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Volume 72 • Number 128

Section



The Times

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Sunday
December 26, 1999

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Dotson decides to stay with board



Terry Dotson

by Willie Elliott
Staff Writer

Terry Dotson, chairman of the Floyd County Board of Education, has reconsidered his decision to step down from the board and has asked state Commissioner of Education Wilmer Cody to disregard his resignation request.

In a letter dated October 4, Dotson told Cody, "I feel it is in the best interest of everyone involved if I ten-

der my resignation to you effective December 31, 1999."

At the time, Dotson said the chairmanship of the board required more time than he could afford for a "volunteer job." Dotson, chief executive officer of Worldwide Equipment, said the job was taking up to 30 hours a week.

Now, just days before his scheduled departure, Dotson has had a change of heart.

"After two months of outpouring

of support from all areas of the Floyd County community for me to rescind my resignation for the Floyd County Board of Education, I have chosen to do so," Dotson wrote in his letter to Cody.

Dotson pointed out to Cody that both of them tendered their resignations about the same time. Dotson asked Cody to follow his lead "and stay around for a while longer."

Dotson said he hoped his actions had not caused any problems for any-

one.

"My goal will be to remain on the Board of Education and work with all members of the board and community to further the educational opportunities of all the people of Floyd County," Dotson wrote.

Bill Birdwell said earlier in the week that one person had applied for Dotson's position, but said he was not at liberty to divulge the name.

(See Dotson, page three)

What's Inside

- Job Corps dinner • A3
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Top Five Stories of 1999

Story of the year

Talks crumble between HRMC, workers; strike lasts 73 days

COMING

On Wednesday, we begin our annual look back at all the stories which made news in the previous year. First up, January through April.

by Willie Elliott
Staff Writer

From the outset, negotiations between Highlands Regional Medical Center and its union workers appeared more likely headed to conflict rather than compromise.

The old contract between the two expired on July 11, and the union threatened a strike for August 2 if a new contract was not negotiated. From that time until the strike was settled, relations worsened between the hospital and Service Employees Industrial Union 1199.

The primary issues in the dispute were

job security and benefits. Also at issue was the bargaining status of nurses. The union wanted the nurses included with other general workers, while the medical center wanted separate contracts that would expire on different dates.

After the union delayed the strike and held some sessions with the center, the union announced another strike for September 2. After little progress was made in negotiations, union members walked out of the facility chanting "1, 2, 3, 4 — union workers out the door."

(See Strike, page two)



Striking workers stayed upbeat during the early days of the labor conflict at Highlands Regional Medical Center. The strike took its toll, however, as each side accused the other of unruly conduct.

Courthouse undergoes shake-up

by Randell Reno
Staff Writer

As Floyd County approaches the new year, it closes the books on a turbulent year among county officeholders, with old guard occupants of the county clerk's and circuit clerk's offices stepping down — the former amid controversy — and the sheriff's office facing issues of ethics that took months to resolve.

Problems in the county clerk's

office from the previous year spilled into 1999, as an indictment against County Clerk Carla Robinson Boyd was handed down in November of 1998, a charge of which she was later convicted.

Accused of theft by failure to make required disposition of property, Boyd had served in the clerk's office 28 years. She began her service under her uncle in 1971, was elected to the office in 1983 and served 16 years as clerk.

Sentenced to five years proba-

tion and required to make full restitution of \$26,821.85 within a year, Boyd was told by Floyd Circuit Judge John David Caudill, "If you have to sell your house or other property, it's your own fault."

Caudill chose rehabilitation over imprisonment for Boyd because he felt it was the better route to go. But he also had stern words for her.

(See Courthouse, page three)

PCC president topples amid campus strife

Times Staff Report

One longtime employee was relieved of duty with pay, another was transferred, and the leader stepped down.

These were just a few of the changes at Prestonsburg Community College over the year.

John Herald, a 28-year employee of the college, was transferred to the KCTCS office, and Brenda Music, who worked for PCC for 27 years, was given leave with pay. Herald was dean of business affairs, while Music was director of financial aid.

In a letter dated April 23 to President Dr. Deborah Floyd, the college's testing program was

cited with a number of deficiencies by a state administrator for the General Education Development (GED) examination.

"Our examination identified more than \$20,000 in fees misappropriated from the college's testing program due to failure to deposit cash receipts collected from individuals," said Edward Hatchett, Kentucky's Auditor of Public

(See PCC, page two)

County has new super... again

by Randell Reno
Staff Writer

Like many years past, 1999 brought with it a new superintendent for Floyd County Schools.

The Floyd County Board of Education received 35 applications for the position which has been the hot seat for many years.

The list was narrowed to four, then two, before the board decided to hire Alexander City, Alabama, Superintendent Paul Walton Fanning.

Fanning had been the

(See Fanning, page two)

Ignorance of disease's nature bred fear

by Randell Reno
Staff Writer

One of the most intriguing stories of 1999 involved two children living in the Mud Creek area.

In August, 14-year-old Clifford Daniels, a student at Betsy Layne High School suddenly lost his life to a case of bacterial meningitis.

Known as neisseria meningitidis, the bacteria was said to be the most common form of menin-

(See Meningitis, page two)



Parents gathered in a prayer circle prior to a September meeting concerning meningitis in local schools.

KSP touts 'Bat-cave technology' in statewide network

by Randell Reno
Staff Writer

Kentucky State Police has a new weapon against crime.

A new digital fingerprint scanning device is now available statewide, making KSP the only agency in the country to have such a device in every district.

Lieutenant Kevin Payne, KSP commander of public affairs in Frankfort, said with the old Automated Fingerprint System (AFIS) the KSP had 425 hits or

matching fingerprints from unsolved or difficult crimes in ten years. With the new system they have had 350 hits in just 20 months.

While the new AFIS can search through fingerprints at a much faster rate, Payne said a hit only begins the trail.

"A hit is not a conclusive reason to arrest," he said. "We can't make an arrest on matching fingerprints. A bloody fingerprint is stronger evidence."

AFIS puts the offender's fingerprints on a statewide computer network. The

KSP will not only be able to link with every police agency in the state, but also across the U.S. and with the FBI.

AFIS has a storage capacity of 1 million records, two remote latent stations at Lexington Metro and Jefferson County Corrections and a total of 80 LiveScans at jails and prisons throughout the state.

Kentucky's system is one of only three AFIS systems in the world that uses Printrack Enhanced System. By using the "Lights Out" System, fingerprint searches can be done from LiveScans without

human intervention required. The system will conduct fingerprint searches 24 hours a day and send a response back within minutes to the LiveScan which submitted the search.

The database also includes latent fingerprints submitted from crime scenes or evidence collected at crime scenes or recovered during the investigation of a crime.

When a match has been found from a DUI or a murder, for example, the state police can send a message to local police

forces informing them of the match and a potential clue in a case.

Payne said the scanners were set up in Lexington and in Louisville as a pilot program. They broke ground in cases that boggled law enforcement officials there for years.

"They had five hits in five unsolved cases. One was 20 years old," said Payne.

Equipment has been ordered and scheduled for delivery for a sex offender reg-

(See Court, page two)

(Continued from page one)

PCC

Accounts. "We also identified non-compliance with University of Kentucky policies concerning staff overtime and instances of inappropriate use of college personnel."

A total of \$20,565 in testing fees was collected but not deposited from July 1995 through January 1999 at Prestonsburg Community College. The report said testing fees should have amounted to \$35,252,

but only \$14,502 was actually turned in.

The audit stated that Music said she was told by a former PCC president — the late Dr. Henry Campbell — in 1989 that she could keep the cash collected from testing to compensate her for the extra time and work involved.

She also said, according to the report, that she sometimes used the

cash to pay persons who helped with the testing and to buy lunch for the testing staff.

Music did not give receipts to persons who paid cash to take the test until a policy change in 1998. Herald reportedly told auditors he was not aware that cash fees were not turned in to the business office.

The audit, however, said that Herald approved daily cash transmittal sheets and he had the "opportunity to recognize that virtually no cash from testing was being deposited and that very few receipts were written and remitted to the business office."

Under a flurry of allegations and in the middle of discord at the college, PCC president Dr. Deborah Floyd announced her retirement.

Citing the findings of a team of consultants as far back as early 1996, the state auditor's management audit of Prestonsburg Community College said that the Kentucky Community and Technical College System "should address conflict at PCC to restore a productive work environment. We are concerned, first and foremost, with the increasing lack of civility and erosion of professionalism observed by us and reported to us during our visit."

The report continued, "The staff is polarized. Fear of retribution per-

sists. Complaints, rumors, the threat of legal actions, and reports of misconduct or misappropriation as alleged by anonymous third parties continue. Management and staff appear to have little desire or ability to successfully deal with issues internally."

Hatchett's staff interviewed PCC employees, who allegedly said they were asked by Floyd to perform personal work for her during their regular working hours, including "working at her apartment and performing personal errands."

Further allegations were made that the president asked that the fax machine in her office be programmed so that the sender's identification and telephone numbers would not appear on materials that were faxed from that office — a violation of federal law.

The president denied the allegation. But the report said a fax from the development office lacked the identifying information, and on May 24, the auditor's office received a fax from the Office of Student Affairs that did not identify the sender.

Dr. Floyd announced that she was leaving on sabbatical July 1 and would retire November 1. Floyd was the second president in the college's 35-year history.

She said she thought she had

stayed long enough at the college to honor her commitment when she was hired in 1992 to "make a difference."

Dr. Charles Stebbins, former president of Elizabethtown Community College was introduced as the college's interim president. He will serve until a permanent president is selected through a formal search. No timeline for a search was given.

"I want to hear what you have to say are your own strengths and

what are the obstacles to our success," Stebbins told PCC staff members following his hiring.

Referring to himself as an "environmental engineer," Stebbins said his role is to "create an environment that enables you to do the best you can and to enjoy it."

"There's no reason we shouldn't all look forward to coming to work," he said. "My job is to create an environment for you to enjoy coming to work."

Strike

(Continued from page one)

As the workers manned their positions near the hospital, friction began to mount between the two sides. The hospital said the union was interfering with patients and supply vendors when they entered the hospital.

On September 17, the hospital obtained an injunction from Judge David Hagerman in Boyd County against the picketers. Local judges recused themselves from the dispute. The injunction decreed that the number of picketers at the entrance must be limited.

At one point personnel in the

hospital placed signs out the window of the center, one which read "Honk, if you want to work," and one reminded the workers how close Christmas was.

Dr. Bernard Greisman tendered his resignation, writing to Bud Warman, CEO of Consolidated Health Systems. "Your prime concern seems to be the making of money and saving of expenses."

As the strike dragged on, local citizens, business leaders and government entities pleaded with both sides to come to an agreement for the good of the whole community.

Other unions, including the Kentucky AFL-CIO, state Buildings and Trades and the United Mine Workers, pledged continued support for the workers.

The union held a rally for the workers on November 6, in the municipal parking lot in Prestonsburg. The message was "stay the course" and "we will bring the hospital to its knees." At that point the workers had been on strike for 65 days and union organizer, Kathy McCormick, said, "If it takes 65 more, so be it."

Then on November 14 the two sides reached an agreement, with picket paraphernalia coming down the next day. An agreement was also worked out about worker recalls. The workers were recalled on a seniority basis.

While the exact vote total was never made public, several workers said they were satisfied with the contract.

"We didn't get everything we wanted, but that is the way it usually happens," McCormick said about the agreement. She said the workers got affordable insurance, seniority language and the elimination of subcontracting, among other concessions.

Fanning

(Continued from page one)

superintendent there for nearly 16 years, before accepting the job in Floyd County.

The board approved the contract for Fanning in late June. The contract is for four years with an annual \$95,000 salary for a 240-day work year. Many other fringe benefits were included in the contract.

Fanning trained under interim superintendent and state manager Woodrow Carter for most of the summer after assuming his duties July 19.

Fanning got his first taste of the complexity of Floyd County when the southern schools were under a health panic brought about by reports of meningitis in the area.

After meeting with state health department officials, the new superintendent decided to cancel classes at Betsy Layne

Elementary, Betsy Layne High School and John M. Stumbo Elementary.

"This period will cover the time of incubation outlined by the health department in this particular situation," Fanning said.

"We asked the state health department to provide us with information and the community with information. With school returning, hopefully, we can build back to regular attendance."

Fanning said that, during a state superintendent's meeting, many of the superintendents heard of the local hysteria through the media and had expressed their concerns for the local children.

Rumors regarding an outbreak of the disease spread quickly through the county, and Fanning admitted that is one thing a school system has to deal with once in a while.

"The rumor mill, we have to work with it," Fanning said. "We have worked with the most accurate information we could ascertain. We gave this information to the schools, the community, and to the families. We are going to keep our eyes and ears open and keep in touch with the state health department. We want to get back into the routine as soon as possible. Teachers want to get the education process back on track. We want to get back to what we're there for."

Meningitis

(Continued from page one)

gitis in young people by Alice C. Thornton, an infectious disease specialist with the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center.

The untimely passing of the young man soon received statewide notoriety when another child contacted the same virus.

Jessica Bentley, a Betsy Layne Elementary student, contracted the disease almost one month after Daniels did.

The news of Bentley's ailment spread across the southern end of the county and the ensuing panic caused many parents to keep their children home from school.

Fears caused by widespread unfamiliarity with the disease dropped attendance at Betsy Layne High School to 50 percent, John M. Stumbo Elementary to 25 percent, and Betsy Layne Elementary, the county's largest elementary school, to nine percent.

Health department officials, school board members and school officials met with the public in an attempt to calm the anxiety. But it took giving the three schools a temporary break to reassure parents their children would not be endangered.

Several cases of viral meningitis broke out across the county adding to public fears.

Betty Hall of Prater Creek told the Times, "We need to know more about this situation and what's going on and what they're going to do to correct it. We don't know where to turn or what to do for the kids, and it's got us in a panic."

After several weeks of lower than normal attendance, residents in the southern part of Floyd County relaxed and allowed their children to return to school, when no new cases of bacterial meningitis where found.

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Prestonsburg Village

Job Corps holds annual dinner

by Willie Elliott
Staff Writer

For 18 years the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center has planned a dinner for those students who must remain on the premises during the holidays. This year was no different.

Students from Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and New Jersey will stay at the center during the holidays. To compensate for not being with their families, the center provides them with a Christmas meal, where students, staff members, board members and friends come in to celebrate the season.

At this year's dinner, Alia Timmons, of New Jersey, said she would be staying because she would probably be going home in January when she is expected to finish her training in culinary arts.

Timmons said she hopes to go back to New Jersey, get a job and an apartment.

Timmons said she had spoken on the phone with her mother earlier in the day. She said her mom was sending her a gift. The classes at

the center are self-paced so Timmons can progress at her own pace to finish her requirements.

Another person at the dinner was a guest, but with a twist: he is a former student at the center. Thomas Miller went through the program at the center earning a GED and getting skill certification in carpentry. Since then he has joined the United States Navy and plans to enter the SEALS program. Miller gives the center credit for making his entry and success in the Navy possible.

About 20 students will remain at the center where they will continue their class work, go to movies or shopping and enjoy one another's company.



Alia Timmons



Thomas Miller

Courthouse

(Continued from page one)

"You are a thief," Caudill told Boyd. "You have violated the public trust. You should be ashamed."

Hydee Hawkins, special prosecutor in the case, asked for a five year sentence. She contended that Boyd used the money for a diamond ring, car payments, gas and water bills.

Boyd, who resigned from her office in April, pleaded guilty during a pretrial hearing and was soon sentenced to serve probation and to serve five hours "of meaningful community service."

Boyd was assailed in 1995 by then-Auditor Ben Chandler as having "the worst of any clerk's records" he had seen. His audit alleged a deficit of \$193,126.

Deputy County Judge-Executive Chris Waugh was appointed to the position of county clerk following Boyd's resignation. He was elected to the office in November.

The circuit clerk's office saw many changes also.

Circuit Court Clerk Frank DeRossett Jr. was appointed to the Kentucky Parole Board in April and left his office on May 31.

Paula Layne was appointed to fill his position in late June. She left office on September 1, and Douglas Ray Hall was sworn into the position. Hall was elected to the position in November.

Ethical issues plagued the first year of new Sheriff John K. Blackburn's, as a local ethics panel investigated whether he could his wife as a deputy.

Pam Blackburn was hired by the previous Sheriff Paul Hunt Thompson as a deputy, but Floyd County Ethics Commission Chairman John Rosenberg said all the previous employees of the sheriff's department were automatically terminated and had to be rehired by the incoming sheriff.

The nepotism issue dragged into the latter part of the year before Floyd Fiscal Court amended the policy.

The amendment allows for one relative — spouse, parent, child, brother or sister — to work for a county official if he or she is qualified at the time of employment, is hired on the basis of merit and the applicable job description and was hired prior to August 27, 1999.

Pam Blackburn originally asked the court for back pay. She had worked as a deputy for the sheriff's office for eight months without pay. She later decided to drop the charges, in effect donating her time spent to the office, to avoid further publicity.

Dotson

(Continued from page one)

Responding to the rumor that Dotson might rescind his resignation, Birdwell said such action would not create a problem, as long as the action was taken before the end of the year, Dotson's requested resignation date.

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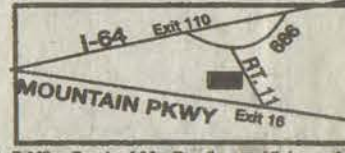


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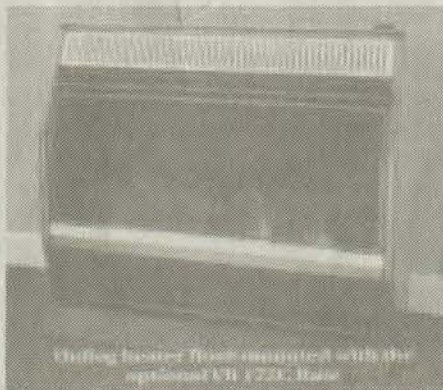
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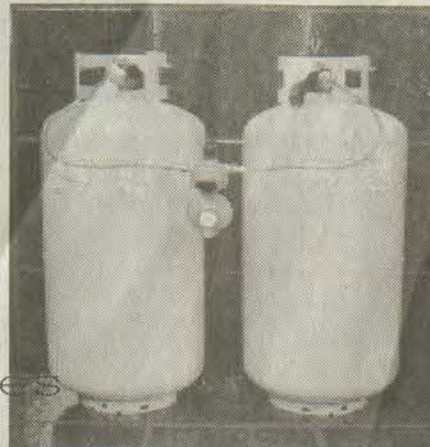


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—First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution—

Viewpoint

QUOTE OF THE DAY...

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

Epictetus—

Sunday, December 26, 1999 A4

Editorial

Delay is good news

Plans to delay construction of a state prison in Knott County may be bad news for the economy of that job-poor eastern Kentucky county, but the reason for the delay is good news for the rest of Kentucky: Not enough inmates to fill the proposed prison.

Plans for the 896-bed medium security prison were announced the same time as plans for a similar lock-up in Elliott County, and the two prisons were third on a list of major construction projects recommended in October by the state Capital Planning Advisory Board for funding during the 2000-02 budget.

Funding for the Elliott County prison is still expected to be approved by the 2000 General Assembly. That's good news for those hoping the prison will dramatically reduce Elliott County's double-digit unemployment rate.

However, officials have put the Knott County project on the shelf for a couple of years while they reassess the need for it.

Major crime is decreasing in Kentucky, just as it is in the nation as a whole. One reason for the decline is that hardened criminals are spending more time behind bars.

As a result, the inmate population in Kentucky's prisons has been growing by leaps and bounds, prompting the need for more prisons. However, Kentucky may be reaching the point where it has enough prison beds — at least for the time being.

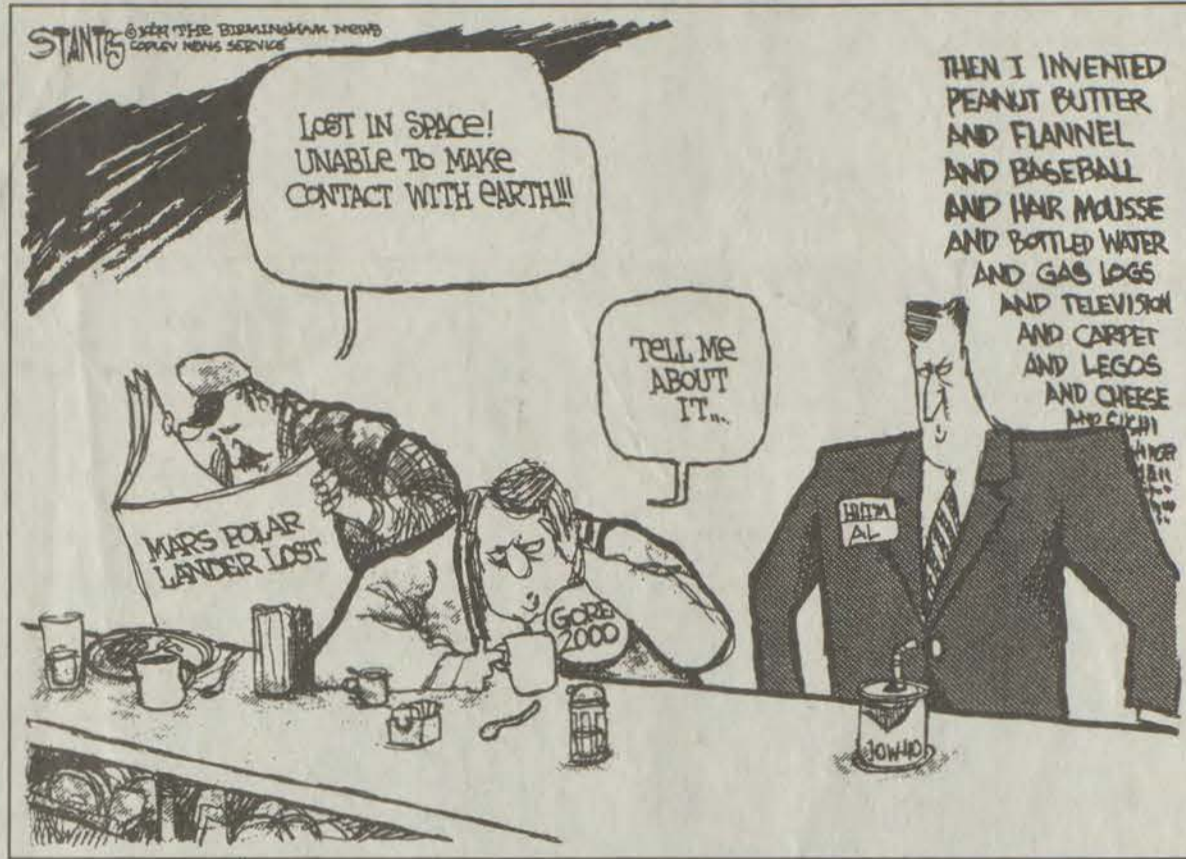
As of (December 17), Kentucky's prison population stood at 15,270. While it is not decreasing, it is not growing at the rate it was just a few years ago.

The leveling off of the prison population already is having an impact on the state's three private prisons. Citing empty beds, Corrections Corporation of America in Nashville has threatened to close its Floyd County facility unless it is permitted to bring in 600 Indiana inmates.

Just a few years ago, Kentucky was forced to release an increasing number of prisoners who had served only a fraction of their sentences because of a lack of space to house them. Space apparently is no longer a serious problem — or at least it won't be once the Elliott County prison is completed.

Housing inmates is extremely expensive, but justice demands appropriate punishment for those who violate the law. Thus, the best possible reason for delaying the construction of a prison is not because the state lacks the money, but because there is not a need for the space.

— *The Daily Independent, Ashland*



Letters to the Editor

Idea may bear fruit

Editor:

It was certainly interesting to read your editorial appearing in the Dec. 10 issue of the "Floyd County Tattler" in regard to the shortage of prisoners for incarceration in the Otter Creek Correctional facility and a proposition to bring in convicts from Indiana.

If the deal with Indiana should not come to fruition, I have a perfect solution to remedy that Otter Creek problem. Here in Oklahoma, our prisons are bursting at the seams, desperately in need of space to house prisoners. Our governor, Frank Keating, has privatized a large portion of the prison system in an attempt to cut the costs, but the expenses have been more than anticipated and the total bill is bleeding the state white. Tulsa County has also privatized its jail, but the expected cost savings have failed to materialize and they have gone in the hole on the deal.

The state of Kentucky should make an offer to take as many as they can of these unsavory thugs off our hands for a fee. This should be a benefit to both states by relieving the overload here and bringing more pay-

roll dollars in to Eastern Kentucky

While I was growing up on "Fur Beaver Creek" in Floyd County, I was naive enough to think that we in Kentucky had an exclusive patent on meanness. However, I later learned that the outlaws we have in Oklahoma make the Kentucky thugs look like a Sunday School class. We have an endless supply of crooks. Our prison population keeps growing and there is no end in sight. Perhaps a suggestion should be made to the powers that be that an offer be made to house a few of these wayward Okies from the flatland prairies in the beautiful green hills of Kentucky. The idea may bear fruit for both states.

They say that for a business deal to be a good one, both parties have to gain something from the arrangement. This is one instance where that would be certainly true. I enjoy your thoughts in the paper. Keep up the good work.

Best Regards,
J.R. Stephens
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Guest Column

The rising investor class

Owning stock once distinguished American workers from the wealthy. Not anymore. Stock ownership has increased significantly during the 1990s among virtually all social classes and adult age groups in America. Half of the nation's stockholders now have household incomes of \$50,000 or less.

Experts describe this as the rise of an "investor class." It will benefit the nation in several ways.

Stock ownership enables people to create a retirement nest egg — a vital development, given uncertainties over Social Security. It provides new capital for entrepreneurial activity. Used as part of a compensation package, studies show, it boosts productivity and job satisfaction.

In the mid-1960s, only 10 percent of American adults owned stock. Between 1965 and 1990, the number of individual stockholders doubled. Then, between 1990 and 1997, it doubled again. Today, around 76 million Americans hold stock. That represents 43 percent of the nation's households and 38 percent of adults.

The effect has been particularly striking for many working-class Americans. Consider families with incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999: In 1989, about one-third of them owned stock; in 1995, nearly half did so. This expansion involved millions of households. In fact, there are now 10 million stock-owning families with incomes of \$25,000 or less.

This change has stemmed in part from the shift away from traditional "defined-benefit" pension plans toward 401(k) plans and mutual funds. During the 1990s, the number of companies offering 401(k)s more than tripled. The mutual fund holdings of private pension plans increased fifteenfold.

Individual retirement accounts, or IRAs, have been the other big factor encouraging stock ownership. Assets invested in IRAs leaped from \$200 billion in 1985 to \$1.3 trillion in 1997.

Stock ownership, while growing strongly for all social groups, is still rare among low-income people

and minorities, however. In 1995, three-fourths of families with an income between \$10,000 and \$24,999 owned no stock. For the same year, 71 percent of all nonwhite worker households had no involvement in employer-based stock plans.

Low-income workers will be among the citizens most dependent on Social Security in coming decades. They will be among the ones most harmed if federal officials continue to dawdle and leave the system unreformed.

All is not perfect, either, for workers participating in 401(k) plans and mutual funds. A 1999 survey showed that many workers with stock investments don't understand the basic workings of the stock market. Less than a quarter of respondents said they consider themselves "knowledgeable" investors.

More workers obviously need to take the initiative and educate themselves about the market.

Employers can help, too, by providing workers with more details about company retirement plans. Companies often provide only general information on such plans, out of fear that employees could sue them if the company's advice produces bad results. Sometimes employee indifference gets in the way.

But companies can legally provide more information than they often do, according to a recent report from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. Any legal problem arises when financial advice comes from the company directly handling the investment, rather than the employers, according to the report.

The rise of an investor class holds promise for America. It is creating new wealth and security for millions of Americans. In the new century, the nation will benefit if even more low-income Americans join that club and if all members of the investor class increase their understanding of how to prosper once they have joined.

— Reprinted from the Omaha World-Herald.

Poison Pen

by Ralph Davis
Managing Editor



Year-end cleaning

With the holiday just past and the spirit of goodwill still hanging in the air, I feel it is probably a good idea to toss the poison pen into the drawer for a week and take a more sedate approach.

One thing I can and probably should do is take the opportunity to answer a question which often gets tossed my way.

"Why do call your column 'Poison Pen?'"

Contrary to what some might believe, it was never my intention to purposefully roast our elected leaders in my column. But that is a perception which has followed me throughout my career in the newspaper biz, so I figured why not just throw it out there.

You see, I have this habit of speaking my mind about things, and that gets under some people's skin. I can't help it. It's just the way I do things.

From the time I was very small, I have always had an unhealthy fascination with politics and government. It's truly sad to say, but my earliest vivid memory is of watching Richard Nixon's resignation on television.

In high school, I would take the newspaper to class with me every day to keep tabs on what was happening in Washington. And when the presidential election rolled around, I would buy three — the Lexington Herald Leader, the Louisville Courier-Journal and USA Today — just to keep up with all the activities and rumors about the campaigns.

When I got to college, majoring in political science was only natural. I also had a chance to work as a gopher for the 1988 General Assembly (oh, the stories I could tell about some of our legislators) and had plenty of opportunity to dabble in a little volunteer work for some campaigns.

Once out of college and into the news business, my political interests shifted from the national scene to the local level. That shouldn't be a surprise, since my job depended on local happenings.

In the years that followed, my interest in politics naturally spilled into my column, and I often found myself writing about what our state and local leaders were doing, both the good and the bad. I never claimed a monopoly on being right about what I wrote; I just offered my perspective and always encouraged readers to write in with theirs.

At least, that's the way I thought it was supposed to work. I was in for a rude awakening.

I remember one year, during a nasty sheriff's race in a county two hours from here, I quite simply wrote that I thought it was disgusting to hear campaigning over the police scanner.

You see, the incumbent sheriff was running against the local jailer and, seemingly every time a deputy arrested someone, they would make a big deal over the radio about not being able to find the jailer. I felt that was an inappropriate use of an emergency radio system and I said so, without naming the people or offices involved.

I guess that was the wrong thing to say. The next day I found myself called over to the sheriff's office, where I got the butt-chewing of my life.

That was all fine. Working in a newspaper, you either grow thick skin or find another line of work. But it didn't stop

See Pen, page five

Happy Holidays
from the staff of the
Floyd County Times

The Floyd County Times

Published Wednesday, Friday and Sunday each week

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Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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



AC JROTC marches in governor's parade

Allen Central JROTC Rebel battalion attended Governor Paul Patton's inauguration parade in Frankfort on the seventh of December.

The cadets were well prepared for the parade because of their participation in the Red, White and Blue parade each year.

There were many students in

attendance from various school throughout the state. Among those students were the South Floyd Raider band. The band did exceptionally well despite the cold weather conditions.

The Allen Central cadets were positioned near the front of the parade.

When the cadets began to march,

the sun had begun to warm the cold air, making the parade more enjoyable. As the battalion passed the bridge leading to downtown Frankfort, the view from of the capitol, even from a distance, was spectacular.

As the group neared the governor's platform, there were many television stations covering the

Pen

(Continued from page one)

there. From that point on, just about every time I drove anywhere, a deputy would follow along behind, once even 20 miles into the next county.

There were anonymous threatening phone calls and I once returned to my apartment to find that someone had been there. Nothing was taken or destroyed, but things were moved around a bit to let me know someone had been there.

I guess the scariest it ever got was when I followed the sheriff and state police on one of their pot-chopping raids. The state police ventured into the pot field to do their business, leaving the sheriff and a deputy behind to watch the cars.

The whole time we waited for the big boys to return with their haul, the sheriff took another opportunity to chew me out, while his

tobacco-spitting deputy stood glaring at me, occasionally patting the gun on his hip and grinning the whole time.

That was the worst I've ever had it. But it's not the only time something I've written has landed me in hot water with an elected official, most of the time unintentionally.

From my perspective, the problem generally lies with officials who view their public roles as extensions of their personal selves. So, when I see a school board or fiscal court or city council do something I don't think is right, and then call attention to it in my column, those officials interpret my remarks as a personal attack and they get personal right back.

In my column, I intend to comment about politics and government in our fair community. My words will often be critical of some action taken by one of our local govern-

ment bodies, not in an attempt to vilify any particular person or group, but to point out our shortcomings so that we may fix them.

I don't apologize for that. I feel it is a newspaper's responsibility to spur public debate about local issues. To do that, the newspaper itself and the writers who comprise it must offer their opinions.

Those who disagree with the newspaper or its writers have an open invitation to respond, hopefully in a manner which engages the debate and offers alternative ideas.

But the battle to increase dialogue is lost when an official takes our opinions personally and resorts to angry phone calls or public tongue-lashings in response, rather than rational debate.

That being said, I know I will at times step on a few toes. Thus, the "Poison Pen."

Dr. James Campbell INTERNAL MEDICINE

Dr. James Campbell is an Internal Medicine physician who specializes in the care of adults.

Born and reared in Floyd County, his heritage is nestled in four generations in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky; a descendent of Campbell, Goble, Damron, and Tackett families.

After graduating with honors from Eastern Kentucky University in Chemistry and Biology, he graduated with honors from the University of Kentucky with a second Bachelor's degree in Allied Health. He attended The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and graduated with honors in 1994. His postdoctoral training included an internship at Tucson General Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, followed by a three-year residency program in Internal Medicine at the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and is recognized by both The American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association. He is an active member of the American College of Internal Medicine and The Kentucky medical Association. He is an Associate Professor



at the Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine where he lectured for over 20 hours in 1999. He is an assistant professor for the University of Kentucky. He has given talks during regional medical seminars and he is primary author in a recent article published in an international medical journal, *The Cleveland Clinic Journal*, October, 1999.

Dr. Campbell is proud to be practicing with Dr. Ira B.

Potter, who has been serving the people of Eastern Kentucky for over 28 years. Dr. Campbell is an internist who treats virtually all adult medical problems, but has special interest in diabetes, heart and lung problems, stomach problems, thyroid disorders, obesity, arthritis and preventive medicine.

The Potter Medical Clinic is equipped to provide a host of services and is staffed with over 20 full-time employees.

Dr. Campbell has admitting privileges at Highlands Regional medical Center and Our Lady of the Way Hospital. He is accepting new patients. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome.

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So don't wait for it to green up. See your John Deere dealer today because the offers end February 29, 2000.



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OBITUARIES

Bessie Yates

Bessie Yates, 93, of Honaker, died Tuesday, December 21, 1999, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital, following an extended illness.

Born on October 28, 1906, in Magoffin County, she was the daughter of the late Hassel and Mary Marshall. She was a member of the Church of Christ, at Harold.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tivis Yates.

Survivors include two sons, Hershel Yates and Charles Yates, both of Honaker; one daughter, Pearlene Hamilton of Murray; 24 grandchildren; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, December 24, at 1 p.m., at the Harold Church of Christ, with James Harmon officiating.

Burial will be in the Yates Hunter Cemetery, Honaker, under the direction of the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

—Reprinted due to an error.

Omer Edwin Slone

Omer Edwin Slone, 74, of LaGrange, Ohio, died Wednesday, December 15, 1999, at the Cleveland Clinic after a short illness.

Born in Wayland, the son of the late Bessie and Elmer Slone, he had lived in the LaGrange area since 1953. He was retired from the Ford Motor Company in Brook Park. He served in China with the Army infantry during World War II.

He was a member of Pleasant View Old Regular Baptist Church in Litchfield, where he was a deacon for many years.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Marjorie; a daughter, Belinda E. Reutz of Elyria; a son, Douglas E. of New Port Richey, Florida; two sisters, Evalene Slone and Minnie Forbush, both of Elyria; two brothers, Jerry of Shiloh and Nelson of Elyria; three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were Saturday, December 18, at 11 a.m., at the church, with burial following in the River Road Cemetery in LaGrange.



Mary Martin posed as a patient in need of surgery during Our Lady of the Way Hospital's mock disaster on Monday. Kathy Stumbo, chief operating officer of the facility, said the hospital conducts these training sessions frequently. She said it was held at this time to coincide with Y2K scare that has caused concern to some. Stumbo said the exercise involved people from all departments of the hospital. (photo by Willie Elliott)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: As a service to the many clubs and committees that meet in our community, The Floyd County Times' Community Calendar will post meeting and public service announcements. Articles for the Community Calendar must be submitted in writing to The Times no later than 5 p.m. Monday for Wednesday's publication, 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday's publication, or 5 p.m. Thursday for Sunday's publication. These cannot be taken over the telephone.

Sullivan College's Registration

Winter registration for classes beginning January 3 at Sullivan College's extended campus location at Prestonsburg Community College for the 2+2 Bachelor of Business Administration degree program currently open. The application deadline has been extended, so there is still time to enroll. Student financial aid is also still available to those who qualify. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday evenings on the PCC campus. To speak with an academic advisor or for registration information, contact Kimberly Coleman at Sullivan College at (800) 467-6281.

County Pictorial History 2000 calendar available

The Floyd County Pictorial History 2000 Calendar containing 18 pictures of various county locations and scenes is available from any member of the Floyd County Historical Society. The cost is \$8.

County Pictorial History Book has been delayed

The publisher has delayed delivery of the Floyd County Pictorial History Book. When the books arrive, notification will be published in this paper.

Additional sales of the book after December 15, are \$42.50 plus KY tax of \$2.55. Shipping costs \$6, or books can be picked up at the Samuel May House. Additional orders can be mailed to the Friends of the Samuel May House, PO Box 1460, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

McDowell High School alumni association

The McDowell High School Alumni Association will hold its monthly meeting at the McDowell Senior Citizens Center Monday, January 3, at 6 p.m. All graduates and friends of the McDowell High School are encouraged to attend.

Lodge to elect officers

The officers of Prestonsburg's Zebulon Lodge No. 273, F&AM, to serve for the year 2000, will be elected at a meeting to be held Monday, December 27, at 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

Pikeville Methodist Hospital January 2000

January 4: Prepared Childbirth

Classes will be offered from 7-9 p.m., at the Education Center, located in the Wallen & Cornette Building. Pre-register at 437-3938.

January 18: So you're going to have a baby? An Epidural Class will be offered from 7-9 p.m., at the Education Center, located in the Wallen & Cornette Building. Pre-register at 437-3938.

January 19: A Sibling Class will be offered from 6-7 p.m., at PMH. Participants meet in the lobby. Pre-register at 437-3938.

For a complete listing of hospital-sponsored events, call the Events Line at 437-2003.

You or someone you know can't stop drinking

Alcoholics Anonymous is willing to help. For more information, call 1-800-467-8019.

Al Anon: For support and understanding of the disease—meets, 8 p.m., Saturdays, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. (Alanon is for family members of alcoholics).

Depressed Anonymous

Are you feeling lonely, hopeless and trapped in a self-constructed prison and can't overcome it or get out? This support group is not for those people who need it but for those people who want it. We understand. For more information, call: Randall, 886-0483; Jim, 886-3027; Jane—886-8219; Sue—789-8712.

SF Youth Service Center

Walking track is open to the general public, 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. (walking track is closed during special events). The Center is sponsoring several guest presentations. Contact the center for time and subjects. The center has a One-stop Career Station satellite, available to the community as well as to the students. Stop in Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Anyone interested in Adult Education should contact the center.

The South Floyd Youth Services Center is located on South Floyd's campus in room 232. For more information, contact Keith Smallwood or Mable Hall 606/452-9600, ext. 243.

G.E.D. classes

Linda Bailey of The David School will teach G.E.D. classes at the Mud Creek Community Family Resource/Youth Service Center each Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are free.

McDowell Family Resource Center Activities

G.E.D. classes are each Monday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., free of charge for those interested in earning their G.E.D.

The Floyd County Health Departments Nurse is at the Center each Monday to see patients needing immunizations, T.B. Skin tests, pre-natal W.I.C., W.I.C., and school physicals (head start, kindergarten, 6th grade).

Call to schedule an appointment, 377-2678.

A Mountain Comprehensive Care counselor is at the Center each Tuesday to see students in need of counseling services. If you feel your child is in need of counseling services, call the Center for more information, 377-2678.

If you would like more information on any of the above programs or services contact the Center, 377-2678.

Big Sandy Abuse Center

If you are a victim of abuse, remember it is not your fault! The abuser is responsible for their behavior. If there is no intervention, the abuse will only get worse over time. Break the cycle of abuse; call the Big Sandy Family Abuse Center's 24-hour crisis line to find a way out of victimization. Call 886-6025, or out-of-the-area 1-800-649-6605. Remember: Love doesn't have to hurt!

Martin High alumni

Mark your calendar now for Martin Purple Flash Bash, 2000 on Memorial Day weekend, 2000. This will be perhaps the last Martin Purple Flash Homecoming. The event will begin on Friday evening and end Saturday night with the alumni dance.

Veterans rep.

A Veterans Benefit Field Representative for the Kentucky Department for Veterans Affairs has an office on the third floor of the

Floyd County Courthouse. He is there to assist veterans and their dependents in filing for state and federal benefits. This service is free and is provided by the commonwealth. Call 606/886-7920. If there is no answer, leave a message and he will return your call.

PHS classes to host reunion

Prestonsburg High School classes of 1940-49 will have a reunion September 23, 2000, at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. Members of those classes shall contact graduates in Prestonsburg by January 15.

Apples for the students

James A. Duff is collecting Food City receipts that will help us to get free computers and other items that we can use in our school. Help us by saving your receipts and either send them to school with your child or dropping them off at the Family Resource Center. You may also drop them off at the front office of our school. We would appreciate any help you could give our school with this project.

Veterans affairs

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to locate family members of missing soldiers that fought in the Korean War. U.S. and North Korean Governments have been negotiating to bring our missing comrades home. If you are a family member of such a serviceman, from any branch of service, or know of someone that is, please contact your local KDVA field representative, Roger Belcher at 606/886-7920.

4-H has Wildcat calendars — but wait

The 4-H has University of Kentucky Wildcat calendars on sale for \$7, while they last. But the Floyd County Extension Office, where they are available, will be closed until Monday, January 3. On that date or after, you can pick up a calendar at the office, 921 S. Lake Dr. in Prestonsburg.



Honda winner

Keith Sammons of Martin, left, is the winner of two Honda ATVs, given away at Prestonsburg Cycle Center on Saturday, December 18. Keith Casebolt of East Kentucky Broadcasting made the presentation. Troy Scarberry of PawPaw was the winner of the Harley Davidson Power Wheels.

City church has special service

Third Avenue Freewill Baptist Church in Prestonsburg will have a New Year's Eve watch service on Friday, December 31.

The service will begin at 8 p.m.

The pastor is Manford Fannin.

WANTED:

A part-time (20 hours a week) piano accompanist.

To apply, please contact

St. Martha Catholic Church
at (606) 874-9526

Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The deadline to apply is the end of December.

ATTENTION

KIDNEY DIALYSIS PATIENTS
Renal Care Group (RCG)

That operates Pikeville Kidney Center
Located off US 23 South near Magic Mart
Is accepting new DIALYSIS patients

Please call Dr. Quddus at (606) 432-4477
or (606) 437-0662

-NOTICE-

Due to the New Year's Holiday, The Floyd County Times will be temporarily adjusting deadlines for the Friday Paper, 12/31; Sunday Paper, 1/2; and the East Ky. Shopper, 1/2.

FRIDAY PAPER & SHOPPER:

Editorial— Tuesday, Dec. 28, at 12 noon
Classified, Local Advertising and Legals—
Tuesday, Dec. 28, at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY'S PAPER:

All deadlines will be Wed., Dec. 29th at 5:00 p.m.

The "Word" for the Week

God is with you

We face great changes as the new year approaches. We ponder the unknown. Huge advances in computer technology and communications mean Y2K carries its own unique challenges. Prophets of doom predict catastrophic power outages and food shortages. Recent hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes signal the real possibility of sudden disaster. Change can come swiftly and, from our perspective, unpre-

dictably.

Whether we like it or not, the new year, new century, and new millennium will bring many differences. There will be changes in age, employment, family status, financial circumstances, and a host of variables dominating the landscape of our lives. In this sea change of uncertainty, God's promise is sure, "The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Big changes were in store for God's people. Moses, their faithful leader for forty years, came to the end of his term of service. Changes like this promote fear. We dislike the unknown. What would the people do without Moses?

At the change of command ceremony, God gave Joshua and the people a promise to remember. "The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

MSU holds registration at Pike County Central High School

Morehead State University will conduct registration on Thursday and Friday, January 6-7, for its spring classes which will be held at Pike County Central High School.

Students may register from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., both days, at the Big Sandy center or by mail to Dixie L. Blankenbecker, regional campus coordinator, 215 Allie Young Hall, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. 40351.

Current students may register via MSU's Web site (www.morehead-state.edu) using their Personal Identification Number (PIN). Those who do not have a PIN number may call the Office of Information Technology at 606/783-5000.

Classes begin Monday, January 10.

Nine classes, which include undergraduate and graduate offerings, will be available this spring

for area residents. Among the areas represented are education and science.

Textbooks for the classes are available from the University Bookstore. Orders may be placed by calling (800) 786-7305; materials will be sent to the student's home address.

The cost per credit hour is \$102 for undergraduate courses and \$147 for graduate courses at the regional sites for Kentucky residents and non-residents.

Additional information is available from Blankenbecker at 606/783-2605, or toll-free at (800) 585-6781.

The spring schedule at PCCHS includes:

- EDEL 632, Elementary School Curriculum, 6 to 8:40 p.m., Thursdays;
- EDEL 680, History and

Philosophy of Education, 6 to 8:40 p.m., Wednesdays.

- EDIL 601, Introduction to School Leadership and Administration, 6 to 8:40 p.m. Mondays.

- EDIL 618, School Finance and Support Services, 6 to 8:40 p.m., Tuesdays.

- EDSE 633, Effective Classroom Instruction, 6 to 8:40 p.m., Tuesdays

- EDSE 634, Secondary School Curriculum, 4:10 to 7 p.m., Mondays.

- EDUC 582, Discipline and Classroom Management, 4:10 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

- SCI 690, Advanced Science for the Elementary Teacher, 4:10 to 6:10 p.m., Wednesdays.

- SCI 690L, Advanced Science for the Elementary Teacher, 6:20 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesdays.

Communication key when young adults return home

It might have been caused by divorce. Perhaps a death, drug abuse or financial problems. It might even have been a way to continue in school. Maybe they just weren't ready to leave in the first place. Whatever the reason, many adult children in today's society are returning home or waiting longer to leave than in the past.

"The reason for the rising number of young adults living at home is not because the children have given up on themselves, but because of larger socioeconomic events that are causing many people to look at alternative lifestyles. Today's family is picking up the slack that society is demanding," said Stephan Wilson, professor of family studies at the University of Kentucky.

"Young adults are faced with a series of decisions from education to finances that sometimes require family help. The road to independence has gotten longer and more rocky."

In today's world, a larger percentage of young adults are finding they need advanced education to move into the workforce. More than 70 percent attain some sort of high-

er education, many advancing past the traditional bachelor's degree.

To do so, many opt to stay in the parents' home a little longer than they or their parents may have expected, or than would probably have been true for their parents' generation.

"Many current young adults' parents were able to go to school and work their way through," Wilson said. "With more educational requirements and work, today's student can't always do that and be successful."

Sometimes the circumstances placing young adults in parents' homes aren't as light. After a few years out of the nest, some children return home—the result of failing relationships, finances or personal problems. Occasionally, the child simply hasn't grown up enough.

"Marriage, children, jobs. Many of the things that made it easy in the past to recognize a move out of adolescence are more and more murky today," Wilson said. "Young adults are getting more education. They are waiting longer to marry and even longer to have children."

The return move or extended

stay can create tension in the home, one that can be detrimental for all, Wilson said. Communication is a key to getting off on the right foot. Issues such as dating, finances, chores and more, should be decided up front.

"Immediately, you need to decide what set of rules to use and who is in charge of what. Failure to negotiate these things will probably mean the family will fall back on whatever were the rules when the young adult child left," Wilson said.

"This often no longer fits, and will be frustrating for both generations. Family relationships are often very set, and unlike in past generations, it isn't always clear who is in charge when an adult child returns. You have to develop a new set of ways to get along and know up front what is expected from each person."

Seeing each other on equal footing is often another key to surviving. Parents must give up some control and responsibility, and the young adult must take on that load. Parents must definitely cease treating the young adult as a child.

"For the young adult, you're trying to set your own standards, and here is a very strong person—mom or dad—pulling your back. It's a very frustrating place to be," Wilson said. "Sometimes people think they can just slip back into the familiar pattern that was there before. But, with apologies to Thomas Wolfe, 'you can't go home again' in that sense."

When grandchildren are involved, the situation is often more difficult. Grandparents must maintain their role with grandchildren, but let the parents be parents. Without strict guides on who governs the grandchild, the two sets of parents may find themselves at odds. Sometimes it may be useful to differentiate who sets the rules about how we use things in the grandparents' house and how we relate to others in the grandparents house.

In situations caused by young adults' problems, parents must be able to see past any guilt they may feel. Some parents begin to think they somehow caused their children's failures and may feel obligated to do more than they should.

"Parents have to ask, 'Can I contribute to fixing this situation? What do I want to happen and how can I contribute to getting my child there?'" Sometimes parents cannot help by sponsoring a return to their house. "There may be other resources that will be more useful to supporting their adult child's independence. They also have to see the circumstances they will have to agree to and the risks they take," said Wilson, adding that parents also have to guard their own financial security.

Seeking a neutral, third-party opinion when a problem, such as drug abuse or crime, has brought the young adult home can be a great help, Wilson advised. The neutral party should be someone each generation is reasonably comfortable with and in some cases should be a professional.

"Sometimes hearing a solution from someone other than your parents or your adult child is easier to handle," Wilson said. "Everyone has to realize this is a transition. True autonomy is accomplished not solely by what one person does, but rather by everyone moving in synch to get to the next level."

"Ultimately, young adults have to stand on their own feet and parents have to accept this."

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ACCU WEATHER 7-DAY FORECAST FOR PRESTONSBURG

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Thursday	Thu. Night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Clouds and some sunshine; chilly.	Mostly cloudy with a flurry possible.	Variable clouds and cold with a few flurries.	Becoming partly sunny, brisk and cold.	Partial sunshine; not as cold.	Mostly cloudy; chance for a shower late.	Clouds and a shower possible early.	Times of clouds and sunshine.
UV Index: 2 High 32	Low 16	UV Index: 1 28/14	UV Index: 3 34/18	UV Index: 2 40/28	UV Index: 1 44/34	UV Index: 1 46/32	UV Index: 3 40/28

UV Values indicate the sun's ultraviolet rays. The higher the UV index the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-1, minimal; 2-3, low; 4-6, moderate; 7-9, high; 10 or above, very high.



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday			Monday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Alexandria, VA	40	26	pc	37	24	pc	39	26	s	40	25	pc	41	25	sh
Beckley, WV	36	18	c	30	16	c	35	23	pc	37	24	sn	39	21	c
Bristol, TN	42	22	pc	36	20	pc	38	20	s	41	26	pc	44	24	c
Charleston, WV	34	18	pc	30	18	pc	34	22	pc	43	29	pc	43	24	c
Cincinnati, OH	26	12	pc	28	18	pc	38	26	pc	42	28	pc	49	30	s
Clarksville, TN	35	16	pc	38	22	pc	44	28	s	52	31	s	53	31	s
Evansville, IN	26	15	sf	35	20	pc	46	30	s	49	27	s	49	30	s
Frankfort	30	19	pc	33	20	pc	39	29	s	45	28	pc	45	28	pc
Huntington, WV	32	16	pc	34	22	c	38	28	sn	41	29	sn	48	32	pc
Indianapolis, IN	29	15	c	31	17	pc	38	29	s	43	28	pc	44	24	pc
Jackson	36	16	c	33	17	pc	38	28	s	45	27	pc	45	28	pc
Knoxville, TN	42	20	pc	38	24	pc	44	26	s	48	30	s	48	28	s
Lexington	30	18	pc	32	19	pc	37	29	s	44	28	pc	44	27	pc
Louisia	37	21	c	34	22	c	38	28	sn	41	29	sn	42	25	sn
Marion	36	21	pc	38	22	pc	48	31	s	51	29	s	51	32	pc
Memphis, TN	42	24	pc	46	32	s	52	36	s	56	38	s	55	42	pc
Nashville, IN	40	20	pc	44	24	pc	50	32	s	54	34	s	54	33	s
Paintsville	39	22	c	35	23	c	39	27	pc	41	29	sh	44	26	pc
Peoria, IL	26	13	pc	32	20	s	44	26	s	43	25	pc	45	23	pc
Portsmouth, OH	38	20	c	33	21	c	38	28	pc	42	29	sh	43	25	c
Salyersville	34	17	pc	35	22	c	38	27	pc	41	29	sn	43	27	sn
Tazewell, VA	35	16	pc	33	18	pc	37	22	s	39	25	sn	42	23	pc
Valley Station	34	18	c	38	24	pc	48	30	s	50	36	pc	46	30	sn
Wheeling, WV	29	16	sn	29	18	c	33	25	sf	36	26	sn	37	19	sn
Williamson, WV	39	23	c	36	24	c	40	30	sh	43	31	sh	44	28	r
Winchester	36	18	c	32	19	pc	37	29	s	44	28	pc	44	27	pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hice.

COUNTY OUTLOOK



Jenny Wiley State Park
Clouds and occasional sunshine, brisk and chilly today. Chance for some flurries tonight into Friday. Blustery on Friday. Winds today north to northwest at 10-18 mph. A light chop on the lake. Winds tomorrow northwest at 12-25 knots. A moderate chop on the lake.

Dewey Dam Lake
Clouds and some sunshine, brisk and chilly today. Chance for some flurries tonight into Friday. A cold wind expected on Friday. Winds today north to northwest at 10-18 mph. A light chop on the lake. Winds tomorrow northwest at 12-25 knots. A moderate chop on the lake.

ALMANAC

Jackson for the week ending Dec. 20.

Temperatures:

High for the week	59°
Low for the week	31°
Normal high	45°
Normal low	29°
Average temperature	45.0°
Normal average temperature	37.4°
Temperature departure	+7.6°

Precipitation:

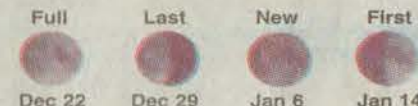
Total for the week	0.41"
Total for the month	2.42"
Total for the year	39.96"
% of normal this month	83%
% of normal this year	83%

SUN AND MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thu.	7:43 a.m.	5:17 p.m.
Fri.	7:44 a.m.	5:17 p.m.
Sat.	7:44 a.m.	5:18 p.m.

	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu.	6:39 p.m.	8:28 a.m.
Fri.	7:47 p.m.	9:27 a.m.
Sat.	8:56 p.m.	10:18 a.m.

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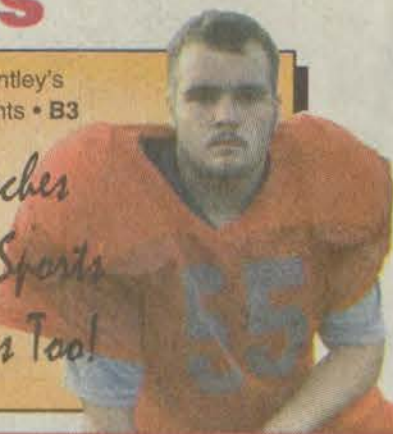
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RAQUEL LAWSON HAPPY WHERE SHE IS



by Karen Joseph
Sports Writer

Back in the mid 1980s, you could pick up a newspaper in Floyd County during basketball season, and nine times out of 10, you would read something about the "Keathley" sisters at Betsy Layne.

Now in the paper you will read about them again. Most of the time, people don't make the connection because of different last names. But the two are back at Betsy Layne, together, but this time as coaches.

Cassandra Akers is the head coach for the Betsy Layne Lady Cats and right alongside her is her sister, Raquel Lawson.

The sister duo is in their second year at Betsy Layne. This is the first time Lawson has coached at the high school level. Akers coached earlier at McDowell and Lawson coached at Harold Grade School a couple of years ago. But this is the first time that they have coached together.

"We complement each other," said the assistant coach. "I have a little more patience and Cassandra is more stern. I have always worked at the grade school level and that is what I like most."

Most assistant coaches hope someday to be a head coach. That is not the case with Lawson.

"I love where I am right now," Lawson said. "I am the office manager here at Betsy Layne High School and assistant coach for the varsity girls basketball team, and I love it. I don't have any desire to become head coach of a high school basketball team. I work better with the younger girls. I coach the junior varsity and freshman team."

"We complement each other," said the assistant coach. "I have a little more patience and Cassandra is more stern. I have always worked at the grade school level and that is what I like most."

(See Lawson, page two)

For Magoffin County, it is learning how to win Lady Hornets no longer the doormat of 57th

by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

Resurrect: "To raise from the dead ... to bring back to life." Or, "to bring back into notice, practice or use..."

Seven years ago, there was no basketball team known as the Magoffin County Lady Hornets. They just couldn't be found anywhere. And this was the case until then Magoffin County football coach Mick Caba hit town and started the girls basketball program, beginning with just a junior varsity schedule.

In the second year of the program, Neil West came on the scene and began a high school schedule that has done nothing but improve under his guidance.

Today, the Magoffin County Lady Hornets are starting to make some noise around the region and already own a district win over rival Paintsville in the powerful 57th District.

Everyone knows the history of the Lady Hornets basketball team — how they used to be the "doormat" of the 57th District and the 15th Region. How they were the team to invite to homecoming games. How they were the ones the other team's bench looked forward to playing against.

But all that has changed under Coach West and the Lady Hornets. Although very young, still they have a boat load of

talent. Coach West said there was a main ingredient that was missing and that part of the puzzle must be found.

"The main thing is getting them to learn how to win," said Coach West, who is in his fifth year at the helm of the Lady Hornets. "They have been beat so bad and pounded over the years that they have the mindset, 'We are Magoffin County, we are supposed to lose.'"

Coach West and the rest of the Magoffin County staff is trying to instill in this year's team that is not the case — now.

"We want to let them know they are a better team than the team they are playing and you are expected to win," he said.

The Magoffin County mentor said the team has a tendency to hang their heads when things are "not going well."

"A lot of times, when a game doesn't go well for them, they have a tendency to lay down and quit. Then the coaching

(See Magoffin, page two)

In double overtime... South Floyd Lady Raiders hands Betsy Layne first loss of season

SFMS takes first place in conference

by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

Ashley Johnson and Megan Ousley scored 14 points each and Leigh Ann Tuttle tossed in 10 to lead the South Floyd Middle School Lady Raiders to a 53-49 win over previously unbeaten Betsy Layne Elementary on Thursday, December 16, at the Raider Arena gym.

The win left South Floyd unbeaten in conference. Tabitha Tackett came off the South Floyd bench and contributed nine important points hitting four of four free throws in the extra periods.

Whitney Lykens, after a slow start, finished with 22 points before fouling out in the first overtime. Kim Clark fouled out two minutes after Lykens left the game and she had 10 points.

With Lykens and Clark gone, the burden rested upon the shoulders of Tabitha Witt who netted 15 points in the loss.

The two teams played to a 41-41 tie after regulation. The Lady Raiders had a chance to win it in regulation but a desperation shot by Ousley missed the mark. It was a 44-44 game after the first extra three minutes. Witt hit two free throws to tie the game and send it to the second overtime.

South Floyd was deadly from the free throw line in the second overtime as the two teams battled to within one point of each other.

In the final two overtimes, Johnson had the lone field goal for South Floyd as they lived at the free throw line. The Lady Raiders attempted 14 free throws in the two overtimes hitting 10.

South Floyd led 13-5 after the first quarter but had jumped out to a 11-0 lead before Lykens put the Ladycats on the scoreboard. Johnson scored six of her 14 points in the opening period on some power

(See SFMS, page two)

Amanda Shepherd



A Look At Sports

New millennium, new year new decade, new century

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you had a great Christmas and that your stocking was filled with all the goodies you wanted.

It is a wonderful time of the season and time for families to get together and share all the holiday cheer.

The high school basketball season is on hold for a short time and next week will be back on the court.

What the year 2000 holds, no one really knows. It is going to be an interesting time with all the predictions of the Y2K problems. Who knows?

But let's take a look at all the teams and see what they needed for Christmas that could help them in the new millennium.

ALLEN CENTRAL LADY REBELS

Coach Anthony Moore has a lot of talent on this team but needs a legitimate point guard. The Lady Rebels have had problems with the press and the trapping zones.

Shanna Howell is an excellent basketball player but more suited to the two-guard slot. The answer: Maybe Jennifer Risner at the point.

ALLEN CENTRAL REBELS

Coach Johnny Martin would love to have a 6-7 or bigger for next year, but the way the rules read, it is doubtful if he will find one to help through the rest of the season. So... Travis Francis could be the next best, as he showed quality time against Betsy Layne the other night.

Rodney Scott, let go of your temper and play basketball. You have great ability. Remain calm under pressure.

BETSY LAYNE LADYCATS

Coach Cassandra Keathley has the players, they just need better chemistry. So I hope the Ladycats will come together more as we enter the new millennium. They need to develop that "killer instinct" and learn to put teams away when they have them down.

BETSY LAYNE BOBCATS

Coach Brent Rose and the Bobcats have been the surprise this basketball season and I see them doing nothing but getting better. When you look for a shortcoming, there aren't many, but maybe one would be the inability to sustain a drive.

The new year looks good for this ballclub, but they will need more point production from Bradley Brooks, who is a capable basketball player.

PIARIST KNIGHTS

Coach Damella Bradley needs more bodies. Maybe the new year will bring more out, if possible. One thing can be said of the Knights—they never, never, ever quit.

Coach Bradley needs the presence of a big center and a shooting small forward.

PIARIST LADY KNIGHTS

This team is just having a good time and maybe a win would spoil all that in making them greedy for more. No, I don't think so. Still a young team, the Lady Knights are going to be a stronger program in the next two seasons.

(See Sports,
page two)



SFMS

(Continued from page one)

moves to the basket. Brandy Anderson hit a three-point basket for South Floyd in the opening period.

South Floyd's defense slowed Clark in the first eight minutes as she had four of the five points for Betsy Layne in the first period.

In the second quarter, it was as if the Lady Raiders forgot what game they were playing. They could only score two points, two free throws by Ousley, in the second quarter but Betsy Layne was as equally cold and South Floyd led 15-12 at the half.

Betsy Layne continued to struggle from the floor as coach Jim Roberts looked for ways to get his team untracked. South Floyd outscored the Ladycats 14-8 in the third to take a 29-20 lead. Tuttle carried the load for South Floyd with five points that included a three-point basket. Tabatha Tackett completed an old-fashion three-point play in the period.

Lykens, who had but four points through the first three quarters got the wake up call in the fourth and scored 14 points in the final stanza as the Ladycats caught South Floyd and took the lead late in the period. Witt, who played a strong floor game, had six points in the quarter. Tuttle was a perfect four of four from the stripe in the fourth quarter.

Anderson finished with six points for South Floyd. Lyndsey Frasure netted two for Betsy Layne.

South Floyd hit 25 of 34 free throws for the contest while Betsy Layne was just under 50 percent with 12 of 23 attempts.

In a game played Saturday afternoon, December 18, South Floyd posted a 44-39 win over the Adams Middle School Lady Blackcats behind the 17-point effort of Ashley Johnson. Johnson scored eight points in the second quarter and five in the fourth to help stave off an Adams drive. Megan Ousley finished with seven points.

Tabatha Caudill led Adams with 11 points. Heather White and Molly Burchett scored 10 points each.

Adams led 11-7 after the opening period behind Caudill and White. But the Lady Raiders outscored the host team 15-7 in the second quarter to take a 22-18 lead.

White and Little led a third quarter charge for Adams that netted them a 29-27 lead after three quarters. But some strong free throw shooting by the Lady Raiders in the fourth quarter pulled out the win.

Leigh Ann Tuttle finished the game with six points. Tabatha Tackett netted eight with Brandy Anderson and Sharee Hopkins scoring three points each.

Megan Little had four points for Adams while Megan Harris scored three.



Sisters

Cassandra Akers and Raquel Lawson share not only coaching duties, but also genes. (photo by Karen Joseph)

Lawson

(Continued from page one)

Coach Lawson says she did enjoy being head coach at Harold Grade School.

"I like working with the younger girls because they need that one-on-one instruction," Lawson said. "I like to watch them develop into a ball player. I am not strict enough to coach high school. Cassandra is."

Lawson says she loves the game of basketball.

"I played when I was in grade school, high school and in college," Lawson recalled, "and loved every minute of it. I played at Harold Grade School, Betsy Layne High School and at Alice Lloyd College."

Even though she is the assistant coach, Lawson says that she does have some say-so in the decision-making.

"When we are on the bench we

sometimes disagree," Lawson said. "Cassandra doesn't always agree with my suggestions and we sometimes get a little short with each other. But it doesn't take long for us to work it out. Not only are we sisters, but she is my best friend. We talk about everything."

Sometimes it is good to have someone beside of you who knows you so well. This is the case at Betsy

Layne.

"Cassandra can get pretty hot under the collar sometimes, and I know how to calm her down. I think we work so well together, because we are so different," said Lawson.

A lot of parents dream of the day when they can get the opportunity to coach their own child. Coach Lawson has a daughter that plays basketball at Betsy Layne

Elementary, and says she does not look forward to coaching her.

"I think that is the hardest thing to do, both on the parent and the child," Lawson said. "It is hard not to be too hard on your own child and then no matter how good your child is, someone will inevitably make a remark about how she is getting special treatment because she is the coach's child. You can't win in this

situation. I don't want to coach my daughter when she gets in high school. I want it to be her spotlight, not mine."

So, at Betsy Layne, they have a unique situation on the bench. Two sisters, side-by-side, doing what they both love best, coaching basketball.

Lawson says of Akers, "She is my hero."

Magoffin

(Continued from page one)

staff has to get them fired up again," said West. "But they are still a very young team."

The Lady Hornets have all the ingredients to cause some teams problems this basketball season. They have talent, height, scoring and a good chemistry. But more than all that, they are not afraid to challenge any team on hardwood.

"We have played Betsy Layne on the road and we have played Prestonsburg," said the Magoffin County coach. "We have Johnson Central, Sheldon Clark, Shelby Valley on our schedule. We won't run from anybody. We play the top teams. We will play the top teams home and away."

Coach West said his philosophy in scheduling is, "You have to play the best to become better."

When you talk about good young players, you can see that in eighth-grader Savannah Harris. Although she

does not start for Coach West, her ability to play in the paint area is evident. At 6-0, her presence is known around the basket area.

But there is more. How about 6-1 Amanda Shepherd, just a freshman? A solid post player and a good rebounder but, according to Coach West, needs to learn some things.

"She plays more fundamentals than some of the players I have," said Coach West. "She keeps the ball high and plays good help-side defense."

"The big thing with her is learning to catch the ball and go to the basket. Sometimes she is wanting to pull the ball back over her head. That will come in time. Hopefully by district time, she is going to give us eight or 10 minutes a game."

Kelly Montgomery is just a sophomore and already the talk of the district. Nikki Love plays the point for the Lady Hornets and she is just a sophomore as well, a solid outside

shooter who has hit eight three-pointers in one game already. Cassie Howard is a junior but stands a good 6-0.

"We have those three coming back next year along with Savannah and Amanda," said the Magoffin County coach. "With those three and the big freshman, that is going to help us inside. We have some good eighth-graders coming back as well."

Coach West said it will come down to how much and how hard this team wants to work to be an excellent club.

"To be a good team we have to become more aggressive," said Coach West. "Being more aggressive and taking the ball to the hole. That is something we have been working on. Inside we have to have better play out of Cassie. She needs to average 12 to 14 points per game."

With Love at the point, Coach West said it was just a matter of getting her to settle down.

"She is just a sophomore, but she

has started since she was in the eighth grade," he said. "The way she goes, the team usually goes. If she gets aggravated, the rest of the team becomes aggravated. We want her to know that she is the engine of the train and as long as she goes straight, the team is going straight. If she varies to the right, the team will vary to the right."

Coach West said the team was coming together and the attitude is really good.

"But we are trying to teach them how to take some criticism," he said. "The big thing is getting them to play harder. We had a big district win over Paintsville. We played hard that night."

The Lady Hornets return to the hardwood Monday night against Allen Central in the Sheldon Clark tournament.

No longer the "doormat" but now a contending program, the future of Lady Hornet basketball is bright.



MAGOFFIN COUNTY'S KELLY MONTGOMERY is one of the reasons for all the optimism over the Lady Hornets basketball future. Montgomery is only a sophomore and a good one. (photo by Ed



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Sports

(Continued from page one)

PRESTONSBURG LADY BLACKCATS

A truckload of talent, the Lady Blackcats just haven't jelled as yet. There are just too many good basketball players for this team to be 4-5 going into the holiday break.

Coach Bobby Hamilton needs more offense out of Brook Coleman and Brandy Wells. Both are capable to put some points on the board. They need to look for their shot more.

PRESTONSBURG BLACKCATS

Just a win! Just a victory! Just a good solid four quarters game is what this team needs. The Blackcats really have their work cut out for them in the new year as the tough part of the schedule faces them.

Coach Jackie Day Crisp, in his first year at the helm, will get that first win on January 21.

SOUTH FLOYD

LADY RAIDERS

South Floyd has already enjoyed its best season ever with six wins in their first 10 games. Coach Paul Cline has his ballclub playing good basketball and it will be interesting in the next year if they can pick up that first-ever district win. I predict they will.

SOUTH FLOYD RAIDERS

What does Coach Henry Webb need up Left Beaver? Nothing! He has a quality team and has turned some heads this basketball season. After falling to Paintsville in overtime, voices were heard in voting for the Raiders as a clear choice in winning the 15th Region this year.

If there is a shortcoming, it would have to be in cutting down on turnovers. But the Raiders play so hard and such an intense game that the turnovers are to be expected.

JIMMY HOPKINS

Nothing to say here about one of the Mr. Nice Guys of the game. It is good to see Jimmy back on the bench as an assistant at Betsy Layne. You wonder how Coach Brent Rose and the Betsy Layne Bobcats have found early success? Coach Rose has surrounded himself with those who know the game and is not afraid to learn from them. Coach Hopkins is one of those coaches who can help with all the experience he has from coaching.

Retired from teaching, Jimmy has taken time to help with the ballclub this season.

At the Allen Central/Betsy Layne game, Johnny Ison was waiting for Hopkins to emerge from the locker room at halftime. Standing near me, Ison saw Jimmy making his way out.

"Here, Ed, take my picture with this fellow coming here," said Johnny. So, I snapped the picture and you see the result.

But it is good to see that Coach Hopkins is still respected by those who

played for him, worked with him or just know him. Thanks Jimmy for all the memories and the good job you have done down through the years. I, like the rest, appreciate the contribution you have made to Floyd County athletics.

Until Wednesday, good sports everyone and be good sports!



Bentley's Comments

MEDIA, COACHES HAVE SPORTS HEROES TOO

by Rick Bentley
Sports Columnist

It's Christmas weekend, and we hope you are settled in for the finest of holidays. You deserve it.

This week, we talked with several of our friends in this profession of cov-

ering sports. We took time to wish them a Merry Christmas, to thank them for their help throughout the year, and to ask them a question.

We asked several members of the local and statewide media, as well as a coach or two, the following question: If you could sit down and have dinner

with anyone in sports history, living or dead, who would you choose?

Think about this: You have the opportunity to chat with any figure — player, writer, broadcaster — in sports history. Who would it be?

Surprisingly enough, some of the more obvious people were not chosen.

For example, in basketball-happy Kentucky, no one chose Adolph Rupp or Cawood Ledford. The top two sports figures of the century were likely Mohammed Ali and Michael Jordan, but no one said them. In the heart of Reds country, no one said Pete Rose or Johnny Bench.

Who would you choose, and why? I'm interested in your answers. Please let me know. Call me at my office (432-9312) and leave a message, or email me at rbentley@pc.edu.

As for our panel, here are their responses, listed alphabetically. Enjoy them as you share this time with your friends and family. We thank them for their time.

And to all of my friends and family, my co-workers and readers, the coaches we bother all year long for help and sometimes useless information, thanks.

Merry Christmas.

Jason Blanton, broadcaster, columnist, writer: "I think I'd like to sit down with Pistol Pete (Maravich). He was kind of misunderstood. I think he was the best player I've ever seen. The things he could do with the basketball were amazing. It was kind of like Jason Williams. Williams reminds me of a young Pistol Pete."

Bryan Crager, sports director, East Kentucky Broadcasting: "I'd probably take Roy Firestone, because I think he's the greatest interviewer ever. He's a great conversationalist, and I think he'd have a story to tell about every person he's interviewed. He always seems to ask the right questions."

Chuck Culpepper, columnist, Lexington Herald-Leader: "Bill Buckner. I think you could learn more about the place of sports in our society, more about the good and bad of human nature, from sitting with Buckner for a few hours, hearing stories of what has happened to him since 1986, than you could anybody else."

Mike Fields, Lexington Herald-Leader: "I had one big hero growing up, and that was Willie Mays. I've been a lifetime Willie Mays fan, and I think he was the greatest baseball player ever. If I can see anything on television or read anything about him, I still do. Without a doubt, he's the guy."

Rob Herbst, sports editor, News-Express: "I'd like to say the first guy to get the Cubs a World Series title, but that's not going to happen, so I'll go with Dick Butkus. When you grow up in Chicago, he's a larger than life figure. Usually you only hear that about people who are no longer still on the planet. And he's a funny guy."

Johnnie LeMaster, former Major

League shortstop and current baseball coach at Pikeville College: "It would have to be 'Shoeless' Joe Jackson. It's always bothered me whether he gambled or not. You never heard much about his life after his suspension. I've always wondered if he played minor league baseball under a different name because he loved the game so much. I'd want to know about the Black Sox scandal — and his hitting techniques."

John Lewis, sports director, WYMT-TV: "I've been studying a lot on the early days of the NFL, and one name that keeps popping up is Otto Graham. He was a quarterback at the time when the NFL was just starting to be big. I wonder what it was like in the really old days when those guys were playing for really nothing, although at the time they thought it was a fortune."

Brad Lockard, sports writer, News-Express: "I'd have to pick Walter Payton. He had the reputation for being such a great guy. I'd like to get to see for myself. To get the opportunity to have a conversation with who I consider to be the greatest running back ever, that would be sweet."

Ed Taylor, sports editor, The Floyd County Times: "One of my heroes growing up was Bob Cousy. I'd like to talk to him about his days of playing against the Hawks and the Lakers. He wore No. 14, and I always wanted that number when I played sports."

Bob Watkins, syndicated columnist: "I would choose Red Smith. Because he witnessed and covered it all. Mister Smith's professional career spanned Ruth to Ali to Jordan. Not only did Mister Smith see it all, he wrote about it with phenomenal grace and eloquence. Like a good pitcher with a full repertoire, he could pen drama, touching pathos, or be witty and biting with remarkable skill and insight. I'd like to ask him a few questions."

Bill Watson, women's basketball coach, Pikeville College: "I'd have to say Babe Ruth, because he was the first real superstar in American sports. As far as being hounded by people everywhere he went, he was the first to live that. He was larger than life, and all the people who have followed him — Ali, Jordan — have gone through it, but he was the first. Plus, I love to eat, and I think he did too."

JB Sports

A time to give thanks

by Jason Blanton
Sports Columnist

Since all the gifts are now opened, we are now counting the days until the end of this century.

When I was young, I often wondered what it would be like right before the year 2000 and very soon we'll all find out. I'm not a very sentimental person, but over the past week I kept remembering a lot of different events and people who had an affect on my life.

I'm not a person who tells people how much they have meant to me, but as I wind down my career in sports I would be remiss in not letting everyone know that I am whatever I am because a lot of people — coaches and sports writers and broadcasters.

I started covering sports back in 1983 for The Mountain Chronicle, a weekly paper in Johnson County, it was at this paper that I was given the freedom to cover all sports.

We had many different editors during my time at that paper, but Roger Frazier, who was the main reason that I was hired, had the most influence on me. He was the kind of editor who would not yell, but would explain.

In January of 1984, I was calling in scores for my high school to The (Ashland) Daily Independent when a sports reporter named Mark Maynard asked me if I would be interested in doing some games for them.

Since both Johnson Central and Paintsville were in their coverage area, I began taking assignments from Maynard and to this day still work for them as a stringer. Maynard and his staff have been great to work for and with and have helped me so much.

While at The Mountain Chronicle, I was also working at WSIP. There was Paul G. Fyffe and Doug Orm — or his radio name Doug Orr. Paul is legendary not

only for his radio work, but also for getting professional baseball here in eastern Kentucky. Orm was a professional. He was hard to work with at times, but his work ethic rubbed off on me.

While at Morehead State, I did the scoreboard show and worked for the men's radio network. Chuck Mraz is the play-by-play man and he, like Orm, can be summed up in one word, professional.

After a couple of years of college and working in the real world, WSIP came calling again in 1992. As the sports director, I wanted to give it a more regional favor and had to get some help in Pike and Floyd counties.

This time there was a young sports editor in Pikeville named Rick Bentley. From day one, Bentley and I hit it off. As we say, stealing from our friend Jim Cornette, we are twin sons from different mothers.

One thing about Bentley is that he handles himself like I wish I could. If I was one-tenth the writer he is, then I would be a happy man. We have put a lot of miles on the road together and when he took a job at Pikeville College, he conned people into letting me do work for the Bears Radio Network.

In Floyd County, there was Ed Taylor. Preacher Ed. A man that will not ever be replaced. If you think that replacing Cawood Ledford was tough, then I wouldn't want to be the man — better make that men — who will fill his shoes once he decides to spend time with Nancy.

Together, we had an eastern Kentucky sports association. If something happened in the tri-county area we knew it and had in on the radio and in the papers.

Along the radio roads, I met Dicky Martin, who ran station WCMI for his father. Martin is a broadcaster who tells it like it is. He pulls no punches and you either like or dislike him.

One thing for sure, he loves his Ashland Tomcats. I respect that in Martin and he has become another mentor for me.

In 1992, Martin asked me to take part in the All "A" Classic radio network and over the past eight tournaments, I have helped him plan and run the network during that tournament.

Martin and Jim Forrest formed the Schoolboy Radio Network for the KHSAA Boys' State Tournament, and I have been fortunate to be with them for the past six years.

Forrest owned the rights to Morehead State sports at one time. I had the opportunity to work a season with him and had a great time covering the Eagles.

For the past couple of seasons, I have worked double-duty, doing both Morehead State women's basketball and Pikeville College men's. It has been busy, but I wouldn't trade it for the world.

I enjoyed very much my time in radio, probably still would be there but for fact that WSIP felt that it was time for me to go. There are some great people in radio here, maybe not everyone, but people like Bryan Crager, Randy Jones, Randy Ramey, Jack Ward, Mike Fyffe and Paul Manuel are few and far between.

Along with the people in the business, there have been a lot of coaches who have had an influence

on me.

Probably too many to name, but a few that I will mention are Danny Adams, Walter Brugh and Johnny Ray Turner.

Adams taught me that if you work hard enough, anything could happen.

Brugh, who scared me to death in my early years, once told me that he had 40 kids when the football season started and he treated each one like his own. I go by that when I coach youth football to this day.

Turner taught me that you could be a coach and have class.

If I had a child, I wouldn't mind having my child's life transformed by any of these men.

Along with them, you have solid coaches like Bill Mike Runyon, Charlie Adkins, Mike Collins, Jim Matney, Bill Musick, Ronnie Wells and former coaches like Roy Cutright, Steve Trimble, Roger Harless and Tim Bostic. All these men in one way or another had a great effect on me as a sports writer/broadcaster or person.

All too often, coaches are criticized for anything and everything, but I will go to battle with any these men at any time.

Morehead State sports information director Randy Stacy also looks out for me. Stacy, a Knott County native, kept me working, along with a lot of the people mentioned above when no station or newspaper would take a chance on me.

Sports in Perspective

by Denis Harrington

"Football was never meant to be played on pavement."

The words of Roosevelt Brown, a Hall of Fame offensive tackle with the New York Giants from

1953 to 1965 and thereafter a long-time scout for the club.

"Artificial turf simply doesn't have any give," he said. "It's the cause of a lot of unnecessary injuries."

Brown enunciated his views

more than a decade ago. But the controversy — natural vs. bogus grass — rages on to this day.

No group is more vehement in its protest against the use of artificial turf as a laying surface than the National Football League's Player's Association. With each passing year, the union gathers more statistics concerning the faults of plastic grass, enough to fill a room full of filing cabinets.

Most recently, the NFLPA can point to the "non-coated" disabilities sustained by New York quarterback Vinnie Testaverde and running back Jamal Anderson of the Atlanta Falcons.

Testaverde went down on the artificial turf of Giants Stadium earlier this fall with no one around him. In the act of rolling out to pass, he caught his foot in the emerald rug's spongy veneer and sustained a torn Achilles tendon. He's sidelined for the rest of the season.

It was much the same story for Anderson. He flared to one side while carrying the ball and promptly crumpled to the ground. Once again, a sticking shoe on the ersatz floor of the Georgia Dome resulted in a severe twisting motion of the leg. The result was a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee. He also is lost for the remainder of the campaign.

Jerome "The Bus" Bettis, a power back with the Pittsburgh Steelers, is an outspoken critic of artificial turf and the ragged surface of Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium in particular.

"It (Veterans Stadium) is the worst in the league," he said. "The seams where the strips of turf join together are uneven. You catch the toes of your shoes in them, tripping and twisting ankles. These gaps are a serious problem."

Dallas cornerback Deion Sanders developed a severe case of turf toe playing on the adamant expanse of Texas Stadium. Following surgery and months of recovery, he finally returned to action in the fifth week of this year. But as yet, he can't push off and cut with his former zest and facility.

"Yeah, the toe still bothers me some," he said. "I'm hoping, believing, that I'll get back to full speed soon."

No sooner had Sanders spoken than his teammate Michael Irvin, Cowboys Pro Bowl wide receiver, was thrown down head first onto the artificial turf and sustained a painful and debilitating trauma to his spine. Presently, he wears a neck brace while doctors ponder his future in football.

John Madden, Fox Network pro football analyst and former head coach of the Oakland Raiders, said, "Artificial turf is no more than a thin carpet laid over concrete."

Despite an ever-growing list of injuries, NFL officials refuse to admit that artificial turf poses any unusual health hazards.

George Dome, official groundskeeper for the league, said, "There's no difference between plastic grass and the real thing, just so long as the surface is even and well maintained."

Surprisingly enough, Falcons head coach Dan Reeves doesn't think bogus grass contributed to the disability of Anderson.

"I don't think the turf in the Georgia Dome had anything to do with the injury," he said. "We (Falcons) played a lot on it last year without any problem."

But the real reason the league and team owners don't want to change from artificial turf to grass is the cost that would be incurred. What's more, a natural surface requires about \$40,000 a month to maintain. Not so the hard stuff.

However, all the new stadiums in the league — Baltimore, Cleveland and the yet-to-be-finished home of the Tennessee Titans — have grass fields. And too, Solider Field in Chicago went to a natural surface two years ago and Giants Stadium will do so in the near future.

In the final summing up, the outcome of this matter will depend on what's more costly, natural grass or high-priced players who can't perform because of injuries.

As usual, it's all about money and nothing about humanity.



Betsy Layne Lady Cats assistant coach Raquel Lawson looks over scorebook. She assists her sister, Cassandra Akers. (photo by Karen Joseph)

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insider golf

by t.j. tomasi

Director of the Players School at PGA National

TEERING OFF

Golfer of the Future Will Use More Varied Swing

Today's golfers use one swing type for all situations, but I predict that the golfers of the 21st century will be "tribreds" — players who will call upon one of three different swing types. These RoboGolfers will use a three-in-one trinity of weapons matched perfectly to the conditions and circumstances of play.

"LAWS" is the acronym for the three basic swing types — leverage, arc and width. The swings correspond to three basic body types: Mesomorphs have proportionately balanced bodies with medium flexibility. The leverage swing matches this body type; leverage players include

David Frost and Greg Norman. Ectomorphs have narrow bodies with long limbs and high flexibility. Their swing is the arc. Davis Love and Phil Mickelson are arc players. The third body type is the endomorph, who has a broad or rounded body with short limbs, usually with low flexibility. These players are width players and they include Craig Stadler and Duffy Waldorf.

In the year 2020, when we might see 9,000-yard golf courses and greens as slick as ice, golfers who want to excel will undergo training specifically designed to combine all three swing types into one. Much as you now select a

club, RoboGolfers will select a swing.

When Robo needs to hit it long with hook spin for added distance, he'll use the arc swing; when he needs an accurate drive with medium length, he'll use the leverage swing. Faced with a dogleg that bends left to right, the width swing power fade will be the choice.

This golfing trinity sounds impossible only because no one has ever been taught, trained and conditioned to play this way. But things change, and they change in a hurry. Remember that to run less than a four-minute mile was at one time considered impossible.

The 21st century will see bigger, stronger athletes enhanced by perfectly designed physical-fitness programs and perfectly fit equipment. Some day there'll be a player using all three swing types who can drive the ball 400 yards with pinpoint accuracy, stiff his irons and putt like a pool player running the rack.

Next week we'll take a look at some of the skills RoboGolfer will have. If you're interested in more information on the three swing types and which one fits your body type, go to www.lawsofgolf.com, or order the book "LAWS of the Golf Swing" by calling (800) 843-2665.

ASK THE PRO

Q: A recent story of yours, printed in our local paper Nov. 28, stated that Jack Nicklaus credits his "new" game with weight lifting. The article reports that Jack strengthened from benching 80 pounds to doing 20 reps of 300 pounds. I've lifted all of my life. If this is not a misprint, how can I find out about his training regimen?

— Andrew from Canton, Ohio

A: Jack Nicklaus lives about five miles and \$200 million away from me, so we're real close. Here is what I wrote: "When he started the strengthening program, he could bench only 80 pounds 10 times. Now he's reported to do 20 reps of 300 pounds, and it's translated into hitting the ball 25 yards longer."

Note that I used the word "reported," a code for, "I don't believe it either, but that's what the local newspaper reported." I lift weights, too, and it's hard for me to believe he can bench 300 pounds once, let alone 20 times.

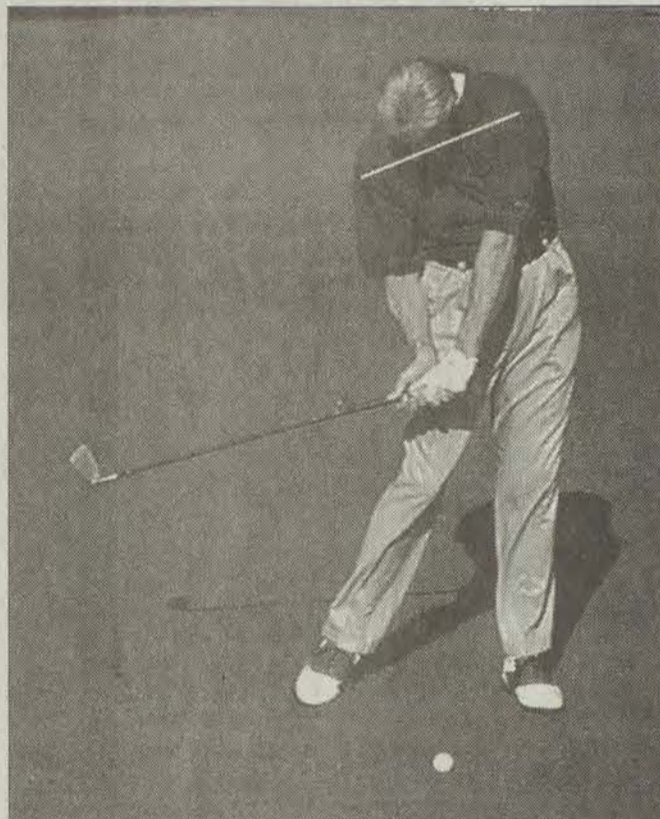
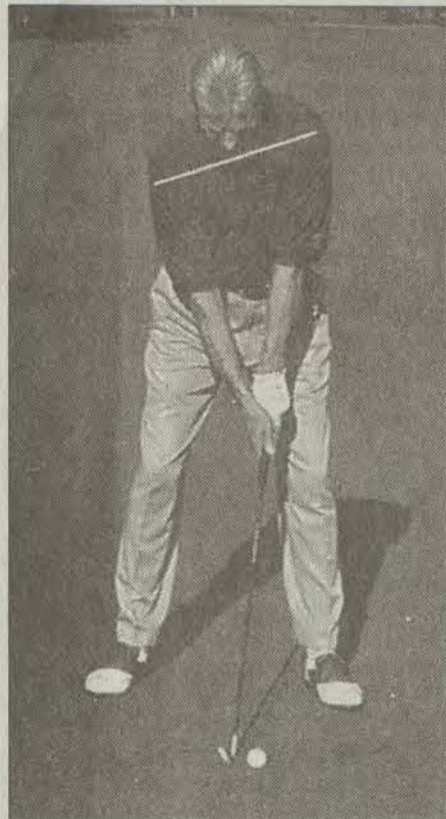
Exaggeration with a purpose is not uncommon. Gary Player, in his heyday, used to let everybody know how much he worked out — even on the road, where players get tired and often would rather curl up with room service than exercise. Off the record, a contemporary of his told me Player exaggerated a bit to make the others think they were falling behind.

Ben Hogan made his opponents fear that he had discovered the "secret," and Ali put Liston on edge before their championship heavyweight title fight with rumors of a new weapon, his secret "anchor punch." As a matter of fact, the Soviet Union fell apart by overspending trying to keep pace with our Star Wars defense system, a system we touted but knew didn't work.

Just think of the impact on your competitors if you used to be the best player on the planet — feared by all — and then 20 years later, all of a sudden, you're benching 300 pounds and hitting the ball out of sight again.

I do believe he's 25 yards longer, and with his new hip, he's healthy and ready to play seriously in 2000 — so look out for the Bear.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



Correct: At address (left), my back shoulder is lower than my front one. Just before impact (at right), my shoulders are in the same position because I've kept my spine angle throughout the swing. I'll get good, solid impact with the ball.

Coming Over the Bottom

Here's a problem that's hard to spot if you're not looking for it, but its effect on your ball's flight is easy to see. It involves the position of your shoulders and spine throughout your swing.

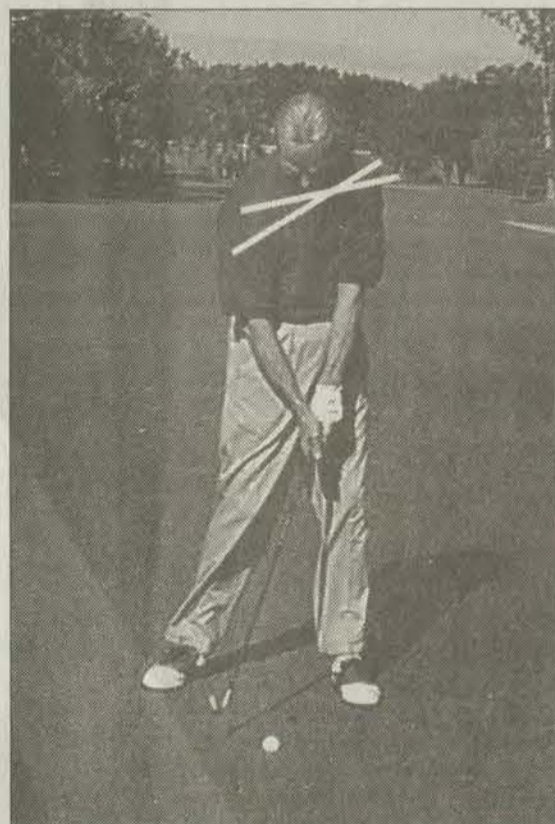
Your shoulders should not be level at address. The rule of thumb is that your front shoulder should be higher than your back shoulder by the same amount that your top hand is higher than your bottom hand. During your swing, the shoulders turn around your spine at an angle because your spine is tilted. Thus on the backswing your target shoulder moves lower and your trail shoulder gets higher.

On the downswing it is just the reverse: As you come down, your shoulders retrace their steps on essentially the same arc they took on the backswing.

Any change in the spine incline just before impact changes the arc the shoulders travel on, thereby dislodging the clubhead from its path and ruining impact.

I call this leveling of the shoulders just before impact "coming over the bottom." While it is difficult to see with the naked eye, it causes the same problems in ball flight (pulls and pull slices) as its cousin, the familiar and more easily spotted error called "coming over the top," which occurs at the start of the downswing.

If you're hitting a lot of pulls and pull slices, and you're not coming over the top, you may well be coming over the bottom. Check out the photos for a look at the problem and the solution.



Incorrect: In the photo at left, just before impact, I've lost my spine angle and my shoulders are leveled along the top line. This shot won't be a good one. If I had kept my spine angle, my shoulders would be inclined along the lower line. At right you can see the pull in the ball's flight path that results.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The adult impulse is to 'beat' the other person to prove that you are superior. There are lots of studies that indicate that athletic competition can be one of a human being's most devastating and damaging childhood experiences. Our view is that placing emphasis on the rewards of victory is totally the wrong approach to motivating a child.”

— Shelly and Chuck Hogan, a husband-and-wife golf professional team, who know a lot about both golf and kids, speaking on competition for juniors.

BIRDIES & BOGEYS

State of the Game

GOLFOonline recently conducted a poll asking readers to report on the state of their golf games. Below are the results. E-mail me (TJInsider@aol.com) and let me know where you stand.

My golf game is ...

Better than in 1998:	65.5%
About the same as in 1998:	18.3%
Worse than in 1998:	16.2%

Short Game

Next year (which is only a few days away) caddies on the PGA Tour can wear shorts — khaki-colored and knee length. This comes after a caddie almost died in the midsummer heat at a tour event. The change in dress code by the PGA Tour Policy Board covers the first two tournaments in Hawaii and all PGA Tour events from Memorial Day until Labor Day, or any event during which the temperature is more than 100 degrees.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. T.J. Tomasi is the director of the Players School at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He is a member of the elite Top 100 Teachers chosen by Golf Magazine for 1999 and is a Class



DON'T MISS IT

First Wright, Then Wrong

Ben Wright, once a star in the announcer's booth, is more famous for being wrong than right. His fall from grace occurred in 1995, when he made comments to a reporter about lesbianism in women's golf. The problem was that when he was called on the carpet, he lied and tried to destroy the reporter's credibility. It didn't work and he got the boot from his announcing job at CBS.

Now he's making a comeback with his book, "Good Bounces and Bad Lies," and if you like an insider's point of view, Don't Miss It. Here's a sample:

"I hate Jack Nicklaus more than anybody in the world." (Tom Weiskopf); Tom Watson about Gary McCord: "He's just an ignorant fool who can't play"; Wright to Ed Fiori: "I would represent you as well (as Seve Ballesteros), except I don't waste time on inferior performers."

But there is a lot more to this book than superstar invectives and clever put-downs. Wright offers us well-told vignettes ranging from Ben Hogan's last shot to wonderful stories about the likes of Bobby Jones, Greg Norman and, of course, his buddy Gary McCord.

SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION

Based on Golf Magazine's Top 25 U.S. Golf Schools Pine Needles Learning Center

Founded in 1969, Pine Needles is owned and operated by an icon in the golf business, Peggy Kirk Bell. Located in the Sand Hills area of North Carolina, it's a beautiful facility, and no one is more experienced and knowledgeable than Peggy. You'll love it.

Maximum student-teacher ratio: 4-to-1
Months of operation: February to October

Faculty: Owner Peggy Kirk Bell is a GOLF Magazine Top 100 Teacher. Her son-in-law and former PGA Tour regular Pat McGowan also instructs.

Curriculum emphasis: Daily videotaping sessions with each student, and segments on mental preparation and strategy. Special schools for women only.

Facility: Private range with covered hitting areas, extensive video capabilities, and complete short-game practice areas.

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For information, call (800) 747-7272 or visit the Web site: www.golffnc.com/pineneedles.



Peggy Kirk Bell is the grand dame of golf.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Scores Soar for Golfers Away From Home

This is the time of year when golfers migrate, even for a few days, to the warmer climates. Research shows that half of all U.S. golfers take trips that involve playing golf, so it's worth remembering a few truisms about golf away from home: With different grasses, different wind conditions, etc., you should have different expectations. Your scores are likely to be higher.

The point is to be patient. Don't expect to shoot your handicap the first few times you play away from home.

Here in Southern Florida, for

example, where I currently teach, the average visitor shoots about five strokes over his or her handicap. Why? Because the wind off the ocean is heavy with moisture, and the Bermuda grass is tough to putt on and even tougher to pitch and chip from.

Down here you'll miss more greens than normal, and then fail to get up and down as much as you're used to. That spells higher scores. And if you start tinkering with your swing, it could ruin your golf swing as well as your vacation.



Pitches from Florida's Bermuda grass can be tricky for players on vacation.

NASCAR this week

■ If you've got a question or a comment, write:

NASCAR This Week
c/o The Gaston Gazette
2500 E. Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, N.C. 28054

OnTV

All Times Eastern

■ NASCAR's Best of 1999

Check local listings • Speedvision

1999 POINTS STANDINGS

WINSTON CUP	BUSCH	TRUCK
1. Dale Jarrett, 5,262	Dale Earnhardt Jr., 4,647	Jack Sprague, 3,747
2. Bobby Labonte, 5,061	Jeff Green, 4,367	Greg Biffle, 3,739
3. Mark Martin, 4,943	Matt Kenseth, 4,327	Dennis Setzer, 3,639
4. Tony Stewart, 4,774	Todd Bodine, 3,029	Stacy Compton, 3,623
5. Jeff Burton, 4,733	Elton Sawyer, 3,891	Jay Sauter, 3,543
6. Jeff Gordon, 4,620	Jeff Purvis, 3,658	Mike Wallace, 3,494
7. Dale Earnhardt, 4,492	Dave Blaney, 3,582	Ron Hornaday, 3,488
8. Rusty Wallace, 4,155	Jason Keller, 3,537	Andy Houston, 3,359
9. Ward Burton, 4,062	Mike McLaughlin, 3,478	Mike Bliss, 3,294
10. Mike Skinner, 4,003	Randy Lalonde, 3,379	Jimmy Hensley, 3,280

TOP TEN

■ Top 10 Winston Cup stories of 1999 as rated by NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton

1. Tony Stewart
2. Dodge returns
3. Dale Jarrett
4. Bristol night race
5. Dale Earnhardt
6. Jeff Gordon
7. Joe Gibbs Racing
8. Daytona 500
9. Ricky Rudd
10. Burton brothers

Best rookie season ever Hires Evernham to get it ready At long last, a championship Earnhardt wins slam-bang finish Talladega sweep ... He's baaaack Seven victories, but not enough All of a sudden, the best team Gordon's daring pass Gives up team to win races Six wins for Jeff, three over Ward

FUN FACTS OF 1999

- Two families, the Jarretts and Pettys, have won championships in NASCAR's premier series.
- Dale Jarrett's 1999 championship complemented the two titles (1961, '65) won by his father, Ned. What you might not know is that Ned also won the championships in 1957-58 of the Busch Series predecessor, the Late Model Sportsman Division. Or that Ralph Earnhardt, Dale's father, won the Sportsman championship in 1956, joining his grandson, who won the BGN championship in 1998-99.
- If Dale Earnhardt Jr. wins rookie of the year in 2000, he will be the first second-generation winner of that award, his father having won it in 1979.
- It took Richard Petty from 1959 to 1971 to win \$1 million in his career. No driver ever won more than \$1 million in a season until 1985, when both Bill Elliott and Darrell Waltrip did so. This season 38 drivers,

some without a single top-10 finish, topped \$1 million.

- Twenty-three qualifying records were set in 1999. Seven marks for race average speed were set. Jarrett's average speed at Michigan in June (173.997 mph) was the fastest ever for a 400-mile event.
- For the entire season, the total difference between first and second place was 1 minute, 4.065 seconds. Some single Formula One events had greater margins than the entire Winston Cup season. The season's closest finish was at Talladega, where Earnhardt edged Jarrett by 114/1,000ths of a second.
- Tony Stewart and Joe Nemechek became winners for the first time. David Green, Kevin Lepage and Stewart won their first poles.
- Out of the 69 drivers who competed in the season's 34 races, 45 led at least one lap. Bobby Labonte led 30 out of the 34 races, most of any driver.

2000 WINSTON CUP SCHEDULE

Feb. 13	Daytona International Speedway (Bud Shootout)
Feb. 20	Daytona International Speedway
Feb. 27	North Carolina Speedway
March 5	Las Vegas Motor Speedway
March 12	Atlanta Motor Speedway
March 19	Darlington Raceway
March 26	Bristol Motor Speedway
April 2	Texas Motor Speedway
April 9	Martinsville Speedway
April 16	Talladega Superspeedway
April 30	California Speedway
May 6	Richmond International Raceway
May 20	Lowes Motor Speedway (The Winston)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

■ One of the more remarkable facts about the legendary David Pearson, who won 105 NASCAR races, was the fact that, in an age in which injuries were commonplace and fatalities all too frequent, Pearson never got hurt in a race car. Another is that Pearson won three championships and ran the full schedule only four times in his entire career.

Earnhardt undergoes surprise surgery

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Dale Earnhardt checked out of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem on Dec. 17 after a surgical procedure that was pronounced a success by surgeon Dr. Charles Branch.

The anterior cervical discectomy and fusion procedure took approximately two hours, according to Branch, who removed a disc between Earnhardt's C-6 and C-7 vertebrae and replaced them with a block of bone and small titanium plate.

"He'll need to wear a neck brace or collar periodically for several weeks," said Dr. Branch. "We've agreed that he's not going to drive his race car for six weeks. He'll be able to work on small projects around the shop, but we'll keep him out of the race car for a little while."

Earnhardt's recovery period is scheduled to end Jan. 28, 15 days before the Daytona 500.

STATS OF THE '90s: Dale Earnhardt and Jeff Gordon dominated the Winston Cup Series in the 1990s, a fact confirmed by a compilation of statistics of the

decade. Gordon was the decade's biggest winner with 49 victories, followed by Earnhardt with 35, Rusty Wallace with 33, Mark Martin with 30, Dale Jarrett with 22 and Terry Labonte with 11.

Gordon also had a huge edge in winning percentage (.215), where he led Earnhardt (.113), Wallace (.107), Martin (.097), Jarrett (.073) and Labonte (.036). Gordon also had the most victories in five of the decade's 10 seasons, and he did not compete in three of the remaining five. Earnhardt, however, did win

four championships to Gordon's three.

During the decade, Gordon's earnings added up to \$31,867,679, followed by Earnhardt (\$26,782,087), Jarrett (\$21,460,918), Martin (\$20,762,237), Wallace (\$15,866,069) and Labonte (\$15,446,126).

Martin, who did not win a championship, did have the highest average finish, 3.6, in the standings, with eight years in the top five and all 10 in the top 10. Earnhardt finished 92.1 percent of the races, the best performance of any driver.

THE WINSTON CUP CIRCUIT

This book just arrived: *Greatest Races: The 25 Most Thrilling Races in NASCAR History*, by Tom Higgins with a foreword by Ned Jarrett (Harper-Entertainment, \$30).

NASCAR polled drivers, members of the media and fans to select the races

included here. Thirty-one races are actually covered: Nine occurred during the 1990s, 14 from the 1980s, three from the 1970s, one from the 1960s, two from the 1950s and two from the 1940s.

And they're not all from the Winston Cup Series or its

predecessors. For instance, a 1981 modified race at Martinsville, won by Richie Evans after he crashed with Geoff Bodine and rode sideways down the front-stretch wall to the checkered flag, is included.

There are a number of firsts: Daytona 500 in 1959,

Southern 500 in 1950, Brickyard 400 in 1994. But also the book has sections on "Incredible Comebacks," "Amazing Aftermaths," "Classic Duels" and "Fabulous Finishes."

All in all, not a bad addition for anyone's NASCAR library.

PROFILE

Todd Bodine



John Clark/NASCAR This Week

Todd Bodine (left) is the youngest of three racing brothers.

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Todd Bodine, the youngest of three racing brothers, completed the 1990s as one of the Busch Series' more reliable performers and perhaps the first driver Winston Cup car owners call on in the event of injuries to their drivers.

Still, Todd has never quite found the Cup opportunity that would allow him to "stick" in NASCAR's premier series.

For three years (1994-96), Bodine was a Cup regular, and he has had one pole and four top-five finishes.

As a Busch Grand National regular, however, Bodine has 10 career victories and is considered a prime contender for next year's title.

AGE: 35
HOMETOWN: Chemung, N.Y.; now lives in Davidson, N.C.

WIFE: Lynn
CHILDREN: Ashlyn Marie (1)
CAR: No. 66 Phillips 66 Chevrolet Monte Carlo

BGN MILESTONES: Last win (Fontana, Calif., 1997), best points finish (2nd, 1997), last pole (Nazareth, Pa., 1993)

RECORD: BGN - 204 starts, 5 poles, 10 wins, 56 top-five finishes, 211 top-10s, more than \$2.3 million in career earnings

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ACTUALLY DESIGNED THE PAINT SCHEME OF YOUR CAR? "When

Phillips 66 came on board as our primary sponsor, we immediately went to work trying to come up with new paint schemes. Phillips 66 executives submitted a few examples, and I submitted the design I came up with. I wanted to create something that kind of jumps off the track so it would be easy to see running with a pack of cars. After all, that's the purpose of being a primary sponsor. After reviewing all of the possibilities, my design won the vote of approval."

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN ARTISTIC DESIGNS? "When I look at things around me, I'm always critiquing their design. For example, when I look at some of the paint schemes of cars around the garage, I think about how maybe one design is really good, or I look at a paint scheme and think about how it could be done better."

WOULD YOU ONE DAY CONSIDER MAKING A LIVING THAT WAY? "If I wasn't racing, I would definitely want to be working somewhere doing some kind of graphic design. Right now, it's a nice hobby. Now, after I finish with my racing career, who knows what will happen?"

WHAT'S THE KEY TO WINNING A BUSCH SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP? "You don't learn when your car is all bent up, sitting in the garage, or when you are just limping around trying to get points. You have to be out there racing. We want to be consistent."

Who's Hot... Who's Not

■ HOT: Jeff Fuller gets a Cup ride.

■ NOT: Steve Grissom gets a Truck ride.

Trackside Trivia

1. Who won the fastest race in NASCAR history?
2. Who was the first driver to win in a car owned by Richard Petty that The King wasn't also driving?
3. What northern state hosted two of the eight races in the first season of NASCAR's Strictly Stock (now Winston Cup) Division?

ANSWERS
1. Mark Martin at Talladega in 1997. 2. Bobby Labonte at Phoenix in 1996. 3. Pennsylvania.

AROUND THE GARAGE

Fan Tips

■ The Fan's Guide to Racing Shops is produced each year by a Charlotte firm known as The Desktop Design Co. The guide includes maps and information to enable fans to locate the race shops in the Charlotte area. Touring race shops has become quite a novelty for visitors to the area. To order your guide (\$7.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling), write: Shop Guide, P.O. Box 18404, Charlotte, NC 28218.

COMPETITION

■ Sixty-nine different drivers scored points during the 1999 Winston Cup season. Thirty-two drivers competed in all 34 races. Eleven different drivers won races. Fifteen won poles. How does NASCAR provide for close competition? "NASCAR's philosophy is maybe not to limit technology, but maybe to bring it in slowly to keep it competitive," said driver Brett Bodine. "The cars should continue to reflect what the manufacturers put out on the road, but we want to keep the racing close."

INSIDE THE PRO FISHING TOUR

Rufus Johnson Making a Mark

Two weeks ago, Rufus Johnson came out of nowhere to win the BASSMASTER Alabama Eastern Invitational on Lake Martin. The 26-year-old Tennessee pro jumped from 48th place to a first-place tie on the last day, and then won a rare fish-off to take top honors in just his second BASS tournament.



Tim Tucker's Tour Notebook

Although Johnson had little name recognition within the bass world, his emergence didn't surprise those closest to him. He is a third-generation tournament bass angler who was consumed by fishing at an early age. "When he was in second grade, I got a call from his teacher, and she told me all Rufus was doing was drawing pictures of fish and boats," his mother, Vicky, said. "When he was in high school, he would take his boat to school with him. This is what he has wanted to do all his life."

Johnson finished sixth in his first major tournament four years ago. In the last three months, he has also pocketed \$16,000 in two EverStart Series events and another \$5,000 in an Angler Choice's team tournament.

Although he had just one sponsor before his BASSMASTER heroics, Johnson reports that potential sponsors have been calling steadily. "I haven't signed any contracts, but people are definitely wanting to talk," he said. "It's a different world than it was last week."

The Price Is Right Ever wonder what it would cost your community to host a BASSMASTER tournament? The sponsor fee is \$25,000. But the economic impact of a tournament is estimated at well over \$500,000, not to mention the publicity benefits of television and magazine coverage from BASS Inc.

Bad Cast During the Lake Martin BASS event, Pennsylvania pro Matt Lazaroff was startled by an approaching jet-ski. He then made a blind cast toward a shoreline point while turning to keep an eye on the jet-ski. Suddenly he was jolted so hard that he nearly fell into the water.

It seems that a swimming white-tail deer happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time — and was nailed by Lazaroff's jerkbait. "It was like pulling in a barge," he said. "It pulled me around for a few minutes before I finally got within 5 feet to get the hooks out."

Okeechobee's Return Florida's massive Lake Okeechobee, which will host both national BASSMASTER and FLW Tour events in January, has awakened from its recent doldrums to provide the kind of fishing for which the 730-square-mile lake has long been famous.

In a recent Fisherman's Bass Circuit national team tournament, Eric Bozeman and Billy Bowen Jr. of Ocala, Fla., ran away with top honors on the strength of a 10-bass catch that weighed a whopping 62.14 pounds. They won a Ranger boat package valued at \$33,500. Included in their catch were two 8-pound-plus largemouths.

The second place weight of 49.68 — usually enough to win a two-day tournament — was caught by the North Carolina team of Eric Weir and Todd Auten.

Tim Tucker's Pro Power Ratings

Star indicates a pro who is coming on strong.

Thru Week	Last Week	Weeks on List	Angler	Hometown
1	1	27	Denny Brauer	Camdenton, Mo.
2	2	27	Davy Hite	Prosperity, S.C.
3	3	27	Larry Nixon	Bee Branch, Ark.
4	4	27	Kevin VanDam	Kalamazoo, Mich.
5	5	27	Rick Clunn	Ava, Mo.
6	6	10	David Fritts	Lexington, N.C.
7	7	27	Stephen Browning	Hot Springs, Ark.
8	8	10	Tim Horton	Spruce Pine, Ala.
9	9	23	David Walker	Cannon, Ky.
10	10	27	Zell Rowland	Montgomery, Texas
11	11	24	Clark Wendland	Cedar Park, Texas
12	12	7	Darrell Robertson	Jay, Okla.
13	13	27	Mark Davis	Mount Ida, Ark.
14	14	17	Roland Martin	Clewiston, Fla.
15	15	5	Aaron Martens	Castaic, Calif.

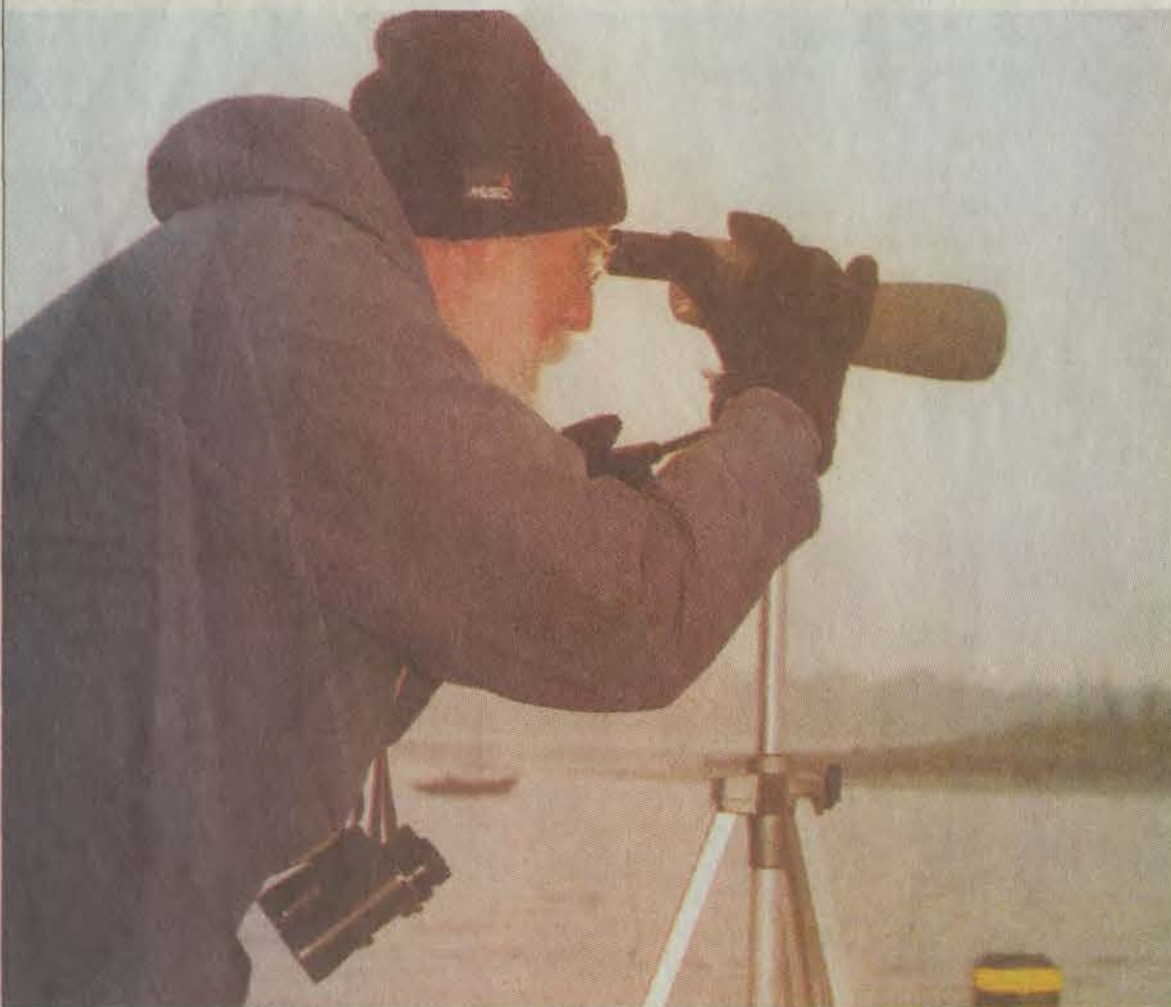
These ratings of America's top tournament bass pros are based on Tim's opinion of their talent, knowledge, experience and most recent tournament performances.

A weekly guide to sports in the wild, including the professional bass fishing tour

Outdoors

Longwing Publications Inc. Peter Gentile, Editor.

YOUR SPORTS



Eric Ruff sets up his spotting scope at the harbor in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

100 Years and Counting

Christmas Bird Count Is More Than a Lark — It's 'Citizen Science'

By SANDRA PHINNEY

If you see gangs of people with binoculars traipsing through the woods between now and Jan. 3, don't be alarmed — they are bird-watchers participating in the 100th annual Christmas Bird Count.

More than 50,000 birders from every American state and Canadian province will take part in a one-day exercise during the count period, recording every bird they see. The results of each local count are compiled and sent to the National Audubon Society. Similar counts take place in Central and South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands.

Conservationist Frank Chapman began the Christmas Bird Count in 1900 as an alternative to a once common holiday tradition called the "side hunt," in which circles of friends formed two teams and set out to shoot as much wildlife as they could.

Chapman, the editor of Bird-Lore magazine and an officer of the young Audubon Society, invited 27 friends in the U.S. and Canada to count birds instead of shooting them. Those 27 birders

counted 18,500 birds of 90 different species on Christmas Day 1900. In last year's count, the 99th, field observers and feeder watchers tallied 57,976,634 birds representing more than 2,000 species.

Bird counts now take place in 1,800 locations. Each "circle" of volunteers chooses one day during the count period (this year, Dec. 16 through Jan. 3) for its census.

Eric Ruff of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, is typical of the thousands of enthusiasts who make the count a success. He coordinates the efforts of a circle of bird counters in his coastal community. Ruff, whose first Christmas Bird Count was in 1983, is now the head compiler. His duties include everything

from advertising the event to mapping out the routes — as well as the actual compiling of data at day's end, a massive job.

On the appointed day, everyone gathers at Ruff's home at daybreak to receive their assigned routes. After four hours of tracking birds — through blizzard, rain or sunshine — they meet at noon for a brown-bag lunch.

"Some people really want to brag at lunchtime that they've seen such and such while others say, 'Oh yeah? Well, I saw something really special, but you'll have to wait until tonight to find out!'" Ruff says.

After lunch, they brave the elements for another four hours of birding. Later, after a traditional mug of hot Russian tea (with or without a spot of rum), the group enjoys a potluck dinner followed by a long bout of compiling.

Aside from the enjoyment of looking at birds, Ruff likes being part of a group, and embraces the fact that some people think he's a little crazy. "I rather like it! I don't mind people thinking I'm weird." He adds, "There's a lot of satisfaction to be part of a scientific group and, in the long run, to help the birds."

Indeed, the Christmas Bird Count is more than an odd diversion for bird lovers. With 100 years of records, it is the largest source of data about winter bird populations. It is, as the Audubon Society likes to say, "citizen science in action."

Geoff LeBaron, an Audubon Society staff member and director of the Christmas Bird Count, says that some people have participated for 80 years or more, and it's not unusual for people to take part in four or five different counts per season. Field-guide author Chan Robbins is fast approaching 400 counts, he said.

"The observers and compilers have a real sense of propriety and ownership," LeBaron said. "They care a great deal about what they are doing. There's also a real sense of camaraderie, so there's a terrific social component as well as a scientific one."

Do you remember where you put you last put your binoculars? Dust them off, and see if you can hook up with a count circle.

Merry Christmas and happy birding.

Sandra Phinney is a writer in Tusket, Nova Scotia.

Clothes Help Keep Mexican Bass Alive

By TIM TUCKER, Outdoors Writer

It is a win-win program for everyone and everything concerned. And it's also a rare opportunity for fishermen to directly benefit one of the world's great bass fisheries.

The Clothes for Bass program — initiated by Bill Chapman Jr.'s Anglers Inn International hunting and fishing outfitting service in Mazatlan, Mexico — aids needy Mexican villagers while providing a shot in the arm to a famed bass reservoir that has been called the world's best bass lake.

Lake El Salto is renowned for its largemouth action, but it is also home to commercial fishing for tilapia. Although it is now illegal to net bass in Mexico, largemouths often get tangled in the tilapia nets. They are often sold or eaten by the netters, who earn an average of \$4 per day.

"It's easy to understand why they would eat bass that get caught up in their nets," Chapman said. "They are worried about being able to provide food for their families and put clothes on the backs of their kids."

That's where Clothes for Bass comes in.

Commercial fishermen who turn in live bass that were caught in their nets now receive clothing in return for their efforts. It is hoped that this motivation will ensure that more of El Salto's finny trophies are returned to the water alive and healthy.

This is a humanitarian program for the people in the mountain villages who were displaced by the creation of the lake more than a decade ago. Since 1998, the program has dispensed 16,000 pounds of clothing to more than 300 people. As a result, the local commercial fishermen are keeping fewer of the bass caught in their tilapia nets, Chapman said.

American fishermen are invited to participate in the program by gathering old clothes and shoes into 25-pound bundles and shipping them to: Clothes for Bass, 14842 Maple Drive, Kellyville, Okla. 74039. For each 25-pound donation that is made, the donating party's name is entered into a drawing for a free four-night, three-day fishing trip at El Salto (valued at \$1,300) courtesy of Anglers Inn International.

"El Salto is a pilot lake for this program, which we plan to expand to Mexico's new lakes, Huites and Milpa, where we have new lodges opening up," Chapman said. "This is a program where everybody wins."

For more information, write to Anglers Inn International, 2626 N. Mesa St., Suite 358, El Paso, Texas 79902, or telephone (915) 858-8811.

Thad Lacinak of Orlando, Fla., pulls a trophy bass out of Lake El Salto near Mazatlan, Mexico. By donating clothing to help the commercial fishermen who share the lake, American anglers can help preserve the bass.



Thad Lacinak of Orlando, Fla., pulls a trophy bass out of Lake El Salto near Mazatlan, Mexico. By donating clothing to help the commercial fishermen who share the lake, American anglers can help preserve the bass.

WRITE TO US

The Outdoors page is published weekly by Longwing Publications Inc., P.O. Box 15045, Sarasota, FL 34277. Outdoors writer Tim Tucker, who has written for every major outdoors magazine in America, has a Web site at www.probass.com. If you have a question that you would like Tim to answer on this page, write to him in care of Longwing Publications. Sorry, no phone calls.

Tips From the Pros



Advantage Camouflage pro BUCK GARDNER of Collierville, Tenn., is an avid waterfowl hunter and past world champion duck caller. He owns Buck Gardner Calls.

Give Thought to Decoy Spread

"There are all sorts of decoy-spread strategies. Many of the standard patterns are named such things as the 'fish-hook' or 'J-spread.' One thing all spreads share is a spot of open water for the decoyed ducks to land in.

"Placing the decoys to produce this opening depends on several factors. Wind direction is crucial because ducks usually land into the wind, and many ducks don't like to fly low over other ducks. An open landing lane should be left clear on the downwind side of the landing zone. If the landing zone is too small or incorrectly situated, many birds will land outside of the spread and out of range.

"Dabbling ducks, such as the mallard, tend to space themselves out while feeding, but close ranks if threatened. If you bunch your dabbling decoys too tightly, you may be sending an alarm signal to flying ducks. A string or trailer of decoys extending out from your main spread is a good attention-getter."

GEAR AND GOODIES

PolarWra

Anglers, hunters and sports-persons of all types are always seeking ways to stay warm in the great outdoors. Coats, gloves and hats are staples of winter wear for all of us. And now you can add another piece of clothing that is sure to join those winter necessities.

The new PolarWrap Exchanger is a technological marvel, a piece of headgear that actually warms your cold body from the inside out. The Exchanger allows the wearer to conquer the cold by breathing warm, moist air.

When the wearer exhales, the patented Thermal Exchange Device captures the heat and water vapor that the body releases. When the wearer inhales, the cold, dry air

is immediately transformed into warm, moist air before it enters the body. The result is less heat loss.

This amazing piece of clothing covers the face from the bridge of the nose down. It covers the neck as it wraps around the head and then comfortably fastens in the back with Velcro. Endorsed by the North American Hunting Club and Professional Walleye Trail, the Exchanger is available in black as well as Mossy Oak's Break-Up camouflage pattern.

— Tim Tucker

For more information, call PolarWrap at (901) 767-4171.

Cutaway view shows how the Thermal Exchange Device works.





Serving Floyd County since 1927

Christmas through the eyes of a child



Floyd County school children were asked recently to write about a Christmas memory or what Christmas means to them. The top 20 writings were read by their authors over WMDJ radio.

This second year of "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child" was co-sponsored by the Floyd County School System, WMDJ and McDonald's.

A reception on December 14 honored the student writers, their families and community friends.

In the spirit of the season, the Times is pleased to offer the text of the winning essays. May their messages carry us into the new year.

(photos by Willie Elliott)

A joyous time, this end of year
For Christmas day will soon be here

They gather 'round, young and old
Eating food and stories told
Singing, dancing, having fun
Opening presents, till there are none

Then they gather, father and son
Mother, daughter one by one
To give remembrance to the child
Who was born for us to live, and died

Nick Smith

My Memories of Christmas

What Christmas means to me is the beautiful white snow covering the ground, with all the children coming together and playing in the glimmering snow and making cheerful snowmen, my sister and I for once getting along and not fighting. I also remember us sneaking and peaking at our wrapped gifts and when my grandma used to switch my sisters and Stacys gifts around and confuse them. Christmas reminds me of her. My grandmother died nine months before Christmas and I still miss her and how much she enjoyed Christmas. It's a time to remind me that I am thankful for having such a loving family. Further, Christmas is a time to remember how our savior, Christ, gave his life

for us. Christmas is also a time for us to spend time with our family and friends. As a child, I love opening presents on Christmas morning, but as I get older I can see it is more important to give than to receive. There are so many children that will never know the joy of opening presents on Christmas morning.



Tyler Whitt and his twin sister Cassie were all smiles during the reception for student writers.

We also need to remember the real meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus and God's love for you and me.

Brittany Hancock

My Most Memorable Christmas

My most memorable Christmas was the Christmas of 1997. This was the last Christmas I spent with my papaw. When my family and I went to give him a gift on Christmas Day, he was very sick. My mamaw called for an ambulance to come to get my papaw to take him to the hospital. A few months later he died. I was really sad and cried almost every day for three weeks. I will never forget the Christmas of 1997 and the special memories I have in my heart of my papaw.

Tesia Reffitt

South Floyd High

Christmas Memories

Memories are special and sentimental things to have, especially those of Christmas. Memories are or should be an important part of everyone's lives. My Christmas memories are wonderful and I would like to share some of mine with you.

Christmas has always been my favorite holiday each year. Not only because of the presents and things like that, but because it was the day Jesus was born and it's a time you get to spend with loved ones, but also because of the presents and gifts, not only that you get but that you give.

The first Christmas I remember, I received the thing that every little girl wanted, at that time anyway, a Cabbage Patch babydoll. You know, one with a birth certificate. Well anyway, I got one and I loved it. I took her everywhere. Her name was Rebecca, I liked to call her Becca though. I felt like a real mom, and sometimes I would pretend I was.

Soon enough, I went from babydolls to Barbie dolls. I still loved my Becca, but Barbie was the happening thing. So of course I wanted everything to be Barbie. Every time I set foot in Wal-Mart I would beg for a new Barbie, and most of the time I would get one because I'd cry. But one Christmas I thought I was in Barbie heaven. I got a Barbie camper van and Barbie and Ken to go with it, and a Barbie Jeep.

Well the next year was even better. I received a Barbie dream house, a Barbie limo, and all the accessories to go along. I felt like I was on top of the world, because I got the dream house.

But the one Christmas I will never forget was

See Christmas, page two

Allen Elementary

What makes Christmas special to me is the love and hope that is all around us. Christmas is the time of year where families come together and spend time. Baking cookies, wrapping gifts, and decorating the tree are some of my favorite things to do. Just knowing that Christmas is Jesus' birthday gives me the hope that there will be better and brighter Christmas' for many years to come.

Allison Hamilton

My Favorite Christmas Ever!

As we all know, Christmas is the time for sharing, giving, and loving. Our family always look forward to the holiday smells of turkey and all the trimmings, the shimmering decorations, and especially the gifts that my Uncle Sam Wade brings home, because he travels abroad. We never know what to expect! On Christmas Day 1997, we thought we had just finished opening every gift when my Aunt Beth and Uncle Sam Wade handed a small package to my Grandfather Wells. As he unwrapped the box he smiled like a Cheshire cat. You should've seen his surprised look when he pulled out a pacifier with a note that my Grandmother Wells read telling us all a new baby was on the way.

Sara Isaac

Love is the Best gift of all

I really like Christmas time. I always spend it with my family. I will never forget The Christmas of 1997. My mom took Christmas dinner to a lady named Bea Walters. Bea was 82 years old at the time. She was a very sick lady. I'll never forget how special it made me feel, to see how happy it made her. Not long after Christmas, she passed away. I'll always remember what my mom said that day. It is always better to give than to receive. No matter how big or small the gifts are when it comes from the heart it means the most.

Kendra Case

Opportunities Unlimited

Christmas Day



Overall winners of the Christmas memory contest were presented with a copy of "Silver Packages."



Brennan Case from Allen Elementary School entertained the writers and their families during the reception by singing "Little Drummer Boy" a cappella.

and how thankful others should be. That is what Christmas means to me.

Tiffany Johnson

Floyd Tech

Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. It is a time when families gather together and share in the joys this special time of the year always seems to bring.

We exchange gifts among our families and friends, and give praise unto our Lord for this glorious day. We do not celebrate Christmas as we would any other holiday, because this one is sacred. This is what Christmas means to me.

By Chris Howell

May Valley Elementary

Christmas

Christmas in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky is my favorite time of the year. I'm proud to be living in such a beautiful place. We don't always have snow at Christmas, but I dream about waking up on Christmas morning and seeing the hills covered with snow.



Students at Mountain Christian Academy performed the annual Christmas play on December 6. The play, "A Lamb's Tale," was presented by K-8th graders. They were accompanied by MCA's rings and choir.

PostScript

by Pam Shingler
Editor



Learning of some of the charitable acts being accomplished this season, you can't help but feel good.

Last weekend, people all over the county were getting together to pack food boxes, clothing and toys, and yesterday thousands of young people and adults had more than they had before.

I've been on both sides of that story. I remember as a child taking a can of peas or corn from a sparse pantry to school or church for food drives, knowing that one of the baskets would come to my house, maybe not through this particular drive, but through one like it.

I was very proud, some would say overly so. I hated being poor.

I still don't see the reason for poverty in a world where there is plen-

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- Cooking with Martha White • C4
- Stress-free entertaining • C4
- Weddings/Engagements • C4
- Classifieds • C5

This Town That World

Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being reprinted due to request. The following column was written in 1959.

A LUCKY KID AND HIS CHRISTMASSES

You wide-eyed youngsters of this year 1959, have you ever tracked Santa in the snow? Well, I did. Have you ever seen the kindly, bumbling old saint spill the candy all over the floor and then had the tingling delight of watching him search for it in the flickering light of a coal fire and carefully pick up every piece of it?

You think Christmas is wonderful! Shucks, kid, you were born fifty years too late.

Think back—can you remember the first orange you ever saw? Did it mean anything to you when you did see it? I remember my first, and that was before I ever knew they were grown in Florida and California. It came from Catlettsburg, in the old timber-rafting days, and Catlettsburg was far enough away for me then. Tales brought back in those days by returning raftsmen of old Front Street were to us as fabulous as Marco Polo's stories of Cathay.

That orange was fished from the toe of a long, home-knitted stocking that had hung the night before from the corner of a mantel. On occasions I can yet sniff the wonderful perfume of it...Just one orange and a "log stick" of peppermint candy, some cinnamon drops—yes, and an apple. And a marvelous popgun...I envy no modern child all his toys and electronic gadgets and things to see and places to go. For none has known the thrill such as a country boy of five or six knew at Christmas—ahem!—50 years ago.

Our world was a sequestered place in those days. Only the blue smoke rising from behind a hill told of a distant home and fireplace where our nearest neighbors lived. Between us was a night-impassable road. But there was a warm friendliness pervading it all. There was a third dimension of security, so to speak: living in a little world all your own, held close to those you loved and those who loved you, the length and breadth of all before you cloaked in silence, and over-

See Town-World, page two

In spirit

ty of wealth to go around. I disagree with those who like to talk about the dignity of being poor. There is little dignity in being unable to provide for yourself.

And I quarrel with those who seem to think that being poor equates to being ignorant or lazy or unmotivated. Sometimes, it has to do with luck, pure and simple, or with a lack of choices, or a lack of opportunity. Certainly, no child ever chooses to be born into poverty.

Singer Tony Bennett on a TV show recently talked about growing up in the Depression. Despite being a highly regarded and well-paid entertainer, Bennett said he will never get over the effects of his experiences during that

See Postscript, page two

Christmas

(Continued from page one)

Christmas in 1990. I was six years old and little did I know it would be my papaw's last. He was dying of lung cancer and was put in the hospital before Christmas. I prayed my little heart out, that he would get to come home for Christmas, but he didn't get to. My family and I went to see him every day and I would pray every day that God would save him, and sure enough on December 28, 1990, my papaw Leonard received Christ and later that day went on to be with Jesus in heaven. I'll never forget that Christmas, as well as the others.

Merry Christmas,
Megan Hall

John M. Stumbo Elementary

My Most Memorable Christmas

My most memorable Christmas happened when I was very young. It was getting very close to Christmas and I got really sick. I had to be admitted to the hospital and became very sad because I would be missing Christmas at home. So mommy brought our Christmas tree to the hospital and decorated it there in front of me. Then she brought decorations of lights and tinsel to make my room look like home.

That Christmas showed me what the true meaning of Christmas was about: it was all about love and the sacrifices that go with it. I love Christmas and my family!

Stephanie Ousley

Christmas Through my Eyes

Christmas through my eyes means being with my family. After a huge day of feasting on turkey, I see us being together around the Christmas tree, in front of the fireplace drinking hot cocoa, and eating cinnamon cookies. I see the tree all lightened up with the colors of the rainbow, and I feel warm inside, even though the air outside is chilling.

Christmas is celebrated to praise the birth of Christ. Usually people decorate to show and to express their beliefs in Christ. Different families have different traditions, and that's okay; there's no certain way to celebrate Christmas. That's how I see Christmas through my eyes.

Amanda Travis

Christmas Means to Me...

Something special happened on Christmas, and I really liked that, because I got my first time with my baby brother. He was born a few days before and came home when Christmas was starting.

It was so special because I got to hug him. I don't remember much about how he looked, but I still remember he was so nice to me back then. He's still nice, and we don't fight much, but I'd always like him any ways.

It's a little bit nicer to have Christmas with him now, because he is four years old, and I am a little bit older too. We share our toys and candy. That is fun, and sharing is always even.

Earl Slone

James A. Duff Elementary

Christmas is about family, giving, and loving each other. It's not about presents or Santa Claus. My favorite Christmas was when my Dad, brother, and I got my Mom her stereo. That was probably the biggest present my mom ever got, because when she was little they didn't have Santa Claus. And that is what Christmas is about to me.

Steffany Bailey
Winner 4-5

The Best Christmas Eve

When I was three years old my Mamaw came to my house. I was so excited to see her. This was the first time she would be having Christmas with me. She brought me two kittens for Christmas. My name the kittens Snowball and Rudolph. My Mamaw and I had a great time playing with the kittens. I will never forget the Christmas when I was three years old.

Chasity Hunter

Betsy Layne High

What Christmas Means To Me

Christmas is not just about lights, trees, and gifts, but a time to be thankful and happy. Christmas is where we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is a time of peace, where we forget about our troubles and spend time with the people we most love. Christmas is a time where I am happy to be with my family. This is what Christmas means to me.

Nick Burchett

What Christmas Means To Me

Many people have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. To people, Christmas has become nothing more but receiving gifts. The true meaning of Christmas is to get together with your family, and



Stephanie Prater ended the reception for student writers by singing a traditional Christmas carol.

spend quality time with them. You should spend time with the people you love for they won't live forever. Christmas originated from the birth of Jesus and the tradition of giving gifts came from the wise men bringing baby Jesus gifts. This is what Christmas means to me. It is Jesus's birthday!

Bart Wagner

Prestonsburg High School

My Favorite Christmas Memory

One of my favorite memories of Christmas is having dinner at Gramma Stumbo's. Her house was filled with love and laughter as the whole family gathered in to eat. Relatives came that you usually didn't see until then. That's because Gramma Stumbo's was special. She would always take me up in her arms and give me a big hug and kiss. She never smelled of perfume or anything fancy. Gramma Stumbo never dressed in the latest fashions. She was simple and pure. Her heart was filled with great love for everyone. Her face was old and wrinkled. But to me it was tender and beautiful. Her eyes radiated a soft glow of compassion and understanding. She was gentle and kind.

I never realized just how much she held our family together until she passed away. Our times together were precious. We shared a special bond. That's what made Christmas extra special. She will never be replaced and Christmas has never been the same without her.

Iris Dene Stumbo

What Christmas Means To Me

When I think of Christmas, many things come to mind. I think of family, parties, music, food, snow, and most of all my Lord Jesus Christ. I think of the cold winter scene when Jesus was born. If only the friendly beasts that gave their stable knew that they were sharing their home with the Son of God. And Mary, who had delivered Jesus, did she know that He would save the whole world?

Even when I receive gifts, I thank God for people thinking of me, but most of all I know that the best gift I have received is Jesus, and when He thought of me.

Sarah Allen

South Floyd Middle

What Christmas Means To Me

To me, Christmas is a time of love, laughter, and happiness. The presents aren't the only gifts. There's also the gift of love. You'll see the kisses under the mistletoe and the Christmas joy all around; for this was the day our Lord was born so many years ago.

I love to see the happiness in the faces of others, as we eat our Christmas dinner. As I lay down at night, I think of everyone in my family that I have been blessed with.

The real meaning of Christmas is the joy in my heart.

Lesley Mullins

Osborne Elementary

What Christmas Means To Me

Christmas is when I get presents. When Santa Claus comes, I get to decorate the Christmas Tree. I get to watch Rudolph on tv. I like seeing the lights around the houses. But the most important thing about Christmas is that it is Jesus's birthday.

Joshua Akers

One Special Christmas

One Christmas day I woke up and there were dozens of presents lying under the tree. When I looked outside there was about two feet of snow. But that wasn't the main reason it was so special. When I ran to wake my Papaw I said "Papaw can we open our presents?" "No, not yet," he said. But that is not the reason that Christmas was so special. The reason it was so special was all of my family came to my Papaw's house and we all opened presents and we all had a good time. Its like we eat like it is Thanksgiving. Before we eat we prayed to Jesus, how thankful we are to him and Happy Birthday. I think Christmas means Thanks to Jesus.

Later that night we opened our presents, my Mamaw and Papaw opened the present I got them. It was a picture of Jesus on the Cross. I didn't get stuff like that. I got stuff like action figures. I think my Mamaw and Papaw loved the picture. In the living room it hangs upon the wall, it is very beautiful. If I live there when I get older I will keep it up there until I pass away, and hopefully that will be a long time, and not just for me but for everyone.

Lyle Johnson

Clark Elementary

What I Think About Christmas

I think Christmas is another break for kids all over the world. We celebrate Christmas for one reason, to celebrate Jesus's birthday. I think Christmas is about giving and caring.

Neil Adams

What I Think Christmas is All About...

Some kids think Christmas is all about toys but it's not. It's about Jesus's birthday. I do admit that I get a little carried away with presents, but I don't forget what Christmas really means. Every Christmas I get out of bed and I look at our beautiful tree.

Danielle Ousley

Adams Middle School

What I Think

What I think Christmas is about is a time for sharing happiness, family, and toys!

I remember a lovely doll in a magazine, her name was Megan. She was 2 rulers tall. All I could think about was the doll. Mom did everything she could to stop me from talking about Megan. When Christmas Eve came I saw a long box. I had a good feeling about it. I tore off the paper, ripped open the box, and there was Megan! Mom and Dad had got her for me. Then it hit me it wasn't the toys that mattered it was the family and worship of Jesus and God!

Caitlin Hale

Allen Central High School

My Favorite Christmas Story

Candles, ribbon, and twinkling Christmas lights illuminate the entire room. The smell of fresh gingerbread cookies engulfs the house. As a small child

See Christmas, page three

Postscript

(Continued from page one)

time.

"It (the Depression) has always been with me," he said.

I don't think anyone gets over being really poor. It stays with us, no matter what we accumulate later. It affects what value we attach to things. It affects how we assess the extremely wealthy, as well as the extremely poor. The state of poverty is never far from our minds.

(One thing about growing up and living in eastern Kentucky is that the poor are surrounded by people like them - which may or may not be a positive.)

The only plus to being poor, as far as I can see, is that we know we can survive; we don't have to live in fear of being poor. Been there, done that.

I'm grateful to the people who cared enough to bring food baskets to my house when I was a child. I'm glad that now I can contribute more than a can from a fully stocked pantry.

I hope that we will all remember that the need continues into January, February, March and so on.

I hope, too, that we will try to come up with solutions to the poverty problem, that we will work to help

the poor help themselves out of their predicament of dependence.

I'm confident that one of the solutions is education, and I'm confident that the best thing we can do, ultimately, to help the poor is to assure that they have the support and encouragement to succeed in school and that they are treated with fairness and equality in the classroom.

...

It was interesting to note that on this year's winter solstice last Wednesday, the moon appeared brighter than it had in 133 years.

The last time a solstice such as this occurred was December 21, 1866, according to Charles Howes, a biology professor at Ashland Community College, quoted in The Daily Independent.

The moon's orbit was closest to the Earth and it seemed 14 percent larger than in the summer, Howes said.

I hope you looked up.

Town-World

(Continued from page one)

head not a Sputnik flirting with the stars nor a jet intruding its thunder.

What do I remember with the deepest comfort of those Christmases? The kindness and care and tenderness of loving hearts. And don't ever think a child doesn't need these! For this is the magic that makes crude toys marvelous playthings, simple games, spell-working inventions and the notes of an old, squeaky organ, music from an Aeolian harp.

And now, you who have read this far, do you think the old boy has—as they say now, 50 years

later—flipped? Not so. Why shouldn't one look back on such memorable Christmases? Why should not Christmas be a time for reminiscing?

In that spirit I invite you all to think back with me farther still to what we think of as the First Christmas—to the great, good day when earth received its Greatest Gift in the incarnation of a Love that transcends that love our good dads and mothers lavished on us as far as from here to the farthest star.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO YOU ALL!



Floyd County School Superintendent Paul Fanning spoke with program co-sponsors Charles Everidge of McDonald's and Rick "The Ranger" Caudill of WMDJ.

THINGS TO PONDER

by Mable Rowe Lineberger, Ph.D.

Now, where did the jolly go?

Gee, another Christmas has come and gone. It's hard to believe that it has been a short time since Thanksgiving. Can you list now all those things on December 1 that just had to be done before Christmas?

When trying to get the holidays in line, some of us have decided that the feeling really has more to do with the perception of the passage of time, based on one's age. It just seems that time flies for those who have to keep a "need to do" list of required activities and chores, while time crawls for those younger ones waiting for things to happen.

Anyway, Christmas seems to come and go so quickly. Did you enjoy your holiday as you hoped you would? What do you wish had been different? Was the stress of doing so much worth your kicking the cat?

Another thing that seems dependent on age and Christmas is the level and types of excitement associated with the greatest of holidays for most folks. For young people, it seems to be the combination of enchantment and fantasy. Remember when you could just about see Santa's elves outside the window sill?

As your mind raced with the possibilities, your main thought was, "What if they really see me doing 'something' and tell Santa?" It was such a fine time for the wish that dreams could and would come true.

Then, as we get older with the advancement of cognitive development and emotional experiences, we begin to realize that "Santa" does not always occur as we wish or need.

Even before the teen-age years, youngsters with dysfunctional parents are able to see the problems that exist between parents, whether it is a holiday or not. In fact, their situation may be more traumatic during those spe-

cial times of the year because of the increased stress of holiday happenings.

Then, there are the difficulties that some older people have in regard to Christmas. Instead of the fun type of excitement experienced by youth, the adults may cope with the holidays in various ways.

There are the older ones who worry excessively that everyone might not have just what he or she wants, whether it is reasonable or not. This type of individual tends not to think about the long-term impact of their choices for the holidays, much less the most immediate ones.

For example, there's the elderly great-aunt who says what she thinks, as she always has - "I've lost 75 pounds (due to sickness). Looks like you and Pattie Lou gained it."

Since you're older and have heard Auntie's tart remarks over the years, you try to ignore what she said. But, young, 20-some-year-old Pattie Lou's feelings are hurt for the rest of the holiday.

As a result, Pattie Lou spends the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas drinking diet liquid for two meals a day and eating prudently at dinner time. (With family members like this, we don't need enemies.)

Then, there are the so-called adults who spend up to the national debt in an effort to "buy" everyone a happy time and ignore that their budget is already so tight it is ready to pop at the seams.

A most significant problem for all ages, especially adults, is the depressive feelings experienced during the holidays. It seems to be such a contrast to expectations that everyone is overflowing with joy and love for their fellow man.

However, because Christmas is perceived as a happy time of new beginning, we are further upset when we may be quickly mired down by recollections of past and recent losses. Then, often, other folks try to deny past times in attempts to see them all as so "wonderful." Or were they? Perhaps, you need to grieve some past losses and learn to move on.

Thus, a general suggestion is that you really evaluate your feelings, if you think you are having more distress than the "average" person. See what you can do before you are feeling overwhelmed next year, when you are again expected to feel jolly.

Again, if you have unusual reactions to the holiday season, examine what is happening and how you are coping. Then, talk with someone you respect - a friend, a church person, and/or a mental health professional. Like other things of life, you are in charge of what you make of your time, whether or not it is the holidays.

As with other times in your life, evaluate what worked and did not work for you, while supposedly having a time of your life. Learn to discuss possibilities and be willing to cooperate with others who are important enough to share your time.

Try to think, decide, and plan ahead for what you really want to do. What are your priorities?

These are good guidelines for your daily living and well being, no matter what the season or the event. As they say, "Your ticket is only punched once. Enjoy!"

Dr. Lineberger is a Licensed Psychologist with a private practice in Prestonsburg. Comments are requested and suggestions for topics may be sent to the Floyd County Times.

Christmas

(Continued from page two)

I sit in my little p.j.'s ripping the paper off my present as my father whose dressed as Santa Claus decapitates a gingerbread man cookie.

Becky Smith

McDowell Elementary

Why Christmas Is Special To Me

Christmas is very fun! Christmas is special to me because we get together and I get to see people in my family that goes to college, works, or lives far away. But Christmas is really special because it's Jesus's birthday. On every Christmas my family goes to my mamaw's house. We all help with the dinner. Some of us go to get pop, set the tables, and cook the food. About 1 week before Christmas all the girls help Mamaw set up her Christmas tree. All the boys help put up the decorations. The 1st thing we do is wait for everyone to get there. Next we gather in the kitchen, say our prayers, then eat. Then we open our presents. After that we show our presents and the ones we got that morning. After I do that my family goes to my other mamaw's house. There we do the same thing. It is fun!

Merry Christmas,
Trista Damron

My Most Memorable Christmas

Christmas in my family, traditionally, is going to the relatives to open presents but on one particular Christmas, it was more than that!

We had just reached the drive way at my Grandma Opal's house. The roads were slick and she lived on a steep hill. My dad tried to put the car in four-wheel drive but it didn't work. We returned home and piled into my dad's snow plowing truck. The truck was a three seater, and there were six of us! It was awful!

Even though it was really, really cramped. I had fun slipping and sliding on the roads.

Finally, we gratefully arrived at Grandma Opal's house where she had prepared our gifts.

Kateland Hall

Prestonsburg Elementary

My best memory of Christmas is when my mom and I made ornaments out of cinnamon cookie dough. We cut them out with cookie cutters that look like Santa Claus, reindeer, and stockings. When they baked and the scent of cinnamon filled the room. Every year I hang these ornaments up on the Christmas tree. And they never lose their scent. That's my best memory of Christmas.

Caitlin Newsome

I like Christmas because I can be with my family. I like Christmas because I get presents. Happy birthday Jesus, I like Christmas dinner.

Tyler Whitt

Allen Central Middle School

The Purpose

It's Christmas. Tinsel hangs from a freshly cut tree. Snow falls on the smooth grass. Outside, trees are bare, and you can almost tell they are shivering! Carolers sing songs such as Jingle Bells and Rudolph. Crates of eggnog set on the table, along with the turkey and sides. Homemade fudge aromas fill the air. Stockings are hanging over a crackling fire in the fireplace waiting to be filled with treats from Santa. Little children dressed in warmth from head to toe build a snowman in the yard.

There's one thing missing from this jolly time...the remembrance of Jesus' birth. Jesus came into the world on this day. An we praise God for that. If it weren't for the birth of Jesus Christ, we would not be here today. Remember that Christmas is the birthday of Christ.

Christmas. That says everything. Christ begins the word Christmas. Christ also began our lives. If you have faith in Jesus, this Christmas, remember why we have all the fancy decorations and family get togethers.

Remember the purpose.

Amy Wallen

Allen Central Middle

What Christmas Means to Me

Christmas means different things to different people. As for me, in the last year, I have come to realize that Christmas is not only Christmas presents, Santa Claus, pretty paper and beautiful bows, but Christmas is family, friends, and the birth of the Christ child. In the past year, I have lost an uncle that I loved dearly. Another uncle whom I am very close to had a heart attack. I almost lost my Grandmother whom I love more than life itself, and only a few short weeks ago I lost my home to fire. With all this happening in less than one year, I have come to realize that Christmas is a time for sharing the love that you have inside of you. This Christmas take a look around at all your loved ones and tell them how much you love them, for next year someone could be missing. This Christmas take time to look around and thank God for what you have and don't just commercialize Christmas, but remember the birth of the Christ child, and keep Christ in Christmas.

Jessica Meadows

Betsy Layne Elementary

The Meaning of Christmas

Many people believe that the only thing that matters during the Christmas season is presents, trees, and carols, but that isn't true. Christmas isn't about any of these things, but about spending time with the people you love, and giving thanks to God for sending us the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ. Although, giving and receiving gifts add to the excitement, during the Christmas season, we should all take time out to thank God for Jesus and spend a little extra time with our friends and family. Let's all help everyone to remember the real reason for the season.

Amanda Adkins

What Christmas Means to Me

Christmas is the time of year when people should forget about their worries and problems and remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of Christ.

Christmas is also the time to spend with your loved ones and not to worry about how many gifts you get or how much you spend on somebody.

Every Christmas I always spend it with my family, but this year all my family won't be together because my mom won't be here to enjoy the Christmas Holiday with us. It will be a very sad Christmas, but I know she'll be watching over me and my family. But it really makes people think how thankful they should be to have all their family with them. They are really lucky.

This holiday is also the time to get presents and to give others and spread joy and good will to everyone you meet. It's also the time of the year to share and ask to help someone if they need it and that is what Christmas means to me.

Jessica Deskins

When I Think of Christmas

When I think of Christmas I think about what it must have been like long, long ago at the time of the birth of Jesus. Poor Mary and Joseph wandering across the desert looking for a place where Mary could rest and have her baby. She must have been so tired but I think she still had a happy feeling inside because she knew her baby was so special. I can picture them traveling under the star filled sky. I can almost feel the disappointment as place after place had no room for them. In my mind I can picture the stable and see the animals sleeping in the hay. The smile on Mary's face as she lay down on the hay to rest her tired body. The joy on her face when her baby was born and she named him Jesus.

The night sky must have been glowing from the brilliant bright star that was to lead the wise men to baby Jesus. What a night this must have been!

This Christmas night look into the sky, then close your eyes and try to see what baby Jesus came into the world seeing, and the special gift he brought the world, and you will know the true meaning of Christmas.

New children's videos portray Biblical values

(NAPSA)-Bible stories are one of the most effective ways to teach values to children.

A new set of videos that uses these timeless stories to promote biblical values is coming from the creative partnership of the American Bible Society, Tyndale Entertainment, and Sony Wonder.

The Kingsley's Meadow

videos, "Hang in There!" and "Wise Guy," are part of the new Wonders of Light series for children ages two through six.

The stories take place in a fantastic meadow, where a lovable teenage lion named Kingsley, a trio of puppet flowers named Petals and a funny chipmunk named Monk, help kids discover

lessons about life and God's Word.

"Hang in There!" has two episodes. One emphasizes the quality of goodness while sharing the Old Testament story of Ruth. Why would kids want to be good anyway? From this story, kids learn that Ruth and Boaz were good and God blessed them with many children and grandchildren, including their grandson, David, Israel's greatest king.

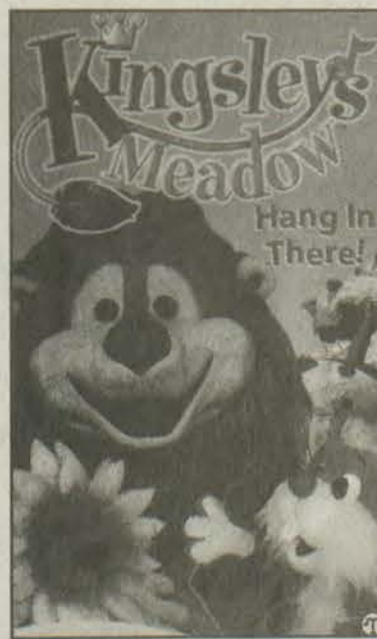
"Hang in There!" also features the story of Elisha, whose life embodied the quality of perseverance. By obeying God and hanging in there, Elisha learned perseverance and determination.

Wise Guy offers two more appealing stories. The story of Naaman explains the important concept of self-control. Naaman discovered that God can be trusted. Children learn that God can help them control their thoughts, words and actions.

The tale of David and Solomon highlights the importance of paying attention. King David taught his son Solomon to pay attention to God's commands. Because Solomon did what his father taught him, he asked God for wisdom and he became a "wise guy."

Created by Tony Salerno, the award-winning mastermind of The Music Machine and Bullfrogs and Butterflies, the Kingsley's Meadow videos provide an entertaining learning experience for children.

Kingsley's Meadow videos are available from Christian book-sellers across the United States, and from the American Bible Society at 1-800-32-BIBLE or www.americanbible.org.



Teaching values need not be hard. The Kingsley's Meadow videos make it entertaining.

NEW ARRIVAL



Recent arrival

Tommy Blake Chapman was born November 21, 1999, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital, the son of Jaclyn Smith and Tommy Chapman of Pikeville. He weighed six pounds, eight ounces, and was 20-1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Charles and Sandra Smith and Tim and Cathy Chapman, all of Pike County.

BIRTHDAYS



Chelsey Noel Couch will celebrate her second birthday on December 25, at her home in Langley. She is the daughter of Chris and Christine Couch of Langley; the granddaughter of Colson and Debbie Couch of Garrett; Isabelle Prater and Ray Parsons of Hueysville; and the late Delbert Prater.



Celebrates #3

Michael Brandon Williams celebrated his third birthday on December 21. He is the son of Terry and Linda Williams of Little Mud. His grandparents are Barlowe and Shirley Parsons, also of Little Mud, Barbara Collins of Barbourville and Lawrence Williams of Kimper.

Brochure offers tips on making family time fun

(NAPSA)-A new Family Circle/ Lever 2000 survey on the American family reveals that 90 percent of parents are satisfied with their family's home and standard of life, even though one-third of respondents say that each family member has only 1-7 care-free hours in a typical week.

With today's busy working schedules, making the most out of the everyday moments spent together is important. According to Sheila Ellison, author of 365 Days of Creative Play, each day offers an abundance of precious everyday moments which can bring families closer together from sun-up to sundown.

Ellison suggests stealing your youngsters away in their pajamas for an early breakfast at a favorite local restaurant, or scheduling an interview with your children and asking them how they think or feel about something.

Ellison offers additional tips to turn any time into family fun time:

- Start the day on a silly note by having family members sing every word that they would usually speak until breakfast is over.
- Ask your kids for their advice on what outfit you should wear. They'll enjoy the feeling of being needed and will be proud that you value their opinion.
- Spice up your dinner! Instead of setting the kitchen or dining room table, have a picnic on the



floor. Spread out a sheet or tablecloth and use paper plates. Or if you wish, use fine china and candles.

• Make bath time fun for the kids. Place a bag of household objects in a bowl next to the bath (clothespin, spoon, key, plastic toy, comb, paper, etc.) Let the experiment begin. Guess before putting the object in the water whether it will sink or float. Make a game out of it, counting how many guesses are correct.

For more tips on how to turn morning, noon and night into family fun time, order the Lever 2000 Around the Clock Family Fun brochure by calling 1-800-293-8138.

subscribe to the
Floyd County Times
call 886-8506



Bring good luck and good taste to the New Year

Looking for a new way to ensure a year's worth of good luck by serving black-eyed peas for the New Year?

Border Corn Cakes with Black-Eyed Pea Salsa from the new cookbook, "Southern Traditions, 100 Years of Recipes from the Martha White Kitchens" (Creative Publishing international, 1999), is a delicious and fun way to enjoy them while watching the New Year bowl games.

The new Martha White cookbook is available in bookstores everywhere, by special offer on Martha White products and on the Internet. Visit the Martha White web page at www.marthawhite.com for details.

Border Corn Cakes with Black-Eyed Pea Salsa

Salsa
1 tablespoon vegetable or olive oil

1/2 cup chopped onion
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 (15 oz.) cans black-eyed peas, drained
1 cup salsa
1 cup chopped bell pepper
2 medium tomatoes, seeded, chopped
3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Salt and pepper

Corn Cakes
2 (6 oz.) pkg. Martha White™ Cotton Pickin' or Buttermilk Cornbread Mix
8 oz. (2 cups) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
1 1/2 cups milk
1 egg, beaten
Heat oil in medium skillet over medium heat until hot. Add onion and garlic; cook until tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in 1 can of the black-eyed peas; cook until thoroughly heated. With potato

masher or fork, mash mixture until thick and chunky. Stir in remaining can of peas and the salsa.

Remove from heat; stir in all remaining salsa ingredients. Add salt and pepper to taste. Spoon into serving dish. If desired, garnish with additional cilantro. Set aside.

Heat griddle or large skillet to medium heat (350F). Grease lightly with oil. Griddle is ready when small drops of water sizzle and disappear almost immediately. Pancakes with stick if griddle is too cool. In medium bowl, combine all corn cake ingredients; stir until smooth.

For each corn cake, pour heaping tablespoon batter onto hot griddle. Cook until golden brown on both sides, turning once. If batter thickens, add additional milk. Serve with salsa. Store salsa in refrigerator.

Yield: 36 corn cakes; 5 cups salsa

Stress-free holiday entertaining

(NAPSA)-The holiday party is at your house this year and you have no idea where to begin. How much food will you need? How many beverages should you buy? Throwing a successful party can seem like something of a mystery. Follow these suggestions from the leading online resource for home enthusiasts, www.house.net, and you'll sail through even the most harrowing holiday mixer.

- Starters:**
- Allow eight to twelve hors d'oeuvres per person if you won't be serving dinner.
 - Consider passing trays of hors d'oeuvres. For expensive items such as large shrimp, it controls the portions consumed. Also, it helps the flow of conversation.
 - If you're serving dinner, allow four to six hors d'oeuvres per person.
 - For passed hors d'oeuvres, be careful and considerate. Never get them too hot to pop in the mouth. An hors d'oeuvre should be eaten within two bites.
 - A quart of soup will serve three generously; add a bit of broth to stretch for four.

- Allow 3 to 4 ounces per person for side dishes including vegetable, salad, and rice.
- Entrees:**
- If you're offering two entrees (including buffet style), allow about 4 ounces of each per person.
 - For boned meats, allow 4-6 ounces per person. If serving less meat, increase vegetable and starch offerings. For items with bone, plan on 1 pound per person (more than likely, some of it will be left over).
 - For samplings of small desserts, such as brownies and cookies, allow three to four per person and offer at least two varieties.
 - You may want to use some of the great designs in paper plates and napkins, but consider renting glasses for the beverages. Keep in mind that for paper napkins at the buffet situation, you will need double the napkins to cover the dessert.
- Drinks and Cocktails:**
- For cold beverages, allow 1-1/2 pounds of ice per person. If it is meltdown hot outside,

- allow 2 pounds per person.
 - For a party that lasts between three and four hours, allow about three to four beverage glasses per person.
 - For nonalcoholic beverages, allow two servings per person.
 - Offer some plain sparkling water, too.
 - Allow one bottle of wine for every five people you have invited.
 - For an open bar, expect 50 percent to choose wine.
 - If serving several courses with wine, allow one-half to 1 bottle per person. If that is the main beverage, increase amounts by 25 percent.
 - After dinner, coffee is traditionally offered. Expect about 50 percent to drink coffee and a smaller number for decaf.
- Whatever you decide to serve, be sure to enjoy the party this year.
- For more holiday planning tips, just log on to www.house.net, the leading online resource for home enthusiasts.

How music lovers can get the most out of their music internet

(NUE) - If you're planning a party or a wedding and you can't afford a DJ, you're in luck. Now you can turn your PC into a digital jukebox.

Living in the Internet age can be very exciting if you take advantage of the technology. One of the greatest benefits of the Internet is MP3 — a popular audio format for your computer.

So what exactly is an MP3? No, it's not a military spy plane. It stands for Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) 1 Audio Layer 3. It's just a way of saving music onto your hard drive.

People all over the world are downloading music for free because of MP3. In fact, "MP3" has replaced "sex" as the No. 1 search term on the Internet. The good news is that MP3 doesn't take up much space on your computer and the songs can sound just as clear as a CD. So when you want to buy a new album, don't go to the record store, go straight to the Internet.

But how does it work? The easiest way is using MusicMatch Jukebox. One of the more popular MP3 software programs, this award winning Jukebox is the simplest way to turn your PC into a digital jukebox. You can record and organize the music you love from the Internet or from your own music collection.

You can get the MusicMatch Jukebox Deluxe in retail stores. It comes with a PC-to-stereo cable to connect your stereo system to your PC., plus 50 free

music tracks to get you started. It's actually the first time a complete MP3 and digital audio software program has been offered to consumers in a boxed version.

Fortunately, you don't need to be a computer wizard to figure out MP3 and digital music. You can pick up the MusicMatch Jukebox Deluxe at a store near you or download the latest version of the software from the Internet. You can search for new music and free sample tracks from the MusicMatch Web site and other music Web sites.

Luckily, you don't have to scour the net for music. You can actually transfer all of your old cassettes, records and CDs into MP3 files using MusicMatch Jukebox. It lets you transfer old albums and cassettes that you thought wouldn't make it through the millennium and save them onto your computer. So dust off mom's rare Frank Sinatra albums. Now you can ensure their lifespan forever.

So for your next party, don't spend money on a DJ. Instead, put all of your favorite songs together using MusicMatch Jukebox and turn you and your friends into DJs.

PC Magazine chose MusicMatch Jukebox software as the Editor's No. 1 choice, and it is downloaded by close to 1 million people each month.

To find out more about MusicMatch Jukebox, visit www.musicmatch.com.

The top ten accessories for the season

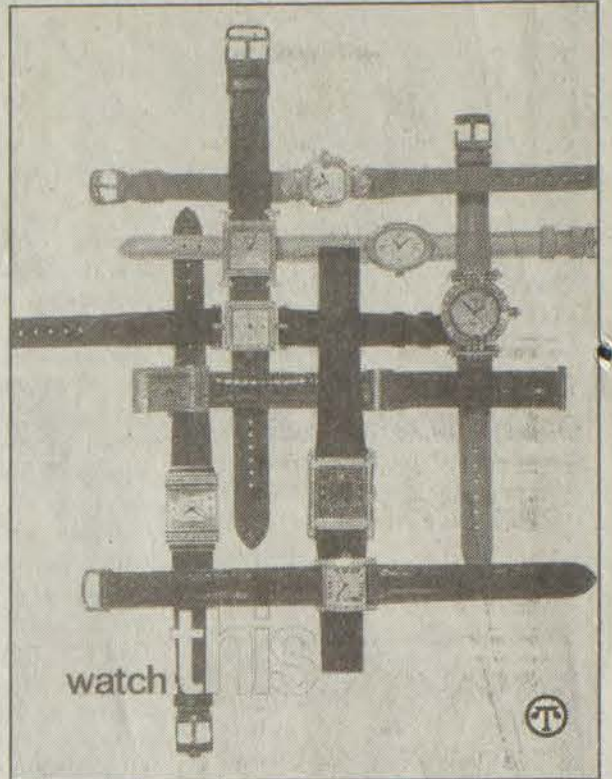
(NAPSA)-What makes the gift-giving season sparkle? Accessories glitter with possibilities.

According to Richard Sinott, Harper's Bazaar accessories editor and the Accessories Council, here are the season's top ten holiday picks:

- **Watches**-Look for watches encrusted with jewels and stones, also sleek silver bangle styles.
- **Rings**-The larger the stone the better. Think cocktail rings to adorn your evening look.
- **Scarves**-Wrap yourself in fabulous embroidered and colorful cashmere or a casual chunky knit.
- **Gloves**-For real glamour, a full length glove to be worn with your favorite ball gown is the pick of the season.
- **Handbags**-Bag it with an envelope shaped clutch. For a festive holiday accent, look for beads, sequins and embroidery.
- **Belts**-Enhance a classic look or add a little something extra for dressy occasions. Jeweled or with elegant buckle closures, the right belt can take the most simple outfit to a whole new extreme.
- **Hats**-You can hold your head high and add your own signature style with the compliment of a great hat, whether it's crocheted for day or feathered drama for night.
- **Hosiery**-The stockings are hung with frivolous care. Look for patterned, wooly and fishnet. Fishnet over color takes you into the millennium in style.
- **Bracelets**-Stack them up! Layer them on! One arm or both. Encrusted with crystals, semi-precious stones or simple in gold or silver. The more the merrier.
- **Stocking Stuffers**-Sunglasses, hair accessories and small leather goods help spread holiday cheer.

The Accessories Council recently voted ten renowned people with outstanding accessories style as being worthy of the Best Accessorized List.

The 1999 winners are Cher, Katie Couric, Cameron Diaz, Lauryn Hill, Nicole Kidman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone, Blaine Trump and



Making a list and checking it twice? Accessories can sum up the season's best.

Barbara Walters.

According to Sheila Block, executive director of the Accessories Council, these celebrities understand the value of accessories and promote them in both their personal and professional lives.

"Accessories help us define our own sense of personal style. Whether you are wearing fashion jewelry or a simple wrap, you are making a statement about who you are and how accessories add to your life," said Block.

Is there a secret to happiness in retirement?

by Kathie Dickenson

When approaching retirement years, some people look ahead eagerly, while others drag their feet with reluctance or dread. After leaving their careers, some feel discontented, but some feel more alive than ever. Is there a secret to happiness in retirement?

Janette Newhouse, a Radford University human development professor who specializes in gerontology, suggests the degree of a person's happiness in retirement is somewhat predictable.

"When you look across a lifespan," she says, "there is more continuity than change. People who are generally satisfied throughout their lives tend to be happy in retirement; those who spend most of their lives in dissatisfaction won't necessarily find happiness when they leave their jobs."

"Dollars and health" are two mediating factors to life satisfaction at any age, says Newhouse. "You need enough money so that you're not always struggling, and you need enough health to be physically independent. Independence is tied closely to self esteem."

She adds that a third factor, especially important during the older years, is having close relationships that provide a support network.

A sense of status, a sense of being needed and a sense of being a contributing member of society all make for satisfaction in late life as much as in early life, says Newhouse.

"Often, people give up a piece of their identity when they retire," she says. "Many times they don't realize how much they have identified themselves by their jobs, and they feel a sense of loss."

Other kinds of loss, such as children moving away or the death of a partner, can chink away at one's identity, too. "The retirement years are a real rite of passage. People sometimes have to re-invent their identity and ask themselves "how do I fit into the world I now live in?" Newhouse says.

Anticipating your needs—including financial, physical and emotional needs—can contribute to a happy retirement, says Newhouse. Having something to retire to, whether it's a cause in which you believe, a passion you wish to follow or even another career, can keep you involved and alleviate the sense of disengagement from life that some retirees feel.

Newhouse points out that retirement is a relatively recent phenomenon. A century ago, the average life span was 47. Now people often retire at 50 or 55 and begin new careers. Others pursue personal interests and hobbies, travel, or increase their involvement in civic clubs, volunteer work and religious organizations.

Retirees of any age can find new ways to apply their skills, knowledge and interests, or develop new ones.

For example, a lifelong company accountant could become an accounting consultant, help a non-profit organization with its book-

keeping or study world history at a community college or university. A carpenter could build playground equipment for a child care center, build furniture to sell at craft fairs or build a portfolio of original poetry.

For people in the second half of life, a strong support network of family and friends is important, says Newhouse. Spending time with those who are significant to you, including grandchildren, will keep that network strong and contribute to your quality of life.

Sibling relationships can be especially significant, says Newhouse. "Sisters are frequently important supports for one another in later life. In fact, gerontology research indicates that female-female familial relationships are strong across the lifespan."

A strong support network helps people to maintain "optimal independence" as they age, says Newhouse. About 75 percent of those retiring, own homes, she says, and for most, the longer they can remain in their homes the happier they will be.

"Frailty is not normative," she says. "It doesn't happen to everyone, although it is more likely at 75 or 85 than at 65." The assistance of family and friends can help mitigate the effects of frailty

if it occurs.

If the informal support system breaks down and long term care must be considered, it doesn't have to be traumatic if you have matched your needs and resources with appropriate living arrangements.

For example, optimal independence may best be attained in a continuing care facility, where you can live in an apartment or condominium as long as you're able but can move into assisted living if you have the need.

Exploring such strategies before your needs are pressing will help you to maintain control of your future and to age with dignity.

"For more and more people," says Newhouse, "retirement represents a period of 30 or more years. During this time there are likely to be many changes in one's health, employment, family configuration, housing and leisure, has well as one's resources for addressing these changes."

As more people discover the opportunities, challenges and joys available in retirement, says Newhouse, this phase of life is being seen as "an extension of midlife—the closing of one chapter and the opening of another."

WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS



Ratliff, Messer to wed

Jeffery Wayne Messer and Tametha Lee Ratliff announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. The couple plan to marry on January 22, 2000, at the Marrowbone Missionary Baptist Church in Pike County. The prospective groom is a native of Perry County and employed with Leslie Resources. The bride-elect is from Magoffin County and is employed at Central Baptist Hospital. They plan to make their home in Hazard.

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

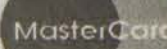
DEADLINES: WEDNESDAY PAPER, NOON MONDAY - FRIDAY PAPER, WEDNESDAY 5 P.M. - SHOPPER and SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY 5 P.M.



RATES:
\$1.00 per line, 4 lines minimum for Wed. and Fri.
Paper. .25 per line, 4 lines minimum for Shopper if purchased with
Wed. and Fri. Shopper only: \$1.00 per line, 4 lines minimum.

Contact Jenny at extension #14 or Sandra at extension #15 at:

(606) 886-8506



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(606) 886-3603

****24 HOURS****

The FLOYD COUNTY TIMES does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertisements. Ads which request or require advance payment of fees for services or products should be scrutinized carefully.

FOR SALE

Autos

'84 TOYOTA TERSEL: 4-sp. make good work car, \$500 OBO. Parting out, '83 Nissan 4x4, K/C, 5-sp. sell whole truck cheap. 886-3607.

'89 GMC 1500 4X4: V-6, automatic, loaded. 170K miles, excellent condition. \$6,500. 806-498-5508.

1986 CHEVY TRANSFER VAN: 16 passenger. Very low miles. \$7,000. 886-1832 or 886-1237.

Books

EAST KENTUCKY'S LARGEST SELECTION OF NEW & USED BOOKS, including Floyd Co. Kentucky History and History & Families of Knott Co. Kentucky Published by Turner Publishing Co. Call 606-789-3592 or visit Words 'N Stuff at the intersection of Ky Rt 1107 & 302, at Van Lear, KY.

Sale/Misc.

BEEF CATTLE: Corn fed. 874-8979.

PRIMESTAR / DIRECTV: Fee equipment, free up-grades. Call for details, 888-265-2123.

(3) ALL STEEL BUILDINGS: 24X30 was \$7,990 sell \$3,790. 30X50 was \$12,900 sell \$5,980. 50X100 was \$26,900 sell \$11,900. (800)388-5314.

TAG - A - LONG TRAILERS: 5x8, 20" railing, all metal. 6' 5"x 16', 12" railing, wood floor. 6x10 flat, all steel. 6'3"x 10'6", 12" railing, all steel. Call after 5 pm, 358-4524.

TICKETS FOR SALE: WCW, Ring side, front row, Cinn., Backstreet Boys, Indianapolis, March. 606-299-8986.

LARGE SELECTION OF RUSSELL MAY PRINTS: 886-6065.

For Sale or Rent

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT: Left fork of Little Paint. 3 BR, 2 BA. Call 889-0780, after 4 pm.

Motorcycle / ATVS

FOR SALE 1997 300 HONDA: 2 wd. 4 wheeler. Call 478-1378

Furniture

RAY'S BARGAIN CENTER SALE - SALE - SALE Christmas trees, outside lights & decorations for the home, 1/2 PRICE. Toys, gift ideas & much, much more. NEW & USED furniture & appliances reduced to unbelievable prices. New: Mattress sets starting at \$99, living room suits \$399, dinettes \$149. Used: Stoves, refrigerators, washers & dryers. SHOP WITH US & SAVE!! RT. #122, McDowell. Call 377-0143.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Mobile Homes

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Happy New Year... New Fleetwood 14x70. 3 BR with new Maytag Appliances, Delivery and Set-up. Regular price \$24,900. Your Price...Just \$18,900. Ask for Eric.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Stop by and see the Brand New Millennium floor plans. Including the "Sunroom" 16x70 and Great Room floor plans, and all bedrooms with walk-in closets. Any and all options available including septic systems, water, electric, AC, skirting. No down payment if you own your land. Don't rent this year and throw your money away. Be a homeowner in 2000. Call Today for details.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Merry Christmas...Put yourself in a Brand New 2000 Fleetwood, 14ft Wide Home...Just \$10,900. Includes delivery, set-up and Brand New Maytag Appliances. Call Eric.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Bring in the New Year with a New Fleetwood 2000 model 28x48 with Maytag appliances incl. Price includes delivery, set-up and footers. Sale Price...\$30,900, Ask for Eric.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
New Fleetwood 28x44 with 3 large bedrooms & 2 Baths. Side by side Refrigerator. Stove and dishwasher by Maytag. Regular price \$40,900. Your Price, \$32,900 call Randy.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Unbelievable...New 2000 Fleetwood 24x44 with 3 BR and 2 BA, Maytag appl., delivery, set-up and footers. Regular price \$32,900. Your Price \$24,900. Call Robert.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Only one...purchase this Used 14x70, 1999 model, 3 BR & 2 BA with New 3-ton Central AC. Only \$13,950 includes delivery & set-up. Ask for Randy.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
This is one great deal...Used 1992, 14x70, 3 BR, 2 BA home. With delivery and set-up, we have it priced to Sell...Just \$7,990. Don't wait, call Randy...Today!

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
2000 model Fleetwood 14x70 with 3 BR & 2 BA. Delivery & set-up incl., Maytag appliances incl. Regular price \$24,900. Your Price...\$21,900. Also Receive a \$1,400 Rebate. Ask for Robert.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
Brand new Fleetwood 2000, 16x80. This beautiful home has 3 BR and 2 BA. Includes delivery, set-up, Maytag appliances Just \$18,900 call Robert today!

KENTUCKY MOBILE HOME DEALER: Repo Lot. We buy & sell used trailers. Financing Available. CRUM'S MOBILE HOME MOVING SERVICE: Insured with permits. 886-6665 Fax 889-9662.

RANDALL'S HOMES of Manchester 598-5011 or 1-800-755-0058
New Fleetwood 24x52 with 3 BR and 2 BA. Maytag appliances. Delivery and Set-up Included! Regular price...\$39,900. Your Price...\$29,500. Ask for Randy.

Real Estate

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Established Beauty Salon in Auxier. For more information call 297-7616 after 6.

PROPERTY FOR SALE: At Stanville, Ky., on Mare Cr Rd. One-30 acre track and 1-1/2 acre lot. Owner will finance. 606-478-4450.

HOUSE, LOCATED IN PAINTSVILLE: Country setting, 2 miles from shopping center, built in 1992. 3 BR, 2 BA, Lg. Kit. with separate dining, dishwasher, range, ref., 2-car garage, 23 acres. \$116,000. 297-5464.

COMMERCIAL / RENTAL: Nice lot with 2 buildings & mobile home. Excellent location. Call 874-8978 evenings.

PROPERTY FOR RENT

For Rent/Lease

2 BR MOBILE HOME: Central heat/air, garage, fireplace, private lot. Located 3 miles up Arkansas Cr. \$325 month, \$125 deposit. No pets. 886-6665.

Office Space

BRICK OFFICE BUILDING FOR RENT: On Hwy 23, halfway between Prestonsburg & Pikeville. 5800 square feet. Ample storage and parking. Ideal for insurance agency, claims office, administrative office, accounting or Legal. Call toll free 877-404-1445.

3000 SQ. FT.: Under construction, will divide and will build to suit. South of Pikeville, U.S. 23. 639-4416.

Apartments

1 & 2 BR APTS: Newly decorated, totally furnished. Util. paid, except gas. Dep. & ref. req. Call M. S. at 349-5135 or 349-7285 & leave message.

1 BR FURNISHED APT.: In P'burg. Utilities & cable paid. No pets. Private. 886-0010 leave message or 874-2929 after 6 pm.

2 BR APT.: 624 - Apt. B - North Arnold Ave., P'burg. All appliances furnished including D/W, central heat/air, large lot, sun deck off master BR. \$375 per month + utilities, deposit required. 886-6000 or 886-3113.

1, 2, & 3 BR APTS.: In and close to Prestonsburg. \$200 & up. 886-8366.

3 BR DUPLEX (LIKE NEW): 1 BA, central heat & air. Located on Rt. 1750. \$350. 788-0064.

TIMBERLINE APTS.: Super nice, 2 BR, bath & 1/2, kitchen, living room. Washer & Dryer hook-up. \$450 month + utilities. 1 mile from P.C.C. 886-1997.

NEW & BEAUTIFUL: 2 BR Apt., washer/dryer hook-up. Safe & Secure Neighborhood. Downtown!! Serious Inquiries Only! References Needed! Call 886-9921 or 886-2563.

FURNISHED 1 BR APT.: utilities included, FREE laundry available. No Pets. \$350 month, \$150 deposit. 886-9213, Winchester Apts.

2 BR APTS. 12 miles north of Pikeville & 16 miles south of P'burg. W/D hook-up, Kit. appl. incl., pool. 478-8000, www.mellowbrook.com

R & L APARTMENTS, Under new management: We now have coin laundry for tenants. We have apts. available. One easy payment, all utilities & cable included. Call 606-339-7726 or 886-2797.

Houses

3 BR HOUSE: Perfect for people who value privacy. Near South Floyd high School. \$300, deposit required. 377-9215.

2 BR, 1-1/2 BA HOUSE: Total electric. On US 23, 1 mile from Prestonsburg. No pets. 886-9007.

Mobile Homes

3 BR, 2 BA NEW MOBILE HOME: Morehead area. \$600 + utilities. Students welcome. 606-780-4848.

2 BR, 1 BA MOBILE HOME: Near Prestonsburg. \$350 month. 432-8735.

2 BR. TRAILER, AT DRIFT, Contact Bob or Bootie Brown 377-6889.

LATE MODEL MOBILE HOME: 14x72, 2 BR, 2 full BA, fully furnished with washer & dryer. Located Barnett Dr., between twin bridges, Martin, KY. Call 285-3140.

LIKE NEW, 16X80: 3 BR, 2 BA. Reference required. 886-8366.

AT MCDOWELL: 3 BR trailer. Stove & ref. furnished. \$275 + \$200 deposit. 377-6881.

2 BR TRAILER: All electric. Conveniently located. HUD accepted. \$250 month. 587-1004.

14X70 MOBILE HOME: All appliances + washer/dryer. All electric. On private lot, on Rt. 114, Middle Cr. Real nice & clean. 886-6665.

2 BR, TOTAL ELECTRIC: Stove & ref. On US 321, between Prestonsburg & Paintsville. 886-9007.

Rental Properties

B & O RENTALS 1 BR, furnished Or unfurnished. Located in P'burg. No pets. 886-8991.

FOR RENT: 2-trailers, 1 house and basement apartment. 886-3584 or 886-9076.

HOUSES or Unique 1 BR APT. for Rent on University Drive: Between high school & college. Lease & security deposit required. House of Neeley, 886-3565.

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When responding to Employment ads that have reference numbers, please indicate that entire reference number on the outside of your envelope. Reference numbers are used to help us direct your letter to the correct individual.

Job Listings

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT NEEDED *Legal Experience preferred. *Honesty & Dependability Required. * Top Pay *Immediate Opening. *Computer Experience Needed. Christian Work Environment. All Inquiries Confidential. Send Resumes to: P.O. 1210, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

TEACHER'S AIDE: Assisting a teacher with primary age learning difference children and their parents in basic reading and math skills using a multisensory, structured, linguistic approach. Experience working with learning difference children preferred, and / or a person focused on a career in education. Please call 606-785-4044 or 606-785-5475 for an Application.

AVON: Free sign-ups, Dec. 15 til Jan 1st. It doesn't cost at that time. Call 1-800-796-7070.

LEGAL SECRETARY WANTED: Well established law firm in Eastern Ky. seeking to hire a full-time legal secretary. Job requirements include typing, filing, copying mail, answering telephone, scheduling & dealing with the public. Experience helpful, resume required, two references required, salary negotiable. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1171, Prestonsburg, Ky 41653.

SERVICE TECHNICIANS NEEDED

Our Company is looking to add additional LOCAL Service Technicians, to support our full line of Digital Copier & Fax products. You'll benefit from one of the best training programs around, and unequal dealer support. The person chosen for this position, must have; Previous experience, basic computer skills, a good ELECTRONICS BACKGROUND or Degree, ability to work unsupervised, highly motivated and with a desire to be successful.

For immediate consideration and evaluation call: 327-5536 or 800-826-3755

Ask for Randy Sturgill, Service Manager Mon-Fri 8-5, all calls are confidential. EOE

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SAVE NOW! Join AVON for free! Cassie 886-8737 / Wanda 285-9486.

PHARMACY TECH NEEDED: Please send resume to P.O. 1813, Prestonsburg Ky, 41653.

FAST GROWING COMPANY looking for self-motivated, career minded individuals with prior management experience to fill positions in Southeast Ky. area. Good pay and benefits. Send resume to: 6251 N. Ky. Hwy 15 #108, Hazard, KY 41701.

SALES REP. for construction & mining equipment dealership in Prestonsburg. Must be self-motivated and have previous sales experience. Send resume to: Rudd Equipment Company, P.O. Box 190, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

Help Wanted

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED: For 2 adults. Duties include cleaning, light cooking, shopping / errands, etc. Flexible hours, part or full-time, in evenings & weekends. Line-in position possible. References required. Serious inquiries only 886-6796.

WANTED: O.T.R. Team or solo driver. Must have CDL with Hazmat, at least 2 yrs. O.T.R. experience, good MUR record. Good pay and miles, Call 606-886-6160, ask for J. D.

AUXIER / HAGER HILL

The Lexington Heald-Leader has an early morning newspaper route available in your area. Route takes about 4 hours daily with an approximate profit potential of \$1200 monthly. Dependable transportation and ability to be bonded required. Call 1-800-999-8881 or (606)639-6410.

WHITE HALL HOMES, INC. is seeking an experienced, highly motivated sales professional for the Banner, Ky. location. Apply in person at 7175 S. U.S. 23, Banner, Ky., Mon. - Fri. 1 pm - 4 pm.

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EXOTIC BIRDS FOR SALE: Call 285-0410 or 285-0650.

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Read your own Ad the first time it appears. The Floyd County Times is only responsible for one incorrect insertion!

SALYERSVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER

Full time career opportunities available for CNA's in a Long Term Care setting. We offer many benefits plus competitive wages. If you are interested in working with special people in a caring environment, applications are available in the front office of Salyersville Health Care Center, Salyersville, KY. If you have any questions, you can call 606-349-6181.

SALYERSVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER
571 PARKWAY DRIVE
SALYERSVILLE, KY 41465
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

SALYERSVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER

Full time career opportunities available for LPN's or RN's in a Long Term Care setting. We offer many benefits plus competitive wages. If you are interested in working with special people in a caring environment, applications are available in the front office of Salyersville Health Care Center, Salyersville, KY. If you have any questions, you can call 606-349-6181.

SALYERSVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER
571 PARKWAY DRIVE
SALYERSVILLE, KY 41465
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

-NOTICE-

Due to the New Year's Holiday, The Floyd County Times will be temporarily adjusting deadlines for the Friday Paper, 12/31; Sunday Paper, 1/2; and the East Ky. Shopper, 1/2.

FRIDAY PAPER & SHOPPER:
Editorial— Tuesday, Dec. 28, at 12 noon
Classified, Local Advertising and Legals—
Tuesday, Dec. 28, at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY'S PAPER:
All deadlines will be Wed., Dec. 29th at 5:00 p.m.

FREE: To a good home. Half Beagle puppy, male. 3-1/2 months old, loves children. 886-2503.

AKC REGISTERED SAINT BERNARD PUPPIES: \$500 each. 789-6776.

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JIM'S HANDY MAN
Experience in: Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry and others. 631-4844.

Chimney Cleaning

R. A. TAYLOR: Chimney Cleaning Services. Experienced. We do painting also. 886-8453.

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G&S, INC.
Seasonal Home Maintenance Repair: 25 yrs experience remodeling, plumbing, electric, windows, floors, drywall and carpentry. No distance to great. Your personal handyman. 606-754-0311.

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THE PIANO CLINIC: Quality tunings, repair or restoration. 25 yrs. experience. Phil Cole, Technician. For app. call 791-8863.

Repair Services

TV, VCR & MICROWAVE OVEN REPAIR: All work 90 days guaranteed. Call 478-9300.

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TREE CUTTING AND TRIMMING: Topping, land clearing, etc. Free estimates. References furnished. Call 874-5333.

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NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL: Vehicle, boats, house hold furnishings. Any or all alterations. Call Tracy Bobo at Village Sewing Inc. 285-1384.

MISC.

Musical Instruments

J & J MAY MUSIC
Guitars-Banjoes. Buy, Sell and Trade. 605 N.Lake Drive Prestonsburg, KY 606-886-7010

Recreation

SHOOTING MATCH

Arkanasa Creek, 2.2 miles on right. "Saturdays" 6 pm. 12/20 gauge matches.

Free

FREE PALLETS: Can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

There's a better way to move those old items... Advertise In The Classifieds! 886-8506

CALL



TODAY

OUR RATES ARE:

\$1.00 per line, 4 lines minimum for Wednesday and Friday Paper. 25¢ per line, 4 lines minimum for Shopper if purchased with Wednesday and Friday.

50¢ per line, 4 lines minimum for Sunday if purchased with Wed. and Fri. (Shopper FREE)
Shopper only: \$1.00 per line, 4 lines minimum.
Sunday only: \$1.00 per line, 4 lines minimum.

Border Ads: \$2.00 extra per Wednesday and Friday, \$1.00 per Shopper or/and Sunday.
Reverse Ads: \$3.00 extra per Wednesday and Friday, \$2.00 per Shopper or/and Sunday
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Attention Lines, Centered/Bold Ads, 12 pt. Type, 14 pt. Type: \$0 extra per week.

Visa and MasterCard accepted over telephone or walk-in.
Fax 606-886-3603

For a price quote, call
886-8506

Sandra at Ext. #15
or Jenny at Ext. #14

The Floyd County Times

When there's a call for selling your old items, call the Classifieds!

- Autos
- Appliances
- Electronics
- Books
- Apparel
- Computers
- Sporting Goods
- Furniture
- Tools
- Kitchenware
- Collectibles
- Musical Instruments
- ...and more

SELL



TOMORROW

Sunday

December 26, 1999

Sports *Plus*

ED TAYLOR



Sports County since 1927

Inside

• *From the
Pressbox*

• *Kentucky
Afield*

• *Kentucky 2000
Basketball Schedule*

• *Spotlight on
Basketball Support
Groups*

• *Touching Bases*



Sports In Perspective

Sportswriting is the last bastion of print journalism wherein creativity of expression is condoned and, in some quarters, even encouraged.

The people who enjoy the privileged vista from a stadium press box, a ring-side seat and inside the gallery ropes are almost universally accorded a certain innate veracity by members of the public who read their words in the hope of vicariously experiencing some of the captivating aura that sports so readily exudes.

Ever newspaper administrator across the broad breast of this land knows how important a comprehensive sports page is to the financial success of his publication. For this reason, sportswriters are among the best paid and most lionized of the journalistic breed.

Some years ago when the

likes of Grantland Rice, Jimmy Cannon and Red Smith rhapsodized about the saga of games, the sporting heroes of the day assumed a larger-than-life stature, their deeds reported with colorful deftness and no little license. Thus it was the "sultan of swat" and the "galloping ghost" and other such picturesque terminology regularly graced sports pages the nation over. All the sights, sounds and, yes, even the smells of the arena could be gleaned through the printed page given the artistry of the writer's talent and passion for his work.

Back then, sportswriters of note were on a first name basis with objects of their reporting and, not infrequently, social acquaintanceships resulted from these liaisons.

Was that good for objective treatment on behalf of

the writer? Decidedly not. But then again, what did it profit the public to be treated to the sordid details of Babe Ruth's personal life, or Bobby Layne's drinking bouts? Get the scores and the stats right, and limit any characterization of the players to their actions on the field and court. Besides, peeking behind shades after hours wasn't in a sportswriter's job description. And it shouldn't be.

Ever so gradually, a new breed of sportswriter arose from the ranks. He and she were younger, brash, arrogant and not a bit cynical. Reality was in, with all its pimples and blemishes. The athlete became a study of himself, and not just his place in the sporting mix.

Equally important, the sportswriter assumed a new visibility. He/she held forth as more than an observer

with a laptop computer at hand. They became open purveyors of opinion, personalities in their own right. One that blatantly competed for print space with those of the performers on the sporting stage.

What Dick Young, Jim Murray and Phil Pepe said got just as much or more ink than did the comments of the players themselves. Comprehensive reporting gave way to self-appointed analysis and aggressive insight via the writer took precedent over painting the larger picture of the event for the enjoyment and edification of the reader.

Egos began inhabiting bylines to a larger degree while the imparting of knowledge from those in the know could only be

siphoned through an ever-narrowing conduit.

Needless to say, friction grew between the knights of the keyboard and the uniformed troops. Not so much due to the bumping of inflated images, but more so to baited questions and an unconcern for the finer points of the games under the microscope.

When asked about his reaction to published stories knocking his abilities, Boomer Esiason, former Cincinnati Bengals quarterback, replied, "I didn't pay any attention to them. Most of those guys (sportswriters) didn't know if a football was pumped up or stuffed."

Jack Nicklaus, widely regarded as the greatest tournament golfer of all time, never ceased to marvel

at the number of banal questions that were posed at his news conferences.

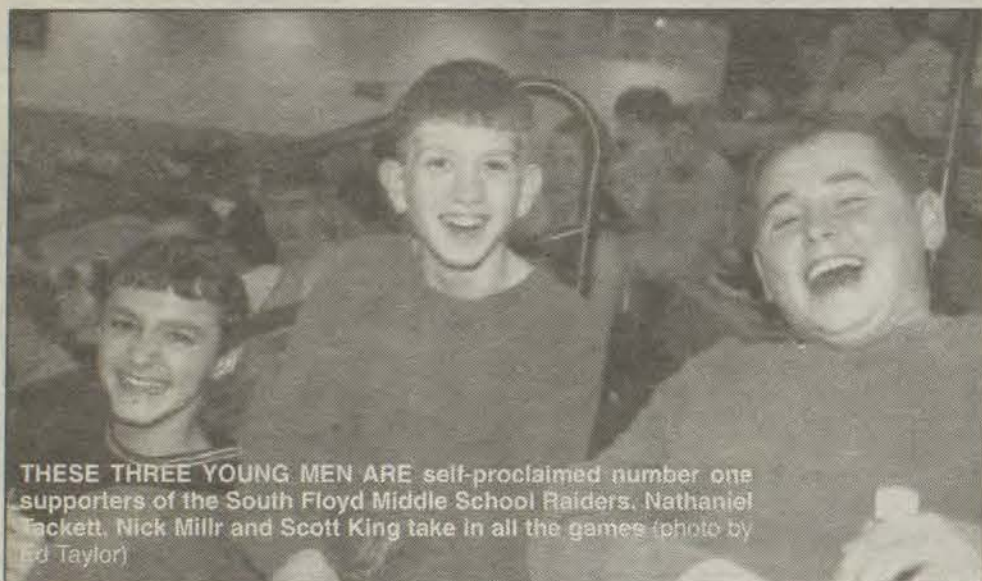
About one sportswriter in particular he said, "The guy never lets the facts get in the way of a good story."

Dick Butkus, a Hall of Fame linebacker with the Chicago Bears, said, "I didn't talk to reporters. They were gonna write what they wanted to anyway. And I could care less."

Red Smith and Jimmy Cannon earned considerable reputations based on their ability to inform the public in a colorful and entertaining manner.

It's the duty of sportswriters to get the facts straight and present the personalities as accurately as possible. And that's it.

They are not the news.



THESE THREE YOUNG MEN ARE self-proclaimed number one supporters of the South Floyd Middle School Raiders. Nathaniel Tackett, Nick Millr and Scott King take in all the games (photo by Ed Taylor)



The South Floyd Middle School dance team was on hand to perform at the Betsy Layne at South Floyd game last week. The girls are part of the ever growing dance teams in the county. (photo by Ed Taylor)

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Ainge has the will to call it quits

by Dave Kindred

Danny Ainge says he quit as Phoenix Suns coach, a job worth \$5 million, because he needs to spend more time with his family. Unlike most such pronouncements, this one rings true — for two reasons:

- As a Mormon, Ainge has been taught by his religion to honor his family.

- A professional athlete/coach's life is consumed by the job's demands, not only in getting the work done but getting it done under circumstances that test your will as well as your talent.

By testing your "will," I mean a coach such as Ainge is tested, and tested publicly, every time his team plays a game. If you're not strong enough mentally to go through such tests, however great your talent, you can't succeed.

I once sat in a coach's locker room with Joe Gibbs, who'd won three Super Bowls with the Redskins, and was astounded to hear the future Hall of Fame coach say, "I'm three weeks from being fired."

"Come on," I said.

"Lose three in a row in this league, they want you gone," Gibbs said.

"Mr. Cooke wouldn't do that." The allusion was to the Redskins' late owner, Jack Kent Cooke.

"Well," Gibbs said, "I'd hope not. But I don't want to find out."

The pressure to succeed is unrelenting. Gibbs slept at Redskins Park, as Dick Vermeil once slept at Veterans Stadium. Nothing matters except the next game. Wives, sons, daughters are forgotten, or, at best, given a nod now and then.

I once thought the best sportswriting job in the

world would be covering baseball. I thought that until I actually became a sportswriter. Then I realized covering baseball is a year-around job requiring six months of travel during which you write three or four stories a day, most of them done in a rush so you can catch the next plane to the next town.

The only worse job, I came to believe, was covering the NBA. The game itself isn't as much fun as baseball; there aren't as many player stories to tell, and there's a numbing repetition to the games. While the season is half as long as baseball's, the travel is more frenetic because you're never in the same city for more than one game.

Imagine, then, what it must be like to be an NBA coach. All that applies to his life as well as to a sportswriter's. And on top of it comes the public test of his

ability. If Joe Gibbs, a Hall of Famer, worked with the feeling that a decade of success could be forgotten in three weeks, what must it be like for Danny Ainge and coach-

es like him who have no championships to their credit?

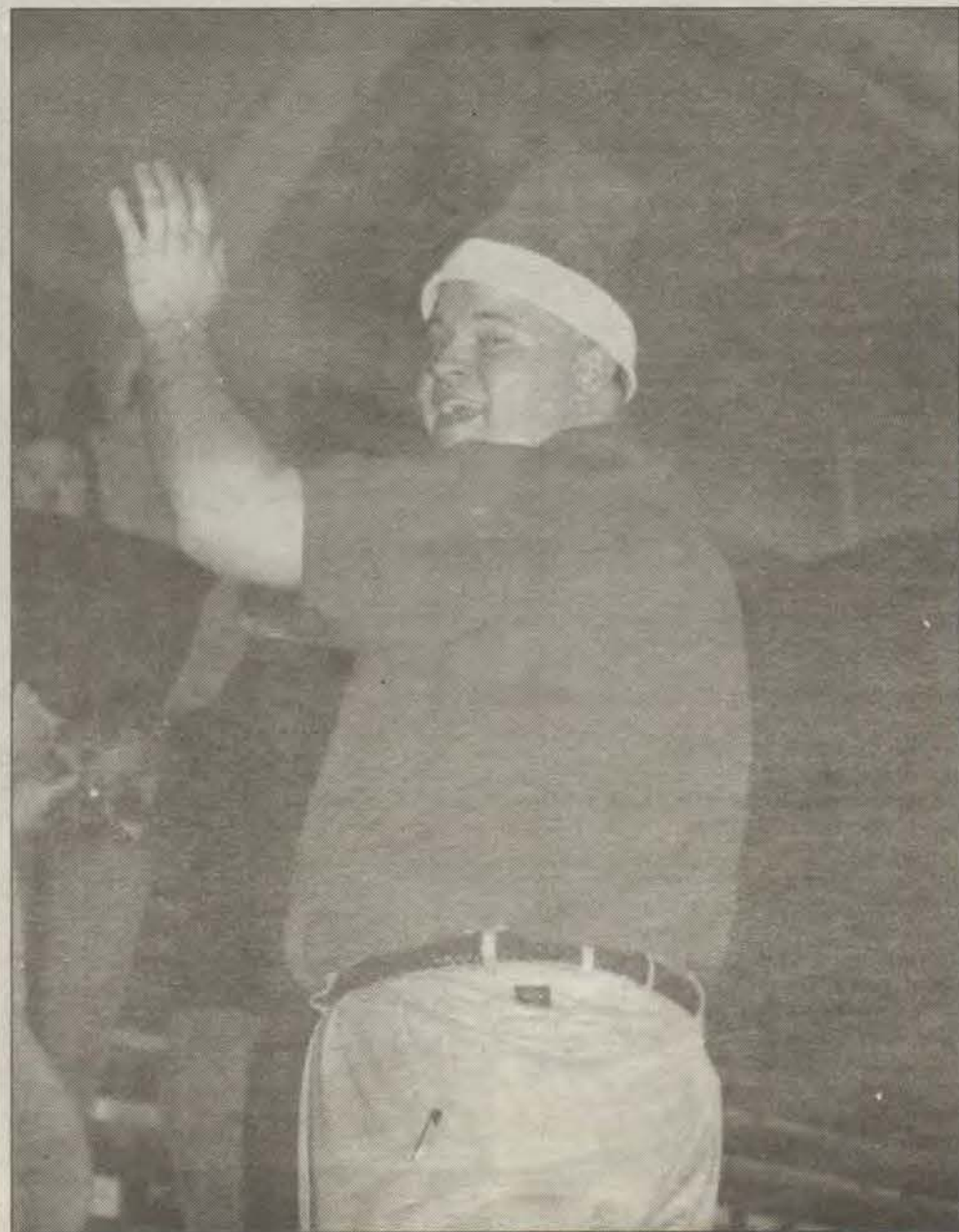
So if Ainge, after almost 20 years as an NBA player and coach, says he's getting

off the merry-go-round to be at home more, the wonder is not that he has walked away.

The wonder is that he is the exception rather than the rule.



ALLEN CENTRAL COACH JOHNNY MARTIN was doing more than just inviting this official to his Christmas party. Coach Martin was questioning a call by the referee. (photo by Ed Taylor)



THE PRESTONSBURG BAND is a big supporter of Blackcat basketball. The band plays at all home games (photo by Ed Taylor)

PIKEVILLE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME*
Thur. 4	Knoxville	Knoxville, TN	7:00
Sat. 6	Cumberland	Lebanon, TN	7:00
Wed. 10	Rio Grande	Pikeville	7:00
Fri. 12	Rax Invitational **	Pikeville	6&8
Sat. 13	Rax Invitational **	Pikeville	2&4
Wed. 17	Campbellsville	Pikeville	7:00
Fri. 19	Bevo Francis Tourn.***	Rio Grande, OH	2:00
Sat. 20	Bevo Francis Tourn.***	Rio Grande, OH	TBA
Tues. 23	U.Va. Wise	Wise, Va.	5:30
Fri. 26	Southern Virginia	Pikeville	4:00
Sat. 27	Alice Lloyd	Pikeville	4:00
Sun. 28	Virginia Intermont	Pikeville	2:00

DECEMBER

Sat. 4	Bluefield	Bluefield, Va.	2:00
Thur. 30	Albertson	Phoenix, AZ.	TBA
Fri. 31	South Dakota Tech	Phoenix, Az.	TBA

JANUARY

Sat. 8	Southern Virginia	Buena Vista, VA	2:00
Mon. 10	Brescia	Owensboro	5:00
Thur. 13	Alice Lloyd	Pippa Passes	6:30
Sat. 15	Indiana-Southeast	Pikeville	1:00
Mon. 17	Michigan-Dearborn	Pikeville	5:00
Sat. 22	Lindsey Wilson	Columbia	4:00
Mon. 24	Bluefield	Pikeville	6:00
Wed. 26	Transylvania	Lexington	5:30
Sat. 29	Spalding	Pikeville	2:00

FEBRUARY

Thur. 3	U.Va.-Wise	Pikeville	5:30
Sun. 6	Indiana-Southeast	New Albany, Ind	1:00
Tues. 8	Cumberland	Williamsburg	7:00
Sat. 12	Lindsey Wilson	Pikeville	3:00
Tues. 15	Union	Barbourville	7:00
Sat. 19	Brescia	Pikeville	3:00
Tues. 22	Georgetown	Pikeville	7:00
Sat. 26	Spalding	Louisville	1:00

* All times Eastern

** (PC, Alice Lloyd, Cumberland, Mt. Aloysius)

*** (PC, Rio Grande, Union, Spalding)

Band, dance team, cheerleaders back Blackcats

Support group!



by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

Happy Holidays from the support groups at Prestonsburg High School. Support groups such as the band, dance team, cheerleaders, concession workers, timer, scorer and even the good folks stationed in the video booth taping the game for delayed viewing.

As we continue to look at the groups behind the scenes who support our high school basketball team, our third stop is at Prestonsburg High School.

The Prestonsburg Fieldhouse is the oldest of the gymnasiums our four high schools play in, opening as a showcase of gymnasiums in the area.

Of course, we don't want to take away from the old "cracker boxes" used for gymnasiums because, although there were small, there were a lot of good memories locked in those old places. Many a fine basketball player came from those small places.

The Prestonsburg Fieldhouse will seat nearly 4,000, and that was a big place back in the mid 1950s when it opened. Still, today, the Prestonsburg gym is one of the finest places to watch a basketball game. There is not a bad seat in the place and the regional tournaments held there have been sold out and no one had a terrible seat.

The gym has had some great games played in it and, as well, many a fine basketball player has passed through its doors.

The gym has been hard to fill in the past year for just a regular season game but it is used constantly, like all other gyms in the area.

Supporting Blackcat basketball are the three-time national champions, The Dance Cats. They perform at all home games at halftime of each game. Their hard work has earned them recognition across America and it appears that this year's squad could very well bring home a fourth national title.

Cheerleading has always been a big part of the local basketball scene and the Prestonsburg cheerleaders are one of those groups who work extremely hard on the court as well as off the court.

Some time back, a poll was taken across the state as to whether cheerleading should be classified as a sport. The overwhelming response was yes. And why not? Cheerleaders seldom get the free time that other sporting events enjoy. They are not a seasonal sport but participate year round. Summer camps, personal camps, etc. are very demanding on the sport. Learning new routines, fine tuning old ones, and being physically in shape to handle all the routines.

Situated high in the fieldhouse and grinding the cameras is Linda James, as Freddie James and Greg Dixon bring the games into homes by way of television. Each game at Prestonsburg is videotaped and shown on a delayed basis over CableVision, Channel 7 in Prestonsburg.

Linda James, of LJ Productions, oversees the operation and it is a big job. The crew only does the Prestonsburg boys and girls game, on the road or at home. Only a limited number of girls games are aired.

On the scorebook is Don Willis for the boys, and he has to keep his eye on the game every moment. Sometimes the scorers get distracted.

From the PA announcer, to the timer, to the one who cleans the gym, the basketball season has a lot of support groups behind it.

Coy Samons is the school's principal and Ron Hampton serves as the school's athletic director.

The Prestonsburg band was in the holiday spirit and they showed it at home games as Christmas season has come and gone. The lively band and its members seems to enjoy the time at the gym and the sounds of the band are great.

When at the games, give the supporting groups a pat on the back and tell them you appreciate their supporting Blackcat sports.



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From the Pressbox

Wildcats out of the top 25; Cats looking better

First, we hope that everyone had a joyous Christmas and a wonderful holiday. I hope you got everything you wanted and a few surprises as well. What a wonderful time of the year it is. Soon we will welcome a new year, a new millennium, a new century, a new decade, all on one day.

I wish everyone the best and hope you have a great new year!

It seems strange to look at the national rankings of college basketball teams and not see the Kentucky Wildcats near the top of the heap.

The Cats, who had struggled through their first seven games, looked improved against Maryland in game eight,

then pulling off the thrilling win over Louisville in game nine to improve to 5-4 on the season.

But I saw an improvement in the way the Cats played in the second half of the Maryland game. They showed signs of getting together and then against Louisville, especially in the second half, the Cats were the old Kentucky Wildcats we have grown to love and appreciate.

Don Crisp, a traveling preacher, said he saw a difference in the way the Cats played against Maryland and Louisville.

"They didn't look to Saul (Smith) that much," said the parson. "He was like in the background. I enjoy watching them play

like that."

Kentucky, the self-proclaimed Team of the Century, will have their hands full when they enter the new millennium. Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt and Auburn will greet the Cats.

Almost all the SEC teams are playing well, but have you looked at the teams they are beating? LSU bombs Sam Houston. South Carolina destroys Campbell (where is that?). Alabama rocks Tennessee-Chattanooga. Georgia loses to Marshall. Now Marshall is a contender and upcoming program. J.R. VanHoose

(Paintsville) had 20 points in that game and to think we could have had him at UK.

Locally in sports.

Valerie King, a freshman at South Floyd High School may be seeing more playing time as the basketball season moves along. King, daughter of Dennis King, and we all know Dennis, transferred this year from Knott County and is going to be a good one.

Her defensive skills against Allen Central on Friday, December 17, were very impressive. She made three steals and looked good on offense.

Valerie is just one of the many, many young girl basketball players we have in our county who are going to be standouts. The future of South Floyd girls basketball looks bright.

Next year, the Lady Raiders will add the names of Megan Ousley, Ashley Johnson, Brandy Anderson and Leigh Ann Tuttle, and you have some talent there that will carry the program for years to come.

The South Floyd Raider Holiday Classic will be held from December 29 through Friday night. The tournament is the first in a long, long, long time to be held by a Floyd County team and I cannot understand why we don't have more.

After the first of the year, if the Y2K thing doesn't shut it down, focus will be on the

upcoming girls All "A" Classic and later the boys All "A" Classic.

I look forward to the tournaments. Surprise team in the tournament this year will be the Lady Hornets of Magoffin County. Watch out. Favored to win it all — Allen Central.

The Piarist Lady Knights will be in the tournament and will face Elkhorn City in the first game of the tournament.

The tournament begins January 11 and will be played at a place not determined yet. However, Millard High School will host the event and it could be played there. More on this later. (See pairings in Sports Plus).

Alice Lloyd College Lady Eagles Basketball Schedule

NOVEMBER			
Nov. 5	Transylvania Univ.	Away	5:30
Nov. 6	Lindsey Wilson	Away	2:30
Nov. 12-13	Pikeville (Rax) Inv. Tour.	Away	6-8
Nov. 16	Ky. Christian	Away	6:30
Nov. 18	Berea College	Home	6:30
Nov. 20	BRYAN COLLEGE	Home	2:00
Nov. 23	BLUEFIELD COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Nov. 27	Pikeville College	Away	4:00
Nov. 30	MONTREAT COLLEGE	Home	5:30
DECEMBER			
Dec. 4	TENN. WESLEYAN	Away	2:00
Dec. 7	VIRGINIA INTERMONT	Home	5:30
Dec. 9	Lindsey Wilson	Home	6:30
Dec. 11	Union College	Away	2:00
JANUARY			
Jan. 3	Berea College	Away	7:00
Jan. 5	CLINCH VALLEY	Home	5:30
Jan. 6	Union College	Home	6:30
Jan. 11	BLUEFIELD COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Jan. 13	Pikeville College	Home	6:30
Jan. 15	MONTREAT COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Jan. 18	KING COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Jan. 21	COVENANT COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Jan. 22	BRYAN COLLEGE	Away	2:00
Jan. 27	MILLIGAN COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Jan. 29	TENN., WESLEYAN	Home	4:00
FEBRUARY			
Feb. 3	KING COLLEGE	Away	5:30
Feb. 8	CLINCH VALLEY	Away	5:30
Feb. 12	COVENANT COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Feb. 15	VIRGINIA INTERMONT	Away	5:30
Feb. 17	MILLIGAN COLLEGE	Home	5:30
Feb. 19	Ky. Christian (Sr. Day)	Home	2:00
Feb. 23-26	T.V.A.C. Conference Tour.	Bristol, VA	TBA

*Conference Teams (All capital letters)

1999-2000 Kentucky Basketball Schedule

November				
2	California All-Stars	UKTV Delay	7:30	H
11	Athletes in Action	UKTV Live	8:00	H
17	Pennsylvania NIT	ESPN	9:00	H
19	Utah NIT	ESPN	7:00	H
24	NIT Semifinals	ESPN	6/8:30	A
26	NIT Finals	ESPN	8:30	A
29	Dayton	ESPN2	7:00	A
December				
4	Indiana	CBS	3:30	A
7	UNC-Asheville	UKTV Live	8:00	H
11	Maryland	ESPN	9:00	A
18	Louisville	CBS	4:00	H
23	Michigan State	ESPN	7:00	H
27	Alaska-Anchorage	UKTV Live	8:00	H
30	Missouri (Sugar Bowl)	Fox Sports Net	7:00	A
January				
5	Georgia Tech	ESPN	7:00	A
8	Vanderbilt	Fox Sports South	6:00	H
11	Auburn	ESPN	9:00	A
15	South Carolina	Fox Sports South	6:00	A
19	Ole Miss	UKTV Delay	7:30	H
22	Vanderbilt	Jefferson-Pilot	TBA	A
26	Georgia	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	A
29	Miami, Fla.	CBS	1:00	A
February				
1	Tennessee	ESPN	9:00	H
5	South Carolina	Jefferson-Pilot	TBA	H
8	Florida	ESPN2	9:00	A
13	LSU	Jefferson-Pilot	TBA	A
16	Alabama	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	H
19	Georgia	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	H
23	Tennessee	Jefferson-Pilot	8:00	A
26	Arkansas	CBS	Noon	H
29	Mississippi State	ESPN	9:00	A
March				
4	Florida	CBS	Noon	H

SEC Tournament March 9-12 at Georgia Dome in Atlanta

PIKEVILLE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER			
Sat. 6	U.Va-Wise	Pikeville	7:30
Tues. 9	Rio Grande	Pikeville	7:30
Thur. 11	Transylvania	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 13	Miami-Hamilton	Pikeville	7:30
Thur. 18	Alice Lloyd	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 20	Cumberland	Pikeville	7:30
Tues. 23	College of W. Va.	Beckley, W.Va	7:30
Fri. 26	Rax Invitational**	Pikeville	TBA
Sat. 27	Rax Invitational**	Pikeville	TBA
DECEMBER			
Wed. 1	Brevard	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 4	Cumberland	Williamsburg	2:00
Sun. 12	Union	Pikeville	3:00
Mon. 13	U.Va.-Wise	Wise, Va.	7:30
JANUARY			
Mon. 3	Campbellsville	Campbellsville	7:30
Wed. 5	Union	Barbourville	7:30
Mon. 10	College of W. Va.	Pikeville	7:30
Fri. 14	Indiana-Southeast	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 15	Brescia	Pikeville	7:30
Tues. 18	Lindsey Wilson	Columbia	8:00
Thur. 20	Coal Classic ***	Beckley, W.Va.	TBA
Fri. 21	Coal Classic ***	Beckley, W. Va.	TBA
Fri. 28	Temple Baptist	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 29	Spalding	Pikeville	4:00
FEBRUARY			
Sat. 5	Brescia	Owensboro	3:00
Sun. 6	Indiana-Southeast	New Albany, Ind.	3:00
Tues. 8	Berea	Pikeville	7:30
Thur. 10	Alice Lloyd	Pippa Passes	7:30
Sat. 12	Lindsey Wilson	Pikeville	7:30
Sat. 19	Berea	Berea	7:30
Thur. 24	Georgetown	Georgetown	7:30
Sat. 26	Spalding	Louisville	7:30

Kentucky Afield

Eagle weekends 2000

Take a guided tour by boat, barge or van this winter and see our nation's symbol — the bald eagle. Kentucky State Parks, in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are hosting Eagle Weekends again this winter.

Guided eagle tours will take place either aboard tour boats or by vans at Kentucky Dam Village, Kenlake and Lake Barkley. Tours at Dale Hollow will be by open barge. Tours will alternate with other special programs.

Call the individual state resort park for information about registration and lodging for Eagle Weekend activities. Dates and other contact information follow.

- January 14-15, January 21-22: Dale Hollow Lake SRP, 1-800-325-2282
- January 21-23: Kentucky Dam Village SRP, 1-800-325-0146
- February 4-6: Kenlake SRP, 1-800-325-0143
- February 18-20: Lake Barkley SRP, 1-800-325-1708

Be sure to dress appropriately for these events. Field trips can take place under

extreme weather conditions, including rain, snow and high winds. Bring warm clothes, rain gear and binoculars. If the Department of Parks cancels field trips due to hazardous or unsafe conditions, every effort will be made to reschedule.

UNIQUE GIFT FOR OUTDOORS-WOMEN

Are you looking for a

unique gift for that special woman in your life? How about giving her a weekend of learning and improving outdoors skills?

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is holding a Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop near Grayson this January.

These fun, hands-on workshops are geared toward women interested in traditional outdoors activities such as bird watching, fishing, nature photography and hunting. If you know someone interested in these activities, the perfect gift for her would be an opportunity to get away for a weekend and learn or improve her skills while enjoying the camaraderie of other outdoors enthusiasts.

The next BOW workshop will be held January 21-23 at Camp Robert C. Webb, near Grayson. Thirteen different classes will be offered, including Winter Hiking, Introduction to Firearms, Attracting Birds to your Backyard, Survival Skills, Nature Photography and Introduction to Trapping. Participants can choose four of these classes to attend during the workshop.

The fee for the workshop is \$150 and includes registration, lodging, instruction in four classes, program materials, use of demonstration equipment, transportation to and from classes and meals beginning with a wild game reception on Friday evening through lunch on Sunday afternoon.

Enrollment for the workshop is limited, so be sure to register early. Classes fill on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to register, call the KDFWR Monday through Friday at 1-800-858-1549.

Louisville Cardinals

1999-2000 Schedule

November			
Tues. 2	Premier All Stars (EXHIBITION)	Freedom Hall	8:00
Fri. 19	Va. Commonwealth (WDRB/WFTE)	Richmond, Va	8:00
Sun. 21	ATHLETES IN ACTION (WDRB-db)	Freedom Hall	1:30
Thur. 25	at Carrs/ Safeway Great Alaska Shootout	Alaska	TBA
Sat. 27	(First round pairings: 11/24, Grambling State vs. Ga. Tech, Washington vs. Alaska; Nov. 25, Xavier vs. Louisville, Kansas Vs Georgia)		
December			
Sat. 4	Louisville Tech (WDRB/WFTE)	Freedom Hall	2:00
Sat. 11	Alabama (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Wed. 15	CENTRAL FLORIDA (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Sat. 18	Kentucky (CBS)	Lexington	4:00
Mon. 20	TENNESSEE STATE (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Thur. 23	NORTH CAROLINA (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	7:00
January			
Mon. 3	TULANE (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Thur. 6	UTAH (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30
Sat. 8	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI(WDRB)	FREEDOM HALL	2:00
Wed. 12	UAB (WDRB/WFTE)	Birmingham, Ala.	7:30
Sat. 15	Marquette (WDRB/WFTE)	Milwaukee, Wisc.	2:00
Thur. 20	DEPAUL (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	9:00
Sat. 22	UNC CHARLOTTE (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	5:00
Thur. 27	CINCINNATI (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	9:00
Sat. 29	Saint Louis (ESPN)	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00
February			
Tues. 1	Georgetown (ESPN2)	Washington, D.C.	7:30
Sat. 5	Memphis (ESPN2)	Memphis, Tenn.	7:00
Thur. 10	SYRACUSE (ESPN)	FREEDOM HALL	9:00
Sun. 13	MARQUETTE (ESPN2)	FREEDOM HALL	6:00
Wed. 16	UNC Charlotte (WDRB/WFTE)	Charlotte, N.C.	7:35
Sat. 19	DePaul (ABC)	Chicago, Ill	1:30
Wed. 23	SAINT LOUIS (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	8:00
Sun. 27	Cincinnati (ESPN2)	Cincinnati, Ohio	7:30
Tues. 29	SOUTH FLORIDA (WDRB/WFTE)	FREEDOM HALL	7:30



Touching Bases With Ed

Spring training: Really, it's not that far off

I know, I know, we have just gotten into basketball and now you are wanting to talk baseball.

Seems baseball has been in the news a lot of late and it continues to be a subject that folks want to talk about.

Will the Reds get Ken Griffey Jr? Can Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa keep up the pace of the past two seasons? Will the New York Yankees continue to be the team of the new millennium? What about the future of Pete Rose? Is the game ready for expansion in the new millennium?

Many questions are being asked, but we will have to wait in order to get the answers to some of them.

I was one who was dead set against the Cincinnati Reds trading for Ken Griffey Jr. Not that I was against the trade, but who the Seattle Mariners wanted in exchange.

But I have to admit that I have readjusted my thinking (that is called renewing your mind) and I believe the Reds should make

the trade which would include second baseman Pokey Reese.

If you were to pay an admission to the ballpark to watch either Griffey play or Reese, which would you rather shell out \$15 for? Of course, you would want to see Griffey hit the long ball.

Of the two players, which would draw more fans to the stands? Of course, Griffey. Isn't the game built around the almighty dollar and isn't it the greenbacks that keep things going? Sure it is. What are the chances of the Reds repeating what they did last year? Pretty slim without Greg Vaughn and others. So, make the trade, and get the fans back into the park to see Ken Jr. play.

Vaughn will play baseball in Florida this coming season for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. We have read where the home run hitting outfielder, who banged out 45 for Cincinnati last year, agreed with the Devil Rays for \$34 million. Of course, the deal

was for four seasons.

Now doesn't that blow your mind? To get \$34 million to play the game of baseball in a state like Florida for only seven months. Wow! Be hard to take wouldn't it?

The major league umpires are still trying to correct a wrong (on their part) but it looks as if the 22 fired umpires will remain employed elsewhere come spring training.

Jerry Crawford and Richie Phillips are desperate in trying to save the Major League Umpires Association, of which Crawford is president and Phillips is the head.

Sorry fellows, the game has passed you by and you need to learn that the owners will do whatever it takes to break any union. They tried it with the players and failed. So, there may still be some hope.

I see where World Series hero Chad Curtis, who led the New York Yankees to

another title, was traded from the Yankees to Texas. When you are a hero, everyone wants you, especially a World Series hero.

If you remember, Curtis hit two home runs in the third game of the series.

Here is a good one!

The Cincinnati Reds let Deion Sanders go so that he might hook up with another team. Remember, Sanders has said he wouldn't play for any other team, other than the Reds.

Sanders, who is an NFL star, was added to the Reds major league roster to prevent him from being taken in the major league draft.

Now the Reds have to either trade Sanders to another club, or give him his unconditional release. Word is the Reds will not offer Deion a contract for the 2000 season, thereby making him a free agent. They had until this past Monday, but Sanders became a free agent on Tuesday.

