has atrophied for 25 years. Its ability to protect the public from dangerous goods fell victim to budget cuts, staff reductions and blind faith that the free market would cure all ills.

Last week, that began to change. The Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill that would drastically increase the commission's budget over the next three years. It would establish a Web site to warn consumers about safety problems; give regulators better tools to enforce existing laws and hike the maximum fine for companies that knowingly flout safety laws.

The House passed a similar, but less expansive, bill in December. Differences between the two bills should be ironed out quickly and President George W. Bush should sign it immediately. Unlike the version passed by the Senate, the House bill doesn't grant "whistle-blower" protection to corporate insiders who come forward with evidence of corporate malfeasance. Congress has granted whistle-blower protections in four other laws enacted since 2002. Extending them here would help bring to light willful disregard of safety laws.

Another key difference is that the Senate bill allows state attorneys general to block distribution of unsafe products in their states. That works as a "force multiplier" for the undermanned CPSC, increasing enforcement, which protects consumers. It should be included in the final bill.

The product safety commission's problems have been decades in the making, but until last year there seemed little sense of urgency about resolving them. The CPSC has fewer than 400 employees and a budget of just \$63 million. That's less than half the workers and budget it had two decades ago (when adjusted for inflation). Yet the number of categories of products it regulates has grown to more than 15,000.

With so much responsibility and so small a staff - the department that tests toys consists of one person - it's no wonder the commission can't protect the public. It investigates just 10 to 15 percent of the reports it receives of product-related injuries or deaths.

Last year's seemingly unending parade of product recalls - pet food, tires, lead-painted toys and dangerous jewelry - was a long overdue wake-up call for Congress. Consumers expect and deserve to be protected from unsafe toys and dangerous products.

— St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Guest Column

Child care investment: A path out of budget problems

by JUSTIN MAXSON

A growing body of evidence continues to show that providing adequate investments in early childhood education and care is critical for economic development — now and in the future.

Despite rising interest and awareness of the importance of these investments, the budget crunch in Frankfort has replaced plans to expand investment with talk of the need to tighten our belts. But belt-tightening in the past is part of the reason for the fiscal state we are in.

In the long run, investments in early education and care can help Kentucky address its ongoing budget problems through enhanced economic growth and savings in other areas. Estimates suggest that for each dollar we spend on these programs, we save between \$2 and \$17 in future spending on special education, social services, public aid and criminal justice.

These economic benefits are a critical bonus to the main purpose of these investments: powerful learning experiences that deeply impact children's lives.

In recent months, several organizations, including Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Prichard Committee, have issued important

reports recommending stronger state support for early childhood care and education. The Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) recently joined that conversation with a study of the financial viability of independent child care providers in eastern Kentucky, the region MACED serves.

Independent child care providers across Kentucky are an important part of community and educational infrastructure. These centers have the potential to be strong economic engines and providers of good jobs. Quality care and education is especially important in low-income areas like Appalachian Kentucky. Research shows that the benefits of quality care are greatest for low-income children, and the inability to access affordable, quality care can be a major barrier for low-income parents seeking education or work.

However, as we discovered, failures in existing public policy make financial viability a struggle for independent providers in eastern Kentucky.

Providers in low-income communities face dysfunctional market conditions which means they don't bring in enough revenue to pay their bills. They also lack adequate access to resources that help them develop skilled staff and effectively operate their centers.

One major problem is that state child care subsidies are not high enough to make centers financially viable, much less cover the costs of quality care.

This is a no-win situation for providers. One explained to us, "We

won't raise our rates because the families we serve can't afford it and they will withdraw." But if providers do not raise rates, they cannot make payroll, keep up with their bills, or invest in training and capital improvements.

The result: operators and staff carry the burden of a dysfunctional market. "We do not have enough working capital throughout the year," said one provider. "When we first started, we (the two co-directors) didn't take home paychecks at all."

Another director commented, "I do not always bring home a paycheck. On a good month I might be able to pay myself \$500."

The commonwealth must increase financial support and incentives for early childhood education and child care centers. These investments will pay off in expanded opportunities for parents, valuable learning experiences for children, good jobs at child care and education centers and a stronger and more vibrant economy.

Kentucky's budget crunch caused in part by past unwillingness to invest in those things that improve the economy and the quality of life of its citizens. As a result, we have expensive problems we must address with little economic base to raise the needed revenue.

It's time for a shift in perspective. The longer we put off the investments that make for prosperity, the longer we wait to prosper.

Maxson is president of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) in Berea.

Senate week in review

by JOHNNY RAY TURNER

Over the past two decades, we have approached K-12 education with one driving belief: that all students, if given the opportunity, can learn at high levels, no matter their background and circumstances. This week, we gave that core value a breath of fresh air, with legislation that addresses the needs of children greatly at risk of dropping out of school altogether.

Senate Bill 32 is aimed at students who leave school or do not push themselves because they find traditional class work boring or irrelevant. These kids just do not want to sit in a classroom focusing on abstract subjects like algebra, English or chemistry. Many of them are more interested in the "real world" — getting a job, earning money and helping their families. By keying in on ways to help these students match those worldly goals with staying in school, we can lower our appalling dropout rate and make them more productive citizens.

SB 32 would help local school districts expand their career and technical offerings through grant funding. Among available options would be full-fledged career academies that tailor "academic" curriculum to specific careers. For example, a health sciences academy could build its math courses around medical uses for math, while an agribusiness-oriented academy would focus on math skills as they

apply in a farm setting. Kentucky's business community has committed itself to working with our school system so we can make sure students are prepared for the job market that awaits them.

We hope that, through this approach, many students will find school engaging again, and, perhaps, even move on to community and technical colleges after high school. Our state colleges and universities have set a goal of doubling the number of degrees they award by 2020, and for them to achieve that, we have to lure more students into postsecondary studies. By making classes relevant to students' interests — and thereby preparing them for good jobs and productive lives — we can improve life for all Kentuckians.

We also took a step to make state spending more efficient by reviewing our criminal code. It has been more than 30 years since the legislature comprehensively examined the laws we use to put people behind bars. In that time, we have seen a rise in drug use and identity theft, new laws to combat sexual predators, and complications in family and domestic law. Our prison population and its costs have increased eight times the amount they were in the seventies. Senate Joint Resolution 80 would authorize a subcommittee of the legislature to study the entire criminal code, including what is illegal and what alternatives to prison may help solve the problem with less cost. The panel would report back by the end of the year so that we can make needed reforms.

Finally, we made an attempt to help our veterans, something we have consistently done over the last few years. Senate Bill 181 would expand our state hiring preferences to include not only veterans of the regular armed forces, but also the military reserves and the National Guard. The preference includes five bonus points on the 100-point test used to evaluate job candidates, 10 points for disabled veterans — as well as their spouses and dependent parents in certain instances — and guaranteed interviews for up to 10 veterans who are candidates for any job. Our reserve and National Guard troops are more involved in international conflicts than ever before, and we need to treat them as they deserve.

Another section of SB 181 would give an edge in winning state contracts to veteran-owned businesses. Just as we make sure that Kentucky-owned businesses and those run by women and minorities win their fair share of state business, veterans who have served our country deserve our appreciation in this tangible way.

We have accomplished a great deal in the first 40 days of this session, but the real work is just getting started. I hope you will stay informed by following us online at www.lrc.ky.gov, and if you have an opinion on any bill, call our Legislative Message Line at 1-800-372-7181 or e-mail me at johnnyray.turner@lrc.ky.gov.

□□□

Senator Johnny Ray Turner represents Breathitt, Floyd, Knott and Letcher counties.

The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653
Phone: (606) 886-8506
Fax: (606) 886-3603
www.floydcountytimes.com

USPS 202-700
Entered as second class matter, June 18, 1927, at the post office at Prestonsburg, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879. Periodicals postage paid at Prestonsburg, Ky.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
In Floyd County: \$59.00
Outside Floyd County: \$76.00

Postmaster: Send change of address to:
The Floyd County Times
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

PUBLISHER: Joshua Byers
jbyers@heartlandpublications.com
MANAGING EDITOR: Ralph B. Davis
web@floydcountytimes.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER:
Kim Frasure
advertising@floydcountytimes.com

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@floydcounty-times.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits.

Salysersville Lodge 769 Past Masters night and M.M. degree work
The Salysersville Masonic Lodge No. 769, will have a Past Master Night on Friday, March 14, beginning at 5 p.m. We will also be raising four brothers to the Master Mason degree. All members are urged to attend and bring a covered dish. The Lodge is located in downtown Salysersville, behind the new courthouse and justice center. All Master Masons are invited for a great time and meal.

Jenny Wiley Chapter AARP to conduct March meeting
at East Ky. Science Center Jenny Wiley Chapter No. 3528, AARP, will, in its first meeting of the year, meet Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m., at the Eastern Kentucky Science Center for a brief meeting, following which they will attend a planetarium show. All members and friends are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the show.

Zebulon Lodge 273, F&AM Master Mason Degree
Zebulon Lodge No. 273, F&AM, will confer the Master Mason degree at a meeting to be held Saturday, April 5. The first section of the degree will be conferred at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served; and the degree work will continue. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend.

Grocery orders rescheduled
The March Angel Food grocery orders, previously set to be taken at the Prater Creek Baptist Church on March 8, have been rescheduled due to recent snows. Orders will now be taken Saturday, March 15, at the church, from 12 to 5 p.m.

Orders may also be placed by calling 285-9447 or emailing to: prbarnette@bellsouth.net. Orders must be paid in advance by cash, money orders, or food stamps. Sorry, but no checks.

For current menu, log onto www.pebaptist.org and click the FOOD link.

There are no income qualifications to meet, nor applications to complete in order to participate in the Angel Food program.

Revival, Faith Independent

Freewill Baptist Church
Faith Independent Freewill Baptist Church will hold a revival beginning Wednesday night, March 19 through Sunday morning, March 23rd. Night services at 7 p.m.; Sunday morning service at 11 a.m. Evangelist: Brother Larry Tackett. Special singing by Unity. Donnie Patrick, Pastor. Everyone welcome.

Maytown Center Upcoming Events
Friday, March 14 - St. Patrick's Day Party. For adults, 7-9:30p.m., \$5 (\$12/ family). Karaoke, Line Dancing, Crazy entertainment!

Tuesdays & Thursdays - Martial Arts classes, \$40, all ages, call John Vaughn at 886-2254.

March 19 - Easter Dinner & Egg Hunt, 6 p.m., FREE!, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

See maytowncenter.org for complete listing of upcoming activities, or telephone Dan Chauncy at 285-0539.

Help Judi's Place help kids
Join Judi's Place for Kids for a 5K Run/Walk against Child Abuse on April 12. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m.; race will begin at 8 a.m. \$15 registration fee includes free t-shirt. To register, call 437-7447. During the race, there will be lots of fun, free activities in the Pikeville City Park that the entire family can enjoy.

Floyd County Extension Council District Board Meeting, March 17

The Floyd County Extension Council and District Board will meet at the Floyd County Extension Office (921 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg) on Monday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. Please call the Extension Office, 886-2668, to confirm your attendance. Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

JBS accepting applications
The June Buchanan School, a K-12 private, college-preparatory institution located on the campus of Alice Lloyd College, still has openings for certain grades for the 2008-2009 school year. If interested in applying, contact the Office of the Headmaster at 606-368-6108 or 1-888-280-4252 for further information about The June Buchanan School.

Free Health Screenings
KYHealth Choices, the Floyd County Health Dept., Diabetes Center of Excellence, and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals will host a free health screening for adults, age 18 and over, on Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Wilkinson Convention Center, Jenny Wiley State Park.

Early Times \$18.99 1/2-gal.
Doral Cigarettes Carton \$21.99 + tax
J & J Liquors
Betsy Layne • 478-2477
SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide.

Screenings will include blood pressure check, weight, cholesterol and glucose checks, educational materials, counseling, and free t-shirt for each completed screening. For more info., call Libby at 422-0077.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
Do you have a friend or loved one that suffers from Alzheimer's Disease or another form of dementia? We Can Help!

We will meet: Thursday, March 13, at 5 p.m., at Dr. Naveed Ahmed's office, 4159 North Mayo Trail, (Weddington Plaza), Pikeville.

Topic: Taking Medications Safely.
(For more information, call 606-432-2072, ext. 12 or 13, or Dr. Ahmed's office at 606-432-5550. Refreshments will be served!)

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center Spring Classes

Classes begin Mon., March 10.
Basic Computer
Tuesday: 10 a.m.-Noon
Thursday: 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Sewing Class
Monday, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Wednesday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Quilting Class
Tuesday, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Free GED Classes
Offered 3 days a week
Cost: \$30 for 8 weeks. Pre-register; class space is limited. For more information, call 606-886-0709.

Piarist School Reunion
The First Annual Piarist School Reunion, featuring the Class of 1998's 10-Year Reunion, will be held on Saturday, April 26, at 6 p.m., at the Mountain Arts Center. Music, dancing, dinner and

silent auction. All former students and faculty cordially invited to attend. For more info., please contact Ann @ 859-626-2171 or email to: piaristalumni@yahoo.com.

MADD to meet
MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) will conduct a meeting on April 3, at 6:30 p.m., at the Big Sandy Area Development District Agency (110 Resource Court). For more information, contact the Regional Prevention Center at 889-8902. All community members encouraged to attend.

Need Help With Home Repairs?
The Auxier Lifetime Learning Center can help! We are now taking applications for home repairs. If you, or someone you know, are low income and need help with repairs on your home, please call 606-

886-0709 for your application, or stop by our office at 21 South River Street, Auxier. Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8-4.

4th Annual Home and Garden Expo to be held Sat., March 29

The 4th Annual Home and Garden Expo will be held Saturday, March 29, at the Jenny Wiley Convention Center from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Home and Garden Expo features various sections with on-going home and garden presentations and demonstrations. There will be an area showcasing products and services of area businesses and questions and answer booth with free literature on many topics. You and your family can also have fun with "hands-on" youth and family activities. There are free herb, vegetable, and flower seeds available to all

(See CALENDAR, page six)

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 Toyota Rav4 V: Auto., Alloys, Loaded, 2 To Choose From!	 '07 Dodge Charger: Auto., AC, Spoiler, Sharp, 3 To Choose From!	 '07 Corvette: Auto., Paddle Shift, Power Convertible Top, Heads Up Display!	 '06 Cadillac CTS: Pearl White, Sunroof, Factory Warranty, Loaded!	
 '05 Jeep Wrangler: 6 Cyl., Alloys, 4x4, Sharp, Low Miles, AC!	 '06 Jeep Liberty: 4x4, Trail Rated, Loaded, Sharp!	 '06 Hummer H3: 2 To Choose From, Luxury Pkg., Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, Loaded!	 '05 Jeep Grand Cherokee: Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, Towing Pkg., Loaded!	
 '07 Toyota Camry LE: Full Power, Factory Warranty, Sharp!	 '07 Toyota Avalon XLS: Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, Factory Warranty, Loaded!	 '07 Ford Mustang: V6, Auto., Spoiler, Alloys, Factory Warranty, Sharp!	 '07 Mitsubishi Eclipse: Auto., Alloys, Rear Spoiler, 3 To Choose From!	
 '04 Chevy 2500 HD: 4x4, Auto., Loaded, Sharp!	 '06 Chevy Tahoe: Z71, Sunroof, 3rd Seat, Loaded!	 '07 Chevy Z71: X-Cab, 4x4, 5.3 V8, 100,000 Miles Warranty!	 '06 Lincoln Navigation: Pearl White, Leather, 4x4, Sunroof, 3rd Seat, Fact. Warr., Loaded!	
 '05 Harley Road King: Soft Bagger! \$13,995	 '05 Harley Heritage Softail Custom: Windshield, Saddle Bags, Loaded! \$13,995	 '04 & '05 Harley 1200 Sportster: Sharp, Only 6,800 Miles, Two-Tone Color! \$5,995	 '04 Big Dog Pit Bull: Loaded with Chrome, Custom Alloys! \$15,995	 '06 Detroit Chopper Custom: Sharp, Loaded with Chrome, Only 2,000 Miles! \$14,995

Specials of the Week:

 '04 Ford Focus: 4 Door, Auto., Local Trade, All Power! \$6,995	 Ford F-150 4x4: Auto., AC, Clean Local Trade! \$3,995	 '01 Toyota Camry: 4 Door, Auto., 4 Cyl., Local Trade, Gas Saver 5e Pkg! \$6,995
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Floyd County, Kentucky

Tuesday, March 18th at 9:00am

Held at the  Mountain Arts Center

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Any Questions? Call Brent at 606-886-2335 or 606-226-9353.

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2x6 CONST.	\$2.77	\$3.77	\$4.47	\$4.87	\$5.57
2x8 CONST.	XXX	\$4.98	\$5.98	\$6.98	\$7.98
2x10 CONST.	XXX	\$6.96	\$9.96	\$10.96	\$11.96

1"x 12" Sheathing.....Per Foot 47¢
Premium Construction Studs.....\$1.88

PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER

SIZE	8'	10'	12'	16'
2x4 TREATED	\$2.39	\$2.99	\$3.89	
2x6 TREATED	\$3.38	\$3.98	\$4.78	\$6.88
2x8 TREATED	\$4.17	\$5.27	\$6.37	\$9.47
5/4x6 TREATED	\$3.68	\$4.28	\$5.28	

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40-Gallon Gas Water Heater.....\$269.00
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3/4-HP Submersible Pump\$259.98
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FEF366EME Silver Mist\$429.00
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FFCO77 Cu. Ft. \$199.00
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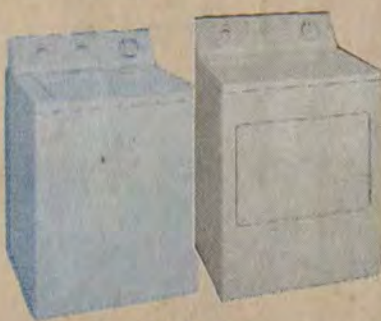


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5-Gallon CWF-UV\$69.99

Obituaries

Woodrow L. Horne

Woodrow L. Horne, age 91, of Lackey, husband of Clarice M. Meadore Horne, passed away Sunday, March 9, 2008, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg.

He was born September 2, 1916, in Cliff, the son of the late Isadore Horne and Alice Saunders Horne. He was owner of Isadore Horne and Son Drilling Company, and was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Martin.

Survivors include his wife, Clarice; four sons: Ned (Faye) Horne of Kokomo, Indiana; Donald Vernon (Freeda) Horne of Lackey; Roger Dale (Brenda) Horne of Wayland; and Woodrow Junior (Brenda) Horne of Russell; two daughters: Georgia Loraine (Troy) Miller of Kokomo, Indiana; and SaRonda (Leo) Gayheart of Richmond; a brother, Franklin Horne of Columbus, Ohio; two sisters: Linda Hill of Franklin, Indiana; and Maxine Taub of Mitchellville, Maryland; 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a grandchild; three brothers: Willard Horne, Oscar Horne, and Kamon Horne; and two sisters: Mildred Ratliff and Jennie Baker.

Funeral services for Woodrow L. Horne will be conducted Wednesday, March 12, at 11:00 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with Clergyman Johnny Collins officiating.

Burial will follow in the Lackey Cemetery, in Lackey, with the Hall Funeral Home, in Martin, caring for those arrangements.

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Maggie A. Turner

Maggie A. Turner, 95, of 201 Hickory Lane, widow of Clyde Turner, died at 5:50 a.m., Monday, March 3, 2008, at the Clark Regional Medical Center.

Born November 10, 1912, in Floyd County, she was the daughter of the late Charlie and Matilda Belle Hall Auxier. She was a homemaker, a former bookkeeper for Turner's Gulf Service Station and attended the Methodist Church.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law: Patricia and James Rowe of Winchester; three grandchildren: Debbie Patterson of Lexington; Vicky Rowe of Indianapolis, Indiana and Jimmy Rowe of Virginia; five great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Charles Turner; a sister, Virginia Lee Sapko and a brother, Charlie Auxier.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m., Friday, at Scobee Funeral Home, with Rev. Scott Rogers officiating.

Burial will be in the Winchester Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be: Greg Patterson, James Rowe Jr., Douglas Woody, Sean Rowe, Roger Rowe, Doug Stewart, Jeremy McKinley and Gary Bradshaw.

Visitation will be 4-8 p.m., Thursday.

Contributions are suggested to: Hospice East, 407 Shoppers Drive, Winchester, KY 40391.

The online guestbook is at www.scobeefuneralhome.com and a 24-hr. obituary information line can be reached by calling: 859-744-2122. (Paid obituary)

Calendar

participants. Come enjoy, have fun, and learn!

Family reunion

The descendants of Bud and Tannie Johnson, Ab and Lendie Bryant, and Green and Mary Johnson will have a family reunion Saturday, May 24, at the Weeksbury Community Park, starting at 10:00 a.m. Please bring a covered dish. For more information, contact Paul W. Johnson, 1274 Alexandersville Road, Miamisburg, Ohio 45342. Phone: 937-866-7937.

Democratic Woman's Club meets at May Lodge

The Floyd County Democratic Woman's Club meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at the May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Park.

Need help with addiction?

LifeLine of Floyd County "Conquer Chemical Dependency" is a Christ-centered 12-step program offering support to those who are coping with addiction and learning to live drug-free lives. The support group meets on the following schedule:

Mondays, at Minnie (beside pharmacy), from 7-8 p.m.

Mondays, at Little Mud, Spruce Pine School, from 7-8 p.m.

Tuesdays, in Prestonsburg, in the Van Ark Building, from 2-3 p.m.

Tuesdays, at David, The David School, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, at Allen Baptist Church, from 7-8 p.m.

Thursdays, at Allen Baptist Church, from 7-8 p.m.

For more information, call Shirley Combs at (606) 434-8400, or Tom Nelson at (606) 478-2836.

Hope in the Mountains

Hope in the Mountains will host public meetings on Mondays, at 9 a.m., at the junction of U.S. 23 and Rt. 80, on Watergap Rd., behind the Trimble Chapel Church. Meetings focus will be to offer information in regard to community resources available to women seeking freedom from drug abuse. Family members are also welcome to attend. The Hope initiative proposes to help women break free from addictive lifestyles to become self-respecting contributing members of society. Call 874-2008 or 788-1006 for more information.

Prestonsburg Rotary Club

Prestonsburg Rotary Club meets, 12 noon to 1 p.m., at Made From Scratch Restaurant, 1566 North Lake Drive. For additional information, contact Chris Daniel, 886-7354, or Tommie Layne, 886-2321, ext. 1297.

UNITE

The UNITE coalition of Floyd County will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 5:30 p.m., at the New Allen Baptist Church. All interested persons welcome to join UNITE's fight against drugs.

"Living Free" - A support group sponsored by the Floyd County UNITE Coalition. Group will meet weekly at the old Allen Baptist Church, on US 23 N., between Allen and Banner, on Tuesdays, at 1:15 p.m.

Living Free is a faith-based 12-step support group open to all who are searching for recovery. There is no fee to attend. For more info., contact Shirley Combs at 874-3388 or 434-8400.

'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.

Senior employment program

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.

Dixie: 3rd Thursday, 12:30 p.m., Dixie Community Room.

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

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

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown Learning Center.

Cliff: 3rd Tuesday, 12 p.m., Community Center.

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Extension Office.

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

Left Beaver: 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Osborne Elem. School Library.

Special interest groups:

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Extension Office.

Newbees Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office. (The Newbees do not meet during the months of January and February.)

Looking for a Support Group?

•Floyd County Alzheimer's Support Group meets regularly at Riverview Manor Healthcare Center. Call the center for meeting times.

•Domestic Violence Support Group - The Big Sandy Family Abuse Center holds meetings each Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The meetings are free of charge. Call Jessica Stone at 886-6025 for more information.

•Overeater's Anonymous - Meetings held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., at the old Allen Baptist Church, located in Allen, just past red light. Call 889-9620 for more info.

•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."

•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, 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: dosstone@eastky.net.

Continued from p3

Card of Thanks

The family of Sarah Estep Vanover would like to take this opportunity to thank all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped to comfort, and were there for our family during this difficult time. Thanks to all those who sent food, flowers, and prayers. We are especially grateful to Clergymen John Church, Charlie Gearheart and Gary Compton for their comforting words; Vic Rice and Jeremiah Swiger for the beautiful songs; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and the Hall Funeral Home for their loving care and hand of friendship to our family.

THE FAMILY OF SARAH ESTEP VANOVER

Card of Thanks

The family of Dana Whitaker Moore wishes to gratefully acknowledge the thoughtfulness and kindness of friends, relatives, and neighbors, in the loss of our loved one. Thanks to all those who sent flowers, food, and prayers, to our family. A special thanks to Clergyman Willie Duff for his comforting words; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and the Hall Funeral Home for their professional and caring service. All your thoughtfulness and kindness will never be forgotten.

THE FAMILY OF DANA WHITAKER MOORE

Card of Thanks

The family of Roger Dale Hughes wishes to gratefully acknowledge the thoughtfulness and kindness of friends, relatives, and neighbors in the loss of our loved one. Thanks to all those who sent food, flowers, prayers or spoke words of comfort to our family. A special thanks to Clergyman Nelson Kidder for his comforting words; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and the Hall Funeral Home for their professional and compassionate service. We will always remember all the love and kindness that was shown to our family.

THE FAMILY OF ROGER DALE HUGHES

Card of Thanks

The family of Jean Newsome Williamson wishes to thank all of those friends, relatives, and neighbors, for all the love and support upon the passing of our loved one. Thanks to all who sent flowers, food, prayers, or words of comfort expressed. We are especially grateful to Clergyman Milton Dye for his comforting words; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and Hall Funeral Home for their kind and trusted services. Words cannot begin to express the deep gratitude we will always feel for each of you.

THE FAMILY OF JEAN NEWSOME WILLIAMSON

Card of Thanks

The family of Gina Denise Samons would like to extend their appreciation to all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped in any way upon the passing of their loved one. Thanks to all those who sent food, flowers, prayers, or spoke comforting words. We are especially grateful to Clergyman Arnold Turner Jr., for his comforting words; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and the staff of Hall Funeral Home for their kind and professional service. All the many acts of kindness during this time, will always be a comfort to our family.

THE FAMILY OF GINA DENISE SAMONS

PHS Honor Choir earns distinguished ranking at event

The Prestonsburg High School Honor Choir received the highest honors — the rank of "Distinguished" — during the Choral Assessment Event held at Pikeville College on March 6.

The Kentucky Music Educators Association hosts festivals for Choral Assessment in 12 districts across the state. The Eastern Kentucky District is composed of 10 counties in the region.

Choir members earned the Distinguished award in all

events entered during the festival.

The girls' ensemble consisted of six students — Staci Carriere, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Hannah Walker, Nakeesha Maines, Brittany Holliman and Tara Rohr. From the group, three girls — Brittany Holliman, Hannah Fitzpatrick and Staci Carriere — also competed in the solo category to earn a Distinguished award. Staci Carriere received a recommendation from the judge to compete at state competition that will be held on May 17 at the Eastern Kentucky University campus.

Music education is an important component for student education and the month of March is celebrated as Music in Our Schools Month. Music in Floyd County Schools range from elementary, middle and high school band programs to choral and band festivals that recognize outstanding students and groups each year.

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APRIL 15

AARP TAX-AIDE VOLUNTEERS
will begin working EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING FEB. 5 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
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Bring your 2006 income tax return and all current tax information for 2007.
A Free Service for Senior Citizens and low-income taxpayers.
Published as a public service of the Floyd County Times.

Jenny Wiley Chapter AARP to conduct March meeting at East Ky. Science Center
Jenny Wiley Chapter No. 3528, AARP, will, in its first meeting of the year, meet Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m., at the Eastern Kentucky Science Center for a brief meeting.
Following the meeting they will attend a planetarium show.
All members and friends are encouraged to attend.
There is no charge for the show.

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Floral Regulations Effective January 1, 2008
Richmond Memorial Cemetery
Mayo Cemetery

- Flowers, artificial or fresh, and other types of decorations shall be secured to the headstone, or they may be secured to shepherds rods doves into the ground.
- Permanent in-ground flower containers are not authorized for placement in any burial section of the cemetery.
- All flowers, artificial or fresh, on the ground will be removed from graves and disposed of by cemetery personnel, when they become withered, faded or otherwise unsightly.
- Permanent plantings, statues, breakable objects of any kind and similar commemorative items are not permitted on graves at any time. These and other hazardous objects will be removed by cemetery personnel wherever found on a grave
- Recent inspection has revealed numerous monuments that are in need of prompt attention due to putty deterioration.**
- During the Christmas season, Christmas wreaths and grave floral blankets will be permitted, commencing December 1, and allowed to remain on the grave through January 1.
- Between March 24 and March 28, all artificial and fresh flowers or decorations that are on the ground will be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

If there would be any questions concerning the above regulations, please contact the cemeteries at (606) 886-1312.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS

WSIP officially opens new studio facility

PAINTSVILLE — A community tradition stretching almost 60 years in Paintsville and the Big Sandy region, WSIP AM and FM radio is now on the cutting edge of broadcast technology with the official opening of the station's new home.

Mike Tarter, president and CEO of Key Broadcasting, and Terry Forcht, founder of Forcht Group of Kentucky, joined local elected and business leaders in cutting the ribbon on March 4 to celebrate WSIP's new studios. The new facility represents a total investment of more than \$1 million in the region.

"WSIP represents our philosophy of community-based radio, of giving listeners the best in local news, weather, sports and entertainment delivered by local people," said Forcht. "We have enjoyed a fruitful relationship with Paintsville, Johnson County and the Big Sandy

region, and will continue the good work that WSIP has provided to the area for almost 60 years.

Also during the event the station announced that their former home had been donated to the Paintsville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, providing the organization much-needed office space.

WSIP AM first signed on the air in 1949. The original station was broadcast out of the SIPP Theater, thus the name WSIP. The FM station was added in 1952. Both stations were housed in their previous location across the street since 1956.

For more information on WSIP FM and AM, visit www.wsipfm.com, or tune in to 98.9 FM and 1490 AM.

More information can also be found about Key Broadcasting and the Forcht Group of Kentucky at www.forcht-group.com.



Terry E. Forcht, center with scissors, founder of Forcht Group of Kentucky, cuts the ribbon on March 4 to officially open the new studios for WSIP AM and FM in Paintsville. Joining Forcht for the dedication is Mike Tarter, left, president and CEO of Key Broadcasting, and Spike Berkheimer, right, general manager of WSIP.

READY TO WORK



The most recent graduates of Big Sandy Community and Technical College's coal training program include Ron Castle, Alvin Turner, Kevin Jennings, Jeremy Hackworth, Jeffery Jones, Shawn Ousley, James Houston, Chad Dukes and Dallas Music.

BSCTC graduates latest group of coal miners

HAGER HILL — The latest cohort of Kentucky Coal Academy students — Ron Castle, Alvin Turner, Kevin Jennings, Jeremy Hackworth, Jeffery Jones, Shawn Ousley, James Houston, Chad Dukes and Dallas Music — completed their coal mining training last week.

Graduating from the Big Sandy Community and Technical College's coal training program and ready to assume full-time jobs as experienced coal miners, the students left BSCTC trained and experienced in multiple areas of coal mining.

As students in the program

they were trained on mining safety, welding, electricity, operation of mining equipment and general coal mining skills. They also gained valuable real time work experience as they worked full shifts in the mines on rotating phases with in class and simulator training.

Salyer is named associate counsel at Kirk Law Firm



Kyle R. Salyer

PAINTSVILLE — Kyle R. Salyer, a counsel at Kirk Law Firm for the past two years, has been named as "Associate Counsel" at the firm.

A 1999 graduate of Johnson Central High School, Kyle received a Bachelor of Arts in History and English from Alice Lloyd College in May 2003. Kyle received his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana in May 2006 and passed the Kentucky Bar Exam in July 2006. He is a member of the American and Kentucky Bar Associations.

Kyle is the son of Marcia Salyer-Sumpter and Sam Sumpter and is the grandson of Clista and the late W.H. "Pat" Pelfrey, all of Keaton. Kyle and his wife, Jennifer, a teacher at Porter Elementary School, reside at Paintsville.

"We are very pleased with this young man's ability and his commitment towards the needs of his many clients. Kyle truly is one of the 'good ones,'" John C. Kirk, Kyle's supervising attorney said.

"Kyle and Jennifer are a pleasure to know and Kyle is a pleasure to work with," Kirk added.

Trade deficit grows in January as imports, crude-oil prices hit record highs

by JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The United States' trade deficit grew larger in January as imports — including crude-oil prices — zoomed to all-time highs.

The latest snapshot of trade activity, reported by the Commerce Department on Tuesday, showed that the country's trade gap increased

to \$58.2 billion. That was up from a trade shortfall of \$57.9 billion in December and was the highest since November.

Imports of goods and services climbed to a record high of \$206.4 billion in January. The United States' voracious appetite for imported crude oil, where prices skyrocketed to the loftiest on record, figured into the increasing demand for overall imports.

The trade gap widened

even as exports of U.S.-made goods and services totaled a record high of \$148.2 billion in January. The declining value of the U.S. dollar, relative to other currencies such as the euro, is helping to make U.S.-made goods cheaper and thus more attractive to foreign buyers.

Economists were expecting the trade deficit in January to be a bit larger — growing to around \$59 billion.

IRS debunks common myths about tax rebate

The Internal Revenue Service today moved to set the record straight on several issues surrounding administration of the 2008 Stimulus Payments. Approximately 130 million taxpayers will receive checks of at least \$300 beginning in May.

"The latest and most complete information is at IRS.gov," said IRS Spokesperson Jodie Reynolds. "We are concerned that many important details are not being communicated clearly so we'd like all taxpayers to know the facts."

MYTH - The Stimulus Payment will reduce a taxpayer's 2008 refund.

FACT - The payment will NOT reduce refunds or increase the amount owed when a 2008 return is filed.

MYTH - The Stimulus Payment is taxable.

FACT - It is NOT taxable, but taxpayers are encouraged to keep a copy of the IRS notice they will receive later this year listing the amount of payment. In the event a taxpayer does not qualify to receive the full amount this year but does next year, the notice will be a record of the previous amount received.

MYTH - Taxpayers needn't do anything in order to receive a Stimulus Payment.

FACT - Taxpayers must file a 2007 tax return in order to be eligible for a payment. After

filing a 2007 return, however, the taxpayer is set and the IRS will do the rest.

MYTH - Everybody is eligible for a check.

FACT - At the minimum, a taxpayer must have at least \$3,000 of "qualifying income" to receive either \$300 (Single) or \$600 (Married Filing Joint). Qualifying income includes Social Security benefits, certain Railroad Retirement benefits, certain veterans' benefits and earned income, such as income from wages, salaries, tips and self-employment. For taxpayers filing joint tax returns, only a total of \$3,000 of qualifying income from both spouses is required to be eligible. Also, for those who don't normally file, a tax return (Form 1040A) will be needed this year to get a check.

MYTH - Only paper checks will be issued.

FACT - Direct Deposit is the best way to receive the payment. Even if you aren't due a refund on your tax return, filling out the bank routing information will allow your stimulus payment to be direct deposited.

MYTH - The IRS will contact taxpayers either by phone or by e-mail about their payments.

FACT - Watch for scams! IRS will not contact taxpayers by phone or e-mail about Stimulus Payments or refunds.

The IRS reminds those who

don't have any other requirement to file a tax return that submitting a tax return to qualify for the economic stimulus payments does not create any additional tax or trigger a tax bill. In addition, the stimulus payments will not have any effect on eligibility for federal benefits. Complete details are available at www.irs.gov.

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State taking steps to start Medicaid program

FRANKFORT — Court documents say state officials are taking steps to start a Medicaid program that would help people with mental disabilities live more independently.

Meanwhile, lawyers for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services say they may appeal a federal judge's order to start the program by last Friday.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Hood ordered the state to begin providing services such as personal care, transportation and adult day care to settle a lawsuit brought by people with disabilities. In a written order last week, Hood noted the state pledged two years ago to provide the services.

Gov. Steve Beshear has proposed putting \$5 million a year for the next two years into the program, which would attract \$12 million a year in federal money, but advocates and the state say that probably

wouldn't be enough to meet the program's needs.

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This all-brick beauty has over 3300 sq. ft., 4-5 BR, 3.5 baths—one with a sauna, beautiful screened porch, in-ground pool, pool house, plus more. \$259,900 A-16539

REMOVED
2 BR, 1 bath 2.5 story home. Great starter home or rental property. Located in Martin. Priced to sell at \$49,900. S-14863

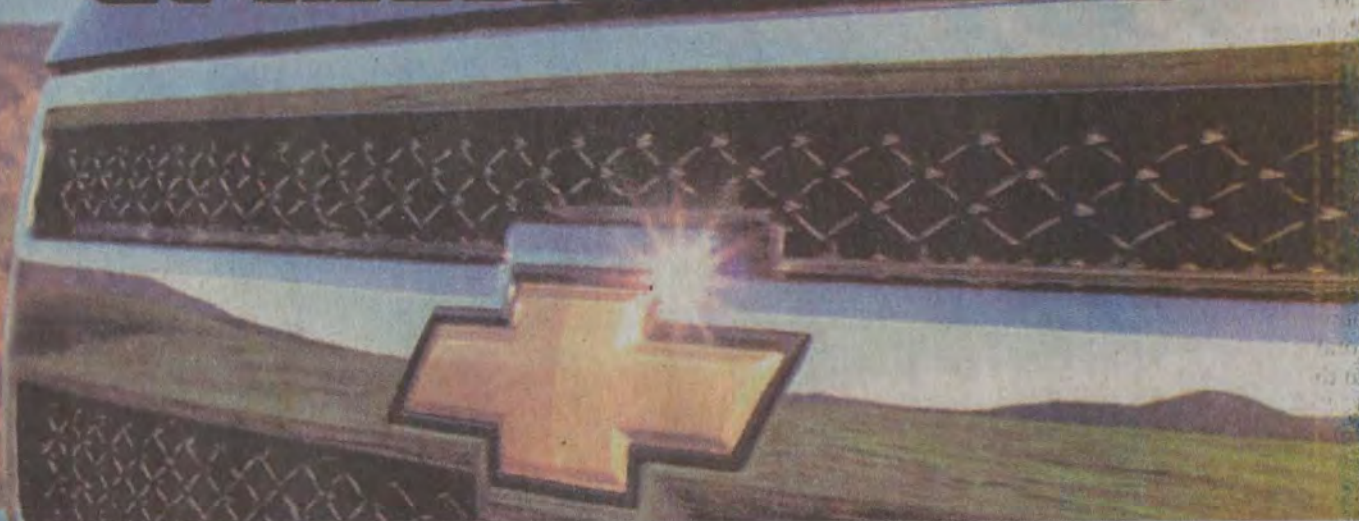
LOTS & LAND
NEW LISTING—City living just outside of city limits. 3.8 acres at the head of Spradlin Branch in Prestonsburg. \$115,000 S-16505

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Stock # 7828



Payment based on \$25,284.63 for 60 months at 0% APR financing.

60 Months
\$422*
0 Down!

4.8 V8, Auto, 40/20/40 split seat, AC, XM radio w/CD, OnStar

2008 Chevrolet Silverado CrewCab 4X4

Stock # 7751



Payment based on \$29,596.40 for 60 months at 0% APR financing.

60 Months
\$494*
0 Down!

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713 S. Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, KY • 606-886-9181 or 1-800-844-9181

Health Systems Inc. of Prestonsburg, KY 41653 has filed an application with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, to construct a 69' X 145' medical office building located in the floodplain approximately 0.73 miles southeast of intersection of KY Route 1428 and U.S. Route 23 at latitude 37° 41' 13" N and longitude 82° 57' 13" W. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Water Resources Branch, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort Office Park, Frankfort, KY 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410

Martin, KY 41649 and 2011 Hite Road, Martin, KY 41649, which is the subject of this lawsuit, and damages in the amount of the entire unpaid balance due under the finance contract. The Defendant, the unknown spouse of Terry Bentley must no later than March 27, 2008, file an Answer with the Floyd Circuit Clerk, if she desires to do so. If the Defendant does not appear in the pending lawsuit or otherwise present a defense to the claims asserted against her, then a judgment may be entered against her.

Earl M. McGuire
Warning Order Attorney
P.O. Box 1746
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

west of Middle Creek. The latitude 37°39'48". The longitude 82°05'49".

The proposed operation is located on the Iynton U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map. The operation will be use a combination of contour, auger/highwall mining and area mining methods of surface mining. The surface area is owned by Jewell Lovely and Michael Howard and Terry & Zona Francis, Junior & Mabel Hackworth, et. al, Clifford & Hannah Adams, Byrd and Helen Holbrook Heirs C/O Gerald Holbrook, Jewell Lovely. The underground area underlies property severed, but owned by Thelma Jeannie Hensley, Terry D. Whitaker & Thomas J. Whitaker, Raymond & Mabel Salyer, Marvin & Sharon Whitaker, Thomas Salyer Heirs C/O Clayton Salyers, Mane & Willard Marshall, Frank & Bessie Bailey, Dovie Miller, Gregory & Ola F. Fitzpatrick, Blaize Tony, Virginia & Howard Parker, Charles L. & Judith Icenhour.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Permits, Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6 Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653, phone (606) 889-1746. Written comments or objections must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits; #2 Hugson Hollow; US 127 South; Frankfort, KY 40601.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the unknown spouse, if any, of Terry Bentley, of 326 Stumbo Branch, Printer, KY 41655, has been named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed in Floyd Circuit Court, on February 6, 2008. Said lawsuit is styled Kentucky Housing Corporation vs. Mary B. England, Executor and known heir of the Estate of Thelma Bentley, et.al and has been assigned Civil Action No. 08-CI-00175. The basis of the suit is a foreclosure action filed against each of the named defendants by Kentucky Housing Corporation. The Complaint alleges that the Defendants have defaulted on their obligations to pay per the terms of the finance contract. The Plaintiffs are seeking to foreclose on the property located at 1997 Hite Road,

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-0356 Original

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Wolverine Resources, Inc., P.O. Box 77, Ivel, KY 41642, (606) 889-8440 has applied for a permit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation affecting 365.7 of surface disturbance acres and underlying 240.4 underground acres for a total of 606.1 acres located 3.45 miles southwest of Brainard, Kentucky and in Floyd and Magoffin Counties. The proposed operation is approximately 3.45 miles southwest from KY 114's junction with Prater Branch and located 0.31 miles south-

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(Entries must be received no later than Friday, March 21, 2008.)

Kyle Busch puts new team, Toyota in Victory Lane

by PAUL NEWBERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMPTON, Ga. — Just a few laps from victory and comfortably out front, Kyle Busch had no thoughts of taking his foot off the accelerator. The team that fired him was back there somewhere, lurking in the rearview mirror, as was the guy who replaced him.

Even when he got hemmed in behind the lapped car of Dale Jarrett, a former champion soon to be retired, Busch refused to back off. He pulled right up on graying driver's rear bumper, leaving about enough room to slide a sheet of notebook paper, and surely would have given him a blast of the horn if only stock cars came with one.

The message was clear: The old guard would have to move aside. The future of NASCAR was coming through.

"He was slowing me down a tremendous amount," Busch said, a tinge of disdain in his voice. "I was either going to move him out of the way or he was going to get out of the way."

Once Jarrett was out of the way, Busch finished off a dominating romp around Atlanta Motor Speedway for the first win with his new team — and he brought along Toyota for the ride.

The Japanese automaker became the first foreign winner in stock car racing's top series since Jaguar in 1954, when NASCAR was still just a regional attraction not too far removed from its moonshining roots. Tony Stewart crossed the line second in another Camry to give the foreigners a 1-2 finish in the most red,

white and blue of American sports.

Konichiwa, Victory Lane! "To have Kyle come in and take this one and Tony finish second, wow!" said Jim Aust, president of Toyota Racing Development. "Finishing one-two for our first Cup win — I don't know how you improve on that."

While it was a day of triumph for one company, another of NASCAR's myriad business partners found itself getting blasted from all sides. There was more talk about Goodyear's tires than Toyota's landmark win in the Kobalt Tools 500, and no one was more ticked off than the runner-up.

Feeling like he had just driven 500 miles on a sheet of ice, Stewart would like to say sayonara to Sprint Cup's exclusive tire provider.

"That was the most pathetic racing tire I've ever been on in my professional career," he said. "Goodyear can't build a tire that is worth a crap."

Others were a bit more diplomatic, but Stewart's view was hardly in minority. Busch and third-place finisher Dale Earnhardt Jr. also griped about their rubber. Pole winner Jeff Gordon managed to finish fifth but fretted that every lap might be his lap because of those slip-slidin' tires.

"I'm exhausted right now," Gordon said. "I feel like I've run a thousand miles. That's the hardest day I've ever had at Atlanta, especially for a top-five finish."

The Atlanta debut of NASCAR's bigger, bulkier Car of Tomorrow, which is harder to tame than the old car, didn't help matters.

"You're always on the edge

out there," Busch said. "It's the worst I've ever felt in a race car, and I won the race."

He handled the trying conditions better than anyone, which isn't too surprising. No one drives their car so close to the edge, or cares less about what others might think. Busch's brazen, impetuous nature led some to wonder if the 22-year-old would ever realize his full potential.

Despite his obvious talent, Busch was fired by Hendrick Motorsports when the powerful team had a chance to sign Earnhardt last year. The deposed driver landed at Joe Gibbs Racing, which may end up getting the best end of that deal even though Junior moves a lot more merchandise at the souvenir stands.

There was Busch on Sunday, getting to Victory Lane with his new team before Earnhardt got there with his.

"Everybody's always said that I've been the aggressive driver, used to cause wrecks,

used to be out of control, this and that," Busch said. "I don't feel I'm driving any different than I used to. I've sort of tamed my style, per se. Now it looks like I'm a professional at it or something."

Stewart, a teammate of Busch's, marveled at the way he handles a race car for someone so young. He looks as though he could wreck at any moment, but that just means he's pushing a little harder than everyone else.

"He got everything that car is capable of," Stewart said. "That's what you want out of a guy."

Even Earnhardt had to give props to his predecessor at Hendrick.

"I never really worked with him as closely as Tony and my teammates that I have now," Junior said. "But they all say he's an amazing talent. He's just got a great seat-of-the-pants feel for a car, and he can drive 'em pretty sideways. We get sideways, too, but we just ain't leading when we're

doing it."

It was quite a weekend for Busch, who won the Craftsman Truck Series race Friday night and was dominating the Nationwide event on Saturday before a blown tire sent him careening into the wall. In fact, it's been quite a season for the young driver.

Busch finished fourth in the season-opening Daytona 500 after teaming with Stewart to dominate much of the race. He followed with another fourth-place showing at California, then claimed the pole in his hometown of Las Vegas (though problems with adjustments left him 11th at the end).

At the 1.54-mile Atlanta oval, Busch finally finished the deal. He led more than half the race — 173 of the 325 laps — for his first win in nearly a year and fifth of his career. His last victory had come on March 25, 2007, at Bristol.

Carl Edwards made a strong run at his third straight win, only to have the car let

him down. He built a lead of more than 7 seconds before a caution flag came out on lap 262, and he was pulling away again after the restart when smoke began to spew from his Ford.

Edwards headed for the pits on lap 275, his race over. He wound up next-to-last in the 43-car field but felt he earned some redemption.

The week before, NASCAR discovered the oil tank lid on Edwards' car was missing after the win at Las Vegas, possibly creating an aerodynamic advantage. The victory was allowed to stand, but the winner was docked 100 points in the overall standings and lost his crew chief, Bob Osborne, to a six-week suspension.

"It's been a long week with a lot of stuff said, but I think we showed them here today," Edwards said. "Other than something coming apart in the engine, I believe we had the car that was the class of the field."

No. 7 LSU beats UK, 66-49

by BETH RUCKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — LSU coach Van Chancellor took his Lady Tigers to Dairy Queen after winning the regular season Southeastern Conference title.

They've got one more game to play before they get another treat, though.

"At LSU, we don't celebrate semifinal wins. We celebrate championships," Chancellor said.

No. 7 LSU beat Kentucky 66-49 in the SEC semifinals on Saturday night, earning their fourth consecutive trip to the conference title game to face No. 3 Tennessee.

The top-seeded Lady Tigers (27-4) have played in the championship game eight times, but have only won the title twice, most recently in 2003.

If earning the SEC tournament crown isn't enough, Chancellor gave his players another goal: "maybe milkshakes," he said.

Sylvia Fowles had 20 points and 13 rebounds for LSU, Quianna Chaney added 18 points and Ashley Thomas had the team's second double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Fowles acknowledged that it can be easy to get caught up in the hype of tournaments, and said she and her teammates must be focused if they want to grab that elusive tournament title.

"You want it real bad, but then again, you have to come down and make sure you come out in the right now," the senior said. "I know for me personally, I've always gotten over-hyped. I've had to learn to calm down and let the game come to me."

Even though LSU will serve as the home team in the championship game as the top-seeded team, the Lady Tigers are playing in the state of Tennessee and the stands will be filled with orange.

Chancellor isn't worried about that.

"Last time I checked the basket was 10 feet high. If we

can put it in, we're going to win," he said.

Fourth-seeded Kentucky (15-15) was looking to break a 13-game losing skid to LSU after nearly upsetting the Lady Tigers in February.

The Wildcats also were looking to make only their second trip to the title game. Their lone trip came in 1982, when they upset a 17th-ranked LSU and went on to win the championship.

"We were up against a very good opponent," Kentucky coach Matthew Mitchell said. "It was not a lack of effort."

Samantha Mahoney led Kentucky scoring with 17 points, and Sarah Elliott added 12.

After entering halftime with a 37-26 lead, LSU had little problem pulling away from Kentucky.

The Lady Tigers pushed their lead all the way to 19 points on a jumper by Allison Hightower, giving LSU a 55-36 lead with 7:46 left.

A small but vocal contingent of fans clad in purple and gold shouted "LSU, LSU," as the clock wound down.

Kentucky cut LSU's first half lead to 21-18 on a free throw by Eleia Roddy.

The Lady Tigers scored the next seven points, grabbing a 28-18 lead on a Chaney jumper with 3:41 before halftime.

A few minutes later, Amani Franklin fouled Chaney as she shot from the 3-point line, and Chaney sank all three free throws to push the lead to 37-24 with 1:17 before the break.

Three LSU players had already reached double-figure scoring by halftime, thanks to 45.8 percent shooting. Fowles had 14 points and Chaney and Thomas had 10 each.

Kentucky struggled with its shots, missing 22 of its 31 first half field goals and missing six of 11 attempts from the charity stripe.

The Wildcats' 31.1 shooting percentage was their second worst of the season.

"Our mind-set was to play hard, and I think that we did, we just didn't get the outcome that we wanted," Elliott said.

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SCHOOL NEWS

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YESTERDAYS

Items taken from The Floyd County Times, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 years ago. page B6

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POISON OAK

Beans and more beans

This column-writing business is a funny thing. Sometimes I spend days, even weeks, doing research, checking facts, and organizing ideas on a particular topic. I sit in front of my computer and labor over just the right wording for half a day at a time and when it's finished, feel proud of such a fine piece of writing.

Yeah, right!

After it's published it's as if no one ever read it.

On the other hand, an idea will pop into my head and in a matter of half an hour or so the column is finished. Within two or three days after it's published, half a dozen people

will have commented on it, sometimes even favorably.

Even after doing this for more than 20 years, I just never know what might strike a chord with readers.

Such was the case a

couple of weeks ago when I wrote about pork and beans. I'm still getting comments from people about that particular column. It just seems that I am not alone when it comes to enjoying a life-long fancy for that particular sustenance.

However, no one has admitted to me yet that they were as uninformed as I was when I was a kid, thinking for years that "porkin'" was the name of the bean. And, neither has anyone mentioned they ever made grilled pork and bean sandwiches, the recipe of which is what prompted the article in the first place.

Of course, as is with the nature of all things, beans being a staple in Appalachian cuisine for more than an hundred years, the pork and bean thing led to a question from a friend at church a couple of Sundays ago, when he asked me if I'd ever eaten soup-bean cakes.

I doubt there's anybody anywhere that has eaten more soup beans than me and I've probably eaten them in as many ways as anybody else. At first, I wasn't real sure to what he was referring, but when he explained a bit further, I knew that I had, indeed, eaten soupbean cakes. That's when mom would take left-over soup beans and fry them into little cakes and serve them like you would a sausage patty. Now I'll admit, we didn't have soup bean cakes on a regular basis for the simple reason that we didn't have left-over soup beans very often.

Most people from off call soup beans "bean soup" but Wikipedia, an on-line encyclopedia, actually has a "soup bean" site and briefly explains what those of us who grew up here already know. One thing the article reminded me of, which I knew but had forgotten though, was that soup beans could be bought in 50-pound bags. Dad bought those large economy sizes at the Northeast Coal Company store. Of course, he could have bought smaller bags too, but like practically every other family in the camp, when mom fixed soup beans every day it didn't make much sense to be running to the store for a bag of pintos every day.

Sorry to say, but I don't have any exotic soup bean recipes to share. For variety sake, though, I did enjoy from time to time mashing them up with my fork after adding a big spoonful of mustard.

I'm not really sure, but I think it was against the law to serve soup beans without serving cornbread.



Clyde Pack

A SPECIAL NIGHT



Reigning over all, Queen Nikki Coleman and King David Holloway reveled in the attention they received.

Love is theme, focus of special program for special people

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

They work hard all year long - caring for plants in the agency's greenhouse programs, learning woodworking skills, and working in various supported employment positions throughout the area. Therefore, according to the administrators and case managers who work with them on a daily basis, they deserve a big night out at least once a year. Thus, the annual Winter Ball.

This year, clients of Mountain Comprehensive Care Center's MR/DD programs convened at the US 23 Country Music Highway Museum, in Paintsville, to dance the night away during the 2008 Winter Ball festivities.

"Everyone had a great time," said Kathy Ryan, regional leisure provider for the program. "These folks work hard all year. They accomplish a lot and learn a lot and when it's time to have fun, they have fun."

This year's Winter Ball, held February 29, boasted a grand buffet, formal photos, music, games and activities, and an awards ceremony for those that had met personal growth and achievement goals for the past year. "There was more than enough food and everyone had lots of energy for dancing," Ryan said.

The Winter Ball was formally organized in 2006 and has become an annual tradition since. This year's theme was "All About Love."

"Our people work hard and are not always appreciated as they should be," Ryan said. "So one way we, as positive supporters, is to host this

(See PROGRAM, page seven)



Crowned Prince and Princess of the 2008 Winter Ball were the lovely Candace Holbrook and dashing David Ratliff.

CRITTER CORNER

Think twice before giving rabbits for Easter

Nothing could be sweeter than Easter - a holiday filled with chocolate-coated goodness, right? Wrong. At least for rabbits, that is.

Rabbits, given to children as traditional gifts during the Easter holiday, often end up in animal shelters and with rabbit rescue groups once the Easter glow wears off.

Following impulsive purchases of velvety soft bunnies and young rabbits, many families soon find that no one really wants the responsibility of caring for the animals. Therefore, many end up in the country's already packed-to-overflowing animal shelters.

Just like cats and dogs, thousands of

homeless rabbits across the country flood shelters post-Easter. Rescue groups devoted to rabbits really feel the crunch, according to The House Rabbit Society.

Traditionally, animal shelters across the nation brace themselves for what they refer to as "the kitten season." In the spring, but the three months following Easter are notoriously challenging for surrendered rabbits.

Rabbits are not easy "starter pets" as many often believe. Though often marketed as such, rabbits have unique personalities that are quite different from dogs or cats. Education is key when it comes to under-

(See CRITTER, page seven)



Donning some Easter finery a tad bit early, "Kiwi" and sibling "B-cat" are both looking gorgeous here. The two buddies, along with siblings "Ruddy" and "Buddy," were mysteriously found all alone in a tree near the home of Karlie and Kelsey Bolen, of Lackey. Writes Karlie: "B-cat is very energetic. Kiwi is a very calm and cool kitten that is always relaxed...All these mysterious kittens are always on the lookout for moving objects which they attack 'either scared or not scared.'" Thanks for sharing, Karlie - Kiwi looks adorable in her cute beads!

Yesterdays

Irene Vanderpool, 43, of Hueysville, Friday, at her residence

Polly Blankenship, 78, of Wayland, at her home

and Estill Newsome, 62, of Martin, Sunday, at his residence.

Thirty Years Ago

(March 15, 1978)

The David reservoir, which served for years, as the water source for the community of David, was drained over the weekend, in response to a recommendation by the Environmental Protection Agency that drainage be done before spring rains create added stress to the dike, which was declared by EPA to be unsafe.

Floyd county is facing the worst road crises in the history, County Judge-Executive Henry Stumbo indicated Monday in a discussion of the effects on highways of two months of heavy snows and freezing weather.

Although U.S. deputy marshalls served back-to-work orders under the Taft-Hartly Act on LMWA local union officers this past week, few worked Monday, and they were idle the following day.

There were no highway fatalities in this and adjoining counties during February, although 20 accidents were investigated by the Kentucky State Police Post 9, at Pikeville, according to a report released this past week.

As a result of the three-month-old coal strike, Kentuckians are losing a total of \$10 million in wages every week, according to an analysis prepared by the Kentucky's Commerce Department.

There died: Elder Butler Howell, 72, of East McDowell, Thursday, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Mrs. Maranda Marshall Hopson, 88, of Prestonsburg, Saturday, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home; Mrs. Lucille Smith Tufts, 65, of Wheelwright, Saturday, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Leucious Gerald Gibson, 39, of Hueysville, Thursday, at the VA Hospital in Lexington; Columbus Hunter, 56, of Printer, Thursday, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Monte Scott Harkins, of Prestonsburg, last Thursday, at Chailey, his estate near Newburyport, Mass.; Mrs. Emma Jones, 74, of East McDowell, Friday, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home; Mrs. Alvira Newsome, 71, of Teaberry, Sunday, at Methodist Hospital, Pikeville.

Forty Years Ago

(March 14, 1968)

State Senator Clifford B. Latta announced, this week, that construction of the bridge across the Big Sandy at Lancer is expected to be begun in August.

The Appalachian Volunteers Inc., have completed moving their central office from Bristol, Tenn., to Prestonsburg.

The winter's first high waters interrupted at least four schools in the county, Tuesday, and snow and icy road conditions closed all schools, the following day.

The Prestonsburg Ministerial Association has been told by a Federal Housing Authority official that its plan for 75 rent-supplement housing units here is feasible, and it is possible that construction will begin this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Calhoun, of the Auxier road, have been notified by the War Department that their son, Sp-4 Berkin Calhoun, was wounded in action against the enemy in Vietnam, Feb. 27.

Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Click, of Ivel, a daughter, last week, at the Pikeville Hospital.

There died: Stanley Park, of Eizabethtown, formerly of Allen, February 23, at a Louisville Hospital; Mrs. Aria Sizemore, 87, Sunday, at her home at Water Gap; Mrs. Maudie Bickford, 77, of Allen, Tuesday, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home, here; William Goodman, 82, of Emma, Monday, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital; Robert Stratton, 61, Wednesday, at his home at Stanville; Walker Hayden, 75, of East Point, Sunday, at Paintsville Hospital; Rev. George R. Watson, 69, Sunday, at his home at Auxier; Joe Adkins, 72, of Pikeville, Saturday; John Lewis, 41, of Buffalo, N.Y., formerly of Wheelwright, last Thursday, at Buffalo.

Fifty Years Ago

(March 13, 1958)

The grim work of dragging the Big Sandy River for the seven missing victims of the school bus wreck at Knotley Hollow, near here, February 20, continued this week. Prestonsburg schools will remain closed indefinitely, their opening depending upon the success of operations being carried on by the 500 National Guardsmen here to recover the bodies of the seven pupils yet missing in the school bus tragedy.

Both Floyd County representatives, Mrs. Ann B. Hall, of Bypro, and Sam Hale, of Blue River, have introduced school bus legislation in the Kentucky House of Representatives, as a result of the recent tragedy near here.

The Martin Purple Flash won the 58th-District basketball crown, Saturday night, by edging host,

Prestonsburg, 78-76.

Married: Miss Ada Hall, of Martin, and James W. Moran, of Wapokeneta, O., February 8; Miss Katherine Rhea Stewart, of Lackey and George M. Stout, of Fern Creek, Ky., January 25, at Jeffersontown, Kentucky.

Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Dunlap, a daughter, Martha Mayo, March 5, at Tampa, Florida; to Mr. and Mrs. John O. Hardin, of Prestonsburg, a son, Henry Patrick, March 11, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital.

There died: Mrs. Sarah C. Spears, 89, last Friday, at her home at Osborne; Maudine McKinney, 16, of Amba, Saturday, at the Methodist Hospital, Pikeville; John Thomas, 83, one of Floyd County's few remaining Spanish-American War veterans, Sunday, at the home of a son at Dwale; Mrs. Melvina Case Whitt, 39, native of Mud Creek, last Thursday, at the Paintsville Hospital; William Lewis Stratton, 82, formerly of Ivel, February 21, at Baltimore, Maryland.

Sixty Years Ago

(March 18, 1948)

A young construction worker, Hardin Green Woody, 20, was killed, Sunday, when a dirt-moving machine—an "iron mule"—which he was demonstrating to his wife, suddenly backed over a cliff. His wife, the former Ella Lee Noe, of Estill, leaped to safety.

Every Floyd County coal mine by Monday afternoon, was closed down, as miners were protesting the charge made by John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers leader, that the operators had "dishonored" the 1947 contract, by failing to grant \$100-a-month pensions.

The Garrett Black Devils took the 15th basketball region title at Inez, Saturday night, in a 60-58 squeaker over Meade Memorial.

In the finals of the state VFW basketball tournament at Louisville, last week, the Prestonsburg VFW Ramblers defeated Glasgow, 68-45, for the championship.

A bill providing for the election by countywide vote of county school board members, was halfway toward final enactment, Tuesday, after the Senate had given the bill its approval.

The Floyd Fiscal Court has asked that \$26,000 of the \$68,642.21 in some rural road funds, allotted the county this year, be earmarked for construction of these blacktop highways: Clear Creek road from Hi Hat, one mile up Clear Creek; road from Wayland, .9 mile up Steele's Creek; Big Mud road from Harold.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the 21-room combination store and apartment building of B. H. Toler, near Harold, early Saturday morning.

Married: Miss Waynoka Louise Dyer, of Prestonsburg, and Mr. James Davis Jr., of Wayland, March 13; Miss June Harris, of Lancer, and Mr. Don Church, of Pikeville, March 13.

Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Moore, of Drift, a daughter, Bobbie Lynn, February 29, at the Paintsville Hospital.

There died: Mrs. Dollie Hall, 59, Monday, at the home, at Wayland, of her brother-in-law, Budd Hall; Mrs. Lula Whitaker Fraley, 53, at her home at Whitaker, Friday; Mrs. Laura Belle Clark, 64, last Thursday, at her home at Honaker; Miss Lettie Roseberry Evans, 61, Tuesday night, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Roscoe Conley, at Wayland; John Hager Taylor, 60, member of the Wayland town council, March 9, at his home, there; John Campbell Roberts, 72, native of this county, and former teacher in Floyd schools, at home at Pikeville, last Thursday.

Seventy Years Ago

(March 17, 1938)

Floyd County officials were assured Saturday, by Governor A. B. Chandler, that grade and drain of the Left Beaver Creek road will be completed this year.

John Ratliff, 20, of Mud Creek, was shot and instantly killed, last week, when a revolver accidentally discharged, the bullet striking him in the head.

Realizing the need for farm-to-market roads in the county, the Floyd Fiscal Court, at its last meeting, approved seven such roads for construction in cooperation with the WPA.

Frenchburg won the 15th region basketball crown, Saturday night, defeating Pikeville, 26-23.

The Prestonsburg debating team, and their coach, Mrs. Jane R. Combs, have been invited to the National District Tournament, to be held at Bristol, Va., April 1-2.

Burns, suffered March 9, when her dress caught fire from an open grate at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crum, of Lancer, resulted in the death, on the following day, of 10-year-old Georgia Ann Crum.

A 50-barrel oil well on the May Layne lease at Tram, was seen Tuesday morning as heavy oil "pay" had been struck in the Big Lime with 25 feet of the formation yet to be penetrated.

There died: Mrs. Katherine May Finalyson, 72, last week at the home of Mrs. Margaret Woods, at Emma; Joy Mae, 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Leslie, of Emma, Thursday, at the Gearheart Hospital, Martin; Mrs. Sally Allen Howard, 81, at home in Gunlock, Friday.

Critter

standing the responsibilities of caring for rabbits which are highly sensitive and complex creatures.

Rabbits are not happy resigned to an outdoor hutch or tiny pet store cage for their entire lives. Rabbits are actually very social animals who need daily exercise and interaction. Also, rabbits tend to have extraordinarily long life spans which require special care in their later years. The digestive systems and unique physiology are far more unusual than what might be imagined.

A proper bunny diet consists of plenty of timothy hay, an assortment of fresh vegetables, a small amount of timothy-based pellets and an occasional piece of apple, banana, carrot or other treat. Rabbits should never be fed the pellet mixes that contain corn, nuts, seeds and cereal, because these things can wreak havoc on their delicate digestive systems.

When not eating or lounging around, most rabbits are power chewers who enjoy a toy that they can really sink their teeth into. Chew toys, especially balls and bowls made of willow wood, are a great way for rabbits to expend energy and wear down their always-growing teeth.

Rabbit-proofing a home is essential, because rabbits lacking these sorts of great toys may some fun of their own by chewing telephone and computer lines and other such electrical cords that they may reach.

Rabbits can make great pets, but they're not for everyone.

Anyone considering adding a rabbit to their family should adopt from an animal shelter or rabbit rescue group to save a life and ease the burden on these humane organizations. And don't forget that adult rabbits are just as wonderful as younger ones. Adults, also, are less prone to chewing wall moldings and electrical cords; though rabbit-proofing is essential no matter the age of your new family member.

Information for this article was obtained from The Humane Society of the United

States' website, www.hsus.org.



Smiles, as well as good eats, were plentiful throughout the evening as partygoers both dined, and danced, the night away.

Program

annual ball for them. It's hard work on our part, but it's all worth it when you see those smiles and happy faces."

Working as community partners to help the 2008 Winter Ball be a success were: 4-H Teen Councils from Floyd and Pike County Extension Offices; The US 23 Country Music Highway Museum, Coca-Cola of Pikeville, First Commonwealth Bank, Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Statewide Press, Baird & Baird, PSC, Fannin's Plumbing & Electric, Inc., Prestonsburg Cycle Center, US Bank, Pike County Farm Bureau, Atty. William T. Davidson, Interstate Natural Gas Company, Dr. Blake R. Burchett, H&H Furniture, Made From Scratch Restaurant, Log Cabin Studio, Collins Trophies & T's, Brutus the DJ, Signature Events, and Headz to Toez Beauty Salon.

"We thank all our sponsors



Handsome and decked out in his Sunday best, Keith Elliott, of the Auxier Greenhouse Training Program, proudly wears medals of recognition that he received during annual ceremonies.

so very much," Ryan said. "With their help, a hardworking and dedicated population of folks are rewarded for their efforts."

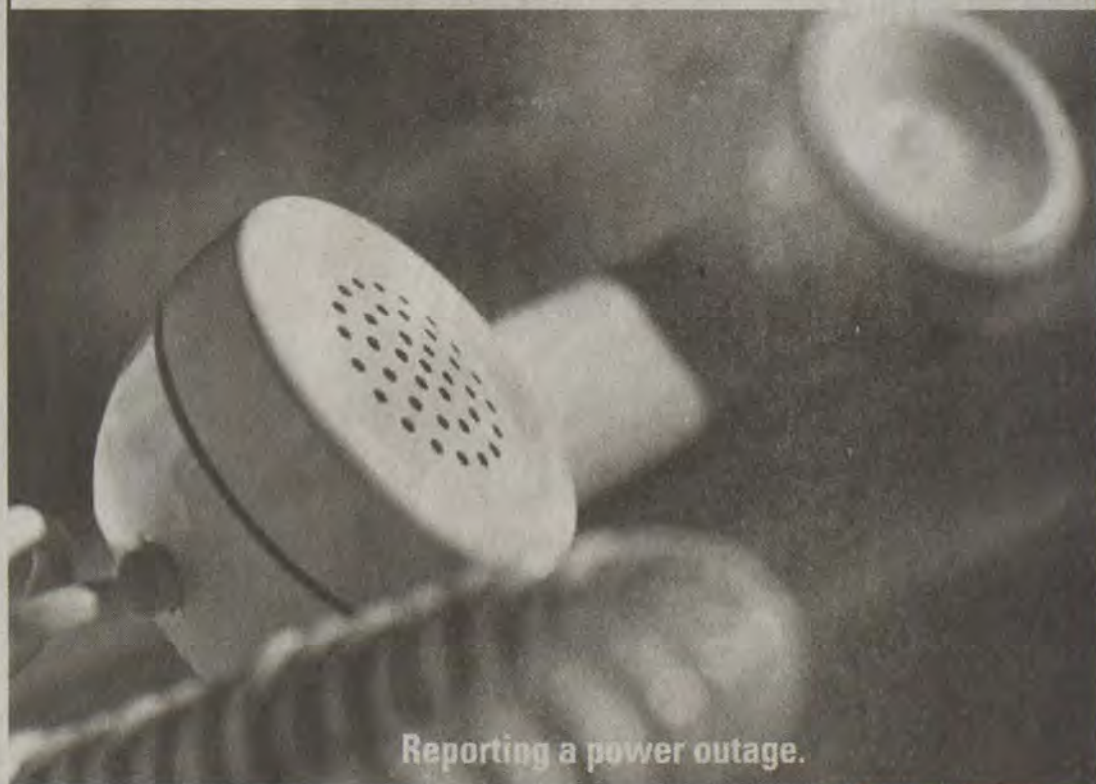
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Ray graduates NOSW in Berea

Dana Ray, of Pikeville, center, graduated from the New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) in Berea, on February 23, 2008. Dana participated in a three-week residential session emphasizing a self-help curriculum. Extensive classroom instruction included building self-esteem, employment interest and skill assessment, and college preparation and enrollment opportunities. Ms. Ray was selected as NOSW 2008 Winter Session President. Applications are being accepted for the 2008 NOSW Summer Session, refer to nosw.org. Pictured with Ms. Ray are: On her left, NOSW Board President Nawanna Privett, and on her right, NOSW Executive Director Jan Gill.



To Exchange Vows

Michael and Bernadean Collins, along with Eddie and Kimberly Hall, would like to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Audrey D. Cox and Paul Justin (P.J.) Hall.

The couple will exchange marriage vows on March 15, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., at the Wheelwright Methodist Church in Wheelwright, Kentucky.

A dinner reception will follow at the Wheelwright Masonic Lodge. Everyone is invited to share this special day with the gracious custom of open church.

Gearheart Communications employee recognized by Floyd BOE



Amanda Baker

The Floyd County Board of Education recognized Gearheart Communications employees Amanda Baker and Heath Wiley at the February 25 meeting, held at Betsy Layne Elementary School.

Amanda Baker, human resources manager for Gearheart Communications, stepped in recently to help when a teacher could not continue providing the "Too Good for Drugs" curriculum in the district's schools.

Amanda worked with the schools, central office staff, students and her employer to help keep the program going. The "Too Good for Drugs" program is designed to help reduce the risk factors and enhance the

protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among students. Amanda's willingness to serve enabled the program to continue.

Gearheart Communications permitted Amanda to leave her duties at work and visit school classrooms to present the 30-60 minute lessons at Prestonsburg Elementary, McDowell Elementary, John M. Stumbo Elementary and W.D. Osborne Elementary.

Special thanks are extended to Amanda Baker, Heath Wiley, and Gearheart Communications for caring about kids in Floyd County and for making a difference in children's lives.

Writers Collective Workshop scheduled for April 11 and 12

The first annual Writers Collective Workshop will take place in Berea April 11 and 12. Co-sponsored by the Berea Arts Council and the Kentucky Writers Collective, the event offers workshops with seven award-winning writers and one artisan as well as a free public reading. The weekend provides opportunities for writers to share their work, improve their craft and find inspiration in the Folk Arts and Crafts Capital of Kentucky.

Workshop presenters include Jim Tomlinson, Trish Ayers, Leatha Kendrick, Steve Lyon, Jan Watson, Normandi Ellis, Beth Dotson Brown and Gin Petty. Sessions begin on Friday afternoon at the Old Town Professional Center, 204 N. Broadway. Workshop presenters will read from their work in a free public reading at the Old Town Professional Center on Friday evening, 7:30 - 9:00. The workshop continues on Saturday with six different writing workshops and a concluding panel where authors will discuss first successes and publishing.

Registration for the event is \$20 for Friday, \$45 for Saturday or \$65 for both days. Further information and registration forms are available at: www.bereaartscouncil.org/workshops/2008/writers/writers.htm or call the Arts Council at 859-985-9317.

Partial funding has been provided by the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Howell-Dastrup

Mike and Bonnie Howell, of Staffordsville, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Catherine, to Richard Cody Dastrup, the son of Richard and Connie Dastrup, of West Valley City, Utah. The couple plan to be married in an outdoor ceremony on April 12, 2008 at the Paintsville Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Wittensville. Afterwards, the newlyweds will reside in Clearfield, Utah.

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