

The Times

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Where does Floyd County fit in All A?

— Page B1

briefs

1 more files for election

With most thoughts turned to Christmas, it has been a slow week on the political scene, with only one person filing to run for office.

Randy L. Bryan of Martin filed his papers Dec. 17 to seek the office of District 3 constable. Like all other candidates so far in next partisan races, he has filed as a Democrat.

Bryant will square off in the May primary against Paul Younce of Melvin and Tandy B. Hamilton of McDowell, who currently holds the position.

Bryant's filing brought the number of people running in next year's local elections to 37, but there remain six county races which still have not drawn any candidates, as well as two school board seats and mayor and council races in all five incorporated cities in Floyd County.

Candidates have until Jan. 29 to file their papers to run in next year's election.

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today

COLD
 High: 32 • Low: 18

Tomorrow

COLD
 High: 28 • Low: 18

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

Work, training of school nurse aides often unnoticed

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

Picture this scene: A child gets up, goes to school and at some point during the day develops an upset stomach, sore throat, headache, or any number of possible maladies. Mom and dad are at work, Grandma has gone shopping and little Billy isn't feeling any better.

Who steps in to fill in the gap until mom, dad or grandma can be informed of Billy's illness? A school health aide, that's who — a caring and devoted person that the

kids at your child's school most likely know on a first name basis. More importantly, this individual even most likely knows your child's first name.

Just as is the case in many situations, these folks and their hard work often go unnoticed.

"They are dedicated, hard-working individuals," said Jennifer Martin, district school nurse. "Most people have no idea, they just do not realize the intensive training these health aides go through in order to do their jobs. They invest many long hours of study into their work. I am so

proud of each and every one of them, and I would just like for the parents and families of these kids to know about the services these health aides provide."

Health aides from the Floyd County school system attended a two-day training session recently held under the direction of Darinda Ramey, coordinator of health and safety of the Morehead and Rowan County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The participating aides are actively working on the comple-

(See AIDES, page three)



Crystal Goble, foreground, practices CPR on an adult practice dummy during training sessions held last week at May Lodge. Goble was training to receive instructor-certification from the American Red Cross.

photo by Kathy J. Prater



Cora Handshoe, 9, granddaughter of Marge Handshoe, shows off the baby doll that Santa brought her during Mud Creek's annual food, clothing and toy drive at John M. Stumbo Elementary. The program, organized by Mud Creek Clinic director Eula Hall, left, provided for more than 1,000 families Saturday.

photo by Mary Music

Mud Creek event brings holiday joy to over 1,000

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

The "Mountain Mama" did it again, with yet another successful food, clothing and toy drive on Saturday which provided a better Christmas for more than 1,000 Floyd County residents.

Eula Hall, director the the Mud Creek Clinic began planning the annual event just after the

Thanksgiving holiday by contacting in and out-of-state supporters who contribute mounds of goodies to be donated to needy families in the area each year.

"If there is a need in Floyd County, Eula Hall does her best to fill it, and we do anything we can to help her," said County Attorney Keith Bartley, who dropped by for the event, held at John M. Stumbo Elementary. "A lot of people in

this community live better lives just because of her being here."

Since shortly after the clinic opened some 30 years ago, said Hall, volunteers affiliated with the clinic, family and friends in the community have anticipated this annual drive, one that itself shines as the true meaning of the holiday season.

(See MUD CREEK, page eight)

School uses festival to stress importance of arts and humanities

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

With Eastern Kentucky, along with many other areas of the state and country, concentrating more than before on science and mathematics, some schools feel the need to highlight the importance of the fine arts as a major component in school curriculum as well, hoping not to lose site of the need for a well rounded education for today's youth.

One the schools whose officials have expressed this desire, Adams Middle School, recently combined a fine arts perspective

with the spirit of the holiday season to produce a three-part festival consisting of art, music, drama and dance.

The afternoon festival began at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 18, and lasted until near the end of the school day and included the majority of the school's student body, a clear reflection of involvement that school officials find to be promising on the desired path of equal attention given to all subjects.

"We want to balance what students are given," said AMS assistant principal Ted George. "All across the country schools

emphasize math and science, but we're trying to be equal and give the fair share to the fine arts — music and dance and drama. To us, that's really important."

The festival began with two students — Holly Pack and Justin Jones — each performing songs as part of the musical phase of the festival. These were followed by performances by the beginning and advanced band, who performed, among other songs, a jazzed up version of "Old Saint Nick Takes a".

The music portion of the festi-

(See ARTS, page three)



Nick Lafferty portrayed Freddy, a disgruntled airline passenger, who takes over the plane and gives it back to the oppressed passengers in "Air Freddy," a one-act play performed during Adams Middle School's fine arts festival December 18.

photo by Sheldon Compton

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Arts



photo by Sheldon Compton

These Adams Middle School advanced band members entertained a large crowd during a fine arts festival held at the school on December 18. Among the songs performed was a jazz version of "Old Saint Nick" that put a contemporary spin on an old classic.

val non-participating students, faculty and parents in attendance were asked to remember that tools and techniques of music are used all over the world every day to produce and create. The three basics of music — rhythm, harmony and melody — were studied during the process and those performing, as well as those listening, were asked to contemplate how the music style in Tuesday's production reflected the time in which we live in contrast to music styles of past cultures.

After students disassembled from their musical offerings,

another set of hardworking students set up for a one-act dramatic play called "Air Freddy" to represent drama as a major part of the fine arts.

AMS students Nick Lafferty and Caitlin Newsome, along with a well placed supporting set of fellow student actors, detailed the elements which were brought together for a finished product beforehand. The young thespians pointed out many tasks that needed to be mastered to bring together a successful dramatic experience such as staging, scenery, props and lighting, as well as sound, costumes and make-up.

The production itself was a light-hearted peak into a group of travelers aboard a passenger jet bound for hilarious disorder thanks to a playfully annoying Nick Lafferty, who plays a disgruntled ticket holder and explored areas such as plot development and elements of performance in addition to visuals. Students were asked to notice how the performers incorporated the many elements mentioned into a comprehensive, one-act play.

Dance was also represented as one of many aspects in fine

arts with selected eighth grade students performing. Emphasis was placed on space, time and force within a dance, as well as some of the varying types of dance such as ceremonial, as in a wedding setting, recreational dances, such as tap and square dance.

The afternoon festival was deemed a success by George who afforded the young talent compliments and encouragement, but all while keeping an eye on how the idea of expressing the fine arts can be contin-

ued in the future.

"We want to make the fine arts and events such as this an instructional thing," said George. "We had discussed doing this before, but it's just now getting done. We want to involve every kid in the school. That's our ultimate goal."

George said after the festival came to a close that AMS intends to schedule more showcases in the future and continue in their attempts to include fine arts as an important factor for education.

Aides

tion of instructor certification in fundamentals of instructor training, basic aid training for children, standard first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation technique).

The purpose of the American Red Cross first aid/CPR program is to give individuals in the workplace the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent, recognize and provide basic care for

injuries and sudden illnesses until advanced medical personnel arrive and take over.

The aides were taught correct procedures for both adult and infant and child CPR techniques.

Additionally, the participants were given instructor training in the American Red Cross Basic Aid Training (BAT) course. The course covers the proper administration of rescue breathing, first

aid for choking and the control of severe bleeding.

The aides were also educated on understanding how diseases are transmitted, how to recognize, report, and follow up on employee exposures to infectious materials, and how to reduce the number of employees who contract blood-borne infections such as Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from worksite situations, through the use of the American Red Cross Preventing Disease Transmission module.

"These aides have been really working hard during this training," Martin said, "they are all dedicated to learning all they can, and the bottom line is that our kids will all be better protected for it."

"Everyone has been great, they have been a great bunch to work with and all are well on their way to completing very successfully the full program," said Ramey. "We've heard a few complaints about aching backs and sore knees, but all in all, we've all had a great time, we've managed to incorporate a little fun into all the hard work, and it looks as if everyone is going to successfully complete the course."

Participating in the two-day seminar were Agatha Mullins, Crystal Goble, Anna Clark, Debra Short, Kim Slone, Delana Stamper, Kathy Spears, Loretta Bush, and Betty Haley. Jennifer Martin, Darinda Ramey, Shelley Lock and Ken Blackburn served as instructor-trainers.

"Having a trained health aide in each school is so wonderful," Martin said, "it is a great service to our community."

Evidence

tacted said that the evidence officer at the precinct places confiscated evidence in an evidence bag that is labeled with the name and Social Security number of the suspect, date of arrest, citation number, and lists of everything included in the bag or any other evidence possibly gathered in the case.

Departments also reported that the evidence remains behind lock and key until it is transported for analysis or to prepare for the courtroom. All departments, large and small, reported that only one officer has access to the evidence room or locker. To receive, examine, or transport any evidence, officers must leave detailed reports on time and dates it was taken or returned. Court orders are required to destroy evidence in any resolved case or for any transport of evidence.

"Evidence is one thing that is really, really hit on hard in the courtroom," said Thornsberry. "It's hard to find and we work hard to keep any loopholes out of it. If anyone wants evidence, they come to me to get it. The buck stops here."

According to Sgt. Kenneth

Layne, KSP, confiscated evidence must be sealed and stored properly and kept separate from materials that may contaminate it in any way. According to him, the KSP, which has its training facilities separate from the Criminal Justice Training Center, a yearly inventory is completed to ensure that every piece of evidence is properly accounted for.

In gathering and storing evidence, Layne said officers should be able to show the proper chain of custody in the courtroom, process evidence sent to the lab in a "timely manner" and be able to prove that it has remained in a "secure location" while in storage.

Thornsberry said that he is so determined to make sure evidence with his department remains secure that he transports it back and forth to the lab himself. According to him, the sheriff's department evidence room is located in a vault, which can be accessed by the sheriff and other office workers. However, he is the only officer who can access the evidence cabinet.

With several years behind him with the sheriff's department and several to come, Thornsberry said one thing that is needed in the law enforcement field in Floyd County is more classes offered in evidence collection at the Criminal Justice Training Center.

During the interview, Thornsberry said training on handling evidence in smaller departments usually comes from "knowing what the court needs," information he reflected was given only during basic training and experience gathered on the job.

"I don't know of any training course on evidence officer training other than basic training courses," said Thornsberry.

To become an officer, six weeks — 640 hours — of basic training is required. After receiving official certification, officers are required to receive 40 hours of additional training, also called in-service training, in various fields each year until their retirement. However, how officers choose to spend is not mandated by any department, a fact that, after recent incidents, they may begin to regulate more closely.

"Usually, these departments don't mandate anything like that," said Greg Howard, director of training at the Criminal Justice Training Center. "A guy can go through his entire career and never get another evidence training course."

Howard explained that in-service courses offered at the Criminal Justice Training Department included additional training on gathering evidence.

The crime scene processing class, said Howard, offers training in fingerprinting; and the managing investigations class includes evidence collection and DNA evidence training. Other classes offered at the center included case preparation, death scene investigations, among a host of others.

Although these classes aren't department-mandated training, Howard said officers could opt to take them as part of their in-service training each year.

Continued from p1

Continued from p1

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Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

God gives us relations; thank God we can choose our friends.

-Ethal Mumford

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

Our View

One giant step

The West Virginia Port Authority has taken a giant step toward erasing past mistakes by voting unanimously to proceed with plans to build a regional airport in Lincoln County.

The airport would be halfway between Huntington and Charleston. No other single decision of 2001 is more important to the future economic health of this region.

The vote came after port authority members heard a new cost-benefit analysis that determined the regional airport is not only financially feasible but economically beneficial to the region. In fact, the study by ARP Consulting of Stone Mountain, Ga., estimates that the economic benefits of the airport would be 1.37 times the cost of building it.

The vote does not guarantee that the regional airport will be built. There still are a number of hurdles to be cleared, including securing funds not only to build the airport but highways to access it from Interstate 64.

However, a vote against the airport would have essentially killed the project for decades to come, assuring this region that it would have to try to meet the air transportation needs of the 21st Century with two hilltop airports built to serve the needs of the 1950s.

Wednesday's vote came after 12 years of study and debate, but hopes for a single airport for the two cities date back much further than that. Some 30 years ago talk of a regional airport ended when Huntington and Charleston officials could not reach agreement.

Officials in Charleston remain adamantly opposed to the Lincoln County airport, and one can expect those with a vested interest in Yeager Airport to continue to use every legal means available to try to thwart the regional airport.

That Wednesday's vote was unanimous despite the opposition from Charleston is a clear indication that members of the port authority are willing to stand up against that opposition.

Wednesday's vote was before a standing-room only crowd at Huntington's First Sentry Bank, with the crowd being overwhelmingly in support of the regional airport. A number of individuals — including Jim Purgerson, president of the Ashland Alliance, Ashland Economic Development Director Gail Melvin and Ashlander Catherine Mallay — spoke in favor of the airport.

Then there was the expected opposition from Kanawha County Commissioner Kent Carper, who objected to the fact that he had not seen the latest cost-benefit analysis prior to the meeting.

"If I could have seen that study, then we could have had a meaningful discussion today," he said.

Maybe, but Carper clearly said in a meeting in Ashland last year that he would never support the regional airport. It is difficult to imagine any study could alter that near-sighted view.

The regional airport should have been built years ago, but it is not too late to correct past mistakes. Any further delays in the construction of what we believe is the single greatest economic need for this region could make it too late.

— Ashland Daily Independent



Mary's Musings

Chasing dreams

Just as you guys gather 'round the fires, preparing to say goodbye to another year of your life, here I am getting ready to turn the page on yet another chapter in mine.

It almost doesn't seem real, that come Monday morning, I won't be sitting at my desk or searching the files at the courthouse for a late-breaking story. But it is real. I turned in my resignation about a month ago after deciding to devote more time to Biblical studies, my family, and, of course, college — the three things in life that mean the most to me.

When I applied for this job nearly a year ago, I, of course, had some apprehensions. I didn't know if I could do it, but I knew I was willing to try. To my surprise, I was accepted and invited into this little family here at the paper,

where I have since learned more about myself and people in the community than I ever dreamed of knowing. And I'm all the better for it. (I'm glad I didn't listen to my apprehensions.)

Ironically, in turning in my resignation, I again felt the same tinge of apprehension ... something that said I may be making the worst mistake of my life. Family and friends who've listened to me trying to make sense of it tell me I'm wrong. Should stay, they say. Wrong move. (Can I even make it financially?)

But even their advice and the dread I know I'll feel that first unemployed morning, not being a part of this, hasn't convinced me enough to change this pounding that tells me I must move on.

I don't know what's waiting on this path of mine. I have no definite answers as far as what will greet me a day, two days, a year down the road. Nothing is guaranteed, but then again, is it ever, really?

All that I do know is that I don't want to look back on my life 20 years from now and regret the fact that I didn't chase a couple of dreams along the way. That, after all, is the pounding that makes life worth living, right?

In case you guys didn't notice, there are some pretty amazing people here who bring you the news each week. Genuine, good people who love their families and show it with open arms. I fear the hardest part about leaving will be saying goodbye to those bonds formed between the headlines. I gotta say, it won't be the same without you guys being a part of my everyday life.

So, come Monday morning, when I raise out of bed, yes, I'll be thinking of you. And I'll probably still hold a few apprehensions about my unsupported decision. But I will be thanking God for the chance to get to know ya, everything that's happened in my life from then until now, and the opportunity to chase a couple of dreams that may or may not come true.

Good luck to you all. God bless and keep smiling.



MARYMUSIC

Guest Column

A legislative perspective on the Kentucky General Assembly

by JODY RICHARDS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

FRANKFORT — As most Kentuckians finish celebrating the holidays and ringing in the new year, the General Assembly is making the final preparations for the 2002 Regular Session, which begins Jan. 8 and lasts for 60 legislative days.

Legislators will use that time to sift through dozens of major issues, deciding on the best course for the state to take. While this is not easy under the best of circumstances, it will be especially difficult due to a budget forecast that expects only minimal growth for the next two years.

The majority of states are facing the same problem, many of them worse off

than we are. There are estimates that, by the end of the fiscal year, the combined shortfall could reach \$50 billion.

Gov. Patton has done a remarkable job of shielding essential services from budget cuts, especially elementary and secondary education, and we in the General Assembly are committed to maintaining that same philosophy. We may not be able to accomplish all we would like, but we will not backtrack on the tremendous strides the state has made the past decade.

While determining how to spend the state's finances will be the biggest decision to make during the session, it is far from the only one.

In light of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the anthrax-laced letters mailed since then, we will review our laws to see if anything needs to be done to further improve our safety and our response in case of an emergency.

We will have to re-district legislative seats to conform with the 2000 Census, which showed Kentucky now has more than 4 million people. This will likely be done during the first few weeks of the session, before the filing deadline for May's primary.

Agriculture and a variety of health concerns will benefit from the next two-year installment of the Phase I tobacco

settlement. Kentucky is slated to have \$244 million to spend, and if we follow the formula established in 2000, agriculture will get half, while the other half will be used to improve the health of our youngest and sickest Kentuckians. This money could not have come at a better time.

As many of you may recall, the House adopted legislation during the 2001 Regular Session that would have given Kentuckians the opportunity to cut back on unwanted telemarketing calls. We have a no-call list - around 110,000 people have already signed up for it - but it has too many loopholes to be as effective as the public has told us it would like. My hope is that, this year, we enact tougher guidelines into law.

Some of the other issues needing our attention include improving teacher salaries, finding ways to keep Kentucky clean without putting an undue burden on local governments, reforming certain aspects of Medicaid to keep its spiraling costs under control, assisting the equine industry as it weathers several hundred million dollars worth of losses due to the large number of foal deaths earlier this year, and helping communities manage their growth.

(See GUEST, page eight)

Letter Guidelines

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

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

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise 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.

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Kentucky Virtual University names CEO and CIO

FRANKFORT — Gordon Davies, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, announced the appointment of Daniel A. Rabuzzi as the chief executive officer of the two-year-old Kentucky Virtual University. Rabuzzi, appointed acting CEO in June, will also continue to serve as the council's vice president for economic initiatives.

"During the past six months, Daniel has improved the systems of the Kentucky Virtual University and the Kentucky Virtual Library. During this time the number of degree programs offered and the number of students enrolled has continued to increase," explained Davies.

Kentucky's popular cyber university has grown since opening its virtual doors in the fall of 1999. Today's enrollment is over 5,500 students in over 50 credit and non-credit programs. Students in 24 states and 10 foreign countries are enrolled in KYVU.

Kentucky Virtual University is targeting new markets statewide to promote access to online learning. They include partnerships with the

Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board to provide online learning for Kentucky educators and the Kentucky Department for Adult Education and Literacy to provide free access to online tutoring and curriculum in preparation for the GED tests.

"Daniel and the KYVU/KYVL staff continue to develop a sense for where the Kentucky market is in web-based postsecondary education," said Davies.

Before coming to the CPE in 1999 to head economic initiatives, Rabuzzi was a faculty member at Luther College in Iowa where he was in the pilot group for teaching history and English online. Earlier, he was a vice president at a multinational bank, based in New York and Norway. Rabuzzi holds degrees from Harvard, Tufts and Johns Hopkins.

In another appointment, Ling-yuh (Miko) Pattie, the founding director of the Kentucky Virtual Library, has been promoted to chief information officer at KYVU. In her new position, Pattie will be responsible for improving the KYVU's information technology infrastructure to better serve the online learning needs of Kentucky citizens. She will also continue as director of the KYVL.

Since 1996, Pattie has worked with library directors from public universities and hundred of librarians across the state to plan the Kentucky Virtual Library. Launched on Nov. 1, 1999, the KYVL provides free statewide information services to all Kentuckians from its website at www.kyvl.org. The Southeastern Library Network recently named the KYVL as the Outstanding Library Program of the Southeast.

In making the announcement, CEO Daniel Rabuzzi praised Pattie for building a virtual library

that is viewed as one of the best nationally. "Miko Pattie not only has the technology skills and leadership, but she is a visionary in online learning," said Rabuzzi. "Under her leadership, the KYVL has leveled the playing field to information resources for all Kentuckians," he added.

Pattie holds a master's of library science. She received the 2000 Outstanding Alumna Award from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky.

KYVU was formed by the

1997 General Assembly to help make Kentucky's postsecondary education more efficient, responsive and accessible to the state's citizens and employers. Students have free access to 24 hours a day

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ARC advances efforts to overcome digital divide in Appalachia

WASHINGTON — New "firepower" has been added to the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) drive to overcome the digital divide, through the Commission's formal adoption of a broad-based, collaborative program called Information Age Appalachia, agency officials announced today.

Unanimously agreed to by ARC Federal Co-Chairman Jesse L. White Jr.; States' Co-Chairman Paul E. Patton, governor of Kentucky; and representatives of the 12 other Appalachian governors, Information Age Appalachia embraces a strategy of public-private partnerships toward strengthening the telecommunications capacity of the Appalachian Region in four key areas:

- Facilitating greater access to broadband telecommunications infrastructure;
- Supporting community education and technology job training;
- Fostering wider adoption of e-commerce; and
- Promoting technology-sector job creation.

"This undertaking is as crucial today for Appalachia's long-term economic develop-

ment as has been the building of our highway system over the past three decades," said White. "Both infrastructures are critical to the success of the Region. We recognize it's daunting, but working together—federal and state, counties and local municipalities, private sector and nonprofit—we can bring the firepower needed to overcome the digital divide."

Patton said, "I am pleased to see the Commission's strong response to the need of ensuring residents of Appalachia have full access to the tools required to be competitive in the twenty-first century economy. It is critical to the area's future that the Region not be left behind on the information superhighway as it was on transportation highways."

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Ethel Stumbo

Ethel Stumbo, age 81, of Prestonsburg, Ky., died Friday, December 21, 2001, at her residence, after an extended illness.

She was born June 28, 1918, at Prestonsburg, a daughter of the late Taylor and Rhoda (Fitzpatrick) Stumbo. She was a member of the Lancer Baptist Church, the Prestonsburg Ladies Auxiliary, and the Eastern Star.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 23, 2001, at 1 p.m., from the Burke Funeral Home Chapel in Prestonsburg, Ky., with Pastor J.M. Sloce officiating.

Burial will follow in the Stumbo Cemetery at Stumbo Hollow in Prestonsburg, under direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Mae Samons Hayes

Mae Samons Hayes, age 81, of Belleville, Mi., formerly of Ypsilanti, Mi., formerly of Martin, Ky., passed away Wednesday, December 19, 2001, at the Borte Nursing Home, Ypsilanti, Mich.

She was born May 27, 1920, in Martin, Ky., the daughter of the late W.N. Samons and Maude Samons. She was a homemaker, a member of the Church of Christ, and the Eastern Star.

Survivors include one son, Lloyd Branham of Belleville, Mi.; one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Wilmer Branham; her second husband, Virgil Hayes; two brothers, Homer Samons and Sol Samons; two sisters, Jennie Samons and Delphia Lafferty.

Funeral services for Mae Samons Hayes will be conducted Sunday, December 23, 2001, at 3:00 p.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin, Ky., with the minister, Ronnie Samons, officiating.

Burial will follow in the W.N. Samons Cemetery, Martin, Ky., under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Collene Meade

Collene Meade, 49, of Harold, Ky., died Friday, December 21, 2001, following an extended illness.

Born on June 8, 1952, at Harold, Ky., she was the daughter of the late Willie and Anna Elliott Meade. She was a retired respiratory therapist and a member of the Lower Toler Church of Christ at Harold, Ky.

Survivors include four brothers, Duard Meade of Betsy Layne, Ky., Wendell Meade of Lancer, Ky., Gary Meade, Hubert Meade, both of Harold, Ky.; one sister, Sharon Gearheart of Harold, Ky.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Doyle Meade, Warren Meade, Heabert Meade and David Meade; one sister, Billie Sue Meade.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 24, 2001, at 12 noon, at the Lower Toler Church of Christ at Harold, Ky., with Buddy Ford officiating.

Burial was in the Meade Cemetery, Spurlock, Printer, Ky., under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin, Ky.

Visitation was at the Lower Toler Church of Christ at Harold.

(Paid obituary)

Homer J. Akers

Homer J. Akers, age 88, of Banner, Ky., husband of the late Josephine Hall Akers, passed away Thursday, December 20, 2001, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg, Ky., following an extended illness.

He was born August 14, 1913, in Banner, Ky., the son of the late Noah Akers and Vann E. Sturgill Akers. He was a retired powerhouse operator for LTV Steel Corporation, in Michigan.

Survivors include one son, Paul Akers of Banner, Ky.; two daughters, Patricia Richie of Lake Orion, Mi., Sylvia Allen of Howell, Mi., nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Elva Akers, Clifford Akers, and Earl Akers; six sisters, Bertha Hall, Emma Compton, Virdie Jones, Coosie Grant, Ona Rice and Gertie Akers.

Funeral services for Homer J. Akers will be conducted Sunday, December 23, at 1:00 p.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin, Ky., with the minister, Ronnie Samons, officiating.

Burial will follow in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel, Ky., under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home, Martin, Kentucky.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Grace Allen Damron

Grace Allen Damron, age 77, of Allen, Ky., widow of Jeffery J. Damron, passed away Friday, December 21, 2001, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg, Ky., following an extended illness.

She was born May 26, 1924, in Hueysville, Ky., the daughter of the late David Murph Allen and Josephine Bentley Allen. She was retired after several years with the Floyd County Clerks Office as deputy clerk, judge executive and the sheriff's office.

Survivors include two sons, Robert Allen Damron of Allen, Ky., Michael Ray Damron of Banner, Ky.; one daughter, Melinda Kathryn Harrison of El Paso, Tx.; one brother, Bill Allen of Wittensville, Ky.; three sisters, Dorothy Marshall of Allen, Ky., Byrle Shrum of Lookout Mt. Ga., Patricia Jones of West Liberty, Ky.; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Grace Allen Damron will be conducted Sunday, December 23, 2001, at 11:00 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home, Martin, Ky., with the clergyman, James Harmon, officiating.

Burial will follow in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, Ivel, Ky., under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home, Martin, Kentucky.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Pallbearers: Sean Damron, David Jones, Mark Bustle, Chris Damron, Wilburn Samons, and David Woods.

(Paid obituary)

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Study finds school-associated violent deaths rare

Although school-associated violent deaths remain rare events, they have occurred often enough for public health experts to begin to detect patterns and identify potential risk factors according to a new study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in conjunction with the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice.

The study published in the December 5th issue of the Journal of the American Medical

Association will help school educators, public health officials, law enforcement agencies, parents and others plan and implement better violence prevention efforts in schools.

"We believe that student homicides and suicides that occur in and around schools can be prevented," said Mark Anderson, M.D. of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and lead author of the study. "Effective violence prevention strategies have

been identified, and the information in this report may assist school administrators and faculty work for safer school communities."

The study examined 220 U.S. events that results in 253 school-associated violent deaths between 1994 and 1999.

Researchers found several emerging trends.

■ School-associated violent deaths represent less than one percent of all homicides and suicides that occur among school-aged children. Still, when an event occurs, it is a significant cause of alarm and this study begins to identify concerns.

■ Troubled teens often give potential signals such as writing a note or a journal entry, or they make a threat. In over half the incidents that were examined, some type of signal was given. While CDC doesn't profile specific examples of these signals, it encourages educators and parents to be vigilant and to take the appropriate actions to assist teens exhibiting these behaviors.

■ While the rate of school-associated violent deaths events has decreased significantly during the study time period, the number of multiple-victim events has increased. It is too early to determine why this is occurring and a follow-on study will continue to examine this trend to help educators and public health officials better understand the problem.

■ More than fifty percent of all school-associated violent death events occurred during transition times during the school day - either at the beginning or end of the day or during lunch-time. Researchers suggest that efforts to reduce crowding, increase supervision, and develop plans for handling disputes may reduce the likelihood that a conflict or injury might occur.

■ Homicide perpetrators were far more likely than homicide victims to have expressed previous suicidal behaviors or had a history of criminal charges; been a gang member; associated with high-risk peers or considered a loner; or used alcohol or drugs on a weekly basis. Among students, homicide perpetrators were twice as likely than homicide victims to have been bullied by peers.

■ The rate of school-associated violent deaths was over twice as high for male students.

The findings do indicate the need for routine surveillance data of school-associated violent deaths, which would assist state public health, education and criminal justice agencies examine trends and develop prevention programs

that are effective for their communities.

"Our nation's schools are among the safest place for children to be - fewer than one percent of the homicides and suicides among school-aged children occur in and around schools," said Bill Modzeleski, director of the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program.

"But, there are many things that school's and communities can do to make them safer - including watching for signals that precede violent outburst, paying attention to threats - including threats of suicide and learning to recognize and respond to bullying behavior. This valuable study makes clear that these should be part of each school's comprehensive violence prevention strategy."

"It is important to remember that school-associated violent deaths are rare, but complex events," said Thomas Feucht, PhD, of the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. "There are no simple solutions; schools and communities need to coordinate their efforts to develop and implement effective violence prevention efforts that address risks to young people at school, at home, and in their neighborhoods."

Strategies to prevent youth violence, which include social and resolution skills, mentoring, and family-based approaches, are outlined in CDC's Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action.



The last president to be born a British subject was William Henry Harrison, born in 1773.

Codell elected to leadership position in National Transportation Association

FRANKFORT — James C. Codell, III, Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has been named Vice President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Codell was elected to the position by his peers at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas this week. "Transportation in Kentucky and across the nation is facing some real challenges in the coming year," Secretary Codell said. "I look forward to confronting these issues head on as we strive for a safe, efficient and environmentally sound transportation system for the Commonwealth and the nation."

In addition to his duties as vice president, Codell will also serve as AASHTO's Chairman of the Reauthorization Committee for 2002. Made up of senior transportation policy advisors from all 50 states, the committee will focus on trans-

portation issues of national importance for the reauthorization of TEA-21, the transportation equity act for the 21st Century. "Our role is to develop and articulate the AASHTO policy for reauthorization and transportation issues and coordinate with national stakeholder organizations," Codell said.

Secretary Codell has been active in AASHTO since joining the administration of Governor Paul Patton in 1996. Additionally, Secretary Codell is serving as Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Environment for AASHTO. Brad Mallory, President of AASHTO said, "Under the leadership of Jim Codell we have established AASHTO's Center for Environmental Excellence. This program is an essential element of our strategy to promote and encourage strong environmental stewardship in all 50 states."

Secretary Codell will assume the presidency of AASHTO in the fall of 2002.

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As attitudes change, profits increase

FRANKFORT — Graded feeder cattle sales held over the past seven weeks have put additional profits in the pockets of Kentucky producers. Participating farmers are clearing an average of \$5 to \$6 per hundredweight in additional profits by selling their calves through CPH-45 (Certified Pre-

conditioned for Health) sales. "We're seeing a change in attitude as more and more producers are asking what the buyer wants and are turning out that product," said Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith. "CPH sales allow small cattle producers to market similar calves cooperatively, resulting

in better prices." CPH sales were held in Paris, Lexington, Hopkinsville, Russellville, and Owensboro in November and December. Additional CPH sales will be held during the first two months of the new year in Irvington, Monticello, Maysville, Owensboro, and Hopkinsville.

Even with the slowing economy and a softer cattle market this past fall, producers who participated in the sales realized some substantial price benefits for marketing their calves in this program. "We added a lot of value to some feeder calves sold in Hopkinsville," said Warren Beeler, a livestock grad-

er with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. "Some CPH heifers sold for as much as \$90 more per head over like cattle that sold in the Pennyrile area the same week." "This is our second year in Paris marketing calves through CPH sales, and it's a credit to our product and to our producers that many of last year's buyers returned to buy calves again this year," said Glenn Mackie, Bourbon County Extension agent for agriculture and natural resources. "We expected a high level of interest from the buyers because we knew how last year's calves performed in the feedlots. This program is creating strong name recognition."

Commissioner Smith said. As a result of these efforts, Kentucky cattle producers will sell dozens of tractor-trailer loads of high-quality feeder cattle to Midwestern buyers. For calves to qualify for CPH sales, they must be owned by the producer for at least 60 days and weaned a minimum of 45 days before selling. They must be trained to eat from a bunk and drink water from a trough. All calves must be dehorned and healed, and males must be castrated and healed. Calves must be dewormed and vaccinated.

The sales are a cooperative effort between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, and local stockyards. "These CPH sales wouldn't be a success if it weren't for Extension agents, stockyards owners, KCA, and KDA staffs all working together to educate producers and to help them add value to their cattle,"

Kentucky Department of Agriculture staff, along with Extension staff members, and KCA staff, inserted electronic ear tags into the CPH calves sold in Paris in 2000 and again this year. After the calves were finished and slaughtered, producers were given information showing how their calves graded and yielded. "The calves we sold last year performed extremely well on feed, and had outstanding health," Mackie said. "A high percentage of the cattle were in the choice and prime quality grades."

Mud Creek

Needy families who participated this year were treated to a "good home cooked meal", one Hall says is a rarity in some homes throughout Eastern Kentucky. Volunteers cooked 30 turkeys, 25 hams and pounds upon pounds of green beans, mashed potatoes and homemade dressing. More than 1,000 fruit baskets were distributed, as well as thousands of toys and clothes that were given to all who were willing to fill their bags. The Mud Creek Senior Citizens

Center also distributed food trays to 33 homebound residents.

"I've learned from being with the clinic, that sometimes people don't have everything they need for Christmas," said Hall, pausing now and again to speak with residents carrying food trays who greeted her with a "thank you." "It makes me happy to help. I've always loved helping people, and I try my best to help in any way I can."

Volunteers, supervised by Prestonsburg Elementary Cook

Pat Goble and Hall, were at the school from 8 a.m. until 1 a.m. Friday preparing for the meal, said Hall, and were more than ready to open the doors at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, a few hours earlier than expected, as several people were already lined up at the door at 4:30 a.m.

Although Hall's determination is a substantial factor in the success of this annual event, she remains modest, pointing out the fact that it couldn't be done without help from those who pitch in

to help.

"We have a lot of friends in Louisville, Ohio, West Virginia and Burea who donate toys, clothes, shoes, fruit and candy," said Hall. "People like Earl Damron (Bureau minister) and the law judges and attorneys in Floyd and Pike Counties, they make this possible. Without them, none of this would be possible."

Hall said she became worried after the September 11 attacks that people who donated annually for the event would not be able to contribute as much, a worry she says, thankfully, didn't come true.

The meal itself costs nearly \$5,500. This year, \$3,000 worth of fruit and candy was purchased and distributed to needy families.

"I only got to sleep about 4 hours last night," said Hall. "But I'm so high on happiness, it didn't have any trouble getting out of bed this morning."

Happiness, said Hall, that bloomed by having the chance to visit with people like Cora Handhoe, 9-year old granddaughter of Marge Handshoe of Mudcreek, who has visited the clinic for several years.

Cora "fell in love" with a nurse doll given to Hall several years ago by the Rainbow Girls, a Christian group in Ohio, as a Christmas present. When she realized how much Cora wanted the doll, Hall gave it to her.

During dinner Saturday, Cora informed Hall that she was still "taking good care of her little nurse doll."

Continued from p1

Continued from p4

UK economists foresee slow growth in Kentucky for 2002

by DAN ADKINS

LEXINGTON — Kentucky's economy will experience slow growth during 2002 as the state begins its recovery from the current recession, economists at the University of Kentucky said today.

The state's economy will grow by 1.8 percent next year, with total employment rising by a weak 0.9 percent, said Mark Berger, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at UK's Gatton

College of Business and Economics. However, growth will accelerate during 2002's fourth quarter, setting the stage for moderate growth in 2003 and 2004, Berger said.

He noted that even with the economic slowdown prompted by the recession, Kentucky still seems primed to continue a recent trend of exceeding the performance in the national economy. An example is in the national forecast for total employment to rise by an anemic 0.3 percent.

Meanwhile, total personal income should grow by 2.4 percent, equal the growth rate expected for wage and salary earnings.

As in previous years, most increases in employment are

expected in the services and retail trade sectors. Services industry employment should add 12,000 jobs, bringing its growth rate to 2.4 percent. Retail trade should add 4,600 new jobs, an increase of 1.3 percent. Industries facing likely job losses include the manufacturing sector, which is expected to lose 2,000 jobs in 2002, a 0.7 percent rate of loss. The main industries facing losses are apparel, textiles and tobacco products.

Kentucky's coal industry — which was predicted to lose jobs in the 2001 forecast — actually added a few hundred jobs this year, Berger said. In 2002, the forecast calls for the industry to lose about 600 jobs, or 4 percent of its total employment.

Guest

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It's the holiday season with Ali

by BILLY REED
TIMES COLUMNIST

Happy holidays to everyone.

Muhammad Ali and Paul "Bear" Bryant might seem to be an odd coupling.

They had different colored skin, different religious views, and competed in different sports. Yet both rose from humble roots to

become American sports icons.

This holiday season, both are the subjects of video productions that explore

their careers and their impact on society. The movie, "Ali," starring Will Smith, opened nationally on Christmas Day and has received rave reviews. Then, on Dec. 29, CBS will air a documentary about Bryant that will be the lead-in to the Kentucky-Louisville basketball game in Rupp Arena.

I suppose I'll see the "Ali" movie at some point, although I'm usually disappointed by portrayals of events and people that I have experienced personally. I first became aware of Ali, then Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., in the late 1950s, when he was a regular on the "Tomorrow's Champions" show on WAVE-TV in Louisville.

I met him in 1966, when he was in Louisville to fight an exhibition in Freedom Hall. I watched every one of his fights that was televised on network or closed-circuit TV. As sports editor of The Courier-Journal, I covered all of his fights from 1977 through '81, when he finally retired after losing to Trevor Berbick in the Bahamas.

In 1978, before his second fight against Leon Spinks, I spent a week at his training camp in Deer-Lake, Pa. He let me watch him pray to Allah at 6 a.m., jog with him while he did his roadwork, and interview him as he was getting rubdowns.

He told his entourage, "This writer is from my hometown in Louisville and I want you to treat him with respect." They did. It was an unforgettable experience.

(See REED, page three)

(See REED, page three)

(See REED, page three)

Football

'The Jerry Claiborne Way' to be dedicated in the spring

TIMES STAFF REPORT

In the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 11, it was decided that Sports Center Drive will be renamed 'The Jerry Claiborne Way' in honor of the former UK football coach and student-athlete.

(See SPRING, page three)

Basketball

15th Region records

Boys

Paintsville	7-4
S. Valley	6-1
Sheldon Clark	5-2
South Floyd	5-4
Pike Co., Central	4-2
Allen Central	4-3
Prestonsburg	4-3
Elkhorn City	4-4
Belfry	3-1
Johnson Central	3-5
Millard	2-4
Pikeville	2-5
Betsy Layne	2-5
Phelps	1-3
Feds Creek	1-4
Magoffin Co.	1-5
Piarist	0-7

(See RECORD, page three)

FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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- ▶ Race series e-mail • B3
- ▶ 15th Region Girls' Records • B3
- ▶ Lifestyles • C1

Sports Editor:
Steve LeMaster
Phone: (806) 896-6506
Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com



photo by
Jamie Howell

P'burg's Nick Jamerson (40) looked to make a move around a Sheldon Clark defender.

Blackcat rally falls short

by JAMIE HOWELL
SPORTS WRITER

All good things come to an end. Such was the case Friday night at Sheldon Clark as the Prestonsburg Blackcats four game win streak ended by falling to the Cardinals 83-74. Prestonsburg came into the contest riding a hot streak that saw the Cats open the year 0-2, but had since reeled off four consecutive

wins and looked to be surging at the right time. The Blackcats have used several different combinations in their lineup this season, and seem to have the most success with a bigger lineup in the game. Sheldon Clark has a greatly improved basketball team as well with two players standing at least 6-7 on its roster.

The Cards also have an excellent

(See SHORT, page two)



Matt Stone (42)

- Possible Thunder Ridge stop not yet added or commented on -



UDTRA dirt track action is always highly contested. It is still not known whether the series will return to Thunder Ridge Raceway in the new year.

New events added to '02 UDTRA schedule

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

United Dirt Track Racing Association officials have announced six more events to its 2002 UDTRA Pro DirtCar Series schedule. This brings the working UDTRA 2002 schedule up to 36 confirmed dates, with 14 events to be announced in the near future, and two Open dates. However, the schedule is yet to include Thunder Ridge Raceway.

UDTRA stopped in Prestonsburg at Thunder Ridge last spring and had a successful, competitive race as Grayson's Jackie Boggs went away with the \$10,000 paycheck.

Neither UDTRA or Thunder Ridge officials could be reached for comment.

Thunder Ridge promoter Brad Martin had said the UDTRA officials were pleased with last year's race. The

two, Thunder Ridge and UDTRA, could once again hook up for a race in the new year.

The Dakota State Fair Speedway in



■ Scott Bloomquist

Huron, SD returns to the UDTRA schedule for the third straight season with a \$10,000-to-win main event on May 20. Many UDTRA fans, competitors and

vendors requested the return to Huron, stating they enjoyed the trip and that the citizens and merchants of the central South Dakota town have made them feel do welcome.

Macon Speedway in Macon, Ill. will be a new venue for the UDTRA Pro DirtCar Series. The one-fourth-mile high-banked dirt oval will host the series on June 17 with a \$10,000-to-win main event. The Macon, Ill. will begin the first of two Midwest swings for the UDTRA Pro DirtCar Series.

Raceway 7 in Conneaut, Ohio returns to the UDTRA schedule for the third straight season. Raceway 7 will host a \$10,000-to-win main event on July 5. KC Raceway in Chillicothe, Ohio has added a second date to the 2002 UDTRA schedule on July 6 with a

(See RIDGE, page three)

Raiders get second round win in Westminster tourney

Tyler Hall shoots South Floyd past Orlando team

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Coach Henry Webb saw his team go into the halftime of its first game in the Ft. Lauderdale Beach Holiday Classic with a lead. The Raiders, playing in their first Florida tourney in school history, went on to drop the opening round game to a very capable Deerfield Beach team. The setback dropped the Raiders to the loser's bracket. A date with another Florida team, Orlando's The First Academy, gave South Floyd a chance to get a win and it did.

Junior Tyler Hall hit back-to-back three-point shots in the fourth quarter to lift South Floyd's comeback win. Hall, a forward, set a school record with eight threes en route to a team-high 24 points. Another junior, Michael Hall, hit for 18 points for the Raiders.

Steve Newman scored a game-high 29 points to the Royals (6-3).

South Floyd (5-4) trailed 22-16 at the end of the first quarter but held a 36-35 lead at the half. The First Academy rallied back to outscore the Raiders 27-20 in the third period before succumbing to a hot-shooting South Floyd team in the final stanza where Web's club outscored its Florida foe 20-10.

Josh Johnson and Rusty Tackett added 10 points apiece for the Raiders. Tackett also pulled down eight rebounds.

Bigman Charles Ray scored seven and Joe Skeans and Vincent Klueger scored three

(See RAIDERS, page three)

Where do Floyd County teams fit in All 'A' mix?

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

In order to advance to the All 'A' State tournament you must first win your region's All 'A' Tournament. And in some instances, that is much easier said than done. Such is the case in the

15th Region boys' basketball tourney.

Allen Central will host the 15th Region All 'A' Classic boys' basketball Tournament. The Runnin' Rebels are defending champions, but that's no guarantee that they'll get back to Richmond and back to the state

tournament. It's hard to repeat in the All 'A' Classic, just as it is in regular regional tournament play. Competition is stiff, and it doesn't hurt to have some luck along the way.

Floyd County teams Allen

(See TEAM, page three)

USPF Ky. State Powerlifting Championships

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2001 USPF Kentucky State Powerlifting Championships & Open Bench Press will be held Saturday, Jan. 19, 2002 at the Pikeville Area Family YMCA, Bob Amos Drive, Pikeville.

Weight-in session No. 1 will take place Friday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Session 2 will take place Saturday morning from 7:30 to

9:30 a.m. Equipment check at weigh-in, a one-piece suit is required for all lifts.

Format: squat, bench press and deadlift.

Three awards will be handed out for each weight class, both full meet and bench press.

Weight classes include 114, 123, 132, 148, 165, 181, 198, 220,

(See STATE, page THREE)

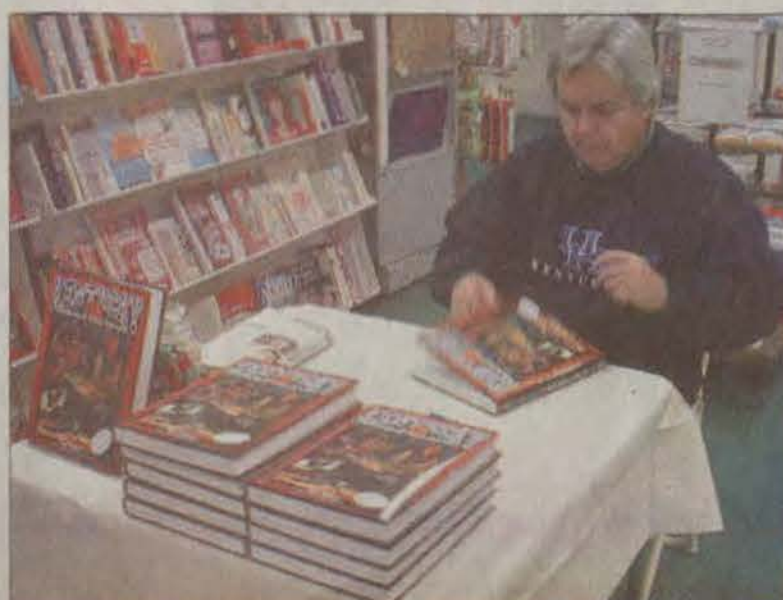


photo by Steve LeMaster

University of Kentucky Basketball Encyclopedia author Tom Wallace signed a copy of his book Friday afternoon at Readmore Bookstore in Prestonsburg.

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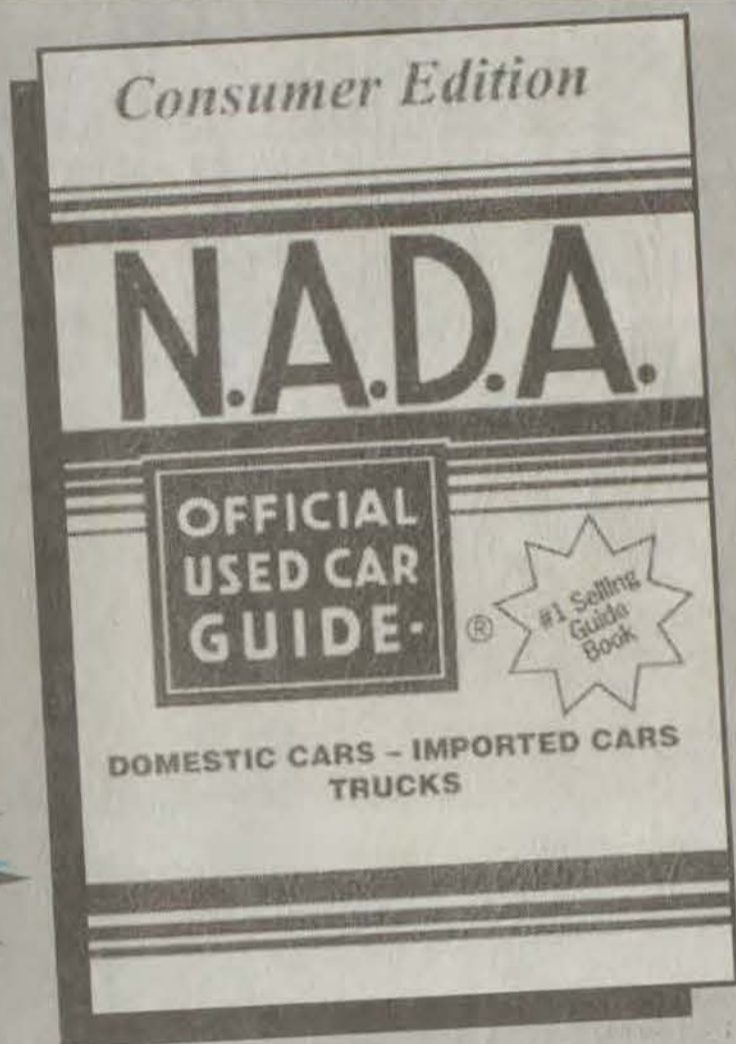
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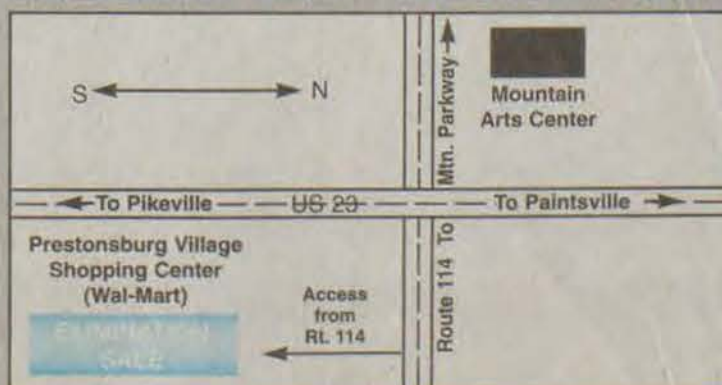
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Business/Professions

Firststar investments and insurance take U.S. Bancorp name

Firststar Investment Services and Firststar Insurance Services are now U.S. Bancorp Investments and U.S. Bancorp Insurance Services. These are the first business lines to make the name change from Firststar to U.S. Bancorp since the merger of the two financial institutions in February. Operating as independent, wholly-owned subsidiaries of U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), these two divisions are working to build the best bank-based retail brokerage and insurance operation in America.

U.S. Bancorp Investments and Insurance has the capacity, capability, resources and expertise to deliver the investment and insurance products and services our customers want," says Steven Short, head of U.S. Bancorp Investments and Insurance. "The recent marriage of brokerage and insurance will further enhance our ability to meet all of the customer's needs in a single point of contact." The name change, which took effect on December 1, means while customers may bank at a Firststar branch, they will now complete investment and insurance transactions with

U.S. Bancorp Investments or U.S. Bancorp Insurance Services. Throughout this transaction, customers will continue to receive outstanding service from the same people they have come to know and trust over the years. Account numbers will remain the same for all customers. U.S. Bancorp Investments customers will continue to receive their same brokerage statement and can access their brokerage accounts online.

U.S. Bancorp Investments provides full-service, professional financial solutions inside U.S. Bank and Firststar branches. Currently, almost 400 dedicated financial consultants and 1,500 financial specialists are available to discuss customers' goals, assess their current financial situations and determine their comfort with risk in order to provide customized financial plans to suit their needs. U.S. Bancorp will continue to grow this business as it hires more financial consultants in the western states.

U.S. Bancorp Investments has experienced doubled-digit sales growth in 2001 in spite of unstable market and economic conditions. U.S. Bancorp Investments is on track to sell almost \$2 billion in annuity and mutual fund products by year-end. These results are in addition to the strong sales of investment products such as stocks, bonds and options. U.S. Bancorp Investments, coupled with U.S. Bancorp Insurance, is a significant contributor to

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PRESTONSBURG—Neat, clean 3-bedroom ranch with large yard. Close to Rt. 80 & US 23 intersection. (107120). Call Trent Nairn.

PRESTONSBURG—3-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-story cedar home with all city utilities available. (106889). For more information, call Trent Nairn.

POTTS BRANCH—Beautiful 3-level home. 3 bedrooms, 1.75 baths, den w/fireplace, and lots of decking for entertainment. Beautiful landscaping. (106908). Call Stephanie McDonald.

ALLEN—4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors throughout. Nice front porch, cherry cabinets, and patio. (104720). Call Jo Bentley.

GOBLE BRANCH—150 x 200 lot for your new home or doublewide. Priced to sell. (106947). Call Lynette Fitzler.

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LOTS AND LAND
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SMALL MINI-FARM. Convenient location. 2 nice bottoms plus hillside. P-107051

PSC issues order on BellSouth's proposed unbundled network rates

FRANKFORT - Following a lengthy investigation, the Kentucky Public Service Commission today issued an order establishing unbundled network element rates for BellSouth. The rates approved today by the commission set the amount BellSouth will charge competitors for use of portions of its network. The rates approved today are based on BellSouth's cost of providing access to competitors. In most cases, these rates will be lower than the rates BellSouth was previously charging competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) for use of its network.

The commission believes this will enhance competition and encourage growth in the number of CLECs offering local exchange services in Kentucky. The order also establishes three geographic zones in the state to reflect cost differences among wire centers. These zones were determined by combining wire centers that have similar costs. For example, Zone One, which is largely the Louisville calling area, also includes Danville, Maysville, Owensboro and Paducah. The order is available on the PSC Website at www.psc.state.ky.us.



City consultant receives Mary Kay 'career car' in recognition of outstanding business performance

Christine Layne, a Mary Kay Independent Sales Director, is on the road to success with Mary Kay, a beauty products distribution company. Layne recently earned the use of a new Pontiac Grand Am, her official Mary Kay "career car." Layne was provided with the car in recognition of her outstanding sales and team building performance. Layne recently took possession of her car at Music-Carter in Prestonsburg. Mary Kay provides women

with unparalleled opportunity for career and personal fulfillment. Approximately 750,000 women in 37 markets around the world have discovered the advantages of owning their own business: financial independence, flexibility and career growth. Layne resides in Dana, with her husband, Bryan, and their two year old son, Logan. For more information on a Mary Kay career or to purchase Mary Kay products, call Layne at (606) 478-4889.

Fall Is a Grand Time on the Trail

Fall is one of the most wonderful times of the year in Alabama. So come celebrate the crisp days and postcard sunsets on the **ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL**. With eight sites and 378 championship holes across the state, there's one within driving range of wherever you are.

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U.S. General Services Administration

Snow cream remembered

by CLYDE PACK

How in the world can something be so good and hurt so bad?

But that sure was the case when I was a kid and would swallow a big spoonful of snow cream. There's probably a scientific name for what would happen, but I don't know what it is. All I know is that when the sudden coldness would freeze the roof of my mouth it would give me a headache the likes of which I'd never experienced before... or since, except once when I bought a big orange slush.

Anyway, what prompted this particular memory of my winter days as a kid in an Eastern Kentucky coal camp was an article I came across in a newspaper a few days ago that gave the recipe (or at least a recipe, since there seems to be several) for snow cream.

Actually, it was my older sister, Mary Jean, who would begin the process by gathering up a bowlful of new-fallen snow. Her favorite collection spot was the top of a little lean-to-

(See POISON, page two)

Refreshing food of the gods

FROM THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

After weeks of holiday desserts, a simple dish of oranges suddenly seems like heaven—or at least the food of heaven. Ambrosia is an old-fashioned Southern fruit dessert or salad. The name is from Greek and Roman mythology and means "food of the gods." But this dish with the celestial name is really a down-to-earth dessert starring oranges and a little coconut.

In the South, the dish is often put on holiday tables as a refreshing alternative to heavier fare. In the post-holiday season, ambrosia can be a light dessert or a side dish for a hearty winter meal. Food writer Nathalie Dupree writes, "We Southerners always add it to Thanksgiving and Christmas menus to allow us to have the illusion that we're not in too much trouble with our diets, because after all, 'We only had ambrosia for dessert!'"

The key to a successful ambrosia is good oranges. The better the oranges, the better the ambrosia. Sweet, seedless navel oranges are the best choice. When choosing oranges, pick fruit that is firm and heavy, with no mold or spongy areas. They don't have to be bright orange—that could be from food coloring. Oranges can be stored at a cool room temperature for a day or two, but afterward, they should be refrigerated, for up to two weeks. Navel oranges are big and have tight skins, so peeling them can take some elbow grease. After peeling the oranges, try to remove as much of the white pith as you can with a paring knife.

Oranges are an excellent

(See FOOD, page three)

Lifestyles

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- ▶ Births • C3

December 26, 2001

SECTION • C

Features Editor: Kathy J. Prater
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www.floydcountytimes.com

photo by Mary Music

Kristen Griffith was all smiles at the exhibit on Thursday as she stood over one of her several pictures on display.



The Children's Museum of Art gives kids a new look on life!

Art Snow



These elementary students looked over a collection of colorful dragon drawings on exhibit.

photo by Mary Music

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

C

As an artist and instructor, Ralph Clark, who founded the Children's Museum of Art Program, says there is nothing comparable to

watching children grow artistically.

"From day one, I never thought of children as 6-, 7-, or 10-year olds," said Clark. "To me, they've always been artists. It is a privilege working with children because they are so talented. Hopefully, I can pass on to them some of my skills and knowledge."

Since the onset of the school calendar year, students have met once a week with Clark, who began his career as an art instructor some 30 years ago, at the Floyd County Cooperative Extension office.

Elementary and junior classes are held after school at the Cooperative Extension building. In his instruction, classes emphasizes pencil, ink and water color drawing, as well as basic sketching techniques including line, form and color. Students also explore form and motion in an artistic light. Other focuses of the class touch

children's "natural creative ability." According to Clark, students learn to develop their own style of drawing using their imagination and creative ability which comes natural to them at an elementary age.

"I know how much art means to me as a person and an artist myself," said Clark. "I learned from the children how much art already is or becomes more important in their lives."

Students currently enrolled in the class held a public exhibit on Thursday, with pen, pencil, watercolors and sculptures decorating the tables at the Extension office. For many of the elementary students, said Clark, the exhibit was a first and will provide a new sense of how powerful art can be in their lives.

"It's fabulous, watching the expressions on these kids and parents who came out to the see the work," said Clark. "They will come back from Christmas break with a new prospective. This has a profound effect on them. They'll become more serious artists."

Clark says he teaches his children that in order become successful artists, they must first try to learn. Secondly, he says, they need to find confidence in

(See SHOW, page three)

Small World

Christmas gift

In early December I wrote about my husband being a big spender. He had asked several times what I wanted for Christmas, and I decided he wanted to know my request so he could explain all the reasons I didn't need that particular thing.

As the days were counting down and there was still nothing under our tree with my name on it, he asked once again, and I surprised him by saying I didn't really want anything. That not only surprised him—it shocked him.

I was starting out to do some last minute shopping and he reached me his Visa card. "Here," he told me, "take this card and

choose yourself a little something for me."

I knew he liked to buy elaborate cards so I asked a department store clerk if she would find a real nice card for me, only I didn't want to read the sentiment until he gave it to me. "Just find one," I asked, "that has a nice message including, 'Merry Christmas to my wife.'" She was glad to help.

He hasn't received his Visa statement yet, but he did like the card. And the fact that it came with a nice all weather coat made me like it even better.

Big Anniversary

Bob and Virginia Derossett who live on Bull Creek had a very special anniversary

last Thursday, December 20, celebrating sixty years of being married. They and their two children Matthew and Jennifer, have been one of Floyd County's finest families. Active church workers and solid citizens, they have made many contributions to our area.

For many years Bob operated B & D Car Sales in Allen. Then he bought the Ford dealership in Prestonsburg where he worked until his retirement. The Derossetts have a lot of friends in the area, and I know many of them join me in saying, "Congratulations!"

Bob, the car dealer, and my husband, the boat dealer, were fellow business friends who appreciated each other. Once Walter

sold him a boat, an open cruiser, to ride around on the lake. The first time Virginia went with her husband for a ride, the front of the boat lifted out of the water in the process of planing off, and it gave her a scare.

She said, "Bob, if you want us to have a boat we both like, I'd rather you got a houseboat."

The following day, Bob came by Hall Marine, looked at a nice houseboat and asked what kind of trade he could get between it and the cruiser. They barely took time to share a few stories before the trade was made and Virginia had her houseboat.

I didn't know any woman's wishes would be granted that quickly.



AILEEN HALL
Contributing
Writer

Weddings



Queen-Gilliam to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Wetzel and Denice Queen, of Langley, are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Nikki, to David Gilliam, the son of Sharie Phillips, of Garrett, and Curt Gilliam, of Hindman. The couple will be joined in holy matrimony in a wedding ceremony that will take place on Friday, December 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the Maytown Methodist Church. The gracious custom of an open church wedding will be observed.

New Arrivals

Highlands New Arrivals

Dec. 04, 2001

A Daughter, Keshia Marie Howard to Bobby Joe & Marcella Howard.

Dec. 05, 2001

A Daughter, Jacklyn Brianna Lashae Collinsworth to Brian & Tabatha Collinsworth.

Dec. 06, 2001

A Son, Samuel Geane Shiloh Kelly to Melissa Ann Kelly.

Dec. 06, 2001

A Daughter, Jacquette Raeann Triplett to Amber & Scottie Triplett.

Dec. 07, 2001

A Son, Richard Alexander Watkins to Angela & Richard Watkins.

Dec. 08, 2001

A Son, Jacob Tyler Ray Jarrell to Michelle & Joseph Jarrell.

Dec. 09, 2001

A Son, Jacob Ethan Hale to James & Crystal Hale.

Dec. 09, 2001

A Daughter, Chelsie Madison Fitch Paul & Jessica Fitch.

Dec. 09, 2001

A Daughter, Caeli Grace Heintzclman to Jessica & Cory Heintzclamsn.

Dec. 10, 2001

A Son, Hunter Keith Ousley to Gary & Jennifer Ousley

Dec. 10, 2001

A Daughter, Hayley Ranees Spriggs to Angelia May.

Dec. 10, 2001

A Daughter, Lindsay Mae Evans to Gary & Shirley Evans.

Getting started in the stock market

If you've been wary of investing in securities consider this: over the long run, stocks consistently outperform other investment vehicles. Although there is no foolproof formula for achieving success in the stock market, learning the basics will help ensure that you get started on the right foot, reports the Kentucky Society of CPAs. The following should serve as a framework for first-time investors.

risks and rewards of each of these kinds of companies vary. For example, large caps may cost more, but there is typically less risk of company failure. The potential for growth with mid-caps and small caps is greater than for large companies, but the smaller the company, typically the higher the risk.

Learn what to look for

You can look at a company's ESP (earnings per share) to see if it is making money. A company with an increasing EPS quarter after quarter and year after year is typically healthy.

One of the many analytical tools employed by stock researchers is a stock's price-to-earning (P/E) ratio. The ratio is arrived at by dividing last year's EPS into the stock's current price. P/E is a convenient way to compare stocks in the same industry or to evaluate one stock's performance compared to the market as a whole. Keep in mind that there's no perfect P/E ratio. If the ratio is high, it can mean that a company is overpriced. On the other hand, a small, rapidly growing company can have a high P/E yet still be an attractive investment. The P/E ratio is usually part of a stock's quotation.

The value of mutual funds

Many individuals don't have the time to research individual stocks themselves or the funds necessary to adequately diversify their holdings. Investing in mutual funds can help overcome these challenges. A mutual fund is simply a group of stocks and/or bonds or a combination of the two chosen by a professional manager to meet specific investment goals. Most funds diversify their holdings by buying a wide variety of investments in particular areas.

You can benefit from mutual funds in several ways. First, you will have some knowledgeable working for you. Secondly, you can diversify with limited capital. And thirdly, in many instances, you can invest relatively small amounts in these funds—sometimes as little as \$1,000.

Finally CPAs point out that it is important to keep in mind that economic and other forces can impact the return on any stock investment you make—whether you choose to purchase stocks individually or through a mutual fund.

Don't plunge in without a plan

The first and foremost step is to evaluate your investment needs. Before purchasing stocks, you need a clear understanding of your investment time frame and your tolerance for risk. For example, if you plan to buy a new home or finance a child's college education within the next few years, investing in stocks may be unwise. When it comes to risk, don't assume more than you can afford in the hope of striking it rich.

Educate yourself

Once you are comfortable with your investment philosophy and risk profile, educate yourself about the stock market. Newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal, Barron's, and Investors Business Daily are good places to start, along with monthly periodicals such as Forbes, Fortune and Business Week. All are excellent sources of financial and company data. Numerous financial web sites also provide the latest investment information, while many financial-oriented portals offer informative articles. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the watchdog of the industry, offers comprehensive educational resources at sec.gov/oieal.htm.

Strive to diversify

One of the best ways to minimize investment risk is to diversify the stocks you hold. Don't make the mistake of risking everything on a single company or one business sector. Instead, vary your holdings by industry—such as finance, manufacturing, utilities, and pharmaceutical—and by size or what's called "market capitalization."

Large caps are companies with capitalizations of more than \$5 billion, mid-caps are those with capitalization of more than 1.5 billion and small caps have capitalization of less than 1.5 billion. The

Show

themselves, a trait he says grows with each new lesson in the program, which is collectively funded through the cooperative Extension 4-H office and the Floyd County Public library.

A painting and sculpture major at the School of Art, Houston, Tx., Clark began living his dream of hosting a special contemporary art workshop for children over 30 years ago at the Houston Museum of Fine Art. From there, he moved and taught classes in New Mexico, Jamaica and parts of the United States. Before moving to the Extension office, he held classes for children at Prestonsburg Community College and Archer Park.

Several students enrolled in the class receive titles at the annual 4-H State Fair. During the 2000 Kentucky State Fair held in Louisville, one student, Shannon Hicks placed first in the watercolor category, while many others held second and third place winning categories as well.

"This is a beautiful program for children who already love art," said Clark. "It is a constant privilege for me to work with these kids. People who don't think art is important are

missing out on a lot."

Although Clark says the Cooperative Extension service office is quite comfortable for the children during classes, he has yet one more dream. During upcoming years, one goal set for the program, says Clark, is finding a studio where students' work can be displayed on a regular basis, sort of an artist's home away from home atmosphere, where art lives and breathes as fluidly as a watercolor portrait. That, he says,

will give the children an entirely new world of creativity to explore.

Thanks to a federally funded grant, all classes are free to any child who wishes to participate in the program. Anyone who feels they have a talented artist at home or anyone who can provide information on finding an available studio, should contact the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Education Building or the Floyd County Library for further information.

Continued from p1



photo by Mary Music

Since the beginning of the school year, students enrolled the Children's Museum of Art Program have anticipated this day - the day their parents get to see their work.

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