

December 24, 2000

# The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

Section



Volume 71, Issue 153

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## Briefs

### State provides ways to keep up on legislature

Kentuckians don't have to be in the State Capitol when the General Assembly convenes the 2001 legislative session next month to stay involved with the legislative process.

By simply picking up the phone and calling one of the toll-free phone lines maintained by the Legislative Research Commission, citizens can receive information about legislative action or leave a message for any state lawmaker.

A taped message containing information on legislative committee meeting schedules is available by calling 1-800-633-9650.

Information on the status of each bill lawmakers consider will be available on the Bill Status Line, 1-877-765-0447.

To leave a message for a state representative or state senator, call the General Assembly's Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. (People with hearing impairments may leave messages for lawmakers by calling the TTY message line at 1-800-896-0305.)

Citizens can write to any legislator by sending a letter with the lawmaker's name on it to: Legislative Offices, 701 Capitol Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601.

Kentuckians with Web access may also stay on top of the legislative process through the Kentucky Legislature Home Page: www.lrc.state.ky.us.

In addition to general information about the legislative process, The Kentucky Legislature Home Page provides informa-

(See STATE, page two)

### Two Day Forecast...



**Today**  
Party Sunny  
High: 30 • Low: 20



**Tomorrow**  
Party Sunny  
High: 32 • Low: 18

For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see  
www.floydcountytimes.com  
/weather.htm

### Holiday shopping ...



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Prestonsburg Police Officer Sue Blackburn shops with a child that was chosen from among the area's schools to participate in the Prestonsburg Police Department's annual "Shop with a Cop" program. The children were treated to a pizza party at City Hall followed by a shopping spree at Wal-Mart.

## Prestonsburg police stage second 'Shop with a Cop'

by KATHY J. PRATER  
STAFF WRITER

Those of us who have ever spent much time watching late night television are most likely familiar with the phrase, "good cop, bad cop".

Well, in Floyd County, at least, the cops are good. The Prestonsburg Police Department just celebrated Christmas a little early by holding their second annual "Shop with a Cop" activity.

According to Officer Steve Little, the "Shop with a Cop" program began last year with an idea that originated within the city police department.

Little said that the officers of the department wanted to do something to help the area's needy children and that they came up with a plan to choose one child from each of the county's elementary schools and to make Christmas happen on a grand scale in that child's life.

Little said that there are nine elementary schools in



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Officer Steve Little shops with an area school child at Wal-Mart. Each participating child was given \$100 to spend for Christmas purchases. Little says that the "Shop with a Cop" program has been successful due to "lots of donations from people who just wanted to help."

Floyd County and that the officers chose to round the number up to 10 and choose 10 children from among the schools to participate in the program.

Little said that this means that one school will have two participants instead of one, and that the department will alternate the schools each year in order to be fair. Last year, two students were chosen from McDowell Elementary and this year two students were chosen from Prestonsburg Elementary. Next year, those two schools will not be in the drawing to have two students chosen from their schools.

Little said the department does not do the actual choosing of the participating students, that they leave that decision up to the discretion of the family resource directors of each school. Little said the only requirements for participation in the program are that a need be evident and that the parents be able to provide the child's transportation to and from the event. Also, children from grades 5 and below were to be chosen.

Rebail Reynolds, director of the family resource center for Prestonsburg Elementary, said in an interview that the decision to choose one, or in her case, two, students was a very difficult one.

She said that she did not limit her decision based on just one or two criteria, but that she tried to look at the whole picture and that she mainly "looked at each particular child."

Reynolds said that she talked with each candidate and their parents, along with examining the child's school history in formulating her decision.

She said that she is happy with the decision that she made, but that she wished she could have chosen more to participate. Reynolds went on to say that she felt that the officers who were sponsoring the event were "wonderful" and that she appreciated their effort in "adopting" these children in need.

The event kicked off on Thursday afternoon with a pizza party held in the council room at City Hall. The children, their parents, and their siblings were treated to pizza, soft drinks and cake.

Next, a surprise visit from Santa Claus took place whereon each child present had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and tell his or her secret Christmas wishes.

Each of the participating children was given large bags of brightly wrapped gifts. Among the gifts were a pair of shoes, a new coat, socks and gloves. Two gifts each were given to each sibling of a participating child.

The families also took home food baskets containing all the trimmings for a complete Christmas dinner as well as personal items such as shampoo, shower gels,

(See SHOP, page six)

## Southern Water commissioner faces charge after strike

by KATHY J. PRATER  
STAFF WRITER

Although a work stoppage at Kentucky West Virginia Gas Company ended earlier this month, ramifications from the 36-day standoff continue.

A criminal complaint has been filed in Floyd District Court by a North Carolina resident in connection with an incident that occurred during the strike.

Hubert Halbert, 56, of Langley, an employee of Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Co. and a water commissioner of the Beaver-Elkhorn Water District, has been charged with first-degree wanton endangerment in connection with the incident.

The complaining witness, Larry D. Crawley Sr. of Eden, North Carolina, had been hired as a security guard by Kentucky West to keep watch over the company grounds while the strike was in progress.

In an interview with The Floyd County Times, Crawley said he is a retired police officer and ex-jail administrator from the area in which he resides, and so has vast experience in the area of law enforcement.

Crawley said that he reported for work at the "little Maytown station" on the morning of December 2, at approximately 6 a.m. Shortly afterwards, he noticed a "flashing red light" on a control panel in the station was repeatedly appearing. Crawley said that he had been told the day before by company representatives to not be con-

(See CHARGE, page two)

## Times readers brighten holiday for sick woman

by RALPH B. DAVIS  
MANAGING EDITOR

Several dozen readers of The Floyd County Times have rallied to make Christmas brighter for a former resident battling illness in a Chicago hospital.

As of Thursday, Ethel Tipton, 80, had received 37 cards, letters and gifts after her nephew made a heartfelt appeal for "words from home." Tipton is a former resident of the Harold area who left in the 1950s.

The nephew, Darryl Wagner of Lexington, made his plea through a letter published in the Wednesday, December 13, edition of The Times. He followed up that

(See CARDS, page two)



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Santa Claus was the featured guest at this year's "Christmas in the Park" held Thursday evening at Archer Park. As evidenced by this photo, at least one little boy was very glad to see the "old elf." The annual event is sponsored by Archer Park and the Prestonsburg Women's Club. Refreshments were served and each registered and attending child received a gift from Santa. In addition, the city's "mini-fire truck" was on hand to offer rides through the brightly-lit park.

## P'burg has first reading of police-fire merger

by KATHY J. PRATER  
STAFF WRITER

As members of the city's council entered the council meeting room to convene in a special called gathering, Lt. Ricky Thornsberry of the Floyd County Sheriff's Office greeted each of them with the service of a federal lawsuit filed against them by 12 current and former city fire-

fighters.

Although, the city's attorney, David Neeley, was present, no public statements in regard to the suit were issued.

Instead, Mayor Jerry Fannin called the meeting to order and after the roll was called and Councilman Hansel Cooley offered the invocation, business proceeded with the first reading of an ordinance to merge the current police and fire depart-

ments into one public safety department, conducted by Robert Allen II.

The ordinance, 15-2000, states that, following careful deliberation by the city council as to what serves the best interest of the residents of the city, the council has determined that it is in the best interest of the city residents to form a Department of Public Safety.

Through the formation of this depart-

ment, the city police officers and firefighters will receive identical training which would qualify them to serve and perform the duties of a police officer and a firefighter.

The city states in its ordinance that this cross-training of employees would provide the city with better combined police and

(See MERGER, page six)

Charge

cerned if he saw a flashing yellow light, but that a flashing red light was a matter that should be taken seriously and that it needed to be reported to company maintenance personnel. Crawley said that his understanding was that the flashing red light was an indication of a "serious gas leak."

Crawley said he contacted Robert "Bojey" Crace, an employee of Kentucky West who does light maintenance work on the company machinery, and that Crace appeared a short time later, driving a white Bronco, at the edge of the picket line.

Crawley said that at that time, he

decided to walk down to the picket line to ask the striking workers to allow Crace to cross the picket line onto company property.

According to Crawley, he addressed Halbert and fellow striker Donald "French" Hensley and said, "Gentlemen, we're having a bad gas leak, please let Mr. Bojey through."

It was at that time, according to Crawley, that Halbert allegedly pointed a three-inch chrome-plated revolver directly into his face and that he also allegedly told Crawley that he would "blow his brains out." Crawley said that a second security guard videotaped the incident and placed a call to the Kentucky State Police. Crawley said KSP Officer Rick Conn reported to the scene, talked briefly with the men and then left.

Halbert said that he and his partner placed several more calls to KSP Post 9, but that no other officer appeared on the scene.

Later, on December 4, after conferring with a company attorney and other representatives, Crawley filed formal charges against Halbert.

In an interview with Halbert on Friday, Halbert said that Crawley exceeded limits placed on him by walking 274 feet off company property into the strikers' range of territory.

Halbert said that Crace, who was acting at the time as Crawley's supervisor, yelled several times to Crawley to stop and to not come any closer to the picket line. Halbert said that Crawley ignored these admonishments and continued to proceed in his direction and Halbert claims that he took this action as a threat against his personal safety.

Halbert said that he and other strikers had been informed that the security guards had police training and he did not know what Crawley's intentions were, especially in light of the fact that he continued to come toward him even though his supervisor was giving him directions to cease his activity.

Halbert said that Trooper Conn saw the incident as being instigated and provoked by Crawley.

Halbert also said that he did not

know if Crawley was armed or not. Crawley said that he was not.

In reference to the "flashing red light" that Crawley had seen, Halbert said that other security guards and company employees had pulled a prank, telling Crawley that the red light was a sign of danger.

Halbert said that what the light actually is an indication that pressure was being released by means of a "pop-off" valve. Halbert said that the valve began to activate at approximately 8:45 p.m. on Friday evening and continued until approximately 10:15 Saturday morning.

Halbert said the Maytown community was in no danger, as Crawley had suspected.

According to Halbert, an arrest warrant was filed against Crawley by he and Hensley, but that they

later dropped the action.

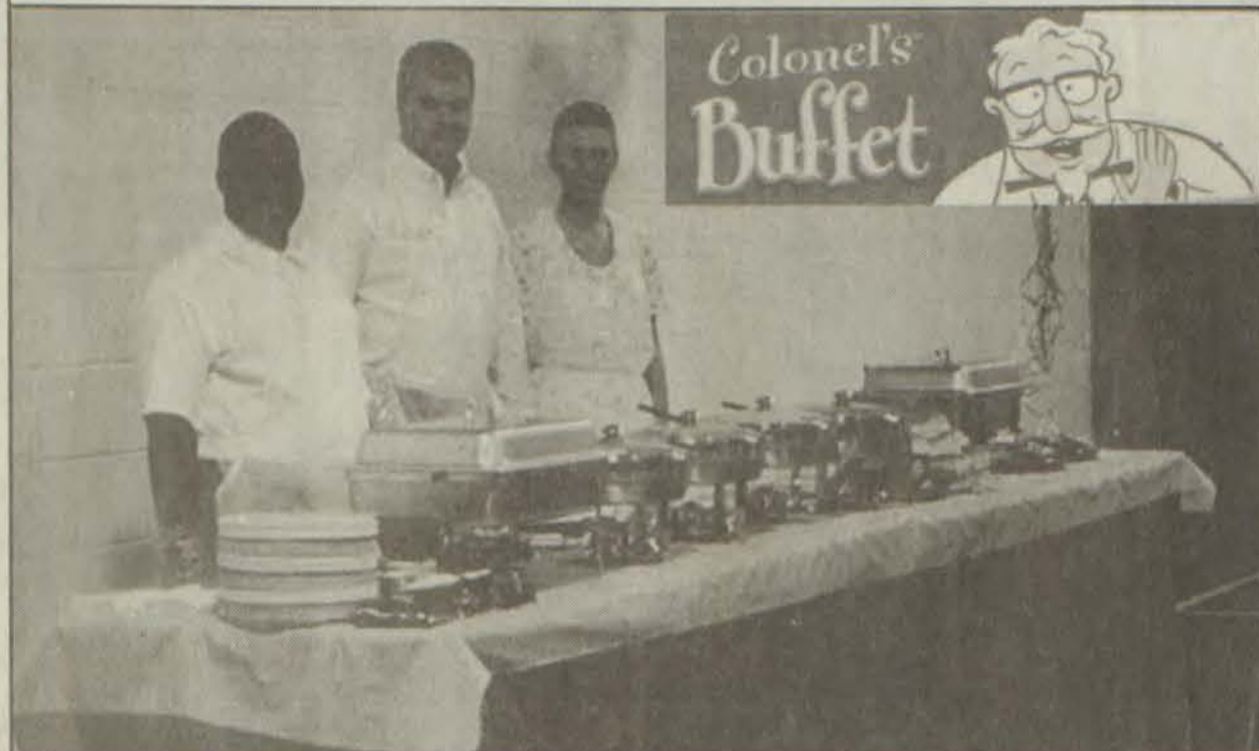
Halbert also said that in negotiations with company representatives, he was told that the matter of Crawley's complaint would not be pursued.

Crawley said that he has intentions of coming back to the area in January to appear in court on the matter.

Halbert said that he is one of the Kentucky West employees who opted to take advantage of the early retirement incentive package and that he would be retiring from the company shortly.

Halbert said that should the matter be pursued in the courts that he will appear to answer to the charges filed, but that he has no intention of "pleading guilty to anything."

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Cards

letter with an advertisement two days later.

Wagner's appeal had an immediate impact. By Friday, December 15, just two days after the initial letter was published, Tipton had received three cards in her Chicago mailbox.

By the following Monday, Wagner said Tipton's mailbox was "stuffed" with cards, letters and gifts from well-wishers.

The effect the messages from home was tremendous, Wagner said. Tipton, who Wagner described as "very sick," began speaking again after she started receiving the deliveries, something she had not done for some time.

"I knew the people of the Big Sandy would come through for her," Wagner said.

While most of deliveries have been cards, Wagner said some of the deliveries have been truly touching.

Continued from p1

One lady, a 79-year-old retired teacher, sent Tipton a green homemade ribbon to be used as a bookmark for her Bible.

One man who remembered Tipton from her days at Harold sent her a letter, along with high school photos and memorabilia from when Tipton's daughter, Brenda, attended Betsy Layne High School.

A group of 15 children who said they were "on a mountain trip near Salyersville" sent Tipton a card with a note and \$10.25 enclosed. The money came in the form of one \$5 bill, five \$1 bills and a single quarter.

Wagner said that card, in particular, meant a lot to his aunt, who he said sleeps clutching the quarter.

However, the children only signed their first names on the card and offered no return address.

"I would give anything to find out who these wonderful children are," Wagner said.

Anyone wishing to send a holiday message to Tipton can do so by writing:

Mrs. Ethel Tipton  
2449 W. Taylor St.  
Chicago, IL 60612

Advertisement for StoneCrest Golf Course. Features the logo, text 'Memberships available now for the 2001 season', 'Take advantage of the special introductory offer good until Feb. 1, 2001.', 'On Course Advertisement opportunities now available.', 'The City of Prestonsburg is now selling advertisements for all of the hole identification markers for StoneCrest Golf Course.', and 'Please call Larry Ward at 886-2335 if you have any questions.'

State

Continued from p1

tion on each of Kentucky's state senators and state representatives, including their phone numbers, email addresses, mailing addresses and legislative committee assignments.

The page also describes the services available to the public by the Legislative Research Commission, the General Assembly's administrative arm.

Web surfers may also see for themselves the issues before lawmakers by browsing through bill summaries, amendments and resolutions. The Web site is regularly updated to indicate each bill's status in the legislative process, as well as the next day's committee meeting schedule.

With Best Wishes For a Happy Holiday

May the meaning of Christmas be deeper, its friendships stronger, and its hopes brighter, as you and your loved ones revel in the magic of the holiday season.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you this past year. We're really grateful for your kind support and look forward to your continued friendship.



City of Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin and City Council Members

Advertisement for American Cancer Society. Logo, text 'AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY', 'Hope. Progress. Answers.', '1-800-ACS-2345', 'www.cancer.org', '©2000, American Cancer Society, Inc.'

ANSWERS Friday, Dec. 22, Edition

Super Crossword Answers

Grid of crossword puzzle answers with words like AJAR, BEGA, TRIP, IMPORT, CORE, TRIP, RULE, WASHIE, THESPICE, TRIP, PTMAN, ENAB, CHAD, TAI, STO, DAM, AZALOE, SWAN, WIREVOUS, LATE, SHAPE, ETC, OHAR, ROAR, GLEED, SQUARE, POP, BITES, THRILL, GARA, VIBROER, PALE, OMO, EVA, HEE, SOV, WATTNOW, YLOVE, MRS, APO, MOW, BEBA, TOGA, DELAWARE, ELEN, RAGLAM, ENTIRE, VNS, HOW, DEICE, SWIT, PESO, FWH, OAD, HASTA, GURENTRICONS, LIND, ESTIDE, THU, MAT, NEE, ENOLA, ATLAS, ARAMADA, THEROMANAMPERE, NEATER, TELL, INTO, USER, FINEST, EMMY, TASK, TEST.

Magic maze Answers

Diagram of a magic maze with words like WODNIV, UBER, DEKIZI, CARO, AN, PUSHTA, CELPADREDD, CRUTE, DALCO, ESTO.

# Court News

**MARRIAGES**

Danielle Renee Hartschuh, 18, McDowell to Billy J. Hall, 19, Drift.  
 Juanita Keathley Howell, 45, to Robert Howell, 51, both of Harold.  
 Ashley Ann Flannery, 17, Craynor to Danny Darrell Newsome, 22, Virgie.  
 Linda Sue Selva, 17, Allen to Ramey Joe Wireman, 22, Waldo.  
 Angela Sue Newsome, 25, Prestonsburg to Shawn Winford Lantz, 22, Prestonsburg.  
 April Dawn Chaffins, 28, to Michael David Ousley, 17, both of Prestonsburg.  
 Dorothy Lee Underwood, 56, to Larry Lee Stallard, both of 53, Prestonsburg.

Shawna LaShay Keel, 18, Van Lear to Jeffrey Allen Howell, 33, Auxier.  
 Sherri Lynn Bates, 44, to Thomas L. Engle, 42, both of Wheelwright.  
 Jessica Lynn Castro, 18, Blue River to Kenneth James Mercado, 17, Prestonsburg.

**LAWSUITS**

Roop, Tommy, et al. vs. Blackburn, Cathy Johnson, et al.  
 Clark, Jerry S. vs. Emmett, Charles Jr.  
 Conesco Finance Servicing vs. Tackett, Mary  
 GMAC Mortgage Corporation vs. Clouse, Thomas, et al.  
 Johnson, Ruby Jarrell vs. Johnson, Rose L.  
 Firststar Bank vs. Bud Rife Construction, et al.  
 Caudill, Rhonda G. vs. Stafford, Michael  
 Community Trust vs. Big Sandy Railroad Contracting, et al.  
 Hamilton, Jeanene vs. Hamilton, James M.  
 West, Josephine vs. Martin, Euggle, et al.  
 Collins, Ernestine vs. American Homes, Inc.  
 Lantz, Shawn vs. Lantz, Misty Allen, James W. Jr. vs. Allen, Carole H.

**CHARGES FILED**

Joyce Ann Foley, 42, McDowell, alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct.  
 Brian Prater, 28, David, fourth-degree assault.  
 Sarah F. Lawson, 27, Betsy Layne, fourth-degree assault.  
 Billy Cummings, age unknown, Pikeville, theft by unlawful taking.  
 Justin L. Blakenship, 18, Beaver, public intoxication.  
 Eric G. Blakenship, 21, Beaver, public intoxication.  
 Ricky A. Thomas, 23, Prestonsburg, alcohol intoxication, prescription in improper container, public intoxication.  
 James E. Howard, 42, Pikeville, alcohol intoxication.  
 Jettie Hall, 38, Banner, alcohol intoxication.  
 Larry Lewis, age unknown, Prestonsburg, parent send child to school.  
 Darlene Harrington, 47, Bypro, carrying concealed weapon.  
 Robert Lee Meade, 33, Prestonsburg, theft by unlawful taking.  
 Benji Griveson, age unknown, Blue River, fourth-degree assault.  
 Brian E. Jones, 22, Prestonsburg, alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct.

Gregory R. Jones II, 24, Prestonsburg, alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct.  
 Angela S. Akers, 22, Banner, sell alcoholic beverage to minor.  
 Sharon Sturgill Slone, 34, Langley, sell alcoholic beverage to minor.  
 Teresa L. Howell, 41, Wayland, sell alcoholic beverage to minor.  
 Bobby J. Hamilton, 35, Topmost, permit illegal sale/alcoholic beverage.  
 Hubert Halbert, age unknown, Langley, first-degree wanton endangerment.  
 Timothy Wayne Campbell, 40, Ashland, second-degree forgery, theft by unlawful taking.

**BANKRUPTCIES**

**Pikeville District Chapter 7**  
*Under Chapter 7 bankruptcy, a court-appointed trustee sells assets and the debtor is discharged of debts.*  
 Debra L. Pennington, Flat Gap.  
 Melissa Gail Alley, Warfield.  
 Melissa Ann Fitch, Van Lear.  
 Vivian Joyce Moore, Pikeville.  
 Enoch Stanaford and Yavonne Evans Stanaford, Lovely.  
 Zenas Fields Jr., Hazard.  
 Johnny L. Melton and Rhonda G. Melton, Hazard.  
 George Kevin Baker and Tabatha Mae Baker, Jackson.  
 Edith Ruth Widner and Lonnie Dean Widner, Partridge.  
 Doris Shepherd and Joe Shepherd, Fisty.  
 Kermit Boyd and Marguarita Lilly Boyd, Langley.  
 Christopher Columbus Taylor and Nadine Taylor, Meally.  
 Dennis Ward and Elizabeth Ann Ward, Meally.  
 Raymond Baker and Virgie Baker, Bonnyman.  
 Neva Ratliff, Hager Hill.  
 Lois Scurlock and William R. Scurlock, Tutor Key.  
 Elmer D. Slone and Sherry Slone, David.

**Chapter 13**

*Under Chapter 13 bankruptcy, the debtor arranges to repay debt.*  
 Juanita L. Howard and Tommy J. Howard, Lost Creek.  
 Joseph F. McGuire and Sandy F. McGuire, Beaver.

**INSPECTIONS**

Family Inn, Garrett, regular inspection, Violations noted: No hair restraints being worn, two upright deep freezers have missing handles, two horizontal deep freezers have top lids and gaskets in disrepair, no chemical test kits provided to check sanitizing solution chlorine levels, outside dumpster has no lids or no bottom due to rusting. Score: 95.  
 Allen Food Market, Allen, regular inspection, Violations noted: Frozen foods and food products not being maintained as frozen, display freezer unit at 20-degrees Fahrenheit, not all refrigerator units have conspicuous thermometers, wiping cloth use not restricted, floors in slight disrepair. Score: 92.  
 Allen Food Market, Allen, follow-up inspection, Violations noted: Critical item #3 (potentially hazardous food-safe temperature) corrected during previous inspection, freezer unit was stuck

on defrost cycle, keeping temperatures around 20-degrees Fahrenheit, unit temperature now at 0 to 1-degrees Fahrenheit. Other items remain uncorrected — items # 5 (conspicuous thermometers), 21 (wiping cloth use not restricted), and 36 (floors in disrepair). Score: 97.  
 Adkins Quick Stop, Honaker, regular inspection, Violations noted: Not all refrigerator and freezer units have conspicuous thermometers, food contact counter in bad repair, wiping cloth use not restricted, single service containers being re-used to store food items, three-compartment sink faucet has a continual leak, faucet at three-compartment sink improperly installed, made partially out of wood encasement, which cannot be properly sanitized — replacement of this unit is required, with materials constructed of metal, toxic items stored with food equipment and food items, articles of clothing hanging in food preparation area, next to three-compartment sink, lighting insufficient in store area and light not working in walk-in. Score: 82 and 98.

Pizza Hut, Mays Branch, regular inspection, Violations noted: White containers in walk-in unit not labeled/dated, regular cup being used to dip and pour powdered seasoning, also, cup being stored in container #10, baking pans not being stored upside down on racks, glasses for beer being stored on wooden shelves/beer glasses not being stored upside down, mop head being stored on floor, needs to be in bucket or hanging above drain, hair restraints such as hats or visors need to worn by all food prep. workers. Score: 91.

K.O.R.C. Cardinal Mart #2, Wheelwright, regular inspection, Violations noted: Inside of microwave oven soiled with food build-up, tops of canned products dusty, inside of cabinet, underside and top rim of hand wash sink are soiled, between and below frying equipment is soiled with grease build-up, three-compartment sink is out of order due to leaking pipe work, outside garbage container not provided with lids or drain plugs, ceiling tiles in retail section of store have discoloration, ceiling tiles missing in ware washing portion of establishment, ceiling fan guard/light shield missing in restrooms, wet mop head stored on the floor in ware washing room. Score: Food-92, Retail-95.

W.D. Osborne Elementary Cafeteria, Bevinsville, regular inspection, Violations noted: Food in walk-in freezer too close to floor-minimum distance is 6 inches from floor, food on floor in dry storage room, in outside walk-in freezer some food is stored under condensation lines, dumpsters are not provided with lids or plugs. Score: 96.

W.D. Osborne Elementary, Bevinsville, regular inspection, Violations noted: Outside garbage dumpsters not provided with lids or drain plugs, low lighting observed in various rooms — Ms. Colleen Johnson and Library were two of those. Foot-candle power should be 50 foot-candles, lights out in Ms. Colleen Johnson's room and also some are flickering in the library, ceiling tile discolored in Ms. Stephanie Osborne's room, also, cobwebs observed in the corner of the wall in this room, commode in boys restroom has loose seat and leaking fixture, restroom located beside Ms. Sabrina Hall's room. Score: 90.

Jenny Wiley State Park, regular inspection, Violations noted: In one area it was noticed that guards were needed on drains in order to aid in the prevention of the collection of debris in pipes and also to prevent possible rodent entrance, handrails around exterior walk-way could be tighter. Score: 96.

S & J Market, Beaver, regular inspection, Violations noted: Not all refrigerator and freezer units have conspicuous thermometers, wiping cloth on retail section shelf not stored in a sanitary solution, restrooms have no soap, food preparation area lights not properly shielded. Note: All meat items are now properly labeled, facility appears clean and well organized. Score: 96 and 96.

Duff Elementary/Allen Central Middle School, Eastern, regular inspection, Violations noted: No hot water provided in either girls or boys restrooms (of the library/primary hallway) due to hot water heater being in disrepair, floor tiles chipped in various hallways, ceiling tile in room 135 is showing signs of water

## Big Sandy Medical Clinic

Will start running a **Head, Neck and Back Pain Clinic**  
 Thursday, January 4th  
 As well as a **Weight Loss Clinic** and **Internal Medicine Clinic**

Using all FDA approved medicine for pain and weight loss.  
 Board Certified Physician on staff to handle your needs.

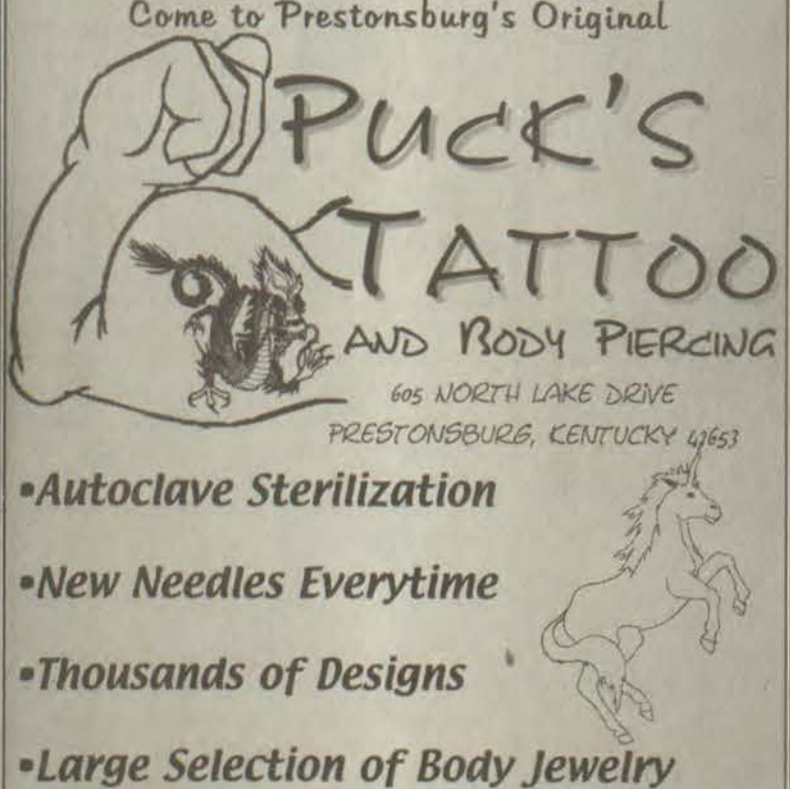
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(See COURT NEWS, page five)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

—First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution—

# Viewpoint

## QUOTE OF THE DAY...

The emphasis in sound discipline must be on what's wrong, rather than who's to blame.

—George Odiorne

Sunday, December 24, 2000 A4

## Editorial

### '... and goodwill unto men'

If ever there were a place in need of holiday brotherhood, Floyd County is it.

As we sit on the eve of Christmas, it is just a little past a year since the end of a bitter strike at Highlands Regional Medical Center, and only a couple of weeks after the end of another strike at Kentucky West Virginia Gas Company.

And that is not the end of the labor unrest in our community. Not too long ago, nursing aides at Mountain Manor left their jobs, permanently. And another controversy is brewing in the city of Prestonsburg's fire department.

While the seemingly endless disputes between workers and bosses, unions and management make for a pretty steady supply of news here at the paper, we cannot in all honesty say that we have taken delight from the reports we've had to write.

The past year has been one of the most contentious at all levels in recent memory. It seems that everywhere you look, there is a fiery disagreement brewing.

And so now the holidays are upon us. It seems like as good a time as any for a Christmas miracle.

Contemplate for just a moment how much better this world could be if everyone, this moment, set aside their differences and grievances for the holiday. What would happen if each of us took just a minute to wish a merry Christmas to those against whom we've been fighting?

Would we have a glorious Hollywood ending, the type where we all end up holding hands and singing Christmas carols? Not very likely.

But perhaps, just perhaps, such action would remind each of us that we are not competing against an enemy or "the bad guy," that we just have a disagreement with a fellow traveler through this life.

Maybe, if we could set aside our hostility and bitterness, we would see those we challenge and who challenge us as fellow human beings with whom we have much in common.

Maybe then it would be easier for all of these competing sides to communicate and ultimately reach a consensus.

Then again, maybe this is starting to sound like a lot of holiday corniness, even to us.

But if it is childish to think that a day like Christmas can spur us to love one another and treat each other with respect and decency, then perhaps it is time for us to become like children again.

Christmas is a time of dreams, and if instead of dreaming of vague notions of world peace and an end to hunger we focused on settling our differences with those around us, maybe we would be one step closer to making that dream a reality.

From those of us at The Times, we hope that you and yours have the most joyous holiday ever.

—Ralph B. Davis



## Letters to the Editor

### The Big Sandy has a big heart

Editor:  
Ethel Tipton is happy!  
"Cards, letters and gifts have been arriving in Chicago from down home," says her granddaughter, Terri Mitchell. "This is the happiest I have seen her in months!"

I would just like to thank all the loving and caring people who responded to my recent request for holiday messages to help ease this lady's burden. The response was heartwarming indeed.

Although I spent over 50 years of my life in Chicago, I have always wanted to "go back home." This outpouring of kindness from the area just reinforces what I have known all my life — the true treasure of Appalachia is not its coal, but its people.

God bless the Big Sandy Valley.  
Darryl G. Wagner  
Nephew of Ethel Tipton  
Lexington  
(formerly of Harold)

## Guest Column

### An agenda we can agree on

by JACK FARIS

Like so many other Americans, I have spent some time recently thinking about what the election of 2000 really meant. Are we, as a country, really so divided that we split right down the middle on November 7?

I cannot answer my own question definitively. I can only say: I hope not. I hope that we do not resemble our Congress — split in half, at times bitterly divided over who is in power and who has the "right" idea about how to govern.

I hope, instead, that our Congress comes to resemble us. Because I believe that Americans are indeed bound together by some common hopes, dreams, and ideals.

One of the dreams that nearly all of us share is the "American Dream" of independence and prosperity, best achieved through self-employment. The idea of being your own boss and making money from your own creativity and sweat is intoxicating to the majority of people in this country. Whether you voted for Democrats or Republicans, or both, you have probably at some point dreamed of making a go of it on your own. (Or maybe you are already doing it; about 25 million Americans are.)

And regardless of partisan preferences, most Americans would agree that small, independent businesses are a good thing. They provide jobs (during recessions they are nearly the sole source of job growth), innovation (everything from air conditioning to insulin to personal computers came out of small businesses) and a staggering amount of economic output (more than 50 percent of the American private sector output comes from small firms).

Our uniquely American preference for freedom and independence also causes us to agree that small business should probably be left alone to continue doing a good job. We all have a few friends or family members who are self-employed, and we generally respect those people. They work hard and give back to their employees, families and communities. When we think about the business owners we know personally, we certainly don't have an urge to tighten the screws on them in any way.

With neither political party being able to display a "mandate" from the people, or a large enough majority to move controversial legislation, Congress will be challenged to find something on which they can agree — and I believe that protecting America's smallest

firms is an excellent place to start.

#### Just a few examples:

- A national concern over health care and the rising number of the uninsured (around 43 million right now, three out of five of whom are self-employed or work for a small firm) could be addressed by making health insurance more affordable and accessible for small business.
  - A desire to have some of the surplus "returned" to the people through tax cuts could be satisfied by repeal of the out-dated, un-American death tax that threatens and sometimes destroys a family's ability to pass their small business on to the next generation.
  - Frustration with greedy personal injury lawyers and a civil justice system that is full of frivolous, expensive lawsuits could be tackled by establishing a product liability standard that separates and protects the sellers of products from the manufacturers who make them.
- All of the politicians have said it, but I hope that a majority of them mean it: when the 107th Congress convenes, partisan differences must be cast aside in deference to the best interest of the American people. And since that which is good for small business is also very good for America, I strongly encourage Congress to remember that an agenda of freedom and growth for family businesses is something we can, should (and in fact already do) agree on.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB, the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.nfib.com](http://www.nfib.com).



[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

## 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.

## The first step onto the road called addiction

by CLARK CARR  
PRESIDENT, NARCONON INTERNATIONAL

Whether a person is genetically, bio-chemically, or otherwise predisposed to alcoholism or other drug addiction is a controversy that has been debated for years within the scientific, medical and chemical dependency communities.

One school of thought advocates the "disease concept," which embraces the notion that addiction is an inherited disease and that the individual is permanently ill at a genetic level, even if he or she experiences long periods of sobriety.

Another philosophy argues that addiction is a dual problem consisting of a physical and mental dependency on chemicals, compounded by a pre-existing mental disorder (i.e. clinical depression, bipolar disorder, or some other such mental illness). This viewpoint puts forward that the mental disorder needs to be treated first as the primary cause of the addiction.

A third philosophy subscribes to the idea that chemical dependency leads to "chemical imbalances" in the neurological system.

The fact remains that although there may be research data supporting all of these concepts, none of these theories are absolute. Based on surveys of thousands of alcohol and other drug rehabilitation program graduates, we have a national recovery rate average of between 16 percent and 20 percent.

The message is clear that we have a lot more to learn if we are to raise the national recovery rate to a more acceptable, desirable level.

In addition to the above three viewpoints of addiction, there is a fourth school of thought which has proven to be more accurate. It has to do with the life cycle of addiction. This data is universally applicable to addiction, no matter which hypothesis is used to explain the phenomenon of chemical dependency.

The life cycle of addiction begins with a problem, a discomfort or some form of emotional or physical pain a person is experiencing. The person finds this very difficult to deal with.

Here is an individual who, like most people in our society, is basically good. He has encountered a problem or discomfort that he does not have the ability to resolve. This could include a problem such as difficulty "fitting in" as a child or teenager, anxiety due to peer pressure, identity problems, or divorce as an adult. It could also include physical discomfort, such as a broken arm, a bad back, or inability to sleep.

The person experiencing the discomfort has a real problem. He feels this problem is a major life situation that is persisting, and he can see no immediate resolution or relief from it.

We have all experienced such things in our lives to a greater or lesser degree. The difference between which one of us become an addict and which one does not, depends on whether or not, at the time of this traumatic experience, we are subjected to pro-drug or alcohol influences via some sort of significant peer pressure. The painkilling or emotion-dulling effects of drugs or alcohol become an acceptable solution to the discomfort, because the person using alcohol or other drugs experiences relief from the negative feeling associated with his or her problem.

As soon as the addict experiences relief from the discomfort, he inadvertently attaches "value" to the drug or drink. It helped him feel better. Even though the relief is only temporary, drug or drink is adopted as a solution to the problem. This assigned "value" is the only reason the person ever uses drugs or drinks a second, third or more times. From this point forward, it is just a matter of time before the alcohol-drinking or drug-using person loses the ability to control the alcohol or drug use.

No matter at what stage of "self-control" the person may feel he is at, once he or she has started using alcohol or other drugs regularly for their "relief value," he is somewhere on the road called "addiction." Addiction is not the destination. Addiction is the whole road.

Narconon™ is a drug rehabilitation and prevention program used by a worldwide network of non-profit or charitable centers. Narconon International offers this series on "The Life Cycle and Mechanics of Addiction" to help concerned citizens better understand the subject.

# The Floyd County Times

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Phone 606-886-8506  
Fax: 606-886-3603  
E-Mail: [fctimes@eastky.net](mailto:fctimes@eastky.net)  
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**Court News**

Continued from p3

damage, exit doors by the Resource Center needs sweeps at bottom to aid in preventing insects and rodents from entering building, item # 23 (control of rodents and insects) is required to be corrected within 10 days due to it being a critical violation. Score: 88.

John M. Stumbo Elementary, Grethel, regular inspection, Violations noted: Water fountain in first mobile Head Start unit has water stream that is too low, allowing pupils to come in contact with mouth guards, third Head Start mobile unit has no towels, girls restroom has no soap or towels, several rooms have lights that are out, several rooms with floor tile in disrepair. Score: 90.

John M. Stumbo Elementary Cafeteria, follow-up inspection, Violations noted: Item #41 (pertaining to storage of toxic items) was corrected this date (critical item), solution in ice scoop holder now at 100 p.p.m. chlorine solution. Note: Some violations remain uncorrected. Score: 93.

Heritage Pizza, Hueysville, regular inspection, Violations noted: Inside of door on horizontal freezer in disrepair, No door handles on upright freezer or refrigerator, upright freezer door in disrepair on inside — duct tape not an approved repair material,

employee restroom commode has cracked seat, walls in walk-in cooler have holes in them, ceiling in food preparation area in need of painting — drywall showing and some paint peeling. Score: 96.

J&H Stop and Shop, Estill, regular inspection, Not all coolers have conspicuous thermometers — ice cream freezer, panel is loose inside reach-in freezer used for deli foods, gasket in disrepair on door of large walk-in refrigeration unit, inside of microwave oven is soiled with food residue, trays and bottom shelf of Coca-Cola cooler are soiled, sliding door grooves on Pepsi cooler have soil build-up, gasket/seal on refrigerator in food preparation area has food residue build-up, no chemical test kits provided to check chlorine levels in sanitizing solution. Score: Food-95, Retail-95.

John M. Stumbo Elementary, Grethel, regular inspection, Violations noted: Large storage containers have no labels as to contents, foam cups stored on the floor, restroom facilities have no soap or towels, and is need of more routine cleaning, several floor tiles in moderate disrepair, sanitizing agent (ice scoop container) was over 200 p.p.m., mop head observed stored on the floor, outside dumpsters have no lids

and there is an accumulation of garbage around units. Score: 88.

Taco Bell, Harold, regular and follow-up inspections, Violations noted: Under counter refrigeration unit does not have conspicuous thermometer, soda dispensing machine nozzles and nozzle area needs more routine cleaning and sanitizing, three-compartment sink concentration of chemical sanitizer (chlorine) over 200 p.p.m. (this violation was corrected during inspection, concentration now at 100 p.p.m.), clothing items and purses stored with food and food equipment in storage area. Note: Follow-up this date reveals critical item no. 41 corrected. Score: 91.

Pizza Hut Express, Harold, regular and follow-up inspections, Violations noted: Pepperoni and ham toppings constant during inspection at 50-degrees Fahrenheit — meat toppings out of compliance were discarded in presence of inspector, pepperoni stored in the walk-in refrigerator uncovered on bottom shelf, wiping cloth use not restricted, three-compartment sink final rinse (chlorine over 200 p.p.m.), this violation corrected during inspection, now at 100 p.p.m., refrigeration unit not maintaining 41-degrees Fahrenheit during inspection, critical item #41 corrected during inspection (pertaining to storage of toxic items). Note: In item #3, meat topping shall be stored in lower refrigeration unit that is in temperature compliance until entire unit can be serviced and holding temperatures of at least 41-degrees Fahrenheit can be maintained. Score: 83.

Pizza Hut Express, Harold, follow-up inspection, Violations noted: Follow-up on item 41 (storage of toxic items), toppings still at non-compliance temperatures, advised food service manager to pack trays in ice until refrigeration unit can be checked out. Temperatures now being maintained at compliance standards. Facility will be re-evaluated on Dec. 22. No Score.

Interstate Lodging, Inc. (Microtel Inn), regular inspection, Violations noted: Dry or damp mop being stored on floor in storage room, towel rack in Room 223 in disrepair (Handicap), lighting not at 50 foot-candles at reading desks, all rooms looked at, ice machine (third floor) cover in disrepair, sheet rock exposed in third floor hallway. Score: 94.

Comfort Suites, Prestonsburg, regular inspection, Violations noted: Lights at desk not providing 50 foot-candles at reading desk. Score: 98.

Wayland Fountain, Wayland, regular inspection, Violations noted: Boxes of food stored on floor in walk-in cooling unit, some shelves in walk-in cooler are absorbent — made of wood, ceiling in walk-in cooler has dust accumulation, inside of lid and gasket on reach-in freezer (located near beauty shop) in disrepair, handle is broken off of reach-in freezer (in hallway) between restaurant and beauty shop, back side of ventilation hood has grease accumulation, pots and pans on top of reach-in refrigerator and freezer not being stored inverted. Score: 93.

Martin Foodland, Martin, regular inspection, Violations noted: Not all coolers (Nestle ice cream cooler) have conspicuous thermometers, ice dispenser stored with handle in ice, band saw used for slicing meat has food residue build-up, men's restroom sink stopped up, hand wash sink in deli is cracked, exit doors in back of store not provided with sweeps that can prevent insects and rodents from entering store, light is out in milk cooler, light fixtures not provided with shields in both back meat coolers, tiles broken and missing in meat room floor, floor in disrepair in front of walk-in freezer in storage area of store. Score: Food-92, Retail-89.

Action Express Retail Mart No. 16, Ivel, regular inspection, Violations noted: Walk-in refrigerator has no conspicuous thermometer, packaged foods (beverage bottles, cans, etc.) stored in contact with water or undrained ice, bottled water stored in contact with standing water, fan guards in walk-in need cleaning, utility area wall in moderate disrepair. Score: 95.

**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

Lonzie D. Blakenship to Ida F. Blakenship, property in Floyd County.

Connie J. Woods and Billy Woods to Connie J. Woods and Fannie D. Conn, property in Floyd County.

Urban Tilden Peters, Executor of Will of Bertha Mae Peters, to Mountain Enterprises, Inc., land on the head of McGuire Fork of Bull Creek.

Elsie Ray Campbell and Bonnie Campbell to Darrell Campbell and Linda Campbell, property on Brandy Keg Creek.

Linda L. Mullins to Candy Little, lots # 17, 18, 19, and 20 in the Melvin-Frazier Subdivision at Arkansas.

Ray Lindon and Wanda Lindon to Larry Rogers and Charlotte Ann Rogers, property at Betsy Layne.

Thomas Jackson Webb and Mary June Webb to Robert Jason Webb and Saundra Kay Webb, land on Right Beaver Creek.

Otis Hansel Cooley and Sarah Francis Cooley and David Layne and Paula Layne to Kenneth Goble and Wilma Goble, property on Middle Creek.

Ronald Spurlock to Glenna Slone, land on Spurlock Branch.

Mary Jane Bays to Sam H. Bays and Brenda Bays, land in Floyd County.

Assignment of Oil and Gas Lease between Charles R. Bradley, President of Troublesome Creek Gas Corporation, and Rattlesnake Partners, a 100 percent working interest in the drill site located under the well names of Homer and Lois Reynolds.

Robert Kent Webb and Peggy Webb and Thomas Jackson Webb and Mary June Webb and Paul Marcus Webb and Patricia Webb and Claude Jennings Webb, I. and Janet Webb and Jeanie Katherine Tussey to Mary Susan Goins and Delbert Glen Goins, property on Right Beaver Creek.

Robert Kent Webb and Peggy

Webb and Mary Susan Goins and Delbert Glen Goins and Thomas Jackson Webb and Mary June Webb and Paul Marcus Webb and Patricia Webb and Jeanie Katherine Tussey to Claude Jennings Webb, I. and Janet Webb, property on Right Beaver Creek.

Mary Susan Goins and Delbert Glen Goins and Thomas Jackson Webb and Mary June Webb and Paul Marcus Webb and Patricia Webb and Claude Jennings Webb, I. and Janet Webb to Jeanie Katherine Tussey, property on Right Beaver Creek.

Robert Kent Webb and Peggy Webb and Mary Susan Goins and Delbert Glen Goins and Paul Marcus Webb and Patricia Webb and Claude Jennings Webb, I. and Janet Webb and Jeanie Katherine Tussey to Thomas Jackson Webb and Mary June Webb, property on Right Beaver Creek.

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**CAP's Christmas basket program brightens holidays for thousands**

During this special holy season, it is customary to bestow and receive gifts from friends and family, 'tis the time of giving. However, sometimes there are those within our midst that go without, that will have no presents due to limited finances, lack of employment or circumstances beyond their control. These individuals number in the thousands, throughout eastern Kentucky, and some will be touched by the generosity of the Christian Appalachian Project's Christmas Basket Program.

Santa's elves at the Christian Appalachian Project began their work during the heat of June, sending appeal letters throughout the nation to spark interest and involvement in the Christmas program. CAP caseworkers compile "wish lists" from local families in need. The "wish lists" travel to donors across the country, as well as nearby. The holiday packages begin to make their way to Kentucky just after Halloween and continue to arrive through the mail up until the first week of December.

Distribution of the holiday packages begins a week before Christmas in 11 counties which include, Garrard, Knott, southern

Madison, Rockcastle, Owsley, Jackson, McCreary, Johnson, Floyd, Magoffin and Martin. Local churches open their doors to CAP and provide participants with a special service before the gift distribution to rejoice in song and praise. It becomes a joint community effort, as a number of religions lend their space and sanctuary to the programs within the various counties.

Throughout the course of December, the CAP Christmas basket program provides gifts, food and brighten the holidays of more than 5,000 Appalachians, who otherwise would have a rather bleak, sparse Christmas.

"My children would not have had a Christmas if it hadn't been for CAP. They've been a true blessing to our household," remarked a participant in McCreary County.

CAP is an interdenominational, nonprofit Christian service organization committed to serving people in need in Appalachia by providing physical, spiritual and emotional support through education, crisis intervention and community development. With more than 70 programs and services, CAP's efforts reach people through 13 Appalachian states.

**Heating assistance**

**Big Sandy area community action agency continues heating assistance program**

Due to the severe cold weather, Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Inc. will re-open the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program on Wednesday, December 27.

Households who did not sign up on the Subsidy Program in November or December, may sign up for that part of the program. Households who did sign up during that program and are now in a crisis with their heating source, may sign up for the Crisis Program.

Applications will be taken on first come, first serve basis.

To be eligible for the Subsidy component, households must meet the 110 percent poverty income guidelines, be responsible for home heating costs, and not have liquid resources in excess of \$1,500 (\$4,000 if resources are being used

for living expenses due to a catastrophic illness).

**To be eligible for the Crisis component, households must meet the same guidelines of the Subsidy component above, and:**

- if heating with coal, wood, kerosene, fuel oil or propane, have less than a four-day supply or
- if heating with electric or natural gas, have a disconnect notice, or
- if the household's home heating costs are included as an undesignated portion of the rent, and the household has received an eviction notice for non-payment of rent.

For more information or to apply, contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Inc., Floyd County Courthouse annex, Prestonsburg, at 606/886-2929.



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J.R. Kidd





### Martin tree lighting

The City of Martin has its annual tree lighting on December 6. Participating in the celebration were members of the Martin Senior Citizens Center, Care-A-Lot Day Care Center, and other children and adults from the Martin area. Also participating were Mayor Thomasine Robinson and Councilman Mahendra Varia. Santa Claus helped each child hang an ornament on the tree. Refreshments were served at City Hall immediately following the ceremony.



photo by Pam Shingler

Angel Thacker, a student at Opportunities Unlimited, handed out information bags to members of the Floyd County Board of Education at the board's December 18 meeting. She and other OU students presented the results of their school energy audit and made suggestions about improving energy usage at the school.

## PSC provides suggestions for surviving winter heating bills

As the temperature drops, Kentuckians are reminded that their natural gas bills will be higher this heating season due to this year's higher market prices for natural gas and other heating fuels.

As prices have steadily risen over the past year, the Kentucky Public Service Commission has been looking at ways to mitigate the effects of these higher prices for natural gas customers in Kentucky. The PSC would like to make customers aware of several programs as Kentuckians brace for colder temperatures.

First, Dow Corning has a special program that offers free caulk to the needy citizens of Kentucky. According to U.S. Department of Energy figures, reducing air leaks in your home can reduce a customer's energy bill by 10 percent or more. Contact your local Community Action Agency for more information regarding the distribution of this caulk in your community, or call 1-800-456-3452 to

get the number for the Community Action Agency in your area.

Second, radio stations throughout Kentucky are airing public service announcements recorded by Gov. Paul Patton regarding the price increase, and what customers can do to survive winter heating bills. The announcements encourage all natural gas customers to contact their utility if they have trouble paying their bills.

Under Kentucky regulation, if a customer contacts their utility to set up a partial payment plan, and sticks to that plan, the customer cannot be disconnected. The governor's spots also provide the number for the Community Action Agency.

Finally, but perhaps most important, many of Kentucky's natural gas utilities have a "check-off" program where customers can choose to donate to the utility's assistance program. Under these programs, the utility turns over 100 percent of the funds collected for distribution

to needy households.

The utility keeps none of the funds that are collected, and, in fact, matches the funds collected from customers. Each utility matches funds in differing ways, ranging from a one dollar match for every two collected, to a match on

a dollar for dollar basis.

Many natural gas utilities have increased their corporate matches in the wake of the rising natural gas prices this winter.

The more that customers contribute to the program, the more the utilities contribute in turn.

### Twinkle, twinkle brightest star

Conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn visible

Jupiter is half a billion miles from the sun. Saturn is almost a full billion miles. Even though they appear close together, they're still half a billion miles apart. To find the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, look high in the eastern sky around 9 p.m. The brightest "star" in the night sky is Jupiter. Above it and to the right is another bright object, the planet Saturn.

—Ray Shubinski  
East Kentucky Center for  
Science, Mathematics &  
Technology

Jupiter and Saturn will come closer together. To find the conjunction, look high in the eastern sky around 9 p.m. Shubinski said the brightest "star" in the night sky is Jupiter. Above it and to the right is another bright object, the planet Saturn.

"Don't use a telescope to view it," he advised. "It's just something you literally go out and look at."

The conjunction can be seen all winter. The two planets come together about every 14 years. A triple conjunction of the planets occurs about every 160 years. The last occurred in 1940.

For more information or to receive regular e-mail updates on issues concerning science, contact the East Kentucky Center for Science, Mathematics & Technology at 606/889-0303, Ray Shubinski at rshubin@se-tel.com, or EKCSMT outreach specialist Cathy Neeley at cneeley@se-tel.com.

The night sky this month is a Christmas present all wrapped up in twinkling light, according to Ray Shubinski, director of the East Kentucky Center for Science, Mathematics, & Technology (EKCSMT).

Shubinski, an astronomer was awestruck Wednesday as he gazed at a chart of celestial events this month.

"Wow! There's just really pretty, pretty stuff going on, which is kind of a Christmas treat in itself," he said.

That "pretty stuff" includes a pairing of Venus and the crescent moon between 28-30 later this month and a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Astronomers and Biblical scholars theorize that a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn guided the three Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. A double conjunction of the planets is occurring now.

A conjunction occurs when two or more planets are grouped together in the same part of the sky. In a double conjunction, they pass each other, seem to stop and then travel backward. During a triple conjunction, the planets pass each other three times. They appear close, sometimes almost seeming to touch, during the conjunction. In reality, they're millions of miles apart.

"Jupiter is half a billion miles from the sun. Saturn is almost a full billion miles. Even though the two planets appear close, they're half a billion miles apart," Shubinski said.

The proximity of the planets is an optical illusion caused by the Earth, which is moving very quickly, and by Saturn, which is moving very slowly, according to the astronomer.

In 7 BC, the two planets passed each other three times. The event would have captured the attention of astrologers (early astronomers) at that time and probably no one else — one reason why many astronomers think that this celestial event may have been the Star of Bethlehem, according to Shubinski.

"An interesting thing about that conjunction was that Jupiter and Saturn did a dance in the sky. Actually, it was a triple conjunction... The conjunction could be seen in the eastern sky. By June, it appeared to stop and move backward, toward the west. By October, the bright planets of the conjunction could be seen all night.

"The Magi saw the star in the east and then traveled west toward Bethlehem. By the time, they reached Jesus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars would have been literally in front of them. The conjunction of planets was much closer together in 7 BC than now," Shubinski said. During the rest of the month,

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Reds Spring Training Schedule

Feature:

page 2

**A Look at Sports**

**Merry Christmas!!**



by ED TAYLOR  
 SPORTS EDITOR

Just a short column the day before Christmas.  
 From this desk, from a heart of sincerity, I wish all the athletes, coaches, principals, fans, moms, dads, managers, AD's, cheerleaders, majorettes, dance teams, ROTC, referee's, concession workers, band members, band directors, scorer's, timer's, teachers, custodians, and anyone else involved in athletics in our area, a Merry Christmas.

What a time of the year! A time to celebrate the birth of our Savior. I hope all will have a great gathering with family and that you get everything on your list for Christmas. Be safe and don't overeat.

The South Floyd Raiders had to cancel out their game Tuesday night with Paintsville and I was looking forward to that one. The game will be rescheduled later in the season.

I missed the Betsy Layne homecoming because I wrote it down on the wrong Friday. I was set to head to Bobcats country this past Friday night for Homecoming 2000 only to learn it was held Friday before last.

On a homecoming note, if you have one late in the season be sure to send me the candidate's pictures so we can run them in advance.

What an offensive show Brock Keathley and Shawn Newsome put on at Allen Central last Tuesday night. Both were just outstanding. How long has it been since we have seen a player in our county score in high 20s into the 30s. It has been a while.

Coach Jackie Day Crisp said his Prestonsburg team is playing well and it all started with their win over Elkhorn City last week.

The Blackcats are not to be taken lightly. This is going to be a good team and look for them to jell at just the right time — late February to early March. There will be no "cup cake" four seeds this year.

As we head into the Christmas break, Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers and her Ladycats are heading the conference race and are 5-1 overall.

Coach Akers is getting some good off the bench play from Natasha Stratton and Tiffany Meade.

The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats have yet to play a conference game but that will change after the holidays. Prestonsburg is 5-2 on the year and should be 7-0.

It will quite a match up when Betsy Layne and Prestonsburg meet on the hardwood.

Coach Melenda Osborne and her South Floyd Lady Raider team may have lost senior starter Minnie Tackett for a while. Tackett had to be examined in Lexington with a possible torn ACL. I hope the injury is not serious she will be able to return to the line up real soon.

For those who think the Allen Central Lady Rebels are no threat this year, better be careful with thinking like

(See **SPORTS**, page three)



**RYAN MARTIN (3)** shot an off-balance jump shot that found the bottom of the net in Tuesday's Prestonsburg-Millard game, Martin finished with six points and nine assists.

■ Millard at Prestonsburg

**Prestonsburg dominates Millard**  
 12 Blackcats score as Prestonsburg rolls

by STEVE LeMASTER  
 SPORTS WRITER

Two in a row.  
 Two-for-two in their last two.  
 Two in the month of December.  
 Two straight wins.  
 The Prestonsburg Blackcats

have now won two games in a row, thanks to a Tuesday night home thrashing of the visiting Millard Mustangs.

Millard (0-8) scored off the opening tip, for what would be their only lead of the entire contest. Coach Jackie Day Crisp's Blackcats tied the game up at

two, then took the lead and never relinquished it; rolling to a 87-54 victory. The win was the Blackcats second in their last two outings, the first was a win at Elkhorn City.

"I'm real pleased with the way

(See **MILLARD**, page three)

**BETSY LAYNE VS. ALLEN CENTRAL**

**Newsome & Co. ready to play as Betsy Layne falls**

by ED TAYLOR  
 SPORTS EDITOR

The weather outside the J.E. Campbell Arena on the campus of Allen Central High School was anything comfortable with very cool temperatures prevailing.

Inside the gymnasium, the temperature wasn't much warmer in a very cool setting that saw many of the spectators wearing their coats.

But on the hardwood, it was a different story as both Allen Central's Shawn Newsome and Brock Keathley of Betsy Layne has "hot hands" and was lighting up the scoreboard in a battle of district heavyweights.

When the smoke had all cleared, it would be Allen Central taking home a big 77-64 win over the visiting Bobcats and remaining perfect on the season at 6-0.

But it also meant the Rebels went to 3-0 in the conference race with their second conference victory in the week.

Newsome led Allen Central's scoring with 29 points, tying his previous high of 29 at South Floyd last Friday night.

"We were ready to play this game," said Newsome. "Betsy

Layne is a great team. Keathley is an excellent player. He can drive the ball and got on a roll and had about five baskets in a row in the third quarter."

Keathley, who finished with a game high 31 points, almost did single-handed rally his team back in the third quarter. Allen Central held a 11 point, 43-32, lead coming out of half time and entering the start of the second half. The Rebels scored first on a Larry Mullins three-pointer for a 46-32 game.

Brad Daugherty completed an old-fashion three-point play until Keathley caught fire and brought his team back to within seven, 53-46. Keathley scored 15 points in the third period.

Newsome said the way the Rebels have been playing this season and perfect on the year is no surprise to him.

"I expected we could play this way," he said. "Larry (Mullins) and I expected this out of our team."

The game was a very physical one but Allen Central coach Johnny Martin said he did not expect anything different.

"Any time you play Betsy Layne they are a physical team," said the

(See **REBELS**, page three)



photo by Ed Taylor  
**BROCK KEATHLEY** pumped in 31 points in loss to Allen Central

**Keathley finishes with 31 in 77-64 setback at Central**

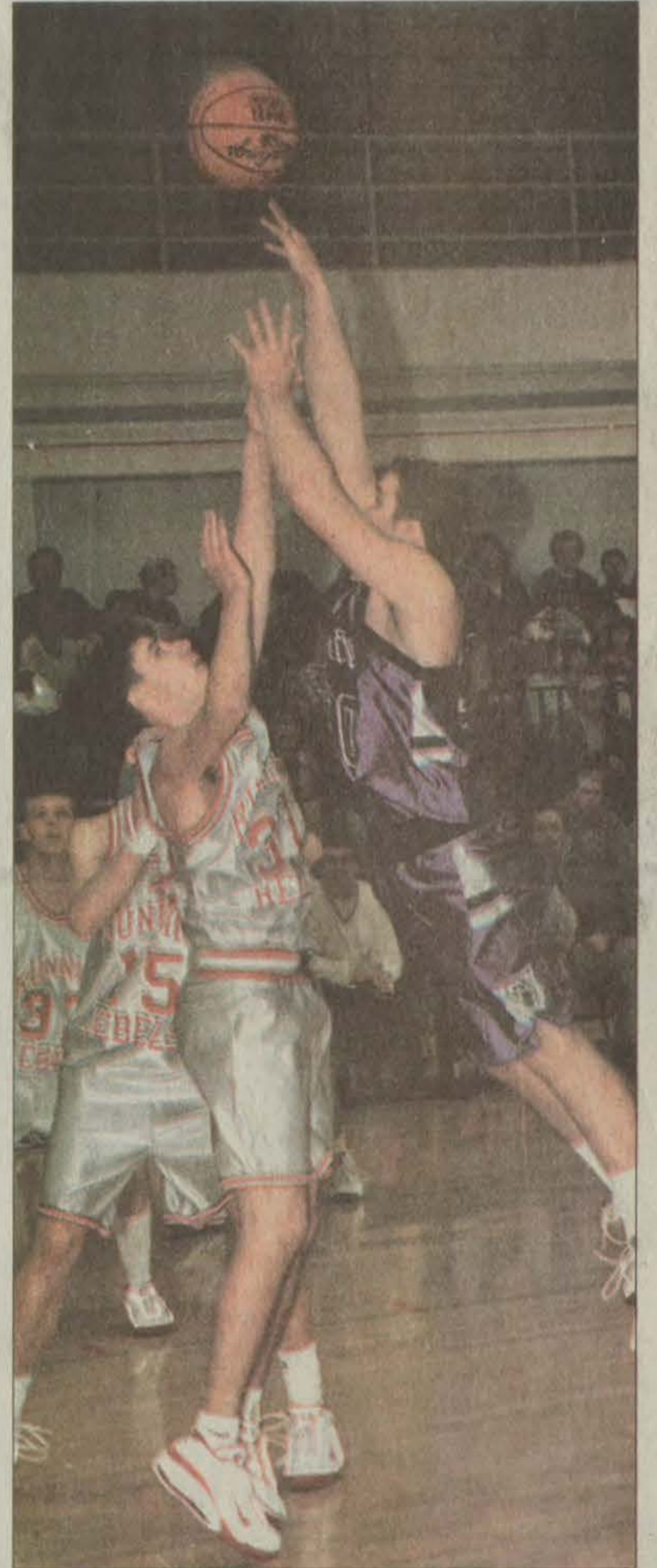


photo by Ed Taylor  
**ADAM COLLINS (30)** scored two of his 10 points on this jumper against Allen Central Tuesday night. Allen Central went to 3-0 in the conference and 6-0 overall with their win over the Bobcats.

■ Betsy Layne at Allen Central, girls

**Parsons 20 leads Betsy Layne past Allen Central Lady Rebs**

**Lady Rebel coach not happy with veterans play**

by ED TAYLOR  
 SPORTS EDITOR

There could be some changes in the Allen Central Lady Rebels line up when they return to the hardwood after the holiday break.

To say that head coach Cindy Halbert was displeased with the senior leadership would be an understatement after her team fell hard to district rival Betsy Layne Tuesday night at home.

Jenny Parson scored a game high 20 points to help the Ladycats to a 65-42 win over the host school and got to 5-1 on the season and more importantly 2-0 in the conference standings.

Where Betsy Layne showed aggressiveness, Allen

Central did not according to their coach.

"I was really disappointed with our effort tonight," said Coach Halbert. "I don't think any of our key people came to play. We were not aggressive. We did not get back on defense. We did not block out. I was just real disappointed with the overall effort of the whole team."

Sophomore Jackie Martin led Allen Central's scoring with 13 points and the only player to score in double figures. The Lady Rebels had trouble with the Betsy Layne half-court trapping defense.

While Coach Halbert was not pleased with the effort of her team overall, Betsy Layne coach Cassandra Akers signaled out the her team's shootings.

"We didn't shoot well early in the game," she said. "I think it may have been to where we have been off for a week. That was the one thing I was upset with at half time, we were not squaring up and putting up shots that fell short of the basket."

After trailing 4-0, the closest the Lady Rebels could get was 4-2 on a basket by Barb Prater. Betsy Layne went on a 14-3 run that netted them a 18-5 lead after the first quarter.

(See **LADY REBS**, page four)



photo by Ed Taylor  
**ALLEN CENTRAL'S Kari Osborne (32)** made a move to the basket against Betsy Layne's Jenny Parsons (23). Betsy Layne posted a conference win over the host Lady Rebels.



Rebels

Allen Central coach. "They do a good job. They hit the boards hard. That is the way they beat us last year."

"(Adam) Collins on the inside is a big physical player and rebounds well. Keathley is a very good player. He is a good of a guard in the region. He got hot in the third quarter, really turned it on and brought them back."

Coach Martin said his team was a "beat up one."

"But we are winning and winning pretty good," he said. "Larry was in a car accident Sunday night and it was hard for him to get through that game. He has struggled the last two games."

Struggle? Mullins finished with 15 points and was outstanding on the floor at the point guard slot. His hustle on the court led to

several Rebel steals and easy baskets.

Betsy Layne led 20-19 after the first quarter and the score was tied at 20-20 at the onset of the second until Allen Central went up 20-20 on a Mullins basket. Following a turnover, Jeremy Hayes, who finished with 18 points, buried a trey and on the next trip up court, Newsome drills a three-pointer to give Allen Central a 28-22 lead. Josh Yates two free throws with 2:21 to play in the half gave the Rebs a 13

point lead and they led by 11 at the half.

After the Bobcats had cut the margin to nine in the third period, Z.W. Chaffins hit a nice turnaround jumper and Newsome followed with a long jumper to extend the lead back out to 11, 57-46. Allen Central held a 61-52 lead after three quarters.

Betsy Layne played to within six at the start of the fourth period when Keathley completed a three-point play to make it a 61-55 game.

Three straight turnovers by Betsy Layne allowed the Rebels to vault back in front 65-55. A free throw and field goal by Daugherty made it a seven point game, 67-60 before Allen Central scored the next four points to lead 71-60.

Allen Central's zone defense caused the Bobcats all sorts of problems and held Betsy Layne to just one field goal in the final 3:36 of the game.

Coach Martin liken his team to an "accident about to happen" with all the injuries they have suffered.

"Travis (Francis) has been playing with a broke wrist," he said. "The injuries to Larry and Shawn earlier, those are some tough injuries."

The Allen Central coach said if

his team can put things together, "we will be all right."

The Rebels showed a new twist on the court when they spread the court on the Bobcats late in the game. Somewhat of a departure from the running style that has been their trademark over the years.

"We sort of worked on some things," said Coach Martin. "We have some good ball handlers. I have guards as good as anybody. If we get into that last six minutes and we have the lead we will be tough to beat."

The Rebel mentor said his team experimented with the play during the summer leagues.

"We wanted to see what we can do and we do some good things," he said. "At times we didn't make some good decisions

and forced a couple of passes. It wears the defense out, especially in the fourth quarter when they are tired anyway."

Collins finished with 10 points for the Bobcats and pulled down eight rebounds. Daugherty netted 12 points while Nathan Tackett scored seven points before fouling out in the fourth quarter. David Johnson and Brian Roberts finished with two points apiece.

Francis totaled nine points for Allen Central with Chaffins, Yates and Daniel Sazabo finishing with two points.

Allen Central will return to the basketball floor this Wednesday night following the holidays. The Rebels will play in the Shelby Valley Invitational at Shelby Valley.

Sports

that. Coach Cindy Halbert has a very talented young team and look for some of the younger players take the leadership role.

On the college scene, Kentucky will enter the SEC after the holidays and the road is going to be a rough one. When you look at all the SEC schools, there are a lot of unbeaten out there.

But when you compare the UK schedule with those unbeaten's, then you can see why the Cats are 3-5.

I really believe this team will turn it around, but they will not fair well in the SEC race. Maybe, just maybe, they will get an NIT bid.

Until Wednesday, good sports everyone and be good sports! Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

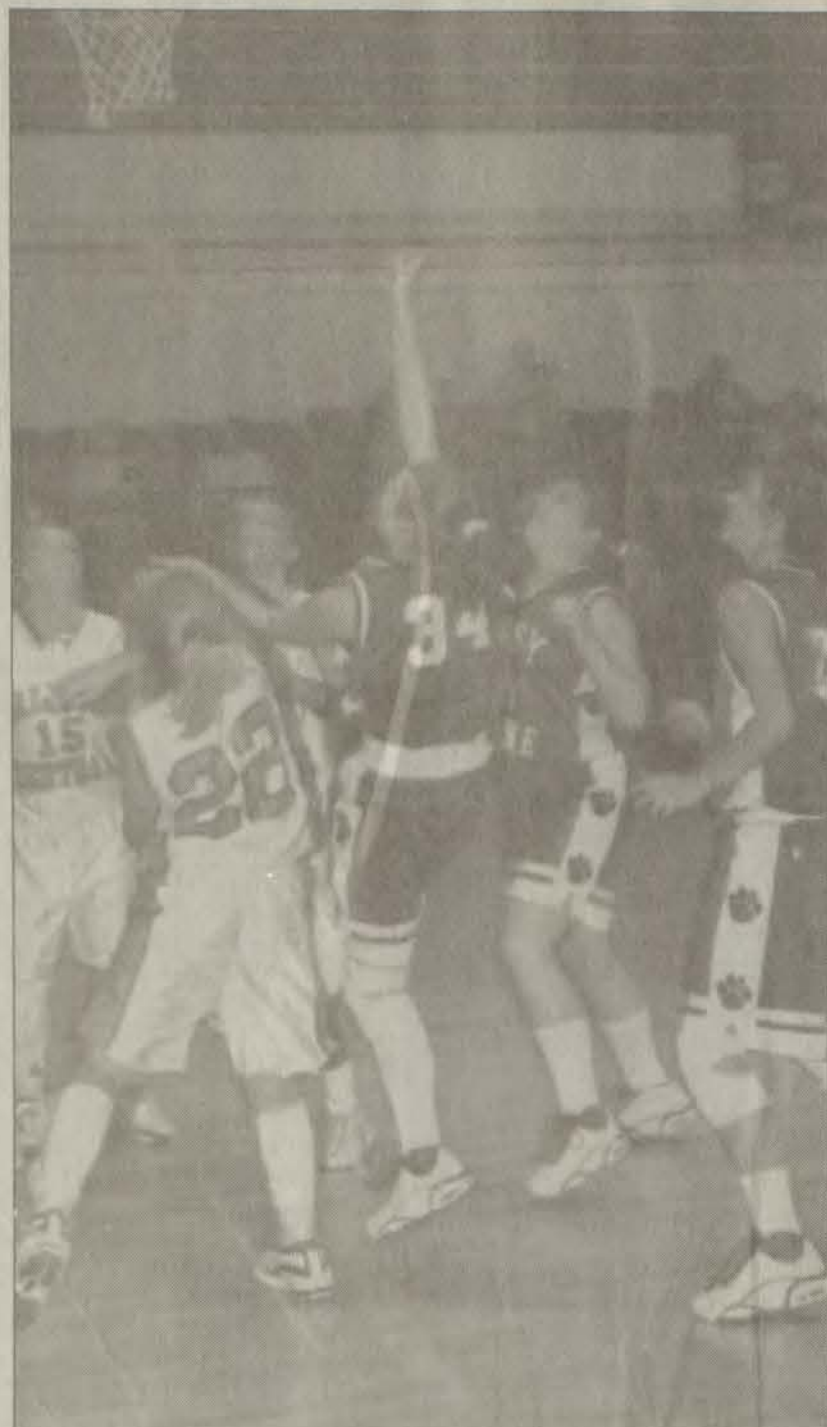


photo by Ed Taylor  
NATASHA STRATTON (34) scored on a rebound basket against Allen Central Tuesday night. Stratton finished with nine points and nine rebounds in a 65-42 win.

Millard

"We're playing right now," said Prestonsburg Coach Jackie Day Crisp, following the Tuesday night game. "We've played a lot of kids early on this season, and we've did that for a reason. I'm real pleased with the way our kids are laying coming in off the bench. The starting five we had out on the floor tonight, is the same starting five we had up at Elkhorn City. Our starters are also playing real well."

Following Millard's opening field goal, Prestonsburg went on a 6-0 run. With his team leading 17-10 junior Ryan Martin picked off a Millard pass and took it in for a layup, to give the Blackcats a nine-point advantage.

Another Prestonsburg junior, Kevin Younce, came in off the bench for a first quarter field goal to give the Blackcats a 23-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Blackcats were outscored 15-14 in the second quarter, but held onto a 37-27 lead at the half, much to Crisp's liking.

"We knew that Millard was a good team coming in," said Crisp. "They've played a lot of people close this season and we knew we would be in for a ball game."

Senior Ricky Powers put the Blackcats first two points in the books to begin the second half. Prestonsburg went on a 17-8 run to begin the third quarter and more

than doubled up the visiting Mustangs by outscoring them 28-12 by the quarter's end. Senior Brandon Branham pushed the Prestonsburg lead out to a 65-39 lead with two field goals just before the end of the third period.

Bradley Bevins began the Prestonsburg third with a three-point basket. Junior Matt Slone came on strong in off the bench for four points as the Blackcats took a 70-39 lead less than one minute into the quarter. Prestonsburg went on to outscore Millard 22-15, giving them the 33-point win.

The Blackcats were 2-of-12 from behind the three-point line for the entire contest. As a team, the Blackcats recorded 24 assists, opposed to just 16 turnovers. Prestonsburg also did a whale of a job on the boards throughout the Millard game.

"We've decided that we're gonna get in there and rebound and get the ball out on the break," said Coach Crisp. "We did a real good job of that against Millard. I'm pleased with our two wins here in December. It took us until mid-January last season before we had two wins. You're never satisfied with four losses, but right now, we're real happy with our two wins. We've played somewhat of a tough schedule here early on and that will only help us as we get into the

January and February portion of our schedule. Playing a lot of kids like we have early on will on only help us too."

Prestonsburg (2-4) placed 12 players in the scoring column against Millard. The Blackcats were paced by Powers' team-high 14 points. Branham and Slone finished with 12 points apiece. Ten of Slone's 12 points came in the fourth quarter.

Guards Matt Clay and Bradley Bevins finished with nine and seven points respectively.

Junior guard Ryan Martin turned in a superb performance with six points and a game-high nine assists.

"Ryan is playing some real good basketball right now, he making some real good decisions," Coach Crisp conceded after the game.

Rounding out the Prestonsburg scoring was Younce with four, Josh Justice and Chris Kidd with three apiece and Joey Willis and T.C. Hatfield with two apiece.

Robert May led Millard in scoring with a game-high 17 points. Nathaniel Kilgore netted 14, as the Mustangs dropped their eighth game of the season.

Prestonsburg was back in action Friday night, as they hosted 15th Region rival Sheldon Clark. Results of the Prestonsburg-Sheldon Clark game will appear in Wednesday's Times Sports.

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# Steve's Sideline Shots...

by STEVE LEMASTER  
SPORTS WRITER

## Congratulations go out to ex-Cat Bonner

Dusty Bonner, the former starting, record-setting UK quarterback has been named to the Associated Press' Little All-America team.

Bonner set a Division II single-season record with 54 touchdowns and won the Harlon Hill Trophy as

the top player in Division II this past season.

Oh yeah, and he had just six interceptions. I like most of UK Coach Hal Mumme's coaching philosophies and decisions, but I didn't and still don't agree with the way Bonner was demoted to second-string quarterback prior to this past college football season. Bonner the previous season's starter was demoted and replaced by redshirt quarter-

back Jared Lorenzen.

Bonner the ex-Cat, completed 317 of 435 passes for 3,907 yards at Valdosta against Division II talent.

UK quarterback Jared Lorenzen didn't fare near as well this season.

Dusty Bonner is an NFL caliber player. It would really surprise me if he doesn't wind up playing on Sundays in a couple of years. Bonner, a junior, will return to Valdosta State for his senior college

football season next fall.

Other college football news has Gene Stallings, a longtime football coach at Alabama and Texas A&M being hired by North Texas to help the school find an athletic director.

Stalling duties will include reviewing North Texas' entire athletic program and helping to develop a plan to raise the departments visibility. It would be nice to see Stallings coaching somewhere. He was a great college football coach.

runner. Judging from the way the Blackcats are playing, they could quite possibly sneak up and surprise an opponent early on in March's district tournament. However, the Blackcats are already turning some heads and surprising some opponents. Recent wins over Elkhorn City and Millard have given Prestonsburg just the confidence that they needed.

## Oahu, Aloha Bowls offer some Christmas football

It's the college football bowl season and what a better way to keep the season chugging along, than a couple of great bowl games from sunny Honolulu, Hawaii.

The first bowl from Honolulu, the Oahu, pitting Virginia (6-5) against Georgia (7-4) should be a good one. The Christmas Eve game will be the last for Virginia head coach George Welsh. Georgia will be without the coach who led them all season, Jim Donnan. The former Marshall Thundering Herd coach was fired on Dec. 4. Georgia should

have no problem with this one. My prediction: Georgia 28, Virginia 7.

Hey, speaking of Marshall, they too are bowling this holiday season. Look for a preview of the Marshall-Cincinnati game in Wednesday's Times Sports.

A pair of 6-5 teams, Boston College and Arizona State, will hook up in the Aloha Bowl on Christmas Day. This may be one of the weaker bowls on the schedule, as both squads struggled to get the bowl mandatory six wins. Arizona Coach Bruce Snyder always has his Sun Devils ready come game time, and this game should be no different.

My prediction: Arizona State 24, Boston College 10.

## A great first six months!

I've been an employee of the Floyd County Times for six months now and I can honestly say that I truly enjoy my job and am very thankful to have a job I enjoy so much.

Have fun this holiday season! Merry Christmas sports fans!

## Hunters encouraged to donate to Hunters for Hungry

It is not too late for late season deer hunters to get in the holiday spirit by donating a deer to Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry. There will still be opportunities for hunters in the late muzzle-loader and archery seasons.

"Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry would like to urge hunters to make a difference by harvesting a doe and donate it to help those in need," said Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry Executive Director Brent Harrel. "Donating a deer could give several needy families a brighter Christmas."

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry is a non-profit organization whose main goal is to distribute donated venison from hunters to those in need in Kentucky. Every deer donated to Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry goes through a state or USDA processor to be deboned, ground in ham-

burger and frozen. The meat is then picked up by Kentucky Harvest and other food pantries and distributed to shelters, missions and community services in Kentucky. Processors have agreed to process these deer for only \$30, half the cost of their regular fee. One donated deer produces on average 45 pounds of meat supplying 180-200 meals for the needy.

The donated deer from the late season muzzle-loader and archery seasons are very important for Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry because donations are thin during this time of the year. The smaller donations come at the coldest time of the year when shelters and missions are at their busiest and meat is needed most.

For a list of processors, consult the KDFWR home page at www.kdfr.us or call 1-800-858-1549.

## Basketball Blackcats much improved

The Prestonsburg boys basketball team is a much improved squad as they now head into the month of January. It took Prestonsburg until the middle of February last season before they could muster up two wins. Several players are contributing in a big way for Coach Crisp. Every player on the Prestonsburg boys varsity roster are doing well on the hardwood this season. The 58th District is an extremely close district with Allen Central the current front-

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## Kentucky's First Elk Hunt

U.S. President Zachary Taylor ate too many cherries and milk on a searing July day and died nine days later. New Mexico and California were the newest states in the Union. Many Irish were moving to the United States as a result of the potato famine and the gold fields in California pulled many across the prairies and mountains to chase their dreams of wealth.

The year was 1850, the last time elk were in Kentucky. But, because of the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the first year in the new millennium will once again bring elk hunting back to the Bluegrass State. The dates for these historic quota hunts will be October 6-12, 2001 for bull elk and December 1-7, 2001 for cow elk. There will be six bull elk and six cow elk permits issued for these limited hunts. The hunts will take place on the Addington Enterprises Wildlife Management Area near Hazard, Kentucky. Interested hunters may apply for Kentucky's first elk hunt until May 31.

2001 wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Hunters may also apply on the Internet at www.kdfr.state.ky.us. A person must provide either their social security number or driver's license number to apply. Hunters may only apply once for a non-refundable fee of \$10. Applicants must hold a 2001 Kentucky hunting license at the time of the drawing to be eligible. Non-residents may also apply.

Upon request, those who apply will receive a commemorative elk patch signifying participation in Kentucky's first elk hunt. To request your patch, submit a self-addressed stamped envelope to KDFWR, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, KY, 40601. Please include a photocopy of your elk application permit or your driver's license number or your social security number with your request.

The monies raised from hunt applications will go back into the elk restoration program.

For more information, please call the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1-800-858-1549.

## Licenses Make a Great Christmas Gift

Those last minute shoppers who have an outdoors enthusiast on their Christmas list may want to consider a gift of a fishing or hunting license.

Unlike Chia pets, fruitcakes or socks, this gift is needed and appreciated for the entire year. A combination hunting and fishing license is a great way to combine both licenses into one gift.

Licenses are available at most department stores with a sporting goods department, tackle and bait shops, and sporting goods stores. You may also buy them over the phone by calling toll-free at 1-877-KYTAG-01 (1-877-598-2401) and on the Internet at www.kdfr.state.ky.us.

## Lady Rebs

Continued from p1

Not everyone played bad for Allen Central.

"There were a couple of people I felt played hard but overall it was a big disappointment," said the Allen Central coach.

Allen Central made a run at the Ladycats in the early part of the second quarter after being down 18 points. Erin Majaake hit a three-pointer that narrowed the margin to 13 points with less than five minutes to play and later had narrowed it to nine points until Betsy Layne changed things.

"After they got to within nine of us I switched to a three-quarter trap and then we went out to a 22 point lead and held it the rest of the way."

Coach Akers said Jennifer Risner and Erin Majaake were the two they wanted to key on.

"I couldn't understand about Risner," said Coach Akers. "She and Majaake were the ones that brought them back against South Floyd. We wanted to key on those two."

Risner left the game in the first quarter and did not return until the second half where she played sparingly. Risner, who went scoreless for the game, had just returned from a long lay off because of sickness.

Allen Central was a one point better team in the third period than Betsy Layne but never could overcome the big margin.

Coach Halbert said she will look for those who are wanting to play.

"I am going to find players who I know want to play," she said of a possible lineup change. "Players I can depend on no matter how much playing time or experience they have. I am looking for people who are ready to play when we throw the ball up."

Coach Halbert singled out Kari Osborne where she had not played for two weeks. Osborne was just returning from an injury and it was

her first game back.

Betsy Layne played a lot of people in the game, 13, and Coach Akers said the game plan was to keep Allen Central's offense off stride by mixing up her defenses.

"We switched defense just about every time down the floor," she said. "They are a young team with a young point guard and you are hoping by switching defenses it would cause them problems and it did."

"The Martin girl had a good game against us and finished with 13 points. But I thought our interior defense was good. On thing I was not pleased with was allowing them to get second shots at the basket. At times we look awesome as a team and other times we make the other team look good."

Coach Akers said it was good to see Parsons step up for the Ladycats and, "she played well for us."

"Devon (Reynolds) had a good game as well. Natasha (Stratton) came off the bench and played real good. The only place she struggled was from the free throw line where she made one of five. But she played well as did Kim Clark."

Reynolds finished with 12 points as the only other player to it double figures for Betsy Layne. Stratton had nine points for the game and was a factor on the boards. Freshman Whitney Lykens netted eight points, including a three-point basket. Susan Roberts, Tabitha Mitchell and Kim Tackett added four points each. Clark and Tiffany Meade finished with two points apiece.

Shannon Sizemore added four points for Allen Central while Osborne netted five. Majaake finished with six points, including two three-point baskets. Prater finished with three while Brown scored two.

The Lady Rebels fell to 2-4 on the season while Betsy Layne improved to 5-1.

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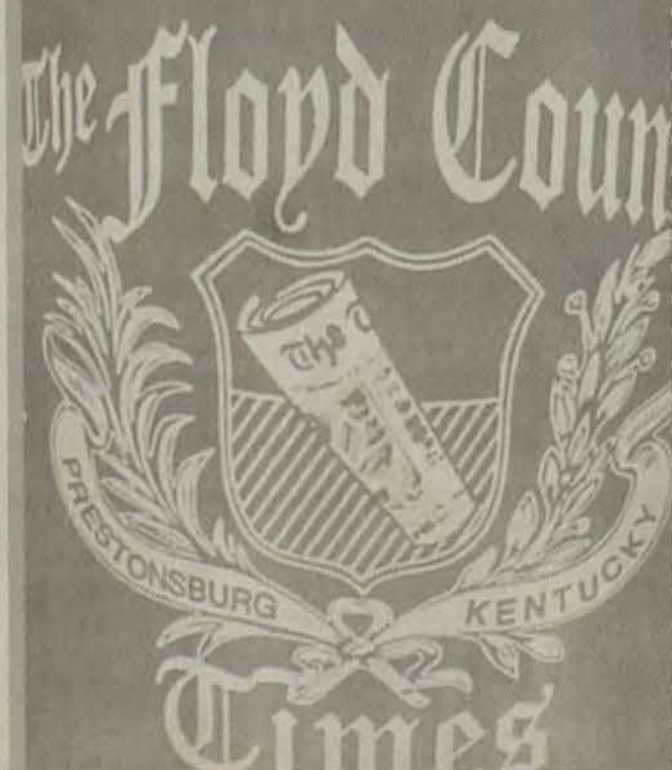
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The Times



Floyd County Times Coffee Mugs must be picked up at the Office!



PostScript

by Pam Shingler  
 Editor



An eye for an eye

Today, you get a chance to share the work of some Floyd County school children (over to the right in your present line of vision). We are delighted to present their essays expressing what Christmas means to them.

What better way to celebrate the season?

I am passionate about children learning to write, loving to write and having the opportunity to see their words in print — or, in the case of the WMDJ recordings, in the air.

My regret is that we cannot run all of the essays. We had to focus on the ones deemed the best from each school.

There is much to condemn about our school system, and I likely will continue to criticize some things from time to time.

But, this, as well as the Young Authors Program and even others, is outstanding. It allows the students to think, to delve into their short, but deep memory well, and to express themselves meaningfully in writing.

I firmly believe that if they can think, if they can read, and if they can write, they can educate themselves, with a modicum of discipline and encouragement.

Read these essays today and more on Wednesday, and then resolve to support our schools and the students in them in our way next year.

As Nadine Hicks would say, Merry Christmas, kiddos.

I value modesty highly. I hate a braggart. But that said, I am compelled to crow just a wee bit myself. Please bear with me and share my joy.

In early fall, I vacillated over whether to apply for a state writing fellowship. I had thought about entering for several years, but I could never garner the courage to follow through. I'm always afraid I'll be found out for the no-talent, ignorant fool that I often see myself to be.

At the very last minute, I filled out the application and sent it by overnight post to get it to Frankfort by the deadline. It was even at the last minute that I decided to send non-fiction, instead of fiction. At the 11th hour, I selected a personal essay about a wild dog I befriended (of course, you say), another unpublished piece and four or five of these columns.

Months went by. On Wednesday, I picked up two days' worth of mail at the post office. A large envelope was from the agency. I was actually disappointed because I didn't expect good news. It had not been a particularly good day. A couple of hurtful incidents at work had played over and over in my mind, and everyone in editorial, advertising and composing was gearing up to pull double duty for a few holidays off.

I didn't open the mail for at least an hour, and then I first opened each greeting card that had come from old friends — generally a once-a-year communication.

I saved the big envelope for last, convinced it would begin, "We had many excellent applications, but..."

Instead, what I read took my breath. It was one of the best Christmas presents I've ever received — I was one of 20 winners of the Al Smith Artist Fellowship Award from the Kentucky Arts Council.

I feel like Sally Field when she won the Oscar — They liked me, they really liked me.

A writer from Rowan County and I are the only winners from this end of the state, so it's in my nature to think I may be just a token hillbilly. But, I don't care. I have the letter, and I am tickled beyond expression.

Thanks for letting me share.

Greetings to subscriber Hubert Puckett of Prestonsburg. Thanks for reading the Times.

Have a good holiday.

Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child

For the third year, the Floyd County School System sponsored Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child, asking children at every public school to write an essay on "What Christmas Means to Me." The school winners and their parents were recognized at a special dinner and ceremony on Thursday, December 14, at the Stumbo-Wilkinson Convention Center at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park.

The event was co-sponsored by WMDJ radio in Martin, McDonald's of Prestonsburg and Martin, and the school system. WMDJ taped the students reading their work, and the tapes were played on the air.

Nadine Hicks coordinated the event. Staff members at each school who assisted include Anna DeRossett, Adams Middle School; Angela Mullins, Allen Central Middle; Susan W. Barnette, Allen Elementary; Sheila Calhoun and Patricia Adkins, Betsy Layne Elementary; Diane Hunsucker, Clark Elementary; Bridget Vanover, Duff Elementary; Greta Thomsberry, May Valley Elementary; Rachel Crider, McDowell Elementary; Carolotta Jones, Osborne Elementary; Betty Minix, Prestonsburg Elementary; Carolyn Martin, South Floyd Middle; Karen Henry, Stumbo Elementary; Deshia Holliday, Allen Central High; Larry Wilson, Betsy Layne High; Shirlene Hamilton, South Floyd High; Debbie Kidd, Opportunities Unlimited; and Doris Lawson, Floyd Technical High.

Today and Wednesday, the Times is running the top essays from each school.

Christmas at Grandma's

On Christmas Eve night we all meet at my Aunt Joe's house to go caroling. We all put on our Santa hats and pick up our hand bells and then walk up the hill to Grandma's. We sing and ring our bells all the way. Grandma meets us on the porch and we all sing to her until we all get too cold. Then we all go in to have a party and open presents.

Rossi Clark  
 Primary  
 Allen Elementary

Feeling Special

As I look back at all the past Christmases, I can remember a special one. It was Christmas of '98 and my church decided to go to a nursing home. We brought dinners and presents to give to the people who stayed in the nursing home. I can remember singing Christmas carols and



Edith Stanley, Betsy Layne Elementary's top volunteer, played Christmas Carols for the crowd. She is known to students and teachers as "Grandmama."

seeing smiles and tears rush on people's faces. It made me feel good to know that I had brought pleasure to people with no family or friends. I think this is a Christmas I will remember and carry on for the rest of my life.

Mallory Ward



Rossi Clark, of Allen Elementary, performed a violin solo. She was followed by Matthew Conn, also of Allen Elementary, who sang a song.

Christmas morning my dad is outside with me sledding on an inner tube. Three years ago after my family and I had opened all of our presents we went outside and took my new inner tube that I got for Christmas. Then I jumped on my inner tube and flew down the hill like a bird. After I

went back up the hill it was my dad's turn to go. So he jumped on my inner tube. When he reached the bottom of the hill he couldn't stop. He flipped over on his back. We ran down the hill as fast as we could. Then we found that he was all right. So of all my Christmas memories this is the memory of my dad.  
 Brittany Hodge  
 May Valley

What Christmas means to me

What Christmas means to me is spending time with my family and spending time with the ones that I love. Christmas also means going to my grandparents' house and celebrating; that is what I do every year. We have lots of fun by opening gifts that family members have given us, sitting around the table eating Christmas dinner, and watching the excitement on the little kids' faces as they open the gifts they wanted.

Christmas also means the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. If it weren't for Him, there wouldn't be a Christmas.  
 Merry Christmas  
 Latisha York  
 South Floyd High School

Christmas Time

On Christmas, we celebrate Jesus's birthday. We decorate a beautiful Christmas tree with colorful twinkling lights, and my dad holds me up to put his star on top. Then, we go down Popaw's house to eat dinner with turkey and dressing, homemade noodles and sweets. After that, all my cousins and me open our presents in the living room. It gets real messy and loud. Then, we play all evening long with our toys.  
 Kannon Newsome  
 Stumbo Elementary

What Christmas Means to Me

Christmas is a celebration of Jesus's birthday and is fun and holy. We give thanks for the birth of Jesus and we have a big feast with lots of lights, laughter, and giving. I love waking up on Christmas morning and opening my gifts and getting to see my whole family, laughing, sharing, and rejoicing in the birth of Christ. Christmas is my favorite time of year, and I don't have to go to school. I get to play in the snow and play with all of my new toys. This is what Christmas means to me.  
 Christiana Hall  
 Stumbo Elementary

What Christmas Means to Me

To me, Christmas is a "jolly time" of year. Its when I bake Christmas cookies with mom. It's when I get to watch holiday movies and hear the seasonal carols. Most importantly I get to spend time with my friends and family to celebrate Christ's birthday.  
 Jessica Tibbs

What Christmas Means to Me

When I think about Christmas, I think of giving and receiving presents to and from loved ones. I think of trees and lights twinkling in everyone's house. I think of all the times that my family and I have gathered around in the living room and shared Christmas stories after we had opened presents and ate. The smell that fills the house and the food on the table that was prepared by everyone, brings a smile to my face. I like to see my family's bright smiles and happy faces during this season. But the thing that I think of most when the word Christmas is mentioned is Jesus's birthday.

Blair Hall  
 8th Grade  
 Allen Elementary

My Most Memorable Christmas

What Christmas was? I found out that Christmas was about being with my family and sharing the love and memories that we remember and what we have accomplished in our family. I'm proud of being able to see the family that I can talk to, and come together with family members that I don't see often enough.

Jeff Tackett  
 Opportunities Unlimited

My Most Memorable Christmas

My most memorable Christmas would be in the winter of 1992. This Christmas wasn't like any other Christmas it was my little brother's first Christmas with us. He was only one month and six days old. I remember telling my mom earlier that year that I wanted a little brother for Christmas. About one month later my wish had come true.

I remember waking up early Christmas Eve just so I could see my little brother with his first Christmas gift even though he couldn't open them himself. It was fun to hear him laugh and giggle and see him kick his little feet and play with his rattle. Still to this day eight years later Christmas is still all about him.  
 Doris Hall  
 Floyd County Area Technology Center

Christmas is more about giving and helping little boys and girls who don't have any presents. Sharing your hugs is good too.  
 Dustin Everidge  
 May Valley

My Favorite Christmas Memory

My dad is the coolest dad ever! While most dads are sitting on the couch viewing football on

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 1960.

1961...1961...1961...Write it over and over again; maybe you'll get '60 out of your mind. Well, it was a good year. Not financially necessarily, but even you who disagree with me are alive to read this, aren't you?

Enough of the season of goodwill should remain to keep my friend, "Snooks" Crutcher, of the Rowan County News, and me from exchanging notes on a note of disagreement via our newspapers, but it seems that Snooks and I are talking about two different matters. He has an idea I took the position Rowan County and Morehead should be penalized because they voted anti-Combs, anti-bond issue and anti-constitutional convention. I didn't say that, although I'll agree that if I have one apple and it doesn't have a worm in it, I'll give it to my friend, not my enemy. I was referring to the rather obvious fact that his threat to lead a bolt of voters there was, in view of past voting records, was not unlike threatening the victim after you've shot him down...Oh, well...

HE HOLDS THE RECORD

I bow the knee, salaam, genuflect, and go through other motions of acknowledging one who has me beaten in at least one department. Walter Hall on one fishing trip fished in five lakes and caught not one fish. And he had one or more witnesses, neither of whom did—any better.

NEW LAKE

Incidentally, if you want to see a lake in these parts that isn't frozen, visit Buckhorn. It's now being filled. But don't yield to the temptation to wet a line. Fishing there is forbidden till next July 1.

UNUSUAL CHARACTER

Ever think back on the most unusual characters you've ever met? Somehow, I recalled at Christmastime a mystery man I encountered as a boy and from whom I learned two big words I've never forgotten.

The old guy was salvaged from the creek near our home, one afternoon—in March, I believe—and he was half-frozen. Thawed out before a roaring fire in an open grate and garbed in dry clothing, he began a vague sort of conversation. He could not recall his name, he did not know where he was going, but spoke wandringly of a family somewhere. Otherwise, he seemed normal, certainly intelligent.

Next morning he showed up for breakfast wearing two neckties. But he seemed to be chipper, announced that he was fit to resume his journey, and we put the two ties down to absent-mindedness and sent him on his way.

Two or three hours later, the mailman stopped at our mail-box as he came down the creek from Knott County and Handshoe postoffice. There was a bulky sort of letter. Inside was my father's necktie which the old fellow had worn away, earlier in the morning, and in beautiful handwriting this note which was highly cryptic till I hauled down the old Webster's Unabridged: "I have long known that I was a monomaniac, but not until now did I ever know that I was a kleptomaniac."

The note wasn't signed. As I said, the old guy didn't know his name.

# Things to Ponder

## What does the special holiday really mean to you?

by MABLE ROWE LINEBERGER, PH.D.

Although I really do not know all of the details about the major religions that might be represented in our region—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and such—my impression is that there is a similar and consistent basis for all of their beliefs. The foundation of their ways of thinking seems to support being a just and respectful friend, neighbor, and citizen by obeying the guidelines of society, laws of the government, and providing for others, who are in need.

As you know, there are many Christmas traditions for Christians. A very pleasant tradition that brings us all together at the church is that of children "acting out" the religious story of why the first Christmas is celebrated. The toddler-aged shepherds steal the show with their tiny costumes depicting the story of old. Then there's the two-year-old angel who accidentally falls down and is soothed by walking around with the pacifier in her mouth.

Another example of how we celebrate Christmas is through gifts. For example, a young adolescent client from a foster home excitedly explained how a four-year-old in the same home was receiving 15 brightly wrapped gifts, whereas he and another 14-year-old had only nine packages under the tree. He had willingly accepted the difference in the grand total of gifts when their foster mother explained that his and the other adolescent boy's gifts had been so much more expensive than the young one's.

Sometimes, it seems so strange that we have tended to get carried away from the true meaning and teachings of our faiths—to care for each other. In thinking about this situation, I remember often an experience I had about three nights before Christmas in 1986. To me, it held the meaning of this special holiday.

During the academic year 1986-87, I was in a village-town up the Hudson River in New York, about 40 minutes outside of Manhattan. Granny Grace and I had moved there for a year for me to have my clinical internship. That fall, we began attending a church up the hill from our small apartment. We were so pleased about the things the congregation did that reflected what they reportedly believed. One of the activities that I thoroughly enjoyed participating in was the "midnight runs." The first time I heard it announced, I knew that I wanted to go.

At least one time per week, a congregation from one of the 10 that supported the activity would gather at our church and take food, clothing, and blankets to the street people of New York City. The runs occurred more in winter than in summer. All of the supplies, blankets and clothing were donated and stored at our church. Members of the church made the food; i.e., Granny Grace made an extremely large pot of vegetable soup once, and another time she made 96 sandwiches. There would be large, commercial-size urns of coffee and soup. Then there was a small paper bag with two sandwiches, a hard-boiled egg, and an individually wrapped dessert cake to be given to each person.

The assortment of clothing often had a "special order" of clothes for someone who had a job interview and did not have adequate clothes. The concern about the new blankets being exchanged for drugs were always there, but the risk was taken to benefit the ones who did not do so. Money was never given directly to the street people. The major purpose was to give individual support and friendship without lecturing.

Usually, the evening began at the church with the gathering of supplies; volunteers would come and help with this portion and clean up the kitchen after we had left. Of course, an effort was made to leave the church with our hoppers full at least before midnight. Throughout the years that the group of various religious denominations had been making the trips, many locations and approximate times of arrival were known by the street people. When the laden vehicles pulled up to a designated curb, there would either be many of the sought-after folks or they suddenly seemed to appear from nowhere. So often the same ones would be at a specific stop so that their names were known and frequently their needs. Sometimes a man would need a coat, while another man would be waiting for his special order. Most often the crowd consisted of men, some women, and sometimes couples. They tended to be middle-aged, more often than not.

The street people seemed to have been creative in finding a place to sleep. Usually they were near large churches, banks, etc. One lady even had a small dog; they slept with their belongings with a fairly large group near one of the major banks in downtown Manhattan. Their beds lined up along the outside wall of a large bank window seemed such a misfit. It was also hard to believe the number of large boxes at the back entrance to Macy's Department Store on 34th Street. We always spoke loudly as we walked up to the people asleep in their boxes for them to know we were there. It never seemed to bother them to be awakened, and they were most pleased to get the food. After giving an inventory of what we had, each one could choose what he or she needed. An older African-American man, who was a regular "boarder" behind Macy's that winter, would sing the old hymns for us with such a beautiful voice.

Every midnight run was different. The trip about three nights before Christmas was very eventful. One of the stops was the park near the United Nations building. There were about eight men sleeping in boxes that they had placed up on the park benches. We approached to wake them up as usual and they came out of the little "shells" to get small supplies, food, and talk with someone who wanted to talk with them. A good memory of that stop was the impromptu caroling by a young Puerto Rican male, about 25 years old, an older man, and I. We did not notice whether we were on key, but only knew that we were having so much fun just being together.

This was earlier in the night and we made many other stops. One later stop was at a major downtown subway station. Some of the group had gone down into the station to give out the food and others of us had stayed up in the small grassy place around the subway entrance to talk to folks. In a short time, an older African-American man came up the steps out of the subway station and lay down on the sidewalk in such a way that his head was on the curb. He appeared to have positioned himself to sleep. However, he had lain down and died without saying a word. When we realized what had happened, we signaled a police car to stop and investigate.

On another night on the way out of New York City and after we had given all of our wares away, it seemed the true meaning of what was being done happened and was so touching. A man in the group, who often went on the midnight runs, asked the van's driver to stop for a minute; at that point he took off the "old" coat he was wearing and laid it atop of a man sleeping across a vent in the street where steam was coming out on the cold winter night.

It always seemed that the very early morning view of the large city was so beautiful after being so active out in the cold. Sometimes daylight would just be starting to break through.

## Bathroom safety tips for senior citizens

(NUE) - People 80 years and older are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population, and as more people enter into this age group, it's a good time to think about home safety. Although interior home safety is often taken for granted, many seniors don't realize that by taking simple precautions, major accidents can be prevented in the home.

"Many rooms in the house, such as the bathroom, simply are not equipped to handle the special needs of older persons," says Alice N. Henry, manager of marketing communications for Roto-Rooter. "Almost 85 percent of senior citizens want to live at home. But to do so safely, they may need to make some simple changes."

**The plumbing experts at Roto-Rooter offer these tips to help reduce the risk of bathroom injury for seniors:**

- Place a noncorrosive seat in the bathtub or shower for worry-free showering.
- Install a hand-held shower head with an on/off button which is convenient for those people who sit in the shower.
- Set the water thermostat at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit

to reduce the risk of scalding.

■ Substitute the tub and shower valves with pressure balanced valves and high limit stops, which prevent a surge of hot water, thus preventing scalding.

■ Install grab bars around the toilet, bathtub and towel rack.

■ Replace faucet handles with controls that are easy for arthritic hands to use.

■ Install special lifted toilet seats for convenience and to prevent back injuries.

■ Make sure the pathway from the bed

For more information about seasonal plumbing tips, products or to find the office nearest you, please visit Roto-Rooter's Web site at [www.rotorooter.com](http://www.rotorooter.com).

## WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS



**Wise-Willis**

Shirley Ann Wise and Terry Wayne Willis Jr., were united in marriage by Jack T. Howard at 2 p.m., July 8, 2000, at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park on the patio overlooking the lake at the May Lodge.

The bride is the daughter of Jimmy and Valerie Wise of Dwayne. The groom is the son of Virginia Willis of Atlanta, Georgia, and Terry Willis Sr. of Pocatello, Idaho.

The bridesmaids were Tiffany Perrine of Lancaster, and Heather Halfhill of Prestonsburg. The maid of honor was Christy Slone of David. The flower girl was Angela Whitaker of David. The best man was the groom's brother, Michael Willis, of Ontario, Oregon. The groomsmen/usher was Jack Kyle Howard of Allen. The ring bearer was the bride's cousin, Dawson Smith, of Huntington, West Virginia.

The sound technician was Roy Duncan of Richmond. The wedding site coordinator was Sharon Howard. A reception followed at the Wilkerson/Stumbo Convention Center at Jenny Wiley State Resort park.

The bride is a 1994 graduate of Prestonsburg High School, and a May 2000 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in therapeutic recreation. She is employed by ARH Regional Medical Center in Hazard, as the recreation therapist on the Rehabilitation Unit.

The groom is a 1989 graduate of Highland High School in Pocatello, Idaho, and is seeking his BSN degree. He plans to be a nurse anesthetist. He is employed at Home Care Health Services in Pikeville in Quality Assurance.

The couple spent their Honeymoon at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

## Birthdays



**Turns one**

**Tamara Rayelynn Nicole Burchett turned one on November 18, 2000. She is the daughter of Jon and Kim Burchett of Slick Rock. She had a Barbie party and celebrated at her home with family members and friends. She is the granddaughter of Imajean and Kenny Robinson of Martin, Eddie Burchett of Slick Rock, and the late Tamara Burchett. She is the great-granddaughter of Josephine Scarberry of Langley, the late Junior Scarberry and the late Sam and Ella Robinson, formerly of Martin.**

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

### Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

■ Center is open weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or later by appointment. 886-9812.

### Allen Central High School

■ ACHS Band is collecting Pepsi Musical Points, which enable the purchase of instruments. Points are on 12-pack cubes, 20 oz. and liter bottles of Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew and Diet Mountain Dew. Give to any ACHS band member or mail to Eastern Band Boosters, PO Box 156, Eastern, KY 41622.

### Clark FRC

■ After school child care, 3-5:30 p.m., school days, openings available.  
 ■ Nurse in the center on Thursdays. Appointments for sixth grade physicals now being scheduled. 886-0815.

### McDowell FRC

■ Floyd County Health Department nurse is at the Center each Monday to see patients. Call to schedule physical appointment for your 5th grader. Call 377-2678.

### A counselor from Mountain

Comprehensive Care is at the center one day a week to see students in need of counseling. Parents are encouraged to stop by the center if they think their child can benefit.

■ GED classes, free, Mondays, 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Instructor, Linda Bailey of The David School.

■ Child Care, from school dismissal -5 p.m., \$20 per week/per child. For possible fee assistance, call East Kentucky Child Care Coalition, 886-1280.

### Prestonsburg Elementary PTA

■ PTA Dairy Queen Punch Cards for sale; \$10 for 18 uses between now and July 2001; buy one item, get the next free. Good at Prestonsburg, Martin and Pikeville Dairy Queens.

### South Floyd Youth Services Center

Walking track open to public. One stop career station satellite and adult education available. 452-9600 or 9607, ext. 243 or 242.



## Family Medicine

John C. Wolf, D.O.  
 Associate Professor  
 of Family Medicine



## Car wreck can be pain in the neck

Question: I was in a car accident eight months ago and received a neck and shoulder injury that was diagnosed as a cervical strain. I've recently moved and consequently have seen a new doctor about my continuing neck pain.

New x-rays and an MRI show that I have degenerative disc disease and arthritis in the same area of my neck that was injured in the accident. I think the wreck caused these problems because the x-rays taken at the time of my injury were normal. The insurance company says that these are pre-existing conditions and consequently, are not related to the accident. Do you think that the wreck caused my problems?

Answer: First, I need to explain a bit about the conditions you now have — degenerative arthritis of the neck (cervical spine in doctor language) and degenerative disc disease. I'll deal with arthritis first.

Arthritis is the general term used to describe inflammation and degeneration of a joint or joints. There are several types of arthritis with osteoarthritis being the most common one. The frequency of this disorder increases with age so that almost everyone has at least one joint with it by age 65.

The joint damage in osteoarthritis begins in the cartilage that covers the surface of the bones. The cartilage becomes rougher, develop cracks and cause the "squeaks" and "click" with movement that most of us over 40 notice from time to time. The degree of pain and inflammation in the arthritic joint may be mild or it can be so substantial that replacement with an artificial one is necessary.

Osteoarthritis is classified into two categories — primary and secondary. Primary osteoarthritis has no specific individual cause. This is commonly thought of as resulting from "wear and tear" strain on joints. This often produces arthritis in the hips, spine or in the fingers.

Secondary osteoarthritis occurs because of a specific cause such as disease or injury. Your initial x-rays were normal, and now eight months later they show arthritis at the part of your neck that was injured. This certainly is suggestive of secondary arthritis caused by the wreck.

Now for the second component of your neck pain — the degenerative disc disease. As I'm sure you know, the vertebra that form the spine are separated by cushioning and supportive structures called the intervertebral discs. These important parts can wear out. When this occurs, the disc bulges. When these changes are seen on x-ray, CT scan or MRI, it is called degenerative disc disease — the condition you have.

Degenerative disc disease in much like osteoarthritis in that both occur in a large percentage of individuals, and many with these "abnormalities" do not have significant pain or disability because of them.

In some, however, the abnormality is the source of misery. In your situation it is difficult to say with certainty that your arthritis and degenerative disc disease is the consequence of your car wreck eight months ago.

Insurance companies exist to make money for their shareholders. They do this by charging premiums that bring in more money than the sum of their administrative costs and payments for claims. Obviously, they can be more successful by diligently avoiding payment of questionable (from their perspective) claims. Since degenerative disc disease and degenerative joint disease are common disorders, they look at your claim as being questionable.

I'd suggest that you have your doctor write a letter supporting your claim that the accident caused your condition. You may find that the insurance company still refuses to pay. Don't despair — this is a legal matter of their failure to meet their obligations. Talk to a lawyer. He or she can help you accurately assess your chances of getting a reasonable settlement. (I know it is unusual, but we doctors occasionally have nice things to say about those in the legal profession.)

"Family Medicine" is a weekly column. To submit questions, write to John C. Wolf, DO, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Grosvenor Hall, Athens, Ohio 45701.

## flu shot...



photo by Pam Shingler

Tora Slone of the Floyd County Health Department stopped at the Betsy Layne Senior Citizens Center recently to administer flu shots. Josephine Branham was among those who took advantage of the opportunity to prepare for the flu season.



Crafts are taught every Thursday at the Wheelwright Senior Citizens Center by Stephanie Caudle, a missionary with the First Baptist Church.

## Jarvis pledges

The Beta Zeta chapter of Delta Delta Delta at Transylvania University announces that Meredith Jarvis, daughter of Dick and Cynthia Jarvis of Prestonsburg, has been initiated as an active member of the chapter.

Jarvis, a Prestonsburg High School graduate, is a freshman at Transylvania.

The Beta Zeta chapter was founded on Transylvania's campus in 1908. The chapter's purposes are friendship, scholarship, high standards of personnel, community service, quality activities, and career development.

## Science center simplifies paperwork for teachers

Complying with Kentucky's education requirements is a little simpler for teachers who utilize the East Kentucky Center for Science, Mathematics & Technology's (EKCSMT) outreach program.

Cathy Neeley, outreach specialist with EKCSMT, helps educators meet KERA goals and expectations through classroom activities and professional development—and she provides leaflets at the end of her instructional sessions to show specifically how that session aligns with the Program of Studies required by KERA. CORE Content is a subdivision of the Program of Studies.

"(The instructional sessions) should reinforce what is being learned in the classroom by making available resources that are not necessarily available to teachers," Neeley said.

Her sessions are not lectures, but are hands-on demonstrations that motivate students and inspire teachers to dig deeper into a particular field of study. The science center's outreach program offers several areas of instruction, but this year Neeley is focusing on three specific categories: astronomy, geology and water quality.

Her major focus in astronomy is viewing the night sky through STARLAB, a portable planetarium. Neeley said students greet the STARLAB with enthusiasm.

"At the end of a session, when I ask how many of them are going out to look at the stars tonight, everyone raises their hands—I think learning about the different constellations and learning how to find them enhances how they view the sky at night. It makes it a lot more fun when you know where to look and what to look for," she said.

A local junior high instructor concurs.

"Your presentation made the night sky come to life. We had studied the stars and constellations, but your program enhanced the learning process for my students," the seventh grade teacher wrote in a thank-you to the science center outreach specialist.

Students' eyes are drawn earthward during geology sessions. Neeley teaches pupils about Kentucky geology, the types of rocks they can find in their backyards and on their school grounds. Students can bring their rock and fossil collections for classroom discussion, Neeley said.

Her third area of focus, water quality, takes students outside the classroom for a stream walk. During the field trip, students do biological and chemical evaluations on a local stream. Their findings are entered into the Kentucky Water Watch Data Base. The stream walk is conducted during the spring when the streams are fuller and pollution is diluted, according to Neeley.

At the end of the sessions, teachers are given packets that contain additional activities teachers can conduct in their classrooms. They are also provided the leaflets outlining the program's alignment with KERA.

EKCSMT's programs also correlate with the National Science Standards and North American Association for Environmental Education Guidelines for Excellence.

Sessions must be scheduled three weeks in advance. A \$25 fee is charged per program presentation or \$100 per day with a maximum of five presentations or \$100 per day with a maximum of five presentations as time allows. Programs are usually limited to 25 students or one classroom at a time.

Contact the East Kentucky Center for Science for a free catalog of complete program listings at 606/889-0303; toll-free at 877-889-0306; or email at [HYPERLINKmailto:neeeley@se-tel.com](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:neeeley@se-tel.com). The catalog is also available on EKCSMT's website [HYPERLINKhttp://www.wedoscience.org](http://www.wedoscience.org).

The science center, a nonprofit organization, serves schools and community groups in Regions 7 and 8, which includes Floyd County.

Neeley, a licensed geologist, has developed and instructed more than 120 hands-on science classroom programs in at least 16 subject areas. She is also creator of The Earth Mobile, a series of geologic and environmental programs certified by the National Wildlife Federation.



Carolotta Jones' class at Osborne Elementary School donated canned goods to the Wheelwright Senior Citizens Center before the holidays. The food was for group and home delivery meals.

## Floyd residents recognized

Several Floyd Countians have earned a high level of academic distinction at Alice Lloyd College for the 2000 Fall Semester.

Named to the President's List for achieving a grade point average of 4.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) were Shawna Lea Coburn and Roy Kenneth Johnson.

Named to the Dean's Distinguished List for achieving a grade point average of 3.75-4.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) were Lindsey Shea Hall, Shawna Gail Hall, Joshua Lee Howell, Byron Van Patton, and Brandi Lynn Watson.

Named to the Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.25-3.75 (based on a 4.0 grading scale) were Deanna Gail Bolen, Melissa Suzette Caudill, Amanda Leigh Compton, and Jessica Elizabeth Music.

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# Youth News

## Betsy Layne, Johnson County 8 winners at meets

Betsy Layne and Johnson County 8 were the overall winners at the Eastern Kentucky Academic Conference meets held on December 2 and 16.

In the high school division, Betsy Layne accumulated 51.5 points to capture first place. Pikeville-Maroon finished second with 40.5 points, and Johnson Central-Black and Piarist tied for third with 29 points. In the middle school division, Johnson County 8 totaled 55.5 points for first place. Paintsville-Blue finished second with 41 points, Johnson County 7 placed third with 30.5 points, and Pikeville-White was fourth with 30 points.

In the high school division, the following students finished first through fourth in these written assessment categories:

Mathematics: 1. Justin Shofner of Pikeville-Maroon; 2. James Mullins of Pike Central; 3. Silas Adkins of Shelby Valley; 4. Lesley Runyon of Belfry.

Science 1: Jeremy Tackett of Betsy Layne; 2. Adam Chaffins of Betsy Layne; 3. Matt Goeing of Piarist; 4. Josh Daniel of Johnson Central-Black.

Social Studies: 1. Brandon Newsome of Betsy Layne; 2. Daniel; 3. Tie between Justin Howard of Pike Central and Pradeep Mettu of Pikeville-Maroon.

Language Arts: 1. Billy Newsome of Betsy Layne; 2. Mollie McMillan of Betsy Layne; 3. Daphne McCoy of Betsy Layne; 4. Chris Wells of Johnson Central-Black.

General Knowledge: 1. Billy Newsome; 2. Tie between Mettu and Pavan Bhatraju of Pikeville-Maroon; 4. Tie between Brandon Newsome and Richie Duncan of Belfry.

In quick recall competition, Pikeville-Maroon finished first with a 5-0 record, and Betsy Layne, Johnson Central-Black, and Piarist tied for second with 4-

1 records. Individual honors went to the following: 1. Duncan; 2. Brandon Newsome; 3. Billy Newsome; 4. Chris Jude of Sheldon Clark.

In the middle school division, the following students finished first through fourth in these written assessment categories:

Mathematics: 1. Amanda Creech of Paintsville-Blue; 2. Tie between Cory Daniel of Johnson County 8 and Nathan Mills of Johns Creek-Varsity; 4. Chadd Blackburn of Johns Creek-Varsity.

Science: 1. Matt Colvin of Johnson County 8; 2. Kelly Crispil of Johnson County 8; 3. John Compton of Pikeville-Blue; 4. Tie between Adam Harbin of Johnson County 7 and Benjamin Stewart of Pikeville-Maroon.

Social Studies: 1. Mitchell Vanhoose of Johnson County 8; 2. Seth Long of Johnson County 8; 3. Jeffrey Collett of Paintsville-Blue; 4. Jonathan

Scott of Paintsville-Blue.

Language Arts: 1. Aaron Nelson of Johnson County 7; 2. Tie between Jon Hale and Carrie Wells, both of Johnson County 8; 4. Kelli Vanhoose of Johnson County 8.

General Knowledge: 1. Hale; 2. Tie among Creech, Nelson, and Selena DeRossett of Johnson County 8.

Two teams finished with perfect 5-0 records in quick recall competition: Paintsville-Blue and Pikeville-White. Three others finished with a 4-1 record: Feds Creek, Johnson County 8, and Pikeville-Maroon.

The middle school conference tournament is scheduled for January 6, beginning at 9 a.m. The high school conference tournament will be held on April 3 and 5, beginning at 5 p.m. each night. Both tournaments will take place at Pikeville High School. The public is invited to attend.



ROTC students from MSU who took part in the Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Knox recently were from left, Jered Little, Jackson junior; Brian Hamilton, Leesburg, Ohio, junior; Melinda Melendez, Three Rivers, Michigan, junior; Harold Coots, Bremerton, Washington, senior; Eric Volk, Prestonsburg freshman; Becky Hayes, Louisa freshman. (MSU photo by Tim Holbrook)

## ROTC students compete at Fort Knox

Marching, launching hand grenade assaults and setting up rope bridges were all part of weekend activities for some Morehead State University students enrolled in the ROTC program.

Two teams, composed of 20 MSU students, took an active role in the Ranger Challenge Competition held recently at Fort Knox. More than 30 universities, with 40 teams, participated.

"These are the kinds of activities that help build cohesiveness among our students and enhance retention in the program," said Dr. Michael R. Moore, MSU's executive vice president for academic affairs.

Morehead State's teams finished 11th and 37th overall second and ninth among the field of universities from Kentucky. "This was MSU's best showing in at least 10 years," said Lt. Col. John H. Karaus, department chair.

The students competed in eight events,

including a 10-kilometer road march, packing 15 pounds of equipment; rifle marksmanship; physical fitness test; weapons qualifications; patrolling; and land navigation. "We started preparing the first week of school with physical training such as running, push-ups and sit-ups," said Master Sgt. Michael Campbell, chief instructor.

Some of the schools train year-round for the competition. "We think it's more important for the students to get an education," Campbell said.

Training for and participating in the Ranger Challenge "helps cadets develop teamwork," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Hughes, training NCO. "They learn some of the basic leadership skills that are necessary in the military."

Additional information on activities in the Department of Military Science is available by calling 606/783-2050.



On a recent sunny day, the children at Karen's Kare took advantage of the warm temperatures and helped assistant director Teressa Rowe decorate the pots outside with green pine cuttings and silk Christmas flowers: from left, Lauren Davis, Phil Cornett, Jordan Rice, Zack Blanton, Ryan Rice and Josh Crider.

## College financial aid resources help families

'Tis the season to be jolly, and for many families with seniors in high school, it's also the season to get busy with financial aid applications for college.

Experts at ACT offer the following information to help families find the resources they need to complete their financial aid paperwork.

The most important form is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA determines eligibility for student financial aid from federal programs. Colleges and universities also use the FAFSA, but may also require students to fill out additional forms. Families can begin submitting their FAFSA forms any time after January 1, when they have the necessary income statements from the previous year to complete the form.

The FAFSA, available from high school counselors or at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), collects information that is used to determine how much the family is expected to contribute toward the student's education (Expected Family Contribution, or EFC).

Families usually receive a Student Aid Report three to four weeks after submitting the FAFSA form. It will summarize the data reported on the application. (Families can get estimates of what their EFC may be and the costs of attending specific institutions by using ACT's Financial Aid Need Estimator at [www.act.org/fane](http://www.act.org/fane).)

Families can find information on more than 600,000 scholarships totaling more than \$1.6 billion at [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com). This website provides a broad search of scholarships or a list of scholarships by category, such as age, academics, ethnicity, interests, nationality or sports. Students also can apply online for the scholarships.

For additional opportunities, including local scholarships, please send your school counselor.

Financial Aid tips from ACT:  
 • Apply early for admission and financial aid.  
 • Check with your college to determine if other financial aid forms are required.  
 • Apply for scholarships and grants.  
 • Look into Work Study programs.  
 • Surf the web for financial aid information.

• Try these websites:  
 Financial Aid Need Estimator and financial aid information—[www.act.org/fane](http://www.act.org/fane);  
 Free scholarship search—[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com); The Financial Aid Information Page—[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org); The Federal Government Financial Aid Page—[www.ed.gov/finaid.html](http://www.ed.gov/finaid.html); Free Applications for Federal Student Aid—[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov); College Scholarship Search—[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com); Scholarship Scams—[www.ftc.gov/bep/online/edcams/scholarship](http://www.ftc.gov/bep/online/edcams/scholarship).

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# Youth News



Ron Vanover, supervisor of recreation at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, came to Allen Elementary School recently to do classroom presentations on mammals and snakes of Kentucky. The program was sponsored by the Allen Family Resource Youth Service Center.



## A New Twist On A School Lunch Staple

(NAPS)—There may be good news for the growing number of children who are allergic to a school lunch classic. While many of us grew up toting a PB&J—that's peanut butter and jelly-sandwich to school, times are changing.

Experts report the number of children with a potentially dangerous hazardous allergy to peanuts has increased significantly since 1981.

For some, an allergic reaction to peanuts can cause wheezing or hives. In very rare instances, it can even be life threatening.

Some parents have responded to this challenge by offering their children an alternative—a type of butter made from soynuts.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, increased intake of soy related products may be linked to a number of benefits, such as lowered cholesterol and increased prevention of diabetes.

Curtis Roettig, co-owner of the SoyNut Butter Company, believes their product—i.M. Healthy SoyNut Butter—offers parents and children other benefits as well.

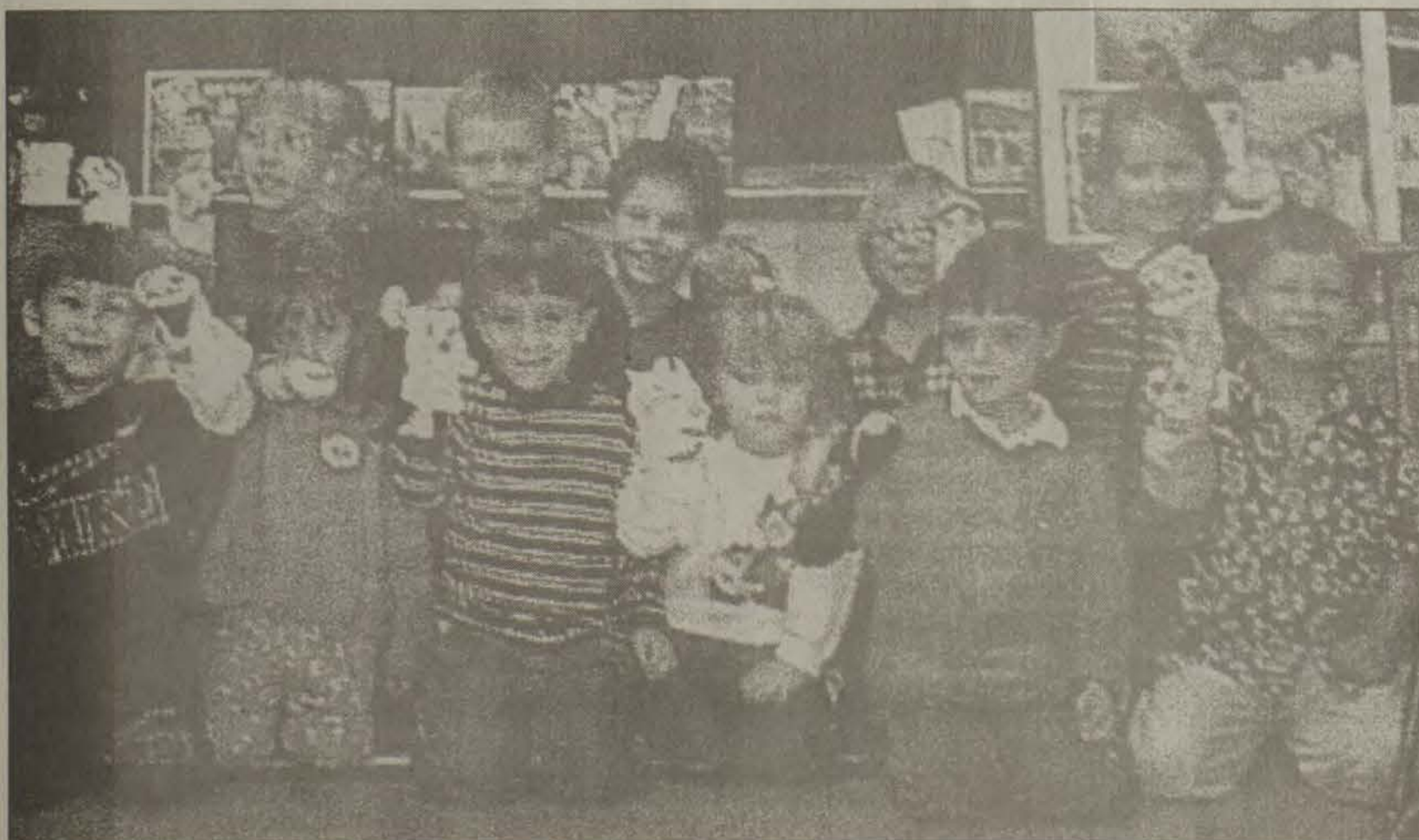
Says Roettig, "SoyNut butter looks and tastes like regular peanut butter. In blind taste tests, children usually prefer it over peanut butter. As a parent, you can help your food-allergic child feel less self-conscious."

To find out more, call 1-800-288-1012.



## Alice Lloyd College students volunteer at Highlands

Nine Alice Lloyd College students volunteered their time at Highlands Regional Medical Center during the Fall 2000 semester. Ronnie Hinkle, Kojo Abbeyquaye, Amanda Caudill, Fran Hatfield, Virginia Gibson, Karrie Moore, Andrew Obongo, William Campbell, and Polly Shepherd were among the student volunteers.



Students in Mrs. Sexton's class at Duff Elementary School show off the sock puppets they made recently.

## Project Citizen

The promise of citizenship participation among Kentucky youth. It doesn't take much investigating to conclude that there is a serious disconnect among American youth.

According to a 1999 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), only one-fourth of U.S. students are proficient in knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for effective citizenship. Only one-fifth of young Americans ages 18 to 25 voted in the 1998 election.

Serious reflection of such alarming statistics begs responsible adults to work diligently to find substantive avenues for involving young people in citizenship activities. We the People...Project Citizen provides an opportunity for civic leaders, teachers, and others a powerful means to address the obvious and growing disconnect.

Developed by the Los Angeles-based Center for Civic Education and administered by the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, We the People...Project Citizen is a civic education program designed for middle school students that promotes competent and responsible participation in state and local government. It actively engages students in learning how to monitor and influence public policy and encourages civic participation among students, their parents, and members of their community.

As a class project, students work together to identify and study a public policy issue, eventually developing an action plan for implementing their policy. The final product is a portfolio displaying each group's work.

In a culminating activity, the class presents its portfolio in a simulated hearing, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of how a public policy is formulated. Classes may also enter a competition held in their congressional district.

The winner from each congressional district submits their portfolio for a statewide competition in Frankfort. The winner of the state final will be forwarded to the national final which is held in conjunction with the Conference for State Legislatures.

In Kentucky, Project Citizen is moving into its fourth year. Court Designated Workers, who are juvenile offenders employed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, oversee the project and provide training and technical assistance to educators and others interested in implementing the project. Although the numbers of individuals trained remain modest, the impact the Project Citizen has had on local communities is noteworthy.

For example, students in Harrison County researched traffic hazards resulting from a problematic four-way stop sign. Their portfolio was presented to local officials and a traffic light was subsequently installed.

In Bell County, students researched incidents of violence in their school. Their recommendation—installation of "red phones" in hallways to report suspect situations to school authorities. The impressive list of student-generated accomplishments goes on.

Preliminary observations of Kentucky's experiment with Project Citizen seems to suggest that young people eagerly respond to this curriculum in large because they are: 1) given opportunity to participate in an activity in which they are provided ample opportunity to voice their perspective and subsequently take action 2) engage in meaningful endeavors that have relevance to their lives; and, 3) taken seriously by educators and community leaders who actually implement a portion of, if not the entire action plan detailed in the portfolio.

Recent scientific research conducted by Vontz et al (2000) indicates that Project Citizen had a positive and statistically significant effect on students' civic knowledge, self-perceived civic skills, and propensities to participate in civic life and the political process in Indiana, Latvia and Lithuania. Our initial observations coupled with the current research suggests that Project Citizen implementation merits serious consideration.

A limited number of curriculum materials are available free of charge. In addition, a KERA Correlation Guide is also available. The Project Citizen portfolio competition for school is scheduled to be held on May 22, 2001 at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort.

Teachers or civic leaders interested in implementing Project Citizen and participating in the May competition can contact Dr. Deborah Williamson or Rachel Bingham at (800) 928-2350 or by Fax at 502/573-1448.

## Live chat gives students, parents answers they need

Every Wednesday night, it brings together the likes of Harvard01, KurlyQ, and Sweetgirl1083. Although they live thousands of miles apart, these students and parents are able to instantly get answers to their most pressing questions on getting into and paying for college.

SuperCollege.com ([www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)) hosts a live chat session with admissions and financial aid authors and experts Gen and Kelly Tanabe every Wednesday at 10 p.m. The chat provides students and parents with the opportunity to get last-minute advice about college applications and tips on searching for scholarships—all within a matter of seconds.

"Counselors at schools and colleges are swamped at this time of year and can't always spend as much time as they'd like with each student. We decided to open our virtual doors every week to interact with students and answer their questions," said Kelly Tanabe.

Users access the live chat by going to [www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com) and entering the chat area. Then, users can either view the on-going chat or login with a user name to ask a question. To prevent duplication and to address the most pertinent questions, the chat is moderated.

The live chat fits with the goal of SuperCollege.com to guide students and parents through college admissions and financial aid. The site also offers a free searchable database of over 400,000 scholarships and 3,000 colleges, advice and tips on getting into and paying for college, and a Q&A section to pose additional questions to the Tanabes.

"No matter how carefully we write an article we can never answer every question or address every situation. But through our live chat, we can finally field our readers' specific questions," said Gen Tanabe.

The Tanabes are the founders of SuperCollege.com and the award-winning authors of "Get Free Cash For College: Scholarship Secrets Of Harvard Students" and "Get Into Any College: Secrets Of Harvard Students." Together, the husband and wife team were accepted by every school to which they applied, including all of the Ivy League colleges and won more than \$100,000 in merit-based scholarships.

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# The Floyd County Times

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 Please send resume with cover letter for current management or staff positions OR for future expansion opportunities, including salary range expectations to: Marilyn Hamblin, Personnel Placement Associate, ARH System Center-Lexington, Human Resources Dept., PO Box 8086, 1220 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, KY 40533; FAX: 859-226-2586 or e-mail to: mhambli@arh.org OR locally contact: Sonya Bergman, Human Resources Manager, ARH Regional Medical Center, Hazard, KY; email: sbergman@arh.org or call 606-439-6843. EOE. Visit ARH on the Web: www.arh.org  
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# Fund honors long-time MSU costumer



Alumni and friends of MSU's theatre program initiated the "Kozy Campaign" to raise the funds to purchase equipment and supplies for the Kozy Hamilton Costume shop. The 25-year veteran of the university was told about the decision at a surprise reception attended by alumni, theatre patrons, faculty and staff. Among those offering congratulations on the honor was Dr. Travis Lockhart, professor of theatre. (MSU student photo by Guy Huffman)

Preparing students, for a career and also for life, has been Kozy Hamilton's goal during her 25 years at Morehead State University.

The theatre costumer has had lots of practice as she has spent countless hours—many early in the morning and late at night—guiding the technical end of plays and musicals. "Individual contact with students takes a lot of work," Hamilton said, "but that's why we're here."

One of her objectives is to see the costume shop progress before she retires. To assist in this effort, alumni and friends of MSU theatre initiated the "Kozy Campaign."

Project supporters hope to raise \$20,000 to purchase equipment and supplies for the new Kozy Hamilton Costume Shop which will be housed in Breckinridge Hall. The building, currently undergoing a \$14 million renovation, is home to the Department of Communications.

"Our alumni want to give back to the university to help us to keep going," Hamilton said of the efforts on her behalf.

To help reach the monetary goal, the Office of Development is offering assistance. Plans are underway to call and send letters of appeal to communications graduates, according to Mindy Highley, director of development.

Hamilton was overjoyed when she learned, at a surprise reception attended by many alumni and theatre patrons, that the costume shop would be named in her honor. "I didn't know anything about it until that day," she said. "It shocked me to death."

Dedication to the theatre program has brought support and respect from leaders in the community. Morehead Mayor Bradley H. Collins declared the day "Kozy Hamilton Day" with a proclamation that described her as "one of the most willing, competent, creative and inspirational individuals to have ever been associated with the MSU theatre."

When the time comes, retirement will not be an easy decision for Hamilton, whose students often ask her to stay until they graduate. For the past 10 years, she has told her husband that she would retire "next semester."

"Sometimes I wonder, 'Am I a teacher or am I a counselor?' It's all part of it," Hamilton said, noting that even after they graduate, students track her down to let her know how they are doing and to get her advice. "They find me on vacation," she added.

With former students working in Palm Springs, California, Disney World, New York, London, and everywhere in between, Hamilton said it helps her to see that she and others at the university are doing, something right. "I'm not here for a paycheck," Hamilton said.

"I'm here at six in the morning for 12 to 14 hours a day," she added. "I'm here to help the students keep going."

Additional information on making a contribution to the "Kozy Hamilton Costume Shop" is available by calling the MSU Foundation Inc. at 606/783-2033, or the Department of Communications at 606/783-2134.

# Holiday Recipes

**Roasted vegetables for Thanksgiving** from the American Institute for Cancer Research

Roasting vegetables on an outdoor grill is a treat in the summer, but they are also sensational oven-roasted as a side dish for holiday meals. Roasting is a wonderful, low-fat way to prepare many favorite fall vegetables, giving them a sweeter, richer flavor.

So many vegetables are delicious when roasted: bell peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, brussels sprouts, carrots, potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, squash, beets and eggplant. Simply brush them with a little olive oil to prevent drying.

Start by cutting larger vegetables into bite-size pieces before brushing with oil. Then season with

herbs and spices. Use rosemary with onions and mushrooms, thyme with eggplant and potatoes, basil with tomatoes, and dill with beets. Roast vegetables at 400 degrees, basting occasionally with chicken stock, orange or apple juice, or low-fat Italian dressing.

The density and size of the vegetable determines the cooking time. Tomatoes, summer squash and eggplant take only 20 to 30 minutes, while onions, peppers and winter squash need 30 to 45 minutes. Potatoes and carrots can cook for an hour, but beets and pumpkins may require an hour and a half. You'll know they're done when they have a nice brown color and can be easily pierced with a fork.

Try roasting eggplant covered with a

mixture of tomato paste and water and seasoned with salt, freshly ground pepper, garlic cloves, basil and fresh parsley. Serve roasted beets with a dressing made by whisking together wine vinegar, salt, freshly ground pepper, a pinch of sugar, olive oil and chopped fresh dill. Roasted vegetables are delicious served over grains like quinoa, rice, couscous, or bulgur.

**Autumn Roasted Vegetables**

- 3 carrots, unpeeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 9 small white button mushrooms
- 2 cups brussels sprouts (cut in halves if large)
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1/4 tsp. dried thyme  
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
2 Tbsp. finely chopped pecans for garnish  
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.  
Toss vegetables with the oil, thyme, salt and pepper. Place vegetables in a roasting pan. Pour stock into the pan. Roast 45 minutes, stirring and turning every 10 to 15 minutes.

When close nearly tender, raise over heat to 425 degrees and continue roasting 10 to 15 minutes more or until vegetables are browned and tender.  
Remove from oven, drain of my excess liquid, and serve hot, garnished with pecans.

Makes 4 servings, each containing 144 calories and 4 grams of fat.

## Christmas

Stumbo Elementary

**What Christmas Means to Me**

I think that Christmas is not about the receiving of gifts but the giving of gifts. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday and not the celebration of getting gifts. The Wisemen gave gifts to the baby Jesus but they did not expect gifts in return, that is what we should do, give but not expect anything in return.

This is what I think Christmas is really about.  
Adam Osborne  
James A. Duff Elementary

**What Christmas Means to Me**

To me Christmas is a very special holiday. It is a time when my family members get together and celebrate Jesus's birthday and be thankful we have each other. We also enjoy putting up our tree and buying gifts for each other. We try to help other families who might not be able to give to one another by donating clothes and toys. Hopefully these few things and other things that other people give will put a smile on some families' faces on Christmas morning.

Zach Goble  
James A. Duff Elementary

**I love Christmas because you get presents and animals.**

You get to play in the snow. One Christmas I got a dog and I named it Speedy. That is why I like Christmas.  
David Kilgore  
James A. Duff Elementary

**Christmas Future**

Our next Christmas should be the most memorable Christmas ever. The poor children should be treated like others and get all the presents they want. We should be very nice this Christmas because Christmas represents Jesus's birthday. The other children that are not poor should share their presents with the poor. Have a Joyful Christmas! Merry Christmas!!!!  
Chad Nelson

James A. Duff Elementary

**The Meaning of Christmas**

Christmas is the time of year  
When we all have that Christmas cheer.  
We get to spend time with our family and friends  
And singing songs, the fun never ends.

Christmas is very fun  
But the best is yet to come.  
Santa Claus comes the night before  
And brings us gifts galore.

We decorate our yard and house  
And on Christmas Eve, we sleep like a mouse.  
Because if we don't, if we do bad  
He'll take away our toys and that would be sad.

Christmas is the best time of the season  
But we don't understand the real reason.  
Because long ago, early in the morn  
Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born.  
Anthony Adkins  
Honors English  
Betsy Layne High School

**What Christmas Means To Me**

Christmas means a time for caring, giving, and love. It makes me think about my life and the people in it as well. All the things I care about and everyone that I love come to mind. Every Christmas my family always gets together and celebrates Jesus' birthday.

Christmas isn't about materialistic things. It is about being with those who care and love you, and most of all knowing the importance of the day Jesus Christ was born. You should be thankful for what you get, and appreciate it no matter what it is. As long as there is love in your heart you will know the true meaning of Christmas. Which is to be thankful and grateful for what you have and to know Jesus loves us all the same.  
Whitney Johnson  
South Floyd Middle

Continued from p1

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The Times

## PAGEANTS



**PAGEANT WINNER**  
Kelsey Nicole Jarrell recently competed in the 2000 Appalachian Dazzling Dolls Snowflake Pageant. She won 2000 Snowflake Princess, Prettiest Hair, Overall Prettiest Hair, and 2000 Most Beautiful Face. She is the six-year-old daughter of Shannon and Jessica Jarrell of Prestonsburg, and the granddaughter of Carria and James Clyde Jarrell and Arnold and Joyce Jarrell, all of Prestonsburg.

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