

# The Times

FLOYD COUNTY

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(See page 5A for details)



## REBELS BEAT BOBCATS

— Page B1

### briefs

## Blood drive offers bowl prize package

by JESSICA HALE  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — According to the Central Kentucky Blood Center, Christmas could bring more than just holiday cheer this year.

CKBC says the region's blood supply could be in critical condition by Dec. 25, but participation from communities could not only help save a life, but also get them a chance to win a University of Kentucky Football Bowl Game Package.

This Dec. 15 will provide an exciting incentive for donors to give blood at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Donors may visit the conference room at HRMC from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to donate and register for a chance to win the game package, which includes two tickets to the Dec. 29 Music City Bowl featuring the Cats against the Clemson Tigers. It will also include a two-night stay at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville, a invitation to an exclusive party for fans and a \$50 gas card to help on the trip. The winner will be drawn on Dec. 18.

"If you're a UK fan you'll want to get in on the action when the Cats play in their first Bowl game in seven

(See **DRIVE**, page five)

### 2 DAY FORECAST

#### Today



High: 56 • Low: 37

#### Tomorrow



High: 59 • Low: 40

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

### inside

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# Outgoing council hears final audit

by ALEX SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The last meeting of the current Prestonsburg city council met Monday evening and approved the city's yearly audit, which includes financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

The audit was completed Nov. 10 by the accounting firm Stephens & Lawson out of Louisville and showed the city was operating in the black for the 2006 fiscal year, meaning the city was running with a surplus. Prestonsburg had a total revenue increase of \$581,959 in the 2006 fiscal year.

Council member Gorman Collins said although the audit showed the city was not running in debt for the fiscal year, he wanted to make sure that in the future auditors come in

more often and let the council know the current status and what is happening.

"Let's not go making it all sound rosy when it's not," Collins said. "We need to stay within the budget and that's it."

Don Lawson, of Stephens & Lawson, presented the main points of the audit to the council and answered questions. He said the reason for the increase in revenue came from the three largest sources of revenue for city, which included increases in the amount of money brought in from property taxes, insurance taxes and occupational taxes compared with 2005.

Other portions of the audit highlighted by Lawson included noting the city's expenditures were \$25,172 less than the previous fiscal year, the city repaid its loan to the Prestonsburg

(See **COUNCIL**, page five)



photo by Alex Smith

Santa Claus made an appearance at the Prestonsburg City Council meeting Monday night to say hello. Mayor Jerry Fannin helped select the winner of a local contest with \$1,600 in prizes.

## CITY CELEBRATES WITH SANTA



## Holiday Happening

photos by Alex Smith

Santa Claus received a police escort Monday evening to ensure he was on time to meet with local children at the Prestonsburg tree lighting ceremony. After the tree was lit several people participated in a candlelight vigil and sang Christmas carols.



## Lawmakers gearing up for 2007 session with prefiled bills

by JOE BIESK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — More than one would resurrect the gambling issue by proposing an amendment to Kentucky's constitution allowing casinos. Another would require that — unless specifically allowed for in law — any state documents must be published in English. Yet another would create accounts in state coffers for those who don't think they're being taxed enough.

Welcome to the legislative prefiling season.

With all that can happen to a bill as it maneuvers the legislative process — ranging from minor tweaks to complete overhauls or being scrapped altogether — being prefiled during the months before the General Assembly meets in Frankfort is not necessarily an indicator of a measure's success.

But it doesn't hurt. "It gives the legislation kind of a head start in the process," House Majority Whip Bob Damron, D-Nicholasville, said.

The 2007 General Assembly convenes next month and, so far, state lawmakers have prefiled 100 bills in preparation. That count can change as lawmakers file

more legislation. Eighteen senators and 42 representatives have either sponsored or signed their names to bills during the interim.

State Sen. David Boswell, D-Owensboro, has a bill that would offer voters a chance to decide whether Kentucky should allow casino gambling at different locations, including race tracks. Boswell, who has pushed similar proposals in the past, has another that would allow the Legislature to pass laws that would set up and govern the casinos if voters approved the amendment.

"It's important to keep the issue alive in front of the voters out there," Boswell said.

Damron, meanwhile, has a proposal that would offer Kentuckians a sales tax holiday weekend once a year, beginning with the first Friday in August to help with "back to school."

Damron has proposed the measure before, but said he prefiled it to make sure it gets continued discussion. "It's an effort to try to give a little bit of a break to families who are putting children through school," Damron said, noting that 15 other states have similar laws.

(See **BILLS**, page five)

## Murder charge filed after Johnson shooting

by ALEX SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

FLAT GAP — A domestic dispute between a husband and wife turned deadly in Johnson County Saturday, when the husband was killed by his brother when he tried to break up the fight between the couple.

The fight began shortly before 6 p.m. Saturday at the home of 39-year-old Frank Sowards, on Route 689 in Flat Gap, when he

and his wife, Randi, became involved in a domestic dispute. Randi Sowards left the residence during the dispute and ran next door to the home of 35-year-old William Sowards, Frank's brother.

Frank Sowards followed her over to the house and continued to assault her when William stepped in and attempted to stop the fight between the two. This

(See **MURDER**, page five)



Two children from each public school in the Kentucky State Police Post 9 area were selected to "Shop With A Cop" at the Pikeville Wal-Mart Superstore Monday morning. Each child had a \$100 limit to purchase gifts for Christmas. "It's a great way for us to give back to the community, let the community know we're here to help," said Trooper Scott Hopkins, of KSP.

photo by Alex Smith

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(3) Country Gravy and Biscuits.....1.99 2 Buttermilk Biscuits and Gravy	(1) Hash Browns or Home Fries (2) Orange Juice or Tomato Juice (3) Country Gravy

**Kids!**  
Come in and register for World's Largest Christmas Stocking  
To be given away December 23rd

# House Republicans seek to repeal business tax

by **JOE BIESK**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — House lawmakers are planning to seek a repeal of a 2005 business tax during the upcoming legislative session because it is "killing" smaller companies, members of the 100-member body said Monday.

Joined by other House Republicans, Minority Floor Leader Jeff Hoover, R-Jamestown, said his caucus would focus efforts on eliminating the alternative minimum tax, also known as the "AMC" tax.

"Businesses believe ... that the AMC is killing them, and they want a repeal of that,"

Hoover said. "Small businesses in Kentucky are the backbone of our economy, they create jobs, manufacturing jobs, they provide to this state's economy like no other sector of our commerce and we are committed to trying to provide them some relief."

House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, said he has not been a fan of the AMC tax and wants it repealed.

"You pay whether you make money or not — and to me, that's un-American," Richards said.

The AMC was added as part of the 2005 tax code overhaul proposed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher, which imposed an

"alternative minimum tax" calculation on the gross receipts of businesses. But business owners with low profit margins said their tax bills increased even when they made little or no net profit.

Fletcher called the General Assembly into a special session in June to alter the provision, and lawmakers gave some tax relief to businesses, but Hoover said more is needed.

Fletcher's budget office has been predicting a \$279 million surplus, and has suggested different possibilities that lawmakers could consider — including a tax rebate or depositing some in the state's "rainy day" fund.

Economic Development Secretary Gene Strong said "no one from the business or economic development communities" had mentioned the AMC as a concern since it was dealt with during the special session.

"We have received no calls about it," Strong said in a statement.

Fletcher Chief of Staff Stan Cave noted the governor has made appearances throughout the state seeking input from taxpayers on how to spend the possible surplus.

"Needs like school facility construction, the rainy day fund, underfunded pension liability and even individual taxpayer rebates seem to be

attracting the greatest attention," Cave said. "This is another idea that could be considered as well."

Still, Rep. Bill Farmer, R-Lexington, said he was planning to sponsor legislation that would eliminate the alternative minimum tax altogether on Jan. 1, 2008.

"It's becoming apparent that this regressive tax is not really needed," Farmer said.

Other bills on the matter, sponsored by Republican and Democrat lawmakers, are anticipated during the General Assembly's next session.

By abolishing the tax, state government would lose an estimated \$190 million or more per year, Hoover said. The loss, however, would be offset by economic growth, Hoover said.

"It will be an incentive and it will provide — for small businesses and manufacturers — it will provide additional money for them to create jobs and do the things that this economy relies upon them to

do," Hoover said about the effects of abolishing the AMC.

A similar version sponsored by a House Democrat would retroactively eliminate the tax back to the beginning of the year, Richards said. That bill would likely have a better chance of passage, Richards said.

When the legislature convenes next month, Democrats will hold a 61-39 lead in the House.

The cost of such a move was uncertain, Richards said, but he thought it would cost \$70 million to \$100 million.

Martin Kish, a spokesman for the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, said the state should drop the tax to help lower the cost of doing business in Kentucky.

"It's difficult enough for Kentucky manufacturers to compete against low-labor costs in nations like China, India and Mexico," Kish said. "But then, on top of that, we have to pay the AMC tax even if we lose money."

## Obituaries



### Stella Adams Compton

Stella Adams Compton, 81, of Melvin, died December 10, 2006, at the Pikeville Medical Center.

Born March 8, 1925, in Pike County, she was the daughter of the late Rural Adams and Addie "Lockhart" Adams. She was a homemaker, and a member of Sookeys Creek Freewill Baptist Church.

Survivors include three sons: Larry Randall (Freda) Compton of Bowling Green, George Jr. (Joyce) Compton of San Antonio, Texas, and Roger Dale (Patty) Compton of Wheelwright; three sisters: Dorothy Compton of Lexington, Jeanette Hall of Beckley, West Virginia, and Patty Bogus of Columbus, Ohio; eight grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, December 14, at 11 a.m., at Roberts Funeral Home, Robinson Creek, with Ray Williams, and others, officiating.

Burial will be in the Damron Family Cemetery, Sookeys Creek, Pikeville.

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

### Earl Moore

Earl Moore, age 82, of Glasgow, formerly of McDowell, husband of Anna Roberta McCloud Moore, passed away Sunday, December 10, 2006, at the T. J. Sampson Community Hospital, in Glasgow.

He was born November 29, 1924, in McDowell, the son of the late Miles Moore and Elvinna Williams Moore. He was a retired coal miner and assembly worker, and a member of the Cedar Grove Baptist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Aundra Kay (Robert) Bonney of Battle Creek, Michigan; a brother, Eugene Moore of Mayer, Arizona; three sisters: Alice Lawson of McDowell, Josephine Lambert of Rittman, Ohio, and Norma Jean Lambert of Kingsport, Tennessee; four sisters-in-law: Delores (Walter) Shirko, Mildred Pruett, Alice Osborne, and Cledith Rhodus; a brother-in-law, Jack McCloud; three grandchildren, Lt. Col. Russell Lee (Jennifer) Taylor, John Michael Taylor, and Clayton Earl (Amy) Bonney; three great-grandchildren: Natalie Grace Taylor, Kaitlyn Delaney

Taylor, and Jesse Morgan Livingston; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, in Martin, with clergyman Ted Shannon officiating.

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

Visitation, at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

### Willard Osborne

Willard Osborne, age 59, of Teaberry, died Saturday, December 9, 2006, at Pikeville Medical Center.

Born September 5, 1947, in Beaver, he was the son of the late Victor (Buster) and Mildred Hall Osborne. He was a disabled coal miner.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Blankenship Osborne.

Other survivors include a son and daughter-in-law: Willard (Bud) Jr., and Stephanie Osborne of Teaberry; four brothers: Leonard Osborne of Grethel, Larry Osborne of Beaver, Carson Osborne of Teaberry, and Glenn Dale Osborne of Beaver; five sisters: Priscilla Newsome, Kathy Bentley, and Glenda Newsome, all of Teaberry, Sylvia Martin of Knott County, and Brenda Newsome of Beaver; and a grandson: Nicholas Chase Osborne.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Larry Douglas Osborne.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 12, at 11 a.m., at the Samaria Old Regular Baptist Church in Teaberry, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating.

Burial was in Osborne-Blankenship Cemetery in Teaberry, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.

Visitation was at the church, with nightly services at 6:30 p.m. (Paid obituary)

### Charles Walker Prater

Charles Walker Prater, age 67, of Langley, husband of Sheba Webb Prater, passed away Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington.

He was born February 2, 1939, in Hueysville, the son of the late Temp Prater and Helen

Cooley Prater. He was a retired mechanic. He was a member of Allen First Baptist Church, a past master of John W. Hall Masonic Lodge No. 950, in Martin, a member of El Hasa Shrine, and the Scottish Rite.

Survivors include his wife, Sheba; two daughters: Tamyra Ann Prater (Bryon) Hughes and Pamela Sue Prater (Keith) Frasure, both of Langley; her mother-in-law, Gertrude "Big Mom" Webb of Langley; No. 1 son, Chuckie May of Allen; bonus daughter, Kari (Shawn) Reid of Burlington; two brothers: Gene (Abby) Prater of Prestonsburg, and Darwin (Mary) Prater of Inez; three sisters: Loretta (Don) Frasure of Crown Point, Indiana, and Erma (Dennis) Jackson, and Diane (Jerry) Watts, both of Hueysville; three grandchildren: Brittany Lynn Frasure, Ashton Suzanne Frasure, and Elizabeth Nicole Hughes; bonus grandchildren: Austin Thomas Reid, Alex Graham Reid, Lindsay Marie Webb, and Cory Tyler Conn; and many beloved family members.

Funeral services for Charles Walker Prater were conducted Sunday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m., at the Allen First Baptist Church, with Clergyman Arnold Turner Jr., officiating.

Burial was in the Tom Webb Cemetery in Langley, with the Hall Funeral Home in Martin, caring for those arrangements.

Visitation was after 6:00 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home, and after 1:00 p.m., Sunday, at the church.

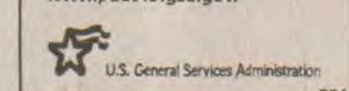
Pallbearers: Steve Little, Steve Webb, Keith Webb, Mike Harris, Mike Pennington, Austin Francis, Travis Francis, Ritchie Fraley, Larry Osborne, Kevin Moore, Shane Dingus, Lance Hall, and Shannon Thornsberry.

(Paid obituary)

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**Card of Thanks**  
The family of Loverna Hall Allen wishes to gratefully acknowledge the thoughtfulness and kindness of friends, relatives, and neighbors, in the loss of our loved one. Thanks to all who sent food, flowers, prayers, or spoke comforting words. We are especially grateful to Buford Little for his comforting words; Francene Wright and singers for the beautiful songs; First Stop Grocery for providing food for our family; for all who served as pallbearers; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and the Hall Funeral Home for their professional and compassionate services.  
THE FAMILY OF LOVERNA HALL ALLEN

**Card of Thanks**  
The family of Curtis Moore would like to extend their appreciation to all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped in any way upon the passing of their loved one. Thanks to all those who sent food, flowers, prayers, or spoke comforting words. We are especially grateful to the Regular Baptist ministers for their comforting words; the Sheriff's Department, for their assistance in traffic control; and the staff of Hall Funeral Home for their unsurpassed services.  
THE FAMILY OF CURTIS MOORE

**Card of Thanks**  
The family of Doris Anne Clark Hyden would like to take this opportunity to thank all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped to comfort our family during this difficult time. We are especially grateful to Clergymen Arnold Turner Jr., and Jerry Workman for their comforting words; the First Baptist Church (Irene Cole Memorial), for all the love and support shown to our family; the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control; and the Hall Funeral Home for their loving care and hand of friendship to our family.  
THE FAMILY OF DORIS ANNE CLARK HYDEN

**Card of Thanks**  
The family of Rev. Abe Vanderpool would like to express our appreciation to Riverview Health Care Center Staff for their loving care of our Dad during his last days. For all who sent flowers; or perhaps said a kind word; to Hall Funeral Home for their excellent care; and to Rev. Bethel Bolen for his comforting words. Also, the pallbearers who honored their grandfather on his last walk.  
THE FAMILY OF REV. ABE VANDERPOOL

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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.*

### Diabetes Support Group

The Floyd County Health Department Diabetes Support Group will meet on December 19, from 11:00 to 12:00. Classes will be held at the Floyd County Health Department and are free of charge. This month topic is "Holiday Eating with Diabetes." For more information, contact Cheryl Younce at 886-2788, ext. 214.

### Winter fun at EKSC

Children, grades 2 thru 6, can have fun this holiday break by attending a series of Science Camps, to be held Dec. 18-22 at the East KY Science Center. Enrollment is on a day-to-day basis with a fee of \$15/day (\$10 for members). Camp will begin at 9:30 a.m. each day and end at 2 p.m. A box lunch will be provided.

Campers may pick and choose which days they would like to attend, or come all week.

Daily activities schedule: Monday - Santa's Workshop (puppets, etc.); Tuesday - Flying Objects (mobiles, paper airplanes, rockets); Wednesday - The Sounds of Music (rain stick, pan flute, etc.); Thursday - Ornaments Galore (crystal snowflakes, yarn Santa, etc.); Friday - Holiday decorations (ginger-

bread house, wreath, etc.) To register, call 889-0303.

### Carl D. Perkins Job Corps

The Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center, in cooperation with the Marine Corps Reserve, will be hosting Toys for Tots 2006 for Johnson County residents on December 21, and Floyd County, on December 22, at the Perkins Gymnasium. Anyone interested in donating a new unopened toy can drop them off at the following locations:

- Floyd County locations: All First Commonwealth Bank locations
- Big Sandy RECC
- Brad Hughes Toyota
- Cash Express
- Dollar Tree
- Honda of Prestonsburg
- East KY Tire
- IGA at Stanville
- Layne's Hardware
- Messer's Department Store
- Save-A-Lot
- WQHY
- Johnson County locations: All Citizens National Bank

- Brown's Ford
- Fashion Bug
- Glenda's Little Nook
- Ramada Inn

All toys collected will be distributed to local children. Anyone in need of receiving toys, for ages infant to 13 years old, needs to contact the Family Resource Center at their local elementary and middle schools.

For more information, contact Marsha Hackworth at 886-1037, ext. 105, or Lisa Moore at ext. 127.

### Live Drive Through Nativity

Christ United Methodist Church, in Allen, will hold a Live Drive Through Nativity on December 16 and 17, from 6 till 9 p.m. "Come, go back to the night when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Experience the wonder of the special night from the comfort of your own car."

### HRMC December Calendar

- Dec. 14, 21, 28 - Kiwanis, Meeting Place A&B, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15 - Highlands Blood Drive, Meeting Place A&B, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Hillbilly Travel Club

Now scheduling trips for the upcoming year to: Myrtle Beach (Golf), March 11-15; Washington, DC, Memorial Day weekend; Niagara Falls, Canada, Labor Day weekend. All trips include roundtrip motorcoach, lodging, selected meals. Others include rounds of golf (with cart), guided tours, entry to area attractions (Maid of Mist boat ride, IMAX theater, and more). Call Ed at 452-4149 for more information.

### ACHS Class of '96

The Allen Central High School Class of 1996 will be holding their 10-year reunion. For more information, call Amanda at 285-9491 or Leslie at 886-8003.

### PHS Class of '97

The Prestonsburg High School Class of 1997 is currently planning their 10 year reunion. The reunion is scheduled to be held on July 14, 2007 at the Best Western, Prestonsburg. Those wishing to attend should please send in all of their personal information including name, address, phone number, occupation, spouse, children, and pets.

All teachers from 1993 to 1997 are also welcome. Classmates may send their information to phs97@bell-

south.net or mail to Mark McKinney, 69 Hospital St., Martin, KY 41640

### Hope in the Mountains

Hope in the Mountains will host public meetings on Mondays, at 9 a.m., at the junction of U.S. 23 and Rt. 80, on Watergap Rd., behind the Trimble Chapel Church.

Meetings focus will be to offer information in regard to community resources available to women seeking freedom from drug abuse. Family members are also welcome to attend. The Hope initiative proposes to help women break free from addictive lifestyles to become self-respecting contributing members of society.

Call 874-2008 or 788-1006 for more information.

### Social Security Rep to be at Mud Creek Clinic

Date: Dec. 26.

The representative will assist in filing claims for Social Security retirement, disability, and survivor's benefits. Those visiting may also apply for SSI, Black Lung, and Social Security numbers.

The representative may also assist in filing appeals and answering questions.

### Prestonsburg Rotary Club

Invites interested profes-

(See CALENDAR, page six)

Early Times \$18.99 1/2-gal. Doral Cigarettes \$19.99 carton  
**J & J Liquors**  
 Betsy Layne • 478-2477  
SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide.

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<b>STRAND 1</b> HELD OVER  <b>DECK THE HALLS</b> MON.-SAT. 7:00, 9:00; SUN. (1:30), 7:00, 9:00	<b>STRAND 2</b> STARTS FRI., 12/15  <b>CHARLOTTE'S WEB</b> MON.-SAT. 7:00, 9:00; SUN. (1:30), 7:00, 9:00
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SUNDAY MATINEE — Open 1:00; start 1:30

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12/15/06 - 12/21/06

<b>Cinema One • PG</b> HELD OVER  <b>UNACCOMPANIED MINORS</b> Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:20; Fri. (4:20), 7:05-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:05-4:20), 7:05-9:20	<b>Cinema Six • PG-13</b> STARTS FRI., 12/15  <b>PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS</b> Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:20; Fri. (4:20), 6:50-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:20), 6:50-9:20
<b>Cinema Two • PG</b> HELD OVER  <b>DECK THE HALLS</b> Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:20; Fri. (4:20), 7:05-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:05-4:20), 7:05-9:20	<b>Cinema Seven • G</b> STARTS FRI., 12/15  <b>CHARLOTTE'S WEB</b> Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:10; Fri. (4:10), 6:50-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:10), 6:50-9:10
<b>Cinema Three • PG</b> HELD OVER  <b>HAPPY FEET</b> Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:20; Fri. (4:20), 6:50-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:20), 6:50-9:20	<b>Cinema Eight • PG</b> STARTS FRI., 12/15  <b>ERAGON</b> Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:30; Fri. (4:30), 7:00-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:30), 7:00-9:30
<b>Cinema Four</b> HELD OVER  <b>THE NATIVITY STORY</b> PG Mon.-Sun. 7:00; Fri. (4:25), 7:00; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:25), 7:00	<b>Cinema Nine • PG-13</b> HELD OVER  <b>THE HOLIDAY</b> Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:25; Fri. (4:00); Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:00), 6:45-9:25
<b>Cinema Five • R</b> HELD OVER  <b>BLOOD DIAMOND</b> Mon.-Sun. 6:40-9:25; Fri. (4:00), 6:40-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (1:20-4:00), 6:40-9:25	<b>Cinema Ten • R</b> HELD OVER  <b>APOCALYPTO</b> Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:25; Fri. (4:00); Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:00), 6:45-9:25

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**\$2,999<sup>00</sup>**

Mitsubishi WD-65731. The picture of the 731 series is further enhanced by an all-new digital signal processing system. Plush1080p™ allows for precise deinterlacing and up-conversion to 1080p. 4D Video Noise Reduction creates smooth yet detailed images. And Tru1080p™ processes the highest resolution HDTV signals in their native format.

- 1080P DLP® Display
- Mitsubishi Exclusive 6-Color Light Engine
- TurboLight150™
- Plush1080p™
- Tru1080p™ Processing
- 4D Video Noise Reduction
- PerfectColor™
- Video Modes: Brilliant / Bright / Natural

**WD-73727**  
 1080p DLP™ HDTV  
 73 Inch Screen

**\$4,999<sup>00</sup>**

The all-new Mitsubishi digital light engine features Dark Detailer™ for deep blacks and rich dark scene detail. Mitsubishi uses a high speed video processor called Plush1080p™ that upconverts 1080i signals to 1080p producing four times the resolution of traditional line doublers. The DeepField™ imager dynamically optimizes brightness and contrast within every scene, while SharpEdge™ provides clean, focused edges between objects and scene backgrounds. The result is a stunning picture.

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- Dark Detailer™
- Plush1080p™
- PerfectColor™
- SharpEdge™ (switchable)
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- High Output 150 Watt Lamp

\*W/approved credit, offer ends Dec. 18, 2006 • See store for details  
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# Viewpoint

Worth Repeating ...

"Speak out in acts; the time for words has passed, and only deeds will suffice."

— John Greenleaf Whittier

Amendment 1

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

## Guest View

### Attitude adjustment needed on math, science

For all the government efforts to turn on more children to college and math and science, reform is useless unless Americans themselves see the value in the topics.

A new survey casts doubt on that commitment. Americans are divided about whether college students need to study more mathematics and science in the new economy, according to the report.

Forty-six percent of Americans say colleges and universities should not require students to take more courses in math and science, while 46 percent said students should be required to do so.

Ignorance is not the issue. Americans realize such classes are considered key to preserving U.S. economic competitiveness.

Eighty-six percent were aware that China and India are working to produce more workers with technical skills. And 70 percent said general math and science skills would be "very important" for all college graduates in the 21st century. Rather, too many Americans see math as just too tough - or they put grades above learning. When asked why students avoid math and science, 44 percent said, "they think it is too difficult," while 10 percent said "they believe it will hurt their grade point average."

Seventeen percent said "they find it uninteresting" and 16 percent said "the subject material is not presented in an engaging way." The survey of 1,000 registered voters nationwide was released by the American Council on Education. The report underscores a troubling concern: Do Americans care about their own competitiveness and that of their children? If parents do not believe their children can excel in math and science, they are hindering their children's success. Teenagers, in particular, need their parents' and teachers' support and confidence. At ages 11 and 12, children from every socioeconomic class overwhelmingly aspire to attend college, and are confident they can succeed in college preparation classes.

By ages 16 and 17, most of those children have lost their confidence. In Michigan, one-fourth of students drop out of high school.

Americans need to put long-term success ahead of short-term comfort and easy achievement. Parents must encourage their children to pursue math and science. Teachers and colleges can help, too, by using more successful teaching methods. Today's struggles with math and science are worth a lifetime of better opportunities.

— The Detroit News



## Letters

### Seeking information on Rowe family

I am hoping this letter reaches the eyes of some old-timers who read this paper. I am doing research on the Rowe family who once upon a time lived in Floyd County before the kind citizens of Floyd saw fit to give some land to Pike County.

I would appreciate any information you may have about this family. I am enclosing my email address to make correspondence easier for you. I appreciate any information you may be able to provide.

Mary Ann Reed  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
mreed14@cinci.rr.com

### Why hasn't murder been solved?

My name Amy Tackett and I am writing you in regards to the murder of my late uncle, George Branham. I am asking Floyd Countians to help

me draw the recognition this crime deserves.

My uncle was murdered in August of 1999. Today, no arrest has been made. A day doesn't pass by that I don't wonder why he was murdered and why no arrest has been made? In some sense I feel that it is partly because of who he was.

To some he was just another man, just another face, and/or just another victim. To many others he was a friend, brother, son, father, and husband. No human on this planet deserved to die in the way that it is suspected that my uncle did.

My mother and grandmother question daily when are we going to know something, when are we going to get closure? Honestly, at this point I don't think that we ever will, but I am making an attempt to seek help from others.

George was not rich, nor political. It saddens me that a life has been taken and because he wasn't popular with the politicians and his pockets weren't lined with gold, it was okay for him to be murdered. My family is pleading for answers, or just closure. Why, Floyd County do you allow a

murderer to roam your streets and not question it?

Yes, I admit my uncle may have had a drug problem, but did he deserve to die? No!

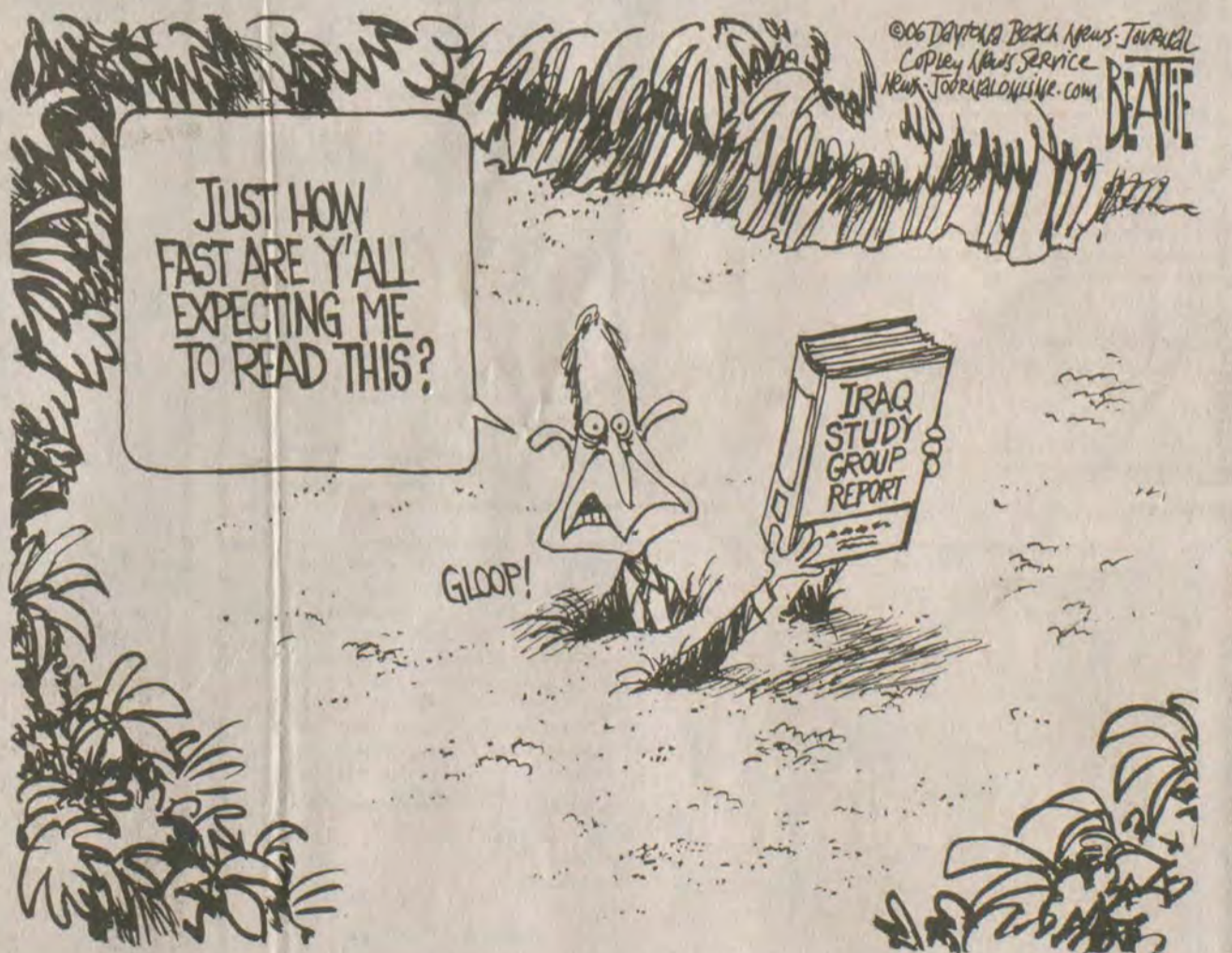
I hope that the person who committed this horrific crime sees his face and hears his voice until they day they die. It's like he has been forgotten and no one cares.

Please don't allow this brutal murderer to walk the streets in our hometowns and justice not be served. Put yourself in my shoes, and help us find the murderer of my loving uncle, George Branham.

Now, if I am stepping on someone's toes, I'm sorry but they shouldn't have been in my way, so to speak.

Please, Floyd County, help me get this crime the recognition it deserves and solve a mystery that haunts my family daily. Please if you have any information on this crime please report it to the authorities, I request the reports be made to the Kentucky State Police or Floyd County Coroner Roger Nelson. Thank you for your time and attention.

Amy Tackett  
Wheelwright



## Letter Guidelines

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

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

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

able. Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

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

## The Times

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## HRMC names new marketing, PR director

PRESTONSBURG — Highlands Regional Medical Center has named James Stanley as its new director of marketing and public relations.

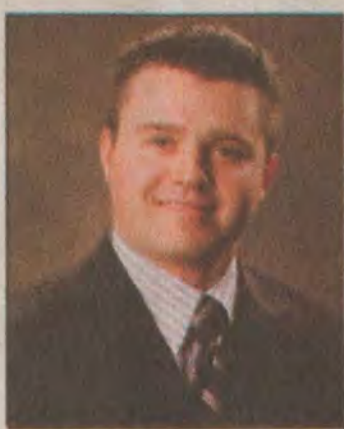
Stanley joins the staff of HRMC from Kentucky River Medical Center in Jackson, where he served as the marketing and public relations director for the past six years. Stanley is a 1993 graduate of Belfry High School and 1998 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in public relations.

Stanley's wife, Rebecca Shepherd Stanley, is a 1998 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and a 2004 graduate of

Eastern Kentucky University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She will be joining the Surgical Staff of Highlands Regional Medical Center in early January.

"I am very proud to be a part of this winning team at Highlands," Stanley said. "This hospital is dedicated to the communities that it serves and I am thankful for this great opportunity to be apart of such a great hospital. Both me and my wife are very happy to be coming back home to work and to raise our daughter, Isabella Grace."

Highlands Regional Medical Center is a 184-bed not-for-profit, community



James Stanley

owned and operated healthcare facility that is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

## Council

Tourism Commission and the city's assets exceeded its liabilities for the 2006 fiscal year, down nearly \$800,000 from the previous year.

Council member Kelly Moore defended the actions of the council over the previous year, saying that the audit proved that the city council had done a good job by keeping the city out of debt. He said many people had criticized the mayor and the council in the past, but the audit showed otherwise.

The firm Stephens & Lawson performed tests of compliance to make sure the city did not make any misstatements about its finances. The firm said the objective of the audit was not to provide an

opinion on these matters, but merely to disclose them, which they found three for the 2006 fiscal year. The report concluded that expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts in some instances, certain funds of the city had a deficit fund balance as of June 30, 2006, and deposits held at local financial institutions were not

fully covered by collateral. Also discussed at the meeting was the indoor baseball practice facility nearing completion at the Stone Crest recreational area. Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin reported that work on the dugouts has yet to begin, but the project as a whole is on target to open on time for next year's season.

Continued from p1

## Bills

State Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, is the primary sponsor of nine bills waiting for lawmakers' return. Among the is a bill in which Lee calls for requiring any state documents to be published in English only, unless otherwise authorized by law. Another would prohibit university or college employees' domestic partners from receiving health benefits.

Two other bills would require Kentucky public schools to use A.D., meaning "the year of the Lord," and B.C., meaning "Before Christ," when referencing historical dates.

Some bills seek to boost the state's minimum wage.

State Rep. Milward Dedman, R-Harrodsburg, wants to make sure that any

state employee who makes less than \$60,000 per year gets an annual 5-percent raise. Those who make more than \$60,000 would get an annual cost of living adjustment, under the bill prefiled by Dedman.

Some have a different beat. One would designate Louisville's orchestra as the state's official orchestra, while another would name bluegrass Kentucky's official music.

For those who don't think they pay enough in taxes, there is always state Rep. David Floyd's proposal. Floyd, R-Bardstow, wants to create a "tax-me-more account" in the state coffers, which would allow people or businesses that think they're undertaxed to pay more.

Rep. Jesse Crenshaw, D-

Lexington, is among the lawmakers floating different versions of a bill aimed at automatically restoring felons' voting rights when they've completed their sentences. Crenshaw's plan would automatically restore all felons' voting rights when they've completed their court obligations.

Another by Sen. Gerald Neal, D-Louisville, would offer voters a constitutional amendment that would reinstate voting rights to felons under a tiered system that hinges on how long they were in prison. Rep. Tom Riner, D-Louisville, has a similar proposed amendment that would reinstate voting rights after someone — excluding violent and/or sex offenders — had not re-offended for three years and completed community service.

"It is going to be an issue and we are hopeful that we can get it through the House and Senate and on the ballot for voters to vote on in 2008," Crenshaw said.

Pre-filing a bill may not ensure it can sidestep all the legislative pitfalls it may meet in the state Capitol. But it does get a bill assigned to a legislative committee the first day of session, Damron said. For a bill to get before the full body, it must first win approval in committee.

"It just gives it kind of a leg up, so to speak," Damron said. "A small advantage, not huge."

Continued from p1

## Murder

led to an altercation between the two brothers, where eventually William Sowards went into his house, grabbed a handgun and returned to the front porch and shot his brother one time in the upper right portion of his chest.

Johnson County Coroner J.R. Frisby pronounced him dead at the scene, sending the body to Frankfort for an autopsy.

William Sowards was

arrested at the scene without incident and has been lodged in the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center on one count of murder. The incident remains under investigation by Detective Mike Goble of Kentucky State Police.

Sowards was arraigned in Johnson District Court Monday morning and had a preliminary hearing in the case set for 9 a.m. Thursday. Sowards remains lodged at the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center after his bond was set at \$1 million.

Continued from p1

## Drive

Continued from p1

years", said Dan Dickson, CKBC Communications Director. "Give blood and you could be our guests to cheer on the Cats in person in Nashville".

As always, donors must present a photo ID, be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good physical health. In addition to donating and registering for the bowl game package, every donor will receive the Blood Center's holiday t-shirt.

Early Times Doral Cigarettes  
\$18.99 1/2-gal. Carton \$19.99 + tax  
**J & J Liquors**  
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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarettes smoke contains carbon monoxide.

Orders from headquarters

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of Prestonsburg • 886-6701

**DAY OR NIGHT**

PS: Gift Certificates (A Great Stacking Stuffer)

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The Care of Infants — Adult

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Phone 606-886-8109  
606-886-9102 for appointment

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 p.m.;  
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## PRESTONSBURG First Baptist Church

Presents

**"One Incredible Moment"**

A Musical Celebrating the Majesty of the Manger

Everyone is invited to a free performance

Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 6:30 p.m.

Doug Smith, Choir Director

Jerry C. Workman, Senior Pastor



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### Beshear, Mongiardo making campaign announcement

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Democrat Steve Beshear, who made an unsuccessful bid for governor 20 years ago, will make an announcement with state Sen. Dan Mongiardo next week concerning next year's governor's race, Beshear said Monday.

He scheduled a news conference for next Monday in Frankfort but declined to describe the announcement.

"If I wasn't seriously interested in running for governor, I wouldn't be holding a press conference next week," Beshear told The Courier-Journal.

Beshear, 62, of Lexington, ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1987 and for U.S. Senate in 1996. He has served as a state representative, attorney general and lieutenant governor.

Other potential contenders for the Democratic nomination include Attorney General Greg Stumbo, House Speaker Jody Richards, former Lt. Gov. Steve Henry, state Treasurer Jonathan Miller, Louisville lawyer Jack Conway and Louisville businessmen Bruce Lundergan and Charlie Owen.

U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, state Auditor Crit Luallen, Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and former Gov. Brereton Jones have all said they would not seek the Democratic nomination.

Republican Billy Harper, a Paducah businessman, has said he will run against Gov. Ernie Fletcher.



**In Loving Memory of**

*Norma Jean Stone Neeley*

February 21, 1938 - December 14, 2005

Thoughts and memories of Norma Jean's life we now treasure in our hearts by remembering her as a wonderful wife, mother, and care-giver, who was also a respected and outstanding school teacher. She was loved and cherished by her family and those who knew her, and as one dear friend commented, "She wore elegance with ease."

Norma Jean reflected her love of the Lord in many ways, and we are especially comforted by the hundreds of hand-written copies of the Lord's Prayer that she left for us. These beautiful manifestations of Norma Jean's faith were found in her desk, in purses, in notebooks, and various other places, and we would like to share one with you:

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Our Father which art in Heaven  
Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom  
Come, Thy will be done on earth  
As it is in Heaven. Give us this  
Day our daily bread and forgive us  
Our trespasses as we forgive those  
Who trespass against us. And lead  
Us not into temptation, but deliver  
Us from evil. For thine is the  
Kingdom, the power, and the glory  
Forever.  
Amen*



### LIHEAP energy assistance ending Dec. 15

The 2006 Subsidy component of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that provides energy assistance to needy families will be ending on Friday, December 15. Any individual or family wanting to file an application should do so before the close of business (4:30 pm) on that date.

The Crisis component of LIHEAP, which provides assistance to households in danger of losing their primary source of heat, will begin January 8, 2006.

If you would like more information, contact the local Big Sandy Area Community Action Program office in your county. The phone numbers are: Pike - 432-2775; Martin - 298-3217; Magoffin - 349-2217; Johnson - 789-6515; Floyd - 886-2929.

### Wildfire

#### Beware & Prepare

Prepare your home, family & community for survival.

- Keep flammable vegetation and leaves at least 30 feet away from your house.
- Keep dry grass and brush cut short.
- Clean roof and gutters of flammable materials and leaves.
- Have an evacuation plan ready.
- Remember backfiring is illegal.

In a wildland fire emergency, call 9-1-1, your local Fire Department, or your local Division of Forestry district office.



# HOMEWORX

Prestonsburg Village, beside Wal-Mart • Phone 886-0896  
 Sale Runs Through Tuesday, December 19th

## Carhartt Workwear

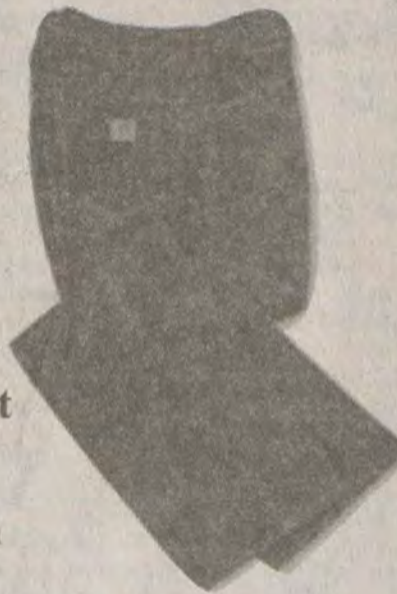
Carhartt B17  
 Relaxed Fit Jeans....\$25.99

Carhartt B160  
 Boot Cut Jean.....\$25.99

Carhartt B18  
 Traditional Fit Jean \$25.99

Carhartt K87 Pocket Tee Shirt  
 \$9.99

Carhartt B13 Carpenter Jean  
 \$29.99



## Diamondback Workwear

Jacket With Hood.....\$39.98

Prewashed Hooded Jacket.....\$39.98

Men's Chore Coat.....\$49.99

Men's Coveralls.....\$59.98

Men's Bib Coveralls.....\$49.98

## Frigidaire Appliances

### Refrigerators

GLH568EEW  
 Side By Side

**\$849.00**

GLRT183TDB 18'

**\$389.00**

### Ranges

FEF352DW.....\$289.00

FEF366EW.....\$419.00

GLEF379DS.....\$529.00



### Washers

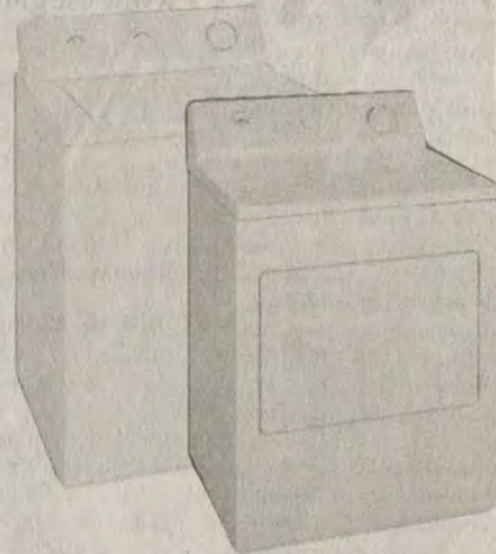
GLWS1339CS \$269.00

GLWS1339CC \$289.00

### Dryers

GLER341AS \$229.00

GLER341CC \$239.00



- Wolverine Work Boots.....10% Off
- Carhartt Work Boots.....10% Off
- Georgia Boots.....10% Off
- HI-TEC Boots.....10% Off
- John Deere 9" Mining Boots.....\$139.97
- John Deere 12" Mining Boots.....\$159.97
- Georgia 12" Mining Boots.....\$179.98
- Iron Age Steel Toe Rubber Boot.....\$69.98
- All SKECHERS Shoes.....30% Off

### Gun Safes

17 Cubic Foot Centurion.....\$549.00

20 Cubic Foot Liberty.....\$649.00

23 Cubic Foot Centurion.....\$799.00

### Case XX

All Knives in Stock.....20% off

### Plumbing

1/2 HP Shallow Well Pump.....\$119.98

1/2 HP Deep Well Pump.....\$149.98

3/4 HP Deep Well Pump.....\$169.98

1/2 HP Submersible Pump.....\$199.98

3/4 HP Submersible Pump.....\$259.98

1 HP Submersible Pump.....\$299.98

40 Gal. Elec. Water Heater.....\$185.00

50 Gal. Elec. Water Heater.....\$195.00

40 Gal. Gas Water Heater.....\$259.00

## Reddy Heaters

40 Thousand BTU  
**\$139.98**

70 Thousand BTU  
**\$189.98**



26 Thousand BTU Infrared Heater.....\$159.98

30 Thousand BTU Infrared Heater.....\$169.98

2000 Watt Wall Heater.....\$149.98

3000 Watt Wall Heater.....\$159.98

4000 Watt Wall Heater.....\$169.98

4800 Watt Wall Heater.....\$179.98

### Kerosene Heater

Reconditioned 23,000 BTU.....\$69.98

28,000 BTU Propane Heater.....\$149.98

# HOMEWORX

HARDWARE • APPLIANCES • WORK GEAR

Calendar

Continued from p3

sionals and businesses to join them for lunch each Thursday, at 12 p.m., in the Student Grille Conference Room, on the BSCTC campus.

Each weekly program is devoted to community service and its application to the Rotary Motto: "Service Above Self."

"Lunch is served at noon and programs begin promptly at 12:40. Contact Mike Vance at 226-2075; David Kraus at 886-3082; or Nancy Johnson at 886-1156 for more info.

UNITE

The UNITE coalition of Floyd County will meet the FIRST Monday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the New Allen Baptist Church. All interested persons welcome to join UNITE's fight against drugs.

"Living Free" - A support group sponsored by the Floyd County UNITE Coalition. Group will meet weekly at the old Allen Baptist Church, on US 23 N., between Allen and Banner, on Tuesdays, at 1:15 p.m.

Living Free is a faith-based 12-step support group open to all who are searching for recovery. There is no fee to attend. For more info., contact Shirley Combs at 874-3388 or 434-8400.

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.

Senior employment program

Are you a senior citizen on a fixed income struggling with soaring medical bills and living expenses? Could you use some extra spending money but don't know how to get back into the workforce?

If you are at least age 55, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) may be able to help. Earn extra money, learn new skills, and help your community at the same time! To find out more, call: 886-2929

External Diploma Program  
Kentucky residents age 25

and older can earn a high school diploma by demonstrating skills learned on the job or in raising a family. Flexible scheduling is provided and confidentiality maintained. Classes are held at the Carl D. Perkins Rehabilitation Center, in Thelma, Mon. thru Fri., with evening classes on Thursday. EDP classes are also held at the Mullins Learning Center, in Pikeville, on Tuesdays, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Andy Jones at 606-788-7080, or 800-443-2187, ext. 186, or Linda Bell, at ext. 160 to make an appointment.

GED classes are also available.

Floyd County Extension Homemaker Club Meetings

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

Dixie: 3rd Thursday, 12:30 p.m., Dixie Community Room.

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

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

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown Learning Center.

Cliff: 3rd Tuesday, 12 p.m., Community Center.

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Extension Office.

South Prestonsburg: 3rd

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Home of members (call 886-2668 for info.)

Left Beaver: 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Osborne Elem. School Library.

Special interest groups:

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Extension Office.

Newbees Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office. (The Newbees do not meet during the months of January and February.)

Looking for a Support Group?

Floyd County Alzheimer's Support Group now meets at Riverview Manor.

Overeater's Anonymous - Meetings held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., at the old Allen Baptist Church, located in Allen, just past red light. Call 889-9620 for more info.

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

Community Weight Loss Support Group - Meets Thursday's at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings

being offered as support to anyone needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

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

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children - Free, confidential assistance for unplanned pregnancy concerns. Talk with someone who cares about you and your baby. Call 1-800-928-5242.

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

A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky) - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care), foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To be held the first Monday of each month, at the Department for Community Based Services office, 1009 North Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, from 6-8 p.m. Childcare will not be provided. For more information, con-

tact Dedra Slone, adoptive parent liaison, at 432-4110 or 422-7927, or email to: doslone@eastky.net.

PARENTS! - Contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. to find out about child care services in your area, the STARS for KIDS NOW licensing standards program, and how you can earn an income by staying home with your own children while caring for the children of others. Find out more by calling Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or 888-872-7227 (toll free).

East Kentucky S.T.A.R.S. Homeschoolers - Will hold month-

ly meetings at the Paintsville Recreation Center. For more information, call Trudy at 889-9333, or 297-5147. Everyone welcome.

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

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# Congress approves bill extending abandoned mine program

by KIMBERLY HEFLING  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — About \$1 billion in relief could be headed to rural Pennsylvania communities to clean up hazardous and polluting abandoned coal mines under legislation that passed the Senate early Saturday.

The measure, part of a larger bill, would reauthorize the national coal mine reclamation program for 15 years at a cost of \$5 billion. The House had approved the legislation on Friday; it now awaits the president's signature.

Passage of the legislation ends a years-long fight that has pitted coal-producing states against each other.

Nationwide, it is estimated that more than 3.6 million people live less than a mile from an abandoned coal mine. The price tag to clean up the worst sites is \$8.5 billion.

Particularly in eastern U.S.

coalfields, the unstable former mine land has been blamed for fatal accidents by hikers and ATV riders — 24 deaths in Pennsylvania were reported last year on abandoned mine land. In addition, toxins from the abandoned mines have left about 4,000 miles of streams and rivers biologically dead in the state. There are also fires inside several former underground mines that have burned for years.

Pennsylvania, which once was king of the coal industry, has an estimated 184,000 acres of land scarred by old coal mines. It is estimated it could take \$5 billion to completely clean them up.

The program was created in 1977 as part of sweeping reforms in surface mining. It was based on a per-ton fee that coal companies paid into a fund established for use to clean up the abandoned mine sites. But much of the money over the years was used to pad

the federal budget. About \$2 billion collected for the fund has not been appropriated for clean-up projects.

In the last decade, Pennsylvania has received about \$250 million to clean up its abandoned mines.

Since the program's creation, much of the nation's mining has shifted from states in the east like Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky to those in the west, like Wyoming.

The western states have not struggled as much with abandoned mine restoration issues because much of the mining has been done with modern mining and reclamation techniques.

Under the current program, half the fees collected go back to the state from which the coal was mined.

The historic coal mining states have complained that Wyoming uses its abandoned mine land fund for public

works. The western states, in turn, have complained of bearing the burden of funding the program.

The bill would lower the fees paid into the program and modify the formula so that historic coal mining states with the more serious problems get a higher stake of the money, while Wyoming would still get a huge chunk. It also would continue to fund health benefits for thousands of retired union miners who worked for coal companies that no longer exist — a key issue for West Virginia lawmakers.

It would make spending for the reclamation program mandatory, which means it would not be controlled through the annual appropriations process.

That's a boon for the coal-producing states, which have long complained that the money is not being used for its intended purpose.

# Plan to close state FSA offices revisited

FRANKFORT — Eight county offices of the U.S. Farm Service Agency in Kentucky have been recommended for closure by the FSA's state office, lawmakers heard today.

Proposed closure of the offices, located in Anderson, Johnson, Rowan, Scott, Fulton, Larue, McCracken and Wolfe counties, is the first phase of a multi-step plan toward restructuring the FSA in Kentucky following the end of federal tobacco price supports, state FSA Director Jeff Hall told the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources last week.

Hall said the national FSA office has yet to act on the recommendation, but is starting to move in that direction.

The eight counties were chosen because they either do not have enough employees, payment activity or the workload to stay open, or because of leasing and other issues. A dwindling workload in many county offices in the post-tobacco program economy has reduced some office workloads by as much as 25 percent, Hall said.

Other office workloads have only been slightly affect-

ed, he said, adding that new statewide FSA figures available next spring will show how great the impact has been.

As far as staffing the offices recommended for closure at a later time goes, Hall's response was not promising.

"There's really no sign that we will be able to hire back staff to operate those offices," he replied.

Hall said public meetings to discuss the recommendation must be held in each of the eight counties before any offices can be closed. Those meetings will likely be scheduled in January or February, he said.

Committee co-chair Rep. Tom McKee, D-Cynthiana, said he is surprised that Anderson and Scott — two strong agricultural counties — are included on the FSA list.

"Anderson and Scott: They're big agricultural counties. It's a little bit of a fooler to think there's not much activity there, but I'm sure you have

the records," said McKee.

Hall said workload and the offices' proximity to each other is what put them among the eight.

The second and third phases of the state office's restructuring plan have not yet been submitted. Other offices may be recommended for closure after

the state FSA office reviews other counties' office data for fiscal year 2006, he said.

A plan to close more than 30 of Kentucky's 90 FSA offices and several hundred FSA offices nationwide was scrapped last fall after an outcry from farmers and members of Congress.

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Members of the Young Democrats Club at Pikeville College recently attended the Kentucky Democratic Party's Jefferson Jackson Dinner at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville. Former President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker for the event. "It was truly an experience to have the opportunity to hear a former president speak that had such an impact on our country," said Curtis Dotson, president of the Young Democrats Club. Dotson said party leaders from across the state also discussed education, health care and the economy. From left are Ryan Stratton, vice president, Ashley Huffman, Adam Lesshafft, Sara Cavins, Dotson, and Jennifer Rose. Not pictured are Derrick Silas, Eugene Sisco and Calvin Sidle.

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**Fletcher won't appear at personnel hearing**

The Associated Press  
FRANKFORT — Gov. Ernie Fletcher is away from Kentucky and won't appear this week at a personnel hearing, where he was subpoenaed as a possible witness in the case of a Transportation Cabinet worker who claims he was fired for political reasons. But while Fletcher won't appear before the state Personnel Board on Wednesday, a letter from his general counsel said his office will cooperate and is ready to "bring this matter to a prompt conclusion."  
General counsel James L. Deckard's letter to lawyers for Mike Duncan doesn't guarantee Fletcher will testify in person.  
Duncan, a Democrat with ties to U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, is appealing his dismissal before the board. He alleged he was fired in May 2005 as the top investigator for the Transportation Cabinet's inspector general as part of the Fletcher administration's plan to replace some workers with political supporters.

Thomas Clay, one of Duncan's lawyers, said the Jefferson County sheriff's office served Fletcher the subpoena Friday while he was in Louisville to give a speech. Clay provided The Courier-Journal with the letter.  
The governor and other constitutional officers may provide testimony through depositions under Kentucky rules that govern civil procedures, including court hearings and administrative proceedings.  
Clay said he wants to question Fletcher about what he knew about Duncan's dismissal and whether the governor knew about a so-called "hit list" of people supposedly targeted for dismissal or demotion by his administration. Duncan's name appears on the list.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR  
**OPEN HOUSE**



**Dr. Kate Shutts**  
Pediatrician

Dr. Kate Shutts has joined Hometown Family Care, the practice of Dr. Chris Bailey and Dr. Jeff Potter. Dr. Shutts is a native of Prestonsburg. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, graduating Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Kentucky; received her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine; and completed her Pediatric Residency at the U.K. Children's Hospital. She will provide quality care for patients from birth to age 18. Her office is located in the Hometown Family Care Office Suite, on the second floor of Highlands Medical Office Building.

**FREE** finger printing for children will be provided by the Kentucky State Police during the open house.



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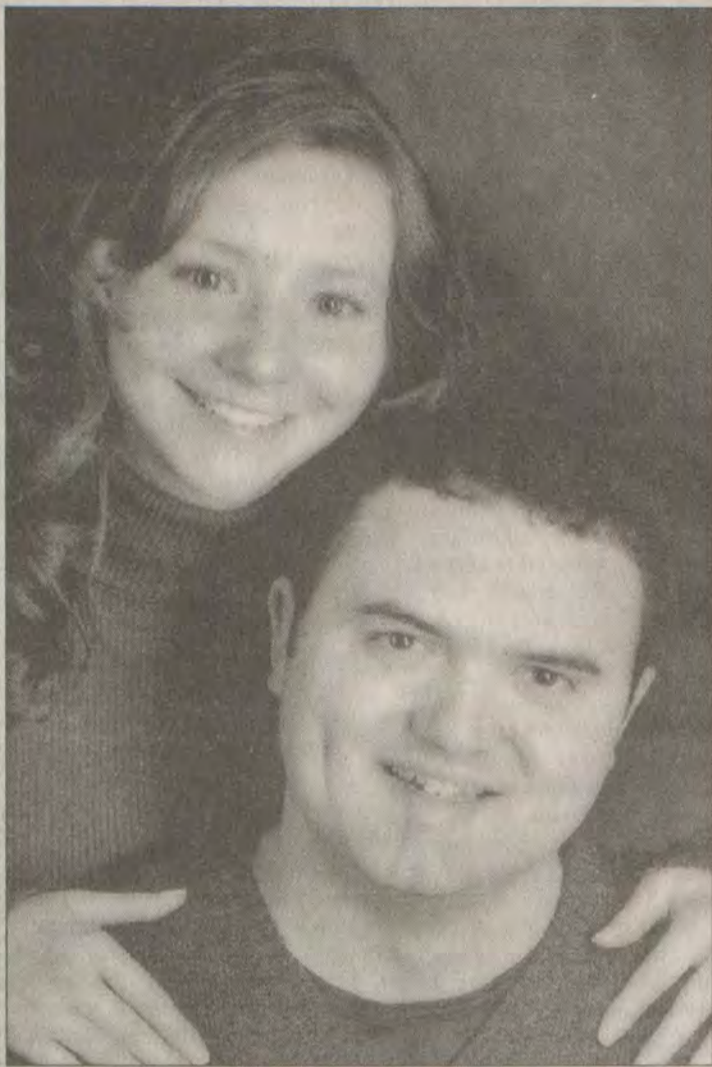








# Wedding



**Casebolt-May**

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Casebolt, of Fords Branch, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Ryan Casebolt, to Jon Thomas May, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. May, of Prestonsburg. Kimberly is a 2000 graduate of Shelby Valley High School. She is currently attending the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. Jon is a 1999 graduate of Prestonsburg High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Mining Engineering. He is currently employed with Coal Mac, Inc., of Holden, West Virginia. The wedding will take place on Saturday, December 30, 2006, at half past two o'clock in the afternoon, at the Fords Branch Church of Christ, located on US 23 South, Pikeville.



**Hall-Blackburn**

James and Lyda Hall, of Prestonsburg, are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Leslie Sue Hall, to Danny Paul Blackburn, the son of Danny Lloyd and Edna Blackburn, also of Prestonsburg. The couple will wed on Saturday, December 16, 2006, at half past the hour of twelve o'clock in the afternoon, at the Cow Creek Freewill Baptist Church. A reception will immediately follow in the church annex. The gracious custom of an open church wedding will be observed.

**Editor's Notice:** The Floyd County Times is happy to announce your engagement, new marriage, new baby, birthday or family reunion free of charge. However, space is limited and we can offer no guarantee of the exact day your announcement will run. Readers may opt to purchase ad space if these conditions are not satisfactory. With the purchase of a paid ad, run date, size, and placement may be guaranteed.

## Family reunion?

Share your family news. If your family is having a reunion, the Times will publish a picture, along with basic information, about the happy gathering. Stop by the Times office, located on 263 South Central Avenue (across from Ray Howard Furniture), or send info, to PO Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or email to: features@floydcountytimes.com.



# Birthdays



**Look who's 6!**

Sarabeth Renea Johnson celebrated her sixth birthday on Thursday, August 31, 2006. She celebrated her special day with a "Bratz" theme party held on Saturday, September 16, at Archer Park Skating Rink. Many family members and friends attended, making the day extra-special. Sarabeth is the daughter of Bryan and Amie Ousley Johnson, of Prestonsburg. She is the granddaughter of Fairon and Sandy Johnson and Johnny and Debbie Ousley, all of Prestonsburg. Her paternal great-grandparents are Fred and Flora Johnson, of Salyersville, Ruth Couch, of Prestonsburg, formerly of Lackey, and the late James Couch. Her maternal great-grandparents are the late Clyde and Sarah Ousley, formerly of Dock, and the late Jesse Pheonis and Naomi VanHorn, formerly of Lancer. Sarabeth attends Prestonsburg Elementary School where she is in Mr. Tackett's first grade homeroom. Sarabeth recently welcomed home a new baby sister, Chloe LeShea, born Friday, July 28, 2006.



**Look who's 3!**

Lesley Hughes, the daughter of Chayla and Randall Hughes, of Harold, turned three years old on December 2, 2006. She celebrated her special day with a "Little Mermaid" theme party held December 10, at Pizza Hut. Lesley has one brother, Christopher. She and Christopher send a big "Hello" and "We love you" to their daddy, who is currently stationed in Iraq.

# Birthdays cont.



**Party invitation**

Brandi Shae Innis will turn nine years old on December 17, 2006. She will celebrate her special day with a birthday blast party to be held on Friday, December 15, from 6-8 p.m., at the Little Mud Community Center. All friends and family members cordially invited to attend.



**Alex is 2!**

Alex Joseph Begley celebrated his second birthday on November 10, 2006 with a "Thomas the Tank Engine" theme party, held at the Wayland Community Center. Alex is the son of Larry Joe and Rhonda Begley. He is the grandson of Donald and Freeda Horne, of Lackey, and Larry and Suzette Begley, of Hazard. Alex received many nice gifts and enjoyed celebrating his special day with family and friends.

## Davis

Emily, Tyler, and Ethan. Brad says his favorite thing about being a vocalist in the Big Sand Singers is "the opportunity to share my God-given talent with a group of some of the best people I have ever met." Outside of the Singers, Brad is a full-time student, is very involved in his church, and enjoys four-wheeling and writing. "Recording the album was a very exciting experience for me," Brad concluded. "It was my first experience in a professional recording studio and the experience of singing along with the great talent that the Big Sandy Singers offers has been very exciting."

## Korner

ious you just wanted to squeeze each and every one of them. They could bring smiles and tears all at the same time. Little Hannah Ratliff's smile could light up the stage. When Spouse and I went to the photo op before the show began, Ms. Hyden instructed the girls for their pose and told them to give those of us with camera's a big smile, and a big smile we got from little Lily Gardner, too. I take it Lily really likes the camera. All the others in this year's production were equally adorably and all performed amazingly as well. Kennedy, although a mere three years old, loves ballet and has her sights set on tap. And whichever she chooses, ballet or tap, or both, if I know Kennedy, we'll be right there to capture every moment. Good job my snuggle bug, Til Next Week.. God Bless

Visit The Floyd County Times on the internet  
www.floydcountytimes.com

# Give the Gift of Chocolate

FAMILY PRACTICE

**W**ith the holidays upon us, you may be feeling pressure to come up with gift ideas that are not only unique, but heartfelt. Nothing says "love" more than the time and energy poured into a homemade treat. With chocolate being the ultimate in indulgence, pamper your friends and family this season with these one-of-a-kind recipes that will transform a beloved holiday staple into the sweetest gift of all.



## Sumptuous Chocolate Cookie Cake

Your host or hostess would surely be delighted if you showed up on his or her doorstep with this rich and decadent treat. A surefire party pleaser!

*Preparation time: 15 minutes*  
*Chilling time: 4 hours*  
*Use: 9- x 3-inch loaf pan*  
*Makes: 10 large slices*

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) plus 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup corn syrup
- 7 ounces Green & Black's Organic 72 percent Bittersweet Baking Bar, broken into pieces
- 1 egg
- 2 ounces graham crackers (about 8)
- 1/2 cup whole walnuts
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1/3 cup candied cherries, reserve a few for decoration

Line loaf pan with waxed paper or alternately butter pan. Set aside.

Melt butter and corn syrup together in small saucepan over gentle heat until they begin to boil.

Melt chocolate in top of double boiler over barely simmering water, then mix thoroughly with butter and corn syrup mixture.

Beat egg slowly and continuously into hot chocolate mixture. In separate bowl, break graham crackers into large chunks.

Add walnuts, raisins and most of cherries to cracker mixture. Pour chocolate mixture into cracker mixture and mix with spatula or wooden spoon.

Press mixture into pan and decorate with reserved cherries. Refrigerate mixture about four hours. To serve, peel off waxed paper and cut into slices or cubes. Serve chilled.



## Tips for Easy Holiday Entertaining

- Plan in advance so that entertaining goes from a huge effort to being effortless.
- Commit only to what you know you can do well in the time frame you have, and set a budget for yourself.
- Ask a few good friends to arrive on time to get the party into full-swing quickly.
- Send guests home with a simple, elegant favor such as a selection of chocolate bars wrapped with a ribbon.



## Chocolate That Gives Back

Green & Black's full range of organic chocolate bars, gift boxes, hot chocolates, cocoa and baking bar are all produced using 100% organic ingredients; the Company also funds a large fair trade project in Belize. This means that Green & Black's pays the Mayan farmers with whom they trade directly a fair and sustainable price for their organic cocoa. This security has helped the farmers to improve the quality of their lives and those of their families and communities. For more information, check out [www.gicandblack's.com](http://www.gicandblack's.com).

## Festive Butter Cookies

These rich, crumbly cookies with their colorful array of chocolate coatings make a yummy party favor. Wrap a few in colored cellophane and decorate with a ribbon.

*Preparation time: 10 minutes*  
*Chilling time: 15 minutes*  
*Cooking time: 15 to 20 minutes*  
*Use: 2 1/2-inch fluted cookie cutter*  
*Makes: 50 cookies*

- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- Large pinch of salt
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 3/4 sticks unsalted butter, chilled and diced
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 ounces each of Green & Black's Organic Milk, White, Maya Gold and 72 percent Bittersweet Baking Bar chocolate, broken into pieces

Preheat oven to 325°F. Butter large baking sheet.

Sift together flour and salt. Add sugar and butter and blend with food processor or by hand until mixture resembles bread crumbs. Add egg and vanilla and blend again until mixture becomes firm dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill at least 15 minutes.

Roll out dough on lightly floured board to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut out cookies using fluted cutter.

Place on baking sheet and bake 15 to 20 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool on wire rack.

Once cookies have cooled, melt chocolate in top of double boiler over barely simmering water. Be careful when melting white chocolate to make sure bowl does not touch the water, as chocolate will seize easily. Pour individual chocolates onto separate small plates and dip one surface of each cookie in chocolate before returning cookie to wire rack to set. Decorate by drizzling chocolate over previously dipped cookies for a colorful contrast.

## Pear and Chocolate Spread

Delicious as a sauce with ice cream or on toast at breakfast, this sophisticated variation on chocolate spread makes a wonderful hostess gift. Tie a colorful ribbon around the jar for a lovely presentation.

*Preparation time: 20 minutes*  
*Chilling time: overnight*  
*Cooking time: 40 minutes to 1 hour*  
*Use: heavy saucepan, two to three 1 1/2-cup canning jars, waxed paper circles*  
*Makes: 1 3/4 pounds*

- 3 pounds Bartlett pears, ripe but firm
- 3 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- Juice of 1 large orange
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 9 ounces Green & Black's Organic 72 percent Bittersweet Baking Bar, chopped

Peel and quarter pears; remove cores. In large heavy saucepan, mix sugar with orange and lemon juices. Add pears and mix together carefully.

Heat gently until mixture begins to simmer. Remove from heat and pour into bowl. Add chocolate and mix until chocolate has melted. Cover bowl and let cool before placing in fridge overnight.

Pour mixture back into heavy saucepan, bring to a boil and let bubble 40 minutes to 1 hour. Mixture is done when small amount dropped onto cold plate becomes thick and gelatinous.

While mixture is bubbling, wash canning jars, lids and seals in warm soapy water, rinsing thoroughly. Sterilize jars by immersing fully in boiling water 10 minutes or by washing them in dishwasher.

Spoon pear and chocolate spread into jars to within 1/2 inch of rim. Cover with circle of waxed paper and secure lid immediately.

