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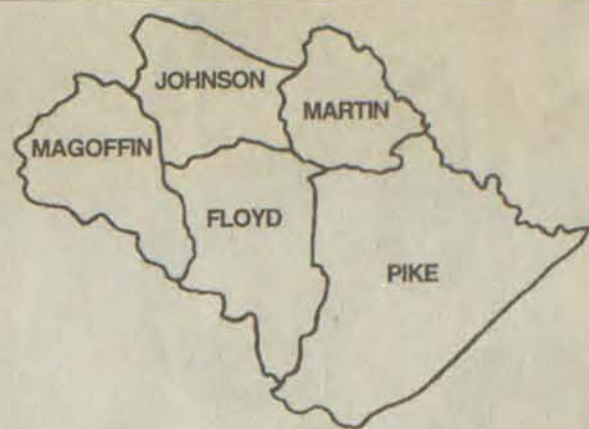
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# Around the Region



## Entire region taken by storm, literally

The Blizzard of 1996 hit the entire region by storm, literally.

Most residents in surrounding counties spent much of Monday and Tuesday digging out of the two feet of snow dumped this last weekend on Eastern Kentucky, Southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia.

Pike, Johnson, Martin, Magoffin and Lawrence counties were shut down for the first two days of this week.

The shut down included most city and county government offices, except for emergency personnel who worked cleaning city and county roads and schools. Local church services were cancelled on Sunday, and postal services were also delayed Monday.

However, customer services returned to normal postal hours Tuesday with delivery limited by road conditions.

A number of the counties declared a state of emergency.

Main roads, which includes the state's "A" routes, were mostly clear by Wednesday.

The "A" routes are Ky. 119, U.S. 23 and U.S. 460, said Denton Bilitier of the Kentucky Highway Department.

Secondary roads, like Ky. Route 80, were expected to be mostly clear some time Thursday.

In Johnson County, Paintsville police chief Tom Haney said non-emergency phone calls flooded the 911 system over the weekend.

"We had people calling in wanting us to take them milk and things," Haney said.

The police department ran an announcement on the local radio stations urging residents to use the 911 service for emergencies only.

In Lawrence County, Disaster Emergency Services Director Clyde Nelson said the county had its emergency operations shelter open for two and a half days during the storm, and two sections of the National Guard were in to help.

National Guard units were assigned to the county to help deliver necessities and to transport people in need of medical attention.

At Sharon's Flower Shop in Louisa, heavy snow that had accumulated on a roof caused the ceiling to collapse in part of the building Tuesday afternoon.

No one was injured, and firefighters were trying to brace the roof until it could be fixed.

In Martin County, National Guardsmen Greg Skeenes and Ryan Smith were able to gain access to the home of Pigeon

Roost resident Howard Sartin. Sartin was then transported to Prestonsburg to receive dialysis treatment.

The National Guard also helped with snow removal in Martin County.

In Pike County, power outages were common in several areas and an emergency services center was set up by the county Saturday at the courthouse.

Pike County Judge-Executive Donna Damron and administrative staff were at the center around the clock providing as much relief as possible.

Damron said Monday the majority of services requested were medical assistance.

The medical situations ranged from transporting oxygen to homes, delivering medicine, transporting dialysis patients to Prestonsburg, and providing transportation for medical emergencies.

Weather officials forecasts more snow, any where from four to six inches, to fall this weekend. It may be another snowbound week for the region.

(Portions of this article are reprinted from the Paintsville Herald, the Appalachian News-Express, the Martin County Sun, and the Big Sandy News)

## Cops nab Hardee's robbers

by Tony Fyffe  
The Paintsville Herald

Quick response by city police netted four arrests following a Friday night armed robbery at Hardee's restaurant at Mayo Plaza in Paintsville.

Among those arrested was a Hardee's employee whom police said conspired with the three other suspects to rob the restaurant.

The employee, Svenja Harbers, 20, of Paintsville, was charged with complicity to commit robbery, police chief Tom Haney said Monday.

Two men — Greg Jones, 18,

of Flat Gap, and Ernest I. Layhue, 28, of Paw Meadow, Georgia — were each charged with first-degree robbery and four counts of wanton endangerment. They may also be charged with kidnapping because they held guns on several people during the robbery. Haney said.

A fourth person, Darla May of Paintsville, who turned 33 on the day of the robbery, was charged with complicity to robbery, driving on a suspended license and having no automobile insurance.

According to Haney, Jones and Layhue — both of whom were wearing ski masks and black stockings — arrived at

Hardee's around 11:30 p.m. Friday, January 5, forcing a man out of his car at gun point in the parking lot and into the restaurant.

The man, Paul Stambaugh, is the boyfriend of store employee Terri Baldwin, Haney said.

Once inside, Haney said, the men tied up Stambaugh, Baldwin, Harbers and another person with duct tape and emptied the safe.

Jones and Layhue left on foot, ran behind Lowe's and swam across Paint Creek, Haney said.

Meanwhile, Baldwin was able to free herself and call 911 for help. The call came into the 911 dispatch center at 11:40 p.m., Haney said.

The two men were arrested at Teays Branch on old Route 40 in Paintsville at 11:50 p.m. after they swam across the creek, Haney said.

Police recovered two knives and three money bags containing a total of \$838.40.

The guns used in the robbery were not recovered, Haney said.

May was arrested at Kern's Bakery at Teays Branch, where she was waiting in her car to pick up the two men, Haney said.

Haney said Harbers, the Hardee's employee, phoned Jones and Layhue around 10:30 p.m. Friday and told them to "come on over," Haney said.

Harbers also told them about the man in the parking lot, Haney said. All four were lodged in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center in Paintsville.

Jones and Layhue are being held in lieu of \$50,000 cash bonds. Bond for Harbers and May was set at \$25,000 each.

Making arrests in the case were city police officers Buddy Gamble, Greg Hyden, Bill Conley and Larry VanHoose.

The robbery is one of three incidents investigated by the Paintsville Police Department since Thursday, January 4, when a juvenile was arrested in connection with the theft of two vehicles from Hoppy's Used Cars on Route 40 east of Paintsville. A second arrest in that case is pending, Haney said.

On Sunday night, Michael Thompson was arrested and charged with breaking into a vehicle at the Veteran's Referral Center in Paintsville, Haney said.

Thompson, who allegedly stole a stereo and personal items from the vehicle, was charged with theft by unlawful taking, Haney said.

## Enrollment down; teachers to be laid off

Enrollment in Martin County schools appear to be decreasing since the closing of several coal mines in the county.

District wide, enrollment is down 100 students this year and the projection for the 1996-97 school year is no better.

According to figures obtained at the board of education office, total enrollment will decrease substantially next year.

"Between now and next year, we expect a 140-student decrease countywide," Superintendent Bill Slone said. The local board of education receives \$2,674 per student per year. The total loss of income to the board will be \$374,360.

The board of education is also one of Martin County's larger employers; however, the number of employees relates directly to the number of students.

"There will have to be some adjustments in staffing," Slone said. "At the same time, we must provide the same quality of education next year as we are this year."

The board employs more than 200 teachers and more than 200 classified workers as well.

"We figure there is a need for one teacher per 25 students," Slone said.

That would mean a reduction in staff of about six teachers and a number of classified employees.

"We hope some of it (staff reduction) will take care of itself through attrition," Slone said.

A total of 16 teachers in the system currently have enough time to retire if they so desire.

"This (drop in enrollment) will probably mean some of our teachers will have to transfer," Slone said. "Should a teacher decide to retire, we would have to move some of our staff to meet the need."

The projected enrollment figures for the 1996-97 school year are as follows: Grassy 126, Inez Elementary 373, Inez Middle 410, Pigeon Roost 142, Turkey 56, Sheldon Clark 925, Tomahawk 190, Warfield Elementary 313, and Warfield Middle 260.

Slone said the greatest decrease, percentage wise, will be realized at Pigeon Roost. The school has 165 students this year. Next year's enrollment represents nearly a 14 percent decrease.

W I N T E R F U N

Building snowmen can be a lot of fun. You can achieve the best results when the snow is just right...

### The science of Snowman building

**Form a snowball...**

32°F  
Snow can be packed into snowballs

23°F  
Icy, freezing snow; snowballs fall apart

14°F

Best snow for a snowman

**Roll it...**

Under the right conditions, snow can be rolled off the ground like a carpet

27°F  
Freezing snow at surface

32°F  
Melting snow near ground

Snow slips off the ground

**And roll it...**

When rolling, change directions to make an evenly rounded ball

SOURCE: DMI

## Former policeman sues Elkhorn City

by Christopher Hunt  
Appalachian News-Express

Elkhorn City has joined the burgeoning list of governments or government agencies sued recently for allegedly violating constitutional rights.

Lewis Caudill, who now lives in Franklin County, filed suit against the city of Elkhorn, Elkhorn Mayor Richard V. "Hank" Salyer and Howard Dotson, former chief of the Elkhorn City Police Department. The suit also names Dotson as an individual as a defendant in the case.

Caudill claims his 14th Amendment right to receiving due process under the law was violated in October 1994 when he was fired for "the mishandling of evidence."

Caudill and his attorney, James J. Barrett III, also say in the complaint, city officials violated a Kentucky statute governing the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund, part of which is referred to as the "Policeman's Bill of Rights." Caudill and Barrett say the statute guarantees due process under the law as well.

Barrett is an attorney in the law firm of Pillersdorf, DeRossett and Barrett in Prestonsburg. The city is represented by W. Mitchell Hall Jr. of VanAntwerp, Monge, Jones and

Edwards in Ashland.

The complaint states Caudill was employed as a patrolman in June 1994 and promoted to sergeant in July 1994. At some time close to the July date, Caudill, in the complaint, claims he was asked by Dotson to store some prescription drugs at his (Caudill's) home "due to the lack of a secure evidence locker at the Elkhorn City Police Department."

In September, Caudill says assistant police chief Aaron Kidd ordered him to destroy the prescription drugs, which were relevant in a legal case involving a juvenile that had been settled.

On October 12, 1994, Dotson gave Caudill a letter informing him of his firing, citing the evidence mishandling as the reason.

"Sergeant Caudill was never suspended, nor was any investigation of the allegation conducted, nor was Sergeant Caudill afforded any opportunity for a hearing on this allegation before the mayor and council.

"Mayor Richard V. "Hank" Salyer, who is responsible by statute for all personnel actions of the city was made aware of Sergeant Caudill's termination and his request for reinstatement, and took no action to overturn the termination," the complaint states. The case is complicated by the

fact Dotson has not been served a notice by the defense telling him he has been sued. Barrett said he has been unable to find Dotson since the case was first filed in Pike Circuit Court earlier this year.

Once a case has been filed in U.S. District Court, the defense has 90 days to serve notice on all parties involved. If Dotson cannot be found, the case against him will be dropped and require refile after his whereabouts are known.

The city, in formally answering the complaint, denies almost every claim except that Caudill was employed as a patrolman and that Salyer knew of his firing and request for a hearing.

Hall also said in the city's defense, Caudill was not entitled to the right of due process because he "was on probationary status during this period of time."

Caudill is asking for a trial by jury, reinstatement to his position of sergeant, back pay in the amount of around \$15,000, an undisclosed amount in compensatory damages and payment of his legal costs and fees. A trial date has not been set and both sides are required to meet to settle on times both attorneys are available as well as to inform each other of evidence they plan to use in the trial.

KELLY

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# The Friday Comics

## Farcus

by David Waisglass  
Gordon Coulthart



"It was surprisingly easy to find!"

## Farcus

by David Waisglass  
Gordon Coulthart



"Watch the door — I don't want anyone sneaking out before 5 p.m.!"

## BUTCH AND DOUGIE by ALEX HOWELL



## BRINGING UP FATHER



## Vision Teaser



Differences: 1. Birdhouse is added. 2. Drinkpipe is moved. 3. Fence is lower. 4. Hydrant is thicker. 5. Rope is thicker. 6. Ribbon is removed.

## MagicMaze

**HUMOR**

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Absurdity Comedy Jest Skit  
 Amusing Cornical Jocularly Smile  
 Chuckle Enjoy Laughter Wit  
 Comedian Funny Punch line

## R.F.D. by MIKE MARLAND



## THE SPATS by JEFF PICKERING



## OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS



## GEORGE by MARK SZORADY



## Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Arrive at Kennedy
  - 5 How-to part
  - 9 Semi stuff
  - 14 Mythical river
  - 19 Bit of gossip
  - 20 Pilaf ingredient
  - 21 Deplete
  - 22 — as a beet
  - 23 Sonora stomp
  - 26 Platoon part
  - 27 Actress St. John
  - 28 "This Is — Life"
  - 29 — Magnon
  - 31 Wallach or Whitney
  - 32 Ipanema's locale
  - 34 Spirited steed
  - 40 Enigmatic types
  - 45 Brownish purple
  - 46 Start a crop
  - 47 Exist
  - 48 Baseball's Slaughter
  - 50 "Take — Train"
  - 52 Castle features
  - 56 Rin Tin Tin, for one
  - 60 Singer Carey
  - 61 Bit of parsley
  - 62 Lennon's lady
  - 63 Acheson or Rusk
  - 65 Actress Farrow
  - 66 — Linda, Calif.
  - 69 Haberdashery stock
  - 72 Keats' container
  - 73 South African terrain
  - 74 Liszt pieces
  - 79 Critic Siskel
  - 80 Neptune, but not Earth
  - 81 Mine car
  - 82 Significant periods
  - 83 Free (of)
  - 84 Fishing cord
  - 85 Tear
  - 87 Chicago pol
  - 91 Listless
  - 93 Therapeutic rubdown
  - 99 Untamed
  - 100 Use a stopwatch
  - 101 Get wind of
  - 102 Henpeck
  - 103 Oenophile's mecca
  - 106 It may be spare
  - 108 Topnotch
  - 111 Rich dessert
  - 115 Melody
  - 116 Actor Herbert
  - 117 Apply lightly
  - 118 "Born Free" lioness
  - 122 Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"
  - 126 Message board?
  - 129 Board game
  - 134 Hold-up man?
  - 135 Put an edge on
  - 136 Got hold of
  - 137 Prepare for the press
  - 138 Swarms (with)
  - 139 Terpsi-chore "ster
  - 140 Eye prol. am
  - 141 Parent-to-be's choice
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Arm or leg
  - 2 To — (just so)
  - 3 Coming up
  - 4 Composer Shostakovich
  - 5 Monterey Mrs.
  - 6 Littler than little
  - 7 Resound
  - 8 — de soie
  - 9 Bossy's heroine
  - 51 Total
  - 53 — Sample McPherson
  - 54 Coin-toss call
  - 12 Last name in fashion
  - 13 Verdi output
  - 14 "Viva — Vegas"
  - 15 ABA title
  - 16 Less exaggerated
  - 17 Cures
  - 18 Cantor or Murphy
  - 24 First base man?
  - 25 Pittfall
  - 30 "Three Dog Night" hit
  - 33 Draft animals (with)
  - 35 Writer Rendell
  - 36 Dull pain
  - 37 Oktoberfest offering
  - 38 Macho guy
  - 39 Nasal appraisal
  - 40 Loses tension
  - 41 Make ready
  - 42 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune)
  - 43 USNA grad
  - 44 London district
  - 49 "The Flying Dutchman"
  - 88 Turner or Wood
  - 89 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
  - 55 Large herring
  - 57 Pooh's creator
  - 58 Like kids at Christmas
  - 59 Upset your mother?
  - 60 Place to surf?
  - 64 Highlands tongue
  - 67 Copperfield's field
  - 68 "East of Eden" character
  - 70 Be human
  - 71 Puppeteer Lewis
  - 73 Jet-setters' needs
  - 74 German author Heinrich
  - 75 Subordinate to
  - 76 What i.e. stands for
  - 77 Pennsylvania sect
  - 78 June honorees
  - 79 — "Spee"
  - 84 Whitman's bloomer
  - 86 "That was a close one!"
  - 88 Turner or Wood
  - 89 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
  - 90 Safe-cracker
  - 92 Reformist Horace
  - 94 Wilde and Shaw
  - 95 Give off
  - 96 Earl — Biggers
  - 97 — jongg
  - 98 "Rigoletto" rendition
  - 104 Third degree?
  - 105 Cochise, e.g.
  - 107 Spud buds
  - 109 Nutritional need
  - 110 In pieces
  - 111 Be buoyant
  - 112 Way to go
  - 113 Boxer Griffith
  - 114 Detest
  - 119 "Shall we?"
  - 120 "Rob Roy" extra
  - 121 Crow's-nest cry
  - 123 Helen of Troy's mom
  - 124 In good shape
  - 125 Punta del —
  - 127 Tight spot
  - 128 Palm Sunday beast
  - 130 Claire or Balin
  - 131 Take-home
  - 132 Tokyo, once
  - 133 Get by, with "out"

by Chuck Shepherd

THE WEIRDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

— Witnesses said that the person who robbed the Seattle-First National Bank branch in Vancouver, Wash., in July spoke with a deep, "male" voice so police were surprised to find Kristin Deane Pearsall, 29, inside a truck matching the one used for the robber's getaway. However, according to police, Pearsall admitted that the robbery was done by John, one of her five personalities.

— In Payson, Ariz., in a July pretrial hearing on a slander lawsuit, Judge Michael Flournoy permitted "testimony" from a man who had been dead for 500 years, as presented by channeler Trina Kamp, who contacted him from the witness stand after courtroom lights were dimmed. Kamp's Church of the Immortal Consciousness needed the long-dead Dr. Pahlvon Duran (its spiritual leader) to "explain" that a local couple's attack against it was wrong. Judge Flournoy said later he allowed the seance because he thought Kamp would drop the lawsuit once Duran's testimony was heard.

— In October, a jury in Tucson, Ariz., found Robert

Joseph Moody, 36, guilty of the 1993 murders of two women despite his claim—made while acting as his own attorney—that space aliens made him commit the crimes. Moody said, "I know it sounds crazy," but said that the aliens promised Moody they would raise him from the dead in the event he were executed. Before the trial, the judge had scratched several UFO experts from Moody's witness list, as well as Barry Goldwater and presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

— Alex Troy Fersner of Johnson City, Tenn., filed a lawsuit in federal court in September charging that three news anchors (two male, one female) at WJHL-TV, Channel 11, have been flooding his mind with secret messages of "perverted lust and distracting TV illusions" that they "scream" and "breathe loud" at him. He said the harassment has caused the loss of facial hair as well as hair "in the back."

— In September, Robert Ferguson, 52, and his wife, Deborah Reeder, 46, were arrested on contempt of court charges in Franklin, Ind.—merely their latest legal skirmish since their 1993 announcement that they were renouncing U.S. citizenship and becoming tax-exempt. The contempt charge was over their failed claim that their neighbors should hand over to them 200 acres of land because the government had no authority to divide it up the way it has done since the early 1800s.

— Chiropractors in the News: In July, the Massachusetts board that regulates chiropractors considered revoking the license of Ronald Goldstein after

testimony from former patients that he touched them sexually during examinations, tried to market a hypnosis service for breast enlargement, and talked to them about his having been abducted by space aliens. And in October, Dr. John Schuett, 36, was charged with battery in Waukesha, Wis., after he allegedly ordered a woman into his office, grabbed her, put his mouth over her right eye, sucked on it, stabbed her in the neck with an acupuncture needle, and began reading aloud from the Bible.

— In December, Forrest Fuller, 29, of Mount Holly, N.J., pleaded guilty to the 1994 murder of his girlfriend. After the murder, according to police, Fuller had driven as far as West Virginia, chatting with the body about their imminent marriage. He stopped to telephone the girl's mother to admit his crime and to tell her that he was going to dress the body in a wedding gown and wedding ring and drive to California, where he thought the couple could be married.

— In September, 38 potbellied pigs were seized in a raid on the "filthy," "unsanitary" home of a woman in Los Angeles; an SPCA spokesperson said, "This woman just got in over her head." Two weeks later, health inspectors in Old Bridge Township, N.J., raided the apartment of Eugene Octaviano after the stench of the 400 uncaged birds living with him became unbearable for his neighbors. In June, Angelo Russo, 79, was hospitalized after health officials found more than 300

(See Weird, page six)

Popperri

by Scott Perry

One of the toughest things about dealing with a knee deep snow isn't, as you might imagine, driving from one place to another, but finding a place to park once you get there.

Parking spots are always prized possessions, but when you have to carve one out of two feet of snow and ice, well, they're priceless.

Sure, it's important for our road workers to get out and clear the main roads after a blizzard, but it's really pointless to have open roads if you've got nowhere to pull off once you get where you're going.

If you do happen upon a parking spot, you need to observe a few rules of etiquette before pulling in. First, look both ways to see that no snipers are guarding the location and always, always assume that whoever was responsible for shoveling it out did not do so for your benefit.

Taking a spot that someone has risked cardiac arrest to prepare is, according to the Law of the Road, grounds for justifiable homicide in some places.

In fact, such an issue is just what prompted World War I, though the history books give it little notice.

While we all know that the first World War erupted after the assassination in 1914 of Archduke Ferdinand, of Austria, you probably didn't know that the duke was shot because he pulled his carriage into a parking place that had been painstakingly cleared of snow and ice by a young Serb, who had taken a break from his labor to have a smoke or something.

That particular instance some 80 years ago still causes problems in the Slavic countries, as you might have noticed if you've read any newspapers lately.

American troops are currently stationed in what once was Serbia, trying to keep peace among those who shovel out parking spaces and those who try to commandeer them.

The only true path to lasting peace there, however, is a good spring thaw.

So remember, the next time you happen upon a parking spot that has obviously been dug out by someone else, that space may be just a convenience to you, but to the world it may be the "button" that starts the Big One.

Until our governments realize that a place to park after a snowstorm is just as important as a clear road, we'll all be living on the brink of destruction.

During the winter months, anyhow.

The Weekend  
**Waxtra**

Johnathon, Ledford in concert

Songwriter Michael Johnathon and Appalachian legend Homer Ledford will perform in concert together for the first time in support of their new album, WoodSongs.

Michael Johnathon, formerly of Mousie and Homer Ledford, Winchester instrument maker and mountain musician, will come to Whitesburg on Friday, January 19, to perform in concert at the Appalshop Theatre in support of their new album, titled WoodSongs.

Jonathon toured this year with the likes of Judy Collins, songwriter David Gates and country stars Steve Wariner and Billy Dean. He has been featured this year on TNN, VH-1, CNN, Headline News and CBS. He released an album, Assassins In The Kingdom, earlier this spring.

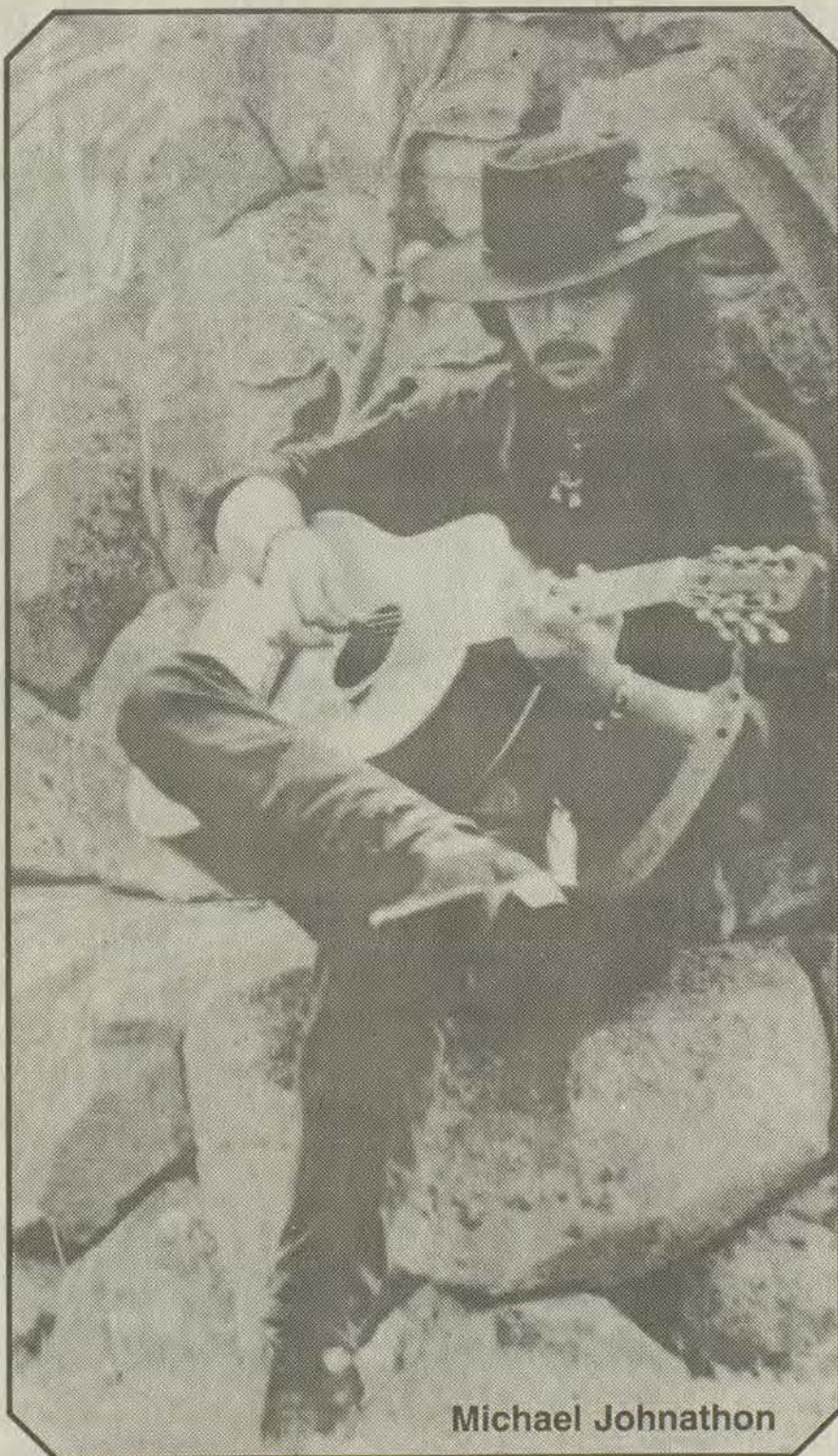
Ledford is one of America's leading instrument makers as well as an accomplished musician. Both

musicians now make their homes in Central Kentucky and have been friends for a long time.

The WoodSongs album, produced by Johnathon and released on Pinecastle Records, is a collection of traditional folk and bluegrass tunes, plus four originals written by Johnathon. Guest artists on the CD include mountain dulcimer player Jean Ritchie, Grammy-winning banjo great JD Crowe, Ruth McLain (of the McLain Family Band) and Frank Schapp of the Metropolitan Blues AllStars.

The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday, January 19, at the Appalshop Theatre on Madison Street in Whitesburg. Tickets for Michael Johnathon and Homer Ledford are \$5. Tickets are on sale at the Appalshop Theatre box office.

For ticket information, call 633-5708. The concert is underwritten by ALE 8 ONE Bottling Company and WMMT FM.



Michael Johnathon



Michael Johnathon

Hot time in the city

Without naming names, a person who is near and dear to my heart is experiencing premenopausal symptoms. According to "my friend," being menopausal is horrid. She says that while the mood swings are nasty and her level of concentration is shorter than Danny DeVito's little finger, the worst part about her condition is the hot flashes; those unexpected, clothes drenching, combustible spasms of heat that engulf the body making one want to implode.

I listened intently as "my friend" told me about the changes her body was undergoing through no fault of her own.

"This shouldn't be happening," she announced, as she fanned herself with a Modern Maturity magazine. "I'm too young to be going through the change, but what else would explain these tropical waves of indescribable hot flashes?"

"Have you been to a doctor?" I asked.

"Are you kidding. I ran him down on the street and begged him to diagnose me, but he gave me the

runaround and told me I'd have to come into his office and give blood before he could actually confirm my condition."



Smile Awhile

Sara Hopson

"That sounds like normal procedure to me," I replied.

"Hah! He thinks I'm going through the change. I could tell when he asked me if I was

wearing blush or if it was just me."

"You're getting to be that age."

"It's a conspiracy, isn't it? You're in on it along with my mean husband and hateful children. They're trying to drive me crazy, too," she stated, as she swiped her upper lip with her hand and fanned her underarms.

"I'm trying to help. Did you go to the doctor's office?"

"Yeah. And he examined me and the nurse drew blood, and then my hair went up in smoke. It was

awful. The room was too small to stop, drop and roll so I ran over to the sink and stuck my head under the faucet."

"What did the doctor say?"

"He told the nurse to cancel the blood work and start an estrogen IV immediately."

"That's all?"

"Well, no, er, ah. Well," my friend stared at me blankly before tears the size of teacups came cascading down her face. Sobbing uncontrollably she tried to talk, but her words were inaudible.

"There, there, now," I said consolingly. "You have to expect these little weepy episodes. It's normal."

"But I forgot what I was going to say."

"It's not important."

"How do you know it wasn't important?" she belted as fire erupted from her nose and singed the hair on her upper lip. "It must have been important or I wouldn't have tried to tell you. Oh, I remember. The doctor told me to come back in a week. If I hadn't internally combusted or killed a family member by then, he'd start me on hormone therapy."

If the estrogen doesn't work, I'm in big trouble.

Critic's Corner

by Michael Greene

Short Takes

**CASINO**—Please, spare me. Can't Martin Scorsese do anything besides gangster films? This hummer takes place in Las Vegas. It doesn't disappoint in terms of cinematography, but it's boring and predictable, involving a mobster family and a love triangle 'twixt the likes of Robert DeNiro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci. You can happily skip it. Rating: \* 1/2.

**GEORGIA**—Jennifer Jason Leigh stars as a cabaret singer (and I use the term loosely) whose personal life and career are headed nowhere. In contrast, her folk-singer sister, Mare Winningham, is tremendously successful. The film basically explores the relationship between the two sisters. Rating: \*\*\*.

**GOLDENEYE**—I always wondered what would happen to James Bond should he make it to the '90s and now I have my answer. This film is typical of the Bond genre, only now we have Pierce Brosnan as 007. He brings a new dimension to the hard-bitten Bond and a new sensitivity. Yet, he's still bedding one winsome woman after another in true 007 fashion. Rating: \*\*\*.

**HEAT**—You might want to refer to "Casino," mentioned above. In any event, this three-hour crime epic stars Robert DeNiro and Al Pacino. Violence abounds, but the major thrust of the flick is on the personal problems of the principals. Rating: \* 1/2.

**MONEY TRAIN**—By now, you know about the horrible incident in the New York City subway system where a token clerk was torched in his booth. It was said at the time that the criminals were lifting a scene out of this movie and it certainly does appear that way. Woody Harrelson and Wesley Snipes portray two transit policemen. They spend the entire film either chasing criminals or being chased by them. There is virtually no plot to speak of. It's just pure action and vio-

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