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Lady Bobcats win in OT

— page B1

briefs

Police stop truck carrying half ton of marijuana

The Associated Press

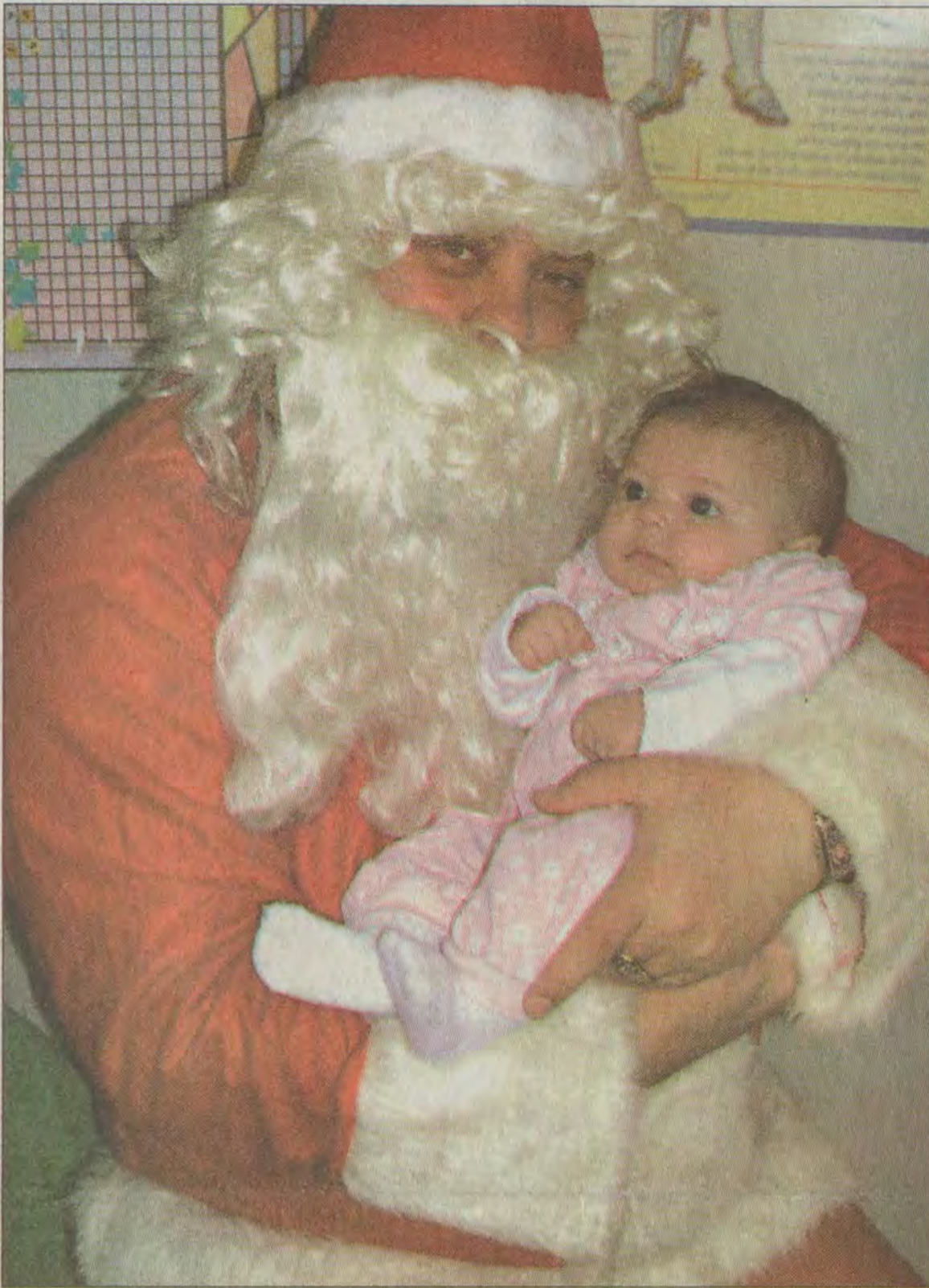
PIKEVILLE — A truck carrying more than \$2 million worth of marijuana was seized near the Kentucky-Virginia border, state police said.

Four men were arrested Tuesday on charges of trafficking in marijuana, said Kentucky State Police Detective Randy Hunter. He said the names of the men are being withheld temporarily at the request of the U.S. attorney's office.

Hunter said about 1,400 pounds of marijuana were confiscated from the tractor-trailer on U.S. 23 in rural Letcher County, near the Pike County line about 6 p.m.

The Drug Enforcement Agency along with state police from Kentucky and Virginia took part in the bust.

Hunter said the truck was on its way to Pennsylvania from McAllen, Texas.



A merry Christmas was had by all at the Floyd County Christmas basket distribution, an event sponsored by the Christian Appalachian Project. Pictured above are Ron Castle as Santa holding little Johnna Carter of Floyd County. (See story, page A3.)

Elk poaching trial delayed

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The trial for Billy Joe Derossett, 20, of Dwale, was reset for Jan. 13 in district court yesterday.

Derossett is the only member of a group charged with illegally poaching an elk on Ivy Creek last September to not enter a guilty plea. His three associates were all in court on Thursday and affirmed that they would return for the trial date. Each of the three men agreed to testify at Derossett's trial when they entered their pleas in October.

The men did not get off lightly by entering the pleas last fall, with each of them being assessed an elk restoration fee and fines totaling close to \$3,000. Each one of the group was also sentenced to 30

days in jail and lost his hunting privileges for three years, as well as being banned from hunting at Ivy Creek for the rest of their lives.

Mark Wallace, of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, began the investigation after he found the carcass of the elk at Ivy Creek where the herd had been feeding. He followed up leads that led to the Dewey Lake, where the antlers from the elk had been tossed into the water. The men had removed the antlers by blasting them off with a shotgun, which actually made identifying them much easier for the officer.

A witness who had observed the men dumping the antlers into the lake led Wallace to one of the men involved and questioning of that suspect soon revealed the group.

Chase suspects appear in court

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Two men who allegedly turned misdemeanor traffic violations into felonies when they chose to try to evade law enforcement officers saw their cases moved into circuit court for arraignment Thursday.

James Lafferty, 27, of Drift, was driving on the wrong side of the road last month and was spotted by Sgt. Steve Little of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department. Little flashed his lights at Lafferty, but rather than pull over Lafferty allegedly chose to flee. The resulting chase saw damages to Little's cruiser add more charges against Lafferty, who was eventually captured.

Lafferty had a history of resisting arrest and fleeing and evading and now must remain on a \$25,000 cash bond. His pretrial hearing is set for March 31.

Steve Ousley, 33, also had a significant criminal history when he allegedly engaged in a high-speed chase after being spotted by police as he disregarded a stop sign. He ended up facing an additional 14 charges on top of what was only a minor offense. He was charged with reckless driving, wanton endangerment and two counts of resisting arrest for the May 29 chase.

Ousley had been out on probation at the time for passing a bad check to a lumber compa-

(See COURT, page three)

Federal prison to get new warden

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

INEZ — Warden Dan L. Dove, of the United States Penitentiary in Martin County, will retire from that post on Dec. 31.

Dove, an Eastern Kentucky native, has been with the federal penitentiary since it opened in 2003. He had worked in the penal system since 1977 with posts in Louisiana, Florida and Ashland.

Dove will be succeeded by

Suzanne F. Hastings. Hastings began her tenure with the Bureau of Prisons in 1988 as a recreation specialist in Marianna, Fla., and has worked her way up the ladder

(See WARDEN, page three)

KSP reaches out to needy

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PIKEVILLE — The Kentucky State Police Professional Association teamed up with Wal-Mart on Wednesday and offered a \$75 shopping spree to disadvantaged children in Magoffin, Floyd, Martin and Pike counties.

The holiday spending spree got underway Wednesday morning as 41

of the 73 children available arrived at Wal-Mart of Pikeville and were greeted by volunteers from the Kentucky State Police, including officers and dispatchers, as well as associates of Wal-Mart and a senior citizens group. The children were paired with volunteers and the shopping began.

Reportedly, many of the children veered away from the traditional toy

(See KSP, page three)

Martin giveaway on Saturday

by SIDNEY JANE BAILEY
STAFF WRITER

MARTIN — The Martin Police Department is sponsoring a "Christmas with a Cop" Program for 17 families and 27 children in the Martin area.

"All 27 children are provided with new clothes, toys and a new bicycle,"

said Will Parker, dispatch supervisor and program coordinator. "The parents are provided with everything for a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings."

On Saturday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m., a Christmas gathering will be held at the Martin Community Center to dis-

(See GIVEAWAY, page three)



photo by Tom Doty

Sgt. Steve Little, left, and Deputy Will Holbrook were awarded medals of valor by the Kentucky Sheriff's Association at their annual awards dinner in Owensboro last weekend. They were awarded the medals and plaques for their efforts to aid two rescue workers who were trapped by high water at Abbott Creek during the Memorial Day weekend flood.

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 42 • Low: 26

Tomorrow



High: 43 • Low: 30

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

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Odds & Ends

■ DuBOIS, Pa. — Ralph Bonebreak was born to be wild — in 1910.

The 94-year-old man recently got his first tattoo at the Tainted Flesh Tattoo and Piercing Studio in his hometown. Bonebreak emerged from under the needle with a locomotive on his right arm and an eagle on his left.

"Tattooing an older person is a bit more difficult because their skin is different and sometimes it comes away from the muscle a little," said Bob MacCready, a tattoo artist at Tainted Flesh.

A lot of men who went into the military got tattoos, but Bonebreak's 38-year career with the railroad kept him out of the service, said his friend, Eve Camuso.

"He's always wanted a tattoo, but back then the only place you

could get one was at the county fair," Camuso said this week. "They weren't very clean."

Bonebreak selected a train to commemorate his time with the railroad. A belt buckle inspired his eagle design.

Bonebreak might have been nervous, but he didn't show it when he hopped in the chair.

"It's a new experience so I'd say I was a little anxious," Bonebreak said.

■ SALLISAW, Okla. — Talk about your killer weed.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers found 610 pounds of marijuana hidden in caskets being hauled in a truck stopped near this eastern Oklahoma town.

The driver, Timothy G. Hynd, 26, and his passenger, Robert Dean Harper, told a

trooper they were working for a Tucson, Ariz., casket company and their destination was Atlanta. They were pulled over early Friday for going 6 mph over the speed limit.

The marijuana was found after troopers were given permission to search the truck.

Hynd and Harper were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and were freed on bond Monday. Both men said they had no idea there was marijuana in their cargo.

"Hynd is 26 and has never been in any kind of trouble," said his attorney, Donn Baker. "He was just delivering caskets for a living. He didn't check inside the caskets for drugs — would you?"

■ MINNEAPOLIS — A

prosperous businessman didn't think he was entitled to his 2004 Social Security payments, so he became an early Santa Claus for the Salvation Army.

Last week, the man dropped a check for \$14,845 into a bell ringer's red kettle outside a bookstore in downtown Minneapolis.

On Friday the man, who declined to be identified, released a written statement through Salvation Army spokeswoman Annette Bauer, who had sought out the man for an explanation.

He said he will receive \$20,295 in Social Security payments in 2004 and didn't really need it because "I have considerable income now and should continue to have considerable income if I ever do retire."

He considered sending the

checks back to the government, but hit on a better solution. He deducted the amount of Social Security taxes he will pay this year, \$5,450, from the total and came out with the \$14,845.

He noted the donation was tax deductible, adding, "Undoubtedly, the Salvation Army will make more productive use of the money than would be the case if I returned it to the government."

■ NASHUA, N.H. — A 71-year-old man who was separated from his dog during a traffic accident two weeks ago has been reunited with the tiny rat terrier.

"He went berserk. He jumped on us and was crying — you know how they kind of cry — and just went crazy," said William Baker of his good

friend Didas.

Didas escaped from Baker's car after the accident in Amherst two weeks ago. The 4 1/2-year-old terrier raced off while Baker was being treated.

Distraught family members had returned to the area daily to look for him.

"We kept going. My son and I were out the other day, and my daughter went out just about every night," said Baker, who wasn't harmed in the accident.

Then on Sunday night, the family received a phone message from Rod and Lynn Spencer of Merrimack, about 5 miles from the accident scene. They saw the dog in their driveway and recognized it from a picture in the newspaper.

The formerly 22-pound Didas lost about two pounds during his adventures.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 17, the 352nd day of 2004. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, went on the first successful manned powered-airplane flights, near Kitty Hawk, N.C., using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:

■ In 1777, France recognized American independence.

■ In 1830, South American patriot Simon Bolivar died in Colombia.

■ In 1939, the German pocket battleship "Graf Spee" was scuttled by its crew, ending the World War II Battle of the River Plate off Uruguay.

■ In 1944, the U.S. Army announced it was ending its policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from the West Coast.

■ In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

■ In 1975, Lynette Fromme was sentenced in federal court in Sacramento, Calif., to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Ford.

■ In 1979, in a case that aggravated racial tensions, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally beaten after a police chase in Miami. (Four white police officers were later acquitted of charges stemming from McDuffie's death.)

■ In 1981, members of the Red Brigades kidnapped Brigadier General James L. Dozier, the highest-ranking U.S. Army official in southern Europe, from his home in Verona, Italy. (Dozier was rescued 42 days later.)

■ In 1986, Eugene Hasenfus, the American convicted by Nicaragua for his part in running guns to the Contras, was pardoned, then released.

■ In 1992, President Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in separate ceremonies.

Ten years ago: North Korea shot down a U.S. Army helicopter

which had strayed north of the demilitarized zone — the co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, was killed; the pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, was captured and held for nearly two weeks. Six shots were fired at the White House by an unidentified gunman.

Five years ago: President Clinton signed a law letting millions of disabled Americans retain their government-funded health coverage when they take a job. The U.N. Security Council ended a yearlong deadlock and voted to send weapons inspectors back to Iraq and consider suspending sanctions if Baghdad cooperated.

One year ago: Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan was indicted on corruption charges. The British government announced the first reported case of a person dying from the human form of mad cow disease after a blood transfusion from an infected donor. An attempt to re-create the Wright brothers' first flight on the 100th anniversary failed to take off.

Today's Birthdays: Newspaper columnist William Safire is 75. Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 74. Magazine publisher Robert Guccione is 74. Actor George Lindsey is 69. Singer-actor Tommy Steele is 68. Rock singer-musician Art Neville is 67. Actor Bernard Hill is 60. Actor Christopher Cazenove is 59. Actor Ernie Hudson is 59. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 58. Actor Wes Studi is 57. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 56. R&B singer Wanda Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 53. Actor Bill Pullman is 51. Actor Barry Livingston is 51. Country singer Sharon White is 51. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 46. Pop singer Sarah Dallon (Bananarama) is 43. Country musician Tim Cheurning is 42. Country musician Duane Propp is 38. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 34. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 34. Actress Sarah Paulson is 30. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 30. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 30. Actress Milla Jovovich is 29. Singer Bree Sharp is 29. Actress Vanessa Zima is 18.

Thought for Today: "Intellect alone is a dry and rattling thing." — Ilka Chase, American author, actress, humorist (1905-1978).

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Judge in case over same-sex marriage amendment gave to opponents

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — A judge who disclosed he contributed to a group opposed to Kentucky's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage has been asked to remove himself from hearing a lawsuit challenging the amendment.

Franklin County Circuit Judge William Graham told lawyers in the case Tuesday that he had made a modest contribution to the Kentucky Fairness Alliance. He told the lawyers he was giving them time to decide whether to seek to disqualify him.

Graham said Wednesday night that he made a donation to the Fairness Alliance two years ago. He said he couldn't remember the amount.

Bryan Beaman, a lawyer for Secretary of State Trey Grayson, who is named as a defendant because he must certify the amendment, said in a statement Wednesday night: "We certainly appreciate the court's candor and disclosure. ... We have the utmost admiration and respect for him as a jurist. However, due to the appearance of this situation, we have asked the judge to recuse himself from this case."

The alliance, a gay-rights organization, fought the amendment that voters approved Nov. 2 and is supporting the suit that was filed Nov. 16 and seeks to have it declared void. One of three plaintiffs in that suit, Charlotte Wood of Lexington, is an alliance board member.

Graham said Wednesday night that when he read the

complaint in the lawsuit, he noticed that one of the plaintiffs referred to herself as a board member of the group.

The Kentucky Code of Judicial Conduct says a judge "shall disqualify himself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

The attorney general's office and the Kentucky Family Foundation, which supported the amendment, have been allowed to join in defense of the suit.

Kent Ostrander, the Family Foundation's executive director, said it is considering Graham's disclosure but hasn't decided if it will act.

"We have a question about where we go from here," said Ostrander, who led the Vote Yes for Marriage Coalition.

Assistant Attorney General Brent Irvin indicated last night that his office likely won't seek Graham's disqualification.

"Our office's position is that Judge Graham has historically been a very fair judge, and we would not do anything that would impugn his ability to be impartial," Irvin said.

State Sen. Vernie McGaha, R-Russell Springs, who sponsored the legislation that put the constitutional amendment on the ballot, said Graham should decide on his own whether he needs to step aside.

"He being a professional person, he would know what he has to recuse himself for," McGaha said.

William Rambicure, who

filed the lawsuit seeking to void the amendment on behalf of Wood and two other plaintiffs — Willie Thomas Boddie of Frankfort and the Rev. Albert M. Pennybacker of Lexington — said he doesn't think Graham's contribution "automatically renders him unfair or partial."

Rambicure noted that the alliance isn't a party in the case.

Graham didn't say he would disqualify himself even if one of the parties asks him to do so, Rambicure said.

Graham made his disclosure after a hearing on a motion to dismiss the case, lawyers said. Graham asked the lawyers to notify him by phone if their clients decided to pursue the matter. He didn't set a deadline.

Court

Continued from p1

ny in Paintsville. Ousley, however, did not show up in court, as he is currently doing time in Indiana on other charges. He will return to Floyd County later to face these new charges as well as a term in jail for up to 10 years for violating the terms of his probation by engaging in

criminal acts.

Ousley is also charged with being a persistent felony offender in the second degree, which ups the felony level of the offenses one degree and increase his potential maximum sentence from five years to 10.

Warden

Continued from p1

to her most recent post as warden of a federal prison in Texarkana, Texas, and then as warden of the federal prison at Pekin, Ill., where she was posted as of late.

Hastings will take over the facility in early 2005 and brings with her numerous awards for her work in federal correctional facilities.

KSP

Continued from p1

section and concentrated on gifts for other members of their families.

Following the sale there was a free lunch provided by McDonald's. Those children

who couldn't attend, mostly due to weather, will have their gift certificates delivered to their schools by the resource officer assigned to each school.



Hard at work were Santa's elves. Pictured above are Christian Appalachian Project employees Russ Taylor, Jill Stafford, Brenda Crum and Ron Castle.

CAP distributes baskets for Christmas

Fifty families shared in the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ at the Town Branch Church in Prestonsburg on Wednesday at the annual Christmas basket distribution, sponsored by the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP).

The theme for this year's celebration was "Celebrating the Christ of Christmas," in keeping with the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ.

After staff introductions, Christmas caroling, several door prize drawings and even a visit from old Saint Nick, skids full of gifts were delivered to Floyd County's needy.

"The gift basket will help tremendously," said Debra Lewis, a Banner resident and Christmas basket recipient. "I think it's wonderful that

CAP is [providing for the needy]."

The Christmas basket program's application process begins in July. Throughout the fall, the applications are processed, during which time anonymous donors sponsor families. The donor is given specific information about the sponsored family: sizes, likes and dislikes. The donor then buys gifts for the entire family and ships them to Christian Appalachian Project. The gifts are then wrapped by either a case-worker or volunteer and are delivered to the families at the distribution site.

This year's site was packed to the hilt with men, women and children, all with one purpose: to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Giveaway

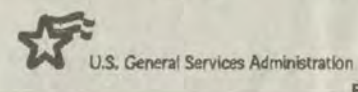
Continued from p1

tribute the gifts. Pizza, cake and soft drinks will be provided, a live band will per-

form and Santa will be on hand to greet the children.

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This is Vicki's second book, and we also have her first book, "A Country Song" available for signing. Vicki is a native of eastern Kentucky, a graduate of McDowell High School, and a retired high school English teacher. I have conducted the Appalachian Writers Workshop and have become acquainted with most of the writers writing about this region. This book looks realistically at the lives of three women who are from this region or have roots in this part of the country. It can be a hard book to read, because the author tells it like it is, and you feel every emotion.

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Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

"All animals except man know that the ultimate in life is to enjoy it."

— Samuel Butler

Amendment 1

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.

Guest View

Editorial roundup

Durango (Colo.) Herald, on the questioning of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld:

... Rumsfeld was visiting an Army base in Kuwait when Army Spc. Thomas Wilson asked him why his unit was short of needed equipment. ...

The secretary of defense responded with what amounted to a verbal shrug. "You go to war with the Army you have," Rumsfeld said, "not the Army you might want or wish to have." ...

But few armies are organized and equipped for the wars they end up fighting. That is what is so glaringly wrong with Rumsfeld's response to Wilson.

The U.S. Army is its own best example. The Army that existed at the start of World War II was equipped largely with a mixture of antiques and wishful thinking. Maneuvers were carried out with trucks filling in for armor with the word "tank" painted on their sides.

But in less time than U.S. troops have been in Iraq, the United States changed that into the best-equipped military in the world. ...

In 2004, however, Rumsfeld is essentially saying the United States cannot put armor on cars and trucks.

After the episode, Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., wrote to Rumsfeld, calling his response to Wilson "unacceptable." That kind of congressional involvement is exactly what is needed. There should, and perhaps now will, be more of it. ...

Chicago Tribune, on the safety of the food supply:

Departing Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson set off alarms last week, saying he worries "every single night" about the possibility of a bioterrorist attack on the nation's food supply. ...

That sounded to many people like an invitation, and the Bush administration moved pretty quickly to dampen any anxiety.

After all, it's much more likely that Americans will get food poisoning by not properly cleaning a cutting board used to chop raw chicken. But it's worth knowing what risks there are that someone could tamper with the food chain, and what's being done about it. ...

Critics say the new FDA rules are insufficient. The Center for Science in the Public Interest is pressing for the government to consolidate food oversight within a single group. ...

Thompson's blunt comments last week underscore that, given the vast size of the food distribution system, it may be impossible to prevent a bioterrorism attack of some form. But the new FDA requirements should at least help protect the public against threats to food safety. A quick response through the improved tracking of food could save lives.



Guest Column

Clean elections — coming to a state near you

by JIM HIGHTOWER

If you're looking for a little good news from the November 2 election, check out the "Clean Money" campaigns in Arizona, Maine, and North Carolina.

Instead of surrendering their state governments to the Big Money Interests that control Washington and most state capitols, people in these three states have authorized full public financing for candidates who agree to run "clean" — which means that these candidates accept none of the corrupting contributions that special interests (primarily corporations) routinely dole out to Democrats, Republicans, and anyone else willing to be bought. By providing a pool of public funds for public elections, we can get public offi-

cial who are no longer financially beholden to corporate, union, or other private funders who always have a private agenda attached to their checks.

In Maine, this clean-election option has been available for three election cycles, and the results are astonishing: 77 percent of Maine's state house members, and 83 percent of its state senators, have now been elected without taking a dime in corporate money! It changes the whole political dynamic, for legislators are free to cast their votes without first checking with their big campaign contributors.

Likewise in Arizona, 23 percent of state senators and 58 percent of house members are now free of any dependence on private campaign donors — as are 10 of Arizona's

statewide elected officials, including the governor, attorney general, and all four of this year's winning candidates for the state corporation commission. Also, North Carolina provided the clean-election option this year to candidates for its top judicial seats — and the clean candidates won both races for the supreme court and two of the three seats on the court of appeals.

Full public financing is real reform. To bring it to your state, county, city, school district, or whatever — call Public Campaign: 202-293-0222.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of "Thieves In High Places: They've Stolen Our Country And It's Time To Take It Back," on sale now from Viking Press.

Letters

Country going to the dogs

I am inclined to believe that our government officials are unhappy that so many people are going to school and getting trained for better jobs. Otherwise, why would they cut educational

funds so often? I counted at least four times in three years.

I admire people who can work and go to school. The problem is, it cuts down so much on study time. Myself, I finished my vocational training the November before last. I earned an electrician's diploma. I couldn't have done it without the help of financial aid, the wonderful people at CAP and LKLP. Their help financially gave me the

much-needed time to study my books.

Another problem some of us face is if you are married to a handicapped person. My wife is paralyzed from the breast down. We were told by a Social Security worker that if I earn more than \$800 a month, my wife will lose her medical card and the medical care she has to have costs thousands of dollars. We live in a country where poor

people have to lie and scheme just to get by, not to mention getting divorced for financial reasons.

I'm a Christian and I'm not content with this. I love my country, but why are we, its citizens, the voters, throwing it to the dogs? Can't we do better? What are your thoughts?

Carl Slone
Hindman

Clinton responsible for many problems

As a faithful reader of The Floyd County Times, I very much enjoy the articles by Kim Frasure, Kathy Prater and Pam Shingler. It's not often that I find fault with what they have said, but I must reply to Ms. Shingler's topic in the Friday, Nov. 12, edition and also the Friday, Nov. 26, edition.

First, the presidential election was not decided on the issue of sex. It was decided on an overall moral lapse that this nation has

experienced in the last 30 to 40 years, and especially the years under the Clinton administration. The truth of the matter is (though many people don't want to hear the truth) it is utterly impossible for a man to have sex with a man or a woman to have sex with a woman. These ungodly and unnatural acts that these people indulge in are not sex or love. It is nothing more than satanic lust that some people in our society want the world to believe in and accept as normal.

Ms. Shingler's article in today's paper (Nov. 26) pertaining to morals and using the opinions of Pastor Tom Kerry (I believe) is to weaken the stigma and revulsion that is associated with the homosexual lifestyle, which is referred to in the Bible as an abomination.

Mr. Kerry writing about moral issues, such as feeding the hungry, providing housing, meeting medical needs and meeting all the other needs of the poor and/or indigent people of the world is, of course, very, very important. But are not these things that he mentioned more in the line of love, charity, compassion and willingness to go the extra mile and to meet all the needs of the world's suffering people. But let's not confuse the difference between these issues that pertain to morals to justify the unjustifiable.

Also in regard to Ms. Shingler's Nov. 12 article, concerning the economy and the war in Iraq, let me say this. These so-called free trade deals that were implemented during the Clinton administration are

the direct cause of the unemployment rate in America and the outsourcing of the many jobs from America. If we, as Americans, would quit buying so many foreign-made products, the trade deficit would drop immediately and tremendously. I believe if Bill Clinton had not allowed Hussein to kick our weapons inspectors out of Iraq, we would not now be engaged in a war in that country. And if he had not slashed our military and intelligence agencies and would have paid heed to the advice of the many people in our government to close the loopholes in our immigration policy, we may never even have had the events of 9/11. At least, that the way I see it.

Bill Tussey
Hueysville

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.

The Times

Published Sunday, Wednesday and Friday each week

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY 41653

Phone: (606) 886-8506

Fax: (606) 886-3603

www.floydcountytimes.com

USPS 202-700

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:

In Floyd County: \$53.00

Outside Floyd County: \$63.00

Postmaster: Send change of address to:

The Floyd County Times

P.O. Box 390

Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

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At the Movies: 'Lemony Snicket' A Series of Unfortunate Events

by **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
AP MOVIE CRITIC

The key word in the mouthful of a movie title "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" is "series."

(And you probably thought it was going to be "of." Ha!)

The film is based on the first three children's books by Lemony Snicket (the author's name is actually Daniel Handler) about a trio of orphans trying to defend themselves from the dastardly Count Olaf, who disguises himself in various ways and tries to bump them off to steal their inheritance.

That inherently episodic structure ends up weakening the film from director Brad Silberling ("Moonlight Mile") and writer Robert Gordon ("Men in Black II"), stripping it of a strong narrative drive.

Instead, the movie moves from one adventure — or rather, one elaborately detailed set piece — to the next. The children end up in the custody of different guardians, all of them mysterious "aunts" and "uncles" of their parents, who died in a fire.

It is indeed fantastic looking in a dark, twisted, Tim Burtonesque way — probably because cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki also shot "Sleepy Hollow," and pro-



"Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," a Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks Pictures release, is rated PG for thematic elements, scary situations and brief language. Running time: 106 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

duction designer Rick Heinrichs and costumer Colleen Atwood are longtime Burton collaborators.

Then, of course, there is Jim Carrey as Count Olaf in all his thinly veiled incarnations, inhabiting one intentionally idiosyncratic character after another. In his pursuit of the Baudelaire children — inventive Violet (Emily Browning), bookish Klaus (Liam Aiken) and baby Sunny (Kara and Shelby Hoffman) — he also pretends to be a confused Italian lab assistant and the peg-legged Captain Sam (pronounced "Sham").

But really, all these characters have shadings of Carrey's rubbery comedic shtick, his trademark from "In Living Color" to "The Mask" to the "Ace Ventura" movies. (Call me crazy, but I prefer Carrey when he calms down and actually acts. He's done his best work in movies like "The Truman Show" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.")

"Lemony Snicket" also allows him to bounce off one celebrity co-star after another, with some clever cameos that aren't billed (and you won't find the surprise ruined here). Meryl Streep seems to be having the time of her life in a rare goofy role as the children's Aunt Josephine, who's afraid of everything (the welcome mat, the refrigerator, the doorknobs) in her Tudor monstrosity of a house built on stilts on a cliff overlooking Lake Lachrymose.

And Scottish comedian Billy Connolly provides one of the film's few sources of warmth as Uncle Monty, a snake expert who wants to bring the children with him on an adventure in Peru until Olaf steps in and ruins things.

Another star who's heard but not seen — which truly is an unfortunate event — is Jude Law, who narrates the film as Lemony Snicket and gets some of the best darkly funny lines.

"This is an excellent opportunity to run out of the theater, living room or airplane where this film is being shown," the British actor warns early on.

Along those lines, I wouldn't think this movie would be too terribly scary for most kids, since Carrey's performance is so intentionally cartoonish. But some children were shielding their eyes during a Sunday-morning screening I attended, and the filmmakers have said the material is appropriate for 8-year-olds and up.

Speaking of children, the young stars of "Lemony Snicket" are absolutely lovely together, and the older two, Browning and Aiken, truly look and act like brother and sister. (I could have used a little less of the cutesy conceit in which baby Sunny's coos and gurgles are translated into slangy subtitles, though.)

The way they support each other while generally outsmarting every adult they meet is among the strongest elements in an otherwise, and unfortunately, uneven film.

"Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," a Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks Pictures release, is rated PG for thematic elements, scary situations and brief language. Running time: 106 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Rental Central

by **TOM DOTY**
STAFF WRITER

A slew of new releases and special edition DVDs hit the shelves this week in a search-and-destroy mission for your holiday bonus.

First out of the gate was the special edition of the final film in Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. "The Return of the King" special edition restores 50 minutes of footage which also details the final fate of the evil wizard Saruman and his funky assistant Wormtongue, played by Christopher Lee and Brad Dourif, respectively. There are also a ton of extras and the whole shebang takes up four discs. There is also a boxed set of all three special edition DVDs which encompass the whole series and will set you

back about \$80.

New to DVD this week is "I, Robot". Will Smith stars in this action oriented sci-fi epic which totally violates the spirit of author Isaac Asimov's robot series but does deliver on the high octane action front.

"Collateral" also debuted this week from veteran action director Michael Mann ("Heat"). Tom Cruise stars here as a well coifed hit man who borrows cabbie Jamie Foxx for the night as he makes a series of kills. Tense action ensues with Foxx, once again, turning in an outstanding performance as an ordinary man in extraordinary circumstances.

"The Door in the Floor" features Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger as a married couple who are heading towards a divorce. The breakup is only exasperated by the presence of a

young writer who signs on to intern with Bridges and quickly begins an affair with the wife. It is based on the first part of John Irving's novel "A Widow for One Year."

"We Don't Live Here Anymore" is another new release that focuses on troubled marriages. Here two couples experience the trauma of betrayal as they are all torn apart by infidelity. Mark Ruffalo, Naomi Watts, Laura Dern and Peter Krause ("Six Feet Under") star.

"The Princess Diaries 2" is also out this week and was savaged by critics but should play well for adolescent girls, for whom it was made. Julie Andrews stars and is also featured in this week's rerelease of "Mary Poppins." This 40th anniversary edition contains a remastered cut of the film and a host of extras that include a

musical number from the film ("Chimpanzee") that was cut from the original release.

Next week look for the "Gladiator"-like film "Troy." Brad Pitt and Eric Bana ("The Hulk") star.

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<p>Cinema Five</p> <p>HELD OVER</p> <p>SPONGE BOB</p> <p>PG—Mon.-Sun. 7:15 only Fri. (4:25), 7:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:10-4:25), 7:15</p> <p>HELD OVER</p> <p>SAW</p> <p>R Mon.-Sun. 9:15 only</p>	<p>Cinema Ten</p> <p>HELD OVER</p> <p>POLAR EXPRESS</p> <p>G—Mon.-Sun. 7:00 only; Fri. (4:20), 7:00; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:20), 7:00</p> <p>HELD OVER</p> <p>SEED OF CHUCKIE</p> <p>R Mon.-Sun. 9:20 only</p>

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CRIT LUAllen
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Commonwealth of Kentucky's Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts announces the completion of the financial audit of the Floyd County Sheriff's Settlement - 2003 Taxes as of September 16, 2004. The following transmittal letter was prepared, on behalf of the Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts, by the firm of Ross & Company, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. The Office of the Auditor of Public Accounts engaged Ross & Company, PLLC, to perform the financial audit of the Floyd County Sheriff's Settlement - 2003 Taxes and worked closely with Ross & Company, PLLC, during our report review process.

ROSS & COMPANY, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
800 Envoy Circle
Louisville, KY
Telephone (502) 499-9088
Facsimile (502) 499-9132

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
Robbie Rudolph, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Paul Thompson, Floyd County Judge/Executive
Honorable John Blackburn, Floyd County Sheriff
Members of the Floyd County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Floyd County Sheriff's Settlement - 2003 Taxes as of September 16, 2004. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Floyd County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Floyd County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of September 26, 2004, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 15, 2004, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross & Company
Ross & Company, PLLC

Audit fieldwork completed—
October 15, 2004

The above transmittal letter accompanied the audit report presented to the fiscal court. KRS 43.090(2) requires that this letter be published in this newspaper. Copies of the complete audit report, including the accompanying financial statements and additional information, are available in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at www.auditor.ky.gov or upon request by contacting the Auditor of Public Accounts, 105 Sea Hero Road, Suite 2, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-5404 or by calling 1-800-247-9126.

Unemployment insurance fund struggling

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky companies could see their third increase in as many years in unemployment insurance taxes come January, a reflection of a misused and broken system, employers say.

The tax rate could even take a double jump as the unemployment fund struggles unsuccessfully to keep up with rising benefits using a tax system that is more than a decade old.

"We know it's coming and we expect to make that an issue early next year," said Jeff Allen, director of public affairs for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber officials planned to alert members of the

impending rate increase this week and talk to legislators about possible changes in the system during the 2005 General Assembly.

Lee Hall, who operates Farmers Feed Mill in Lexington, said his company will take a hit, even though it has a very good record of retaining workers.

"Will it affect us? Absolutely," said Hall, who is also chairman of the state chamber's small business committee.

Kentucky officials declined to speculate on where the tax rate might go when calculations are made in January. But the balance in the unemployment insurance fund as of the end of October, the latest figures available, indicates a tax increase is in the offing.

Most employers in Kentucky pay taxes into the fund, but some pay more based on their record of layoffs, dismissals and other instances in which workers draw jobless benefits. The tax rate schedule is based on the amount of money in the fund at the end of each year.

Farms are not subject to the tax, and government and nonprofit employers reimburse the actual cost of unemployment insurance benefits paid to their own former workers.

Up until 2001, the rate schedule was at the lowest rung, which meant some employers did not have to pay at all. There are five steps of increases in the statutes, and the unemployment tax rate has risen one step in each of the last two

years as the balance in the fund declined.

The fund balance was \$279 million at the end of October. If the fund balance drops below \$275 million at the end of December — the amount in the fund has declined from October to December in each of the last four years — the tax rate will rise one step. Even for employers with the best records, that would mean a 25 percent increase in the tax rate.

If the fund falls below \$250 million at the end of the year — it was at \$227 million as recently as April — the tax rate would rise two steps. For the best employers, that would mean a 50 percent tax increase, though the overall rate would remain well below 1 percent of

wages. The tax is assessed against only the first \$8,000 of wages, a system unchanged for many years. But the calculation of benefits has risen steadily because it is calculated against average weekly wages.

The maximum weekly benefit was frozen in 2004 as one way to stanch the flow of money from the fund, said Ann Guarneri, director of budget and administration for the Education Cabinet, where the unemployment insurance fund is housed.

The last time the unemployment fund was as low as it has been at times this year was in 1987, when Guarneri said there were concerns about its solvency.

Allen said the structure of

the unemployment tax and benefit system is partly to blame for its financial problems, as well as the faltering economy generally in Kentucky. For example, there were 82,790 employers contributing to the system in September, compared with 90,277 employers as recently as June 2002.

"You just look at the history of the fund, it's pretty clear it's in trouble," Allen said.

Hall said some employers are also to blame because they lay off or fire workers indiscriminately, leaving the fund to pay benefits that all companies have to subsidize.

"A lot of companies, to get somebody out of their face, cut them loose and let them take their money," Hall said.

First trucks rumble out to start the snow fight

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — "Salt trucks, start your spreading," might not have the same emotional ring as the race track call, but it does signify the beginning of a monthlong contest with the elements to keep Kentucky roads free from ice and snow.

Earlier this week, salt-laden trucks rumbled out of Transportation Cabinet garages for the first time this snow season in northern and eastern Kentucky.

Waiting in 125 igloos located in each county, the state has socked away 300,000 tons of salt that can be spread. Another 1.5 million gallons of liquid formulas are used to apply to dry pavement before the snow starts or after the snow to help eliminate icing.

There are 1,000 state trucks, filled by 170 loaders and another 200 snow and ice trucks available from contractors.

It's a logistical battle that

takes place over 27,400 miles of state-maintained roads. It includes 40 roadway weather information stations that direct information to the state's operations center, which is open 24 hours a day.

"Preparing for winter weather is nearly a year-round activity, but when it comes time to battle snow and ice our crews are ready to keep the 27,000 miles of state-maintained highways clear of snow and ice," said Acting Deputy State Highway Engineer Chuck Knowles.

Well before this week's first snow, highway department officials reviewed the snow and ice routes — the byways that get first priority — while other employees received snow and ice removal training. Interstates, parkways and primary roads get first crack with other state roads to follow. City and county road crews have their own local responsibilities.

Cabinet spokesman Mike Goins said the amount of materials and equipment on hand is

updated each year based on experience.

For example, the salt on hand, which includes another 45,000 tons stored at a Louisville quarry, is more than in 1994, when bitterly freezing weather closed barge traffic on rivers, preventing the delivery of replacement salt.

With just the salt available at Transportation Cabinet locations, crews could spread it on 1.2 million miles of two-lane road. The liquid can last for 750,000 miles of two-lane.

Motorists can gain access to the cabinet's statewide travel information service by dialing 511.



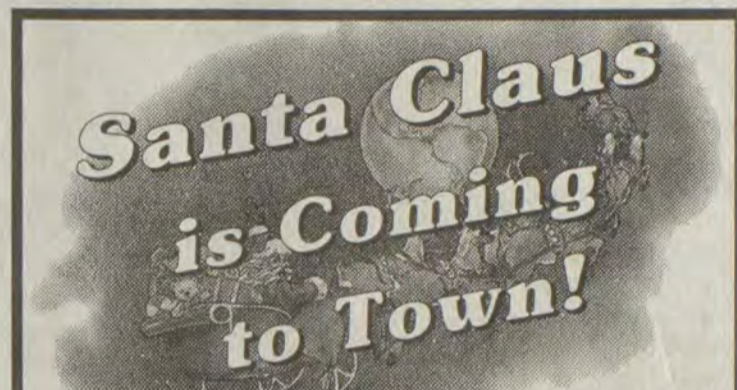
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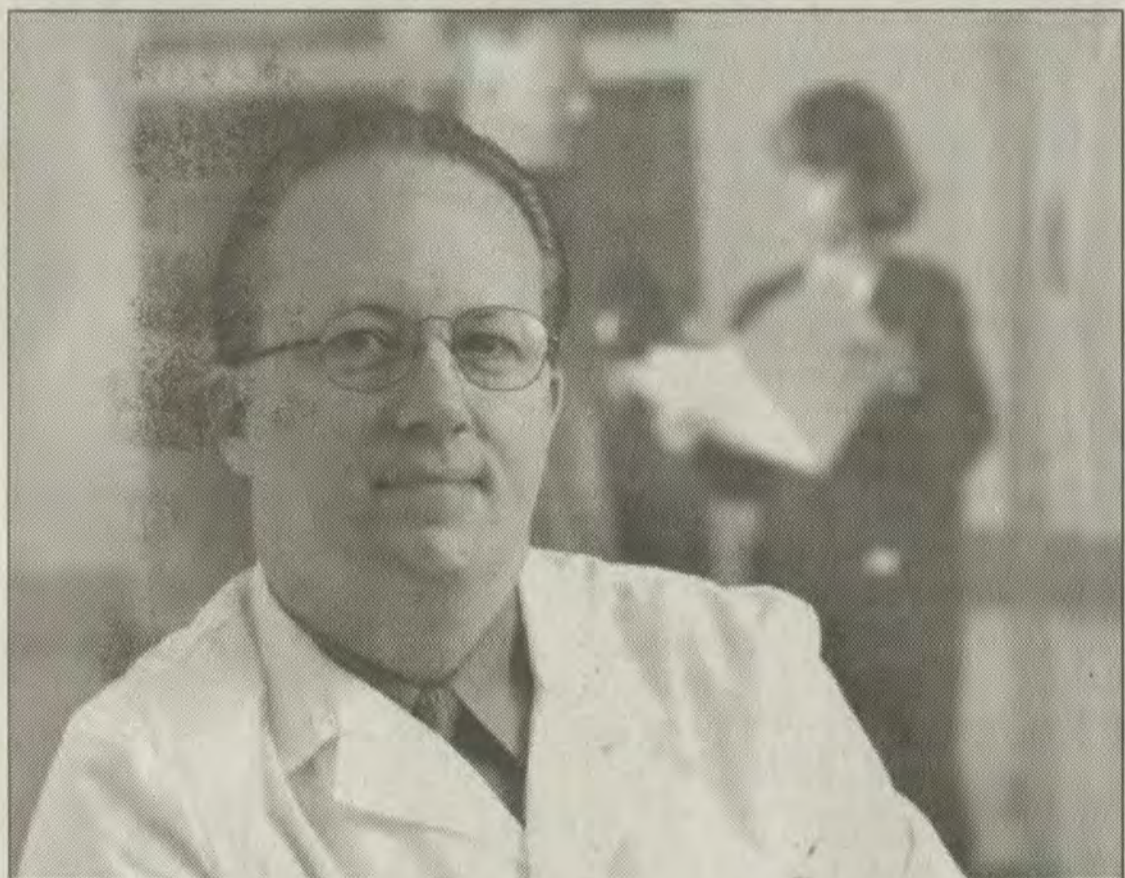
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2:30 Scott's Barber Shop—G&C Grocery
2:45 Little Nancy Church
3:00 Foot of South Floyd High School
3:15 Bud Reynolds Store, Ligon

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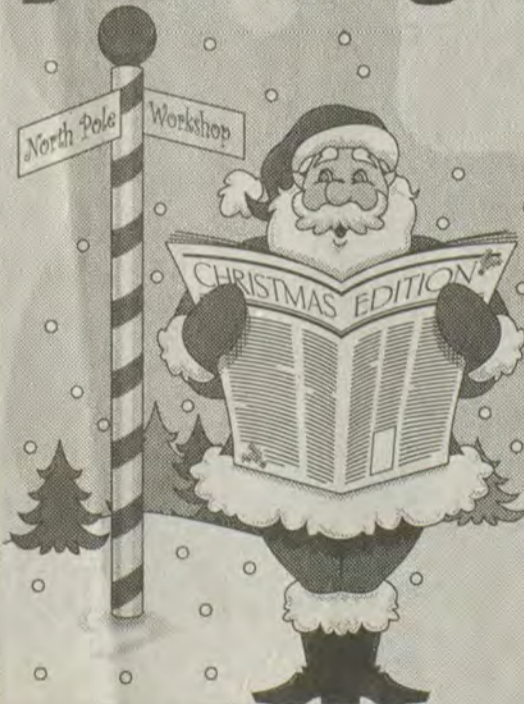
Now You Can See Dr. Rick McClure Close to Home... in Paintsville

UK Gill Heart Institute is pleased to announce that **Rick McClure, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.**, will be holding an adult cardiovascular clinic on Wednesdays beginning December 15, 2004. The clinic will be held at the Paul B. Hall Hospital Clinic, located at 625 Trimble Blvd., in Paintsville. For appointments or referrals, please call (859) 257-1000 or (800) 333-8874.

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Obituaries

Hilda Louise Keen

Hilda Louise Keen, 54, of Teaberry, died Monday, December 13, 2004, at the Pikeville Medical Center.

Born February 13, 1950, in Floyd County, she was the daughter of the late Willie and Oral Hall Lawson. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Christ, at Harold.

She is survived by her husband, Estill Campbell.

Other survivors include two sons: Willie R. Hamilton and Delmer E. Hamilton, both of Teaberry; two daughters: Nora Hall and Barbara J. Bradley, both of Teaberry; a brother, Norvel Lawson of Honaker; and six grandchildren: Robert, Nakeia, Barbara Ann, Robert, Darv, Travis and others; and one great-grandchild, Taryn.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Stanley Lawson.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, December 16, at 1 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Church of Christ ministers, and Johnny Hamilton, officiating.

Burial will be in the Lawson Family Cemetery, at Pike Floyd Hollow, in Betsy Layne.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

James R. "J.R." Key

James R. "J.R." Key, age 76, of Martin, husband of the late Alma J. Key, passed away, Wednesday, December 15, 2004, at his residence.

He was born January 30, 1928, in Martin, the son of the late Roy Key and Edna Hayes Key. He was a retired CSX Railroad employee. He was a member of the Betsy Layne DAV, Chapter 169, American Legion, AmVets, John W. Hall Masonic Lodge No. 950, Martin, El Hasa Shrine, Ashland, Martin Kiwanis, and the Eastern Star.

Survivors include two sons: Jimmy Ray Key of Allen, and Gary Key of Louisville; three step-sons: Bill Griffith and Rudolph Griffith, both of Prestonsburg, and Robert Griffith of Martin; one daughter, Susan Key of Martin; one step-daughter, Brenda Settles of Danville; one sister, Ola Combs of Atlanta, Georgia; 14 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for James R. Key will be conducted Saturday, December 18, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with clergymen Garfield Potter and Dan Heintzelman officiating.

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

Visitation is at the funeral home.

Masonic services will be Friday evening, at 7 p.m.

(Paid obituary)

Open-heart surgery to be offered in Hazard

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAZARD — Open-heart surgery, no longer limited to big cities, is continuing to spread to small-town hospitals in Eastern Kentucky.

Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital plans to begin performing open-heart surgeries early next year, according to documents filed with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Chief Executive Officer Trena Hall said the hospital is reacting to a high rate of heart disease in and around the mountain community.

The state has given its approval, and Hall said the first surgery is expected to occur in early January.

"I'm very happy that the hospital has taken this initiative," Mayor Bill Gorman said. "It will be a help to the people in the region not to have to leave home to get this done."

Hazard will join other mountain towns, including Ashland, London and Pikeville, where open-heart procedures are now done.

"That type of surgery is becoming far more routine, but it certainly isn't an easy surgery and needs all the resources necessary to provide quality care," said Richard Thompson, treasurer of the National Rural Health Association.

The hospital recruited Dr. Louis Suarez, a heart surgeon who practiced in Appleton, Wis., to head the program. His team of nurses have been training alongside the surgical staff at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington in preparation for the kickoff of the open-heart program.

"This area needs good care," said Suarez, who performed nearly 3,000 open-heart surgeries over 20 years at Appleton Medical Center. "I came here because I felt I was needed."

Suarez said the challenge of starting a heart program from scratch brought him to eastern Kentucky.

Gorman said the hospital's new heart program will be beneficial for Hazard residents and their families, most of whom now go to hospitals in Lexington, some two hours away, for such surgery.

Hall said plans for the open-heart program have been in the works for about four years.

"We've been very deliberate, slow, methodical," she said. "We've not been running a foot race."

The hospital has invested more

than \$3.4 million equipping the operating rooms and cardiac care unit.

"It is very difficult for families to have to go out of town for this type of surgery," she said. "There was a need, and Appalachian Regional Healthcare recognized that need."

The hospital expects to do about 100 open-heart procedures this year and perhaps four times that many in years to come.

"We certainly want people to feel confident that their hometown hospital can take care of them," Hall said.

Old Photographs Restored

<p>BEFORE</p> 	<p>Have those irreplaceable photos repaired now, before further deterioration. Creases, specs, tears, and stains removed. Also prints made from photos.</p> <p>Phone 886-3562</p>	<p>AFTER</p> 
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Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver Concert Tickets
will make an excellent Christmas gift or stocking stuffer for someone you really love!!!



4 x International Bluegrass Vocal Group Of The Year
will be at the Mountain Arts Center on Saturday, March 19, 2005.
Opening Act: Bo Isaac
Tickets are available by calling 1-888-622-2787.
For more information on Doyle Lawson, or other shows: www.goodtyme.com

American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

www.americanheart.org

PSA

HEY, KIDS!



It's time to start writing those Letters to Santa.

We need your letters by noon on Friday, Dec. 17, so get busy and let Santa know how nice you've been this year, and what your Christmas wishes are this Christmas.

Bring your letters to the Floyd County Times office, or mail to:

Santa's Mail Bag
P.O. Box 390
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

or
email your letter to: santa@floydcountytimes.com

The Times FLOYD COUNTY

Letters will be published in the Wednesday, Dec. 22 issue

Community Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your item to The Floyd County Times office, located at 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg; or mail to: The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or fax to 606-886-3603; or email to: features@floydcountytimes.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits

Prestonsburg High School Class of 1994 reunion
Prestonsburg High School Class of 1994 reunion being planned for February. Please contact Patricia Garrison at 606-874-6004, Cory Reitz at 859-338-6956 or John Stout at 859-433-3610.

S.N.O.O.P. Fundraiser
The S.N.O.O.P. 'Christmas Elves' will gift wrap gifts while you enjoy lunch at MomNona's Italian Restaurant, on Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Spay & Neuter Organization of Prestonsburg. MomNona's is located in downtown Prestonsburg, across from the Justice Center.

4-H looking for volunteers!
The Floyd County 4-H program is in need of volunteers to work with the following 2005 activities: 4-H Goat Project; 4-H Backpacking Club; 4-H Horse Club; and 4-H Shooting Sports. If you are interested, contact Chuck Stamper at 886-2668, or email to: cstamper@uky.edu by Jan. 3.

D.A.V. Chap. 18
The Big Sandy Chapter 18, Disabled American Veterans, of Auxier, is looking for honorably discharged veterans to join the Chapter, which meets at the Auxier Fire Dept., on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, at 6 p.m. Those interested may bring their DD214 and join the Chapter and receive a D.A.V. ball cap.

Floyd County Democratic Women's Club
Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m., at Brenda's Restaurant, in McDowell. All invited to attend.

HRMC Community Calendar
•Dec. 18 - Child Birth classes, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical Office Bldg., Meeting Place A & B.

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center
•GED classes - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Later times may be arranged - call office to make arrangements.
•Craft/Sewing Club - Mondays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
•Creative Sewing - Mondays, 6-8 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information about these activities and class fees, call 886-0709.

Free Body Recall classes
Free Body Recall Exercise Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 11 a.m. at the old R & S Building. Classes are offered by the Floyd County Health Department. Call the health department, 886-2788, for more information.

'Earn While You Learn'
The Big Sandy Area C.A.P.

office is taking applications for its "Senior Training Program." You must be 55 or older to apply. In Floyd, call 886-2929; Johnson, call 789-6515; Magoffin, call 349-2217; Pike, call 432-2775; and in Lawrence, call 638-4067.

PARENTS!
Are you in need of child care services? If so, contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. The office is partnering with Eastern Kentucky Child Care Coalition. For more information on how we can help you, call Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or toll free at 888-872-7227.

Also, if your child is currently enrolled in a child care program, find out if your provider is a member of the STARS for KIDS NOW voluntary program for exceeding licensing standards.

And, learn about how you can stay home with your own children and still earn an income by caring for other children. Find out more by calling Cheryl Endicott at 886-

1280, or 888-872-7227 (toll free).

Floyd County Extension Homemaker Club Meetings
**Jan. 5 - Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild will meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Extension office. Lesson will include a slide show and hands-on demonstration on Color Coordination. Please bring: small swatches of varying colors of solid fabric, paper and fabric scissors, and a glue stick. Any interested quilters are invited to join. For more information, contact Theresa Scott at 886-2668.

Allen: 1st Monday, 11 a.m., at Christ United Methodist Church.

Cliffside/Prestonsburg: 3rd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., at Cliffside Community Room.

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

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

Newbee (Beginner) Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office, Prestonsburg.

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown First Baptist Church.

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

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Extension Office.

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

"Looking For a Support Group?"

•**Alzheimer's Association Care-giver Support Group** - Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church (near Jerry's Restaurant), at 7 p.m. For more info., call Dana Caudill at 886-0265.

•**Alzheimer's Association, East-ern KY Regional Office** - 24-hour Helpline, call 1-800-272-3900 for emotional support, local resources, and other information.

•**MS Support Group** - Meets third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Seton Complex, Martin. Offers

group support for MS patients and their caregivers.

•**Overeater's Anonymous (O.A.)** - Meets each Monday, at 3:30 p.m., at the St. Martha Catholic Church, Water Gap Road. For more info., call 886-2513.

•**US TOO! Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group** - For all men with prostate cancer and their families. Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, Paintsville.

•**Community Weight Loss Support Group** - Meets Thursday's at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings being offered as support to anyone needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

•**Domestic Violence Hotline** - 24-hour Crisis Line manned by Certified Domestic Violence counselors. Call 886-6025, or 1-800-649-6605. Remember, "Love Doesn't Have to Hurt."

•**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** - Free, confidential assistance for unplanned pregnancy concerns. Talk with someone who cares about you

and your baby. Call 1-800-928-5242.

•**Disabled?** - You may be eligible for grant money to assist in your daily living. For an application or more information, call 886-4326.

•**A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky)** - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care), foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, at Pizza Hut, in Prestonsburg. For more information, contact Nelva Skaggs, adoptive parent liaison, at Blueboy@foothills.net.

•**East Kentucky S.T.A.R.S. Homeschoolers** - Will hold monthly meetings at the Paintsville Recreation Center. For more information, call Trudy at 889-9333, or 297-5147. Everyone welcome.

•**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Each Wednesday, from 7-8 p.m., in the Atrium Conference Room, 2nd floor, May Tower, Pikeville Methodist Hospital. For more info., contact Chris Cook at 606-433-1119 or christophercook@hotmail.com

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Festive Garden Wedges, Savory Ranch Chex Mix, Crescent Wrapped Brie and Nutty Chocolate Pretzel Bars

SIMPLIFY the Season

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

The halls are decked, the lights are strung. All that's left to consider is the food — your favorite part. But finding the time to enjoy holiday cooking, when schedules are packed with cocktail parties, potlucks and gift exchanges can be daunting to even the most experienced home cook.

Get the most out of this holiday season by keeping things simple. It's easy to embrace the holiday hustle and bustle by incorporating a few time-saving tricks into your kitchen routine.

Shake & Serve — When hosting a holiday gathering, it's great to have a quick and easy snack to serve. Make things super simple by mixing the ingredients for Savory Ranch Chex Mix in a large Glad zipper bag. Just seal, shake and serve.

Instant Pastry Bag — Decorating desserts during the holidays is a fun activity for the entire family. To kick up the fun factor a notch, make your own pastry bags to drizzle decorations over your delicious desserts! To make a pastry bag, place chopped up candy coating or chunks of chocolate inside a small zipper food storage bag. Do not seal; microwave 30 to 60 seconds, kneading bag every 15 seconds. Snip off a small corner and drizzle over desserts. Fun and simple!

Nutty Chocolate Pretzel Bars and decorated slice-and-bake cookies



Oven Time — Prefer that "made from scratch" taste but short on time? With a few Pillsbury convenience products, like slice-and-bake cookies or ready-to-bake crescent rolls, you can make delicious and festive dishes your family will love without working in the kitchen for hours.

Bake & Take — Save a step with casseroles and bar cookies. Use disposable bakeware, like festive red or green OvenWare. You can bake your treat in the oven and serve it in the same container. Save yourself from dirtying another dish.

Food Exchange — The cookie exchange has long been a holiday tradition. This year, instead of a cookie exchange, gather all of your friends and host a food exchange! Ask all of your guests to bring their favorite holiday dish, along with the recipe. Your guests will go home with several new holiday dishes they can serve their family or bring to other holiday parties. What a wonderful present!

Quick Cookie Bliss — Add some bliss to your holiday cookies! Purchase Pillsbury refrigerated peanut butter cookie dough, bake in the oven, then top each cookie with a striped chocolate or white candy drop.

For more recipes and tips, visit www.bettycrocker.com. For food storage ideas, visit www.glad.com.

Nutty Chocolate Pretzel Bars

Prep Time: 20 minutes (Start to Finish: 1 hour 30 minutes)
36 bars

- 1 can (10 ounces) deluxe salted nuts, coarsely chopped
 - 1 roll (18 ounces) Pillsbury refrigerated sugar cookies
 - 1 cup English toffee bits
 - 1 1/2 cups milk chocolate chips
 - 1/3 cup butterscotch chips
 - 1/3 cup creamy peanut butter
 - 1 cup coarsely chopped salted pretzels
 - 1 ounce vanilla-flavored candy coating, chopped or 2 tablespoons vanilla candy chips
1. Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 13- x 9-inch pan with cooking spray. Spread nuts evenly in pan. Cut cookie dough into 1/2-inch-thick slices; arrange slices over nuts. With floured fingers, press evenly in prepared pan, such as Glad OvenWare (prep according to instructions). Sprinkle with English toffee bits; press in lightly.
 2. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack 30 minutes.
 3. In large microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips and butterscotch chips on HIGH 1 1/2 to 2 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until smooth. Stir in peanut butter. Gently stir in pretzels. Spread evenly over crust.
 4. In small microwavable bowl, microwave candy coating on HIGH 30 to 60 seconds, stirring every 15 seconds, until smooth. Drizzle over bars. Refrigerate until chocolate is set, about 15 minutes. For bars, cut into 9 rows by 4 rows.

Festive Garden Wedges

Prep Time: 15 minutes (Start to Finish: 1 hour 35 minutes)
16 wedges

- 1 1/2 cups of Original Bisquick mix
 - 1/3 cup boiling water
 - 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
 - 1/2 cup sour cream, mayonnaise or creamy salad dressing
 - 8 medium green onions, sliced (1/2 cup)
 - 2 teaspoons prepared horseradish
 - 1/8 teaspoon red pepper sauce
 - 3 cups chopped or sliced fresh vegetables (mushrooms, radishes, celery, red onion, cherry tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, bell pepper, yellow summer squash, jicama)
 - 1 cup shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese (4 ounces)
1. Heat oven to 450°F (475°F for high altitude). In bowl, stir baking mix and boiling water until soft dough forms; beat vigorously with spoon 20 strokes. Using fingers dusted with baking mix, press dough in ungreased 12-inch pizza pan, pinch edge to form 1/2-inch rim. Bake about 10 minutes or until light brown. Cool 10 minutes.
 2. Stir cream cheese, sour cream, green onions, horseradish and pepper sauce until well blended; spread evenly over crust. Cover with Glad Press'n Seal sealable wrap; refrigerate 1 to 2 hours or until chilled.
 3. Just before serving, top with vegetables and cheese. Cut into wedges or squares.

Crescent Wrapped Brie

Prep Time: 20 minutes (Start to Finish: 1 hour)
12 servings

- 1 can (8 ounces) Pillsbury refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
 - 1 round Brie cheese (8 ounces)
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - Crackers and sliced apples or pears, if desired
1. Heat oven to 350°F.
 2. Separate dough into 2 squares. Press perforations to seal. Use knife to cut and round off corners of both squares. If desired, use small cookie cutter to cut out small decorative shapes from discarded corners. Place 1 square on ungreased cookie sheet; place cheese on center. Place remaining square over cheese. Press dough evenly around cheese. Fold bottom edges over top edges; seal completely. Decorate top with dough cutouts as desired; brush with egg.
 3. Bake 20 to 24 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 15 minutes before serving with crackers.
- Tip:** Punch up the flavor! Cut Brie crosswise and spread with 2 tablespoons apricot jam and sprinkle with 2 tablespoons dried cranberries before wrapping in dough.

Savory Ranch Chex Mix

Prep Time: 10 minutes (Start to Finish: 10 minutes)
13 cups snack

- 9 cups Corn Chex, Rice Chex or Wheat Chex cereal (or combination)
 - 2 cups small pretzel twists*
 - 2 cups bite-size cheese crackers
 - 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
 - 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
 - 1 envelope (1 ounce) Hidden Valley "The Original Ranch" salad dressing and seasoning mix (milk recipe)
1. Mix cereal, pretzel twists* and crackers in large Glad food storage bag.
 2. Add remaining ingredients; seal bag. Shake until well mixed.

*If serving to children under four years old, omit pretzels.

6 P.M.-MIDNIGHT ONLY!

it's all inside. 

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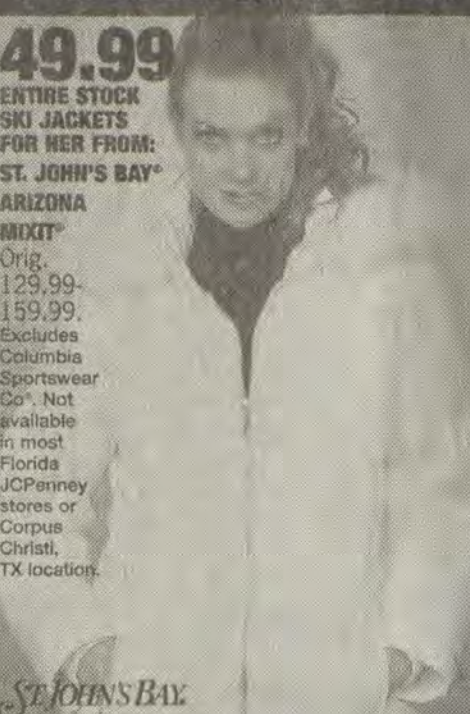
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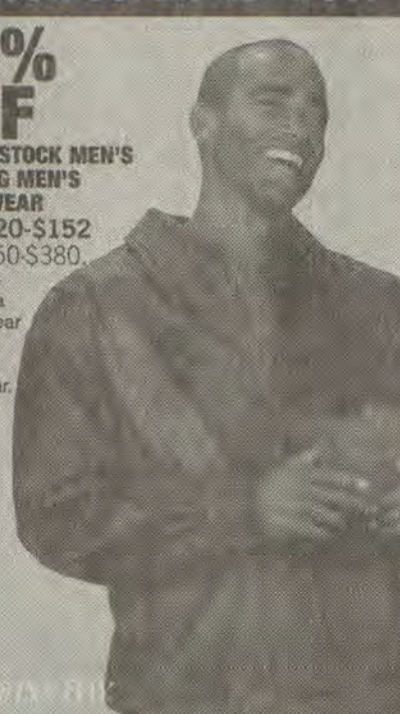
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\$5 OFF

ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE*

6 P.M.-MIDNIGHT SATURDAY ONLY!

*\$5 off savings coupon redeemable for a merchandise purchase that totals \$50 or more in JCPenney Stores, 6 P.M.-MIDNIGHT, Saturday, December 18, 2004. Discount does not apply to Value Right, "2 or more" prices, Diamonds, Jewelry Bonus Buy, Diamonds & Fragrances, Cookware, Cutlery & Gadgets, Floor Care, Furniture and Mattresses, Personal Care Appliances, Small Appliances and Electronics, Clarks, Columbia Sportswear Co., Outerwear, Easy Spirit, Hunter Douglas, Levi's Jeans, "After School" promotional items, Catalog/Internet and Outlet Stores, Jewelry Care Plans, or to Portrait, Optical, or Salon Services and Products, "Perfect Present", Gift Cards, prior purchases, or in combination with any other discount coupon/certificate. Cash value 1/20 of one cent. One coupon per customer. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. Unauthorized duplication, reproduction or falsification of this coupon cannot be accepted. Discount is applied to all qualifying items purchased on a printed basis; any applicable refunds will be given in the printed amount.



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*\$10 off savings coupon redeemable for a merchandise purchase that totals \$75 or more in JCPenney Stores, 6 P.M.-MIDNIGHT, Saturday, December 18, 2004. Discount does not apply to Value Right, "2 or more" prices, Diamonds, Jewelry Bonus Buy, Diamonds & Fragrances, Cookware, Cutlery & Gadgets, Floor Care, Furniture and Mattresses, Personal Care Appliances, Small Appliances and Electronics, Clarks, Columbia Sportswear Co., Outerwear, Easy Spirit, Hunter Douglas, Levi's Jeans, "After School" promotional items, Catalog/Internet and Outlet Stores, Jewelry Care Plans, or to Portrait, Optical, or Salon Services and Products, "Perfect Present", Gift Cards, prior purchases, or in combination with any other discount coupon/certificate. Cash value 1/20 of one cent. One coupon per customer. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. Unauthorized duplication, reproduction or falsification of this coupon cannot be accepted. Discount is applied to all qualifying items purchased on a printed basis; any applicable refunds will be given in the printed amount.



Sale prices effective through Saturday, 12/18/04 unless otherwise noted. Percentages off regular prices or original prices, as shown. Actual savings may exceed stated percentage off. "Regular" and "Original" prices reflect offering prices which may not have resulted in actual sales. Any event designated as a "sale" excludes Value Right merchandise and items sold everyday with discounts if purchased in multiples of "2 or more". Intermediate markdowns may have been taken on original-priced merchandise. Clearance items are available while supplies last. Merchandise selection may vary from one JCPenney store to another. Jewelry photos may be enlarged to show detail. Diamond carat weights (CT) represent the approximate total weight (T.W.) of all diamonds in each setting unless noted. Diamond solitaire weights may vary between .01 and .05 carat. Diamond total weights may vary between .01 and .08 carat. Some diamonds consist of fewer than 17 facets. Diamond sale includes only that jewelry where diamonds constitute the greatest value. Diamond accents may not constitute greater value than gold. Gemstones may have been treated and may require special care. 10K and 14K gold in our assortments. Available only at JCPenney stores with Fine Jewelry departments. Merchandise shown is representative of our assortment. Selection may vary by store. Some merchandise may not be available at every store.

To find the JCPenney store nearest you, call 1-877-FIND JCP (1-877-346-3527) or go to jcpenny.com!

For the Record

Marriage Licenses

Ellen Regina Hall, 36, of Ravenna, Ohio, to Lowell D. Blackburn, 69, of Endicott.
 Tiffany Elaine Baldrige, 19, to Jerry Drew Baldwin, 25, both of Prestonsburg.
 Anita N. Back, 39, of Hazard, to Kenneth G. Arrowood, 39, of Compton.
 Theresia Sharon Taylor, 25, to Chalmer Dwayne Allen, 36, both of Prestonsburg.

Civil Suits Filed

Citibank, South Dakota vs. Robert Slone, to collect a debt.
 Three Rivers Medical Center vs. Traci Lee Endicott, for bill of medical services.
 MGM Collection Agency vs. William Branham, to collect debt incurred from medical treatment.
 Capitol One Bank vs. Crit Bentley, to collect debt.
 Capitol One Bank vs. Harold Johnson, to collect debt.
 Capitol One Bank vs. Joshua Conley, to collect debt.
 Assets Acceptance vs. Tim Howard, to collect debt.
 Dianna Slone vs. Melissa Mannock, to collect for damages to automobile.
 Asset Acceptance vs. James Sparks, to collect credit card debt.
 Triple S Credit vs. Katherine Lands, to collect a debt.
 Monogram Credit vs. Stevie Lowe, to collect credit card debt.
 Capitol One Bank vs. Sandra Branham, to collect a debt.
 Alpike Rental vs. Chris Patton, to collect trailer fees.
 Highlands Regional Medical Center vs. Charles Adkins, to collect fees for medical treatment.
 Central Baptist Hospital vs. Robert Conley, to collect fees for medical treatment.
 Remit Corporation vs. Jimmy Crum, to collect fees for medical services.
 Discover Bank vs. Mary Slone, to collect credit card debt.

Small Claims Filings

Big Sandy Check Cashing vs. Janie Wright, to settle a debt.
 Denver Blair vs. Vivian Taylor, to collect damages for buying a dog that was older than appeared and not house broken as was promised.
 Martha Trimble vs. Evelyn Hall, to collect a debt.
 Melissa Case vs. Farish Bradley, for damages incurred from auto accident.
 Richard Lee Hall vs. Steven Bryant, to collect car payments.
 Donald Thompson vs. Clydia Bradley, for damages to automobile.
 Donald Bowling vs. Zodiac American Pools, to get repairs promised in warranty.
 Big Sandy RECC vs. Shaun Amburgey, to collect damages.
 Big Sandy RECC vs. Bruce Jarrell, for damages.
 Big Sandy RECC vs. Barbara Jones, for damages.
 Big Sandy RECC vs. Larry Porter, for damages.
 Big Sandy RECC vs. Sharon Kendrick, for damages.

Charges Filed

Steven Blevins, 25, of Tram; alcohol intoxication; fourth-degree assault.
 James Lewis, 20, of Martin; theft by unlawful taking.
 Randall Everidge, 21, of Raven; public intoxication.
 David North, 22, of Raven; public intoxication.
 Jennifer Cole, 25, of Prestonsburg; public intoxication.
 Noah Slone, 23, of Raven; public intoxication, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance.
 Myra Kidd, 21, of Harold; alcohol intoxication.
 Mark Vance, 33, of Wayland; criminal mischief, alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct.
 Tony Baril, 44, of Prestonsburg; alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest.

Willis Sparks, 27, of Martin; fourth-degree assault.
 Anne Stauffer, 27, of Allen; alcohol intoxication.
 David Craft, 38, of Prestonsburg; alcohol intoxication.
 Jack Absher, 49, of Prestonsburg; alcohol intoxication.
 Rex Reynolds, 38, of Prestonsburg; alcohol intoxication.
 Jackie Crabtree, 29, of Prestonsburg; hindering prosecution.
 Dottie Neeley, 86, of Hueysville; trafficking in marijuana.
 Nicolas Shaun Newsome, 27, of Harold; trafficking in a controlled substance.
 John D. Tackett, 58, of Melvin; two counts of second-degree trafficking.
 Verna Elliott, 38, of Hueysville; trafficking in a controlled substance, trafficking in marijuana.

Inspections

Woods Grocery, Allen, regular inspection. Violations noted: Easy-to-see thermometers not present in all cooling and freezing units, pet food observed stored on the floor, proper hair restraints not in use, restroom door not self-closing. Score: Food 94, retail 95.
 McDowell Grade School, regular inspection. Violations noted:

Partially-consumed soft drink in a bottle stored in refrigerator with food items to be served, proper hair restraints not in use, utensils stored improperly, restroom doors not self-closing, middle sink of three-compartment sink has no stopper, section of serving line lacks proper sneeze guard. Score: 89.
 Dairy Queen, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Food items stored on floor of walk-in cooler, proper hair restraints not in use, single-service items stored on floor, light in walk-in not properly shielded, clothing item stored in contact with food equipment, mop head stored on floor. Score: 93.
 Save-A-Lot, Martin, regular inspection. Violations noted: Pet food stored on floor, walk-in door in disrepair, drain leaks in handwash sink of woman's restroom, light in walk-in improperly shielded. Score: 93.
 Reno's Roadhouse, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Unable to locate all thermometers in various units, various food product not covered while stored, seals broken on reach-in food units, microwave in need of cleaning, all waste containers need to be covered during long periods, various areas of food prep and general areas found in need of floor repair, all lights in food prep area in need of shields. Score:

90.
 B and C Parkway Convenience, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Unable to locate all thermometers in some units, hair restraints not in use, wiping cloth needs to be stored in sanitary solution, microwave in need of cleaning, restroom needs self-closing doors, waste containers in food prep area need to be covered. Score: Food 91, retail 96.
 Adkins Mobile Home Park, Tram, regular inspection. Violations noted: Park lacks sufficient lighting, lots not properly numbered. Score: 96.
 Market Place Deli, Prestonsburg, regular inspection. Violations noted: Several over-the-counter medications on display have expired dates, thermometers not provided for cooling and freezing units, food items stored on floor, proper hair restraints not in use, wiping cloth use unrestricted, single-service articles stored on the floor, floor tile in disrepair, wet mop stored on floor. Score: Food 92, retail 90.

Property Transfers

Martha B. Hart to Charles and Martha Johnson, property located at

Spradlin Branch.
 Perry and Gloria Lyons to Carolyn Allen, property location undisclosed.
 Doris Hall to Exxo Resources Company, property located at Left Beaver.
 Teresa Moore to Philip Hamilton, property located at Frasure's Creek.
 Equicredit Corporation to Lakie Johnson, property located at Tinker Fork.
 Kenneth Wallace and Ruth Wallace to Cletis and Sandi Crager, property located at Raccoon Creek.

Bill and Sandra Hall to Linda Gail Rowe, property located at Left Beaver.
 David Moore to Nathan and Katherine Moore, property located at Turkey Creek.
 Bill and Sandra Hall to Reba Vicars, property located at Left Beaver.
 Gregory and Debra Campbell to Jody and Heidi Hackworth, property located at Brandy Keg Creek.
 Elva Spradlin to Robert L. Spradlin, property located at Little Paint Creek.

JENNIFER BURKE Attorney at Law



Riley and Allen, P.S.C.

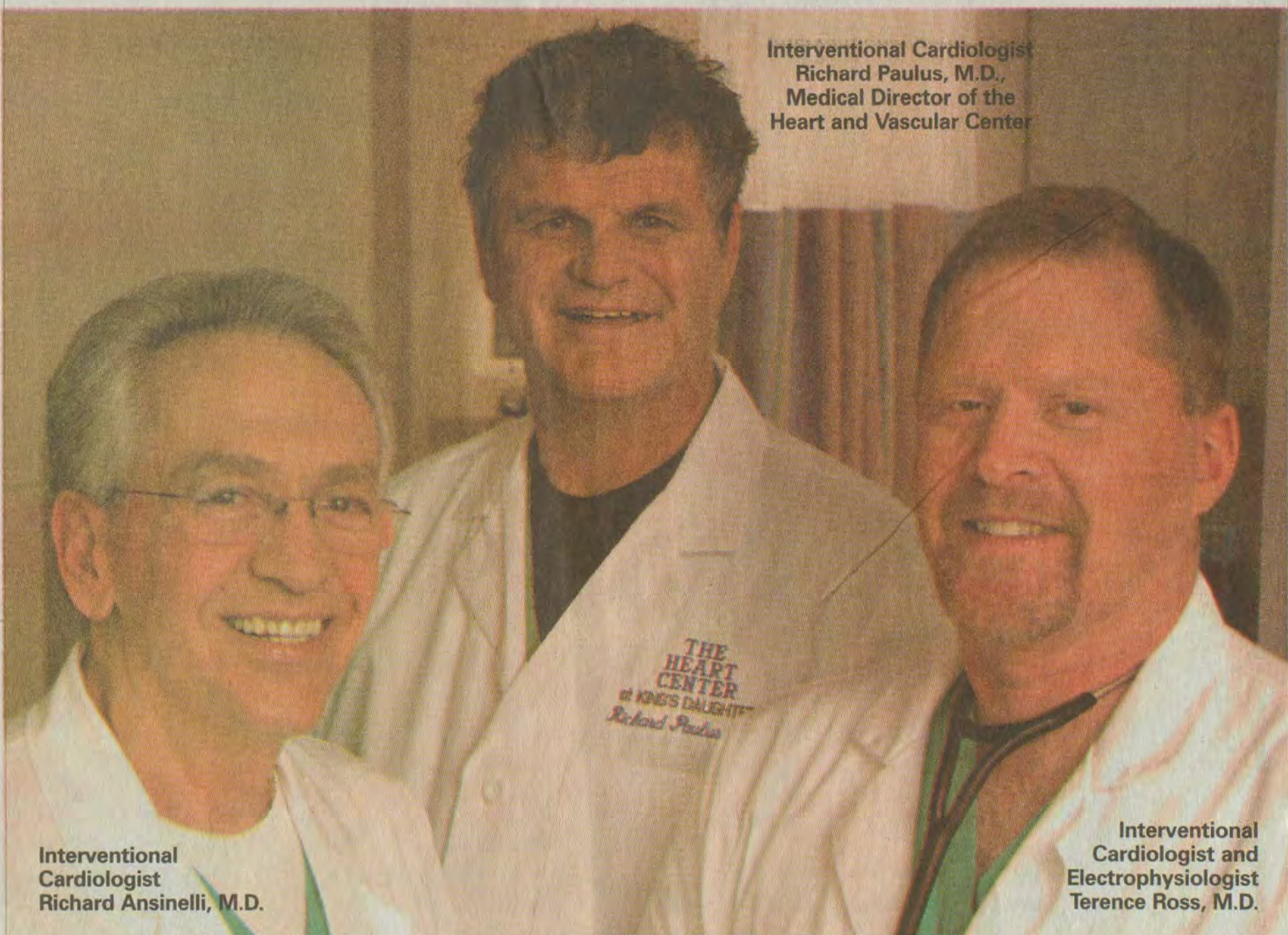
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Blackburn continues to lead in The Valvoline Cup

Prestonsburg stock car driver Steve Blackburn continues to lead The Valvoline Cup Asphalt Stock Points Standings. Blackburn is the 2004 NASCAR Dodge Weekly Racing Series Atlantic Region Champion. He is also the 2004 Lonesome Pine Raceway Late Model Track Champion.

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Rick Bentley

Local in UAB media relations department

by RICK BENTLEY
TIMES COLUMNIST

Jason Falls and I have shared many moments in a variety of press boxes in our time, but for me, one stands out.

It was our first football game at Pikeville College. And by first, I

mean it. It was the first one. Not the first varsity game, or the first one that counted.

This was the first time we ever put a team on the field.

I was a little disappointed it wasn't a home game. In retrospect, it couldn't have worked out better.

We were in Georgetown, and my friend Mr. Falls was there to greet us.

See, here's how that first season went. These games that meant so much to us were little more than a

nuisance to most folks at the schools we were playing. Nobody much plays junior varsity sports on the college level these days, and for seven of our eight opponents, that's what happened: The schools were so happy we were playing football at Pikeville they threw together a jayvee team just so we could play.

Of those eight games, five were on the road. Now, these games meant the world to us, but to our opponents, they were a day the varsity couldn't

practice. We visited press boxes and were joined by some third string player who lost the bet and had to keep the clock for a night instead of joining his teammates for a relaxing evening in the dorm.

Except for that night at Georgetown.

We got there and had a full box. I believe their newspaper was even there. And so was Mr. Falls.

Jason - who was also giving up a

(See BENTLEY, page two)



Pikeville native Jason Falls has made his way to the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

P'burg to host doubleheader

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG - Prestonsburg High School will host two of the area's better high school roundball games tonight when two perennial 15th Region powers pay a visit.

The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats will host Johnson Central. After not making a trip to the 15th Region Tournament last season, Johnson Central's Lady Eagles appear to be back to their old winning ways. The Lady Eagles - led by seniors Alice Daniels and Jayme Dials - feature an accomplished mix of veteran and young talent. Johnson Central hosted and beat 57th District rival Sheldon Clark last week. The Lady Eagles are 3-0 with wins over East Ridge, Boyd County and Sheldon Clark.

Prestonsburg (3-4) will enter tonight's game following a 58th District loss suffered at home to Allen Central Tuesday evening.

Tip-off for tonight's game Johnson Central-Prestonsburg girls' game is set for 6 p.m.

In the nightcap tonight,

(See HOST, page two)

Blackcats pummel Rebels



photo by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg senior Joe Blackburn drove to the basket. Pictured defending for Allen Central is Justin Jacobs.

Four Blackcats hit double figures in win

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - After struggling through the 2003-04 regular season, the Prestonsburg Blackcats hit stride in the post-season and have carried that momentum into the current campaign.

Prestonsburg kept its perfect record intact Tuesday evening with an 82-59 win over district rival Allen Central.

Prestonsburg jumped out to a 26-11 lead after one quarter and never looked back.

Senior guard Trevor Compton led Prestonsburg in scoring with a game-high 16

points. Fourteen of Compton's 16 points came in the first six minutes of the contest.

Allen Central has struggled thus far in the 2004-05 season, but the Rebels got 16 points from senior Ryan Hammonds and 14 points from senior Tim Griffith

(See BLACKCATS, page two)

Drivers brave cold to test at Kentucky Speedway

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SPARTA - Eight hundred ninety-five miles and 27 days away from the start of NASCAR Preseason Thunder at Daytona International Speedway, drivers Tony Stewart, Bobby Labonte, Jason Leffler, Jeff Burton, Dave Blaney, Mike Bliss and Justin Labonte braved morning temperatures in the teens to gain a feel for their 2005 NEXTEL Cup Series race packages at Kentucky Speedway Wednesday.

Former NEXTEL Cup Series Champions Tony Stewart and Bobby Labonte worked with new Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Jason Leffler to test six 2005 cars.

"The reason we have so many cars here today is that we don't know what kind of package we're going to have next year as far as what we want for the bodies," Labonte said. "I've gotten in two cars, Tony has his two and Jason has his two, so we have a lot of work to do."

Stewart, the 2002 series champion who finished sixth in the championship standings this past season, said he is taking the first steps toward improving on that finish in 2005.

"Everything is productive so far," Stewart said. "I think we'd all rather be home right now, but even with it being as cold as it is, we're learning something. We didn't bring a car here with last year's package and I've only run a total of about eight laps here, so I really don't have much data to back up what we're learning today. We're strictly working on next year's stuff. It's too early to tell if the new package will make a difference, we're just trying to gather data and working to make things better for next year."

After missing the first Chase for the NEXTEL Cup and finishing 12th in the 2004 standings with five top-five and 11 top-10 finishes last season, Labonte used the test to begin establishing a competitive foundation with new Crew Chief Steve Addington.

"We had a crew chief change halfway through the year and obviously it didn't work out like we wanted it to," Labonte said. "I think Steve's ability and expertise will bring a lot to our race team that we needed and lacked last year."

Bliss, who earned his full-time ride in the No. 0 NetZero Chevrolet for 2005 with a 10th-place finish in the car at Darlington Raceway last season, tested with new Crew Chief Robert "Bootie" Barker to prepare for his first run at the full NEXTEL

(See SPEEDWAY, page two)

Bears return to poll at 18

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIKEVILLE - After spending a week on the outside looking in, the Pikeville College Bears got quite a Christmas gift - they'll spend the holidays in the nation's Top 25 again.

After falling to the list of those unranked but getting votes last week, the Bears reentered the poll at No. 18 today. They and No. 19 Robert Morris (Ill.) College were the only two to return to the ratings.

Pikeville was 22nd in the preseason poll, but when last week's first regular-season rating was posted, the Bears were tied for 26th. But with a pair of wins over 2004 national quarterfinalist Barber-Scotia College last weekend, the Bears have returned to the ratings.

The Bears have played in three of the last four national tournaments and enter their break with a record of 12-1 after Monday night's 71-66 win at Knoxville

(See BEARS, page two)

Lady Rebs come on late, beat Prestonsburg

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - Allen Central's Lady Rebels had to battle back Tuesday night, but when the final buzzer sounded, owned a hard-fought 53-50 win over the host Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats. Allen Central, which lost at home to Betsy Layne Friday night, evened its 58th District/Floyd County Conference record to 1-1.

Allen Central senior center Becky Thomas had a double-double of 27 points and 12 rebounds. The senior, who is looking to play college basketball, also recorded four steals.

Thomas had to sit out with early foul trouble. However, her Lady Rebel teammates picked up the slack.

Allen Central had to play from behind. Prestonsburg led 16-7 at the end of the first quarter and 24-16 at halftime. The Lady Rebels then outscored host Prestonsburg in each of the last two quarters.

The win over Prestonsburg was the first victory of the season for the Lady Rebels, last season's 58th District runners-up. Earlier in the season, during the Pike Central Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic, Prestonsburg

(See LADY REBS, page three)



photo by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg sophomore Meaghan Slone (4) scored 15 points Tuesday night as the host Lady Blackcats fell short against district/conference rival Allen Central.

P'burg student bowls 300 game

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG - Prestonsburg High School student Chris Sparks - bowling for the Holiday Inn bowling team in a league at Pin Zone Bowling Center - recently bowled a three-game set of 300, 226 and 150 for a series of 676. For his achievement, Sparks, 16, will receive a ring from the American Bowling Congress. He currently averages 177 in the Tuesday night men's league.



Chris Sparks

Bentley

night of couch time, by the way — was there, and was joined by his entire entourage.

His clock guys, the stat crew, everybody.

And just before game time, he made an announcement. "All right guys," he said, "just like a varsity game."

Because Pikeville native Jason Falls understood what was happening that night. He knew that while many thought this was just a night they couldn't be home with their families, this was an important time for the folks in his hometown.

I've never forgotten that night, or the way Jason treated us. After our first carry, which I think went for about two yards, I whispered something to Jason. He laughed, and then did it. "That's the longest carry in Pikeville College history," he announced.

Jason was a pro, but he also shared my sense of humor.

Since that night, I've made a few trips to a press boxes and wished Jason Falls was running them. He hasn't been.

Shortly thereafter, he left Georgetown and took a job at Birmingham-Southern College, helping them in their transition from NAIA to NCAA Div. I.

That task largely completed, he recently moved across town to bigger things. Jason is in his first year as an assistant in the media relations office at Alabama-Birmingham.

As in UAB. As in the team that knocked Kentucky out of the tournament last year? That'd be the one.

UAB is a member of Conference USA, sharing the stage with Louisville, Marquette, Cincinnati and DePaul.

Now, here's the thing: At schools like UAB, there are a lot of people in the media relations office. The only time there are a lot of people in the Pikeville media relations office is when Coach Watson is laying on the couch, Coach McCoy is making copies and Andrew Joyce stops by to tell Coach Staggs and Coach Shelton a joke.

But at a school like UAB, the place is full.

It's also interesting to note that not only did Jason get the gig there, he got the gig there: He's the contact for men's basketball.

So when the Blazers entertain Louisville on Feb. 5, or travel to Cincinnati on Feb. 19, or (gulp) play in Honolulu next week, he'll be there, the guy hooking up the media with Coach Mike Anderson and his 5-1 club.

It's good to see a local boy doing well, and the 1991 grad of Pikeville High is doing just that. Says here the sky is the limit for Falls, a guy young enough and talented enough to make it as far as he wants to go in this business.

Regardless of how far that is, I'll always remember him for hooking me up with a photo (signed, of course) of his former boss The Fabulous Sports Babe, for an introduction at my first Mid-South Conference meeting I'm still trying to live up to and for a week's worth of laughs one spring in Boca Raton.

But it was a late summer night in 2000 when he made sure the football program from his hometown was treated right on their debut night that he sealed the deal with me.

Jason Falls is a pro. More importantly, he's a friend.

See you on press row, Jason.

■ Continued from p1

Speedway

Cup Series schedule since 2000. Bliss said the reduction in spoiler height made a difference when his car ran in traffic.

"It's going to be exciting," Bliss said of his upcoming season. "I know this Haas/CNC NetZero group. They're associated with Hendrick, so the motors, chassis and tech support come from there. 'Bootie' is great and he's one of the biggest reasons I wanted to come over and do this. We're doing a lot of winter testing because of the new rules with the spoilers. We're trying to see if we can gain back what we lost. I think we'll notice a lot, not by yourself, but in traffic with two cars there's a big difference. The car is more free. If you're deep in traffic, you're

going have to your hands full." Testing continued yesterday at Kentucky Speedway when Roush Racing driver Greg Biffle joined the Gibbs teams.

Kentucky Speedway will pack 11 races and concerts with country music artists Travis Tritt, The Charlie Daniels Band, Billy Ray Cyrus, SHEDAISY and The Kentucky Headhunters into five weekends of entertainment in 2005. The new season begins May 14 and ends September 10.

Season ticket packages are on sale now and begin at \$200. New and renewing members will be able to attend Outback Steakhouse Tailgate Parties during the June, July and August weekends and enjoy access to a VIP concert area.

Members also will receive one general admission pole event voucher and one cold pit pass with each season ticket purchased, the opportunity to purchase pole event tickets at half price, one preferred parking pass that can be exchanged for free access to general camping areas. Season seat locations can be renewed each year.

Packages can be reserved and renewed online at www.kentuckyspeedway.com, by phone at 859-578-2300 or at the speedway ticket office located at 2216 Dixie Hwy., Ste. 200, in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. A mail in order form also is available on the tickets pages of the official track Web site.

Single event ticket sales will begin January 10, 2005.

■ Continued from p1

Bears

College.

Concordia (Calif.) remained atop the poll at 9-1, getting nine of the dozen first-place votes. Mountain State (W.Va.) stayed hot on their heels at 14-1. The three remaining first-place votes went to Oklahoma Christian, one of only two

unbeaten teams in the Top 25. They are followed by Lindsey Wilson, 8-1, who swapped places with OCU. Southern Polytechnic (Ga.) rounds out the top five.

Georgetown bolted up the poll from 12th to sixth this week, and is the only other

Mid-South team ahead of Pikeville.

Cumberland College, 8-2, tumbled from seventh to 24th this week.

Pikeville will return to the court on Monday, Jan. 3, when they travel to play U.Va.-Wise at 7:30 p.m.

■ Continued from p1

Blackcats

Tuesday in the short effort.

Prestonsburg led from the opening tip. The cats took a 46-32 lead into the half.

Sean Leslie tossed in 11 points in the win for Prestonsburg and the duo of John Mark Stephens and Kyle Ousley both finished with 10 points apiece.

Prestonsburg put the game out of reach early in the third quarter by going on a 17-5 run to open the second half.

Allen Central trailed 63-37 after three quarters.

Junior point guard Michael Stephens and senior Michael Morrison

each added seven points for Prestonsburg.

Jesse Chaffin pitched in six points for the winning team, while playing with foul trouble throughout the night.

Joe Blackburn and Lewis Barnette both finished with four points for Prestonsburg and junior Nick McGuire came off the Blackcat bench to toss in four points. McGuire also pulled down four rebounds in the win.

Brooks Herrick rounded out the scoring for Prestonsburg with three points.

Allen Central got eight points off the bench from

Wilfredo Dominguez. Rebel point guard Ryan Collins added five. Nick Music finished with five points for Allen Central and Josh Martin added four. David Kilburn, Jason Paige and Justin Jacobs all pitched in two points for the Rebels. Nathan Collins rounded out the scoring for the Rebels with one point.

Prestonsburg improved to 3-0 on the season, while Allen Central fell to 0-4.

Allen Central was in action last night against county rival South Floyd. Prestonsburg will host Shelby Valley tonight at the Prestonsburg Fieldhouse.

■ Continued from p1

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Becky Thomas, Allen Central High School Basketball



Derek Case, Betsy Layne High School Basketball

Host

■ Continued from p1

Prestonsburg's boys will play host to preseason 15th Region favorite Shelby Valley. The Blackcats and Wildcats met up in the opening round of last season's 15th Region Tournament with Prestonsburg coming out on top and eliminating the then-defending regional champion. Shelby Valley, led by seniors Seth Kiser, Patrick Tackett, Kelsey Friend and Kris Bentley, boasts a 4-0 record. The Wildcats have beaten Hazard, defending 15th Region champ East Ridge, Rockcastle County and Magoffin County. Shelby Valley is in its first season under new head coach Jason Booher.

Tonight's Shelby Valley-Prestonsburg boys' basketball game will follow the Johnson Central-Prestonsburg girls' basketball contest.

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Now, that's a deal that would make the Grinch get in the spirit! Also, don't forget about our Party Special for those large get-togethers. Buy five or more large one-topping pizzas (no garlic butter or peppers) for \$6.00 ea. (pick-up or delivery).

Oh, yea, one more thing to make the holiday a little more entertaining. On December 31, the Prestonsburg location will be giving away a 20-in. Flat Screen TV & DVD Combo. Deadline to enter is December 30. So, stop by and let us make lunch or dinner, or if you've had a hard day shopping, give us a call and we will bring it to you.

Thanks so much for your business for the past five years, and have the happiest of holidays.

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Banks admits smoking marijuana, faking drug test

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Former Tennessee football player James Banks resumed smoking marijuana after his knee surgery this season and deliberately submitted a diluted drug test sample before he was dismissed from the team last week, according to published reports.

Coach Phillip Fulmer dismissed Banks, last year's leading receiver, after giving him several chances to redeem himself.

"I just never thought I would get kicked off the team," Banks told The Tennessean on Tuesday. "I always thought it would work out. It's my fault that I got kicked out of here, and I know that. I accept it and now I have to move on."

"I owe a lot of people a lot of apologies, but I let down my teammates tremendously. We could have been very good next year with me in there. I still think they will be very good, but I know we would have been better with me in the lineup."

Banks was suspended for the first half of last year's Peach Bowl, spring practice and the first three games of the season after various incidents. He was cited this summer for underage drinking.

His predicament got worse after his playing days ended with a preseason injury and knee surgery on Sept. 3.

That's when Banks began smoking marijuana again after quitting earlier.

"I had too much free time. I know people are going to think I have a drug problem, but I don't think I have a problem. Smoking weed is something I choose to do, and it happens to be illegal. It doesn't control me," he said.

A member of Tennessee's medical staff told Banks last week there was a problem with his most recent drug test.

Banks told the newspaper he submitted a diluted and unreadable urine sample to try to cover up his marijuana use. He had already failed one drug test in

his career.

"I knew they were going to test us," Banks said. "I guess I thought I wouldn't get caught."

"It was just stupid. I don't know any other way to say it than that."

Banks plans to return to his home in Indianapolis for Christmas.

He has already talked to officials at Chattanooga about transferring to the I-AA school, where he would be able to play immediately without sitting out a year. He could join other former Vols Brandon Johnson, Ovince Saint Preux and Greg Jones there.

Banks is also considering Grambling and Murray State.

"I wish everything could have been different," Banks said. "I didn't deal well with being away from football. I didn't even go to the games. I couldn't. Just watching them prepare and not being a part of it got to me. I got lazy in everything I did, and I'll always be sorry for that."

Reds agree to deals with Weathers, Weber

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Right-handers David Weathers and Ben Weber agreed to one-year contracts Wednesday with the Cincinnati Reds, who are trying to rebuild one of the major leagues' worst bullpens.

Weathers and Weber, both 35, join a bullpen that had a 5.12 ERA last season, second-worst in the major leagues

ahead of only Colorado.

Weathers, who is guaranteed \$1.35 million, also played for the Reds in 1998. Last season, he went 7-7 with a 4.15 ERA in two starts and 64 relief appearances with the Mets, Houston and Florida.

Weber went 0-2 with an 8.06 ERA in 18 appearances for Anaheim last season. He missed nearly two months with carpal tunnel syndrome.

He was one of the Angels' best relievers from 2001-03, going 18-5 with a 2.86 ERA. He had a career-high seven saves in 2002.

Weathers' contract calls for a \$1.25 million salary next season and includes a 2006 option at \$1.25 million to \$1.6 million, depending on appearances, with a \$100,000 buyout. It can become guaranteed based on his 2005 appearances.

Reds fans will again select players for team's hall of fame

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — For the first time since 1988, Cincinnati Reds fans will be allowed to choose the players honored in the team's hall of fame.

The Reds opened their hall of fame and museum Sept. 25 next to their home stadium, Great American Ball Park. There are 62 former Reds players and two former executives in the hall.

"From the hall's inception in 1958 through 1988, the fans elected the players to the hall of fame," said Greg Rhodes,

executive director of the museum and hall. "Since our new hall of fame is for Reds fans, it's fitting that fans have a voice in its membership."

Rhodes said the selection process is modeled on the one used for the national Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. Reds fans will vote on recent players who have retired since 1985. A veterans' committee will select a hall of fame inductee who retired from baseball before 1985.

Baseball writers from the Reds' region will help make the process more manageable by

screening the list of about 80 eligible players to approximately 15 to appear on the fan ballot.

Eligible players must have played for the Reds at least three years, and have been retired three years from an active major league roster. Fans may vote for up to three players. The top two candidates with the most votes will be inducted into the Reds' hall.

Fan voting is to begin Jan. 15 and run for four weeks. Distribution locations for ballots will be announced in early January. Inductees will be announced on Feb. 27.

Bengals: Defense must improve this weekend against Buffalo

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — With his starting quarterback still in question, Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis also is looking for the right spot to reintroduce his first-round draft pick.

Running back Chris Perry was activated last week for the first time since mid-October, but Lewis said there wasn't a good time to insert him in the flow of the game. A comeback came short as the Bengals lost to New England 35-28.

"We are anxious to get him in there and unwrap him a little bit," Lewis said.

Perry, the 26th overall pick out of Michigan, has appeared in only two games because of hamstring and abdominal injuries. So far he's carried the ball twice for 1 yard and has three catches for 33 yards.

Another chance might come in Sunday's game against Buffalo, a matchup of two of the

hottest NFL offenses.

The Bengals have produced more than 450 yards of offense in each of the last three games for the first time in franchise history and averaged 38 points in those games. Buffalo is averaging 38 points in its last four games.

The Bills have won four straight games and seven of their last nine since beginning the season with four straight losses.

But for the Bengals — who skipped on helping the defense by drafting Perry — defense has been a problem. Cincinnati shut out the Patriots for the final 24:46 and held them to 63 yards on their final four possessions. But that wasn't enough to overcome allowing 285 yards and four touchdowns on New England's first five possessions.

Rookie quarterback Carson Palmer sprained his left knee in the third quarter, and Lewis had not decided Tuesday if he or Jon Kitna would start Sunday.

Lewis said it remains to be seen whether Perry will play against Buffalo and how much.

"He has got to have a good week of practice," said Lewis. "He has to have confidence in himself physically, and then gain confidence in everything we are doing in order to have an opportunity."

The Bengals had hoped to use Perry as a third-down replacement for starting running back Rudi Johnson. But Johnson and backup Kenny Watson have played on third downs, sometimes catching passes out of the backfield.

That should be instructive for Perry, Lewis said.

"What Kenny and Rudi have done this year has been excellent," Lewis said. "He's had a chance to see some pretty good role models and how to do it."

Information from: The Cincinnati Post, <http://www.cincinnati.com>

Cincinnati Reds get RHP Ramon Ortiz from Anaheim

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Reds acquired right-hander Ramon Ortiz from the Anaheim Angels on Tuesday in exchange for minor league right-hander Dustin Moseley.

The Angels had declined to exercise the option year of their contract with Ortiz, 31. They gave him a \$100,000 buyout last month instead of paying him \$5.5 million for 2005.

Ortiz was 5-7 with a 4.43 ERA in 34 games, including 14

starts, last season. His career record is 59-49 in 157 games, all of them starts except for the 20 relief appearances this year.

Moseley, 22, was a combined 5-6 with a 3.86 ERA with Double-A Chattanooga and Triple-A Louisville.

UPDATE: Bristol Dragway to undergo major expansion

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Bristol Dragway, one of the nation's premier drag racing venues, will undergo a major expansion prior to the 2005 NHRA O'Reilly NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals with an all-new, double-in-size Thunder Valley Club, and a brand-new terrace grandstand topped by suites, including the revolutionary Bruton's Suite.

The expansion includes 3,400 seats in Thunder Terrace, which will rise above the existing grandstand. This section will feature stadium-style, flip-down seats with cup holders and armrests. Ten corporate suites will top Thunder Terrace, including Bruton's Suite, available to the public with a spectacular vantage point available for fans. The Thunder Valley Club also will double in size to nearly 1,000 seats.

Drag racing fans continue to establish the Bristol's NHRA O'Reilly Thunder Valley Nationals as one of the nation's top NHRA race weekends, selling out the event the previous

two seasons. Due to the increased ticket demand Dragway officials will meet fans' requests for premium grandstand seating.

"Bristol Dragway's continued growth made it evident that we needed to expand and we're proud to be the only Dragway in the nation under going such a vast expansion," said Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway president Jeff Byrd. "As always, our fans and their comfort and needs are the first things we consider. They wanted the same options available to them that are available at the Speedway, and in 2005, we deliver."

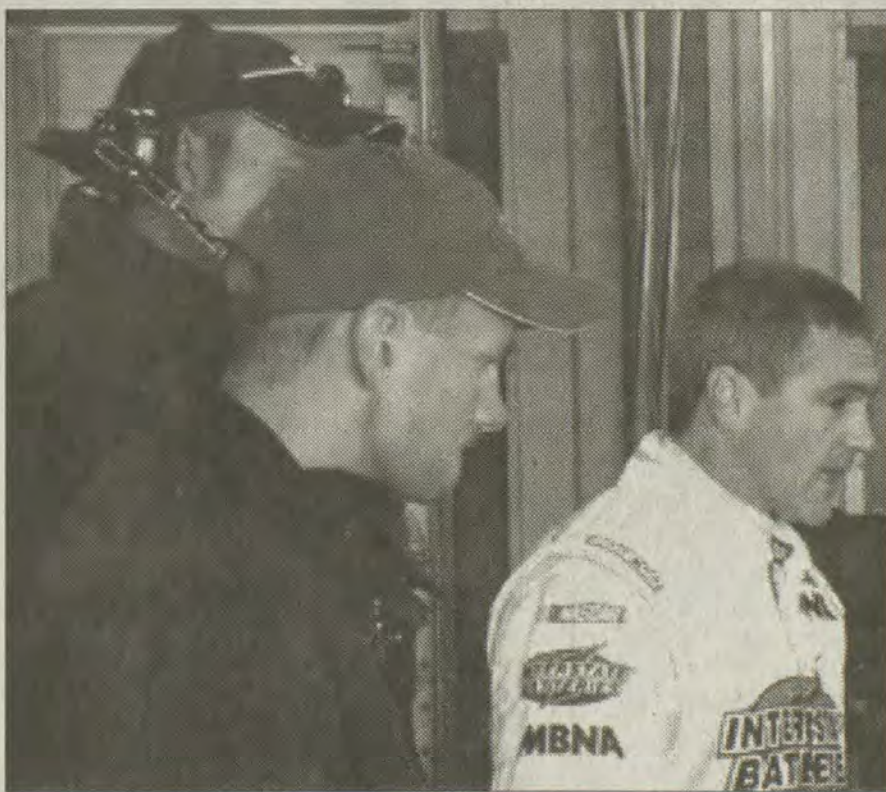
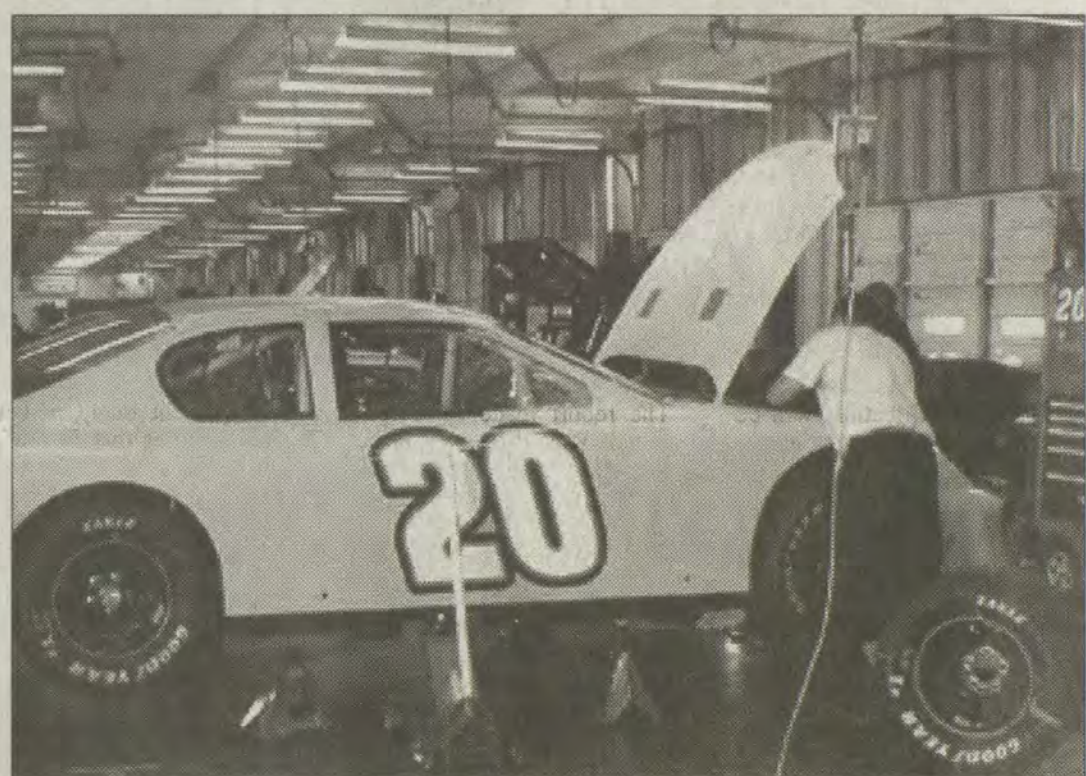
"The new Thunder Terrace offers premium seating and fans also have the option of the Thunder Valley Club seating as well as Bruton's Suite, which sits above Thunder Terrace and is available to any fan, while availability lasts. These improvements take America's best drag racing venue another level higher."

Bruton's Suite offers individuals premier seating inside a climate controlled environment

behind floor-to-ceiling windows and the ability to step outside to the seats under the covered veranda. In addition to the indoor-outdoor seating options the suite will offer the finest cuisine available on a buffet at no additional charge, as well as a cash bar for beer and wine coolers, along with private restrooms and closed-circuit television. Preferred parking privileges accompany purchases of two or more tickets.

Thunder Valley Club access offers premium pit side seating at the start line, a private patio next to the track, free breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday and complimentary water, tea and lemonade, along with a cash bar, private restrooms, closed-circuit television and preferred parking with the purchase of two or more tickets.

Tickets for the 2005 O'Reilly NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals, including all new seating options, are on sale now and may be purchased online at www.bristolix.com or by calling 423/764-1161.



photos courtesy of Kentucky Speedway

NASCAR Nextel Cup drivers Bobby Labonte and Tony Stewart each tested at Kentucky Speedway Tuesday. The drivers and their respective crews had to test in cold weather.



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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



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THROUGH MY EYES

1968 was a good year

Well, with this week's dipping temperatures and swirling snowfall, it's certainly "beginning to look a lot like Christmas." Takes my mind back to a Christmastime several years ago when snowflakes were blowing all around and the chill winds were whipping our wool scarves across our faces as my friends and I traversed the city sidewalks of Prestonsburg in search of gifts and goodies.



Kathy Prater
 Lifestyles editor

Wearing bluejeans, a navy pea-coat and saddle oxfords, I was a seventh grade student at Prestonsburg Elementary. And back in 1968, downtown Prestonsburg had much to offer. Cox's Department Store, Francis' Clothing - and Shoe - Stores, the Peggy Lou Shoppe, BF Casual, Hobb's, Ben Franklin Five and Dime, Arrowood's (with shelves always well stocked with the latest in Christmas toys), Hereford's, Abby's gifts, the Fountain Korner, Rose's Drug, the Sundry Store and more that I'm sure I've for-

(See EYES, page eight)

POSTSCRIPT

Just in time for Christmas

Last week I had to get in my usual plug for the gift of time - the most valuable gift, to my mind. Continuing in the holiday vein, this week we're looking at tangible gifts that we can buy, but that might mean more than a ceramic angel or a doodad for the bathroom wall.

Now, I will admit that the doodads work for some folks, especially collectors. For someone who collects elephants, for instance, a ceramic elephant angel just might be a keeper.

For most of us, though, it's another dust catcher. (My aversion, I'm sure, comes from a youth of having to dust my grandmother's doodads, given to her by children and grandchildren - including me - who didn't know what else to give her.)

Anyway, I've tried to think of some gifts that can be useful and

(See POSTSCRIPT, page seven)

PHS student receives national honor

Tonya Darby, a Prestonsburg High School student, has been selected for membership in The National Honor Society of High School Scholars. The Society invites only those students who have superior academic achievement and are among the top scholars in the nation. The announcement was made by NSHSS Honorary Chair Claes Nobel, a senior member of the Nobel Prize Family.

"I congratulate Tonya on this outstanding achievement and applaud the commitment to academic excellence," said Nobel. "The hard work and success of these exceptional young people will ensure a future generation dedicated to their communities and world betterment."

The National Society of High School Scholars was founded to recognize outstanding academic performance among high school students. Membership is by

invitation only and includes valuable benefits for members such as scholarships, networking, events, publications, and other unique opportunities. As members prepare for college, the Society encourages them to continue to strive for excellence in all future endeavors.

For additional information on The National Society of High School Scholars, visit the organization's website at www.nshss.org.



Tonya Darby



photo by Kathy J. Prater
 "Shepherd" Randy Ratliff, with Susan Epling portraying Mary and Gary Looney as Joseph, along with the Three Wise Men, Chad Fleenor, Matthew Adkins and Jamie Morgan, and "Angel" Joyce Morris braved the cold temperatures to bring the Christmas story to those visiting the live nativity on Tuesday. Children of all ages enjoyed petting the gentle camels, donkeys and sheep provided by Five-H Ranch, of Missouri.

Live nativity captures community interest

by KATHY J. PRATER
 FEATURES EDITOR

Camels don't spit and some sheep have more than two horns - only two of the interesting facts learned this past Tuesday on a visit to Pike County to view Pikeville Medical Center's (PMC) annual live nativity scene.

According to Clay Tidwell, of Five-H Ranch, located in Missouri, the mistaken belief that camels spit is "an old tale generat-

ed by t.v." "Camels don't spit," Tidwell said, "but llamas do. Camels are wonderful, gentle animals."

This was clearly evidenced as children flocked in, parents in tow, to the Riverfill parking lot, directly adjacent to Pikeville Medical Center, to view a live nativity complete with a multitude of animals to complete the manger scene.

Blanketed donkeys, majestic camels in royal dress and a flock of what Shawn Peetz, also of Five-H

Ranch, referred to as "Jacob's four-horned sheep," were available to the public for viewing, as well as petting.

In regard to the unusual multi-horned sheep: "These are the sheep that Jacob traveled with," Peetz said, referring to the Biblical book, Genesis, and the story of how Jacob bred the animals during his travels away from home and then returned with them to Canaan, his homeland.

Despite the frigid temperatures

of the early week, the animals all appeared well-fed, well-rested and very friendly to the crowd of curious visitors. "We've been coming here with the animals for several years now," said Tidwell, "we hope to keep them out all week, but we'll have to see how the weather goes."

"Camels don't like snow," Peetz remarked. "They aren't used to it and they much prefer warmer tem-

(See LIVE NATIVITY, page seven)

THINGS TO PONDER

Gifts for Family Time

"Family" - supposedly one of our priorities. "Time" - what busy family members are looking for. "Family time" - when the family takes the opportunity to be together and pay attention to each other. Where do you find it? Where did it go? Is it deep inside all of the gadgets most American households have today? Could it be in the stack of CD's? Could it be in the TV that is in every room, standard or satellite, where each person watches the programs of his/her choice? Maybe it is in the VCR. Perhaps it went into the depths of the Internet and was forever caught on an unwritten Web page. It could be mixed up with the video games and software.

Family time and the value of having such are frequently described. Hopefully, your selection of Christmas gifts will help encourage your family to be together more.

How the family has spent its relaxing time together has evolved over the years as other activities have. It is probably hard for some people to believe that there was the time that listening to the radio and/or playing games were gladly accepted. Then there were the years where the family gathered in the living room to watch the same TV program together and had one of three networks from which to choose.

Probably due to so many electronic toys in the average home these days, it is not unusual for many children to not know how to play "classic" games like Chutes and Ladders and Candy Land. I can't

imagine not playing Chinese Checkers were about 9 and 10 years old. They were so proud of themselves.

The importance of arranging a period of "family time" is often stressed to folks in sessions. Since you can't play a board game by yourself, family members getting together for this type of social activity can really be healthy. Ideally, a period of family time needs to happen at least once a week on the same day and time with the expectation that everyone will be present. All sources of electronics need to be off - the TV, music, telephone, and any other technical distracters. One purpose of the family time is for parents and children to practice communicating clearly, what is working and not working, and finding new

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(See PONDER, page seven)



Mable Rowe Lineberger,
 Ph.D.

Postscript

Continued from p6

needed and perhaps loved.

For example, how many of us have a home fire extinguisher? Can there be a much more practical gift? It's certainly not romantic, and we hope it will never have to be used, but it could be a lifesaver or homesaver. This could be the perfect gift for any adult who is responsible for an apartment, house, mobile home, camper or whatever.

Right behind the fire extinguisher in safety importance is a smoke detector. Experts tell us we need to have at least one on each floor of our homes. Is there someone on your gift list who doesn't have one? If so, then that's a good gift idea.

Be sure to include the batteries - which brings us to another practical gift: a supply of batteries. This is especially useful around Christmas when folks are receiving gifts that require batteries. But it's also practical throughout the year. How many of us consistently come up short from time to time (or more frequently)? You've just got a new house toy, and you forgot to look for the "Batteries not included" sticker. I contend a good gift would be one of those assortment packages that covers just about any household battery need.

In that same vein, here are a few more ideas: a supply of light bulbs, an assortment of tapes (cellophane to duct), a roll of 100 stamps or several sheets of pretty stamps, a box of assorted greeting cards or postcards, picture frames, space saver devices for closets or cabinets.

If you know someone with a green thumb, how about giving them a bundle of flower bulbs? This is especially economical this time of year, since December is about the end of the planting season and stores are trying to get rid of their supply.

For friends and family who have the time and interest, we can consider subscriptions. There are, of course, thousands - maybe millions - of publications to suit every interest, from bluegrass music to birdhouse building to genealogy. At hand is this newspaper, for instance. You can get either a mail subscription or an online subscription.

Another treasure for folks raised in this area is the Kentucky Explorer, which is an incredible bargain. Judging from the letters they receive, I'd say a fourth to a half of the subscribers are people who grew up here, moved away and still want to keep in touch.

Memberships are another good idea, especially for history buffs. Most of the counties around here have historical societies, and then there's the umbrella organization, the Big

Sandy Valley Historical Society, which meets quarterly and takes in the whole watershed in Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia. Another local interest history club is the Jenny Wiley Historical Society; although it's limited to descendants of the lady herself, most of us around here can make that claim.

Another very special gift, and often inexpensive, is an art print by a local artist, such as Tom Whitaker. There are, of course, many more and you probably know some of them. Mounting and framing the print would be an added gift.

Precious, handmade gifts are available from such places as David Crafts, Kentucky Appalachian Artisans Center, Mountain Homeplace and many other outlets.

Do folks on your list like live concerts? Then, just look around, read the paper, make a call, find out what kind of entertainment is available. The Mountain Arts Center has regular concerts, as does the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland. Plus, there are performing artists series in both Hazard and Pikeville, as well as in the Norton-Wise-Big Stone Gap areas of southwest Virginia. The Sipp Theatre in Paintsville often hosts live concerts. Check on the schedules of these organizations and reserve a ticket or two for someone.

Season tickets to Jenny Wiley Theatre would also be a perfect gift for many people on our lists.

I can't leave out my employer, Appalshop and WMMT-FM. Top name entertainers are scheduled about once a month by WMMT for Bluegrass Express Live performances. Though we broadcast the concerts, they're even better seen and heard live. WMMT also offers a day dedication premium, in which we dedicate a broadcast day to an individual or organization for a special donation.

I also have to include another passion of mine - books. They make good gifts for adults, but they make even more important gifts for children. The most important thing we can do for a child - just behind loving them unconditionally - is to read to them and encourage them to read. I firmly believe that if we teach them to read, they can teach themselves anything and make it in life on their own.

I think I've reached the bottom of my well for today. I wish a happy holiday for you and yours. I wish you the means to give something special to those you love and cherish. And I wish that those who love you let you know how much you are loved.

Live Nativity

Continued from p6

peratures. And, if the animals, especially the sheep, with their thick coats, get wet from snow or rain, it takes them a long time to dry off. If the coat is wet, then they become more susceptible to sickness and pneumonia. So, we hope the weather will cooperate and that we can have the animals out for everyone to see. The kids, especially, love seeing them."

Tuesday, the animals were all located under a tent just across from those PMC employees recreating the Biblical nativity scene. Though temperatures were falling, the "wise men," "Mary," "Joseph" and a heralding "angel" all stood steadfast at their posts as they gazed down upon a sleeping baby Jesus (part portrayed by a life-like baby doll).

Nearby, other PMC employees were cordially handing out hot chocolate, hot apple cider, Christmas cookies and holiday greetings to those in attendance.

If you haven't taken the time to view this beautiful nativity scene, you still have time to do so. The display will continue with a Friday evening showing, tonight, from 5-7 p.m. The Pikeville Medical Center invites all to stop in and share this wonderfully warm Christmas greeting sent to the entire community.

Those PMC employees participating in the live nativity on Tuesday, included: Joyce Morris, Chad Fleenor, Jamie Morgan, Matthew Adkins, Gary Looney, Susan Epling, Randy Ratliff, Mark Damron, Paul Funk, Tim Hatfield, James Justice, Barry Bradley, Shirley Norman, and Sue Slone.



photo by Kathy J. Prater
Clay Tidwell, of Missouri, tended to his flock of Jacob's sheep at the PMC live nativity.



photo by Kathy J. Prater
These two little girls enjoyed warming up with cups of hot chocolate and apple cider after viewing the live nativity and meeting some exotic animals up close.

Ponder

Continued from p6

guidelines/solutions to benefit all, as is necessary. Another purpose of the family time is for the members to socialize and enjoy being together. Fun and pleasure are #1. Everyone also has a good opportunity to learn about losing graciously, being happy for others, and be entertained by each other.

Having routine family time and playing board games provide an excellent way for adults to find out information about their off-spring. Besides being social events, while playing various games, parents can observe the children's memory, ability to follow directions, ability to concentrate, focus

his/her attention, and level of interest in doing typical child-like activities. It is often a way to identify how the children might be interacting with fellow students and possible sources of problems, if there are some within the classroom. Playing games with children can be very helpful during sessions in that the kids are more apt to talk about their feelings, while not being so aware of all they are saying.

As if families could not think for themselves, corporate America came up with what parents needed to be doing all along. An example was the toy company Hasbro Inc. pushing

Family Game Night in 1998 as a marketing method to encourage sales in its board game division, such as "old-tried-and-true" games like Monopoly and Scrabble. The idea of having Family Game Night came about from discussions with actual families. The company's spokesman did not give a dollar amount, but admitted that their sales pitch of Family Game Night energized the sale of board games. The New York City-based Toy Manufacturer's Association said that \$2 billion worth of puzzles and board games were sold in 1999. During the same year, almost \$7 billion video games were sold.

Not surprising was the Kaiser Family Foundation's report of a study finding that members of the average American family are isolated from one another by the wide assortment of entertainment choices they had.

Needless to say, some folks will think that they have better things to do than count out the moves for a plastic token around a game board. But do they really? There is nothing like doing today that which you will not be available at a later time - an opportunity for families to enjoy and learn more about each other. Remember, the family that plays together is often capable of staying together.

School Happenings

Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

If you would be interested in volunteering at AMS, contact the Youth Services Center to schedule a time for Volunteer Orientation.

Adams Middle School Youth Services Center is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center offers services to all families regardless of income. For more information about any of the activities or services of the center, please contact the center at 886-1297. Center Coordinator - Michelle Keathley.

Allen Central Middle School

Turn in Food City receipts and General Mills box tops to home room teachers!

Dec. 17 - Snowflake Ball.
The ACMS Youth Service Center is open each day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or later by appointment. For more information about the center, call LaDonna Patton, coordinator, or Marilyn Bailey, assistant, at 358-0134.

Allen Elementary and Family Resource Youth Service Center

Call Allen Elementary Youth Service Center at 874-0621 to schedule your child's Hepatitis B vaccination, immunizations, and WIC appointments.

Betsy Layne Elementary

The Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource Youth Service Center is located in the 500 building of the campus. The goal of the FRYSC is to meet the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood by the school in which the center is located. For further information,

please contact the center at 478-5550 or 478-9751, ext. 310.

Brian H. Akers, Center Coordinator; Charlotte Rogers, Program Assistant II; Debra Hayes, School Nurse.

Clark Elementary

A nurse from the Floyd County Health Dept. is in the center weekly and sees WIC patients, does well-child exams (birth-18 years), and gives immunizations. Currently scheduling exams for students who will be in the 6th grade in the next school year. Call for an appointment - 886-0815.

The Clark Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the Clark Elementary School building and can be reached by calling 886-0815.

Duff Elementary

School is collecting Food City receipts again this year! Receipts must be dated Sept. 12, 2004 - March 12, 2005.

Floyd County Health Dept. is at the school each Tuesday. Services include 6th grade school entry physical; kindergarten, Head Start and well-child physicals (age birth to 18 years); T.B. skin test; T.D. boosters; and WIC services. Please call 358-9878 for appointment if you are in need of any of these services.

The J.A. Duff Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the tan metal building at the rear of the school. Contact persons are Judy Handshoe, coordinator, and Ruby Bailey, assistant.

May Valley Elementary

Parent Lending Library is available to parents for video check-outs. A variety of topics are available.

Floyd County Health Dept. nurse at school every Wednesday. Services include Head Start physicals, kindergarten physicals, 6th grade physicals, well-child physicals, immunizations, TB skin test, WIC program, blood pressure checks, and more. Must call the FRC at 285-0321 for an appointment.

McDowell Elementary and Family Resource Center

Floyd County Health Department Nurse Joy Moore, is at the center each Monday to administer immunizations, T.B. skin tests, well-child exams, WIC, prenatal and postpartum services, and school physicals. Call 377-2678 for an appointment.

Prestonsburg Elementary and Family Resource Center

Please collect Food City receipts! School goal is \$500,000 in receipts. Anyone in the community may mail receipts, in care of PES, to 236 North Lake Drive, or drop them off at the school office.

The Family Resource Center is open weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and later by appointment. Office provides services for all families, regardless of income.

After School Child Care, 3-6 p.m., school days.

Call 886-7088 for additional information regarding the Prestonsburg Elementary Family Resource Center or its programs.

South Floyd Youth Services Center

School is participating in the

"Apples for Students" program. Please turn in your Food City receipts to office or send with a student. Thanks!

Committee sign-ups may be done through the Youth Services Center office.

Walking track open to public.
The center has a one-stop career station satellite that is available to the community as well as students.

Anyone interested in Adult Ed may contact the center for information.

All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus, Room 232, and see Mable Hall.

For more information call 452-9600 or 9607 and ask for Mable Hall, ext. 243, or Keith Smallwood, ext. 242.

Stumbo Elementary/Mud Creek Family Resource Center

FRC monthly Advisory Council meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month, at 4 p.m. Call for more info.

Lost & Found located in Family Resource Center.

Resource Center hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents and community members are welcome to visit. For questions, call 587-2233 - ask for Tristan Parsons, Center Coordinator, or Anita Tackett, Assistant.

W.D. Osborne "Rainbow Junction" Family Resource Center

"Lost & Found" is located in the FRC. If items not picked up within 2 weeks, they become the property of the resource center.

Rainbow Junction Family Resource Center is located in the W.

D. Osborne Elementary School. Hours of operation - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or later by appointment. Call 452-4553 and ask for Cissy or Karen. Parents/community members free to visit any time.

Wesley Christian School

Wesley Christian Daycare and Infant/Toddler Care accepts infants and toddlers up to 2 years and Preschool age 2-4. Daycare hours: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For additional information, call 874-8328. Summer office hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Floyd County Adult Ed Class Schedule

BSCTC, Prestonsburg campus: Mon., Wed., Fri. - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tue., Thur. - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contact: Jason Cassell - 886-3863, ext. 67219. Room m207 (second floor, Library).

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center: Tue., Thur. - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: Lucille Fuchs - 886-0709.

Martin Extended Education Service Center: Tue., Thur. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Vanessa Tackett - 285-5111.

Wayland EESC: Mon., Wed. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Vanessa Tackett - 358-3400.

Wheelwright: Mon., Wed. - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Penny Fell - 452-4324.

McDowell: Tue., 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

For more information about Adult Education class schedules, contact the David School at 886-8374. All classes and materials free of charge.



Family Medicine

By Martha A. Simpson, D.O., M.B.A.



'Numbness' or 'tingling' are body's warning signs of frostbite

dies" in the affected body part. As the condition progresses, this may be followed by numbness as well as throbbing or aching. In later stages, all of the deep structures become frozen — including the muscles, tendons, blood vessels, and nerves. You will lose all sensation in the affected extremity. It will also have a "woody" feeling.

If the freezing is not too severe, blisters can appear over the damaged area a day or so after the frostbite incident. In the most severe cases, blistering does not occur. In these cases, surgery — including amputation of permanently damaged areas — may be required.

Prior to going to the emergency department, you should try to get out of the cold and remove wet clothing. Try to warm up as much as possible, since frostbite victims also often have hypothermia (low body temperature). Gently rewarming a frozen part in 100 degree water is the

appropriate initial therapy, providing you can keep the part from refreezing. Don't rub a frozen part or use

excessive heat to rewarm an area while awaiting medical help.

The best treatment for frostbite and frostnip is prevention. Dress in layers when going out. Avoid spending extended time in the extreme cold. Protect susceptible areas such as your hands and face. Wear well-fitting, waterproof boots and clothing. Avoid drinking alcohol, which causes you to lose more body heat, and smoking, which reduces circulation to the extremities.

Some people with peripheral vascular disease, poor circulation and those taking certain medications like beta-blockers are more prone to frostbite. Also if you suffer from diabetes, you are at increased risk.

All of us should be aware that frostbite risk increases even in mildly cold weather if it is a windy day. This is why your local weather person reports the "wind chill" factor during the winter months.

One final tip: listen to your body. Anytime you feel tingling or numb sen-

sations in an extremity, get to a warm indoor area as quickly as possible.

Family Medicine® is a weekly column. To submit questions, write to Martha A. Simpson, D.O., M.B.A., Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, P.O. Box 110, Athens, Ohio 45701, or via e-mail to readerquestions@familymedicine.org. Medical information in this column is provided as an educational service only. It does not replace the judgment of your personal physician, who should be relied on to diagnose and recommend treatment for any medical conditions. Past columns are available online at www.familymedicine.org.



Question: It gets very cold where my family and I live now, and we all love the outdoors. Can you tell me about frostbite, how to treat it and how to prevent it? We are new to this cold climate, and I have heard many stories about frostbite.

Answer: Frostbite is damage to the skin and underlying tissues due to extreme cold. It involves the actual freezing of body tissues after exposure to cold temperatures — usually after a prolonged period. Exposed body parts, such as hands, ears, nose and feet are the most common areas affected. Since children are more prone to frostbite than young adults, it is important to dress them

properly and monitor them when playing outdoors.

Frostnip is an early stage of frostbite that occurs when only the surface layer of the skin is frozen. This can be managed at home by removing wet clothing and rewarming the body parts in slightly warm — but not hot — water. Often the affected parts are numb, so it is important to

have someone else check the water temperature to prevent burning.

True frostbite, on the other hand, is a medical emergency and requires treatment at the nearest hospital emergency department. Frostbitten skin appears white and waxy and feels harder than normal. In the early stages, you may have the sensation of "pins and needles"

Office for the Blind helps Magoffin native, Floyd teacher, become artist

FRANKFORT - As a child, Shannon Shepherd's eyesight was so bad that when his mother asked for assistance from the superintendent in his school district, she was told to keep him at home and let him catch butterflies. Fortunately, his mother did not heed that advice and now the 35-year-old is an art teacher who has displayed his work in art shows all across Kentucky.

"When you do something you really enjoy, it gives you a good feeling that nothing else can. That happens for me with art and with teaching, especially when the student succeeds," Shepherd said.

The Magoffin County native was born with a visual impairment and has worn glasses for severe nearsightedness since he was four years old. But even with glasses, Shepherd had to stand near the chalkboard or get notes from other students because he could not read the board.

Shepherd said he knew he wanted to continue his education after high school and have a career instead of continuing to receive Social Security benefits, but he did not know how to accomplish that goal. In his senior year, Shepherd began working with the Kentucky Office for the Blind (OFB).

Rehabilitation Counselor Mike Hall, also of Floyd County, to choose a career that fit his abilities

and interests.

Hall took Shepherd to the Kentucky Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, now called the Charles W. McDowell Rehabilitation Center, for an initial evaluation for college in 1987. "I was very hesitant about going to Louisville because I was so scared," Shepherd said.

He returned to the center in 1988 for about three months of training on typing, job skills, interview skills and life skills. Those classes also improved his self-esteem, Shepherd said. OFB provided him with a typewriter and assistive technology and helped him enroll at Lees College, in Jackson, where he earned an associate's degree in arts in 1990.

While at Lees College, he worked as an assistant resident counselor during the summers for the Governor's Scholars Program and realized then that he wanted to teach art.

Most of Shepherd's teachers and fellow students were not aware of his visual impairment. "I didn't want people to know because I didn't want people to feel sorry for me or give me something I didn't earn," he said.

Shepherd continued his education at Morehead State University (MSU) where he earned a bachelor's degree in art education and a teaching degree in 1993 and a mas-

ter's degree in studio art in 1999.

"It's 99 percent the individual. I think the person has to really want it. Shannon wanted it. He would have been successful at whatever he chose," Hall said. "We just provided the way but he did the work. Our agency affords people the opportunity, but they



Magoffin County native and Floyd County teacher and artist, Shannon Shepherd, displayed several of his works recently at the MSU Claypool-Young Art Gallery. The artist is shown here with a painting he did of his grandparents. Shepherd, a teacher at Betsy Layne High School, was recently awarded the Office for the Blind 2004 Vocational Achievement Award.

have to do it."

Shepherd's first teaching position was in Floyd County elementary schools. In 1995, he became an art teacher at Betsy Layne

High School.

For the most part, Shepherd has not needed OFB's services since he started teaching but this year he sought assistance from the agency when his wife, Stephanie, died of cancer. Shepherd and their two children relied on her to drive because Shepherd's visual impair-

The couple was worried about how Shepherd would get to work, how he would get their children to activities and about the family becoming isolated. They initially thought that the family would have to move following Mrs. Shepherd's death to an urban area with public transportation, but Shepherd found out about OFB's Bioptic Driving Program and contacted the agency.

Shepherd had to meet the program requirements, complete 30 hours of instruction with a trained specialist and be fitted for bioptic glasses that magnify road signs before taking the driving test. Now Shepherd can drive to work and his family can remain in their rural community.

"I had the desire to go to school and do art. I believe God opened doors when it was time and OFB was one of those doors and the bioptic driving program was one of those doors," Shepherd said.

This fall, Shepherd's paintings and printmakings have been on display at Morehead State University at the Claypool-Young Art Gallery, Prestonsburg Community College and on tour in Kentucky with Appalachia's "Images from the Mountains." In the past few years, Shepherd's art work has been displayed at the Kentucky Governor's Mansion and the Mountain Arts Center.

Shepherd's subjects reflect his Appalachian upbringing with images of log cabins and remaining chimneys from long abandoned mountain homes.

"I like realism. I prefer rural subjects. I guess it's because I grew up with it," Shepherd said about his artwork. "All my spare time was spent in the hills."

Shepherd said he feels fortunate to have been involved with the people at OFB. Their assistance has helped him to be independent and given him guidance. His success was recognized by the agency when Shepherd received the 2004 OFB Vocational Achievement Award recently.

"(OFB) afforded me opportunities. When I was 18 it opened a door for me. I knew I wanted to go to school. It let me know it was possible. It opened my eyes to another world outside of Magoffin County. It encouraged me to pursue going to school," Shepherd said.

OFB is an agency of the Department for Workforce Investment in the Education Cabinet.

The Education Cabinet coordinates learning programs from P-16, and manages and supports training and employment functions in the Department for Workforce Investment. For more information about our programs, visit www.educationcabinet.ky.gov or www.workforce.ky.gov or call 502-564-6606.

Eyes

gotten to mention, all provided hours worth of Christmas shopping, gazing and window dreaming.

My best friends at this time of my life - Sherry Music, Vikki Waddle, and Nancy Presley, all lived on the outskirts of town, so it was a grand and wonderful time when their parents would allow them to

visit my house for the day or to stay overnight. Especially when "town" was aglow with Christmas lights and the shops were all staying open late to accommodate those shoppers who had daytime work to attend to.

Walking the streets several hours past dark, avoiding the cold, wet slush puddles and

stopping to make snowballs to throw at friends darting from one corner to the next before sliding into one of the local fountains for a hot chocolate and a quick warming up, were hours spent making up some of my very fondest of memories.

Long before I grew up and moved away from my little town for college, these late-

night holiday activities were the closest I would ever come to the thrills of a big city shopping mall.

Life sure was delicious back then and I still miss those old stores and those late evening shopping jaunts. It just isn't the same walking along the temperature controlled (and dry) showy mall pavilions.

Continued from p6

HRMC helps provide holiday meals to community



Bud Warman, right, President and CEO of Highlands Regional Medical Center, presented gift certificates good for free turkeys to Howard Sparks from the Salvation Army in Paintsville, Debbie Amburgy from God's Food Pantry in Prestonsburg, and Elizabeth Fitch from the Big Sandy Crisis Center in Floyd County. The certificates represented a total of 60 turkeys donated by Highlands as part of their annual holiday giving program.

Weddings



Hunt-Spears

Lynden Hunt, of Pikeville, and Glenn Spears, of Bevensville, are pleased to announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Ms. Hunt is employed by Wal-Mart of Pikeville. Mr. Spears is retired from Columbia Natural Resources. The couple will wed in a ceremony that will take place on Saturday, January 1, 2005, at 3:30 p.m., at the Zebulon Church of Christ. A reception will immediately follow. The gracious custom of an open church wedding will be observed.

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

Classified Rates: for 20 words or less
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, only \$12.00
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday & Shopper \$13.00
An additional charge of .25 per word for every word over 20
Classified Manager: Tammy Conn, ext. #19

DEADLINES:

- Wednesday Paper, Noon Mon.
- Friday Paper and Shopper, Wed. 5 p.m.
- Sunday Paper, Thurs. 5 p.m.

CONTACT US AT: (606) 886-8506



Send Us Your Ad
(606) 886-3603
24 HOURS

100 - AUTOMOTIVE

- 110 - Agriculture
- 115 - ATVs
- 120 - Boats
- 130 - Cars
- 140 - 4x4's
- 150 - Miscellaneous
- 160 - Motorcycles
- 170 - Parts
- 175 - SUV's
- 180 - Trucks
- 190 - Vans

- 210 - Job Listings
- 220 - Help Wanted
- 230 - Information
- 250 - Miscellaneous
- 260 - Part Time
- 270 - Sales
- 280 - Services
- 290 - Work Wanted

300 - FINANCIAL

- 310 - Business Opportunity
- 330 - For Sale

- 350 - Miscellaneous
- 360 - Money To Lend
- 380 - Services

400 - MERCHANDISE

- 410 - Animals
- 420 - Appliances
- 440 - Electronics
- 445 - Furniture
- 450 - Lawn & Garden
- 460 - Yard Sale
- 470 - Health & Beauty
- 475 - Household

- 480 - Miscellaneous
- 490 - Recreation
- 495 - Wanted To Buy

500 - REAL ESTATE

- 505 - Business
- 510 - Commercial Property
- 530 - Homes
- 550 - Land/Lots
- 570 - Mobile Homes
- 580 - Miscellaneous

- 590 - Sale or Lease

600 - RENTALS

- 610 - Apartments
- 620 - Storage/Office Space
- 630 - Houses
- 640 - Land/Lots
- 650 - Mobile Homes
- 660 - Miscellaneous
- 670 - Commercial Property

- 690 - Wanted To Rent

700 - SERVICES

- 705 - Construction
- 710 - Educational
- 713 - Child Care
- 715 - Electrician
- 720 - Health & Beauty
- 730 - Lawn & Garden
- 735 - Legal
- 740 - Masonry
- 745 - Miscellaneous

- 750 - Mobile Home Movers
- 755 - Office
- 760 - Plumbing
- 765 - Professionals
- 770 - Repair/Service
- 780 - Timber
- 790 - Travel

- 800 - NOTICES
- 805 - Announcements
- 810 - Auctions
- 815 - Lost & Found

- 830 - Miscellaneous
- 850 - Personals
- 870 - Services
- 890 - Legals

The FLOYD COUNTY TIMES does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertisements. Ads which request or require advance payment of fees for services or products should be scrutinized carefully.

AUTOMOTIVE

130-Cars

FOR SALE: 1996 KY 500, New plastic, looks & runs good. \$1600. Call 874-0631

For Sale 1995 Grand Am automatic a/c Good condition 874-1398 after 6pm

For Sale 1993 Ford Crown Victoria. 138,000 miles. \$1,200. call 606-874-0467

HICKS AUTO SALE 404 DAVID ROAD 01 Chevy Blazer LT 4 door 34,000 miles **REDUCED** \$9,500, **1998 Town and Country Chrysler** all wheel drive loaded \$6,000 **1998 Camry LE** black loaded 95,000 miles \$6,200 **1996 ED Explorier** moon roof loaded, \$6,500 call Hicks Auto Sales at 606-886-2842 after hours 886-3451

2004 DODGE STRATUS R/T. Excellent condition. Black in color. Loaded with sunroof. Will sale for payoff. Call 606-452-2323 after 6 p.m. or 606-226-2881.

For sale 1991 Toyota Corolla needs work \$800 firm call 606-886-8339 after 5 pm.

For Sale: 1995 Mustang Good Motor and Transmission \$1500 Call: (606) 452-4672

140-4X4s

FOR SALE: '03 Honda Foreman 450 4x4 ATV, electric shift, 26 inch mud slick tires, 481 miles, 5x8 dump trailer, has 30 month extended warranty. Asking \$4800. Call 285-9526

150-Miscellaneous

Will trade 4 wheel drive pick-up for a 4 wheel drive 4 wheeler call 606-874-2703

160-Motorcycles

For Sale 1988 Gold Wing Trike 1,500 Miles Maroon in color, loaded call 606-358-2000 asking \$19,995

1995 Honda CVR 900RR Cobra and Yoshi pipes-slip on with 2 matching helmets. Runs great call 606-226-1577 or 606-889-9283

For Sale 1998 YAMAHA YZ80 New tires, pro-circuit pipe. \$1600. Call 606-452-9599 for more info.

1999 HONDA Goldwing has 19,000 miles, lots of extra's in excellent condition. \$10,800. Call: (606) 478-9320.

180-Trucks

For Sale 1 utility Truck with boom 1 record pick-up with lift on back, new brakes in excellent condition and 1 1998 Toyota Tacoma runs good and 1 1992 Ford F 150 loaded with extras call 606-874-9529

Wanted used full size pick-ups 1998 thru 2003, will pay cash call 800-789-5301

EMPLOYMENT

When responding to Employment ads that have reference numbers, please indicate that entire reference number on the outside of your envelope. Reference numbers are used to help us direct your letter to the correct individual.

210-Job Listing

SEARS HOME IMPROVEMENT PRODUCTS

Come to work for Sears in the Home Improvement Business. There are nine (9) immediate sales openings. \$48k avg. income with potential to \$100k. Benefits include health/dental, bonuses, 401k, paid training, and advancement opportunities. Call Steve Ward at 800-282-6370 or fax resume to 407-551-0448, M/F/D/V. EOE We utilize drug testing and criminal background checks as a condition of employment

OUR FACILITY IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING REGISTERED NURSES in the following areas: Medical/Pediatric Critical Care Unit Obstetric Department Surgical Floor We are also recruiting Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nurses Aides for the Medical Department. We offer an excellent benefit package. We are an EOE and We Drug Test. If interested in an exciting new career, call or forward resume to: Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center Human Resources Department 625 James S. Trimble Blvd. Paintsville, KY 41240 (606) 789-3511 Ext 1229

AVON

Earn your own money \$10.00 sign up fee. Free gift Call Jancy at 886-2032

220-Help Wanted

P/T FIELD INSPECTOR, will train. Internet access required. Digital camera needed. Fax name, number, city and state to 770-345-9287.

The Mountain Sports Leader / C.M.H. Travel Guide has an opening for an experienced Ad Sales Rep. Create your own hours, high Income Potential, and gas allowance. Must have reliable vehicle and willing to drive regionally. For interview call Kevin at (606) 439-1588 or (606) 233-2536 or Ken at (606) 889-0505.

WANTED: Kentucky Oil and Refining Company at Betsy Layne is seeking a truck driver. This person must have class A Tanker CDLs and be HAZMAT certified. Call 606-478-9501 and ask for Richard or stop by the office for an application.

CONTRACT HIGHWALL MINING, LLC is accepting applications for employment. Electricians and Operators needed for a Superior Highwall Miner. Hiring day and night shift. For an application please call (606) 437-4603

Mountain Manor of Paintsville is taking applications for part-time and full time LPN positions. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Ky, from 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY.

A COKE/WATER ROUTE. Electronic machines Indoor/outdoor sites, best prices/services LTD, 800-679-9124

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WE OFFER AN EXCELLANT BENEFITS PACKAGE AND COMPETIVE WAGES. CALL OR STOP BY FOR A TOUR AND INTERVIEW TO JOIN OUR C A R I N G TEAM. SALYERSVILLE HEALTH CARE 571, PARKWAY DRIVE 606-349-6181 E.O.E./A.A.P.

Help Wanted Retail in Management Needed experienced Manager for Dollar Store must have Retail Management experience send resume to Dollar Mart 270 Dog Patch Center, London, Ky. 40741 c/o Atten Bruce

MERCHANDISE

410-Animals

FOR SALE Reg. Tiny male Chihuahua Puppy. Shots, parents 8 weeks. 325.00 886-2087

445-Furniture

ALMAR FURNITURE Big Selection of Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Washers, Dryers and much more 606-874-0097

RAY'S BARGAIN CENTER

New & Used Furniture & Appliances @ unbelievable prices. Come in today for incredible savings. Shop At The Little Furniture Store & Save!! Route. #122, McDowell. Call 606-377-0143.

475-Household

\$7.99! Stereo Speakers Seized property TV, Computers & More! from \$10.00! for more information call 800-366-0307 ext. P620

Classified ads work! Call 886-8506

480-Miscellaneous

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$70 per load. All Hardwood Split Call: (606) 358-9616

FOR SALE: Timber, approximately 80 acres. Call 587-2619.

FOR SALE: 3 H beams, 45 ft. long, good for building bridges. 1980 Tab over MAC truc without the bed. Call 899-0897.

ANTIQUES FOR SALE: Furniture and dishes also like new leather recliner. 1997-2004 Mustang gt - new tires and wheels 606-434-5551

For Sale: 8 ft' refrigerated deli case, \$1000, small pizza oven, \$400, small juice cooler, \$150, washer & dryer, \$150 pair. Call 606-886-2367.

For Sale: 8 ft' deli cooler, \$950 and Gas convection oven, \$450. Call 606-886-2367.

Kay's Wallpaper 205 Depot Road Paintsville, Ky. Hundreds of Patterns of Wallpaper & Borders. All under \$10.00. Open Tues - Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. 606-789-8584.

REAL ESTATE

530-Houses

HOUSE FOR SALE Approx. 6 acres on Left Beaver Creek on Rt 122 Good location, asking \$42,500. Call 859-744-346

A foreclosure 2 bed 2 bath only \$24,000! for listings call 800-391-5228 extension. B 183

To place your ad call Tammy at 886-8506

Sales Advisors

Summit Demonstration Services is staffing up to begin operations at the new Food City store, opening soon in Prestonsburg, and at other Food City locations in Eastern Kentucky, and Southwest Virginia.

As a Sales Advisor, you will provide an ongoing series of in-store product demonstrations in your local Food City store. Have fun and meet people while working a flexible, part-time work schedule— isn't it time you had a job you really enjoyed?

To apply, call 800-532-1417 x 33029, and leave a message with your name, phone number and which Food City location are of interest of you. For additional information, please visit our website. www.summitdemos.com

550-Land/Lots

LAND FOR SALE located at Wayland, KY known as Glow Hill. Estate of the late Jack and May Ratliff. Some flat and some hillside property. Approx. 14 acres plus 606-422-9034 ask for Becky. Serious inquiries only

For Sale 9 acres more or less on Samson fork at Dana, Ky. call 440-967-4088

For Sale Single Family residential lot, city amenities and restrictions asking \$25,000 call 606-237-4758

570-Mobile Homes

Clayton House Trailer 14x80 with 2 1/2 car garage with approximatly 1/4 acre land RT 680 McDowell call 502-905-4095 for more information

Final clearance 2004 lot models and 2005 models now available! If you are serious about purchasing a new home you need to be with experienced staff to get the right home at a great price. The Home Show-South William son, Inc. US 119, Belfry, Ky. 41514 606-353-6444 or toll free 877-353-6444

For Sale 3 bed room 2 full bath, Double wide, 3 years old for more information call 606-889-0937 or 606-889-9654

All Drywall, Dutch with 2x6 walls, and 5/12 roof pitch, ultimate kitchen package, glass block window, and many more extras. Set up for viewing. For details call 606-353-6444 or toll free 577-353-6444 the home show

RENTALS

610-Apartments

FOR RENT: Two 2 BR apartments, \$400 per month each, garbage and water paid, 15 minutes from Prestonsburg. Call 606-946-2654

B R A N N H A M HEIGHTS APTS. of Wheelwright, Ky. is accepting applications for one and two bedroom apts. Rent is based on income. Apartments come equipped with central air and heat, carpet, refrigerator, stove and blinds. Garbage, maintenance, water and sewer are included with rent. Pleast contact Kathy at 452-4777. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicp Accessible.

1 BR APARTMENT, \$385 mo. includes utilities. Also 2 BR trailer, \$275 mo. 4 miles west of Prestonsburg on Mtn. Parkway. Call 886-6061 and after 5 886-3996.

2 Bed room Apt. with central heat and air on U.S 23 1 mile west of Prestonsburg. No pets call 606-886-9747 or 606-886-9007

3 bedroom House for Rent, in Prestonsburg. \$500 per month. Call: (606) 886-0226

Two-bedroom unfurnished Apartment

for rent. Good neighborhood. Deposit and References Required. 1 year lease. Call: (606) 358-9123.

FOR RENT: 3 BR, 2 BA house on Mtn. Parkway. \$600 per month plus deposit & utilities. 606-478-2836

First Month's Rent FREE with Pd. Security Deposit through 12/25/04 Park Place Apartments in Prestonsburg. Disabled, Elderly, Handicapped & Available for immediate occupancy. Rent 1 bed room/\$309; 2 bed room/\$345 call 606-886-0039

Spacious 1 BR Apt, Newly Decorated in town. Paved off street parking, private. \$375.00 per month Dep Req. Cable and water furnished. Walking distance from downtown P-Burg. Ref. Req 886-2444 9am-6pm

For Rent Studio Apt furnished, clean, nice, suitable for 1 person Deposit Required \$225.00 per month utilities extra 886-6208

Office Space for Lease

in the heart of downtown Prestonsburg. Entire first floor of the historic Harkins Law Office building, located on corner of W. Court Street & S. Arnold Avenue. Approximately 2,000 sq. ft.: 5 offices, including 1 with a private entrance, 1 reception/lobby, 1 walk-in safe, 1 storage room, and 2 baths. Contact: **Robert R. Allen** (606) 886-6460 or 226-6460.

PREMIER ELKHORN COAL COMPANY, Myra, KY, is now accepting applications for the following position(s):

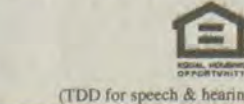
Electrician with 3 years plant electrical and repair experience. Must be able to cut and weld. PLC experience required. Requires State and Federal Electrical certifications. Also requires KY Surface Mine Certification.

Lab Sample Prep Person needed to collect & prepare coal samples. Must also perform float sinks, screens, and grinds. Coal lab experience required. Must have KY Surface Mine Certification.

Applications will be accepted at:
Kentucky Department for Employment Services
138 College Street
Pikeville, KY 41501
Premier Elkhorn Coal Company is an EOE.

REGENCY PARK APARTMENTS

One, Two and Three Bedroom Units
Kitchen Appliances Furnished
Water, Sewer & Garbage Paid
For Applications call or write:
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61 Regency Park Dr., Box 17
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
PHONE: 606-886-8318
or 1-800-686-4447



Occupational Therapist/ Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

Salyersville Health Care Center, in Salyersville, KY, is seeking a full-time OT or COTA. Our 157-bed facility offers inpatient & outpatient services and we recently started providing Anodyne Therapy! IN-HOUSE position, Monday-Friday hours, caseload variety, excellent benefits, competitive wages & nation-wide growth opportunities. Contact Jennifer Weimer, 800-395-5000 x 8254, Fax: 414-908-8143 or Email: jweimer@extendicare.com EEOC.

Come grow with us!!

Highlands, a growing premier healthcare facility in Prestonsburg, is currently recruiting for the following position:

Medical Laboratory Technician (Full time)
Medical Laboratory Technician is responsible for prompt, accurate performance and reporting of designated clinical laboratory tests using established procedures and independent judgment.

Requirements:
High School diploma or G.E.D. equivalent. MLT must be a graduate of approved Medical Technology program, ASCP, AMT or equivalent work experience in hospital laboratory. Must be able to do heavy lifting, stand, and walk for long periods. Ability to work independently within general guidelines.

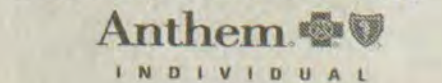
Interested applicants may apply to the Human Resources Department Highlands Regional Medical Center 5000 Kentucky Route 321 Prestonsburg, KY 41653 (606) 886-7530 Fax: (606) 886-7534 E-Mail: tclark@hrmc.org Highlands is an equal opportunity employer. Please visit Highlands web site at www.hrmc.org

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Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of Anthem Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc. All members must be U.S. citizens and meet other requirements. Equal Opportunity Employer.

FOR RENT: Efficiency apt. near Martin. Call 285-9442.

FOR RENT: 2 BR APARTMENT. 1 BEDROOM UNFURNISHED OR FURNISHED. NO PETS. LOCATED IN PRESTONSBURG. 886-8991.

For rent or lease Town House 2 bed room 2 1/2 bath Kitchen appliances furnished, washer/dryer furnished nice deck \$500.00 per month plus utilities located at Timberline Estates call 606-886-1997

610-Apartments

Townhouse Apt for rent 2 bed room, stove refrigerator with W/D Hook-up in city limits on U.S. 23 and 80 \$450 per month plus utilities, no pets 1 year lease call 606-237-4758

Country Cottage 2 BR 1-1/2 bath LG LR eat in Kit and dining room. W and D hookup. 1 1/2 miles from Clark School. \$450 per month. Work 886-6219 or Home 886-8459

2 bed room 1 1/2 bath Townhouse also 1 bed room furnished or unfurnished located in Prestonsburg, NO PETS call 606-886-8991

Greetings from Lighthouse Manor, Terry & Sharon Smith. We have apartments for rent that are efficiency apartments, all utilities paid. For more info call 606-886-2797.

Furnished 1 bed room Apt. Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$375. month, + \$300. deposit water included. Located near HRMC. 606-889-9717.

620-Office Space

For Lease Finished Office Space for lease in prime location near BSCTC, (PCC) and the new Food City -- 2100 -- sq. ft. Ground floor location with up to five private offices, conference room, kitchen, bath, parking lot call Today 606-424-2690 or 226-2266

630-Houses

For rent 3 BR 1 Bath house with large yard no pets 3 miles from Prestonsburg 889-9747 or 886-9007

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 BR, carpet, paneled, central h/a, 2 car garage, no pets, \$500 per mo., \$400 dep., 60 S. Evergreen, Lancer A d d i t i o n , Prestonsburg, Ky. 606-886-6358.

A FORCLOSURE! 3 BR, 3 BA, Only \$29,000! For listings call 800-391-5228, Ext. B183.

For rent 2 bed room house quiet neighborhood central heat and air, located in Martin, Ky. furnished, excellent condition for appointment call 606-285-3025 or 606-285-9812

650-Mobile Homes

For Rent : newly constructed Mobile Home Lots in new Allen, reference required call 606-874-2212

FOR RENT: Mobile home located at Emma, close to UPS, 2 BR, large den, large front porch, maintenance of yard included in rent. No HUD, no pets, suitable for couples only. Call after 7 p.m., by appointment only. \$350 mo., rent, \$150 dep., plus utilities. Call 606-874-3285. References required.

FOR RENT: 2 BR trailer near Prestonsburg. 874-1991.

Trailer lot for rent on old U.S. 23 between Prestonsburg and Paintsville call 606-886-9007 or 889 9747

670-Comm. Property

For Rent: Beauty shop equipped with 3 stations, and tanning bed. located 1 mile south of Martin on Route. 122. or would consider remodeling for office space Call 606-285-4826 or 606-285-9112.

SERVICES

760-Plumbing

SHEPHERD'S PLUMBING Rooter Service Commercial and residential old and new sewer lines, gas lines, excavating and colverts 24 hour service 886-0363 or 886-1263

NOTICES

821-Free

FREE PALLETS: can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

900 - Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 405 KAR 8:010, Section 16(5), the following is a summary of permitting decisions made by the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Division of Permits with respect to applications to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Floyd County.

Frasure Creek Mining LLC
836-0303
Issued 04/11/03

Sly Branch Energy Inc.
836-5410
Issued 04/11/08

Motts Branch Coal Inc.
836-5435
Issued 04/11/09

FCDC Coal Inc.
836-8041
Issued 04/11/01

NFC Mining Inc.
836-8043
Issued 04/11/17

www.americanheart.org

People know Pueblo for its...

Famous Hot Salsa?
In Pueblo, the free government information is also hot. Dip into the Consumer Information Center web site, www.pueblo.gsa.gov. You can download all the information right away.

Be an Angel.

Become a Kentucky organ & tissue donor. Sign the back of your driver's license or place a Donor Dot on it - & tell your family of your wishes.

For information contact:
1-800-525-3456,
or www.transforlife.org

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Fax 606-874-6445
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Downtown Prestonsburg
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Pies, Cakes, & Party Trays
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Any Request, 889-0915

DJ's Unlimited Mobile Music

Entertainment Services
Celebrating 13 years of Excellence
Call Today to Book Your Christmas Parties or Fall Wedding
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Now booking through Linda's Flowers & Gifts
All Major Credit Cards Accepted.
606-285-3007

Mine Safety & First Aid Training

Newly Employed
24 hr. Class (surface)
40 hr. (underground)
8 hr. refresher (surface & underground)
Also Electrical Classes
285-0999
Train at your convenience.

ROGER'S TREE TRIMMING

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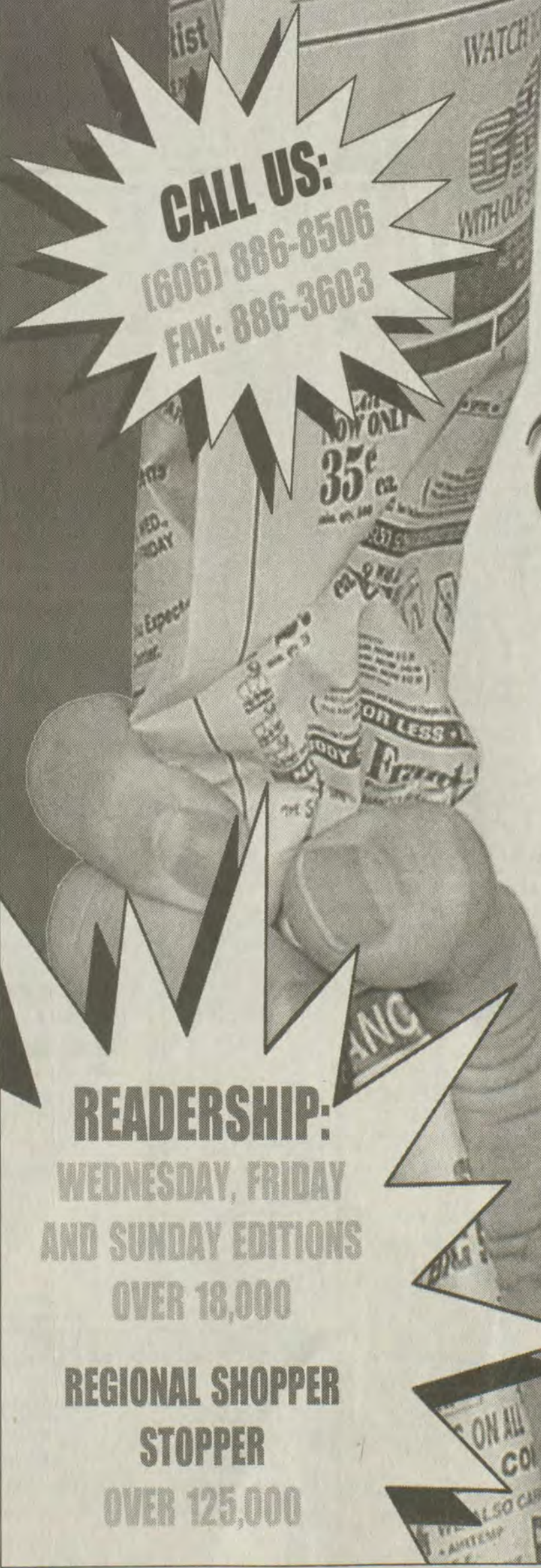
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