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BLACKCATS DOWN WESTERN HILLS

— page B1

briefs

Online poll results

Previous question: Did you spend more or less for the holidays this year?

23.6%

A little more

23.6%

A lot less

21.8%

A lot more

18.2%

A little less

12.7%

About the same

(110 total votes cast)

This week's question: Do you believe roundups are an effective tool against illegal drugs?

To cast your vote and make your voice heard, visit our website at floydcountytimes.com.

2 DAY FORECAST



High: 50 • Low: 41



High: 60 • Low: 47

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

inside

- Opinion.....A4
- Obituaries.....A9
- Sports.....B1
- Lifestyles.....B6
- Classifieds.....B9



SAYING GOODBYE?



photo by Tom Doty

Santa Claus, decked out in decorative lights, waved to motorists along South Lake Drive where he was set up outside the newly-formed Eastern Kentucky Attorney General's Office.

Coal mine fire burning out of control near Pikeville

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE — Crews have been working for the past three days to extinguish a fire burning in an underground coal mine in Eastern Kentucky.

The Alliance Resource Partners mine outside Pikeville had to be evacuated and shut down because of the

fire, the company said in a press release.

"All employees are accounted for and no injuries were incurred during the firefighting efforts or the evacuation," the company said.

The Oklahoma-based company said the Excel No. 3 mine outside Pikeville will be closed only temporarily until the fire can be extinguished. The mine is operated by MC

Mining, a subsidiary of the Oklahoma company.

Employees discovered the fire late Saturday night. Holly McCoy, spokeswoman for the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing, said a state emergency response team helped fight the fire for seven hours but was unable to bring it under control.

(See FIRE, page three)

Man comes home to holiday burglary

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

AUXIER — On the night before Christmas Eve one Auxier man came home to find that he had an intruder in the house. Turned out to be a alleged

burglar hoping to fill a sack and not a jolly fellow in red looking to leave some goodies behind.

The victim found William Nelson, 47, of Auxier, looking through his bedroom drawers. The homeowner charged Nelson and grappled with

him on the bedroom floor until help arrived in the form of Trooper Chris Hicks, of Kentucky State Police.

Hicks arrested Nelson and his resulting investigation revealed that

(See BURGLARY, page three)

Department copes with loss of fire chief

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

ELKHORN CITY — The Elkhorn City fire chief died Thursday when a freak accident occurred during a training exercise.

Todd Jason Rowe, 30, of Elkhorn City, was killed when an airbag shot out from under the rear of a fire truck and struck him. It happened during an exercise in which Rowe was instructing members of the department on how to put chains on the rear tires of

a fire truck. They had used an airbag to lift the back end of the vehicle, but the exercise became a tragedy when the air bag shifted under the truck's weight and shot out from underneath

(See CHIEF, page three)

Flood victims say contractor took payments

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Assistant County Attorney Jimmy Marcum returned from the Christmas holiday to be greeted by several angry Floyd Countians who were filing complaints against a contractor who they allege has fled with down payments for prospective jobs.

Eight people were on hand to swear out complaints against Chris Hardy, 34, for repairs he was hired to make on homes damaged in last Memorial Day's flooding. Hardy claimed to represent a firm called C&L Contracting. The firm had no office and the number he gave customers was for his girlfriend's house.

"When you get one or two complaints like this, it's usually a matter for the civil courts," Marcum said. "But here you have seven to eight complaints and that shows an intent to deceive."

Most of the complaints involve Hardy starting work but never finishing it. He was able to win over customers easily with a blend of charisma and implied sincerity which saw several customers hand over deposits of up to \$7,000.

One customer, Theresa Collins, noted,

"He had all the right answers. He took a \$1,400 down payment from us that we had received from FEMA."

Hardy didn't use his given name with most customers and was known to many as Chris Arizo, his mother's surname. He also didn't carry any identification and had all checks deposited by his girlfriend, Lydia Spradlin, to her account.

Spradlin said that she obtained a protective order against Hardy last week after he began stalking her.

"I tried to break it off with him," Spradlin said. "He called my work last week and was cussing out my bosses."

Spradlin was also upset that Hardy allegedly left last week with her 1996 Ford Explorer which she had purchased from First Choice Auto Sales in Prestonsburg. She has since heard from him twice when he called her at home. Her Caller I.D. told her that he was calling from West Virginia, where his brother Rick resides, though he claimed to be calling from Paintsville.

"He told me he was in Prestonsburg but I believed that about as much as I believe that you are Santa Claus,"

(See VICTIMS, page three)

Broken headlight leads to drug arrest

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

JOHNSON COUNTY — The perils of putting off auto repairs can be attested to by a Flat Gap couple who were arrested by officers of the Johnson County Sheriff's

Department after a routine traffic stop for a defective headlight led to arrests for drug possession and other charges on Christmas Eve.

Cheskla Dorton, 38, of Flat Gap, was pulled over

(See ARREST, page three)

Program lends helping 'HANDS' to first-time parents

by SIDNEY JANE BAILEY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Kentucky HANDS — or Health, Access, Nurturing Development Services — offers home visitation for first-time parents.

The Department for Public Health coordinates the

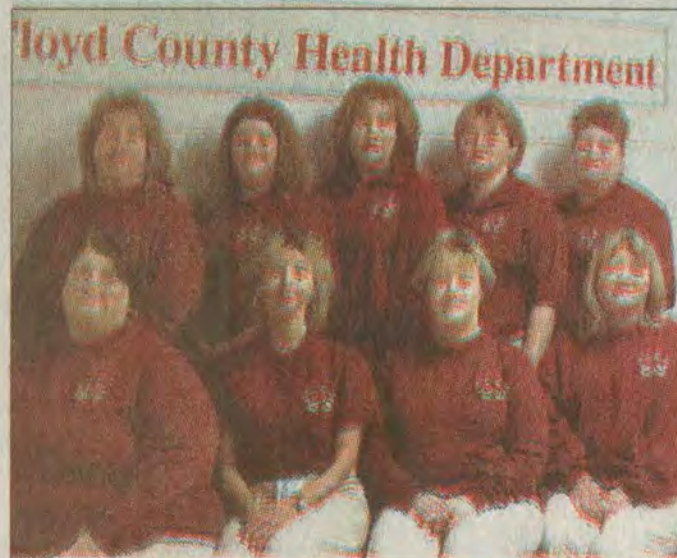
HANDS program in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Local health departments in all counties offers this program to first-time parents.

In Floyd County, the HANDS program serves 175 families. Registered nurses head the program and provide the initial screening. Six para-

professionals provide in-home visitation until the child reaches 2 years of age. Parents are eligible regardless of income.

The Floyd County Health Department was one of the 15 original pilot programs. The program has experienced

(See HANDS, page three)



The staff of the Floyd County HANDS program.

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- (2) Orange Juice or Tomato Juice
- (3) Country Gravy

RING in the NEW YEAR!

Odds & Ends

■ **PITTSBURGH (AP)** - Did you hear the one about the insurance agent and the coyote?

So have the Pennsylvania Game Commission, wildlife agencies in other states and insurers.

They all dismiss as urban legend claims that insurance companies and wildlife agencies are releasing coyotes into the wild to reduce deer-car collision claims.

"There's a lot of people that seriously believe that the agency has been doing this," said Carl Graybill, director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's bureau of information and education. "The whole thing's pretty absurd."

While the agency doesn't track such claims, Graybill said wildlife conversation officers are occasionally questioned in the field about it.

It's illegal for anyone to release animals into the wild without a permit and the agency hasn't issued any permits to insurance companies, Graybill said Monday.

"No one ever comes forward with any proof that it occurred," Graybill said. "People can be very gullible, too."

Over the last several weeks, Erie Insurance Group has had calls about the issue.

"It's just a fallacy. It's just

not true. That's just not a way that we would manage our risks," said spokesman Mark Dombrowski.

To be sure, deer-car collisions are costly for insurers; about 150 people are killed in deer collisions annually and collisions cause more than \$1.1 billion in vehicle damage, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

■ **MEDINA, Ohio** - A man whose car plunged 30 feet off a highway overpass and landed wheels down in the snow-covered median between lanes of freeway traffic escaped with only minor injuries.

"The front air bag deployed and right after that I felt a floating sensation," Michael Doner said. "I thought, 'I'm either dreaming or I'm falling.'"

Doner, 60, of Medina, was making the three-hour drive to visit his mother on Christmas when a car skidded into his and a second car slammed into him, sending his car over railing of the bridge over Interstate 71 about 30 miles southwest of Cleveland.

Doctors told Doner his Honda's side air bag minimized his injuries. He had a broken collarbone and cracked ribs, and was sent home less than six hours after the fall.

"I'm very lucky," Doner said. "The guy upstairs was looking out for me."

■ **BELMONT, N.C.** - Wade Jones likes Elvis, but he insists he's just a casual fan.

That's why, after watching a grilled cheese sandwich thought to be embedded with the image of the Virgin Mary fetch \$28,000 on eBay, he decided to part with three tablespoons of water from a cup he says Elvis Presley used during a concert.

"It's one thing to be an Elvis fan, but then you tell them you have this cup and water and they think you're a fanatic," he said. "I'm not like the people bidding on this water."

Jones was 13 when he went to see the aging Elvis in February 1977 at the old Charlotte Coliseum, which is now Cricket Arena. He saw the pop icon drink from the cup and, after the show, asked a police officer for it.

As proof of its authenticity, Jones provides photos of Elvis during the concert in which cups can be seen.

The cup stayed in Jones' parent's deep freezer for eight years, until he moved out. He then decided to melt the ice and keep the water in a sealed glass vial.

Jones' latest eBay posting, in

which he is auctioning the chance to "exhibition" the cup for one day on Presley's birthday, said the water sold for \$455 on Christmas Day.

■ **SACRAMENTO, Calif.** - A vintage 1963 Ford Fairlane stolen 23 years ago from Greenville, S.C., has turned up some 2,600 miles away in California.

California Highway Patrol officers called Terry and Robin Smith last week to tell them authorities had recovered the vehicle.

"What a wonderful gift at Christmastime ... After 23 years to receive news that they'd found our car," Robin Smith said.

A few weeks ago, a person brought the car into the CHP's San Bernardino office for inspection. A sharp-eyed officer noticed the car's identification numbers didn't match and began investigating.

CHP's Lt. Greg Williams said authorities don't believe the people who brought the car in had anything to do with the theft.

Smith said the car was a wedding gift from her parents, but the couple have not decided whether to bring it home or sell it in California.

■ **JACKSON, Wyo.** - Pray for snow.

It may sound lighthearted, but Jackson Hole congregations have been doing just that - and the Rev. David Bott of Redeemer Lutheran Church points to some very white results a couple weeks ago.

"But now they're wondering if it's beginner's luck," he said.

Little snow has fallen on the valley over the past two weeks, prompting resorts like Snow King to crank up their snow-making machinery to keep the slopes well-dressed.

Bott's prayer goes like this: "that God will have mercy on us and send us snow that the area industry may flourish and that the creation in this area can be replenished with ample snowfall for the springtime melt."

Paul Hayden, minister at Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole, said he has been praying fervently for precipitation.

"Theologically we're called to be stewards of the earth and this is a real stewardship issue," he said. "It's not just a fun issue."

He points out that melting mountain snow is needed to feed the Snake River, which in turn provides irrigation water for Idaho potato farmers. "It creates McDonald's French-fried potatoes. I'm concerned," he said.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort spokeswoman said conditions are not bad there, but the resort would welcome a blizzard over the holiday season, their busiest time of year.

"I would never turn down anybody to be on our side for that," she said.

■ **COLUMBUS, Miss.** - It wasn't tough for police to thwart two would-be Grinches - they just followed the telltale trail of wrapping paper.

Two unidentified boys, ages 14 and 12, were charged with burglary after they were accused of stealing Christmas presents from a family home, police said.

Authorities say Stanley Adams discovered someone had broken into his Columbus home late Friday. Two juveniles who lived nearby were suspected.

Police followed a trail of paper, ribbons and gift tags that led them to one of the boys' houses. One boy told authorities that he stole the presents. The gifts - which included an E-Z Bake oven, a set of Legos and a Pac-Man video game - were returned.

"It being Christmas and all, I took this kind of serious," officer L.C. Cockrell said. "It just didn't seem right for this family not to have their Christmas."

■ **HONOLULU** - The holidays can get a little hairy for everyone, and at the Salon Bobbi N' Guy, that's a good thing.

An inmate jailed on drug

charges sent his long locks to the salon, an official collection site for a nonprofit that makes wigs for financially disadvantaged children suffering from hair loss because of illness.

The salon collected more than 300 hair donations this year for Locks of Love, but the inmate's donation was the most hair he has ever received at one time, said Salon vice president Alex Choi said.

The black hair - enough for about five wigs - arrived on Christmas Eve from a male inmate at the Waiawa Correctional Facility.

The package included a letter dated Dec. 11.

"To change my life completely means I need to sacrifice everything and anything that could stand in my way to a better life, so even though cutting hair may not seem to have the slightest thing to do with recovery, for me it has," the unidentified inmate wrote.

■ **EUGENE, Ore.** - Turns out there's quite a collector's market for 100-year-old glass electric insulators.

One such item, purchased for peanuts at a garage sale, netted \$10,313 on eBay recently. It's not diamond-encrusted, it wasn't owned by a celebrity and there's no vision of the Virgin Mary involved here.

Phil Urnine and Jeanie Quimby came up with two of the insulators, one ceramic, one glass, for \$5 for the pair. Quimby thought she could make a buck - posting the glass model with a starting price of \$5.99.

Just a few hours later, she checked to see how it was doing - and found 10 urgent messages from collectors, telling her that the glass insulator dated to the 1890s, was extraordinarily rare and listed in price guides at up

(See ODDS, page nine)

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 29, the 364th day of 2004. There are two days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

On this date:

■ In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

■ In 1808, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

■ In 1813, the British burned Buffalo, N.Y., during the War of 1812.

■ In 1851, the first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized, in Boston.

■ In 1890, the Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as some 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

■ In 1934, Japan renounced the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

■ In 1940, during World War II, Germany began dropping incendiary bombs on London.

■ In 1957, singers Steve

Lawrence and Eydie Gorme were married in Las Vegas.

■ In 1975, a bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

■ In 1989, playwright Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia by the country's Federal Assembly, becoming the first non-Communist to attain the post in more than four decades.

Ten years ago: U.S. officials confirmed the release of U.S. Army helicopter pilot Bobby Hall from North Korean custody (due to the time difference, it was Dec. 30 in Korea when Hall crossed the demilitarized zone to freedom).

Five years ago: The Nasdaq composite index closed above 4,000 for the first time, ending the day at 4,041.46.

One year ago: Monsignor Michael Courtney, Pope John Paul's ambassador in Burundi, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen. Actor Earl Hindman, who'd played the mostly unseen neighbor Wilson on "Home Improvement," died in Stamford, Conn., at age 61.

Today's Birthdays:

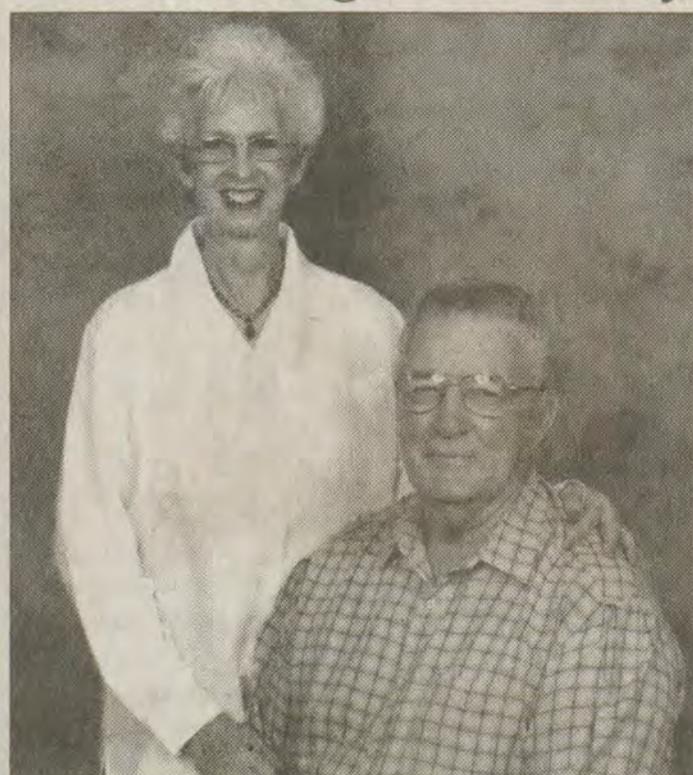
Actress Inga Swenson is 72. ABC newscaster Tom Jarriel is 70. Actress Mary Tyler Moore is 67. Actor Jon Voight is 66. Country singer Ed Bruce is 64. Rock musician Ray Thomas is

63. Singer Marianne Faithfull is 58. Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. is 58. Actor Ted Danson is 57. Actor Jon Polito is 54. Singer-actress Yvonne Elliman is 53. Actress Patricia Clarkson is 45. Comedian Paula Poundstone is 45. Rock singer-musician Jim Reid (The Jesus and Mary Chain) is 43. Actor-comedian Mysterio Clark is 38. Actor Jason Gould is 38. Actress Jennifer Ehle is 35. Rock singer-musician Glen Phillips is 34. Actor Kevin Weisman is 34. Actor Jude Law is 32. Actor Mekhi Phifer is 30. Actor Shawn Hatosy is 29. Actor Diego Luna is 25. Country singer Jessica Andrews is 21.

Thought for Today:

"Ours is the age of substitutes: Instead of language we have jargon; instead of principles, slogans; and instead of genuine ideas, bright suggestions." - Eric Bentley, British-born American author and educator.

50th Wedding Anniversary



The family of Mr. and Mrs. Earl and Altonette Bentley cordially invite all friends and relatives to attend a celebration of the couple's 50th Wedding Anniversary, to be held on Saturday, January 1, 2005, from 3-6 p.m., at The Pines, located in the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Campgrounds area, in Prestonsburg. The family anticipates a wonderful afternoon and looks forward to seeing everyone there. For more information, you may call (606) 285-2694 or (606) 285-0481.

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 <p>2003 Suzuki Aerio 4-door, automatic, great fuel mileage, low miles. \$8,950</p>	 <p>2001 Toyota Camry LE pkg., 4-door, power windows, power locks. Low miles!</p>	 <p>1997 Chevy S-10 ZR2, 4x4 4.3 V-6, 5-speed, alloy wheels. Sharp!</p>	 <p>2004 Pontiac Sunfire 2-door, power sunroof, automatic, XM radio. Under factory warranty!</p>
 <p>1994 Toyota Pickup 5-speed, 4-cylinder, alloy wheels, A/C. 4x4!</p>	 <p>2001 Nissan Altima SE pkg., power windows, power locks, alloy wheels. Nice!</p>	 <p>2002 Mercury Sable GS pkg., power windows, power locks, tilt, cruise. \$8,950</p>	 <p>2004 Chevy Silverado X-Cab, 4x4, 4-door, Z71, alloy wheels, automatic. Several to choose from!</p>

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Burglary

Continued from p1

Nelson had entered the residence through a back door he had allegedly pried open. Nelson spent his holiday at the Floyd County Detention Center and was arraigned on Tuesday on one count of second-degree burglary. His bond was set at \$10,000 cash.

Nelson has been arrested several times in Floyd County since 1985. Most of his guilty pleas were for alcohol intoxication. He has never been arrested for burglary, although he was found guilty on two charges of receiving stolen goods in May 1985.

Arrest

Continued from p1

by Sgt. Tom Wyatt on U.S. 23 for having only one operable headlight. Wyatt noticed that the driver and a passenger, Terry L. Burchett, 29, of Stambaugh, were acting suspiciously. He got consent to search the vehicle and discovered marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

At that point, Burchett allegedly bolted and took off down U.S. 23 on foot. Kentucky State Police Trooper B.J. Caudill, who had arrived at the scene to render assistance, chased Burchett and caught up to him but had to struggle with him to make an arrest.

During the chase Caudill had spotted Burchett tossing a bag to the ground and retraced his steps to recover it. The bag turned out to contain methamphetamine, marijuana and more drug paraphernalia.

An ambulance also respond-

ed to the incident, but both Burchett and Caudill refused treatment for the injuries they sustained during the chase and scuffle.

Dorton has been charged with driving with one headlight, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, no seat belt and DUI. Burchett's actions resulted in even more charges, including public intoxication, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, possession of a controlled substance, criminal mischief, fleeing or evading police, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

More charges were later filed against Burchett by the sheriff's department and include trafficking in a controlled substance, carrying a concealed deadly weapon, tampering with physical evidence and trafficking within 1,000 yards of a school.

Victims

Continued from p1

Spradlin said. Spradlin also said that Hardy would never pose for pictures and described him as 6 feet, 2 inches tall, with brown hair. He also has only one leg. His brother stated that Hardy lost a leg in childhood when it was severed by a railroad car.

Hardy is currently being sought by the Floyd County Sheriff's Department in relation to the complaints filed. He may have left in a rush, according to one of his victims, who was left with his prosthetic leg after a home visit when Hardy was checking up on the lack of progress in a job. He said that the prosthetic leg was making his knee sore so he used crutches to inspect the house and left the home forgetting to grab up his prosthetic limb.

Spradlin also saw Marcum on Tuesday to file charges against Hardy for taking her truck.

Spradlin described Hardy as one who makes a good first impression. Things didn't go sour with the couple until November.

"He was nice at first and always willing to do work, but lately we were fighting a lot," Spradlin said.

One victim was so taken in by Hardy that she confessed to feeling sorry for him after she pressed charges.

"I feel something for him, isn't that funny?" the woman said. "I just see it as a shame. I don't know how he gets to sleep at night."

Rick Hardy has a different take on the events. He said that his brother is mentally ill, having been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Rick Hardy described his brother as having been unreliable, saying, "He would go for years at a time with no contact, then turn up on my doorstep."

Rick Hardy is most disturbed that Chris Hardy may be planning to harm himself after a conversation last week, their last to

HANDS

Continued from p1

very successful growth since its inception.

The agency received the Jim Parker Memorial Award on Sept. 30, at the annual meeting of the Association of State and

Territorial Health Officials in St. Paul, Minn.

For more information about the HANDS program, contact the Floyd County Health Department at (606) 886-2788.

Fire

Continued from p1

trol.

She said the cause of the fire has not been determined.

"We may never know," she said. "It depends on what they find when they're able to go back in."

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration also has an emergency response team at the scene.

Mike Elswick, supervisor of the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing in Pikeville, said a mine rescue and firefighting team went in the mine shortly after 3 a.m. EST on Sunday. The state's other 10 mine-rescue teams were placed on standby.

Elswick said the decision was made to withdraw all personnel and seal the mine to cut off oxygen to the fire about 10 a.m. EST.

"All options were considered before making the call to seal the mine, and the right call was made at the right time," said Paris Charles,

executive director of the state agency. "In the most dangerous situations, our mine rescue teams respond, but it was becoming too dangerous to leave these men underground any longer."

Crews have been pumping nitrogen and water into the mine through holes drilled from the surface to try to suffocate the fire.

Conditions inside the mine are being monitored by fiber optic camera and by gas-detecting instruments.

MC Mining employs approximately 250 workers. It was unclear how many of those are assigned to the Exce No. 3 mine, which produces low-sulfur coal from the Pond Creek coal seam.

The mine produced an average of 160,000 tons of coal per month in the past year.

Alliance Resource Partners operate mines in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland.

Kentuckians provide gifts for injured soldiers

The Associated Press

FORT KNOX — Christmas came early for injured soldiers recovering in a hospital at Fort Knox.

Police officers braved a winter storm that paralyzed much of Kentucky to deliver the gifts.

"We're here for the soldiers," said Chris Redman, an officer with the Lincolnshire Police Department and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter in Jeffersonstown.

Redman, assisted by family, friends and officers from the Louisville and Jeffersonstown police departments, collected \$2,500 worth of gifts for the soldiers.

On Wednesday, the officers brought everything from DVD players to Chex Mix and shampoo.

There are 137 soldiers currently in the medical hold facility, said company commander Maj. Chris Sherman.

Master Sgt. Joseph Ray fell ill after his unit, the Army Reserve's 98th Division, was deployed to Iraq. He's been at the medical hold facility for about a week.

"Since the day I got sick from the time I was in Iraq until I got back here, people have been so nice. I'd

have a quilt land in my lap or phone cards handed to me over my shoulder. I couldn't even see who was giving them to me," Ray said. "People are continuously being nice. I feel like I owe so many people so much."

Sgt. Ryan Steinbach, 26, of Chicago, injured his back in a helicopter training exercise at Fort Knox in January.

"This is fantastic," he said. "I can't believe it."

Sgt. Maj. Tom Crump, a World War II veteran from Louisville, accompanied Redman and several police officers to Fort Knox on Wednesday as snow and ice pelted the region.

Four waitresses from Hooters restaurant, dressed in their trademark bright orange, also made the trip, handing out Hooters magazines to some soldiers.

Crump told the soldiers that he's proud of the military and of the service members' commitment.

"You all are the best in the world, partner," he said, saluting them after a speech.

Chief

Continued from p1

and fatally striking Rowe.

Rowe was rushed to the Pikeville Medical Center where he was pronounced dead by an emergency room physician.

Assistant Fire Chief John Moore said that Rowe's death was a big loss for the department.

"He was born for the fire service," Moore said.

Moore also noted that a great teacher was lost, saying, "Every

man in this department is a good firefighter and they all have Todd Rowe to thank for it ... He was a Level 1 instructor and always did a fine job."

Rowe is survived by his mother and a brother.

"Todd was an all-around good guy and he will be missed," Moore said.

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Join us as we say
Thank You and Best Wishes to Burlin Coleman

Burlin Coleman will retire as Chairman of the Board on Friday, December 31, 2004. Please join us in bidding him farewell at a reception in our main office lobby

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Viewpoint

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.

Worth Repeating ...

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."

—Woodrow Wilson

Guest View

'Unconstitutional sham' continues

In a ruling issued last week, a Franklin County judge confirmed that the spending plan Gov. Ernie Fletcher has been using to run the state is an unconstitutional sham.

But then Judge Roger Crittenden said, in effect, that he would allow the charade to continue until at least next July.

Crittenden didn't use the word "charade" in his ruling on a lawsuit brought by Attorney General Greg Stumbo, but that's the clear implication of his finding that the spending plan imposed by Fletcher is unconstitutional.

Both sides in the budget lawsuit — Stumbo, who challenged the governor's spending authority, and the Fletcher administration — immediately announced they were satisfied with the ruling.

But the ordinary citizens and taxpayers of the commonwealth are left to wonder why the courts have allowed this contemptuous disregard for the constitution to stand.

Judge Crittenden says — and almost everyone with any familiarity with textbook civics would agree — that Fletcher's budget plan violates a bedrock principle of American government: the separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Fletcher, like former Gov. Paul Patton before him, is usurping the powers of both the legislative and judicial branches. Patton and Fletcher assumed the power of the purse, which belongs to the legislature, and opted to ignore or suspend laws that require, among other things, that the state government work force not exceed 33,000 employees.

These actions are an affront to the Kentucky constitution. Why, then, didn't the judge put a stop to the illegitimate exercise of gubernatorial authority?

Crittenden walked up to the brink of a state government shutdown, then he froze. He concluded that running the state on an unconstitutional spending plan would not irreparably harm the constitution.

With that he gave the go-ahead for the governor and the General Assembly to continue their posturing over the budget until June 30, 2005. If the legislature hasn't passed a budget by then, state spending will be limited to "specific essential services," Crittenden wrote.

The judge gave no indication of what he considers essential and nonessential services. His deadline will have little meaning if it doesn't carry real consequences — that is, if the courts lack the will to impose spending restrictions that will cause real political pain for the governor and the members of the General Assembly. ...

The legislature's abdication of its constitutional duty has turned the budget process into a partisan sideshow. Since there are no real consequences for failing to pass a budget, lawmakers obviously have decided they don't have to seek common ground — they can devote all their energies to posturing and gamesmanship. ...

Kentucky's citizens may have "unbridled spirit," but their elected representatives display qualities more akin to lawlessness. The appropriate brand for state government is "Unconstitutional Commonwealth."

— The Paducah Sun



San Diego Union-Tribune © 2004
COURT NEWS SERVICE

Capitol Ideas

Legislators have full plate for 2005

by MARK R. CHELLGREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Putting together a budget a year later than the Constitution requires, repairing a half-billion dollar hole in the Medicaid program and overhauling the tax code are apparently not enough for some lawmakers to contemplate during the 2005 legislative session.

More than 100 bills have already been entered for consideration during the session that begins Jan. 4. And, judging by the number of requests for bills to be drafted, hundreds more could be offered. The 2005 session will be the third so-called short session of the General Assembly since voters approved a change in the Constitution. While legislators were formerly limited to meeting once every other year for a maximum of 60 days, they now meet for 30 days in odd-numbered years in addition to the even-year sessions.

The activity, if not the accomplishments, of legislators has grown during that brief experience.

In 2001, in the first short session, 579 bills were introduced along with 333 resolutions. There were 128 bills passed and 251 resolutions.

By 2003, the number of bills introduced rose to 781, with 161 of them passing. Of the 398 resolutions offered, 301 of them passed.

By comparison, the regular session in 2002 saw 1,169 bills and 574 resolutions introduced. There were 314 bills passed and 434 resolutions.

The topics already raised for 2005 range from the weighty to the mundane. And while many of the proposals will be forgotten as soon as they are dropped off with the House or Senate clerk, each of them requires hours of staff work and pages upon pages of documentation.

Included among the proposals is the usual pile of additions to the groups of people who can get special license plates — Shriners and Kentucky Colonels, for example — and parts of roads to be designated — the Letcher County Coal Miners' Highway.

There is also some of the routine one-upmanship. Sen. David Boswell, D-Owensboro, wants to overturn the directive from Commerce Secretary Jim Host that state park employees cannot stay at those parks during their free time.

Some proposals are just the latest in a long string of efforts. Rep. Tom Burch, D-Louisville, wants to try again to put more restrictions on beginning drivers before they can obtain licenses.

Boswell will try again to get the legislature to allow casino-style gambling.

Specific constituencies would benefit or be restricted from some ideas. Rep. Perry Clark, D-Louisville, wants to exempt ministers from local income

taxes. Rep. Brent Yonts, D-Greenville, wants to limit the way retired state employees can return to the public payroll.

Some old proposals have been taken up by new sponsors. Former Rep. Bob Heleringer of Louisville tried in vain to pass a law that would require Kentucky motorists to turn on their headlights during inclement weather. Another Republican, Rep. C.B. Embry of Morgantown, has taken up the cause.

Security issues still grab the attention of some legislators. Rep. Mike Weaver, D-Elizabethtown, wants new exemptions from the Open Records and Open Meetings laws for security issues. Some of the proposals could be interpreted to prohibit a property owner from finding out if gas or electric lines, water or sewer pipes run through their land.

And some lawmakers, apparently not content to busy themselves with issues facing Kentucky, want the General Assembly to expand its scope and urge Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to impose harsher penalties for indecent radio and television programming and encourage the passage of amendments to the U.S. Constitution to outlaw abortion and marriage for some people.

Mark R. Chellgren is the Frankfort correspondent for The Associated Press.

The Times

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Letters

What do we have?

I am sending this letter to several papers in this congressional district. While the references in this letter are to Letcher County communities, readers can substitute their communities and what I have to say will apply to most of them just as well.

Here in Letcher County, Duane Yonts of Little Cowan gave an effective, moving talk at the December fiscal court meeting. He described the plight of 86 families who are asking for water service on Little Cowan. This was a disturbing experience for me because it confirmed and emphasized what I was already coming to know — that the lack of potable water and sewer facilities in this area is a crisis situation of the highest proportions. I have also heard that people in the Carcassone community, those who live on River Road, and those in numerous other communities are making similar demands. People are seeing their wells go dry; some are spending large amounts

of money to drill additional wells, and some of those are dry. Some of the new wells produce bad water. Some people are spending a fortune trying to filter and purify water they shouldn't have to use in the first place. Others buy all their water in gallon jugs from local supermarkets, and some are getting their water from mountain springs. Mr. Yonts and the others aren't asking for luxuries; they're asking for the basic necessities of life.

Sewage is a problem equal to the water crisis. There is probably not a stream in Letcher County that is not polluted with fecal bacteria. The part of Blackey we live in is said to have 14 straight pipes. Local health officials and health officials in Frankfort have responded to our concerns about this situation by saying that they would take care of it by citing the people who have the straight pipes. I think this is ridiculous. The solution to this problem will not come from citing people or from randomly installing septic tanks, many of which don't work around the region. The solution is to get sewer systems like those in the rest of the state and the rest of the country and the rest of the civilized world.

The roads in Letcher County are just slightly better than the water/sewer systems. They are honeycombed, cracked, broken off at the edges along bluffs, and dotted with potholes. Magistrate Wayne Fleming makes the case that our local state representative is aggravating this situation by introducing a bill which would raise the weight limit for sand and gravel trucks up to that of coal trucks, when he should have had all of the limits brought down to what the roads can stand. This is a dangerous situation that everyone in this region faces daily.

What a paradox! Trains have been hauling coal out of here for over 90 years and have hauled out billions of dollars worth. I have witnessed these tremendous shipments of coal all my life and I would bet that this area has produced more wealth than any like-sized area in the nation. But many in the region live in third-world conditions.

Everyone has their own idea of how this appalling situation has occurred. My personal feeling is that politicians are to blame. I'm not talking about county officials in office now. I know from personal

(See LETTERS, page nine)

Health Extra

Flu shot shortages became societal, political story

by MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Got your flu shot yet? That became a loaded question this year as traditional vaccination campaigns gave way to pleas that healthy Americans step aside to keep the vaccine available for those who need it the most.

The flu-shot shortage spilled out of the medical domain into society and presidential politics. Luckily, the flu season is off to a mild start. By year's end, some states reported dwindling demand for flu shots, as many people apparently followed government advice or gave up because of frustration or apathy.

News of the shortage mixed with continuing concern over the prospect of a deadly worldwide outbreak of flu someday.

And it shared the headlines with some other major medical news this year, much of it regarding the safety of prescription drugs. There was the recall of the arthritis drug Vioxx from the market in late September because of links to heart problems. Other drugs like it were also questioned. And there were continuing concerns over antidepressant use in children, which led federal regulators in October to order that all antidepressants carry warnings that they increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children.

The flu-shot shortage appeared in early October. The nation's expected supply was suddenly cut in half when British regulators suspended the license of a Liverpool vaccine-making plant owned by Chiron Corp. Shocked public health officials called on healthy Americans to refrain from getting the shot, so supplies could

be conserved for high-risk people like children ages six months to 23 months and adults 65 or older.

Suddenly, a plain old flu shot became a hot commodity.

"Tomorrow is Election Day," comedian Jay Leno told his "Tonight Show" audience. "How many are voting first thing in the morning? How many are voting later in the day? How many are going to wait until everyone else is in line to vote and then sneak in and get a flu shot?"

Some Americans went elsewhere for a vaccination. One drugstore just north of the border in Saskatchewan, Canada, attracted 80 Americans on a single day. Meanwhile, vaccine suppliers were accused of price-gouging, including one company sued by the state of Florida for allegedly boosting the price of flu vaccine by more than 900

percent. The case was settled.

Some states felt compelled to outlaw giving flu shots to people who aren't at high risk, and some towns set up lotteries to parcel out their scarce supplies.

And the issue made political waves. After Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., made his office a makeshift clinic for giving shots to senators, there were cries of unfairness. And while neither President Bush nor Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry got a flu shot, Kerry blamed the White House for the shortage during the campaign.

But health experts are looking beyond the current flu season to an even bigger project: getting ready for the next global outbreak of killer flu, a pandemic. Projections for the death toll range from 2 million to more than 50 million.

The germ would probably emerge in Asia. Health officials

there are keeping a close watch on bird flu in chickens, and especially its spread from chickens to humans. That's because a bird-flu virus could run rampant through a human population if it gets the ability to spread easily from person to person, and if people carry no natural immunity to it.

More than 40 cases of humans sickened with bird flu have been recorded this year in Thailand and Vietnam, with more than 30 deaths. Especially worrisome was a suspected case of human-to-human transmission in Thailand, in which a 26-year-old woman died in September after apparently getting the virus from her 11-year-old daughter. Luckily, no epidemic followed.

The federal government took several steps this year to deal with the threat of a pandemic, such as publishing a plan to

respond to that event and boosting its stockpile of antiviral medicine.

In addition, the government awarded a contract to the nation's sole flu-shot supplier to move toward year-around vaccine production, which should allow faster action if a killer flu strain emerges. Federal officials also announced a project to crack the genetic code of thousands of human and bird flu viruses. That should help scientists find targets for vaccines and therapies against both ordinary flu and pandemic flu viruses.

And the government awarded contracts to two companies to produce and test an experimen-

tal bird flu vaccine, which might come in handy if a pandemic appears.

That worrisome event probably won't happen this flu season, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told reporters recently. But it's on the horizon.

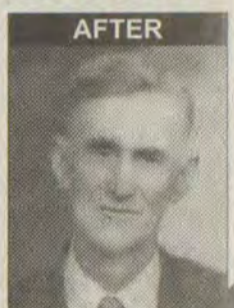
"We have a lot of chickens getting infected, and we're getting more and more (virus) jumping from chicken to human," he said.

Nobody can predict when a pandemic will arrive, but "is it going to happen sometime in the reasonable future? ... The answer is yeah," Fauci said. "We're due for it."

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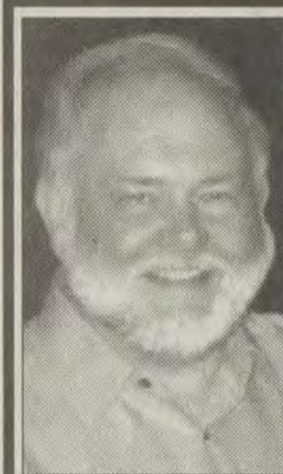
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Obituaries

Ecie Garrett Branham

Ecie Garrett Branham, 96, of Kodak, Tennessee, formerly of Dwale, died Sunday, December 26, 2004, at her residence.

Born August 20, 1908, in Water Gap, she was the daughter of the late Medley and Eliza Lafferty Garrett. She was a homemaker, and a member of the Christ United Methodist Church at Allen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dee Branham.

Survivors include a daughter, Lena June Branham (Jim) Sword of Kodak, Tennessee; four grandchildren: Cheri Mullins, Jeri (Stanual) Mullins, Debbie (Jim) Martin, and Paula Martin; great-grandchildren: Michael (Andrea) Mullins, Kevin Mullins, Asher Mullins, Seth Mullins, Tasha McCormick, Christina Martin, Katelyn Martin; and great-great-grandchildren: Chandler Mullins and Abbi Mullins.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Gene Paul Branham, and a brother, Stewart Garrett.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 28, at 11 a.m., at the Christ United Methodist Church, at Allen, with Ken Lemaster and Jack Howard officiating.

Burial was in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, at Martin.

Visitation was at the funeral home, and at the church.

Active pallbearers: Stanual Mullins, Michael Mullins, Kevin Mullins, William Davis, Brad Walls, and Jack Kyle Howard.

(Paid obituary)

Oma May Hughes

Oma Josephine May Hughes, 88, passed away, Saturday, December 25, 2004, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, following an extended illness.

She was the widow of Arthur F. Hughes, who died January 15, 1991.

She was born June 6, 1916, on Abbott Creek, a daughter of the late Caleb Sherman May and Martha Louise Music May. She was a homemaker.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was also preceded in death by eight brothers and six sisters, and by one granddaughter, Lee Anne Vanderpool.

Survivors include four daughters: Dolores Harrington (Donald) of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Dawn Hicks (Tom) of Wabash, Indiana, and Mona May and Brenda Vanderpool, both of Prestonsburg; and one son, Randall Hughes (Kay) of Bowling Green. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Also surviving is one sister, Malta Porter of Prestonsburg.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, December 29, at 11 a.m., at Carter Funeral Home, in Prestonsburg, with Randy Johnson officiating.

Burial will be in Davidson Memorial Gardens at Ivel.

The family has entrusted arrangements to the Carter Funeral Home.

(Paid obituary)

Mary Alice Collins

Mary Alice Collins, age 89, of New London, Ohio, died Thursday, December 23, 2004, at the New London Health Care Center.

She was born September 17, 1915, in Honaker, the daughter of the late William and Edna (Harvey) Leedy. She had moved to New London in 1943. She worked at Bob's Village Restaurant in New London as a waitress for many years. She had also worked at several nursing homes in the New London and surrounding area. She was a member of the Little Pilgrim Home Old Regular Baptist Church, Ruggles Twp, Ohio.

She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Annette M. Hamilton of New London, and Phylistine and Bee Shepherd of New London; six sons and daughters-in-law, Orville and Erika Collins of Bellingham, Washington, Carlos Collins, Bob and Becky Collins, and Larry and Cindy Collins, all of New London, Phil Collins of Norwalk, and Eddie D. Collins of Huron; 20 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edgar (Ted) Collins in 2003; two grandsons: Anthony and Keith Shepherd; four brothers: Orville Leedy, Thomas Leedy, Tolva Leedy, and Arnold Leedy; and two sisters: Fannie Mae Love and Martha Leedy.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, December 28, with elders from the Little Pilgrim Home Old Regular Baptist Church officiating.

Burial was at Ashland County Memorial Park, under the direction of Eastman Funeral Home, New London, Ohio.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Louise Slone

Louise Slone, age 49, of Hindman, wife of Elba Slone, passed away, Friday, December 24, 2004, in the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital.

She was born October 2, 1955, in Ball Branch, at Mousie, the daughter of Hester Moore Short of Mousie, and the late Arnold Short. She was a member of the Montgomery Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son, Elba Dewayne Slone of Hindman; two daughters: Peggy Jean Elkins of Kite, and Penny Lee Slone of Wooten; two brothers: Ancil Short and Billie Short, both of Mousie; three grandchildren: Katlyn Laona, Colleen Elkins, and Jessica Ann Smith; two step-great-grandchildren: Angel Nicole and Warren G. Blake Elkins; four step-grandchildren: Brian Christopher, Michael James, Bradley Keith, and Cody Nathaniel Elkins.

Funeral services for Louise Slone were conducted Monday, December 27, at 1 p.m., in the Mousie Baptist Church, with Clergymen Ricky Smith and Randal Short officiating.

Burial was in the Bolen-Moore Family Cemetery, Ball Branch, at Mousie, under direction of Hall Funeral Home, in Martin.

Visitation was at the church.

Pallbearers: Elba DeWayne Slone, Michael James Elkins, Bradley Keith Elkins, Cody Nathaniel Elkins, Travis Gain Cornett, Marshall Smith, and Brian Keith Elkins.

(Paid obituary)

Bonnie O'Neil Johnson

Bonnie O'Neil Johnson, 65, of Price, died Sunday, December 26, 2004, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Born March 13, 1939, in Virgie, she was the daughter of the late Earl and Vada Newsome Castle. She was a retired school teacher at Osborne Elementary School.

She is survived by her husband, Leo Johnson.

Other survivors include two sons: Roy Earl Johnson of Frankfort, and Ernest Johnson of Pikeville; three daughters: Robin Ann Fojas of Georgetown, Connie Stanley of Hi Hat, and Alice Lee Childers of Cleveland, Ohio; three brothers: Earl Donaldson Castle and Anthony Charles Castle, both of Columbus, Ohio; and Thomas Lee Castle of Ironton, Ohio; a sister, Jo Evelyn Crooks of Columbus, Ohio; and seven grandchildren: Michael, Ryan, Jami, Stephen, Stephanie, Eric, and Ashleigh.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters: Johnnie Lynn Weaver, and Jerri Ann Little.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 28, at 11 a.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Louis Ferrari officiating.

Burial was in the Boyd Cemetery, at Price, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Joyce Bradford

Joyce Bradford, 66, of Farmers, died Saturday, December 25, 2004, at St. Claire Medical Center, in Morehead.

Born October 4, 1938, in Prestonsburg, she was the daughter of the late Bee and Mary Shepherd.

She is survived by her husband, Ellis Bradford.

Other survivors include four sons, Adam Bradford, Tom Bradford, Gary Shepherd, and Dwayne Shepherd; five daughters: Arline Barman, Penny Kenley, Donna Shepherd, Glenna Shepherd and Teresa Shepherd; three brothers: Green Shepherd, Elmer

Shepherd and Toddy Shepherd; two sisters: Letha Shepherd and Susie Shepherd, and many grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters: Ocie Foley, and Opal Shepherd.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, December 29, at noon, at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Thomas Bradford officiating.

Burial will be in the Bradford Cemetery, at Blue River, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Robert R. "Bob" Ward

Robert R. "Bob" Ward, age 60, of Circleville, Ohio, formerly of Wayland, passed away, Monday, December 27, 2004, at his residence.

He was born January 25, 1944, in Wayland, the son of the late Raymond and Velie Daniels Ward. He was a retired employee of RCA, with 28 years of service, a U.S. Army veteran, and a member of the American Legion and AmVets.

Survivors include his wife, Pat (McGrath) Ward; four sons: Michael (Nikki) Ward, Robert "Randy" (Stacie) Ward Jr., Timothy (Carey) Ward, and Chris Ward; one daughter, Deborah (Troy) Myers; two sisters, Jeanette Palmer and Betty

(Milton) Dye; one brother, Johnny (Mary) Daniels; 10 grandchildren: Tyler, Caitlin, Kelsey, Tory, Elizabeth, Troy Jr. "Buddy," Ryan, Emily, and Elijah.

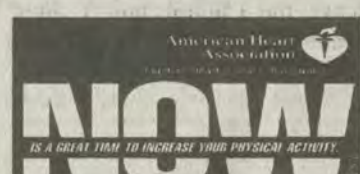
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers.

Funeral services for Robert Ward will be conducted Friday, December 31, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin.

Burial will follow in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, at McDowell, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home.

Visitation is after 6 p.m., Thursday, at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)



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Card of Thanks

The family of Curtis Hall would like to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation, all those who helped in any way during the recent loss of our loved one. Thank you all so much for the food, flowers, prayers, and all the acts of kindness shown to our family. We especially want to thank Clergymen J. B. Hall and Tracey Patton for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for the assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for providing dignified and courteous service.

THE FAMILY OF CURTIS HALL

Card of Thanks

The family of Olin Andrew Elliott would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the loss of our loved one. We appreciate all the food, flowers, prayers, and all the acts of kindness shown to our family. A special thanks to Floyd Price and Pete Grigsby for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home, of Martin, Ky., for their kind, professional, and courteous service.

THE FAMILY OF OLIN ANDREW ELLIOTT

Card of Thanks

The family of James R. "J.R." Key would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all those friends, neighbors, and loved ones who helped to comfort us during our time of sorrow. Thanks to all those who sent flowers, food, or just spoke a kind word. We would like to send a special thanks to Clergymen Garfield Potter and Dan Heintzelman for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their caring and professional service. All your thoughts and prayers will never be forgotten.

THE FAMILY OF JAMES R. "J.R." KEY

Card of Thanks

The family of Haskell Hall would like to express our appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the loss of our loved one. We thank you for the flowers, food, and all the kindness expressed. A special thanks to Clergymen Jimmy Hall and Clinton Moore for their comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and to the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and professional service. All your acts of kindness were a great comfort to our family.

THE FAMILY OF HASKELL HALL

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Kentucky facing drug epidemic with meth

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — In the space of only a few years, methamphetamine has become an epidemic in Kentucky, splitting up families and wrecking lives.

Since abuse of the drug began to increase in the late 1990s, the number of indictments for manufacturing and trafficking the drug has increased more than 450 percent, according to an analysis of court records by The Courier-Journal of Louisville.

Louisville Metro Police Sgt. Adam Houghton likened the drug's rise to the emergence of crack cocaine in 1992. When crack first hit, police were unaware of the problem or what it would do.

"Then it exploded," Houghton said. "Eighteen months later, you stick your finger in the dike, and your fingers aren't big enough. That's what methamphetamine is doing to us right now."

Kentucky and neighboring Indiana were caught largely unprepared when the drug began its devastating spread, the paper reported in Sunday's editions.

Instead of updating laws to prevent addicts from buying enough cold and allergy medications to make meth, the states focused on toughening penalties for those possessing or manufacturing the drug. That strategy did not slow the drug's

onslaught and both states expect to address the problem in their legislative sessions next year.

Makeshift meth labs are found in garages, fields, hotel rooms and nearly anywhere. Kentucky has seen a fivefold increase in the number of meth labs seized in the past five years. This year, the state had seized 515 illegal labs by Dec. 1 compared with 104 in 2000, according to statistics compiled by the Louisville office of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Meth's growing popularity can be attributed to a number of factors — it's cheap, it lasts a long time and it's relatively easy to make with household chemicals and cold and allergy pills. The drug comes as a powder or a pill and can be smoked, inhaled, swallowed or injected.

Although western Kentucky has had the heaviest concentration of meth arrests, the drug has spread east. Laurel County in south-central Kentucky, for example, had 70 meth-related indictments this year — the fifth largest number in the state, court records show.

Kentucky has no formal system for tracking drug trends, and state officials said they cannot measure the scope of any drug epidemic, which has hampered efforts to stop meth.

The Courier-Journal analysis, though, showed meth indictments for manufacturing and

trafficking the drug grew to 1,854 this fiscal year, from 336 cases in 1998-99 — a 452 percent increase. In 1998-99, circuit courts in 32 Kentucky counties had felony meth cases. In 2003-2004, 88 counties had felony meth cases, according to records provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Experts, police and meth abusers alike said the sheer number of cases does not begin to illustrate the toll meth takes on communities and families.

"Meth is pure evil," said Brianna Jenkins, 23, of Louisville, a recovering user who was living in a car before her family helped her into treatment. "It will ruin your life."

Masonville couple Stephanie and Allan Powers lost custody of their two children for two years after being arrested on meth-related charges. The family was reunited in 2002 after the couple had served time in jail and drug-treatment centers.

"I began to realize I had a problem," Stephanie Powers said in a letter about her recovery she sent to family members. "Seeing my little daughters through a glass window in jail and not being able to hold them was terrible. The emptiness, guilt, shame and helplessness were unbearable."

Although there are no firm numbers available for all children removed from parents because of meth addiction, state

police reported finding 66 living at or around meth labs this year. Far more were removed from homes because of abuse or neglect stemming from meth-addicted parents, officials said.

"It's a scourge like nothing I've ever seen," said Mary Ellen Nold, who runs Kentucky's services for children removed from homes because of abuse or neglect. "It's just like wildfire growing."

Critics said Kentucky and Indiana should have followed the early lead of other states that found that restricting meth's ingredients was the single most effective solution.

"The trend has been states tend to wait until the problem was considered more of a crisis situation before they could justify putting resources into it," said Sherry Green, director of the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, a group that analyzes drug policies and laws. Green said.

Some Kentucky officials said the meth epidemic had to arrive before it could be fought.

"I think it's unfair to say the lawmakers haven't taken care of the problem because the problem is so difficult to come to grips with," said Pierce Whites, Kentucky's deputy attorney general. "This is a different kind of drug problem," he said. "To a certain extent you have to suffer before you are ready to take strong action."

Contested House leadership races first order of business

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Before they get to a budget, taxes, Medicaid or even committee assignments, Kentucky House members must first decide who will lead them for the next two years.

Speaker Jody Richards, who has presided longer than anyone in the House, may face a challenge for the first time. And there are potentially at least two other contested leadership posts among Democrats, who lost seven seats in this year's elections and find themselves their party's only bulwark against a Republican governor and a GOP majority in the state Senate.

The leadership positions essentially act as the policy-making body for the rest of the House Democrats, who still hold 57 of the 100 seats. Leadership assigns committee memberships and determines what bills make it to a vote.

Rep. Rob Wilkey of Franklin

has campaigned quietly among his colleagues for a potential race among Richards, a neighbor in Bowling Green.

"There are a number of members who think they need to change the way we're doing things and I'm one of them," Wilkey told the Daily News of Bowling Green. "The question is, do you need to change leadership to do that?"

Richards said he is not worried about being unseated.

"I feel very confident about the numbers," Richards said in an interview with the Lexington Herald-Leader. "I've talked with nearly all the members of the House about their votes and I think I have more than enough to win."

But leadership races can be tricky things, as much about personality and geography as politics. The House Democrats will likely meet the afternoon of Jan. 4, the first day of the 2005 session, to make their choices. And the meeting and balloting is secret, making public com-

mitments sometimes superfluous.

There is a crowd of perhaps six people who want to succeed the retiring Rep. Jim Callahan of Southgate as caucus chairman. And incumbent Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark of Louisville is being challenged by John Will Stacy of West Liberty.

The other two leadership positions are floor leader Rocky Adkins of Sandy Hook and party whip Joe Barrows of Versailles.

Richards, 66, has been in the House since 1976 and speaker since 1995, when he ousted Rep. Joe Clarke of Danville also after a bitter budget fight. Richards was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in the Democratic Party last year. He

is a bookstore owner and was Democratic caucus chairman from 1987-94.

Wilkey, 48, has been in the House since 1997.

Wilkey may be late into a race.

"I don't know if there's time enough to make a change," said Rep. Bob Damron of Nicholasville.

After the session begins Jan. 4, lawmakers are scheduled to leave the Capitol Jan. 7 after receiving committee assignments. They will return Feb. 1 to complete their 30-day short session.

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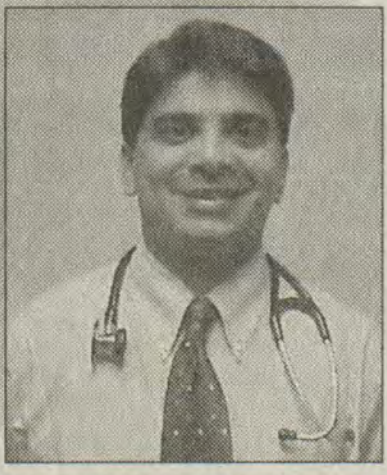
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Community Calendar

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.

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.

Prater Creek Baptist Church

Dec. 31 - New Year's Extravaganza! 8:00 p.m. till midnight; great music, message, fun, food and fellowship! Prater Creek Baptist Church located at Banner. For more info., call Pastor J.B. Hall at 874-3222.

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.

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."


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Letters

observation that the late James McCauley did everything humanly possible to improve living conditions. Jim Tolliver is carrying on with that work. The fiscal court has supported improvement but has limited resources. I think all of them are as frustrated as the county citizens are. I also think some of the local politicians in nearby counties have worked very hard.

The politicians in Frankfort and Washington are the ones who have fallen short. It doesn't require very much analysis to come to this conclusion. All anyone needs to do is to look around to realize that our state representatives, our U.S. representative, our state senators, and our U.S. senators have all had multiple terms and that they have obviously failed. These people make a big thing of their seniority and their influence, and they brandish it during

campaigns. Hal Rogers has been in office for 26 years, and despite the tremendous wealth we've produced, our living conditions have not improved and appear to have declined during his tenure.

So what have we gotten from him and the rest of them? Well, we have a promise of a sewer system for the lower end of the county, but the county project which would have built the system got nothing in the last distribution of PRIDE funds. We had a promise of better roads, but at the last fiscal court meeting, Magistrate Wayne Fleming said that the state blacktop assigned to this county was not only focused in one magisterial district, but three of the five districts got none at all. He seemed to be saying that this had nothing to do with road conditions and everything to do with political conditions, and the evidence seems to bear him out.

We have a very expensive Hal Rogers Center in Hazard, the cost of which could probably have built a sewer system or a water plant.

We have the Hal Rogers UNITE organization, which I see on TV is arresting a massive number of what looks like fairly young people and putting them in jail. Many of these no doubt should be arrested but many others should be undergoing treatment instead. The latest stick, highly expensive UNITE mailing that I saw featured young people who looked to be of high school age and who certainly did not look like drug lords. The jails are filled — last month there were 90-plus prisoners in Letcher County's 53-bed facility — but where is the treatment part of this equation? Without it, any drug program is counterproductive. The UNITE personnel supplemental budget alone (terms taken from a

Department of Justice grant to UNITE) of over \$4 million would probably pay for one or more state-of-the-art drug treatment facilities. I recently heard that UNITE, which is a non-profit organization, is trying to impose the UNITE name on established state-funded programs and to take credit for their accomplishments. Anyone reading the frequent scorecards UNITE puts out and seeing the frequent TV appearances should compare what they have done with what they have spent.

There are many other Hal Rogers namesakes throughout the region, including my favorite, the Daniel Boone Parkway. How many people in Kentucky, do you suppose, think Hal Rogers has been more significant in the history of the state than Daniel Boone was?

All of the problems described here — lack of sewage treatment, lack of water, dangerous

roads, a drug crisis — are emergencies. They are as such emergencies as floods, snowstorms, and drought. The first three can be solved with money, and the governor should make the appropriate declarations, especially for the sewer and water emergencies. The drug situation is much more complicated; I personally think the only solution is a long, long program of education and treatment.

There is a risk in long letters and the risk is that people may not read them. I hope people read this last paragraph at least. I ask everyone of them to assess their own living conditions, compare them to those of people living in Lexington, Louisville and all those other places who are enjoying the fruits of our wealth, and ask themselves "Do I deserve this?"

All representatives, house or senate, state or federal, Republican or Democrat, must be made to address these situations as the emergencies they are. Local governments should take a strong hand in this and push the representatives in Frankfort and Washington. Emergency funding must be provided to support people who have the extraordinary expenses of drilling additional wells, filtering water, and treating water. Every penny spent on personal attempts for potable water and sewage treatment should be made tax deductible. Above all, no one — official or citizen — should consider these solutions to be gifts or handouts. The people of this region have paid for them over and over and over.

Dean Cornett
Blackey

Continued from p4

Odds

to \$10,000.

"I about freaked out," said Quimby, 55. "I couldn't talk."

The winning bid of \$10,313 came from a man in Helena, Mont.

Collectors said they're not surprised at the price.

"This particular piece, I would guess that there are fewer than 12 of them that have been found to date," said John McDougald of Sedona, Ariz., who has published insulator price guides and reference books.

Because the hobby is not well

known, it's not uncommon for collectors to make rare finds. Last year, a collector bought a box of rare insulators from an antique shop for a song and netted \$150,000, McDougald said.

Glass insulators were used beginning in the mid-1850s atop telegraph, telephone and power poles.

Continued from p2

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Dec. 27th—Monday 1:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 3:00 p.m.—Laser Holidays	Jan. 2nd—Sunday 1:00 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 2:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 4:00 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem
Dec. 28th—Tuesday 1:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 3:00 p.m.—Laser Holidays	Jan. 8th—Saturday 1:00 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 2:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 4:00 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 7:30 p.m.—Laser Beatles 9:00 p.m.—Laser Beatles
Dec. 29th—Wednesday 1:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 3:00 p.m.—Laser Holidays	Jan. 9th—Sunday 1:00 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 2:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 4:00 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem
Dec. 30th—Thursday 1:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 3:00 p.m.—Laser Holidays	ADMISSION: Adults, \$3.50; Students, \$2.50; Over 60, \$2.50; under 4, Free. GROUPS BY RESERVATION
Dec. 31st—Friday New Year's Eve 1:30 p.m.—Star of Bethlehem 3:00 p.m.—Laser Holidays	

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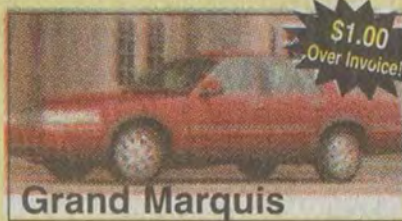
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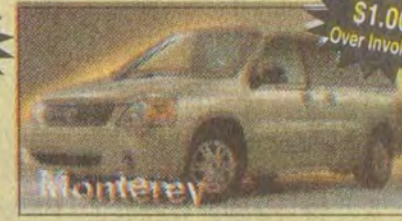
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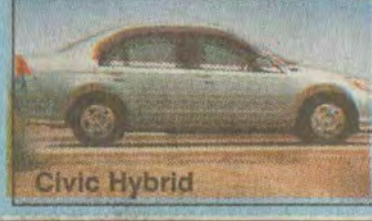
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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

SECTION

B

INSIDESPORTS

- Betsy Layne-Jenkins • page B2
- Scoreboard • page B3
- Top 25 • page B4

JENNY WILEY INVITATIONAL SCOREBOARD

Monday's Games
Breathitt County 61, Betsy Layne 48
Greenup County 76, South Floyd 71
Prestonsburg 73, Western Hills 49
Campbell County 56, Magoffin County 41

INSIDESTUFF

- Lifestyles • page B6
- Yesterdays • page B7
- Classifieds • page B10

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Breathitt finishes strong, beats Betsy Layne

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - Betsy Layne enjoyed its fair share of leads Monday against 14th Region contender Breathitt County. The Betsy Layne-Breathitt County game, the first game of the 2004 Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament, pitted one set of Bobcats against another. The Betsy Layne Bobcats took a 42-37 lead out of the third quarter, but hit a dry spell offensively in the final period. Breathitt County outscored Betsy Layne 24-6 in the fourth quarter to go on to win, 61-48.

A quartet of Bobcats scored in double figures, leading Breathitt County to the victory. Eli Warren led Breathitt County in scoring with 12 points. Andrew Sewell, Jason Tillett and Justin Lamb all had 10 points apiece.

The final score did little to tell the tale of the entire game. Each team enjoyed leads at different times throughout the game and Breathitt County was unable to completely pull away until the final minutes of the fourth period.

Eastern Kentucky University football signee Jacob Hundley, a senior starting center for the Breathitt County High boys' basketball team, added eight points. Matt Minix and Travis Smith rounded out the Breathitt County scoring with six and five points, respectively.

Junior forward Brandon Kidd led Betsy Layne in scoring with a game-high 14 points. Junior guard Brandon Thacker added 13 points for the Bobcats. Preston Simon, Nathan Lafferty, Pat Stapleton and Trai Witt all had four points apiece.

Breathitt County led 13-10 at the end of the first period and 22-19 at halftime

(See BETSY LAYNE, page two)

Blackcats blast Western Hills



photo by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg junior forward Sean Leslie went up for a shot during Monday night's win over visiting Western Hills. Prestonsburg is looking for a second straight trip to the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament championship game.

Chaffin pours in 21, P'burg rolls

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - It is always nice to open a tournament with a blowout win - especially if the tournament is your own. Prestonsburg opened the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament Monday evening at the Fieldhouse with an impressive 73-49 win over the Western Hills Wolverines. Prestonsburg junior Jesse Chaffin led all scorers with a game-high 21 points. The senior forward also pulled down nine rebounds as the Blackcats advanced to face Campbell County in the semifinals of the annual tournament. Prestonsburg took control early and led 16-9 after one quarter of play. Western Hills struggled with turnovers. For the game, the

Wolverines mishandled the ball 30 times. The Wolverines also shot just two-of-21 from behind the three-point line.

Prestonsburg led 30-15 at the half and stretched the lead to 54-29 after three quarters of play.

Sean Leslie finished the contest with 10 points and senior guard Trevor Compton came through with nine points. Compton also dished out seven assists.

Seniors Joe Blackburn and Kyle Ousley each tossed in seven points in the win. John Mark Stephens added six points as Prestonsburg improved to 4-2 on the season.

Michael Stephens added five points before leaving with an injury late in the third quarter and Nick McGuire came off the Prestonsburg bench to contribute three points.

Michael Morrison finished with three points and Brooks Herrick rounded out the scoring for Prestonsburg with two points.

At press time last night, Prestonsburg was due to face Campbell County in the tournament's semifinals. The game ended too late to make this edition. Results from the Prestonsburg-Campbell County game will appear in Friday's edition.

Breathitt County tangled with Greenup County in the other semifinal matchup. Results from the Breathitt County-Greenup County game will also appear in Friday's edition.

Tonight's championship game of the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament at the Prestonsburg Fieldhouse is scheduled for a 9 p.m. tip time.



photo by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne junior Brandon Kidd (22), pictured going up for a lay-in in Monday's setback to Breathitt County, led his team in scoring.

Gillums, Greenup get past Raiders

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - Senior sharpshooter Zach Gillum found his shooting touch early on Monday evening in the second game of the Jenny Wiley Invitational. Gillum, rated as the 16th Region's top boys' basketball player, crashed the scoring column for a game-high 32 points and led Greenup County to a 76-71 win over South Floyd, a contender out of the 15th Region. And he wasn't alone in his efforts as his brother, Codey, and another Greenup County player/team-

mate registered in double figures.

The Musketeers, contenders out of the 16th Region, led at the end of every quarter and held off a late South Floyd rally. Greenup County outscored South Floyd 20-15 in the third quarter and 25-22 in the final period. The Musketeers led 34-31 at halftime.

South Floyd remained in striking distance of Greenup County throughout the game. The Raiders struggled at the free throw line, hitting just 19-of-38 attempts.

(See RAIDERS, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

South Floyd seniors Steven Stanley and Burnett Little (34) defended inside. Stanley and Little combined for 31 points in Monday's loss to Greenup County.

Allen Central, Shelby Valley fall in Classic

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE - Allen Central and Shelby Valley both fell Monday in the opening round of the Paintsville Tiger Hoops Classic. Louisville Holy Cross used a 16-0 run to start the second half to beat the Runnin' Rebels 69-52. Aaron Troutman paced Louisville Holy Cross with a game-high 24 points. Kyle Killebrew added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Louisville team. Jake Nail added 11 points for Louisville Holy Cross.

Ryan Hammonds and Josh Martin scored 14 points apiece to lead Allen Central. Tim Griffith had seven points and six rebounds.

The Rebels led by two points at halftime, but couldn't make the lead stick. The Cougars outscored Allen Central on a 21-3 run in the third quarter.

(See CLASSIC, page two)

Raiders

Continued from p1

To its credit, South Floyd pulled down 50 rebounds.

The win over South Floyd is Greenup County's third win of the season over a 58th District opponent. The Musketeers, coached by Jim Hicks, own wins over Betsy Layne and Prestonsburg, as well.

Greenup County, which improved to 6-1 with the win over South Floyd, got double figures scoring from three different players. Codey Gillum added 16 points and Mitchell Brown tossed in 12.

Senior forward Burnett Little led South Floyd in scoring with 17 points. Ryan Johnson netted 16 points and

Steven Stanley flipped in 14. Wes Hall added 12.

Ryan Little tossed in four points. Mason Hall and Ethan Johnson each had three points apiece for South Floyd and Justin Slone rounded out the Raider scoring with two points.

Greenup County, playing in the winner's bracket of the Jenny Wiley Invitational, returned to action last night against Breathitt County, another first round winner. South Floyd, playing out of the loser's bracket, returned to action against district/conference rival Betsy Layne. Results from both games were unavailable at press time and will

appear in Friday's edition.

Hall, Stanley lead SFHS in win over Shawnee

LEXINGTON - South Floyd junior guard Mason Hall helped his team to a win over Shawnee last week in the Defenders of the Station tournament, hosted by Bryan Station High School. Hall scored 16 points and the Raiders won 74-66. Steven Stanley led South Floyd in scoring in the win over Shawnee. Stanley paced the Raiders with a game-high 24 points.

Classic

Continued from p1

Ripley, Ohio 74, Shelby Valley 68 (OT): It took Ripley, Ohio an overtime period to get past Shelby Valley.

Shelby Valley senior Seth Kiser, who scored seven points, was ejected with just over four minutes to play with the game tied when he got in a fight with a fan. Ripley's Jerry Davis, a 6-6 senior, drained two timely shots in overtime as the Blue Jays pulled out the win.

Josh Howard led Ripley with 24 points and six rebounds. Justin Fultz added 17 points and six rebounds and Jarad Cahall chipped in 13 points.

Kris Bentley led the Wildcats with a team-high 20 points. Kelsey Friend flipped in 16 points and pulled down five rebounds. Mitchell Riddle scored 11 points and Patrick Tackett added 10 points.

Host Paintsville beat Colony, Alaska 67-66.

Defending 16th Region champ Morgan County beat Bates Creek 56-52. Davin Barnett led the Cougars in the win over Bates Creek, scoring 18 points. Andy Lewis added 13 points for Morgan County and Ralph Hamilton flipped in 11.

Tates Creek committed 23 turnovers in the loss.

Kentucky

Continued from p1

humiliating opening loss to Louisville, predictable beatings by the elite teams of the Southeastern Conference and a 1-9 record, the program's third since 2000.

The Wildcats had one of the worst offenses in the nation and offensive coordinator Ron Judson resigned, a move that reflected fire off second-year coach Rich Brooks.

"This has not been an easy season in any way, shape or form," Brooks said.

The annual basketball game between the hated rivals was much more competitive - and one of the most thrilling in the series.

The Cardinals built a 32-16 halftime lead at Freedom Hall, but Central City native and Western Kentucky transfer Patrick Sparks capped a Wildcats' comeback for the ages with three game-clinching free throws with 0.6 seconds left. The 60-58 victory finished Kentucky's largest halftime comeback since the memorable victory over LSU in 1994 - when Rick Pitino was the Wildcats' coach.

Pitino started 2004 with the bombshell of the year, announcing he was taking an indefinite leave of absence for an undisclosed medical condition.

The 52-year-old Pitino had tests to treat what he termed "urological-related" pain and skipped his team's Jan. 28 game with Houston. He was back at practice the next day and said doctors had given him

a clean bill of health.

His team, however, could not say the same. Francisco Garcia and Taquan Dean played the second half of the season with injuries - Garcia sprained both ankles and Dean tore his abdominal wall - and Louisville's season crumbled. After a 16-1 start, the Cardinals lost nine of their last 13 and bowed out of the NCAA tournament in the first round.

"I'm not disappointed in this team at all," Pitino said. "Losing is disappointing, but I'm not disappointed in the guys at all because they're giving me all they can give me."

Kentucky, meanwhile, mirrored what it did the previous season, looking bad against Louisville and then storming through the Southeastern Conference. The Wildcats won their 25th SEC tournament and earned a No. 1 seed for the seventh time since the NCAA expanded the tournament field to 64 in 1985.

But like Louisville, the Wildcats didn't stay in the Big Dance for long, losing a second-round stunner to UAB.

"I think this team did overachieve in a way, but we could have been better, should have been better, should have been moving on," said Kentucky coach Tubby Smith.

In high school basketball, Louisville Sacred Heart finished an amazing three-year run with its third straight championship.

The Valkyries finished 37-1

with a 43-34 win over Lexington Catholic and extended their winning streak over in-state competition to 95 games. Sacred Heart went 111-3 between 2001-04.

"We got beat by one of the greatest teams in Kentucky basketball history," said Lexington Catholic coach Greg Todd.

The year also saw world-class golf and boxing return to Louisville.

The birthplace of Muhammad Ali, was the site of a disastrous - and potentially career-ending - comeback try by former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

The 38-year-old Tyson was pounded by British journeyman Danny Williams in Freedom Hall on July 31. Tyson has hardly been heard from since, while Williams took a battering of his own from Vitali Klitschko in Las Vegas in December.

Another former heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe, was ready to launch his own comeback bid in Louisville four months later, but backed out of a bout at the last minute because of a shoulder injury.

In May, heavy rains flooded Valhalla and caused five delays at the Senior PGA Championship. Hale Irwin outdueled Jay Haas for the victory, a compelling finish to a grueling week.

"I'm proud, I'm relieved and I'm glad it's over," Irwin said.

Betsy Layne

Continued from p1

before Betsy Layne grabbed the lead in the third quarter.

Breathitt County connected on five three-point field goals and Betsy Layne made good on four three-pointers.

Breathitt County made good on 17 field goals and Betsy Layne hit 14.

The win allowed Breathitt County to move into a winner's bracket game against Greenup County. With the loss, South Floyd dropped into the loser's bracket and a contest against 58th District rival South Floyd. Both the Breathitt County-Greenup County and Betsy Layne-South Floyd games were played yesterday evening. Results were unavailable at

press time and will appear in Friday's edition.

Betsy Layne 68, Jenkins 36

BELFRY - In a game played Thursday at Belfry High School, Betsy Layne rolled to a 68-36 win over Jenkins in the Appalachian Wireless Mountain Schoolboy Classic. Preston Simon hit for 16 points and Brandon Kidd tossed in 11 to lead the Bobcats in the winning effort. Eleven different Betsy Layne players scored in the win over Jenkins.

Betsy Layne rushed out to an early lead and led Jenkins 15-6 at the end of the first peri-

od and 33-14 at halftime. The Bobcats held a 46-22 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Derek Case added eight points for Betsy Layne and Nathan Lafferty pushed in six. Pat Stapleton and Shane McKinney each had four points. Brandon Thacker added three points, while Trai Witt, Adam Roberts, Tyler Hamilton and Samuel Keathley all had two points apiece.

Betsy Layne hit 19 field goals and connected on eight-of-11 free throw attempts.

No Jenkins player scored in double figures. Jared Bentley led the Cavaliers in scoring with eight points. Chris Puckett and Joe Bryant each had six points.

Hal Mumme in running for New Mexico State job

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMMOND, La. - Southeastern Louisiana has confirmed that coach Hal Mumme is a finalist for the New Mexico State head football coach vacancy.

"He's one of three or four finalists," said Dart Volz, SLU assis-

stant athletic director for media relations.

Mumme recently flew out to interview with New Mexico State officials, according to Volz. Other candidates reportedly in contention for the position are Texas A&M offensive coordinator Les Koenning and Notre Dame defensive coordinator

Kent Baer.

The job became open when Tony Samuel was fired Nov. 24.

Mumme went 20-26 as head coach at Kentucky (1997-2000) before leaving in the wake of NCAA recruiting violations.

He was named head coach at SLU when the team revived a football program that had been shut down in the mid 1980s. The Lions finished 7-4 this season and are 12-11 under Mumme.



Hal Mumme

JENNY WILEY INVITATIONAL



photos by Steve LeMaster
FLOYD COUNTY FLAVOR - Breathitt County Coach Brian Hall (above) and Campbell County Coach Mike Reitz (left), both Floyd County natives, each returned home this week, coaching in the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament.



photo by Jamie Howell
Betsy Layne's Derek Case got out in front of the Breathitt County defense in Monday's first opening round game of the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament. Case scored eight points in the loss to Breathitt County.



photo by Steve LeMaster
South Floyd senior Joe Osborne, a star on the gridiron this past season for the Raider football team, dribbled against the Greenup County defense.



photo by Jamie Howell
Prestonsburg senior Joe Blackburn (32) worked his way through the Western Hills defense.

Louisville AD gives LSU permission to meet with Petrino

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisiana State has asked for and received permission to speak with Louisville football coach Bobby Petrino about LSU's head coaching vacancy, UofL athletics director Tom Jurich said.



Bobby Petrino

Jurich would not comment further on LSU's interest in Petrino, according to the report in the Courier-Journal Tuesday. Petrino is in Memphis preparing for No. 7 Cardinals for their

AutoZone Liberty Bowl matchup with No. 10 Boise State on Friday.

Just six days ago, Petrino received a salary raise from \$550,000 to \$1 million per season guaranteed, with another \$866,666 possible in incentives.

Petrino declined to the newspaper to address reports linking him to the LSU job. When his new contract was announced last Tuesday, he dismissed inquiries

about the LSU job.

LSU coach Nick Saban announced Saturday that he would resign to become head coach of the NFL's Miami Dolphins. Saban will coach LSU in the Capital One Bowl against Iowa on Saturday.

Saban held the nation's richest college football contract with a seven-year, \$18.45 million deal he signed after winning a share of the national title in 2003. The school is completing a stadium expansion and a new football operations center.

Information from: The Courier-Journal, <http://www.courier-journal.com>

No. 19 Louisville 104, Morehead St. 40

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Francisco Garcia turned some open looks into a historic night — for himself and the Louisville Cardinals.

Garcia scored 18 of his career-high 29 points in the first half as No. 19 Louisville beat Morehead State 104-40 on Monday night, the largest margin of victory in Louisville basketball history.

"I was shooting my open shots, which I don't normally do," Garcia said. "The focus today was to just get better. We just got to keep the intensity level as if we were 20 up. We just wanted to keep playing and getting better in every aspect of the game."

Louisville had won by 58 points twice — a 119-61 victory against Morehead State team in the 1995-96 season, and a 116-58 win over Bellarmine during the 1971-72 season. It wasn't a record for coach Rick Pitino, though — his Kentucky team beat Tennessee-Martin 124-50 during the 1994-95 season.

"It was an exceptional defensive game for us," Pitino said. "We had a record number of deflections (60) and forced

30 turnovers. And we wanted to protect the 3-point line, which we did. We kept changing our presses, which helped us in the first half."

Louisville (9-2) scored the game's first 19 points, including eight from Garcia. The Cardinals made seven of their first 10 shots, including 4-of-5 from 3-point range, during the spurt.

Garcia finished 11-of-17 from the field, including 4-of-8 from long range, as Louisville made a season-high 14 of 30 shots from behind the arc. Garcia's previous high was 28 points against Cincinnati on March 11 during the Conference USA tournament.

Taquan Dean added 16 points and Larry O'Bannon had 14 for Louisville. Ellis Myles had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Chad McKnight led the Eagles with 11 points, and Jonathan True added 10.

Morehead (6-4) finished just 15-of-50 from the field and made a season-high 30 turnovers.

"There are not a lot of posi-

tive things when you get beat that bad," Morehead State coach Kyle Macy said. "We panicked in the first half, to tell you the truth. We had worked on the press all season, but for some reason, we turned it over 30 times, and that leads to 64-point losses."



Francisco Garcia

The Eagles missed their first five shots and made five turnovers before McKnight finally made two free throws with 15:22 left in the first half. McKnight's layup with 14:39 left was Morehead's first field goal, cutting the lead to 21-5.

The Cardinals then outscored Morehead 10-3 over the next 2 1/2 minutes to lead 31-8 with 11:05 left in the half.

"Early, we were back on our heels going the other way," Macy said. "We didn't handle the pressure very well. I guess that's an understatement. No one stepped up when Chad McKnight was shut down."

Louisville shot 51 percent from the field in the first half and led 51-26 at the break.

No. 1 Illinois 105, Longwood 79

by JIM PAUL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Dee Brown and his Illinois teammates didn't even try to put a positive spin on the top-ranked Illini's sloppy victory over Longwood.

The Illini (12-0) beat Longwood 105-79 on Monday night, setting season highs for points and points allowed against the overmatched Lancers (1-14).

"We didn't have a lot of energy, we just didn't play well and they came out with a lot of heart," said Dee Brown, who had eight points and 13 assists. "We played a good 5 minutes. That was the only good thing about the game."

That came late when the Illini, ignited by one of Deron Williams' four 3-pointers, ran off 16 straight points to make it 89-65 with 5:54 to go.

Williams scored a season-high 23 points and had seven assists for Illinois. Luther Head added 20 points, James Augustine had 16 and Roger Powell Jr. 13.

The Lancers fought back from an 18-point first-half deficit and stayed with the Illini deep into the second half. Longwood trailed by seven with 12:33 to go and were down by eight with 9:13 left.

"At that point in time, you look up and you realize we've done it now for 30 minutes, why can't we keep it going for another 10 minutes?" Longwood coach Mike Gillian said.

In the only other Top 25 games Monday night, No. 19 Louisville routed Morehead State 104-40, and No. 22 Cincinnati beat Miami of Ohio 77-53.

Michael Jefferson scored a career-high 30 points for the Lancers.

"There was no backing down, you could tell he wasn't scared. He just really killed us," Brown said.

Chad Kosmo and Husein Pistoljevich each scored 12 points for Longwood, and Lamar Barrett and Leland Beale had 10 points each.

"We earned their respect," Jefferson said. "My teammates stepped up. Everybody stepped up, made big plays, played good defense, made some big shots."

The Lancers are playing a full NCAA Division I schedule for the first time this season and the crowd of 16,618 was almost 16,000 more than they see at a typical home game. Illinois won its 38th straight nonconference game at Assembly Hall.

"This is extremely significant for our players, for our university," Gillian said. "We've got some good players, they're great kids and they're going to give a lot of effort."

Illinois coach Bruce Weber said he had noticed the team was starting to lag defensively and "went off" during Sunday's practice, but he said now it's up to his players.

"Defense is habits and pride," Weber said. "We lost some habits because of no practice time and then we've lost a little bit of pride."

With a game against Cincinnati looming Friday night and the Big Ten season beginning next week, the Illini can't afford to rest on their laurels, Weber said.

"We've got to click it in defensively. That's what's made us No. 1," he said. "If we don't click it in defensively, we're not going to be No. 1 for very long."

Both teams are headed to Las Vegas for two games later this week as part of the Las Vegas Holiday Classic. Longwood meets Cincinnati and Valparaiso. Illinois faces Northwestern State on Thursday before Friday's game against the Bearcats.

H.S. BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

Monday's Games

BOYS

- Bishop Brossart 71, Clay Co. 44
- Bourbon Co. 63, Cawood 55
- Buckhorn 75, Grant Co. 60
- Calloway Co. 67, Carter, Tenn., 55
- Columbia Cent., Tenn., 59, Lou, Moore 42
- Elliott Co. 67, Cordia 61
- George Rogers Clark 58, S. Laurel 53
- Graves Co. 56, Perry Co. Central 48
- Jenkins 77, Riverside Christian 36
- Kenwood, Tenn., 66, Harlan 47
- Leslie Co. 55, Lou, Southern 52
- Lou. DuPont Manual 72, N. Laurel 60
- Lou. Fern Creek 55, Powell Co. 39
- Lou. Holy Cross 69, Allen Central 52
- Mason Co. 64, Highlands 53
- Menifee Co. 88, June Buchanan 61
- Muhlenberg N. 64, Madison Cent. 52
- Nelson Co. 59, Whitesburg 55
- Oldham Co. 70, Monticello 51
- Paul Blazer 73, Wolfe Co. 65
- Scott Co., Tenn., 53, McCreary Cent. 45
- Univ. Heights 108, Middlesboro 78
- Warren Central 85, Fairview 71
- Wayne Co. 57, Lincoln Co. 50
- West Carter 71, Nicholas Co. 45
- Williamsburg 66, Owen Co. 43

GIRLS

- Bishop Brossart 60, Paintsville 43
 - Boyd Co. 53, North Oldham 33
 - Christian Co. 58, Ironton, Ohio 46
 - Corbin 52, Tom River South, N.J., 46
 - Fleming-Neon 72, Jackson City 21
 - George Rogers Clark 65, Pineville 38
 - Harrison Co. 61, Paul Blazer 34
 - Jenkins 65, Riverside Christian 39
 - Lewis Co. 55, Wayne Co., W.Va., 31
 - Lex. Henry Clay 67, Johnson Central 64
 - Lex. Lafayette 53, Palaski S.W. 33
 - Lex. Paul Dunbar 58, Estill Co. 32
 - Lou. Assumption 50, LaRue Co. 41
 - Magoffin Co. 45, South Oldham 30
 - McCreary Central 64, Knox Central 30
 - Powell Co. 65, Fleming Co. 62
 - Rose Hill Christ. 86, Pike Co. Cent. 56
 - Russell Co. 2, Cawood 0 FORFEIT
 - Somerset 55, Raceland 46
 - Walton-Verona 54, Monticello 52
 - Wayne Co. 61, River Ridge, Fla., 22
- Online: www.khsaa.org

No. 22 Cincinnati 77, Miami, Ohio 53

At Cincinnati, Eric Hicks had career highs with 21 points and 17 rebounds to help Cincinnati

improve to 10-0 for the second season in a row. James White and Armein

Kirkland added 18 apiece for the Bearcats. Doug Penno led Miami (6-3) with 11 points.

Pitino's mother dies in New York

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville coach Rick Pitino's mother, Charlotte Pitino, has died.

Pitino planned to leave for New York on Tuesday to attend a private service for his mother Tuesday evening.



Rick Pitino

U of L spokesman Kenny Klein said Pitino learned early Sunday of his mother's death. Pitino was expected to return to Louisville in time for practice Wednesday, Klein said. Klein did not know Charlotte Pitino's age or cause of death.

Pitino was on the sidelines as the Cardinals beat Morehead State 104-40 Monday night.

"My mom was a big basketball fan," Pitino said after Monday's game. "... She was a big basketball fan. She wanted me here certainly."

"She suffered the last nine months or so, so it was a blessing for her to pass," Pitino said. "She is in a much better place. I'll miss her."

UNC-Asheville rallies past Lady Eagles, 52-47

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

UNC-Asheville rallied in the second half for a 52-47 win over Morehead State's Lady Eagles Dec. 23 in the consolation game of the Sheraton Barcelo Navy Classic in

Annapolis, Md. Cold shooting plagued both teams, with both MSU and UNC-Asheville hitting below 30 percent from the field.

MSU, not 2-7, got 14 points from Patti White and 10 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocked

shots from Sheely Johnson. UNC-Asheville, 5-5, was led by Andrea Clapp who scored 14 points

The Lady Eagles will next face Longwood at 5:30 p.m. EST today in the Comfort Suites EKU Classic in Richmond.

Knott Central 56, Washington Co. 50

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SCOTTSVILLE — In the first round of the Lady Invitational of the South tournament at Allen County-Scottsville, Knott County Central led Washington County

24-13 at the end of the first quarter and held on to win 56-50.

Washington County outscored Knott Central 15-8 in the final quarter, but it wasn't enough to grab the victory.

University of Kentucky

signee Kasi Mullins-Galloway tossed in 14 points and Heather Martin added 13 to lead Knott Central. Six different Lady Patriots scored in the winning effort.

Knott Central led 34-25 at halftime.

Black pomeranian found

A black pomeranian dog has been found by the staff of the Prestonsburg Cycle Center. The dog found wasn't wearing a collar. For more information, call 886-9261. — PSA

Visit The Floyd County Times on the internet

www.floydcountytimes.com

The loss also snapped MU's five-bowl win streak. Marshall previously won three straight Motor City Bowls from 1998-2000 and was victorious in the 2001 and 2002 GMAC Bowls

No. 18 Fresno St. 37, Virginia 34, OT

by TIM KORTE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOISE, Idaho — Fresno State coach Pat Hill cringes when anyone applies the "mid-major" label to his Bulldogs or the Western Athletic Conference.

It doesn't fit, he insists, and certainly not after Fresno State notched another win over the big boys.

Paul Pinegar threw five TD passes, including a 25-yarder to Stephen Spach on Fresno State's first play of overtime, and the Bulldogs beat No. 18 Virginia 37-34 in the MPC Computers Bowl on Monday.

"Because of the way we finished the season and the opponent we had, this was another big win," Hill said.

Fresno State (9-3) closed with six straight wins and added the Cavaliers (8-4) of the Atlantic Coast Conference to a list of victims that in recent years has included Colorado, Oregon State, Wisconsin, Washington and Kansas State.

"I believe the Western Athletic Conference is good football," said Hill, noting Boise State is 36-2 the last three years. "I've said this several times: Teams in our conference don't have to take a back seat to anybody."

Also Monday, Connecticut beat Toledo 39-10 in the Motor City Bowl. On Tuesday night, Miami of Ohio will face Iowa State in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., and Notre Dame will play Oregon State in the Insight Bowl in Phoenix.

Virginia started 5-0 and had hoped to land a Bowl Championship Series bid before ACC losses to Florida State, Virginia Tech and Miami.

The 2,000-mile trip to play on the blue turf in Boise was considered a disappointment by some fans. It looked great after Wali Lundy's 20-yard TD run put the Cavaliers up 31-24

midway through the fourth period.

Fresno State had been threatening throughout the second half. Brent Visintainer kicked a career-long 49-yard field goal on the final play before halftime, pulling the Bulldogs to 21-10.

"That last drive right before the half was critical," Hill said. "Kicking that field goal gave us the momentum."

Tailbacks Wendell Mathis and Bryson Sumlin established Fresno State's ground game in the second half and that helped the Bulldogs find an offensive rhythm and open the passing lanes for Pinegar.

"I think they committed to the run in August," Virginia coach Al Groh said.

Pinegar was fabulous, completing 23 of 36 passes for 235 yards without an interception. He led the Bulldogs back from a 21-7 second-quarter deficit and his five TD passes were a record for the game, formerly known as the Humanitarian Bowl.

Fresno State's defense, meanwhile, disrupted Virginia's offense after adjusting to the flow of the game.

Quarterback Marques Hagans was solid: 162 yards passing with one TD and 85 yards rushing with an 8-yard bootleg TD. But the bigger Cavaliers couldn't overwhelm the Bulldogs and eventually wore down.

"I hate to go out like this," said Virginia receiver Michael McGrew, a senior. "But give credit to Fresno's defense. They were doing different things in the second half to stop our running game — our bread-and-butter the whole year."

Virginia got the first possession of overtime, taking a 34-31 lead on a 26-yard field goal by Connor Hughes.

Hill knew immediately that he wanted to take a shot at the end zone and win with a quick strike. Pinegar froze the

defense with a play-action call and zipped a pass inside the 5 to Spach.

The burly tight end fought past would-be tacklers and dropped into the end zone. That's when the Bulldogs stormed off the sideline in celebration while the Cavaliers were left dazed.

"When you catch the ball in that situation, you're just looking for the end zone," Spach said. "You just keep on running. I knew I was really close."

Pinegar directed a 16-play, 83-yard drive late in the fourth period. On fourth-and-goal at the 3, he rolled right and connected with Jaron Fairman for a TD with 11 seconds remaining.

"My last option was to tuck it and run, but that would have been tough sledding to get in," Pinegar said. "Jaron made a great catch. After he caught it, they swiped at his arm but he did a great job to hold on."

Visintainer added the point after, and it was tied at 31.

"We never panicked when we were down 14 points," said Pinegar, who was harshly criticized when Fresno State lost three straight games after a 3-0 start. "We knew we just needed to stop making mistakes."

Motor City Bowl Connecticut 39, Toledo 10

At Detroit, Dan Orlovsky threw for 239 yards and two touchdowns, and Matt Nuzie kicked a career-best four field goals in Connecticut's first bowl appearance since becoming a full Division I-A team three years ago.

The Huskies (8-4) held the Rockets (9-4) to just 78 yards on the ground.

Keron Henry led Connecticut's receivers with nine catches for 109 yards, and Cornell Brockington ran for 72 yards.

AP coach of the year goes to Auburn's Tuberville

by RALPH D. RUSSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Tommy Tuberville followed the most difficult season of his coaching career with the best.

A year after he was nearly replaced by Auburn, Tuberville is The Associated Press coach of the year.

"I learned a lot last year from what we went through at the end of the season," he said. "I've been more relaxed this season."

In his sixth season at Auburn, Tuberville has led the third-ranked Tigers to a 12-0 regular season and its first Southeastern Conference championship in 15 years.

"It's probably been my easiest season as a head coach because of the great senior leadership this team has," Tuberville said. "Coaches tend to think the world is on their shoulders. I've delegated more authority this season than before. Because of that I think it's been an easier year."

But not quite perfect, despite the perfect record.

The Tigers failed to reach the Orange Bowl to play for the Bowl Championship Series national title. Auburn never could get past Oklahoma and Southern California in the BCS standings and will play Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 3.

Tuberville did far better in the coach of the year voting than his team did in the polls. He was a runaway winner, getting 35 of the 63 votes from the panel of media members.

Utah coach Urban Meyer was second with 14 votes. Meyer led the Utes to an unbeaten season and a berth in the BCS before taking the Florida job.

USC's Pete Carroll and Iowa's Kirk Ferentz received four votes, California's Jeff

Tedford got three votes and Texas-El Paso's Mike Price got two. Oklahoma's Bob Stoops and Louisville's Bobby Petrino each received one vote.

Tuberville is the second straight SEC coach to win the AP award. LSU's Nick Saban was last year's winner.

As disappointing as being left out of the title game has been for Tuberville and his undefeated Tigers, this season has been far more enjoyable than last.

The Tigers began the 2003 campaign ranked in the top 10 and favored to win the SEC. But they lost their first two games of the season and stumbled to a disappointing 8-5 finish. There was speculation late in the season Tuberville might be on the way out.

It almost happened. It became public that Auburn officials, including the university president, had covertly courted Louisville coach Bobby Petrino to replace Tuberville.

"A little bizarre is an understatement," Tuberville said.

The failed coup was an embarrassment for the Auburn hierarchy and helped rally support for Tuberville from Tigers fans who felt he was treated unfairly.

Tuberville never griped about the administration's sneaky move and decided to stay with Auburn.

"I came back for two reasons," he said. "The players stayed behind us 100 percent and 99 percent of the people in the Auburn family stayed behind us."

"I told my staff 'We're not going to dwell on it. We're not going to hold grudges.'"

Tuberville's actions strengthened his relationship with the players.

"I always respected him. I respect him even more now for staying with us, even though

they plotted to get him out of here," receiver Courtney Taylor said. "It takes a bigger man to stay here and face everything that went on down here during that time. I love the man."

But even Tuberville admits he wasn't completely off the hot seat. So he made some changes to his staff, most notably hiring offensive coordinator Al Borges.

Auburn entered this season with modest expectations and a No. 17 national ranking. The Tigers cleared an early hurdle by beating defending national champ LSU 10-9 at home.

"I thought that showed a lot of character. We grew up a lot then," Tuberville said.

Auburn got into the national title race two weeks later with a 34-10 victory at Tennessee.

"We knew then we had something special," Tuberville said.

Tuberville's specialty is defense and the Tigers have excelled this season with a rebuilt front seven, having lost several players to the NFL. Auburn is allowing 11.2 point per game, best in the nation, with a slightly undersized but blazing fast defense, led by cornerback Carlos Rogers and safety Junior Rosegreen.

On the offensive side, Borges' West Coast offense finally cured the woes that have ailed Auburn under Tuberville.

Quarterback Jason Campbell blossomed in his senior season and the Tigers finally were able to maximize the ample talents of tailbacks Camell Williams and Ronnie Brown.

And just like that, Tuberville has gone from embattled to beloved on The Plains.

"You've just got to believe in what you're doing," he said. "We believe in hard work, teaching work ethic on and off the field. Let the players know you're here for them."

TOP 25

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses,

records through Dec. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Illinois (55)	11-0	1,779	1
2. Kansas (13)	8-0	1,699	2
3. Oklahoma St. (4)	9-0	1,678	3
4. North Carolina	9-1	1,530	4
5. Wake Forest	10-1	1,462	5
6. Duke	8-0	1,434	6
7. Syracuse	11-1	1,333	7
8. Kentucky	8-1	1,257	8
9. Georgia Tech	8-1	1,225	9
10. Pittsburgh	9-0	1,161	10
11. Connecticut	6-1	976	11
12. Gonzaga	9-1	843	13
13. Washington	10-1	842	12
14. Arizona	8-2	733	14
15. Texas	8-2	708	15
16. Iowa	10-1	702	17
17. N.C. State	9-1	686	16
18. Alabama	10-1	611	19
19. Louisville	8-2	587	18
20. George Washington	8-1	484	20
21. Mississippi St.	11-2	437	21
22. Cincinnati	9-0	342	22
23. Michigan St.	7-2	268	23
24. Maryland	7-2	226	24
25. Virginia	8-1	144	25

Others receiving votes: Marquette 71, Boston College 64, Wisconsin 25, Arkansas 23, Oklahoma 17, Oregon 11, Notre Dame 9, Wichita St. 9, Hawaii 8, Old Dominion 6, Miami 3, West Virginia 3, Florida 2, Fresno St. 2.

Smith says small opponents give young players a chance to play

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said there's a method behind playing small schools like Campbell University early in the season.

Nevermind that the Baptist school in Buies Creek, N.C., is about as lightly regarded a basketball team as No. 8 Kentucky has played in recent years.

Smith explained Tuesday why the Wildcats' early schedule has included overmatched teams like Campbell and William & Mary. Campbell's Ratings Percentage Index ranking last season was No. 320 — out of 326 NCAA Division I teams.

"It's not like these are not Division I teams," Smith said.

Playing time for a team that includes four freshmen and four sophomores is important, Smith said, and games against lesser opponents offer that opportunity.

"It doesn't matter who you're playing against," Smith said. "You want to go out and learn and compete, no matter who is on the court or who is wearing the opposing jersey. You've got to give it your best. That's tough for a young team to learn."

Campbell went 3-24 last season and is 2-6 this season, with a 55-point loss to then-No. 17 North Carolina State — the Camels' worst loss since jumping from the NAIA to NCAA Division I in 1977 — and a 41-point loss to Tennessee. Over the last 10 seasons, Kentucky (8-1) has played only one other team — Virginia Military Institute in December 2001 — that had an RPI rank of 300 or higher the previous season.

Campbell has lost 38 of its last 39 road games. Its only

wins this season are against North Carolina A&T and William & Mary, a team Kentucky routed by 45 points last week.

Smith said he wasn't overly concerned about the strength of Kentucky's early schedule.

"Connecticut won it all last year. Look at their schedule last December," Smith said. "Look at Duke's schedule. I don't think they left (the state of) North Carolina until Jan. 12 last year. Kansas is playing their first away game against us (on Jan. 9)."

"What good does it do? I mean, it's good that you're playing somebody and you're learning and you're improving, but how is it going to make you better in March, unless you're winning?"

Expanded conference schedules, a fact of life in 12-team leagues like the SEC, have reduced the opportunities for scheduling marquee games, Smith said, adding that smart coaches try not to overschedule.

"You've got to play somebody," Smith said. "Everybody in the top 20 can't play everybody in the top 20 every year. It's not going to happen. A lot of it has to do with expansion of leagues. Back when we had only 10 or nine teams in the league, or eight teams, you could go out and play a lot of different people."

For their part, Kentucky players said they take every game seriously, because Smith does.

Smith "never underestimates the team. Coach is always hard (on us), whether it's William & Mary or Kansas," sophomore center Shagari Alleyne said. "He's real intense in every game. It really keeps us focused and humble, so we can focus on the task at hand."

Reds sign pitcher

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Eric Milton agreed to a three-year deal Monday with Cincinnati, giving the Reds a desperately needed proven left-hander and joining right-hander Paul Wilson at the top of their revamped rotation.

Milton, 29, led Philadelphia in wins, starts and strikeouts last season, going 14-6 with a 4.75 ERA and 171 strikeouts in 34 starts.

His career record is 71-57 with a 4.76 ERA in 200 appearances with Minnesota and Philadelphia. Milton made the AL All-Star team

in 2001, and went 1-0 with a 1.65 ERA with the Twins in the 2002 and 2003 playoffs.

Milton also pitched the fifth no-hitter in Twins history on Sept. 11, 1999, striking out a career-high 13 Angels.

The Reds have spent the offseason overhauling their bullpen and rotation on a limited budget.

They kept Wilson, their top starter last season, by giving him a two-year deal, and acquired right-hander Ramon Ortiz from Anaheim. They've also added David Weathers, Ben Weber and Kent Mercker to the bullpen.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL GAMES

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Southern Mississippi 31, North Texas 10

Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$850,000
Georgia Tech 51, Syracuse 14

Wednesday, Dec. 22
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: \$750,000
Bowling Green 52, Memphis 35

Thursday, Dec. 23
Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl
Payout: \$750,000
Cincinnati 32, Marshall 14
Las Vegas Bowl
Payout: \$575,000
Wyoming 24, UCLA 21

Friday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: \$750,000
Hawaii 59, UAB 40

Monday, Dec. 27
MPC Computers Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: \$750,000
Fresno State 37, Virginia 34, OT
Motor City Bowl
At Detroit
Payout: \$750,000
Connecticut 39, Toledo 10

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: \$1.2 million
Iowa State (6-5) vs. Miami (Ohio) (8-4), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Insight Bowl
At Phoenix
Payout: \$750,000
Oregon State (6-5) vs. Notre Dame (6-5), 9:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl
Payout: \$1.1 million
Texas-El Paso (8-3) vs. Colorado (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$1.55 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. Oklahoma State (7-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payout: \$750,000
Boston College (8-3) vs. North Carolina (6-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN2)
Emerald Bowl
At San Francisco
Payout: \$750,000
New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: \$2 million
California (10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout: \$750,000
Troy (7-4) vs. Northern Illinois (8-3), 11 p.m. (ESPN2)

Friday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: \$780,000
Alabama (6-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5), Noon (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: \$1.5 million
Purdue (7-4) vs. Arizona State (8-3), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.35 million
Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (10-1), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: \$2.2 million
Miami (8-3) vs. Florida (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 1
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payout: \$3 million
Tennessee (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4), 11 a.m. (FOX)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: \$2.75 million
Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$1.6 million
Florida State (8-3) vs. West Virginia (8-3), 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$5.187 million
Iowa (9-2) vs. LSU (9-2), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: \$14.5 million
Michigan (9-2) vs. Texas (10-1), 5 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: \$11-14 million
Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (8-3), 8:30 p.m. (ABC)

Monday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: \$11-14 million
Auburn (12-0) vs. Virginia Tech (10-2), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: \$11-14 million
Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0), 8 p.m. (ABC)

Saturday, Jan. 15
Gridiron Classic
At The Villages, Fla.
North vs. South, 11 a.m. (ESPN2)
East-West Shrine Classic
At San Francisco
East vs. West, 2 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 22
Hula Bowl
At Maui, Hawaii
Aina vs. Kai 7:7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, Jan. 29
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

Bengals want roof on practice field

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Bengals owner Mike Brown won't pay for things he considers frills, such as a covered practice field for when the weather turns bad.

His head coach wants him to spring for one.

As part of their negotiations for a new stadium in the 1990s, Brown got the local county government to give him spacious practice fields on prime riverfront land next to Paul Brown Stadium, which opened for the 2000 season. Players have only to cross a street to work out on an artificial turf field and several nicely manicured grass fields.

Many northern teams have covered facilities for when the weather turns nasty in December, making it impossi-

ble to work outside. Not the Bengals. Under terms of their lease, they have the right to cover the practice fields, but they'd have to pay the cost.

So, there's no roof. When a major snowstorm moved in on Wednesday, coach Marvin Lewis had to put his team on buses and take it one county north to an indoor soccer facility for a workout. The buses got caught in gridlocked traffic on the way to the facility and the way back, making for a long day and completely throwing off the schedule.

Asked if he'd like to have a covered field, Lewis responded with a nervous laugh and ran his hands across his face.

"We're hopeful in the future to have the ability to walk across the street and go to practice," he said, measuring his words carefully. "We'll leave it

at that."

On Friday, stadium operators issued a public letter asking for help removing snow from the stadium before Sunday's game against the New York Giants. People were asked to bring metal snow shovels to the stadium Friday and Saturday. They would be paid \$8 an hour.

Green Bay and other cold-weather NFL cities have used similar programs just after heavy snowfalls, stadium development director Bob Bedinghaus said. At least eight inches of snow fell in Cincinnati this week.

"They've found that many fans enjoy the process of being a part of the game preparation under some unusual circumstances and we hope the same will be the case in Cincinnati," Bedinghaus said.

Bengals RB Perry will have hernia surgery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Running back Chris Perry, a first-round draft pick who gained only 1 yard for the Cincinnati Bengals, will have surgery to repair a hernia that kept him off the field for much of his rookie season.

Coach Marvin Lewis said Monday that the club hasn't decided whether to put Perry on injured reserve and add another player to the 53-man roster. The Bengals have lost

15 players to injury since the start of training camp, taxing the budget.

"We've been well over the budget this year for what you want to spend," Lewis said. "That's the thing you've got to look at."

The Bengals (7-8) finish their season Sunday in Philadelphia. They've already clinched their 14th consecutive season without a winning record, one of the longest such streaks in NFL history.

The Bengals planned to use Perry as a complement to Rudi

Johnson in the backfield, but the rookie hurt his hamstring in the final preseason game, was slow to pick up the offense and then developed the "sports hernia." He appeared in only two games, catching three passes and running twice for 1 yard.

The injury was initially thought to be an abdominal strain, but Perry visited a specialist last week who detected the hernia. Even if he stays on the roster, he won't play Sunday.

A record even Manning can't touch until February

by JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The big question won't be answered until the playoffs begin and even the NFL's biggest control freak is helpless to do anything about that at the moment.

But the record came exactly the way Peyton Manning wanted it — in the flow of a game, with the clock ticking down, and something left to play for. And by now, you're probably familiar, too, with a few of the details in what sounded like a harmonic convergence Sunday under the big top in Indianapolis.

How Colts owner Jim Irsay dispatched his private jet to pick up Manning's snowbound parents in Memphis and whisk them back to Indy in time to see the final 9 minutes of the game and overtime. And how Archie and Olivia Manning's middle son sidled over to wide receiver Brandon Stokley with a minute left in regulation, called a play the Colts had never used in a game, then called a dummy audible at the line to confuse the Chargers and almost everyone else in the building, and then threw the ball toward the end zone even before Stokley made his final cut at the 5.

"The ball was on me so quick, I'm just glad I was able to get my hands up," Stokley said. "I didn't have time to think about it."

"It would have been embarrassing, to turn around and get hit with it in the face."

The best thing from Manning's standpoint, however, wasn't the perfect timing, even though he conceded, "I was afraid I might have thrown it too early."

No, the best part was that touchdown pass No. 49 of the season, the one that put Dan Marino in Manning's rearview mirror, came with the Colts still needing a 2-point conversion to force the extra period, putting off the celebrations

until later. Those didn't commence until Manning had engineered a 61-yard drive in overtime to set up Mike Vanderjagt's field goal that secured Indianapolis' eighth straight win and the No. 3 seed in the AFC for the playoffs.

"I think Johnny Unitas would have been proud of that drive," Manning said afterward, which is as much celebrating as he allowed himself.

Just seven seasons into a career, Manning's link to some of the greatest quarterbacks ever is already secure. By just about any measure, he's off to the best start of any passer in history. What remains to be seen, though, is whether Manning winds up linked with prolific Hall of Famers like Marino, Fran Tarkenton and Jim Kelly or consistent Super Bowl winners like Joe Montana.

Championships are an unyielding measure in a team game like football, where even the quarterback can only do so much. Marino couldn't will himself a running game — ever — and John Elway had to wait until he was 37 for all the other pieces to fall into place.

Manning has been a staple on rotisserie league teams since he strolled into the league — he's having arguably the best season ever while pulling the strings for one of the most productive offenses ever. But as a student of the game, Manning knows that for all the glossy

numbers Marino put up, his predecessor is still most remembered for never passing his team to a Super Bowl win. Maybe that's why, for all his impressive work in the pocket, Manning does just as much maneuvering in interviews.

He put the team's goal to win a championship at the top of his priority list when he reported for training camp and he's managed to keep it there, no matter how much the hype focused on his individual performances. Manning shares the credit every bit as deliberately as he shares the ball, having learned that the fastest way to improve on a 2-4 record in the playoffs is to have his teammates as prepared and motivated as he is.

And so it should have come as no surprise that Dominic Rhodes, the part-time running back who returned a kick 88 yards in the final quarter to make the comeback against the Chargers possible, said afterward, "As much as it's his, I feel like it's my record, too."

"When I get old, in my 50s or whatnot, I'll say I was on that team when he threw that touchdown. I was a part of everything he's done, and we've done," Rhodes said. "It's a special feeling."

Even Manning couldn't deny that much.

"It's an individual thing, but it meant a lot to a lot of people. And that," he said, "means something to me."

But it will mean much more if the Colts are still playing when February rolls around.

"We are happy about the regular-season records," Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said, staying on message. "But we are looking for the big prize once the playoffs start."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org



Jim Litke

Manning passes Marino; playoff picture comes into focus

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peyton Manning had a record-setting day, and the playoff races cleared up on the second-to-last Sunday in the NFL regular season.

Manning rallied Indianapolis from a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter, throwing his NFL-record 49th touchdown pass of the season to force overtime. Then he led the Colts on a 61-yard drive to beat San Diego 34-31.

"The way it happened on that drive, I think Johnny Unitas would have been proud," Manning said.

Manning, who tied Dan Marino's record of 48 on a 3-yard shovel pass to James Mungro in the third quarter, threw a 21-yard TD pass to a wide open Brandon Stokley with 56 seconds left in regulation to break the mark. Edgerrin James then ran for the 2-point conversion to tie the game at 31, a play Manning called at the line.

In overtime, Manning hooked up with Stokley on a 23-yard gain, then found Reggie Wayne on a 35-yard catch-and-run, setting up Mike Vanderjagt's winning field goal.

The Colts (12-3), winners of eight straight, wrapped up the No. 3 seed in the AFC. Visiting San Diego (11-4), the AFC West champs, had its eight-game winning streak broken, but also will host a first-round playoff game.

The Pittsburgh Steelers (14-1) are the top seed in the AFC after a 20-7 victory over Baltimore, and the New England Patriots (13-2) also will have a first-round bye after beating the New York Jets 23-7.

The Jets (10-5), still win away from securing a AFC wild-card spot, will finish the season with a road game against the St. Louis Rams. Denver (9-6), which beat Tennessee on Saturday night, is in control of the other AFC wild-card spot.

Buffalo (9-6) is still firmly in the mix after a 41-7 win over San Francisco. The Bills need just a win and a loss by either the Broncos of the Jets to be a wild-card team. Baltimore and Jacksonville, a 21-0 loser to Houston, also are mathematically alive for playoff spots.

In the NFC, Seattle (8-7) clinched a playoff spot with a 24-21 win over Arizona, and could wrap up the NFC West with a loss by St. Louis on Monday night. The Cardinals were eliminated.

The Carolina Panthers (7-8) beat Tampa Bay 37-20 to move a win away from a wild-card spot after a 1-7 start. The New Orleans Saints (7-8) also stayed in the race with a 26-13 victory over Michael Vick-less Atlanta.

The Saints and Panthers play each other to finish the season.

In Sunday's games other games, it was: Detroit 19, Chicago 13; Cincinnati 23, the New York Giants 22; Dallas 13, Washington 10; and Miami 10, Cleveland 7. On Saturday, Kansas City beat Oakland 31-30, and Denver topped Tennessee 37-16. On Friday, Green Bay beat Minnesota 34-31.

Steelers 20, Ravens 7: At Pittsburgh, the Steelers wrapped up home-field advantage in the AFC, with Ben Roethlisberger throwing two touchdown passes before being pulled with a rib injury.

The Steelers (14-1) won't have a meaningful game until Jan. 15 or 16.

After being leveled by Terrell Suggs while throwing a 2-yard scoring pass to Jerome Tuman that put Pittsburgh up 17-7 late in the third quarter, Roethlisberger was assisted off the field — a large clump of grass sticking out of the left side of his face mask. Roethlisberger returned on Pittsburgh's next drive, but was replaced by Tommy Maddox.

Seahawks 24, Cardinals 21: At Seattle, Shaun Alexander ran for 154 yards and three touchdowns, and Darrell Jackson caught six passes for 101 yards to help Seattle clinch a playoff berth. It's the first time Seattle has made the playoffs in consecutive years since 1983-84.

Josh McCown threw a pair of 29-yard TD strikes to Larry Fitzgerald in the fourth quarter, pulling the Cardinals (5-10) to 24-21 with 2:30 to play.

Patriots 23, Jets 7: At East Rutherford, N.J., Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and went 21-of-32 for 264 yards for New England (13-2) after tying a career high with four interceptions Monday night in an embarrassing 29-28 loss to Miami.

The Patriots' defense, which surrendered an 11-point lead with 4 minutes remaining in the Miami game, harassed Chad Pennington all day and stopped NFL leading rusher Curtis Martin.

Panthers 37, Buccaneers 20: At Tampa, Fla., Jake Delhomme threw for 214 yards and four touchdowns, helping the defending NFC champions move within a victory of clinching a playoff berth.

The Panthers (7-8) won for the sixth time in seven games.

Delhomme threw TD passes of 15 and 6 yards to Muhsin Muhammad and the Panthers blocked a punt to set up a field goal as the first half expired to build a 17-7 lead.

Texans 21, Jaguars 0: At Jacksonville, Fla., Domanick Davis ran for a career-high 150 yards and a touchdown and the

Texans crippled Jacksonville's postseason chances.

Because Baltimore lost at Pittsburgh, the Jaguars (8-7) could have taken control of the final AFC wild-card spot with a victory against Houston (7-8).

Jacksonville, playing without starting running back Fred Taylor, managed just 126 total yards as Houston got the first shutout in its three-year history.

Saints 26, Falcons 13: At New Orleans, Aaron Brooks scored on a 1-yard, fourth-down run, and Michael Lewis had a 96-yard kickoff return to keep the Saints (7-8) in playoff contention.

Atlanta (11-4) rested Vick after clinching a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Brooks, Vick's cousin, went 12-of-24 for 227 yards.

Bills 41, 49ers 7: At San Francisco, Willis McGahee ran for 102 yards and two touchdowns on an injured knee, Lee Evans caught two scoring passes and the Bills easily earned their sixth straight victory.

Drew Bledsoe went 21-of-32 for 172 yards and a touchdown for the Bills (9-6), whose longest winning streak since 1990 has them alive in their quest to become just the second team in NFL history to make the playoffs after starting 0-4.

The 49ers are 2-13.

Bengals 23, Giants 22: At Cincinnati, Keiwan Ratliff's 42-yard punt return set up Jon Kitna's 4-yard touchdown pass to Chad Johnson with 44 seconds left, rallying the Bengals (7-8).

It was the eighth straight loss for the Giants (5-10). Eli Manning, 0-6 as a starter, went 19-of-37 for 201 yards and led New York to scores on six consecutive possessions.

Cowboys 13, Redskins 10: At Irving, Texas, Vinny Testaverde silenced the boos from fans who wanted him benched, throwing a 39-yard touchdown pass to Patrick Crayton with 30 seconds left to give Dallas (6-9) its fourth straight win over Washington (5-10) and 14th in 15 games.

Lions 19, Bears 13: At Detroit, the Lions (6-9) were fortunate to avoid a second straight heartbreaking loss after Chad Hutchinson appeared to throw a 43-yard, tying touchdown pass to Bernard Berrian with 1:26 left. But it was ruled incomplete and upheld by replay.

Last week, a botched extra point with 8 seconds left allowed Minnesota to beat Detroit 28-27. The Bears are 5-10.

Dolphins 10, Brown 7: At Miami, Olindo Mare kicked a 51-yard field goal with 7 seconds left to lift Miami (4-11) past Cleveland (3-12).

Rams 20, Eagles 7

by BARRY WILNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — The Rams desperately needed a win and played like it. The Eagles desperately wanted to stay healthy and played like it.

Rookie Steven Jackson's best NFL performance carried St. Louis to a 20-7 victory over Philadelphia that kept the Rams in the NFC playoff race. Jackson rushed for 148 yards and a touchdown, but he also limped off midway through the fourth quarter with a bruised right knee.

With the Eagles (13-2) playing it safe — running back Brian Westbrook, their prime offensive threat with star wideout Terrell Owens sidelined, was scratched, along with starting tackle Tra Thomas — their reserves were no match for a Rams squad with its season on the line.

"At this point it doesn't make any difference to me," Rams coach Mike Martz said. "If they are going to play those guys we should dominate them."

Philadelphia gained a mere 155 yards against a defense ranked 24th. With starting quarterback Donovan McNabb in the game for one series, the Eagles gained 63 of those yards and got their only score.

With the victory, St. Louis ensured a meaningful finale against the New York Jets. If the Rams (7-8) beat the Jets on Sunday and Seattle loses to Atlanta, St. Louis will win the NFC West. If the Seahawks win and take the division, St. Louis can make the playoffs by win-

ning and having Minnesota lose at Washington, or by Carolina and New Orleans tying.

A win for the Jets would put them into the AFC playoffs.

"After all the drama we've been through this year, to be in position to get into the playoffs, how awesome is that?" Martz said. "We will show up next week and lay it all out there."

Jackson, who missed one game with a bruised knee and did not get on the field last week despite being healthy, revitalized a rushing game that totaled 88 yards in the last two games, both losses that dropped the Rams to the edge of elimination. The overall offense was effective against Philadelphia's second-string defense, gaining 419 yards.

Also returning was quarterback Marc Bulger, whose right shoulder kept him out of those last two losses. Bulger was sharp enough, going 20-for-27 for 233 yards, and hit Isaac Bruce for a 7-yard touchdown, the only score of the third quarter.

Martz revealed after the game that Bulger has been playing hurt since the season opener.

In a stark departure from his passing persona, Martz — perhaps sensing it would be Jackson's night — called 10 running plays on the opening drive that covered 73 yards. Jackson ran for 46 yards and Marshall Faulk for 27 before Jackson surged in from the 5.

The first-round pick, the first running back chosen, also had a 43-yard run in the second period on a drive that ended with Jeff Wilkins missing a 44-yard field

goal.

"He looks like a great runner to me," Martz said of Jackson. "That first series he is running through them and around them every which way you can. When you have a guy playing like that — spectacular."

Wilkins made a 28-yarder for a 10-7 halftime lead. He later added a 29-yarder.

Freddie Mitchell's first-quarter touchdown catch was his first of the season, and the Eagles will be looking for more of that with Owens sidelined. He beat safety Antuan Edwards in the back of the end zone, reaching up for McNabb's pass to tie it at 7.

That was it for McNabb as the Eagles remained in their protective mode with nothing to gain from the game. They have a league-high nine Pro Bowlers, and most of them barely played.

The Eagles got a scare in the first half when cornerbacks Lito Sheppard, a Pro Bowler, and Dexter Wynn collided chasing a pass by Wilkins on a fake punt. Both lay on the ground for several minutes before walking off, and Sheppard stayed out with a quadriceps contusion. Rookie fullback Thomas Tapeh was carted off with 28 seconds remaining with an undisclosed injury.

In McNabb's stead, Koy Detmer was dismal, going 1-for-6 for 5 yards before third-stringer Jeff Blake came on in the fourth quarter. That gave the night the feel of an August pre-season game for the Eagles, even while the Rams were trying to get to a significant January contest.



photo by Jamie Howell

Junior Nick McGuire came in off the bench Monday night and helped Prestonsburg in its win over Western Hills.

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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles

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SCHOOLNEWS

- South Floyd Youth • page B7
- Clark Elem. • page B7
- Duff Elem. • page B7

YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from The Floyd County Times, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years ago.) page B7

INSIDESTUFF

- Birthdays • page B8
- Carrot cake • page B8
- Master Volunteer • page B8

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POISON OAK

A New Year's resolution: If it worked once...

I heard a man on TV the other day talking about New Year's resolutions. It started me to wondering about them myself, and one of the things I wondered was whether or not anybody I know actually bothers to make one in the first place. Not that I don't think a lot of people I know couldn't stand a little improvement, it's just that since most of the time a resolution doesn't



Clyde Pack

last as long as Pat stayed in the army, anyway, why bother?

If, however, I thought people were really serious about keeping them, I'd even help them come up with some good ones. Like, for instance, smokers who want to quit. The man on TV said those who resolve to quit smoking during the coming year are the most likely to break their resolution. But, if they'd try what an old coal miner I knew back when I was a boy tried, maybe they could actually pull it off.

Back in 1949, the company store sold Camels, Lucky Strikes, Chesterfields, and Old Gold cigarettes. The packs were stacked neatly behind a big wooden counter, and two boys I knew, one about 10, the other about 12—and both to remain nameless—caught the clerk looking the other way and pilfered a pack of Luckies. They knew

(See OAK, page seven)

KIM'S KORNER

Kindness remembered — and wished for

2004 is almost over, and here's one that's praying the New Year brings multitudes of blessings from Day 1!



Kim Frasure

Many of you know Mrs. Irene Hayes, and most everybody I know has at least one of her infamous wonderful cookbooks.

I've often wondered about Mrs. Hayes, where she was, and how she was doing over the years. The first time I had the pleasure of meeting her and interviewing her was over 17 years ago when I was employed by the Prestonsburg Post Newspaper.

Last week I received the sweetest note from Mrs. Irene, along with a brochure of information on Health Alert.

She had read one of my columns about Dad and his problems with congestive heart failure. Something she, too, has had to deal with. My heart swelled with joy when I read her encouraging words, and the information she sent me. How sweet, wonderful and kind of her to take the time to send this, I thought.

It was so good to hear from you Mrs. Irene. I am so appreciate of what you have done. If there are any of you out there who suffer from congestive heart failure or who have a loved one who is, check out Padma Basic information online.

Again, Thank You so much and May your New Year be full of health, and happiness.

In ending this week I'd like to share a poem by Helen Steiner Rice that echoes my wish for each and everyone of us all.

(See KORNER, page eight)

Jennifer L. Newman recognized by USAA

The United States Achievement Academy (USAA) has announced that Jennifer Lynn Newman, of Grethel, has been named an All-American Collegiate Scholar and has also received the National Collegiate Social Science Award.

The USAA has established the All-American Collegiate Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition

to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Collegiate Scholars must earn a 3.3, or higher, grade point average.

Jennifer was nominated for the National Collegiate Social Science Award by Dr. William Loftus, a psychology professor at Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Her name and photo will appear in

both the All-American Collegiate and the National Collegiate Yearbooks, which are published nationally.

Jennifer is the daughter of Carmel and Dorothy Newman, of Grethel. Her maternal grandparents are Mary Howell Mosley, of Wheelwright, and the late Johnie Howell. Her paternal grandparents are the late Ernest and Bertha Newman.



Jennifer Newman



Ardie Meade, Betsy Layne Elementary School student, entertained the audience with a medley of Christmas music on the piano.

'Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child' heralds 7th year

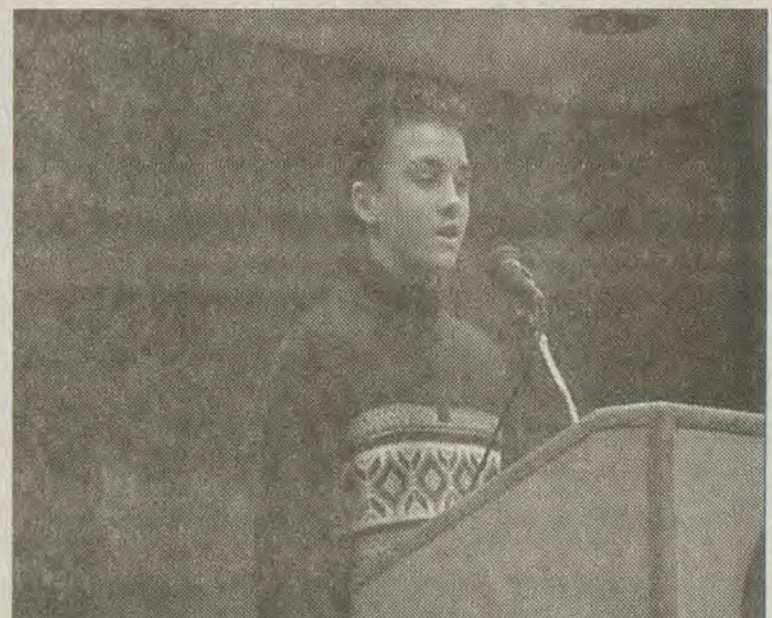
Article and photos submitted by Floyd County Board of Education

On December 16th the "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child Program" now in its seventh year, hosted a reception for children, families and the community. Over 300 people attended the annual event. The program began in 1998 with partners: WMDJ Radio, McDonald's and Floyd County Schools. School and community partnerships have enabled hundreds of Floyd County students to be involved in this writing program.

Each year students in the district have the opportunity to participate in sharing through writing about a special Christmas memo-

ry or what Christmas means to them. The writings are judged by a panel of judges from diverse backgrounds. A scoring rubric is utilized in the judging process. This year's judges included: John Carroll, Big Sandy Community and Technical College; Mark Wells, Big Sandy Community and Technical College; Tristan Parsons, Thelma Spears, Vicki Pack, and Patricia Watson. The selected winners from each school shared their stories on radio station WMDJ, one of the program sponsors. Throughout the month of December the community listened as children read their stories on the air.

(See CHILD'S EYES, page eight)



Brennan Case, Betsy Layne High School student, attended the event and performed the song, "There's a New Kid in Town."

CRITTER CORNER

A CAT'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

by Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, DVM

My humans will never let me eat their pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.

I will not puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has finished watching a horror movie.

I will not slurp fish food from the surface of the aquarium.

I must not help myself to the Q-tips, and I must certainly not proceed to stuff them down the sink drain.

I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and throw them up so the humans can see that I'm getting plenty of roughage.

I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in,

(See CRITTER, page seven)



This is "Hoss." Hoss is a three year old black male cat owned by Angela and Lee Schoolcraft, of Prestonsburg. Hoss has one sister, "Flossie." Hoss and Flossie love to play together with their toys and play fetch with their owners. They also love to sit in the windows and watch the birds outside.

Child's Eyes

McDonald's presented each of the top school winners with a tee shirt and each of the twelve winners receives an "All American Meal". The school district presented each winner a certificate of recognition. In addition, each school, depending on its classification, has grade level winners: K-2; 4-5; 6-8; and 9-12. The winners from these grade divisions received a book in addition to the tee shirt. The 2004 book selection is Coal Country Christmas by Elizabeth Ferguson Brown and illustrated by Harvey Stevenson.

For the third year in a row, a billboard has been posted on US 23 that announces the special event. The billboard contains information about the program and features a child from the previous years program. This reception is held each year for the winners, their families and community partners, at the Jenny Wiley Convention Center. Congratulations and thank you to all the students, families, staff and partners, who were involved and helped to make the program such a success.



Mrs. Mona Dingus, of WMDJ Radio, read the book "Coal Country Christmas" during the program.

Continued from p6

Local woman receives certification for Extension Master Volunteer



Susan Goins

Submitted

Susan Goins, of Martin, recently met the criteria to become a Certified Master Volunteer in Clothing Construction by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service.

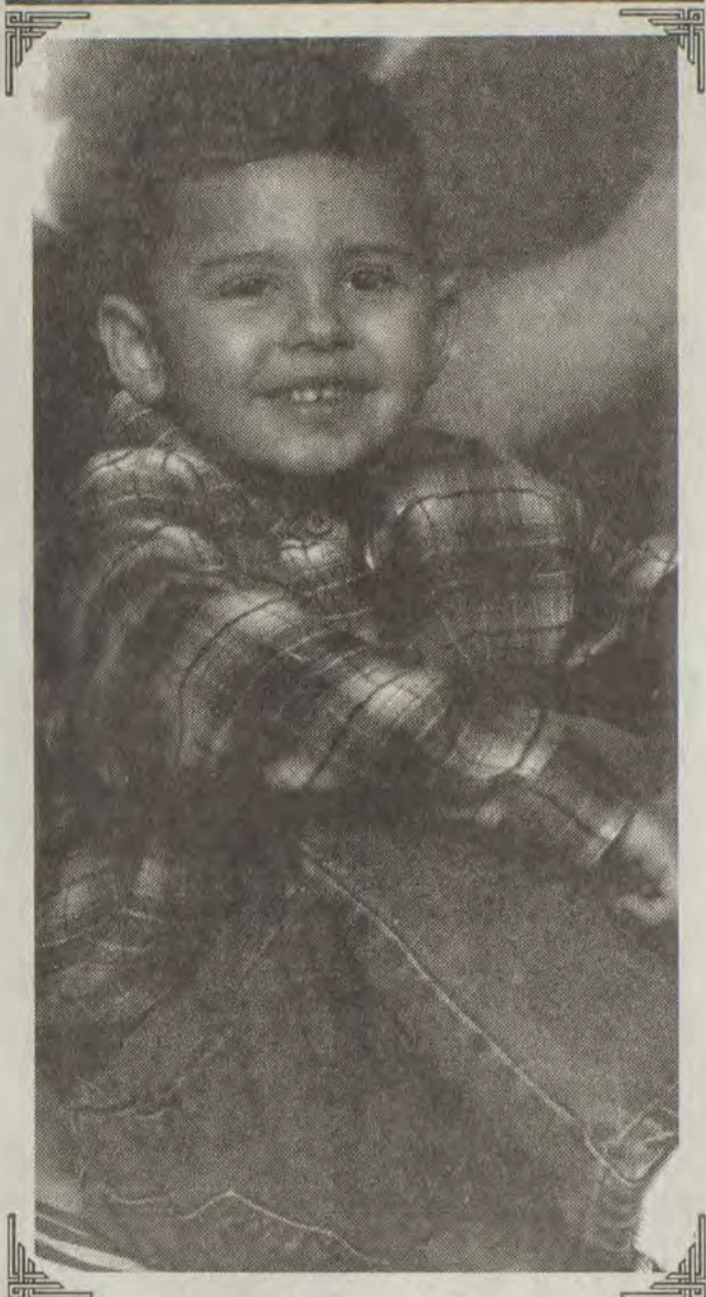
Mrs. Goins learned to sew at an early age. She has sewn items ranging from quilts to evening wear. Her skills extend to altering clothing as well.

She has received 25 hours of sewing instruction from experts representing business, industry and Extension. She provided 50 hours of sewing instruction to people in the community before becoming certified. Mrs. Goins is the first Certified Master Volunteer in Clothing to be named in Floyd County.

"This program allows people who like to sew and who like to work with others the opportunity to teach sewing techniques. Therefore, enabling others to become more proficient in their skills," said Theresa Scott, Floyd County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences. "We are excited to have Susan become a certified volunteer as part of this important University of Kentucky outreach program."

Educational workshops and classes will be taught and shall be an on-going component of the Floyd County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Program. Anyone interested in taking sewing classes should contact Theresa Scott for further information at 886-2668 or email .

Births/Birthdays



Trevor is 5!

Trevor Lee McKenzie, the son of Rodney and Lora McKenzie, of the Mt. Parkway, celebrated his fifth birthday on December 22, 2004, with a Shrek and Donkey theme party held at his grandparents home. Trevor is the grandson of Robert and Lemozine Willis, and Linda McKenzie, all of the Mt. Parkway.

Korner

Continued from p6

Thoughts...
 God grant us this year a wider view,
 So we see others' faults through the eyes of You;
 Teach us to judge not with hasty tongue,
 Neither the adult...nor the young.

Give us patience and grace to endure
 And stronger faith so we feel secure;
 And instead of remembering, help us forget
 The irritations that caused us to fret.

Freely forgiving for some offense
 And finding each day a rich recompense,
 In offering a friendly, helping hand
 And trying in all ways to understand,
 That all of us whoever we are...
 Are trying to reach "an unreachable star."

'For the great and small...the good and bad,
 The young and old...the sad and glad,
 Are asking today, "Is life worth living?"
 And the answer is only in "loving and giving,"
 For only "Love" can make man kind
 And Kindness of Heart brings Peace of Mind,
 And by giving love we can start this year
 To lift the clouds of hate and fear.

Happy New Year, & May God's Blessings Be Yours...
 'Til Next Week

Like veggies? Try carrot cake

A vegetable cake? Who would have ever thought that indulgent dessert lovers would overwhelmingly embrace a cake made with carrots? You can imagine what the first person who ever made one said to her family—"Well, just taste it and then I'll tell you what's in it."

There are other cakes made with vegetables—sauerkraut, beet, sweet potato and even tomato soup, but they never gained mainstream acceptance like the carrot cake.

No one seems to know exactly where the carrot cake came from. Jean Anderson, in her book "The American Century Cookbook: The Most Popular Recipes of the 20th Century," says George Washington was served a carrot tea cake at Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan on November 25, 1783.

But recipes for carrot cake didn't appear in American cookbooks until well into the 20th Century. According to Anderson, the first recipe published in America was in "The 20th Century Bride's Cookbook" in 1929 by a Wichita, Kansas, woman's club. In 1930, a carrot cake recipe was printed in a "Chicago Daily News" cookbook, but the cake really didn't catch on until the 1950s and '60s.

The Carrot Museum web site credits Texan Viola Schlichting with making the first carrot cake, based on her German carrot bread recipe. They also claim carrot cake gained popularity by being served at America's county fairs in the 1960's. But since both entries are followed by question marks, there may be some doubt about their authenticity.

No matter who made the first cake with carrots in it, most food historians seem to agree that the cake probably had its roots in the baked or steamed carrot puddings of England Europe and came to this country with immigrants around the turn of the century.

Today, the popularity of this spicy, mostly vegetable cake is widespread. Recipes abound, restaurants tout their carrot cakes signature desserts and, now, a baking mix is making it easier than ever to enjoy this timeless favorite.

"Carrot cake is so popular it has almost become a generic term," says Linda Carman, Martha White baking expert. "There are recipes for 'carrot cake' cookies and 'carrot cake' breads. I'm sure somebody is making 'carrot cake' ice cream, and you can even buy candies that smell like carrot cake. So, an

easy-to-make carrot cake muffin mix is a natural for today's busy consumers."

Quick and convenient, the new Martha White Carrot Cake Muffin Mix is moist and spicy, full of raisins and carrot pieces. All you have to do is add milk, stir and bake. There is even an easy cream cheese frosting recipe on the back of the package.

Since the flavor of carrot cake is primarily spicy, Martha White's Carrot Cake muffin mix lends itself easily to a lot of tempting variations.

For Frosted Orange Carrot Cake Muffins, simply add pecans and grated orange peel to the batter. Spread baked muffins with a lightly sweetened orange cream cheese topping and you have a treat special enough for Sunday brunch. Other ingredients can be added to the basic batter to create your own signature carrot cake muffins.

Oatmeal Carrot Cake Cookies, made from the muffin mix, are that perfect combination of crisp and chewy. They are so fun and easy to stir up, the kids will be making them for you.

For more easy-to-fix recipes using Martha Whites muffin mixes, just visit the Martha White web site at www.marthawhite.com.

FROSTED ORANGE CARROT CAKE MUFFINS

Prep Time: 10 minutes
 (Ready in 35 minutes)
MUFFINS
 1 (8.1-oz.) pkg. Martha White® Carrot Cake Muffin Mix
 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel

1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon milk

TOPPING
 1 (3-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
 1/2 cup powdered sugar
 1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel

Heat oven to 425°F. (400°F. for dark pan). Line 6 muffin cups with paper baking cups. In small bowl, combine all muffin ingredients; stir just until moistened. Divide batter evenly

into lined muffin cups. Bake at 425°F. (400°F. for dark pan) for 14 to 18 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 2 or 3 minutes; remove from pan.

Cool 5 minutes. In another small bowl, combine all topping ingredients; blend until smooth. Spread over muffins. 6 muffins

OATMEAL CARROT CAKE COOKIES

Prep Time: 35 minutes
 1 (8.1-oz.) pkg. Martha White® Carrot Cake Muffin Mix
 1/2 cup rolled oats
 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 2 tablespoons sugar
 6 tablespoons butter, melted
 1/4 cup milk

Heat oven to 375°F. Grease cookie sheets. In large bowl, combine all ingredients; stir until well blended. Drop dough by teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375°F. for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Immediately remove from cookie sheets. 32 small cookies

CARROT CAKE MUFFIN MIX VARIATIONS
 Apple Pecan Carrot Cake Muffins: Prepare Martha White® Carrot Cake Muffin Mix as directed on package using only 1/2 cup milk. Stir 1/2 cup peeled, chopped apple and 1/2 cup chopped pecans into batter. Bake as directed on package.
 Walnut Pear Carrot Cake Muffins: Prepare Martha White® Carrot Cake Muffin

Mix as directed on package using only 1/2 cup milk. Stir 1/2 cup peeled, chopped pear and 1/2 cup chopped walnuts into batter. Bake as directed on package.
 Carrot Cake Pineapple Muffins: Prepare Martha White® Carrot Cake Muffin Mix as directed on package using only 1/2 cup milk. Stir in 1 can (8-oz.) well-drained crushed pineapple. Bake as

directed on package.
 Coconut Streusel Carrot Cake Muffins: Combine 2 tablespoons sugar, 1 tablespoon softened butter, 2 tablespoons flaked coconut and 2 tablespoons chopped pecans or walnuts in small bowl. Prepare Martha White® Carrot Cake Muffin Mix batter as directed on package; spoon into muffin cups. Sprinkle streusel evenly over batter. Bake as directed on package.

Old Photographs Restored

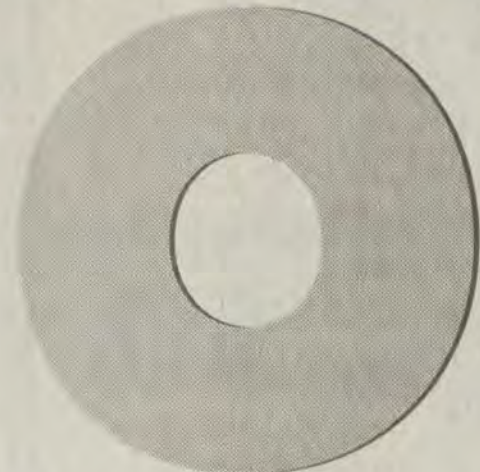
BEFORE

AFTER

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The Healthy Secret Is in the



FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

The start of the new year can signal many changes in your kitchen — whether it's a resolution to add a healthy flair to your cooking style or simply to maintain your ideal weight for bathing suit season. With the wide range of healthy cooking options out there, most people don't know that something as simple as using the right oil can bring them a step toward good health.

It's a common misconception that all fats and oils are bad for you, when in actuality the right fats and oils provide an effective energy source for the body, as well as enhance the texture, taste and aroma of many foods. The key to a healthy diet is to stay away from foods and oils with high levels of trans and saturated fats, such as processed foods and vegetable oils, and use products with high levels of monounsaturated fats that may have positive health benefits, such as avocados, olive oil and canola oil.

The large number of cooking and salad oils in the market can make your head spin, so which are the healthiest ones to choose? Canola and olive oils have long been held as the gold standard in cooking and salad categories. Canola oil has an ideal balance of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential for a healthy cardiovascular system and have been noted as having specific health benefits.

However, food companies are now looking into new types of functional cooking oils that will serve as healthier alternatives to conventional oil. After more than a decade of research and huge popularity in the Japanese market, a diacylglycerol (DAG) oil is arriving in the U.S. market. Clinical studies have indicated that higher concentrations of diacylglycerols (DAGs) help maintain a healthy lifestyle when used as part of a sensible diet. Enova brand oil (www.enovail.com), a diacylglycerol oil that is clinically shown to store less as fat in the body, is now widely available.

"Enova oil is made from all natural soy and canola oil, and since it is not a fat substitute, digestive disturbances are not expected," said Mary Lee Chin, MS, RD. "More importantly, the oil has a light, mild taste and can be substituted for conventional cooking or salad oil in any cooking routine."

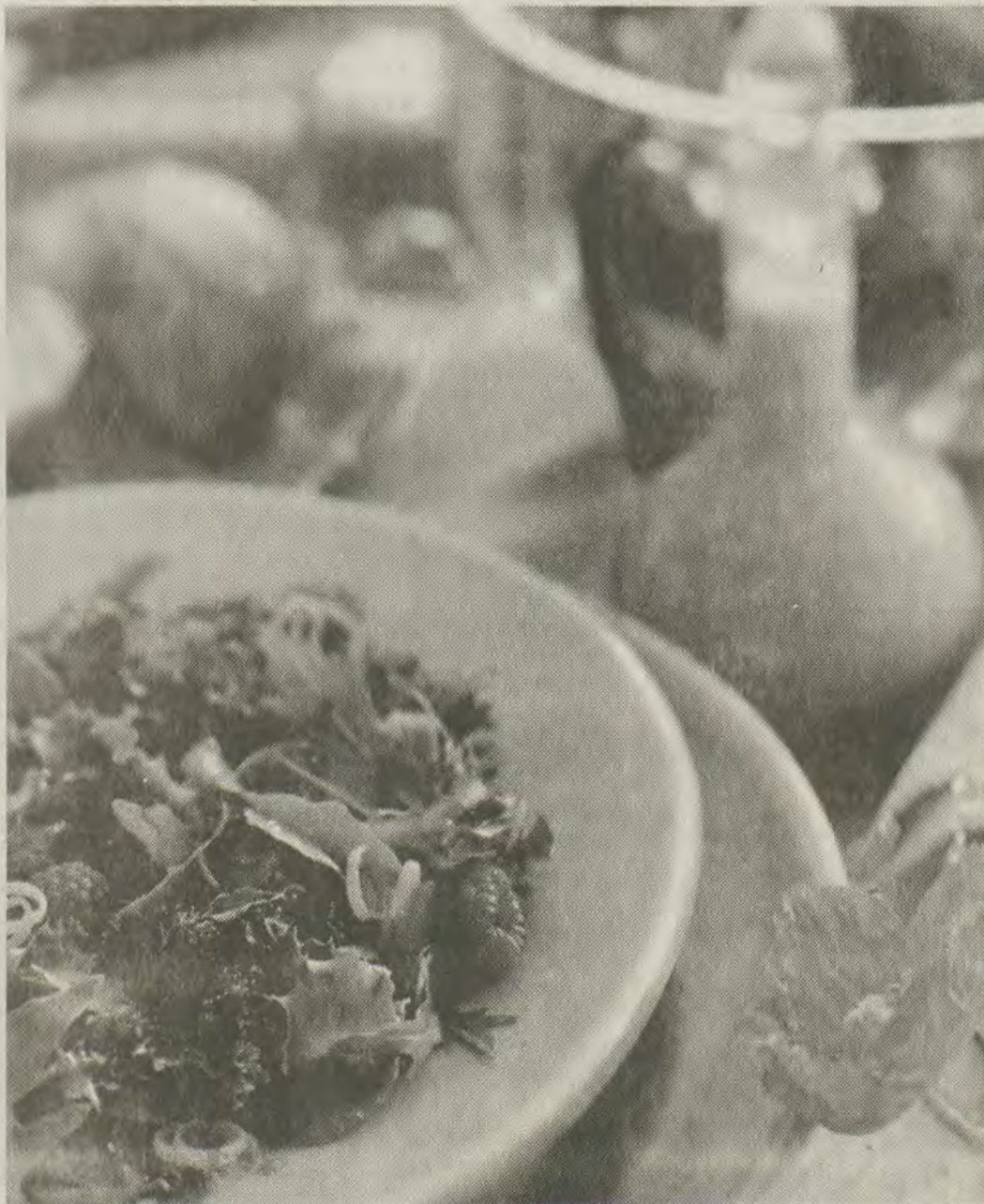
Even though these oils are healthier alternatives, they are still comprised of fat, and it is important to not overdo the amount used in your recipes. In fact, one to two tablespoons can be optimal for your daily allowance.

"An important thing to remember is that you don't have to sacrifice your favorite foods in order to maintain a successful New Year's regime," says chef Kathleen Daelemans, best-selling author and host of the Food Network's "Cooking Thin." "The journey to good health can be as simple as how you prepare your food by using healthy products like Enova oil."



City Fried Chicken

Balsamic Orange Vinaigrette



Healthy Oil Cooking Tips

- Choose oil with the greatest health benefits, such as the new diacylglycerol oil and canola or olive oil. These oils are versatile and can be used for all types of recipes. Use them instead of butter or shortening for your recipes.
- A little oil goes a long way, and for most recipes, one teaspoon per person is adequate. A mister also can effectively distribute the oil used in a recipe.

City Fried Chicken

A healthy and tasty alternative to deep-fried chicken.

Recipe courtesy of Chef Kathleen Daelemans, best-selling author and host of the Food Network's "Cooking Thin."

4 servings

- 1 pound bone-in chicken pieces or boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into eight pieces and lightly pounded
- Coarse-grained salt and cracked black pepper
- 2 egg whites, beaten
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons Enova oil
- 1 lemon, cut into eight wedges

Season chicken generously with salt and pepper on both sides. Place egg whites in shallow dish or plate. Whisk in cheese and parsley. Dredge each chicken piece through egg mixture and set in plate containing flour. Shake plate so

chicken pieces get coated, turn chicken over and repeat. Lay on cookie sheet lined with parchment and set next to stove.

Heat oil in a 12-inch non-stick pan over medium-high heat. When hot but not smoking, add chicken and cook, turning once, until golden and cooked through, about 2 minutes per side. Serve with lemon wedges.

Balsamic Orange Vinaigrette

A delicious, light-tasting and easy-to-make vinaigrette to brighten your salads.

16 servings

- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon-pepper seasoning
- 2/3 cup orange juice
- 1 1/4 cups Enova oil

Combine vinegar, seasoning and juice in medium bowl. Whisk until seasoning is well-blended. Gradually add oil while vigorously mixing with whisk. Chill well before serving.

Delicious Green Beans

A healthy way to spice up a common side dish.

4 servings

- 2 tablespoons Enova oil
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 4 cups frozen green beans
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds

Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté until crisp-tender. Add garlic, green beans, water and salt. Cover and cook 3 to 5 minutes or until almost tender. Remove cover and cook another minute to evaporate liquid. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and lemon zest. Place in serving dish and top with slivered almonds.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE

Pursuant to Application Number 836-0308 In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Motts Branch Coal Inc., P.O. Box 2765, 436 Daniels Creek Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41502, has applied for a permit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation, affecting 269.6 acres and will underlie an additional 186.9 acres, located 4.5 miles northwest of Hueysville, in Floyd County.

The proposed operation is approximately 1.8 mile northwest from Route 2029's junction with KY Route 7, and located in Plummer Branch and Raccoon Branch of Saltlick Creek. The proposed operation is located on the David and Handshoe U.S.G.S. 7-1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The operation will use the contour strip, area mining, and high-wall/auger methods of mining. The surface area is owned by Ollie Jack Howell, et al., G.M.O. Forestry Fund 3, LP, Effie Crager, Kenneth Wallace, Patrick Brian Ousley, Lowell Dean Shepherd, Glen Shepherd, Clinton Handshoe, Sylvia Warrix, Billy Tussey, Annie Handshoe, Elsie Wright, Thelma and Lurie Hoover, and Knott Floyd Land Company Inc. The operation will underlie surface area owned by Ollie Jack Howard, et al., G.M.O. Forestry Fund 3, LP, Effie Crager, Kenneth Wallace, Lowell Dean Shepherd, Glen Shepherd, Clinton Handshoe, Sylvia Warrix, Annie Handshoe, Elsie Wright, Thelma and Lurie Hoover, and Knott Floyd Land Company Inc. The operation will affect an area within 100 feet of public road KY 7. The operation will not involve relocation of the public road. KY Route 7 will be closed to traffic during blasting operations.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

Permit No. 836-5429 Increment No. 10 In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Motts Branch Coal, Inc., P.O. Box 2765, 436 Daniels Creek Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41502, has applied for Phase 1 bond release on permit number 836-5429, Increment No. 10, which was last issued on 10/09/91. The application covers an area of approximately 866.39 acres, located 2.9 miles northeast of Hueysville, in Floyd County. The permit area is approximately 1.5

mile northwest from Ky. Rte. 2029's junction with KY Rte. 7, and located in Sayers Branch. The latitude is 37°30'45". The longitude is 82°53'06". The bond now in effect for Increment No. 10 is a certificate of deposit and a bond pool type in the amount of \$34,500.00. Approximately sixty (60) percent of the original bond amount in the amount of \$34,500.00 is included in the application for release. Reclamation work performed includes: backfilling, final grading, and seeding to

achieve the approved post mining land use, which was completed in October 2004. Results thus far achieved are; area is stable and the post mining land use has been established. Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, #2 Hudson Hollow, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, by February 18, 2005. A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for February 21, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department for

Surface Mining Reclamation's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Suite 6, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by February 18, 2005.

NOTICE

The City of Prestonsburg Sanitation Department will not be running the garbage truck on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Pick-ups for those days will be done the following Monday.

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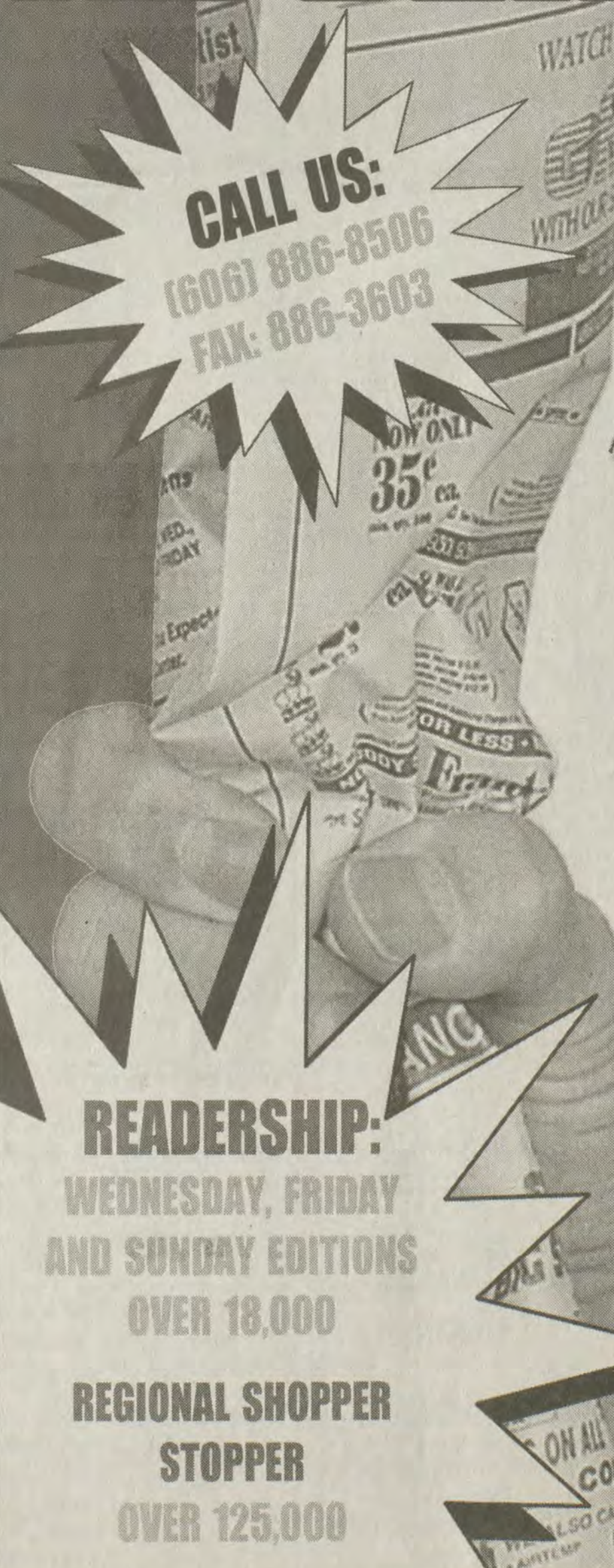
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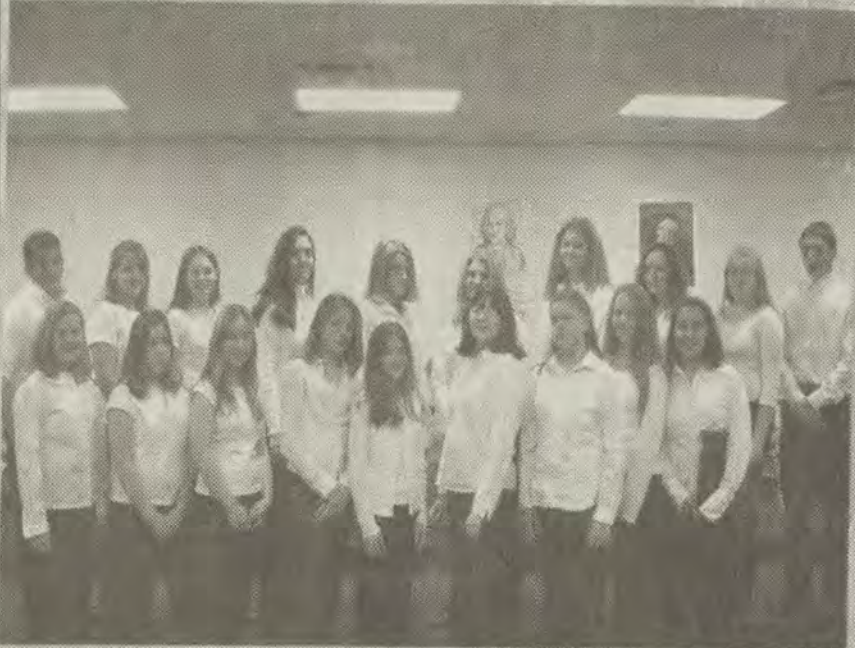
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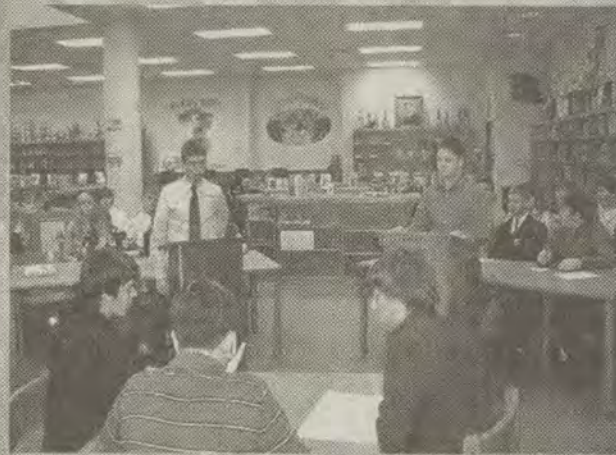
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Adams Middle School



Prestonsburg High School



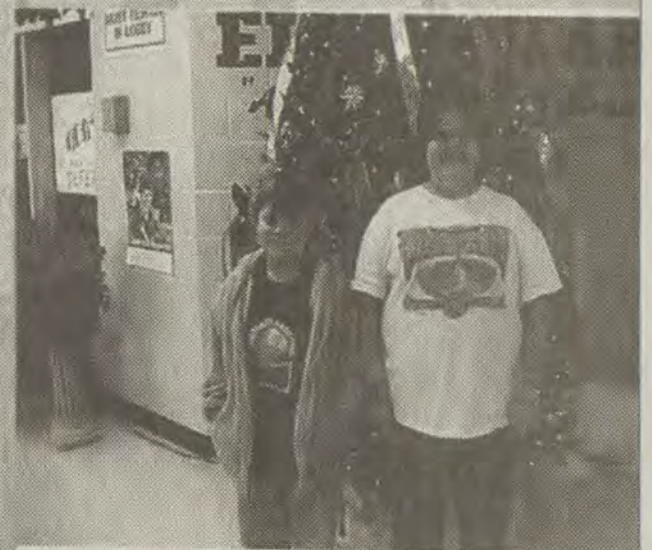
Allen Central High School



Betsy Layne Elementary



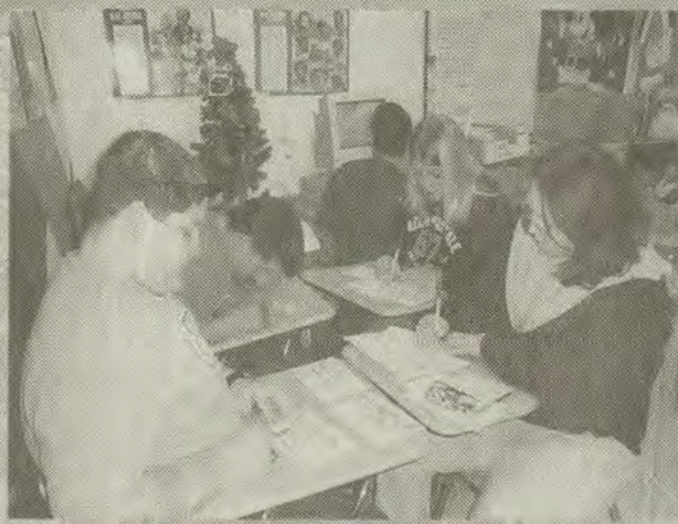
The David School



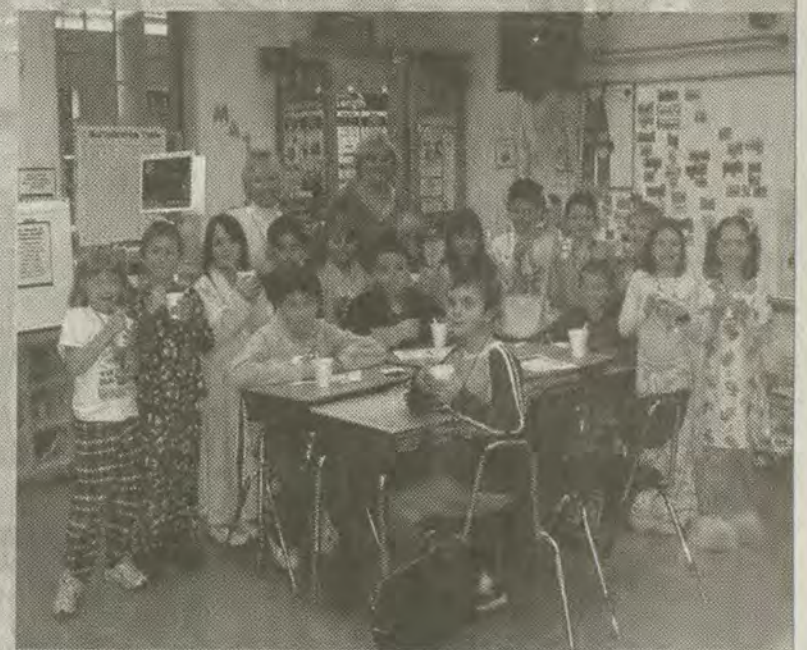
Allen Central Middle School



Clark Elementary



South Floyd Middle School



Duff Elementary



May Valley Elementary

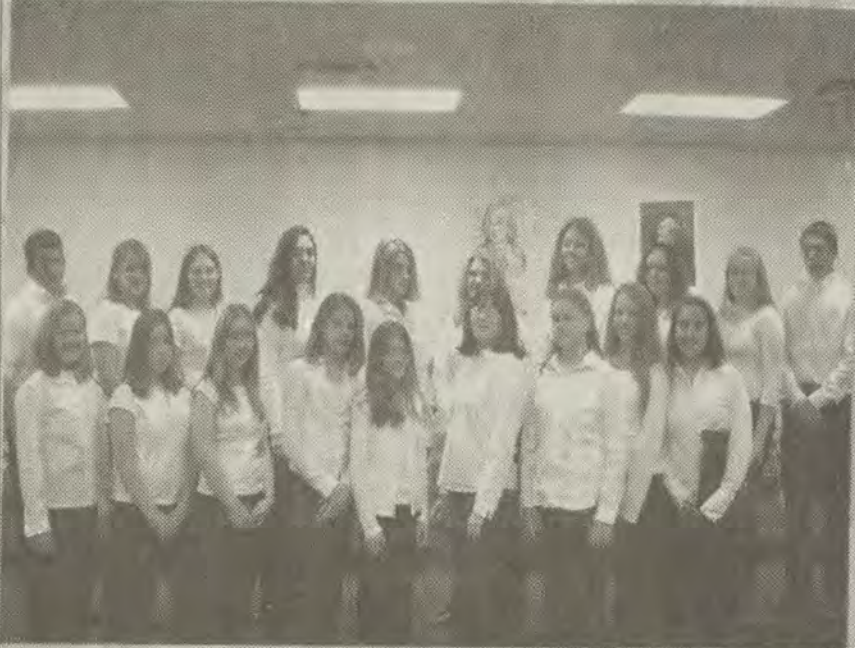


Stumbo Elementary

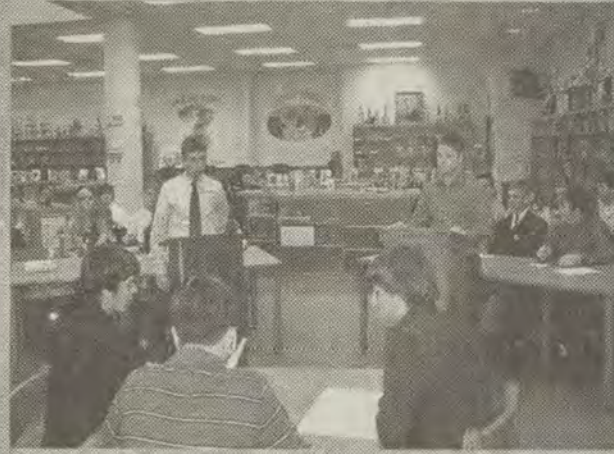


McDowell Elementary

CHILDREN FIRST



Adams Middle School



Prestonsburg High School



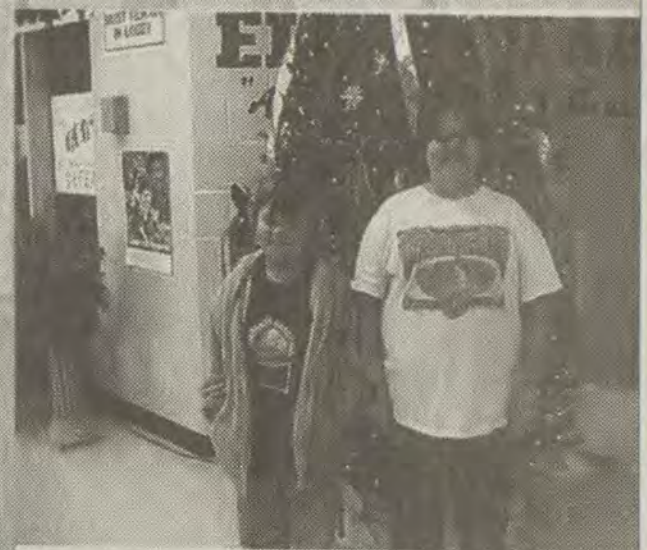
Allen Central High School



Betsy Layne Elementary



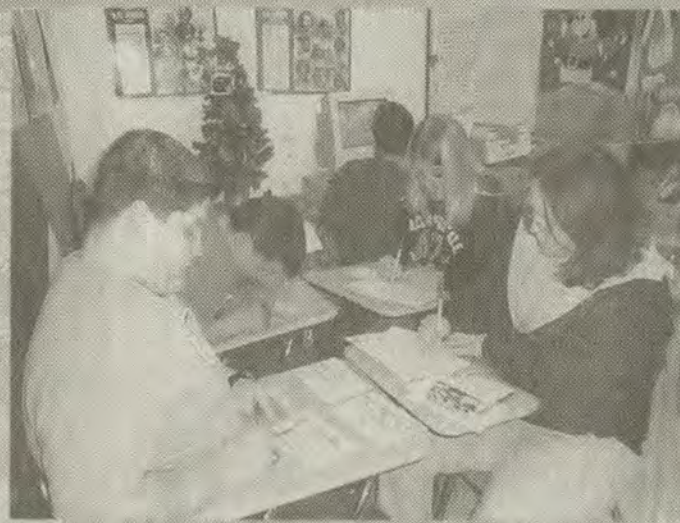
The David School



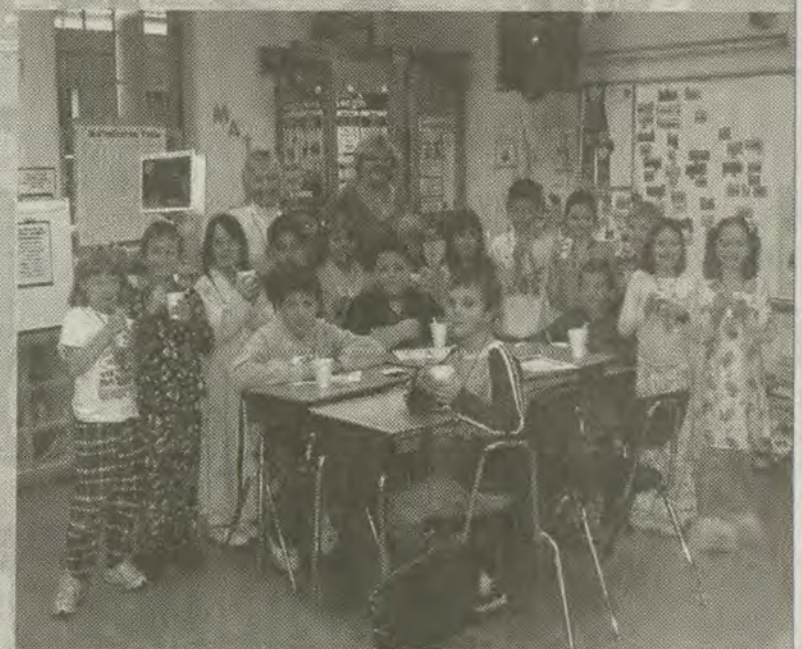
Allen Central Middle School



Clark Elementary



South Floyd Middle School



Duff Elementary



May Valley Elementary



Stumbo Elementary



McDowell Elementary

Adams Middle School



6th Grade neutrons.



6th Grade electrons.



6th Grade protons.



Pizza Day

Mrs. Fannin's 8th Grade Science class had pizza day. The students are doing a unit on nutrition. They took different ethnic pizza recipes, broke the ingredients down, and grouped them in the food guide pyramid to see which pizza best fulfilled the recommended guidelines of the food guide pyramid. The students got to sample the pizzas while they worked.



Helium atom.

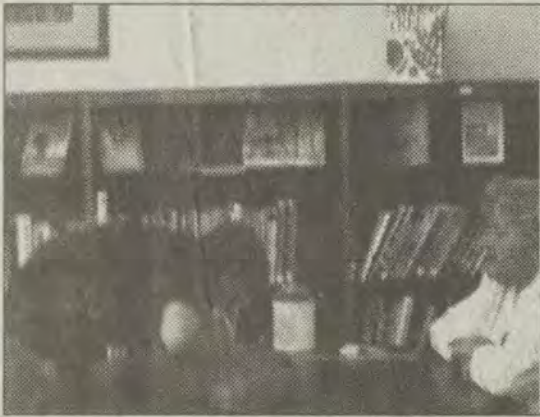


Hydrogen atom.

Atoms at Adams

"Atoms at Adams" was a lesson taught by Rex Vanhose at James D. Adams Middle School. In this lesson, students got to dress up like one of three characters: a proton, an electron, or a neutron. The students represented the different subatomic particles by

dressing as a clown (positive) proton, or a devil (negative) electron. Some students represented a neutron with a zero charge. Students then took part in making giant human sized models of atoms such as hydrogen and helium.



On November 1st, Carol Jo May and Kim Sanders, both from the Our Lady of the Way Community Education Department, were at Adams Middle School to teach CPR for 8th Grade students. Students enrolled in the class learned how to perform CPR, Rescue Breathing, and learned how to help someone who is choking. The class was sponsored by the Adams Middle School Youth Services Center.



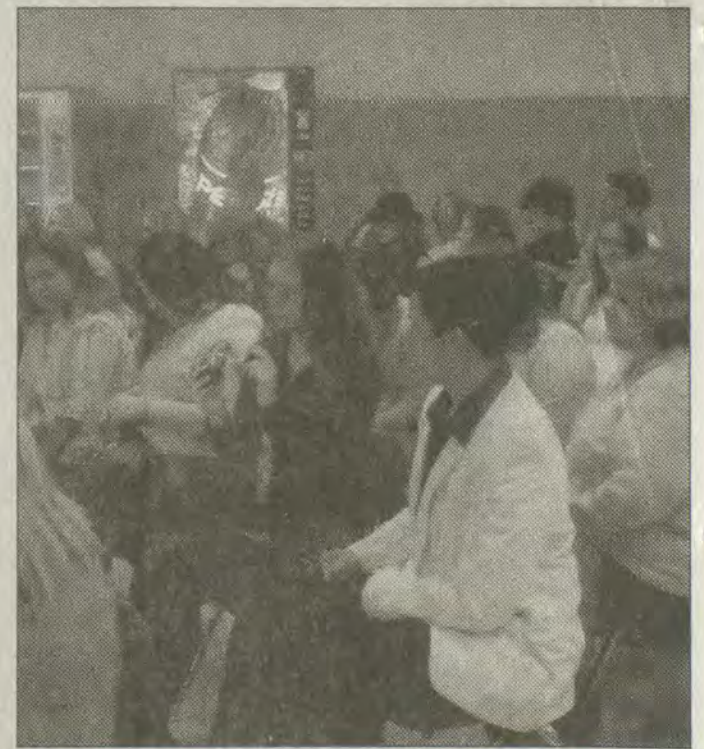
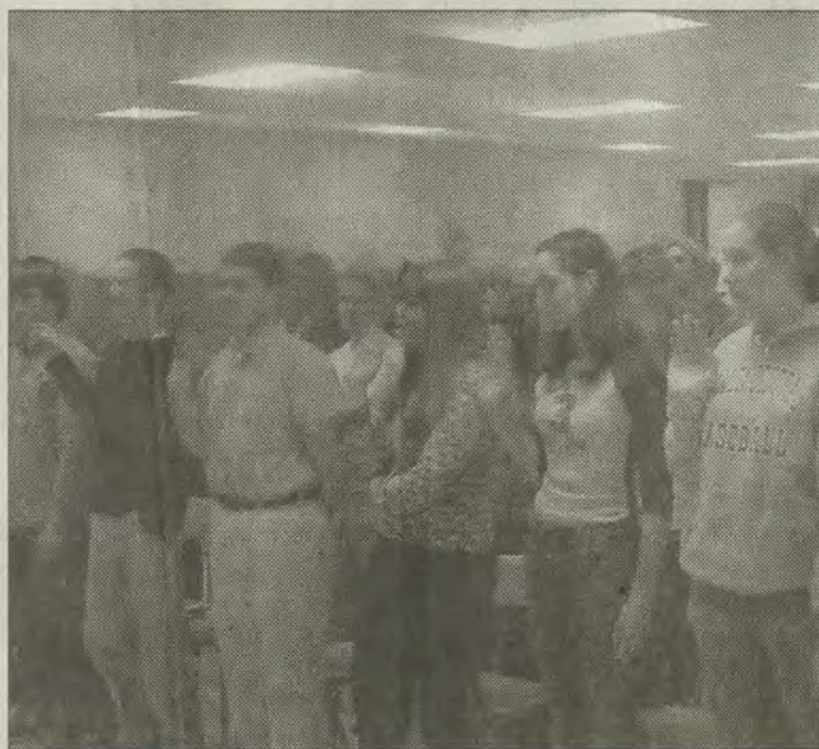
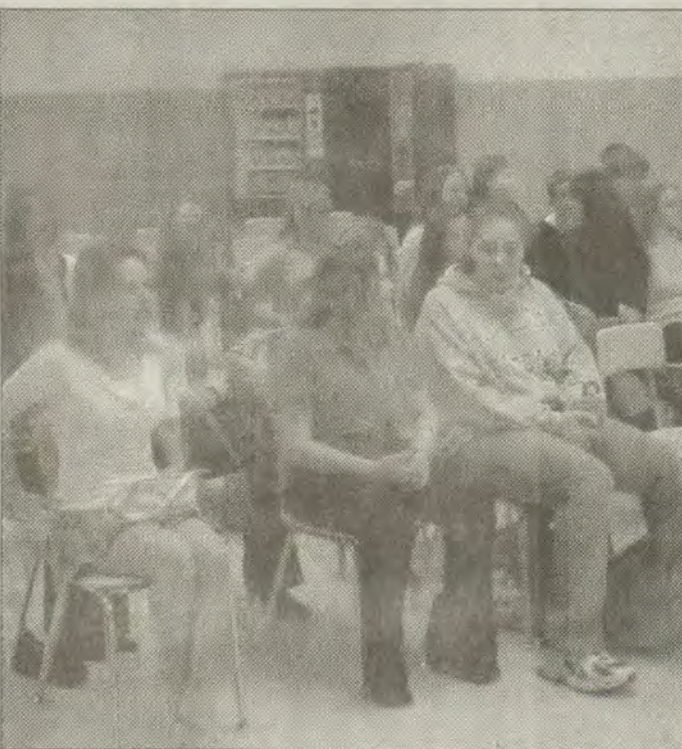
First Row: Taylor Bragg, Breonna Holliman, Brittany Holliman, Shawna Riley, Amanda Ousley, Felicia Keathley, Brittany Tackett, Kaitlyn Minix, Rachel Webb.
Second Row: Levi Plummer, Sarah Crider, Felicia Hensley, Brittany Adams, Johnna Craft, Ashley Slone, Shelby Bentley, Tara Rohr, Brittany Coyer, Clay Jamerson.

All County Chorus

During the first half of November, the Adams Middle School music department participated in the All County Chorus. Of the 30 students who auditioned, 20 students were selected to participate. On Monday, November 8 Adams Middle School students joined others from around the county until

6:00 PM practicing their music. Practiced continued all day on Tuesday. On Wednesday, November 10, under director Danny Jones, students participated in two performances, one during the school day and one in the evening. It took a great deal of hard work and dedication to accomplish this activity.

Allen Central High School



On Nov. 24, 40 new members were initiated into the Allen Central Beta Club chapter. Beta Club is for 10th through 12th graders with a 3.0 overall GPA. Refreshments were served afterwards to students, faculty and family members who attended the candlelight ceremony.

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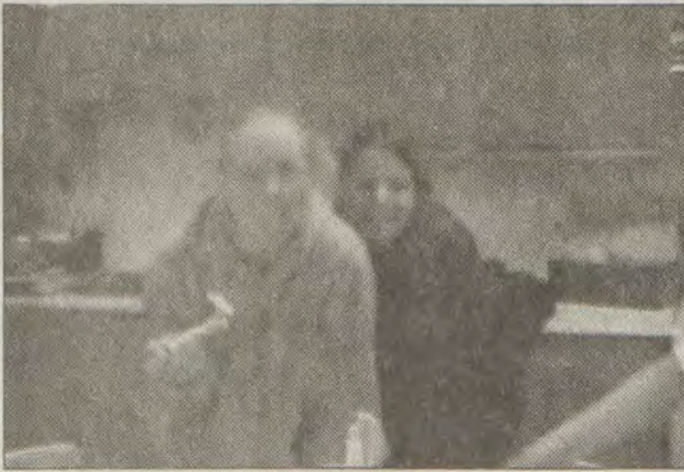
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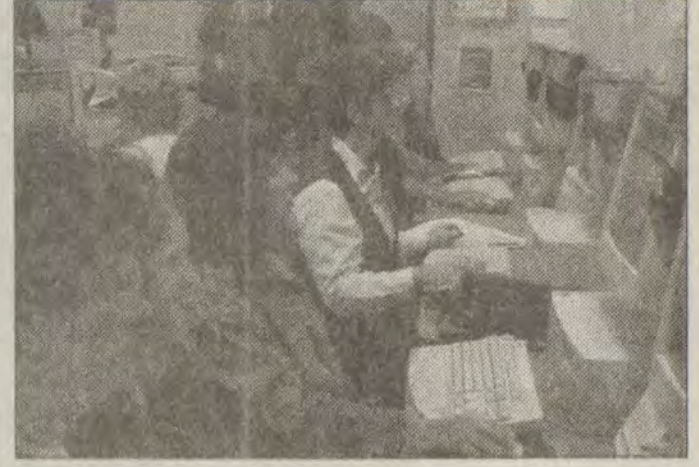
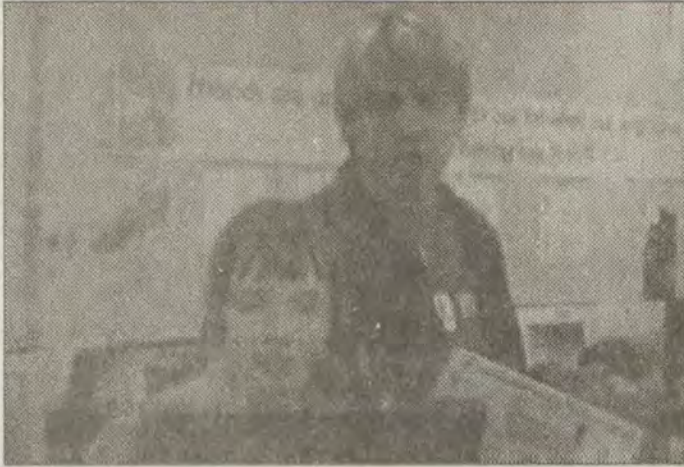
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Allen Central High School



Two freshman English classes read Charles Dickens' Great Expectations. One assignment was to make a wedding cake that appeared to be 25 years old. The students were very creative and enjoyed eating their creations after it was over.



The ACHS Student Technology Leadership Program participated in the Regional Showcase at the Wilkinson/Stumbo Convention Center and they also had a parent/community computer training class at ACHS on Microsoft Publisher.



Distinguished Students

To celebrate and show students we value their achievements, the "distinguished" group of students at Allen Central High School was honored with a candlelight dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 7, for scoring distinguished on the CTBS or

KCCT. The students wore "distinguished" t-shirts designed and printed especially for them. Students who scored distinguished on the KCCT included Jenifer Anderson, Lyndsey Anderson, Mara Biliter, Felicia

Blanton, Samantha Farthing, Lyndsey Frasure, Amber Griffiths, Courtney Hall, Sabrina Howard, Justin Jacobs, Brock Kidd, Jessica Meadows, Kortney Osborne, Kimberly Ratliff, Kayla Sheppard, Ryann Thornsby and Tyler Turner.

Students who scored distinguished on the CTBS included Dagan Bickford, Christina Blevins, Brittney Waugh, Brittany Frasure, Stephanie Gray, Amanda Hicks, Joshua Martin, Melissa Noble, Tiffany Owens and Adam Reffett.



Mock Election

by KAYLA MOORE

Here at Allen Central, Mr. Burke, our current U.S. history and government teacher, implemented a mock election in which the entire student body had the chance to vote for president.

In late November, his classes

started making political posters, wearing sweater pins and carrying the name of which president, vice president or U.S. senator candidate or whether they were for or against the amendment concerning gay marriages on their sleeves. It was interesting to see

teens, who for the most part were unable to vote in the real election, participating in political conversations and debates. The mock election went wonderfully.

Mr. Burke's government class, which I am honorably part of, helped run the entire project. We directed, registered, tagged

and aided every student in their voting process, making it as easy and comfortable as possible for our student body.

Everyone was excited to vote, as we were excited to help in such a historical first occurrence here at Allen Central High School.

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"BOSTON TEA PARTY" By Mainstage, Thurs, Oct 21, 9:30 am & Noon, 2-12
"LEWIS & CLARK" Presented By GMT Productions, Mon, Nov 1, 10 am & Noon, all ages
"THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW" By Theatre IV, Fri, Nov 12, 9:30 am & Noon, K-5
"A CHRISTMAS STORY" By Jenny Wiley Theatre & Mountain Arts Center
Tues/Thurs, Nov 16 & 18 - 9:30 am & Noon, \$6 students, \$8 teachers; all ages
"NUTCRACKER" By Dance Etc. & MAC, Wed/Thurs, Dec 1/2, 9:30am & Noon, K-12
"THE JUNGLE BOOK" By Theatre IV, Fri, March 4, 9:30 am and Noon, K-5
"MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" By GMT, Tues/Wed, March 8/9, 9:30 am & Noon, K-5
"The Odyssey" By Tales & Scales, Thurs, March 17, 9:30 am and Noon, K-5

Ticket price for all shows \$4, teachers or students. The exception is "A Christmas Story" priced at \$6 students/\$8 teachers. These matinees are for schools or home schooled children only. Please call 886-2623 to schedule your classes or for more information.

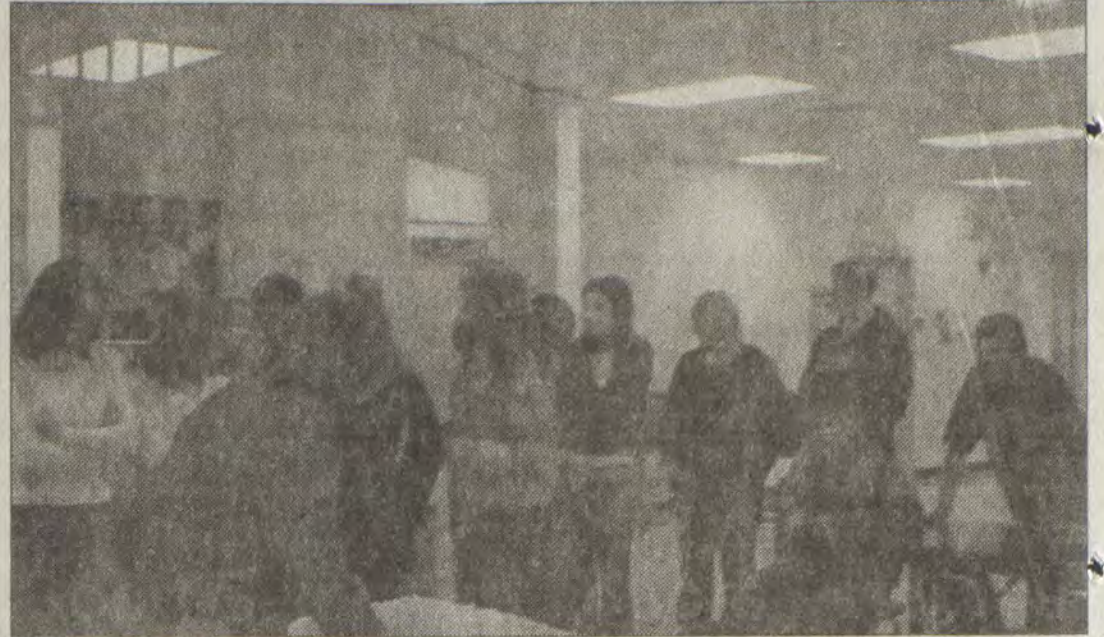
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Allen Central High School



Halloween Spirit

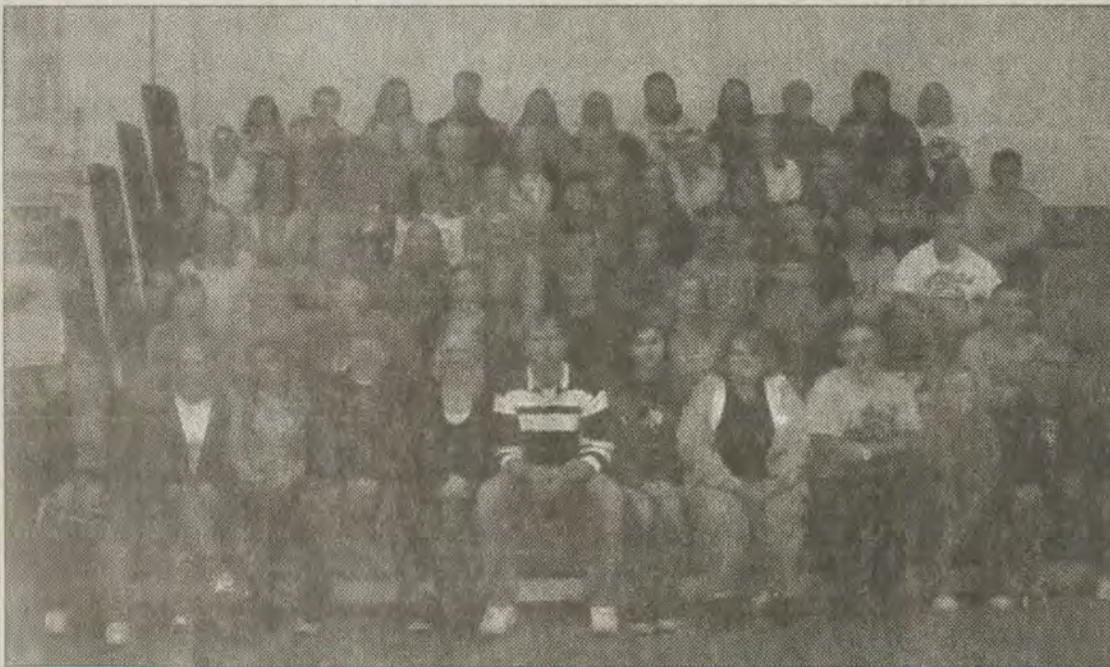
ACHS students and staff get into the spirit of Halloween. Many dressed as ghosts, goblins, superheroes and more to show their spirit for the holiday. All had a safe and happy Halloween.



Brittany Frasure was chosen as the Hugh O'Bryan Youth Leadership (HOBY) seminar representative this year. She will attend the four-day, expense-paid workshop at Transylvania University this summer.

Good Sam Club honors Veterans

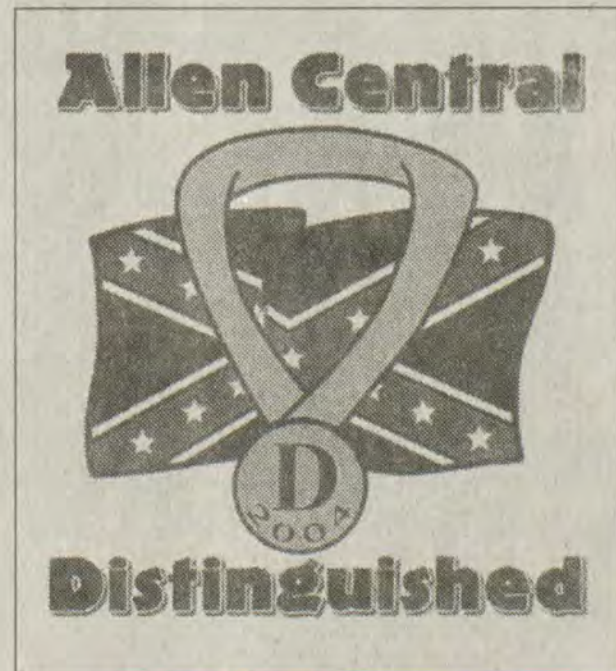
The Allen Central High School Good Sams Club honored Col. Larry Maynard and Sgt. Jerry Hardy on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. The club presented each with a certificate of appreciation and refreshments were served for all employees of ACHS. Sandy Mullins is the club sponsor. Officers include president Kortney Osborne, vice president Rachel Cooley, secretary Whitney Hall, treasurer Ryann Thornsby and public relations officer Kayla Shepherd.



Proficient Students

Allen Central High School students who scored proficient on the CATS test included Madonna Amburgey, Rita Armstrong, Ryan Bailey, Jordan Bentley, Belinda Boyd, Chris Branham, Cynthia Bryant, Alanna Cline, Whitney Collins, Tanda Conn, Kayla Crace, Brittany Crisp, Thomas A. Crum, Jessica Davis, Shane Duncan, Evan Farmer, Britta Fraley, Kara Greer, Tiffany Hall, Whitney Hall, Stacy Howard, Yumekia Hunter, Bianca Hynes, Krissy Inmon, David Kilburn, Shane Kinzer, Josh Lawson, Brenda Lewis, Josh Lyons, Ashley Madden, Josh McKinney, Brandi Meade, Josh Meade, Amanda Mills, Kayla Moore, Samantha Moore, Daniel Mullins, Kim Osborne, Wendy Ousley, Brandy Parsons, Matthew Potter, Brittany Ritchie, Brittany Robinson, Maggie Salisbury, Jessica Samons, Jeremy Stone, Britta Spurlock, Amanda Tackett and Nikki Wallen.

Allen Central High School students who scored proficient on the CTBS test included Michael Case, Tasha Chaffins, Ryan Collins, Stacia Crace, Keith Duncan, Kendall Hackworth, Candice Halbert, Effie Shannon Howard, Michael Todd Hudspeth, Emily Kidd, Rebel Lawson, Mary Lee, Chelsie Madden, Tyra McKinney, Andrea Moore, Erica Osborne, Zachary Patton, Terri Porter, Kathryn Robinson, Kayla Shepherd, Katrina Stephens and Richard Vanderpool.



TAG art students at Allen Central High School were given the task of submitting designs for a t-shirt to be printed for the group of students scoring distinguished on both the CTBS and KCCT. Rachel Delong's t-shirt design was chosen as the winning design and shirts were printed by The Shirt Gallery for our 28 distinguished students. Rachel was also one of the students scoring distinguished.

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Allen Central High School



Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child

Amy Wallen was the overall school winner for Allen Central High School in the Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child competition. Other finalists included Lyndsey Frasure, Rachel Cooley, Mara Bilter, Kayla Sheppard, Sarah Bolen, Andrew Sazabo, Tyra McKinney, Tiffany Triplett, Heather Johnson, Ashley Prater and Kayla Ann Moore.

Allen Elementary School

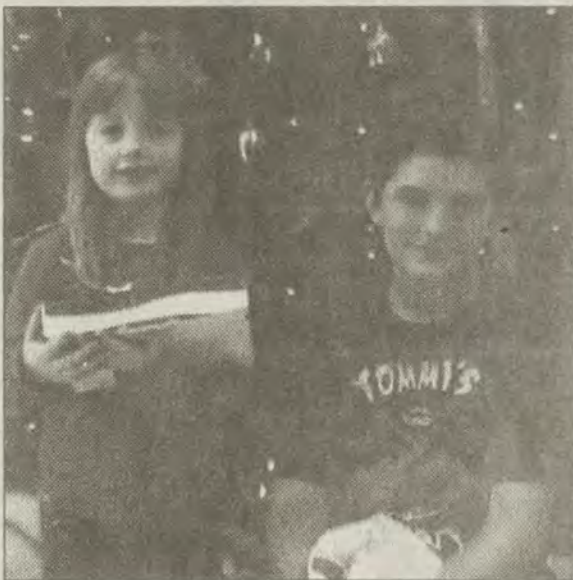


Character Education Winners for November

Benjamin Branham, Savannah Little, Cody Pennington, Vanessa Hall, Mason Bradford, Hayley Blevins, Nick Rowe, Katie Nelson, Cole Ousley, Tamea Goble, Austin Jarrell, Audrey Mosley, Aaron Morrison, Madison Smith, Shane Burgett, Rebecca Reed, Cory Grigsby, Callie Conn., Alex Holbrook, Mariah Terry, Aaron Blackburn, Shyanna Leslie, Chase Thacker, Mercedes Stephens, Ryan Conn and Kelly Garrett.



Allen Elementary's Select Chorus warmed up to sing for the November Character Education breakfast.



Allen Elementary first month attendance winners Brianna Slone and Travis Mullins.

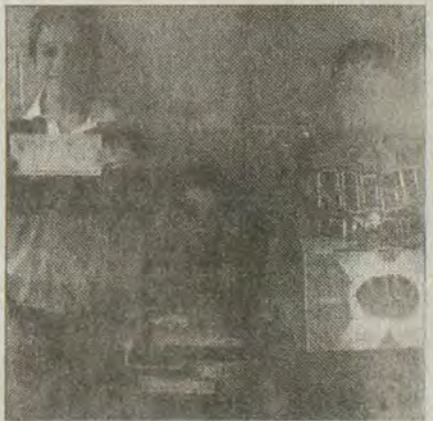


Allen Elementary second month attendance winners Nick Hall and Nicole Blevins.



Pictured are the Allen Elementary top sellers from each grade level of the Cherrydale fundraiser.

Allen Elementary's top three sellers for the school-wide Cherrydale fundraiser received extra prizes. First-place winner Devin Clifton received \$100. Second-place winner Stevie Boyd received a DVD player. Third-place winner Kaleb Rodebaugh received a boom box.



Celebrating Good Attendance



Allen Elementary third month attendance winners John Taylor Blair and Latasha Bryant.



The third grade students at Allen Elementary made turkeys in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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Betsy Layne Elementary



3-D Trees

Here are some photos of 8th graders building Sierpinski's Christmas tree, as part of their study in algebraic patterns and three-dimensional solids.



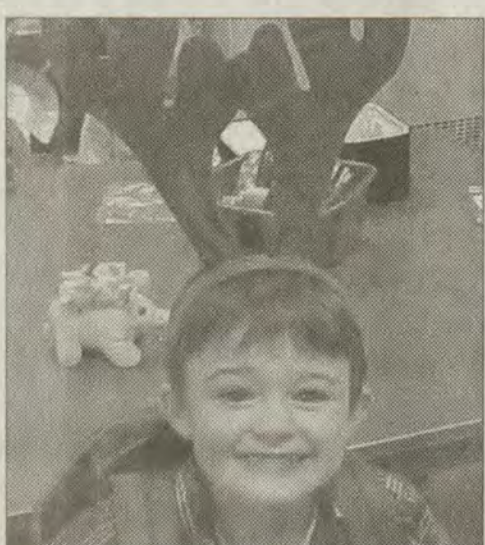
Jordan Tackett (trombone), Austin Collins (tuba) and Ariel Hopkins (flute) were selected to participate in the Morehead Tri-State Band Clinic on November 13. Students rehearsed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and performed in a concert the same evening.



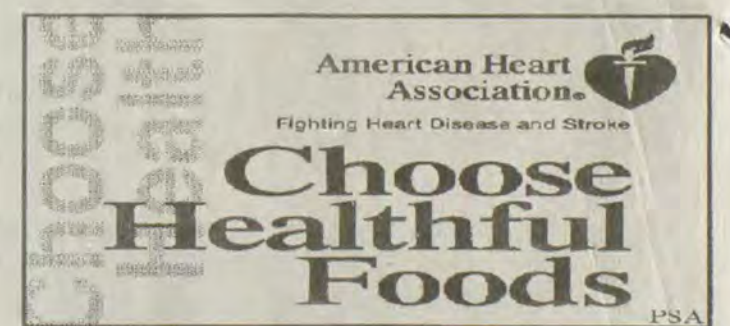
Mrs. Rodriguez's 3rd grade class makes patch work pillows after reading the book Patchwork Quilt. Students must bring in pieces of fabric near and dear to their heart. Mrs. Rodriguez sews them together and the students stuff them and tell why each piece of fabric is special to them.



Christmas through the eyes of a child winners from Betsy Layne Elementary.



Christmas around Betsy Layne.



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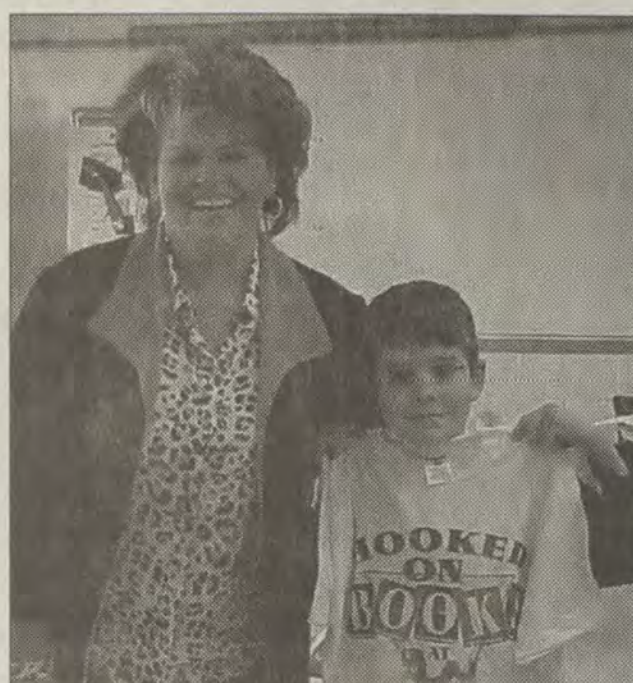
Clark Elementary School



Thanksgiving at Clark Elementary



Mrs. Barrows' Kindergarten class has read 1,438 books. These students are reading at school and at home. Mrs. Barrows' class will take a field trip to the local East Kentucky Science Center Planetarium as part of their celebration of reading. From the beginning of September through the middle of November, each class at Clark Elementary has been keeping a count of how many books they are reading. All classes have read almost 4,000 books over the span of 10 weeks. Pictured with the Kindergarten class are: Mrs. Wanda Barrows, Mrs. Delores Baldrige, and Mrs. Kay Allen.

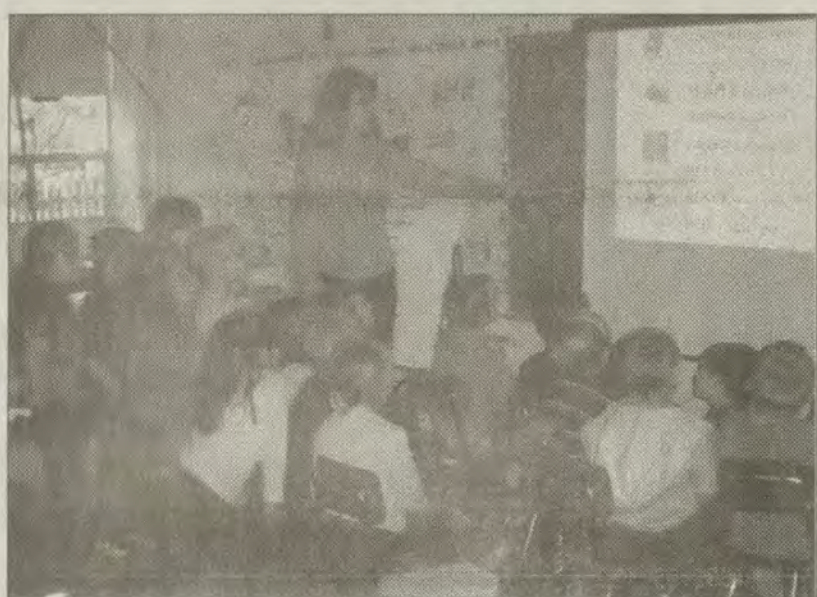


Michael Blankenship received the first t-shirt in honor of being the first student to reach the goal of reading 50 books in the Hooked on Books reading school-wide competition at Clark Elementary. Michael is a fourth grade student in Mrs. Jamie Madden's room.

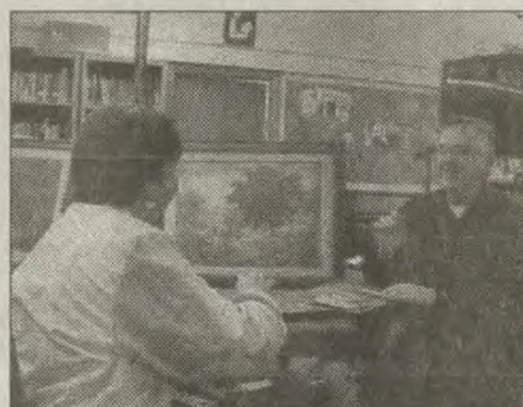
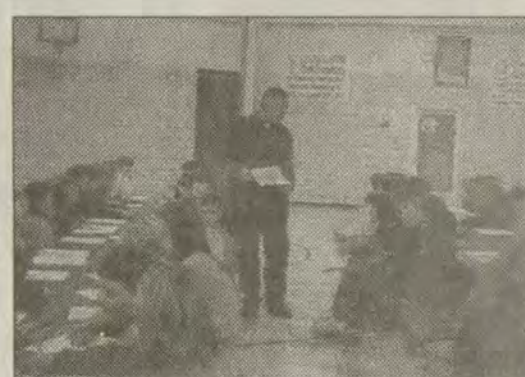


Students Use Chalk Media to Create Posters

Students at Clark Elementary created beautiful posters using chalk media for the October 23, Fall Festival. Posters were placed in store windows around town and then returned to Clark for the festival. Art teacher, Mrs. Ellen Trimble, used chalk media to teach principles of design and concepts of balance, color contrast, and emphasis. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students pictured are: Josh Stambaugh, Mrs. Ellen Trimble, teacher, Allison Rowe, Kelsey Boyd, Lakin Burke, Chris Jones, Victoria Hammonds, Alisha Owens, and Brittany Dingus.



Mrs. Kaye Allen, a student-teacher at Clark Elementary, working under the direction of Mrs. Wanda Barrows, led kindergarten students through a lesson to help them learn their colors. Allen's lesson included a Powerpoint technology presentation using colors to match her instruction.



Author and illustrator Paul Brett Johnson visits Clark Elementary

Students, parents and community enjoyed a day and evening with guest author and artist Paul Brett Johnson on Monday, Oct. 18.

Johnson presented instruction to all students on writing and publishing. Students learned that writing takes time to craft ideas into a finished product. He showed his own word-processed pages with editing marks indicating more writing to be completed.

Mr. Johnson explained that the writing and art could take as much as a year-and-a-half before a book is finished.

Mr. Johnson used technology to share some of his

favorite selections, including "The Cow Who Wouldn't Come Down," "Little Bunny Foo Foo," "Bearhide and Crow" and "Old Dry Frye."

Fourth- and fifth-grade students engaged in a writing and illustrating session. For one part of the exercise, students became illustrators by drawing five pictures. Teachers collected these illustrations. Teachers distributed these pictures to other students in the room, who wrote story lines for each page to match the illustrations. Hence, students experienced the combined process that an author and illustrator would follow in the

real world of publishing.

In addition to teaching about writing, Johnson showed how books are published. He showed the audience visual acetate overlays of primary colors. "It's like magic," commented the author/illustrator as the audience watched layers of colors blend into one colorful book jacket.

Johnson signed books and was available for photographs with those who desired these.

The day and evening were sponsored in part by a literacy grant fund from the local Prestonsburg Wal-Mart and Clark PTO.



CLARK ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES WINNERS

Jackie Kidd, Rachel Williamson, Jaetha Hall, Robert Campbell, Tyler Lee, Jessica Stevenson, Wesley Cross, Brandon Owens, Allison Rowe, Kelsey Boyd, Tiffany Allen, and Sammantha Howard. These students attended a district recognition at the Convention Center on December 16, 2004 with family and friends to honor their achievements. (by Allison Rowe)

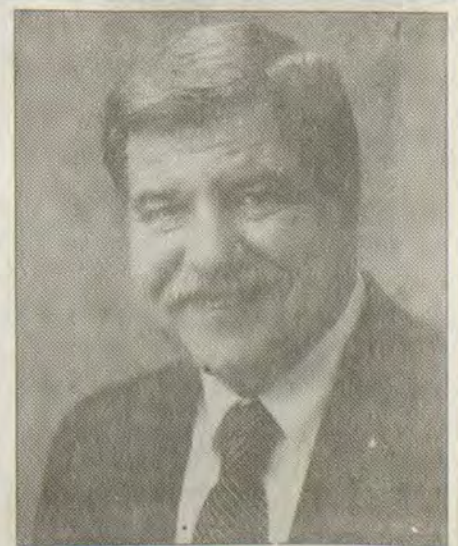
To the Students of Floyd County:

On behalf of the Floyd County Board of Education, I want to say how proud the board members are of the students of Floyd County and your achievements. The work that you do each day to meet your goals and those set by your teachers and coaches is important to us. It is why we serve on this board. Congratulations. Keep setting higher goals for yourselves. You can reach them. We believe in you.

Carol Stumbo, Chair of the Floyd County Board

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Clark Elementary School

Perfect Attendance

Barrows' P1

Alyssa Crider
Joshua Hackworth
Alyssa Johnson
Larry Minix
Ryan Parsley
Johnathan Shepherd
Brenden Wright

Key's P2

Nathan Dylan Compton
Jacob Estep
Steven Austin Howard
Darren Kimbler
Charlie Sue Ousley

Blanton's P2 & P3

Jacob Calhoun
Dylan Francis
Jackie Kidd
Thomas Ross
Jared Little

Hunsucker's P3

Brianna Blankenship
Mahla Little
Brittan Blankenship
Evan Ousley
Robert Campbell
Courtney Patrick
Allie Collins
Jackson Reed

Garrett Hammonds

Campbell's P4

Laken Burke
Kevin Marsillett
Chris Jones
Bradley Ousley
Selenia Kelly
Rachel Williamson

Wicker's P4

Drew Wright
Kaylena Stevenson
Jordan Owens
Elizabeth Campbell
Jamee Prince

Terry Adams

Makayla Parsley
Austin Curnutte

Parsons' 4th Grade

Daphne Cook
Josh Stambaugh
Nicole Crace
Megan Ward
Zachary Patrick
Sean Ly
Courtney Shepherd

Madden's 4th Grade

Josh Hackworth
Angela Marsillett

Steven Bays

Brandon Owens
Josh Dyer
Makayla Williamson
Zachary Click
Dalton Shepherd
Shay Crace
Michael Blankenship

Osborne's 5th Grade

Kelsey Boyd
Zachery Meade
Brittany Dingus
Wesley Robinson
Brittany Haney
Jordan Tackett

Victoria Hammonds
Melissa Walker
Samantha Howard
Jacob Webb

Starr's 5th Grade

Catherine Henson
Haily Slone
April Spears
Bethany Thornsby
Candace Triplett
Kelli Wright

Honor Roll

Blanton's P2 & P3

A Honor Roll: Dylan Francis, Hannah Hatfield, Thomas Ross, Gavin Slone, Tamera Tuttle

B Honor Roll: Jacob Calhoun, Mary Beth Laferty, Angelik Hall, Jared Little, Josey Helpenstine, Morgan Marshall, Nash Holbrook, Selina Minix, Shawn Jervis, Gavin Woods, Jackie Kidd

Hunsucker's P3

A Honor Roll: Brianna Blankenship, Brianna McIntyre,

Brittan Blankenship, Courtney Patrick, Robert Campbell, Jordan Slone, Garrett Hammonds

B Honor Roll: Kaitlyn Baisden, Daniel Ousley, Allie Collins, Evan Ousley, Megan Hensley, Rachael Ousley, Tyler Lafferty, Jackson Reed, Mahla Little, Jeremy Slone, Byron Marshall, Chris Watkins

Campbell's P4

A Honor Roll: Chase Cook, Bradley Ousley, Alisha Owens,

Lindsey Woods

B Honor Roll: Haley Allen, Virgil Kimbler, Laken Burke, Chris Lawson, Wesley Cross, Kevin Marsillett, Chris Jones, Ricky Music, James Jones, Aaron Spurlock, Selenia Kelly, Rachel Williamson

Wicker's P4

A Honor Roll: Terry Adams, Makayla Parsley, Blake Baldrige, Elizabeth Campbell, Drew Wright, Kaylena Stevenson

B Honor Roll: Jamee Prince,

Austin Curnutte, Michael Keens, Aaron Curnutte, Manissa Risner, Austin Salyer, Joshua Mullins, Candace Whited, Jordan Owens, Johnathon Ousley, Joshua Ousley

Parsons' 4th Grade

A Honor Roll: Tiffany Allen, Daphne Cook, Sean Ly, Allison Rowe, Jessica Stevenson, Amber Webb

B Honor Roll: Zachary Patrick, Courtney Shepherd,

Josh Stambaugh

Madden's 4th Grade

A Honor Roll: Michael Blankenship, Patrick Pitts, Dalton Shepherd

B Honor Roll: Thalia Holland, Josh Hackworth, Brandon Owens, Kaitlyn Caudill, Zachary Click, Alex Trout, Josh Dyer, Makayla Williamson

Osborne's 5th Grade

A Honor Roll: Kelsey Boyd,

Samantha Davis, Victoria Hammonds, Samantha Howard, Wesley Robinson, Jacob Webb

B Honor Roll: Brittany Dingus

Starr's 5th Grade

A Honor Roll: Chase Baldrige, Chris Cook
B Honor Roll: Lydia Woods

The David School



Seniors, Roger Collins and Nathan Ousley, of The David School hand off a crate of fresh Florida oranges to senior, Brian Lazar who places the crate on the makeshift conveyor belt, sending the item towards other students who perform the task of sorting.



Junior Amy Hughes, poses with her mother, Shella Hughes, at The David School parent/teacher Christmas party.



Sophomore Jordan Taylor, of The David School unloads a wheelbarrow load of fresh sand for Our Lady of the Mountain School's playground refurbishment project.

Learning and caring in the spirit of the season

For almost 20 years, Our Lady of the Mountain School of Paintsville has sold fresh Florida fruit to members of the community for their annual fundraiser. For about the same amount of time, high school students from The David School have gone annually to Paintsville on the

day of the fruit truck's arrival to unload the hundreds of boxes of produce. Our Lady of the Mountain School (grades K - 6) does not have quite the necessary manpower for the multi hour effort required to unload and stack all of the fruit boxes in preparation for distribution and

that is where the students from The David School come into play. David School students enjoy the annual community service activity and most vie for the opportunity to spend the morning working at Our Lady of the Mountain School. This year's event took place on the

crisp, cool morning of December 10. In addition to unloading fruit, this year David School students also worked on refurbishing the school's playground area by laying down fresh sand. Over the years, the annual event has been a wonderful partnership for both schools

and an educational experience for the students involved.

Also on The David School calendar during the month of December was the annual parent/student/teacher Christmas party, held on Thursday, December 16. Both parents and students were invited to the

potluck event that took place in The David School's festively decorated dining room. All in attendance participated in a lively game of a Christmas gift exchange, or rather gift stealing! The spirit of the season was and continues to be alive in all of the members of The David School.




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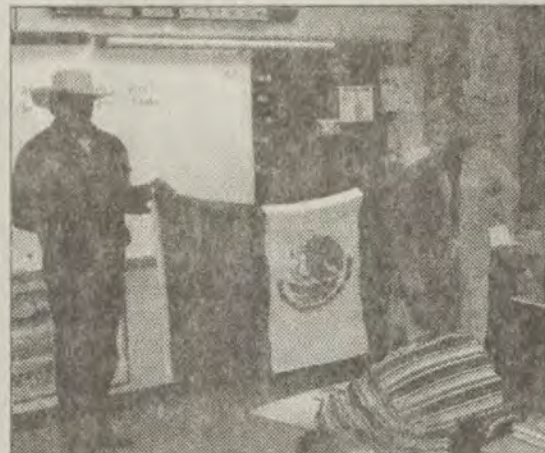
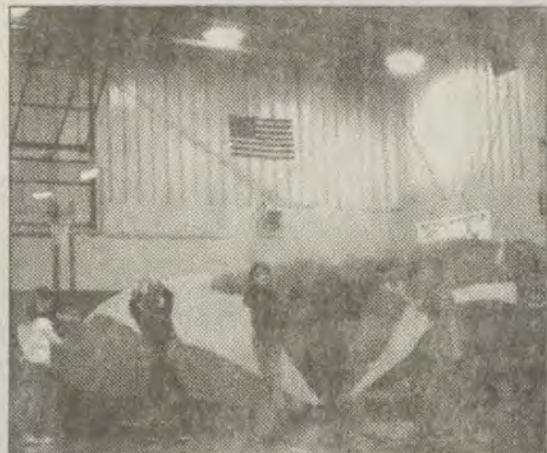
Duff Elementary



The primary classes of James A. Duff Elementary School recently studied Kentucky Core Content using the classic story, "The Polar Express". Student objectives consisted of reading application, skills, writing, geography, and arts and humanities, etc. All genres of learning modalities were used in various lesson plans. Special "days" were also observed; i.e., pajama day, bell day, hot chocolate day and the culminating event - all primary classes went to see the movie, "The Polar Express", at the Strand Theater in Prestonsburg, KY. The students, staff, and faculty thank everyone who made this unit of study possible!



Congratulations to the following students from Mrs. Duncan's Primary Class for meeting their reading goal for October and/or November: Kayla Johnson, Kasey Conley, Chelsea Martinez, Kayla Conley, Willis Hunter, Brian Coburn, Tyler Manns, Katerina Poston, Joe Little, Gabrielle Slone, and Kiley Allen.



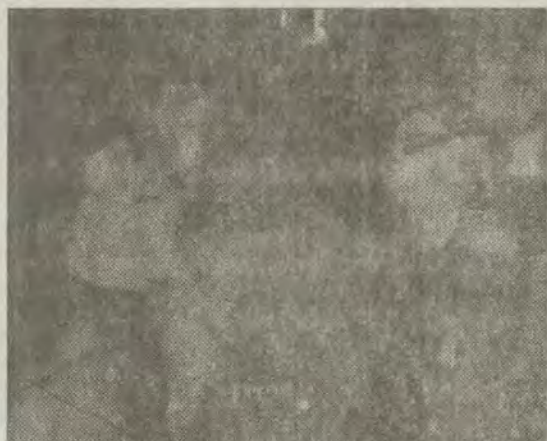
Students in Duff Elementary Fitness classes enjoy pattern activities using the parachute.

Victor Castro shares his knowledge of Mexico with Mrs. Case's 5th grade class.



Students in Duff Elementary Fitness classes enjoy pattern activities using the parachute.

May Valley Elementary



May Valley students were rewarded after fundraising totals were in for the first fundraiser for the school. Top sales students were allowed to putt for cash, spin for cash and jump for joy on inflatable equipment.



May Valley Family Resource Center sponsored a canned food drive. Food collected was donated to local churches and organizations to help out with Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. There were 4,044 cans collected over a two-week period. The classroom bringing in the most (192) the second week was Ms. Bridget Vanover's class, who enjoyed an ice cream party with pizzas donated by Dairy Queen of Martin.



May Valley students perform "Frosty's First Adventure" for staff and other students. Frosty goes to jail after Mr. Crabby complains of too much fun going on outside. They also received their gifts from Santa. The gifts were supplied by Alice Lloyd College and Caney Creek Community Center. "Pride Card" students received their Pride Cards for great performances on the CATS and CTBS tests.



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May Valley Elementary



May Valley Elementary students received prizes for their money collected in the Saint Jude's Math-A-Thon.



John Brandon Turner was the top student in school for donations collected, with \$142.10. He received a portable CD player for bringing in the most over \$100.

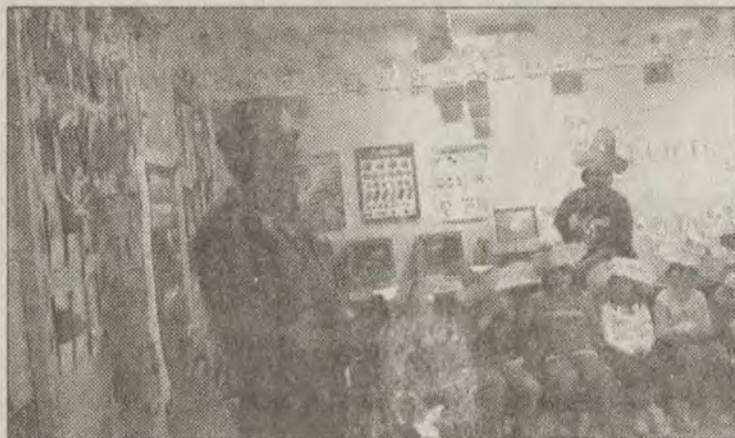


May Valley students and staff enjoyed a visit from five nocturnal animals brought in by the Natural History Educational Company and sponsored by the Family Resource Center. The animals visiting were a red fox, a raccoon, an owl, a bobcat and an opossum.

McDowell Elementary



Homcoming Queen Chelsie Tuttle



The P1-P2 students at McDowell have been very busy lately. We just completed a unit on Mexico. We learned where Mexico is located, what the flag of Mexico looks like, and many Spanish words. We enjoyed making and wearing sombreros. We made piñatas and got to break them open and get the tasty treats inside. We learned the Mexican Hat Dance and had a fiesta as a culminating event for our unit on Mexico. We would like to thank Victor for coming to our fiesta to share his knowledge of Mexico and for sharing all his cool stuff from Mexico.



Miss Kentucky, Maria Maldonado, recently visited McDowell Elementary School. She spoke with the students about following their dreams and setting high goals for themselves.

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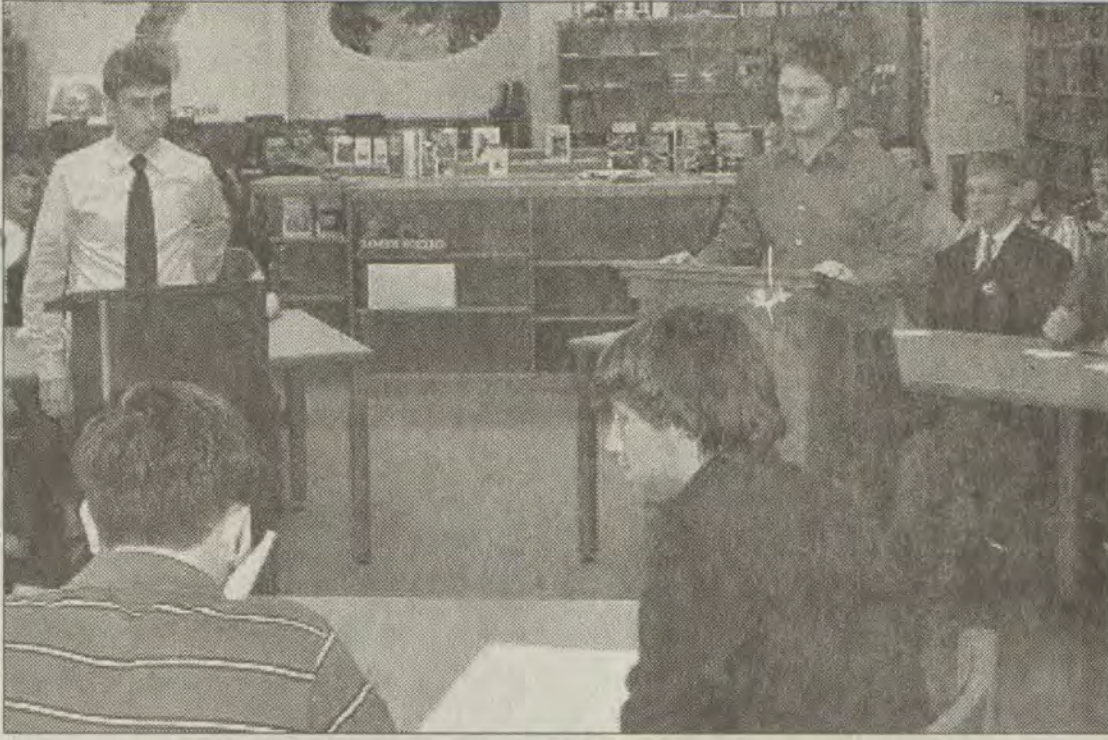
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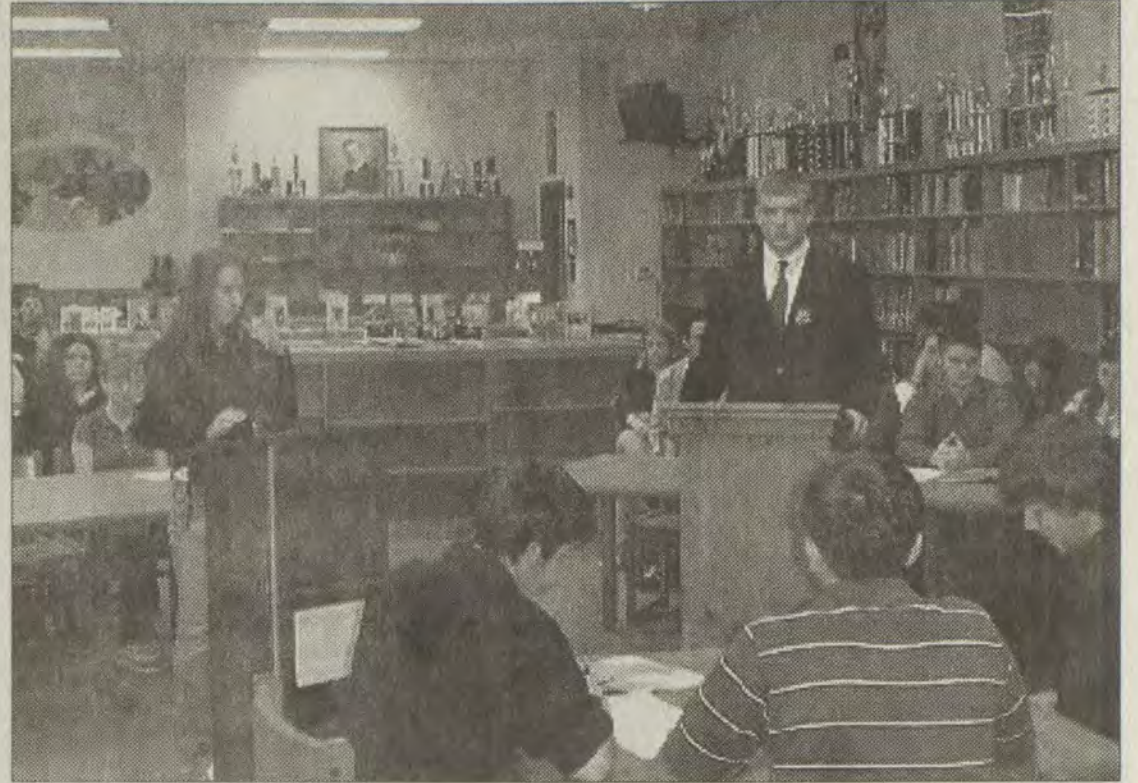
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Prestonsburg High School

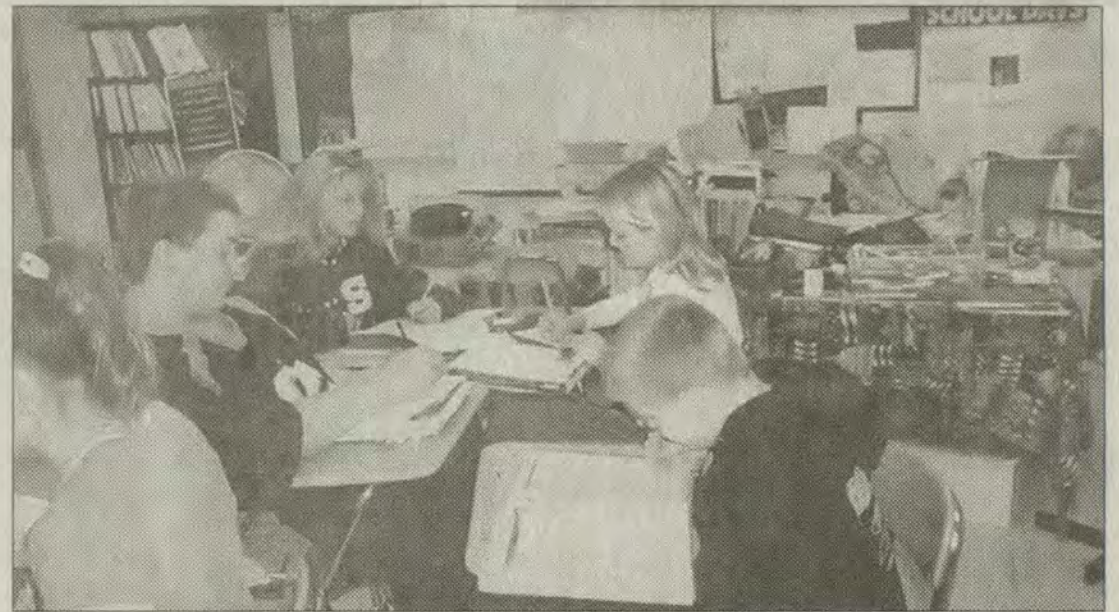
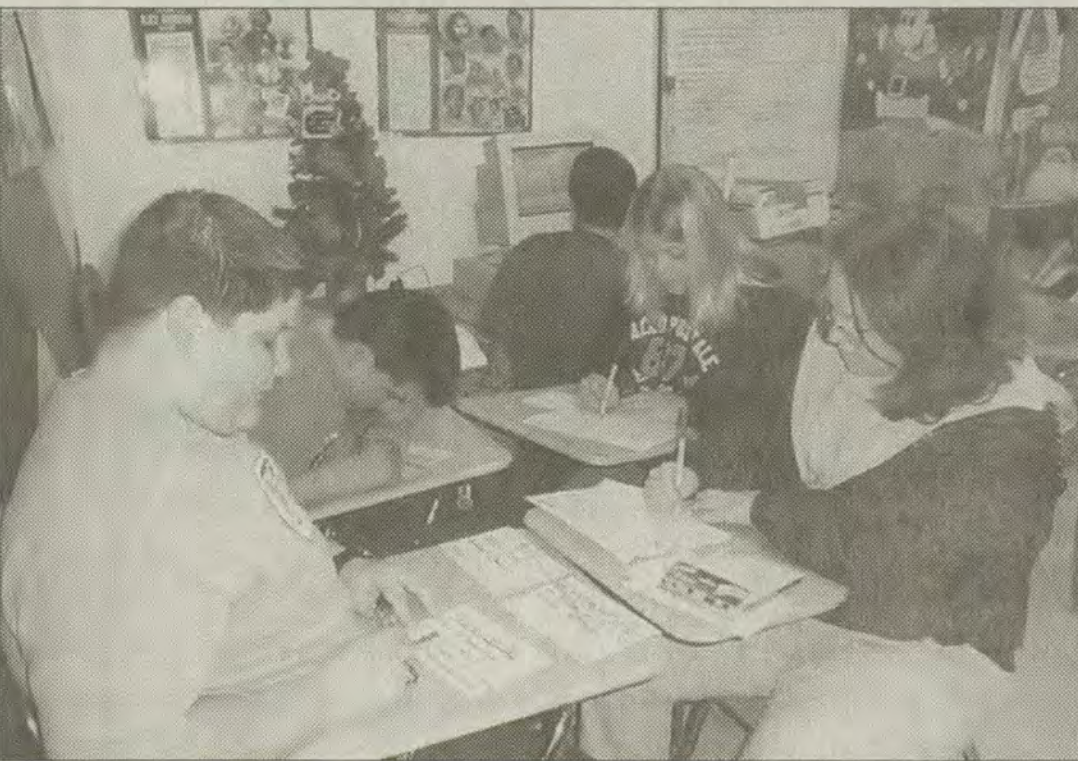
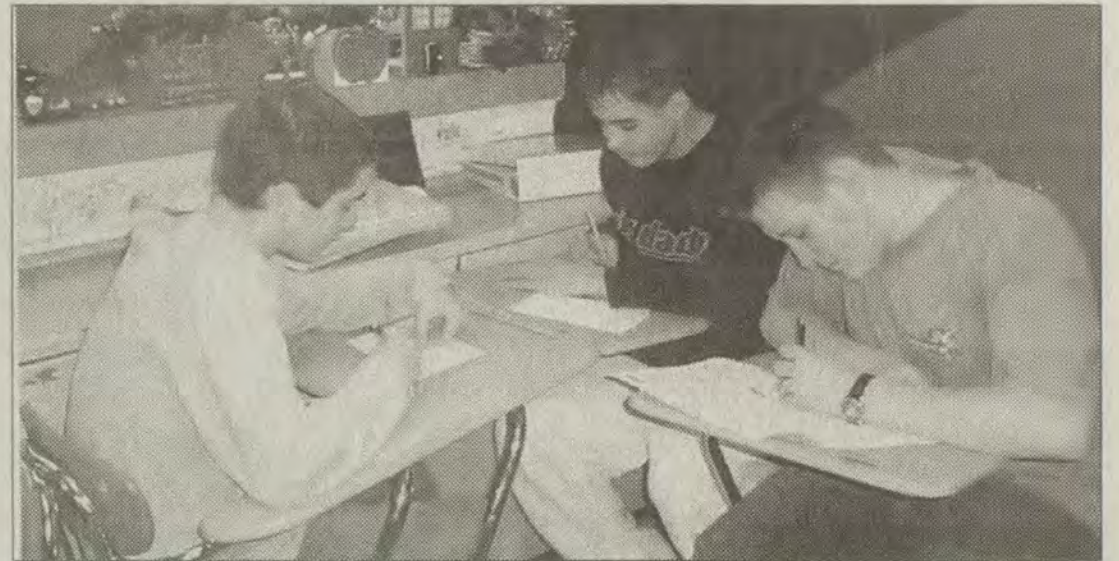
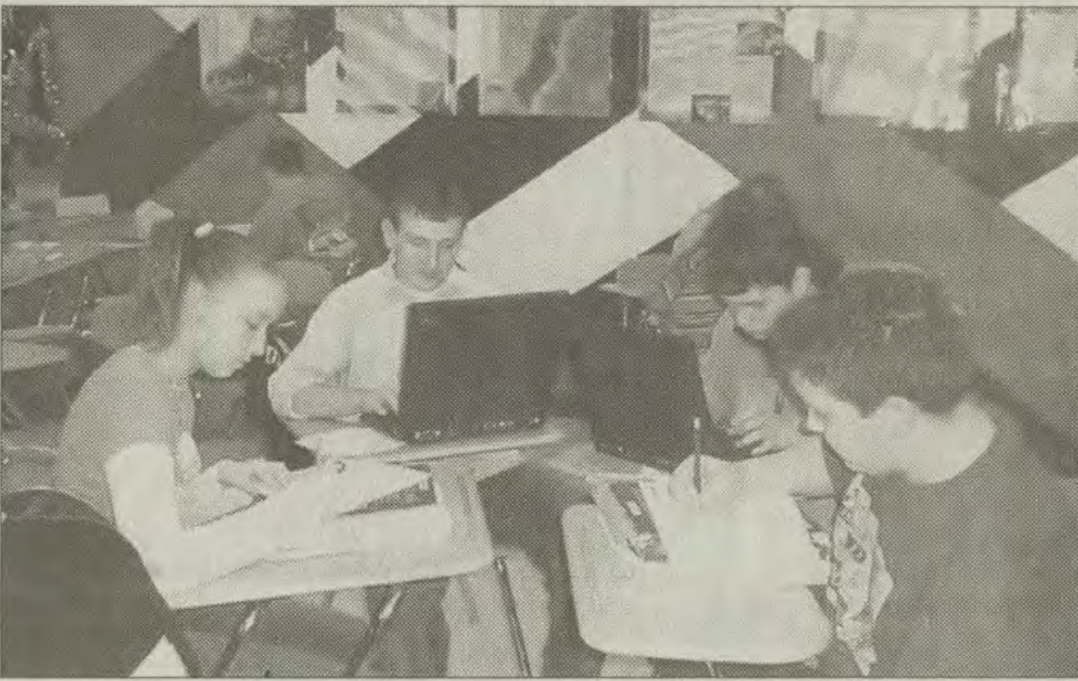


Students in Ms. Carolyn Stout's English class participated in a mock debate to coincide with this year's Presidential election. Pictured below are Brooks Herrick (George Bush) and Matt Huff (John Kerry).



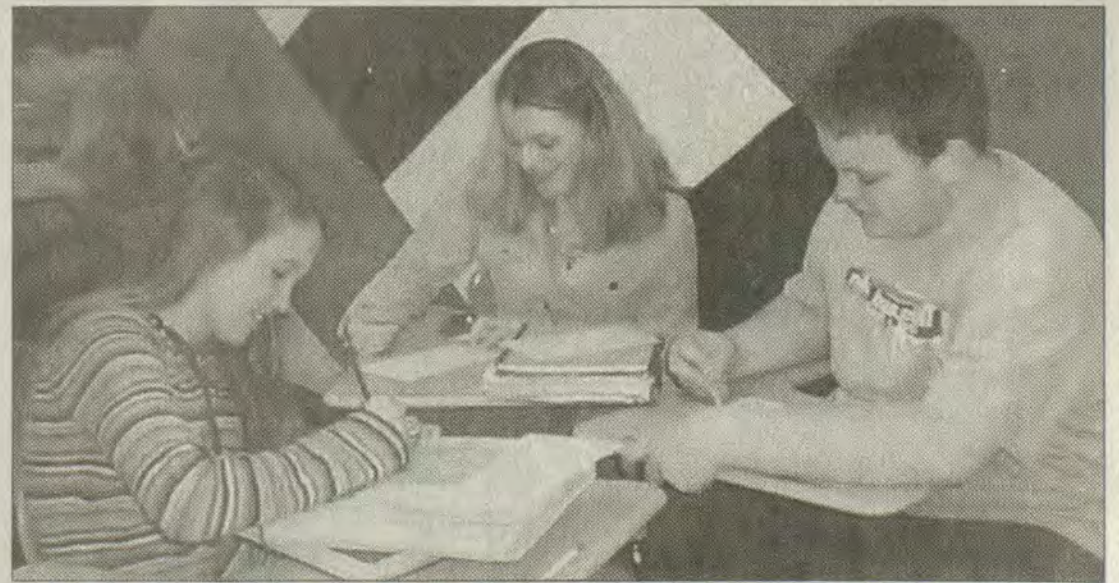
Pictured below are Jenna Stewart and Zack Ousley from Ms. Stout's class.

South Floyd Middle School



Eighth grade social studies class studies the road to revolution

Denise Isaacs' eighth-grade social studies class have been studying the road to the revolution. The students are creating a "web of wonder" project illustrating the steps, such as the Proclamation of 1763, the Quartering Act, the Stamp Act and the Boston Tea Party, that led the colonists to war. The students' work will be on display outside of Mrs. Isaacs' classroom.





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South Floyd Middle School



Student Council Sponsors Food Drive

The teachers at South Floyd would like to thank all students who participated in the food drive. SFMS donated nearly 1,000 cans to the Wheelwright Methodist Church for their annual Christmas basket donation.



Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child

"Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child" had its beginnings in December 1998. This project is offered to students by McDonald's, WMDJ Radio and Floyd County Schools. The program gives students the opportunity to write about what Christmas means to them or about a Christmas memory. All students have the opportunity to participate in the program. This year, as in each previous year, each school selected and submitted the top 20 writings to a central committee headed by the coordinator of the program, Nadine Hicks. The writings are then judged to determine the top 12 writings, with one overall winner. This year, the top 20 selections from South Floyd Middle School were written by seventh-graders Reta Adams, Ashley Thomas, Ariel Salisbury, Carrie Hall, Haley Sword, Megan Slone, Nick Osborne, Laken Maggard, Natasha Hunt, Kayla Hall, Courtney Anderson, Brenna Bates, Andrea Conn, Dylan Conn and Jordan Dunn; and eighth-graders Trista Damron, Jayda Adkins, Sandra York, Kody Little and Rachel Sapiro-Rhea. The top 12 selections were written by seventh-graders Ashley Thomas, Ariel Salisbury, Carrie Hall, Haley Sword, Megan Slone, Nick Osborne, Laken Maggard, Natasha Hunt and Kayla Hall; and eighth-graders Trista Damron, Jayda Adkins and Sandra York. Seventh-grader Ashley Thomas was the overall winner.

Stumbo Elementary



Stumbo Elementary Primary students have been studying Christmas Around the World. Mrs. Little's class was crafty this month they made snowmen to celebrate the winter season. They made candy canes from beads and pipe cleaners to demonstrate patterns and much more.



John M. Stumbo Elementary students Keturah Tackett and Bethany Newsome represented their school well on Nov. 13, at Morehead State University's Tri State Middle School Honor Band Clinic. Both students play the flute and gave up an entire Saturday of practice to prepare for a concert that evening. Keturah participated in one group conducted by Tanya Bromley, while Bethany participated in a second group conducted by Linda Hartley.

Visit to Cumberland Gap

The seventh and eighth graders of John M. Stumbo made a tremendous journey to Cumberland Gap on November 24th. We discovered the hard times of the long ago. We are all very thankful for what all the earlier people in the past have done for us and how much they struggled just to do everyday simple things.

When we got there we visited the Cumberland Gap National Park. While we

were there a video was shown of long ago when Daniel Boone first discovered the Cumberland Gap.

After we all left from the Cumberland Gap National Park we took a walk on the same Wilderness Road that Daniel Boone walked on many years ago. While we were there we were fortunate enough to see about 10 deer.

As we hiked through the Cumberland Gap we got the pleasure of looking over into

the Gap. We also witnessed a wonderful waterfall.

We also got to go through the Cumberland Gap tunnel, which we entered in Kentucky and came out of the tunnel in Tennessee, then turned left into Virginia. So we went through three states that day.

In conclusion we had an enjoyable and educational trip to Cumberland Gap but, we were also glad to see Mud Creek again.



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This Week: **Hobbies**

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January is Hobby Month!

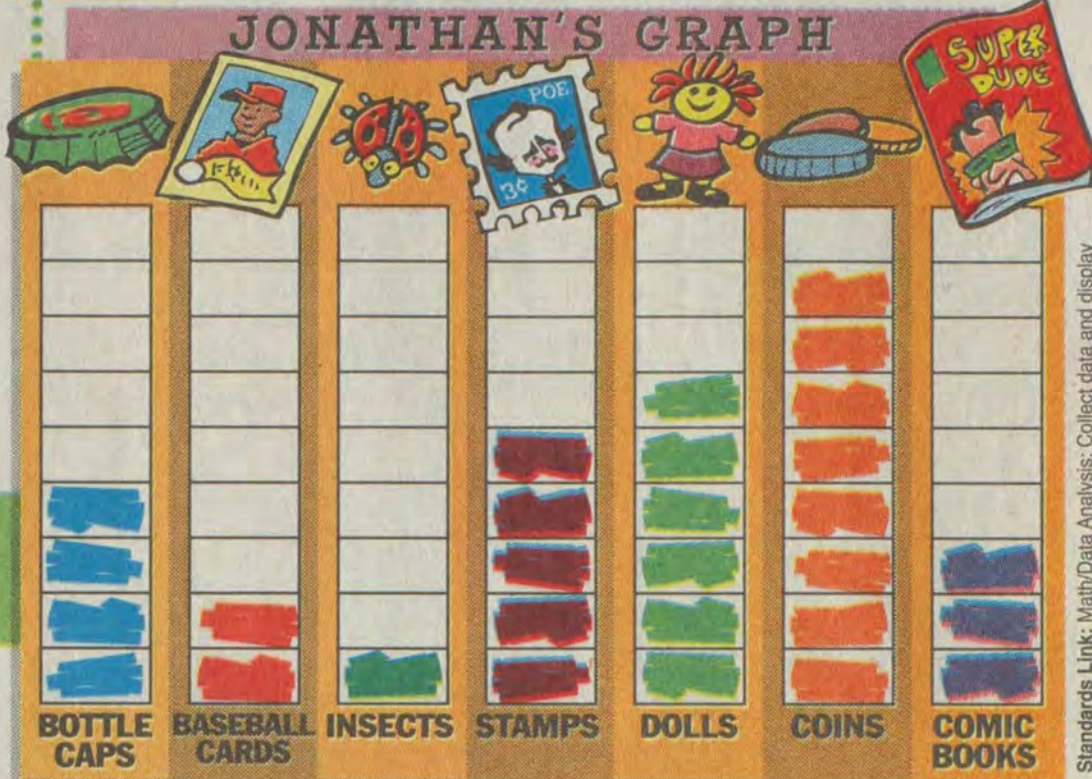
Do you have a hobby?
A hobby is something you do just for fun. Some people read for a hobby. Some people build model trains or create scrapbooks. Some people cook and some play basketball. Lots of people have more than one hobby!

Collect Hobbies

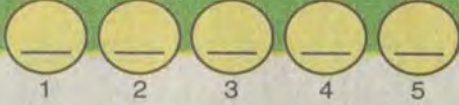
Lots of people collect things for hobbies. Some of the things people collect are stamps, coins, feathers, bottle caps, toys, hats, and more.

Ask your class about their hobbies. Graph the results!

Jonathan asked everyone in his class about their hobbies and graphed his findings. Look at the graph and answer the questions below. The letters that go in the circled spaces answer the Mystery Question.



Mystery Question: What does a numismatist collect?



- What is collected by one less person than the number of people that collect stamps?
— — — — — 1 — — — — —
- What is collected by three students in Jonathan's class?
— — — — — 3 — — — — —
- What is collected by only one person?
— — — — — 4 — — — — —
- What is the second-most popular item collected by Jonathan's class?
— — — — — 5 — — — — —

Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Interpret information displayed in graphs and charts.

Collector Investors

Some people collect things just for fun. Some people collect things for investments. They hope that one day, what they have will be worth more than what they paid for it. Use the code to discover some items that have really grown in value.

CODE	◆ = 2	▼ = 6
★ = 0	☆ = 3	● = 7
♣ = 1	⊛ = 4	⊠ = 8
	▲ = 5	⊛ = 9

In February 2000, a 1910 "Honus" Wagner T-206 baseball card sold for \$♣◆▼▲ million.

In 1999, the rare 1943 copper penny sold for \$♣◆◆▲★★. A 1959 Barbie® doll in mint condition has sold for up to \$♣◆◆▲★★, while the original value was \$◆◆★★!

A British Guiana stamp that sold for \$◆ in 1856, sold for \$◆◆◆▲★★★ in 1980.

Sticker Patterns

Kala collects colorful stickers. Circle the sticker that comes next in each row of patterns.

Standards Link: Math: Extend simple patterns.

Double Double Word Search

- JANUARY
- HOBBY
- STICKERS
- STORY
- PENNY
- COLLECTION
- CREATE
- TRAIN
- COMIC
- STAMPS
- DOLLS
- TOYS
- CAPS
- CARD
- VALUE

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

N O I T C E L L O C
N U Y M R P T O Y S
E I S R E K C I T S
U S M N A A T R I T
L S N S T U A T H A
A Y P L E I N O S M
V A T L N A B A M P
C I M O C B P S J S
C A R D Y R O T S H

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Chopped Talk

Find an interesting story in the newspaper and read it through to understand the sequence and details of the story. Now rewrite the story using SUBJECT-VERB sentences only.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Sequence events in a narrative; write sentences with subjects and predicates.

ANSWER: Because he was sitting on the deck.

Weekly Writing Corner

My Hobby

My favorite hobby in the world is playing the guitar. I've always had an interest in guitars and now I can finally play one. It is fun to play guitar and it gives you pride in what you do.

Michael,
6th Grade

My favorite hobby would have to be basketball. What I like most about it is the sound when it makes a swish.

Mac,
6th Grade

My favorite hobby is playing baseball on Sunday morning. Getting to hit the ball as hard as you want is fun. Plus you get to slide in the dirt and make new friends from different towns all around. I love playing baseball.

Marco,
5th Grade

I like to play the piano. I have only been playing the piano for almost a year and a half, and I'm pretty good. I mostly play classical piano. One of my favorites is "Concerto in A Minor" by Edvard Grieg. Grieg lived a long time ago, from 1843-1907. I have a lot of other hobbies like running and dancing, but I like playing the piano the most.

Mikaylah,
6th Grade

My favorite hobby is break dancing. I like it because you can do cool stunts. There are also cool tournaments.

John,
2nd Grade

I absolutely love the ocean. That's why my favorite hobby is boogie boarding. Most people don't like the ocean because it's cold, but I like it. It's so fun just to run out there and feel the salty wave splash on me. I especially love to go with my friends. That way you can share the fun you're having with a friend. Boogie boarding in the ocean is the best thing ever.

Dorothy,
6th Grade

My hobby is not soccer, basketball, or ballet. My hobby is acting on stage! I have no fear of the spotlight or laughter. I am good at acting.

Alexis,
4th Grade

Write On!

My Hobby

Deadline: Jan. 23, 2005
Published: Week of Feb. 20, 2005
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My Hobby
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Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653

Please include your school and grade.

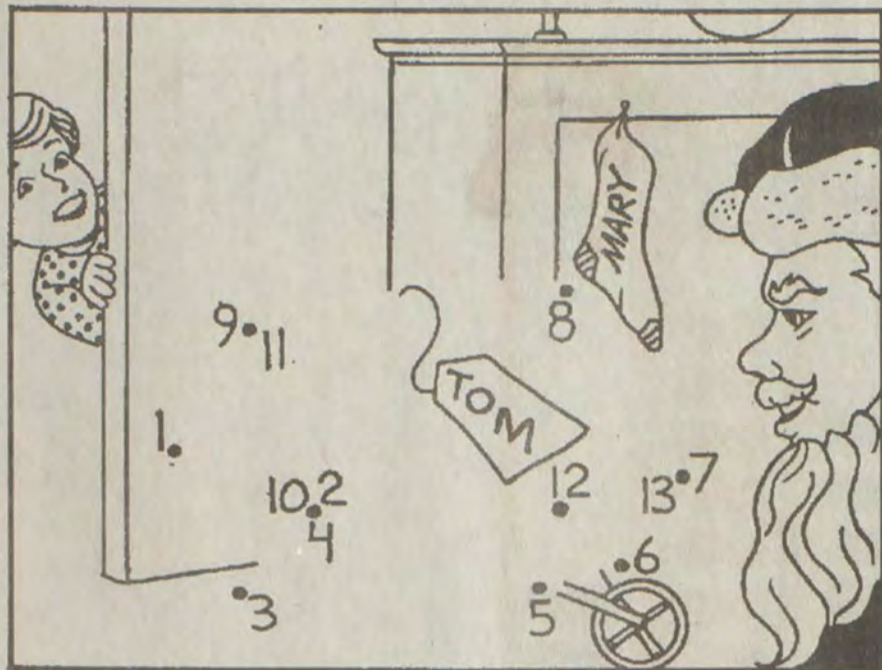
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COLORING PAGE



ROLL 'EM None of that stocking stuff for Tom. He has a better idea. Add lines dot to dot to complete picture.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



RIDDLE-ME-THIS HOLIDAY-WISE

IN the mood for some holiday riddles? Ponder these:

1. What jams spread fastest at Christmastime?

Give up? Traffic jams.

2. What must a holiday shopper do before getting off a crowded bus?

Answer: Get on it.

3. What two letters describe a bad kid's stocking?

Answer: MT.

4. What two letters describe a slippery sidewalk?

Answer: IC.

5. Why does Santa stick to his chimney routine?

Answer: Because it soots him.

6. Why did Donder's jokes put Blitzen in the hospital?

Answer: He split his hide laughing.

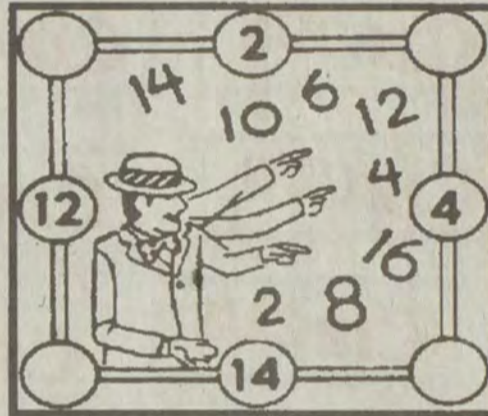
DOWN THE HATCH! A doctor gave a patient five pills and told him to take one every half hour. If the patient took the first pill at 2 p.m., at what time did he take the last? Time: 30 sec.

He took the last at four p.m.

EVEN BREAK! Four even numbers — 2, 4, 12 and 14 — appear in circles of the diagram at right. You are asked to insert additional even numbers — 6, 8, 10 and 16 — in blanks so that each of the four sides totals 28.

Hint: Number 16 will fit appropriately in just one place. Find that place and you've just about solved the problem.

Remember, each of the sides is to total 28. No number is to appear more than once.



Place 16 in upper right corner; 8 at bottom right; 6 at bottom left; 10 at top left.

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Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

My Kid Scoop™

Vol. 4 No. 1

© 2005 by Vicki Whiting, Editor

Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name: _____

Learning Buddies: Spell your child's first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

What Comes Next?

Look at the pattern in each row of pictures. Circle the picture at the end of each row that comes next.



My Letters

H is for Horse
h is for horse



Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter H. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound that the letter H makes in the word horse?

My Numbers

How many ?

How many ?

How many ?



Learning Buddies: Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

My Rhyme Time

Old MacDonald had a farm, E I E I O!
And on that farm he had some horses, E I E I O!
With a neigh neigh here and a neigh neigh there,
Here a neigh, there a neigh, everywhere a neigh, neigh.
Old MacDonald had a farm, E I E I O!

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.



A horse eats



Sunday

Letter Identification
With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that have the same sound as the letter H in horse.

Monday

Math Play
Point to the number 6 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Pick a Pattern
Make groups of newspaper pictures that are the same - flowers, animals, plants, houses, faces, etc. Use these pictures to make an A-B-A-B pattern. (i.e. flower, face, flower, face). Leave enough pictures so that your child can finish the pattern.

Wednesday

H Is for Hand
Have your child trace his/her hand on a sheet of newspaper. Next have your child circle all of the h's that are inside the outline of the hand.

Thursday

What Comes Next?
Look at a picture in the newspaper. Ask your child to imagine what happened after the picture was taken.

Friday

Old MacDonald Had a Farm. When it comes time to select something that Old MacDonald has on the farm, have your child point to a picture of an animal or object in the newspaper, then sing its name in the song.

Saturday

IT Game
Cut out the letters i and t from the headlines. Then cut out the letters h, f, k, p and s. Show your child how you can spell the words hit, fit, kit, pit and sit simply by changing the first letter in front of the it.



My Kid Scoop comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill. Step by Step Success 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

Wishing Well®

2	4	2	7	2	4	7	4	6	2	5	6	4
S	P	O	O	L	R	N	O	C	I	S	A	S
6	4	2	4	5	2	4	5	4	8	2	3	4
R	P	T	E	W	U	R	E	I	H	D	B	T
6	5	2	4	8	4	3	6	3	4	7	4	8
E	E	E	Y	A	A	U	F	S	S	C	S	V
6	3	7	3	5	4	5	7	3	4	5	4	2
O	Y	O	F	T	U	S	U	U	R	U	E	I
3	8	5	4	2	3	2	7	3	6	7	6	2
T	E	C	D	S	U	O	R	R	R	S	O	K
5	2	8	7	6	3	6	5	2	7	6	8	7
C	A	F	E	T	E	H	E	Y	A	E	I	G
8	6	7	8	7	6	8	7	8	5	8	5	8
R	R	A	M	I	S	W	N	I	S	L	S	L

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Rational Numbers

by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.



Rational Numbers

answers



ACROSS

- Consecutive odd digits in descending order
- 19-Across times 2-Down
- 3-Down minus 14-Down
- Three times 10-Down
- Four times 18-Across
- Seven times 8-Down
- Three times 3-Across
- Two times 15-Down
- 5-Across times 6-Down
- Nine more than 4-Down

DOWN

- Digits of 11-Down reversed
- Forty less than 17-Across
- Three more than 5-Across
- One-half of 14-Down
- 17-Across plus 5-Down
- 1-Across times 13-Down
- Four more than 2-Down
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- Five less than 1-Down
- 16-Down minus 1-Across
- 1-Across plus 2-Down
- 19-Across minus 6-Down

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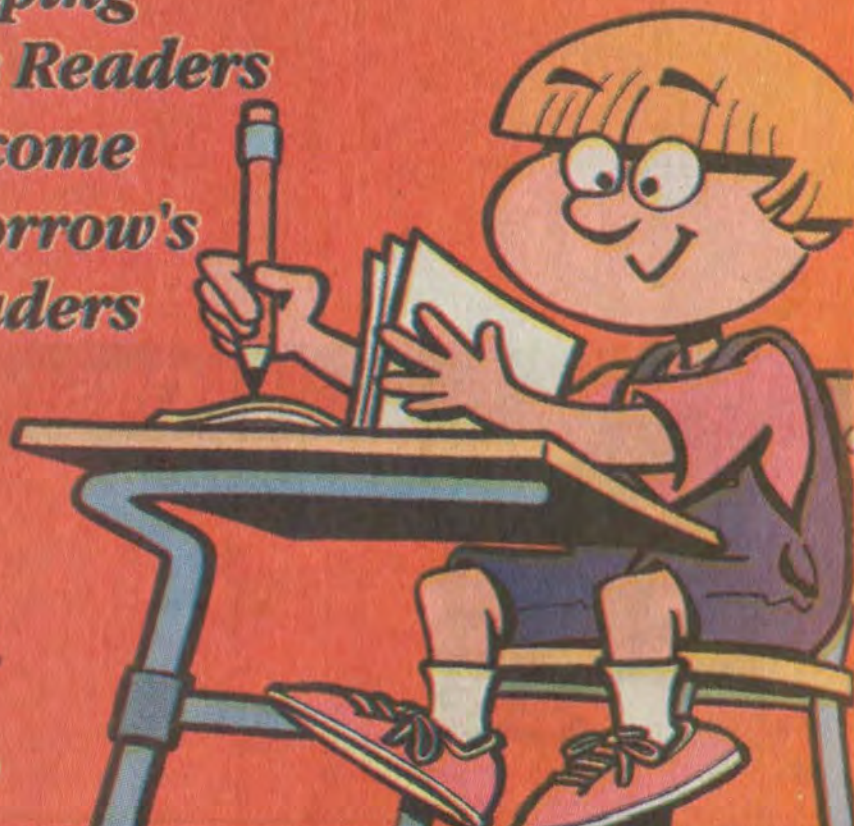
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