

# The FLOYD COUNTY

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Volume 81, Issue 148 • 75 Cents

## Education association questions rewards

by KATHY J. PRATER  
FEATURES EDITOR

McDOWELL — Education pays, but the Floyd County Education Association says that educational dollars are being misappropriated by the Floyd County Board of Education.

Shayne Wicker, FCEA president, appeared before the members of the

school board Monday evening to inform them that FCEA members are not supportive of the board's recent decision to present monetary awards to district schools that achieve scores of over 100 on CATS assessments.

In November, the board voted to grant \$5,000 each to May Valley Elementary, Duff Elementary and McDowell Elementary, in recognition

of each school's achievement of scoring over 100 on the district's most recent round of CATS assessments.

Saying that the association has no qualms with the concept of rewards, Wicker said that FCEA members feel most strongly that such rewards should remain at a more economically feasible level.

"Our concerns are that 56 employ-

ees were cut from last year's budget," Wicker said. "Some were hired back; some were hired back at locations that require them to travel, with gas at \$3 a gallon ... The FCEA wants to keep the money in salaries, not in office decorations and potted plants."

Of the \$15,000 awarded, in total, to

(See REWARDS, page eight)

### Wildcats reeling

— Page B1

### briefs

### Project to spotlight stream restoration

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — An opportunity for local area residents to participate in a restoration and enhancement project is planned for Thursday Dec. 20, at 10 a.m. at the Middle Creek Battlefield.

The event is being sponsored by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource (KDFWR) and Big Sandy Resource Conservation & Development.

Bill Sampson, who is a coordinator for KDFWR, will be on hand to explain the program. Landowners can be eligible to apply for restoration and enhancement if they meet certain criteria that will be explained during the demonstration.

The group will meet at the main entrance for the Battlefield before taking a walking tour of the site.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE



photo by Jack Latta

Floyd County emergency workers were dispatched to a single-car accident on Route 114 Friday evening.

## One killed, two injured in separate accidents

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

GRETHEL — There were two separate car accidents in Floyd County last Friday evening, with one of them ending in fatality.

According to Kentucky State Police, Brandon R. Newsome, 24, of Grethel, was traveling west on Route 680 Friday night when he apparently lost control of his vehicle while entering a curve and

struck an embankment.

According to the report, Newsome was ejected from his vehicle. The KSP report did not indicate whether or not he had been wearing a seat belt.

Newsome was transported to McDowell ARH, where he was later pronounced dead.

A second accident that took place on Route 114 tied up traffic for hours, as cars had to be rerouted across Fitzpatrick Road.

According to emergency

workers, a vehicle being driven by Tim Stiltner apparently lost control and crashed into an embankment. Emergency workers were forced to cut both Stiltner and his passenger from the vehicle. The two were both airlifted to an area hospital.

No report on the condition of Stiltner or his passenger had been made as of press time.

Both accidents remain under investigation.

## Board member says district losing to better schools

by KATHY J. PRATER  
FEATURES EDITOR

McDOWELL — As the time for the annual overview of the school district's reciprocity agreement rolls around, members of the Floyd County Board of Education expressed concerns at this week's meeting that the district is losing students to schools in other counties because Floyd schools are not performing to the expectations of some parents, or that schools in other districts are offering curricula, such as in the related arts, that some

Floyd school councils have decided to curtail.

Noting that the Floyd students who are studying in other districts seem to be primarily attending schools in "Johnson County, Pikeville Independent, and Paintsville Independent," board vice-chair Carol Stumbo said "it becomes obvious we are losing students to districts that are more successful than we are."

"I have to think parents are taking their kids to other schools for the purpose of

(See SQUAD, page eight)

## Feds release \$274 million for cleanup at abandoned mines

by SAMIRA JAFARI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE — The federal government has released more than \$250 million in funding to clean up abandoned coal mine sites that are posing a threat to the public and the environment.

The \$274 million for fiscal 2008 is twice what was available for the previous year. Officials say there's more money for coal-mining states after a 2006 federal amendment made funding to coal states

mandatory. The increase also includes money owed to states that was unappropriated over the years.

Kentucky, which ranks third in coal production, is getting \$31 million — nearly three times the \$13 million for fiscal year 2007.

State Division of Abandoned Mine Lands Director Steve Hohmann said the money will go toward several proposals, including \$20 million in tentative water line projects in areas that lost water supply due to mine activity.

## Trucking company settles lawsuit over fatal crash

by JACK LATTA  
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The safety of some Eastern Kentucky roads are being questioned following a civil suit involving yet another coal truck accident that resulted in a fatality.

Steve Francis Trucking agreed to pay the estate of Mitchell Duncan an unpublished amount in order to settle a wrongful death lawsuit last

week. Other defendants involved, Appalachian Fuels, Inc. and Ira Nichols, had previously reached settlement agreements with the Duncan estate.

John C. Kirk, attorney for the Duncan estate, was unable to discuss the settlement amount but stated in a letter, "I can only say that, under the tragic circumstances, Francis Trucking, Appalachian Fuels and Ira Nichols did the right and just thing."

According to reports, on

Sept. 26, 2006, Mitchell Duncan, 42, was traveling on Route 292 to work at a Massey mine near Sidney in Pike County, when the vehicle he was driving was smashed into head-on by a coal truck owned by Steve Francis Trucking and being operated by Joe Fields. Duncan was killed instantly as a result of the collision.

Francis Trucking, which is an independent contractor haul-

(See LAWSUIT, page eight)



photo by Joy Baldrige

Twin brothers Christopher and James Allen, 7, of Magoffin County, were among the many visitors who went to Archer Park Friday night to meet Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman. The brothers are the sons of Edward and Edwina Allen.

### 2 DAY FORECAST

#### Today



High: 44 • Low: 29

#### Tomorrow



High: 48 • Low: 36

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

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(3) Country Gravy and Biscuits.....1.99 2 Buttermilk Biscuits and Gravy	

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# KCTCS head criticizes proposed budget

**The Associated Press**  
 LEXINGTON — The Kentucky Community and Technical College System needs more funding to reach state-mandated goals, its president said.  
 The college system will need an infusion of \$32 million in state general fund money every year if it is to reach state-mandated goals by 2020, said Michael B. McCall, president of the Kentucky Community and

Technical College System.  
 The Council on Postsecondary Education recommended \$7.5 million for KCTCS in each year of the 2008-2010 biennium.  
 "The council's recommendation is not enough for us," McCall said Monday during a presentation in Lexington.  
 Brad Cowgill, the council's interim president, said in statement that the proposed budget for higher education "balances the objectives of our separate institutions,

aggressively seeks adequate funding and promotes essential affordability and accountability. Its total amount is reasonable and it fulfills the council's responsibility under the law to make a unified request for the postsecondary system."  
 The general fund recommendation goes to Gov. Steve Beshear; his recommendation will go to the 2008 General Assembly for final action.  
 The council recommended \$39 million for the current

biennium, but KCTCS got \$17.8 million, or 45 percent, of the proposed amount, McCall said.  
 "We've been underfunded for 10 years," McCall said. "The recommendation doesn't address our needs. We need to be rewarded for what we've done."  
 State Sen. Julian Carroll, D-Frankfort, one of four legislators on hand for McCall's presentation, said he agreed that KCTCS is underfunded. "No question about it,"

said Carroll, who was governor from 1975-1979. "What really makes me angry is their per capita funding is more than \$500 less than it was 10 years ago."  
 KCTCS enrolled 86,475,

or almost 42 percent, of Kentucky's 206,419 students in postsecondary institutions in fall 2006, for which the most recent official figures are available.

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# Bill would safeguard parental rights

**The Associated Press**  
 LEXINGTON — A Kentucky task force studying how children can be removed from their families has crafted a bill that would reform the

process.  
 State Rep. Darryl Owens of Louisville is introducing the measure. It would further protect parents' rights in cases where social workers sought to remove children from a home. It would

also address termination of parental rights and adoption of children who have been in foster care.  
 States are working through what children's advocates say are problems caused by the federal

Adoption and Safe Families Act. It expedites the removal of children and gives states incentive money to facilitate adoptions.  
 A similar, though weaker, state proposal failed to become law last legislative session.

**Card of Thanks**

The family of Ellie Venas Shepherd would like to take this opportunity to thank all those friends, relatives, and neighbors, who helped to comfort and were there for our family during this difficult time. Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair, perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say, perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever the part. A special thank-you to Dr. Jeffery Potter with Hometown Family Care, Priscilla Wireman with Magoffin County Home Health, Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Bethel Bolen and Jerry Manns; your kindness and care will never be forgotten.

**THE FAMILY OF ELLIE VENAS SHEPHERD**

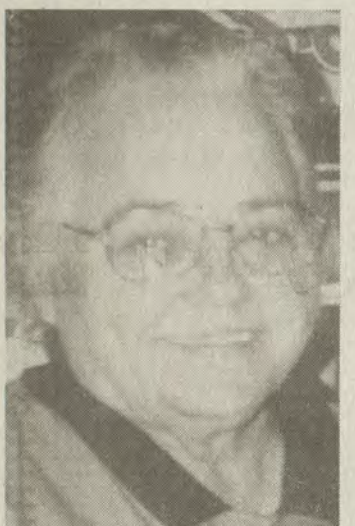
# Obituaries

**Julia Akers**  
 Julia Akers, formerly of Melvin, passed away, Monday, December 17, 2007.  
 She was preceded in death by her husband, Junior Akers.  
 Surviving is a daughter, Flo Frazier of Pennsylvania, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.  
 Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Hall Funeral Home, in Martin.  
 Visitation is after 6 p.m., Wednesday, December 19.

founding member of Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroth.  
 She loved gospel singing, gardening, canning, and sewing.  
 Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Green and Cynthia Gayheart of Howe; a stepson, Dolpha Gayhart of Howe; stepdaughters, Esta Faye Moore of Howe; Hester Sanch, Fannie Troyer, and Forest Jean Slone, all of Arizona; a stepson, Edsall Ray Gayheart of Willard, Ohio; three grandchildren: Nicole Bond of Howe, Joshua Gayheart of LaGrange, and Justin Gayheart of Howe; three great grandchildren: Aspen Bond, Ryker Bond, and Scotland Gayheart; sisters: Lorene Maple of Ashtabula, Ohio; Avelene Gayhart of McDowell, Kentucky; Palistene Mosley of Orlando, Florida; Eunice Jane Collett of West Liberty, Kentucky; Julie Marie Wilson of Pikeville, Kentucky; and Pearlene Iller of Versailles, Kentucky; brothers: Clabe Mosley of Sadierville, Kentucky; Bill Mosley, Linnell Lane Mosley, Carl Butler Mosley, and Ed Junior Mosley, all of McDowell, Kentucky.  
 Along with her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by a brother, Nathaniel Mosley; a sister, Jeweldean Osborne, and stepson, Chester Gayheart.  
 Visitation was also Monday, December 17, after 4:00 p.m., at Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroth, with an evening service at 6:00 p.m. Visitation was also on Tuesday, all day and evening, at the church, with a service at 6:00 p.m.  
 Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, December 19, at 11:00 a.m., at Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroth. Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Willie

Collins.  
 Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange.  
 Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.  
 Send condolences to the family at [www.hitefuneralhome.com](http://www.hitefuneralhome.com) (Paid obituary)

Born March 24, 1983, in Pikeville, he was the son of Walker Robert and Deborah Sue Hall Newsome.  
 Other survivors include his honorary grandparents: Jimmy and Virgie Yates and Uncle Buck; and too many family members and friends to name.  
 He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents: Cecil and Orga Gillespie Newsome; and his maternal grandparents: Tony and Mary Ellen Stoyer Hall.  
 Funeral services were held Monday, December 17, at 11 a.m., at Zion Old Regular Baptist Church, in Grethel, with Old Regular Baptist ministers officiating.  
 Burial was in the Hall Cemetery, in Grethel, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.  
 Visitation was at the church. [www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com](http://www.nelsonfrazierfuneralhome.com) (Paid obituary)



**Helen Jean Gayhart**  
 Helen Jean Gayhart, age 75, of rural Howe, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.  
 She was born in Dony, Kentucky, on January 28, 1932, the daughter of Bailey Mosley and Fannie (Moore) Mosley.  
 She was first married to Green Gayhart on August 23, 1950, in McDowell, Kentucky, and he preceded her death October 5, 1974. She then married Reford Gayhart on November 27, 1974, in Clintwood, Virginia, and he also preceded her in death, on January 28, 2002.  
 She was a homemaker and a

Collins.  
 Burial will be at Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange.  
 Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.  
 Send condolences to the family at [www.hitefuneralhome.com](http://www.hitefuneralhome.com) (Paid obituary)

**Harley Daniel Henson**  
 Harley Daniel Henson, age 1 month, of Ashland, the son of Rosalee Newsome and Jim Henson, passed away Friday, December 14, 2007, at home.  
 He was born at Ashland, on November 16, 2007.  
 In addition to his parents, survivors include his grandmother, Nina Alley of Greenup; a sister, Candice Henson of Idaho Springs, Colorado; brothers: Andrew Jacob Henson of Ashland, Tristen Daniel Henson, Christan Lewis Henson and Travis Dean Henson all of Idaho Springs, Colorado; his aunts, Monica Alley and Amanda Alley both of McDowell, Mary Ann Newsome of Ashland, and Lulia Henson of Hi Hat; his uncles, Danny K. Alley of Pennsylvania, Mathew Alley of Waverly, Ohio, and Justin Alley of Ashland.  
 Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 18, at 1:00 p.m., in the Wheelwright Baptist Center, at Wheelwright, with Charles Wilson officiating.  
 Burial was in the Henson Cemetery at Ligon, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin. (Paid obituary)

**Brandon Robert (Dodie) Newsome**  
 Brandon Robert (Dodie) Newsome, 24, of Grethel, died Friday, December 14, 2007, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital emergency room.

**The Floyd County Animal Shelter**  
**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Regal is a two-year-old female, brought in by the Martin Housing Authority as a stray.**

The Floyd County Animal Shelter is located at Sally Stephens Branch in West Prestonsburg  
 Phone 886-3189

*Happy Holidays*

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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](mailto: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.

### Christ United Methodist Church Drive-thru Nativity December 15 and 16

A live drive through Nativity will be held at Christ United Methodist Church parking lot, December 15-16, from 6-till 9 p.m.

Also, plan to attend December 24, 8 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the church.

### Left Beaver Fire and Rescue

**Annual Santa Claus Run**  
Sunday, December 23, 2007  
12:00 Drift Ball Park  
12:15 Minnie Ball Park  
12:35 Minnie Townhouses  
12:50 McDowell A.R.H.

1:35 Station No. 2, McDowell

2:00 Pilgrim Rest Church  
2:15 Old Price Coal Tipple  
2:30 Little Nancy Church  
2:45 Bottom of South Floyd Hill

3:00 Bud Reynolds Store Merry Christmas.  
From Santa's Helpers at the Fire Station

### Highlands Regional Medical Center

Dec. 27 - Kiwanis, meeting Place B; 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information con-

cerning these support groups, contact Highlands Educational Services Department at 886-7424.

### Democratic Woman's Club meets at Floyd Co. Library

The Floyd County Democratic Woman's Club meets regularly on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., at the Floyd County Library.

### 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.

### Prestonsburg Rotary Club

Prestonsburg Rotary Club meets, 12 noon to 1 p.m., at Made From Scratch Restaurant, 1566 North Lake Drive. For additional information, contact Chris Daniel, 886-7354, or Tommie Layne, 886-2321, ext. 1297.

### UNITE

The UNITE coalition of Floyd County will meet on the SECOND Monday of each month, at 5:30 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.

### '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 meets regularly at Riverview Manor Healthcare Center. Call the center for meeting times.

\*Domestic Violence Support Group - The Big Sandy Family Abuse Center holds meetings each Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The meetings are free of charge. Call Jessica Slone at 886-6025 for more information.

\*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."

\*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

(See CALENDAR, page six)

**STRAND TWIN**  
Absher Enterprises  
PRESTONSBURG, KENTUCKY  
606-886-2696  
<http://showtimes.hollywood.com>  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24  
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25  
12/21/07 - 12/27/07  
Cinema 1—Held Over  
I AM LEGEND (PG-13), Mon.-Sat. 7:00-9:00; Sun. (1:30) 7:00-9:00.  
Cinema 2—Starts Fri., Dec. 21  
NATIONAL TREASURE (PG-13), Mon.-Sat. 7:00-9:15; Sun. (1:30) 7:00-9:15.  
Sunday Matinee—Open 1:00; start 1:30

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12/21/07 - 12/27/07  
Cinema 1—Last Show Dec. 23  
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13), Mon.-Sun., 6:45-9:30.  
Cinema 1—Last Show Dec. 23  
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13), Fri. (4:20); Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:20).  
Cinema 2—Starts Fri., Dec. 21  
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:25; Fri. (4:25) 7:00-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:25) 7:00-9:25.  
Cinema 3—Starts Fri., Dec. 21  
WALK HARD (R), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:15; Fri. (4:15) 7:00-9:15; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:15) 7:00-9:15.  
Cinema 4—Starts Fri., Dec. 21  
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R), Mon.-Sun. 7:05-9:30; Fri. (4:25) 7:05-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (2:05-4:30) 7:05-9:30.  
Cinema 5—Last Show Dec. 23  
AWAKE (PG13), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:20.  
Cinema 5—Last Show Dec. 23  
FRED CLAUSS (PG), Fri. (4:25); Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:25).  
Cinema 6—Starts Fri., Dec. 21  
P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13), Mon.-Sun. 6:50-9:30; Fri. (4:30) 6:50-9:30; Sat.-Sun. (1:50-4:30) 6:50-9:30.  
Cinema 7—Held Over  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG), Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:20; Fri. (4:20) 7:00-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:20) 7:00-9:20.  
Cinema 8—Starts Fri., Dec. 21  
NATIONAL TRESURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG13), Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:15; Fri. (4:15) 6:45-9:15; Sat.-Sun. (1:45-4:15) 6:45-9:15.  
Cinema 9—Held Over  
I AM LEGEND (PG13), Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:25; Fri. (4:25) 6:45-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (1:45-4:25) 6:45-9:25.  
Cinema 10—Held Over  
ENCHANTED (PG), Mon.-Sun. 7:10-9:20; Fri. (4:20) 7:10-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:10-4:20) 7:10-9:20.  
Opening Dec. 25  
THE WATER HORSE (PG) and ALIEN vs PREDATOR (R)  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24  
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25

**COMMONWEALTH CHIROPRACTIC CENTER**  
**DR. CHIP SALYERS**

To our patients and friends:

Each year during the holiday season, we take great pleasure in setting aside our regular work and sending a heartfelt message to all our best friends and patients.

How blessed we are that this time has come again to extend to you our sincere gratitude, because it is good friends and patients like you, who make our practice possible.

May your holiday be filled with joy, and the coming year be overflowing with all the good things in life.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  
**Dr. Chip Salyers and Staff**

We invite you to join us in celebrating our fifth annual patient appreciation week and food drive, December 17th, through December 21st.

- Patient Appreciation Gifts
- Grand Door Prize

Please bring a canned item that will be donated to a local pantry.

**COME AND JOIN US!**

Ring in the New Year  
with the  
**Heritage House Hotels**  
**Prestonsburg Inn!**

Join us in our famous Preston Station Lounge on Monday, December 31, 2007, from 7:00 p.m., until 2:00 a.m. for the celebration bash of the year, and help us ring in 2008!

Come prepared to enjoy drinks, DJ Neil Wicker and dancing in Preston Station Lounge! Or, if that is not your forte, join Dwayne and Andrea for Karaoke in the Elkhorn Center!

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\*\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRINK RESPONSIBLY\*\*\*

# 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

### Too hot in this kitchen

The temptation will be to lament that the Bali climate conference produced only an agreement to talk some more for two years about climate change and the dire threat that poses to Earth and humankind.

Though there were genuine breakthroughs, we should succumb to the temptation.

We share much of the world's preference for an agreement that would have set clear targets for emissions reductions now, with the United States not acting as obstructionist.

The conference did, however, bring the U.S. into the fold after years of Luddite-like self-isolation on the issue. The U.S. did agree to be an active partner in developing a new international climate treaty by 2009. And it also agreed last weekend that developing nations should be compensated for pushing their own emission cuts.

This is the right thing to do for the U.S., the nations that make up the European Union and Russia, in particular. That's because they've been the major contributors of the gases warming the globe over the past decades. This is not about blame; it's about responsibility.

Yes, China is on track to overtake the U.S. as the major contributor, and India is coming up quick. The theory behind the help they'd get is that asking them to cut their emissions while playing catch-up economically - without compensation - essentially acts as disincentive for either to ever make those sacrifices. But if the U.S. should step up because it has been a major polluter, China in particular cannot ask the world to suffer while it becomes a bigger one. We're way beyond that. China must get serious about the environment.

The other developing nations got an agreement for technology transfers and help in dealing with climate change's effect. There was notably an agreement to address deforestation as well.

The Bali agreement calls for "measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions" for developed nations yet, at U.S. insistence, doesn't set specific international goals or targets.

This occurred as one delegate, capturing the mood of most of the rest of the world - including the European Union - told the U.S. to essentially get out of the way. The problem: As a major contributor to the problem, it cannot and should not.

The Bush administration lately has changed its tune on this, but that's after years of foot-dragging. Congress has stepped up with an energy bill that sets higher mileage standards for cars, but it, too, punted on renewable energy and on ending the giveaways to the energy industry.

The silver lining is that the U.S. is now working with other countries on an international treaty. The Bush administration must participate in all seriousness. It must not simply leave the heavy lifting for the next president.

— The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



2007 COPLEY NEWS SERVICE GARY MARKSTEIN

## Letters

### Stream Saver Bill would protect water supply

Thank you for your coverage of the Kentucky House Appropriations and Revenue Committee's visit to the mountaintop removal site in Perry County.

The representatives wanted to learn firsthand about the burial of streams in strip mine wastes, a destructive but routine practice which would be halted by their passage of the Stream Saver Bill. It took tremendous political courage for those representatives to come see the damage for themselves and they should be applauded.

I was amused by the comments of Kentucky Coal Association President Bill Caylor, who somehow never accounts for the 421 miles of Kentucky streams already buried, or the displaced communities, damaged homes or degraded water caused by his industry.

Not to worry, Caylor says, because mountaintop removal creates flat land for development. Of course, he fails to mention that less than 2 percent of the land leveled by strip mining ever gets used for any commercial purpose.

While he proudly points to new development around Hazard, he conveniently forgets about the hundreds of other mine sites in Eastern

Kentucky, like the one at the head of my hollow in Floyd County. You won't find a hospital or airport, not a single fast food restaurant at the head of Wilson Creek, just a blasted dusty wasteland that stretches nearly a mile in every direction.

This was the handiwork of Branham and Baker, a company which enjoyed financial solvency while there was coal to be mined, but declared bankruptcy when it was time to clean up their mess, an all too common practice. Twenty years later, there is nothing growing but worthless cottonwoods, scrubby cedar and grass which is somehow brown all year round.

This sorry site isn't unique. Over 20,600 acres of Floyd County have already been strip mined and new mines are opening with frightening speed. Who could be surprised to learn that the Big Sandy is the most polluted river in the state, or that we are plagued by flooding? Not even Bill Caylor.

Economic development requires much more than land. It also takes abundant clean water, stable, safe communities and good schools. Passing the Stream Saver Bill won't get us all those things, but it will go a long way toward protecting our state's water supply, and that would be a darn good start.

Beverly May Langley

### Hospital care was outstanding

I would like to sincerely thank Central Baptist Hospital for the excellent care and attention I received last week during my unexpected stay before, during and after my emergency surgery.

Not only was I treated with the utmost care, but my wife was given very special and considerate attention also. Both meant so much to me.

It gave me great comfort to see such compassionate people in all the different fields of expertise giving it their all. Actually, it is, my opinion that these employees were godsends. They were not just doing a "job"; they put their hearts and souls into everything they did for us. And for that, my wife and I will forever be grateful.

In addition, I would like to personally thank each employee, individually, that went above and beyond the call of duty for us — Rita Shepherd, Davonna Hobbs, Teresa Roberts, Annette Combs, Mary Beth Clark, Rosemary Hisel, Melissa Adkins, Phyllis Newby, Shirley Kertn, Linda McDonald and Emily Leach.

Lastly, I want to thank the administration and staff at Central Baptist for having these outstanding employees on staff. They are such a huge asset and will never be forgotten. Everyone and everything was greatly appreciated.

Kenneth E. Webb Harold

## 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.

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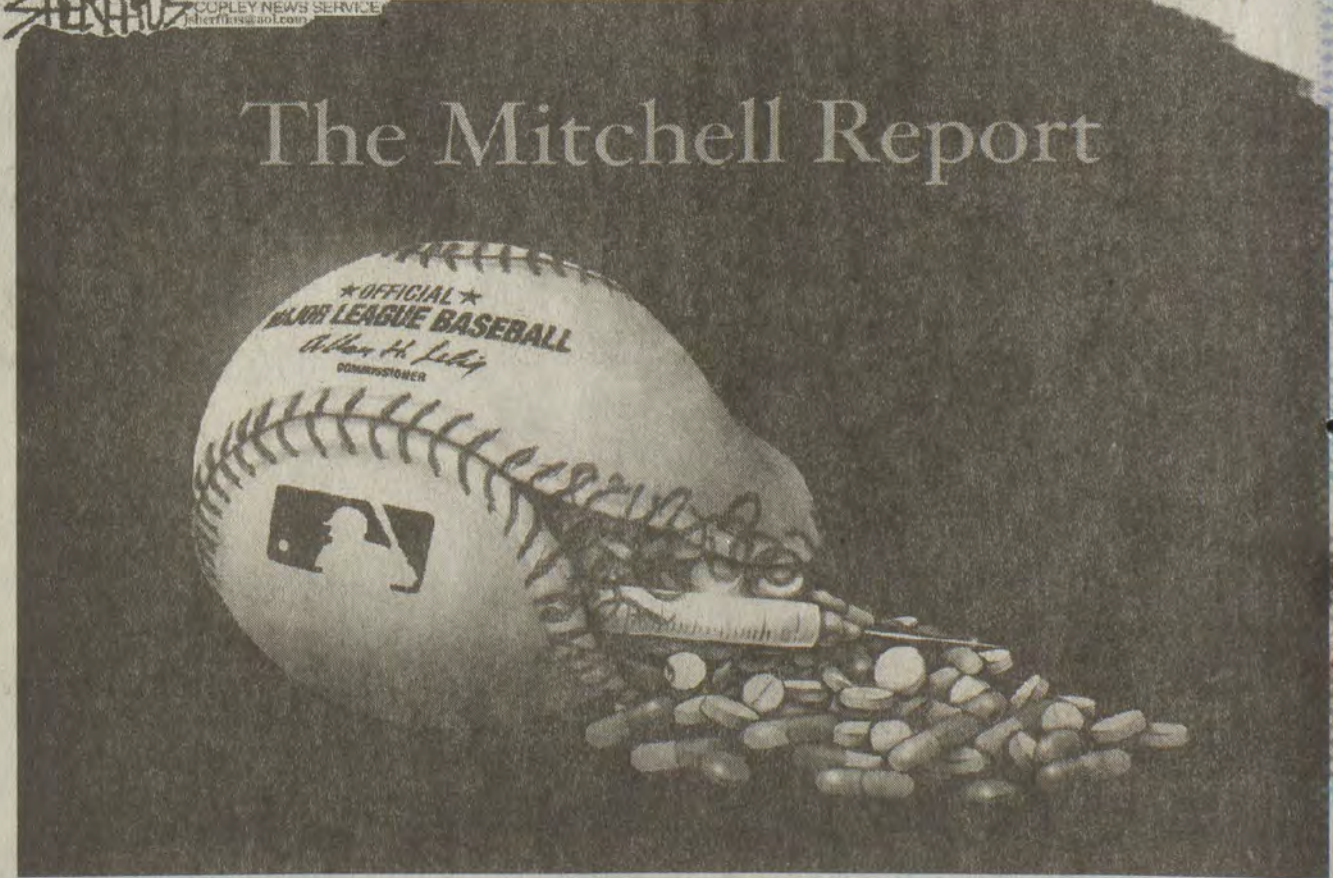
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# Despite late pardons, Fletcher's legacy still patronage scandal

by ROGER ALFORD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Former Gov. Ernie Fletcher angered prosecutors and crime victims with the scores of pardons he handed out before leaving office last week, but some political observers say the move will have no lasting impact on how he is remembered.

A patronage scandal, which overshadowed most of the Republican governor's time in office, will remain in the forefront of people's minds, said Kendra Stewart, a political scientist at Eastern Kentucky University, home to the Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

"Probably, in the long term, that's all people are going to remember," Stewart said.

Fletcher won the 2003 election on the promise that he

would clean up state government. Instead, he ended up indicted on charges that he violated Kentucky law by improperly rewarding Republicans with protected state jobs at the expense of Democrats.

That, Stewart said, sealed his legacy.

The Rev. John Rausch, a Catholic priest from Stanton, said Fletcher was undoubtedly wounded by the scandal.

"Pardoning people at the very end of his term can redeem some of that," he said. "We welcome any kind of compassion in a world that has grown so cold and indifferent. That has got to help thaw icy feelings" toward him.

Fletcher pardoned or commuted the sentences of several convicted killers, including one, Jeffrey Devan Leonard, who was on Death Row. Leonard, a brain-damaged Louisville man had been slated

for execution for killing a store owner.

The former governor reduced Leonard's death sentence to life without the possibility of parole, citing concerns that the inmate's attorney may have been ineffective.

Fletcher also pardoned nine women, most of whom were convicted of killing abusive husbands.

Anna Pruitt, founder of Kentuckians' Voice for Crime Victims in Louisville, argued that Fletcher should not have reversed the decisions of judges and jurors who had weighed the evidence in each of the cases, and convicted all of the people.

The pardons weren't Fletcher's first. More than two years ago, he granted pardons to several members of his own administration. More than a dozen administration officials or associates were indicted as

the result of a special grand jury's investigation into improper hiring practices.

Witnesses who appeared before the grand jury claimed to have been passed over for promotions, transferred, demoted or fired for blatant political reasons.

A judge ruled Fletcher could not be tried in office, and prosecutors ultimately dropped the misdemeanor charges in a deal. The Governor acknowledged the evidence "strongly indicates wrongdoing" by his administration and that the actions were inappropriate.

In all, Fletcher granted more than 100 pardons. Most who received them had been convicted of a variety of offenses ranging from murder to assault, drug trafficking to burglary.

Stewart said she doesn't think the pardons improved Fletcher's image. "It just adds to the whole perception of politics as usual," she said.

Fletcher told The Associated Press in an interview last month that he hopes people will one day be able to see beyond the hiring scandal.

"No one ever knows what your legacy is going to be because you don't know what is going to evolve in history," he said.

University of Louisville political scientist Laurie Rhodebeck said nearly every governor and president issues pardons, making it unlikely that Fletcher's actions last week will be long remembered. Just this week, for example, President Bush granted pardons to 29 people, including carjackers, drug dealers, a moonshiner and a violator of election laws.

But Fletcher's hiring scan-

dal, Rhodebeck said, is an altogether different story.

"He got caught up in the merit hiring scandal so early in his administration that I don't think he ever recovered from that," she said.

Republican strategist Brett Hall, a former Fletcher adviser, said he expects history to

be kind to the former governor, especially for reforming Medicaid to head off a looming financial crisis in the program that provides health benefits to the poor.

"He'll be recognized for that, eventually," Hall said. "Unfortunately, it's going to be several years."

# U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers still pushing forward on I-66 plan

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Years after the idea for a coast-to-coast interstate that would run through southern Kentucky was introduced, the first mile of Interstate 66 has yet to be paved.

Yet U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers has continued to bring millions of dollars into the state to fund a project that may never come to fruition, the Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on Sunday.

Rogers, a Republican representing Kentucky's 5th Congressional District, has appropriated nearly \$90 million for the project even though most of the other states that would be impacted by the project have nearly given up

on it, deeming it too expensive.

"We try not to build roads that don't lead anywhere," said Brent Walker of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, which has never seriously pursued I-66.

Rogers, who has spent more than two decades in Congress representing the southeastern part of the state, says critics are showing bias against the state's poorest and most remote region.

"I didn't hear these arguments when we were talking about building I-75 through the Bluegrass, the charming, beautiful part of our state," he said. "... But when we start building ... a highway through the most impoverished part of the state ... we hear all of this

noise about 'Oh, it's not needed.'"

The state has only begun planning two short segments of the road, one in Pike County in the eastern part of the state and another in Laurel and Pulaski counties. The estimated cost of these sections is at least \$3.5 billion.

Three years ago the group Friends of the Earth and Taxpayers for Common Sense designated I-66 as the fifth most wasteful and environmentally destructive highway project in the country. The group put out a report titled "Road to Ruin," that called predictions of the interstate being a boon to the local economy were based on "flawed

(See ROGERS, page eight)

*Merry Christmas*  
**Anthony Paul Osborne**  
Feb. 19, 1987 - Nov. 10, 2006

Merry Christmas to our son, Anthony, who lives in Heaven above. To let you know we're thinking of you, and sending you our love.

We still miss you so much, more than words could ever say. You'll always be a part of us, with memories forever to stay.

The sights you now see, I'm sure none can compare. With gates of pearl and jasper walls made of jewels, so fine and rare.

Thinking back on Christmas past, how happy you would be. Presents, lights, "Silent Night," and "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree."

It's funny now as I think about how the presents, they got tore. You blamed it on that old cat, but it was only presents of yours.

I'm sure you're getting ready for a birthday party to attend. Having yourself a glorious time, with family, neighbors and friends.


We think about you every day, as we ponder on your life. Knowing now you're in a better place, without the stress and strife.

We know God had a purpose, and we know He had a plan. We just have to trust Him, until we reach that land.

So, here's what we want for Christmas, and we'll try to keep this brief,  
Some comfort, peace and strength, to help us bear this grief.

On this holy day, we hope you remember this, as long as Mom and Dad are alive, you are loved and missed.

**We love and miss you, always,  
Mom, Dad, and All the Family**



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**'06 Chevy 2500 HD:**  
*LT, Leather, Crew Cab, Low Miles, 6.0 Auto., Ready To Work!*



**'07 Jeep Grand Cherokee:**  
*Alloys, CD, Keyless Entry, Factory Warranty!*



**'07 Ford F-250 4x4:**  
*Power Stroke Diesel, Leather, Sharp!*



**'07 HHR:**  
*AC, Leather, Sunroof, 100,000 Miles, Fact. Warranty!*



**'07 Volvo S-40:**  
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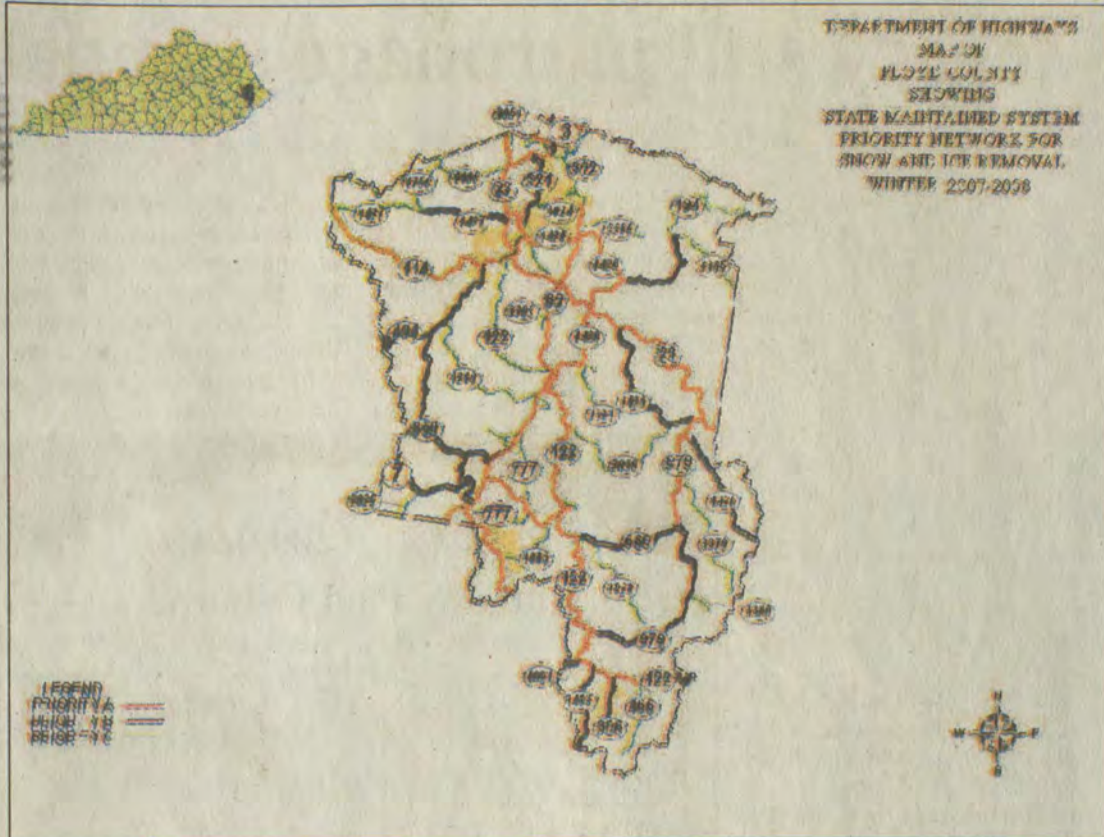


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**'00 Chevy Camaro Z28:** Auto., T-Tops, V8, Local Trade, Loaded!



## State agency questioning former treasurer's personnel decisions

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Two of former Treasurer Jonathan Miller's personnel decisions have been referred to the agency that oversees state employees for review.

Former Personnel Cabinet Secretary Brian Crall, who left the agency when Gov. Ernie Fletcher's term expired, referred the matters to the Personnel Board. Crall has questioned the hiring of employee Michael Bates, a Republican, to a protected state job, as well as raises given to one of Miller's top aides, Rebecca Brooke Parker. "Upon review of Ms.

Parker's file, there was no written justification for this salary increase," Crall wrote in a letter to the Personnel Board dated Dec. 10. "A thorough investigation of Ms. Parker's job duties and her employment through her tenure at the treasurer's office is justified."

Miller recently joined Gov. Steve Beshear's cabinet as the finance and administration secretary. Beshear ran on a platform that stressed state government ethics reform and has said all top-level officials would be taking ethics training.

Miller, as a candidate for governor in the May Democratic primary, touted

his commitment to government ethics reform as one of his top priorities. Miller dropped out of the race shortly before the primary and supported Beshear's candidacy.

Crall claimed the appointment of Bates, a Republican, was an example of improper "preselection. Crall also questioned two pay raises that Parker received in 2004.

Rob Jones, of the state attorney general's office who has represented the state treasurer, said Bates' hiring was "not a political hire."

Parker was hired in 2000 as a secretary in Miller's office.

(See **TREASURER**, page seven)

## State workers have 2,101 years' experience clearing a path through snow and ice

PIKEVILLE — District 12 Snowfighters have a total of 2,101.4 years of experience among them. This is an average of 10.6 years per person based on a minimum of 198 people who typically work all weather events. The 10 maintenance crews of Highway District 12 are spread out over seven counties: Letcher, Pike, Floyd, Martin, Knott, Johnson, and Lawrence.

"Most of these people have worked the same routes for years," said Darold Slone, Operations Branch Manager. "For example, Ronnie Thompson in Lawrence County has taken care of Route 201 and Route 32 for 10 years. Before that he worked U.S. 23. He's worked for the state for almost 30 years and is one of the people who trains new heavy equipment operators."

Thompson says that he knows his roads "like the back of my hand." This means he can clear the pavement faster and safer. "Like in the mornings when people are getting ready to go to work, I try to make sure that everything is cleared enough so it's safe for them to get out. Of course, it depends on when the snow starts falling and whether or not there's ice on the roads, but most of the time the folks who live on my routes can get out and back in with no problem."

Thompson said people need to remember that the snow plow operators use a priority system. "The roads are divided into A, B, and C routes. That's according to how much traffic is on them every day. Route

201 and Route 32 are my A routes. I also do 1760 and 581, and fill in wherever else they need me. At one time or another, over 30 years, I've probably run every state road in the county."

Each snowplow operator must have a valid CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and must submit to random drug testing. In addition, there is mandatory annual Snow and Ice Training. "The training includes everything from how to take care of your truck to how much rock salt should be combined with liquid calcium chloride to get the right mix to melt the snow and ice," Slone said. "No operator can drive a snow plow until he or she successfully completes the training. We do not put anyone on the road who doesn't know what to do in all situations. That would not be safe for the public or for the operator."

As a result of their training and years of experience, the Snowfighters at Highway District 12 are specialists — experts — at what they do.

Linda Ratliff, a physical therapist for Pikeville Medical Center's Home Health program, travels the northeastern section of Pike County. She enthusiastically attests to the skills of the crews from the Canada and Shelby maintenance facilities. "I drive these roads no matter what the weather," she said. "I have been out in blinding snow, black ice, and zero visibility. But no matter where I was going — Freeburn, McCarr, Stopover — wherever — the roads were clear and safe, sometimes almost dry. I cannot thank Tim Carter, the superintendent, and his men enough. The work I do affects people's everyday lives. If I couldn't

get there safely, their health would be compromised. When I start out from my home in Pikeville, I am confident that I can get there and back with no problem because I know the state workers have been there before me. They do an amazing job every time."

Drivers communicate with their garage through two-way radios. The garages report to District 12's central office in Pikeville, by radio, telephone, and email. The District Office reports conditions to Frankfort via email and telephone.

Sara George, the district's Information Officer, keeps the media updated through email and phone calls. "Sometimes at five o'clock in the morning, there's no one to answer the phone at a radio station," she said. "But more often than not, I can find someone who can get the word out to their audience so that people know what road conditions they're facing if they absolutely have to get out."

George said that the communications system has two priorities: to make sure the drivers have contact in case they run into problems or need a mechanic dispatched to their location and to keep the public informed through updates to the media.

"We all are committed to keeping the roads safe. Everyone works 16-hour alternating shifts and we stay on the job until the weather event is over, whether it's flooding, snow, ice, or some other unusual weather situation."

### Calendar

Continued from p3

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

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

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happy holidays

## FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

### COOLEY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



# MSU SBDC assists Simple Changes with opening

PAINTSVILLE — With the help of Morehead State University's Small Business Development Center in Paintsville and the Community Trust Bank in Prestonsburg, Violet H. (Beth) Rowe's business, Simple Changes LLC, opened in November.

Rowe relied on information and experience she gained from SBDC to provide her direction to begin operation of her new business.

According to Rowe, it was evident that a large percentage of consumers from Eastern Kentucky feel that they must travel to the metropolitan cities to purchase quality bed-

ding, bath and line furnishing products for their homes. Her vision is to provide the same quality products and services to the consumer with a cost savings they will receive in not having to travel as far.

In a letter to the SBDC office, she said, "I had a vision and Phil Greene, general man-

ager of the Paintsville office, had the business expertise to make my dream of being a business owner a reality.

"Starting a business takes a lot of courage and determination and can be overwhelming and intimidating at times. That is why it is so important to have the Small Business Development Center as a resource. The assistance I received gave me a good foundation to build my sales on."

Additional information on SBDC is available by calling Sabrina Jude at (606) 788-6022.

**Speak Up**  
Speak Up about abuse.  
Speak Up about violence.  
Speak Up and be heard.



Contest winner Emily Keene, with her winning slogan and logo.

## Fourth-grader wins slogan, logo contests

The Victims Services Program of Mountain Comprehensive Care Center held their Awards Ceremony for the Violence Prevention Slogan and Logo Contests on Tuesday, Dec. 11.

"The contests, designed to find a fitting logo and slogan for the prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, were very successful and many really good applications were submitted by participants from all over the Big Sandy Region," said Patricia VanHoose, outreach education coordinator.

"People of all ages were encouraged to enter."

The contest was made possible through a Community Partnership for the Protection of Children Grant from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, awarded locally through Families First.

Victim Services Program Director Margaret Banks awarded Emily Keene, age 10, winner of both the slogan and logo contests, with two checks totaling \$500. Immediately following the award presentation, Emily addressed the crowd with a motivational

speech in which she encouraged everyone to "Speak Up!"

Emily, from Delfry, is a fourth grader at Bevins Elementary. She is the daughter of Madeline and David Cox and Christopher Keene.

The slogan and logo will be posted on billboards throughout the Big Sandy Region.

The program has many promotional items available upon request to anyone in the Big Sandy Region wishing to help distribute. These items are available while supplies last by calling 606-896-4397.

## Treasurer

and was paid about \$21,000. In 2007, as deputy treasurer, she was paid nearly \$79,000 — an increase of about 380 percent in seven years.

Miller said three other employees, who no longer work in state government, received similar pay hikes. He denied giving Parker preferential treatment, and said he has relied on her for input about "personal business" matters.

Still, Miller acknowledged "unintentional" errors took place, but claimed they could be resolved without an investigation or hearing by the Personnel Board.

"It's a matter of procedural mistakes and is an example of

how it is important for us to provide the kind of training that Governor Beshear is talking about," Miller said.

The Personnel Board decided to let treasury officials attempt to address the matter before taking action.

Michael R. Mazzoli, Parker's attorney, said his client was hoping to "stay in state government" as part of Beshear's administration.

"Any suggestion that Brooke was not qualified to carry out the duties she was given or that she was overpaid for the work she was doing, or that she was given any favorable treatment, is simply false," Mazzoli said.

Don Egbers, a state personnel expert who Crall consulted on the matter, said it appeared the treasury had improperly tried to reward Parker when she assumed new duties as chief of staff and division director responsibilities.

"I think it was an innocent mistake on the part of the treasury to send it over that way," Egbers said.

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### GOVERNMENT FORECLOSURE SALE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008 AT 2:00 P.M.  
AT THE SITE OF THE BELOW DESCRIBED PROPERTY  
OF HOUSE AND LOT LOCATED AT 49 AUXIER HEIGHTS,  
PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653 IN FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY

This is a ranch style home on public water and septic system. It is well located in a quiet neighborhood. It consists of a living room, kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath and laundry. This property is considered unsuitable for the Rural Development, Rural Housing Program. This would be an excellent buy for an investor interested in rental property or for resale after repairs.

The minimum acceptable bid for this property will be \$24,455.

Payment of the current year's property taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser.

Clear title to this property is not warranted. The U.S. Marshal's Deed is not a general warranty deed. Buyers are advised to have the property's title examined. Written notification regarding encumbrances on the property must be made to the Prestonsburg Rural Development Office within 90 days of the date of sale.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., at the property site, at 49 Auxier Heights, Prestonsburg, KY, in Floyd County, Kentucky, in order to raise the sum of \$55,291.59 (principal, plus an interest credit) subject to the amount of \$12,000.00, plus interest in the amount of \$6,040.38 as of June 14, 2007, and interest thereafter on the principal at \$11,158.00 per day from June 14, 2007, until the date of full payment, plus interest to the date of judgment (principal plus interest to the date of judgment) at the rate of 4.01% computed daily and compounded annually, and paid in full and for the costs of this action, pursuant to Judgment and Order of Sale, being Civil Action No. 06-158 GFVT on the Pleasville Decree of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, entered on July 31, 2007, in the case of the United States of America vs Charles Ray Ruffel, ET AL, The Unknown Heirs of Charles Ray Ruffel, Berardo Kay Ruffel aka Berardo Kay Bambas, Christopher Bambas, and Community Trust Bank, the following described property will be sold in the highest and best bidder:

House and Lot located at 49 Auxier Heights, Prestonsburg, Floyd County, KY. Being the same property conveyed by Deed dated April 18, 2000, and recorded in Deed Book 448, Page 222 in the Floyd County Clerk's Office.

Terms of Sale: Ten percent (10%) of the bid price in the form of a Certified Check made payable to the U.S. Marshal on the day of the sale with good and sufficient bond for the balance, bearing interest at the rate of \$1.25 per annum until paid, due and payable in sixty (60) days and said bond having the effect of a judgment. Upon a default by the Purchaser, the deposit shall be forfeited and retained by the U.S. Marshal as a part of the proceeds of the sale, and the property shall again be offered for sale subject to confirmation by the Court.

This sale shall be in favor of foreclosure of all right, title, interest, estate claim, demand or equity of redemption of the defendant(s) and of all persons claiming by through, under or equities thereon, provided the purchase price is equal to two thirds of the appraised value. If the purchase price is not equal to two thirds of the appraised value, the Deed shall contain a lien in favor of the defendant(s) reflecting the right of the defendant(s) to redeem during the period provided by law (KRS 426.580). Under law, the purchaser is deemed to be on notice of all matters affecting the property of record in the local County Clerk's Office.

Inquiries should be directed to:  
Peggy T. Meade, Area Specialist  
Rural Development  
Prestonsburg, Kentucky Telephone: 606/783 8756

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Jeff, Debbie and Lori, along with our families, would like for you to join us as we celebrate our parents, Bill and Sissy Hall, 50 years together.

When: Saturday, December 22nd, at 2:00 p.m.  
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## Lawsuit

ing for Appalachian Fuels, maintained during the civil suit that its truck was on the proper side of the road, and that it was only after the vehicle was hit by Ira Nichols that its steering was disabled, and the truck crossed lanes. Claims were also made by Joe Fields against Ira Nichols, to which Ira Nichols issued his own counterclaims against Fields and Francis Trucking. All totaled there were six claims filed in the matter. All of the other claims have been settled out of court. The loaded coal truck that Fields was driving normally traveled on Route 119 to U.S.

23, and then would travel north to Catlettsburg. Kirk maintained as part of the lawsuit that Route 292 is a Single A highway and not part of the Extended Weight Coal Haul Road System, and had Fields truck not been there, no collision would have occurred. The Route 292 roadway is only rated for 40,000 pounds while the coal truck that Fields was driving weighed in excess of 125,000 pounds.

"[Route] 292 is too narrow and too curvy for 18-wheelers to safely haul coal," Kirk said. "They take these shortcuts to get in an extra load or two, and it's just dangerous. They are

traveling on roads that were never designed to handle those vehicles or that weight."

Duncan's accident is the second such accident involving a coal truck in as many years. In 2005 Rev. Lonny Preece, 55, died after his vehicle was crashed into by an overloaded truck on Route 40 near Inez. That vehicle weighed over 150,000 pounds and was traveling on a road rated for 62,000 pounds.

Mark Brown, a public information officer with the state Transportation Cabinet, said, "Obviously these roads are rated for a purpose, and that's to maintain the safety of

the driving public."

A representative of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth said that becoming an extended coal haul road is not based on whether or not a road can handle the weight, but whether or not 50,000 tons of coal was hauled on that road in the previous year.

Rick Handshoe, of Hueysville, a KFTC spokesman said, "We're fighting the coal companies and the state. I hate for my daughter to even drive on these roads."

Handshoe says there simply aren't enough vehicle enforcement officers to monitor all of

the trucks hauling on the roads. "How many people have to die before the state will look into the condition of these roads?"

Handshoe, who is a former coal truck driver, said he understands that coal and coal transportation are necessary aspects of the community, but it needs to be safe. "I want our miners underground protected, and I want our drivers to safely be able to earn a living."

The high price of gas is one thing that Handshoe admits is causing drivers to look for shorter routes. "These guys are just trying to make a living." Handshoe added that it will be

up to the state government and the coal companies to improve the situation.

According to the Legislative Record, there have been no pre-filed bills for 2008 to either improve roads that coal trucks prefer or increase penalties on coal companies of coal truck drivers who ignore weighted roads to the detriment of the public safety.

# Cheating scandal could keep FSU players out of Music City Bowl

by BRENT KALLESTAD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — An academic cheating scandal could leave Florida State without as many as 25 players when the Seminoles go against Kentucky in the Music City Bowl on Dec. 31.

"We have some players not traveling for one reason and some for another, including those who are ineligible for the bowl because of academic issues," coach Bobby Bowden said in a statement released by the university Tuesday.

Bowden put the number of players involved in the 25-

player range. Many of the players could also be ruled ineligible for some games next season for their connection to the cheating scandal earlier this year.

Federal privacy laws prohibit the school from releasing names.

"We want to make sure that we have complete information, and that we have dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's," said Lee Hinkle, vice president of university relations. "It is premature to say anything at this point."

Bowden had previously not answered questions following the team's practices on the scandal that resulted in one full-time academic adviser, Brenda Monk, and a student tutor losing their jobs this summer.

The university reported its findings in a letter to the NCAA in September after a six-month investigation by the school revealed at least 23 athletes in various sports were implicated for cheating on tests.

At least two Seminole foot-

ball players already have been penalized for their involvement. Defensive end Kevin McNeill missed the season and wide receiver Joslin Shaw missed the first four games.

"Kentucky would be a tough opponent when we are at full strength so clearly this will make things more difficult," Bowden said. "Our staff is in the process of determining what adjustments we must make for the game."

Bowden said he would not use any players redshirted this season in the bowl game.

# Young hunter killed in Letcher

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT — Another Kentucky teenager has died in a hunting accident.

Letcher County Deputy Coroner Wallace Bowling says 14-year-old Ryan Cantrell of Blaine fell on his muzzleloading rifle Saturday afternoon while trying to walk through

mud on a mountain in Eastern Kentucky.

Bowling said Cantrell died from an accidental self-inflicted gunshot to the neck and head while deer hunting with his stepfather and some friends.

At least two other Kentucky teens have been shot in hunting accidents since September.

## Schools

quality," she continued.

The members of the Floyd board are currently awaiting a report on why some parents have chosen to pull their children out of district schools. At the suggestion of interim superintendent Ronald Fantress, letters are being sent to those parents requesting specific reasons for making the decision to enroll their children in neighboring school districts.

"What are we doing, what can we do," said Stumbo, "to keep our students at home?"

Awaiting the aforementioned report, board members voted to table any action on the nonresident contract for 2008-09 school year for the time being.

"We have to make a deci-

sion in January, though," board member Jeff Stumbo said. "But first, we have to look at why people are leaving the district."

In other business, the board recognized Fantress for the service he provided for the school district during the time of transition between the leaving of former superintendent Paul Fanning and the hiring of his replacement, Henry Webb.

Board chair Jeff Stumbo praised Fantress for his "strong leadership during a time when the board really needed to focus."

"I've had a great time," Fantress said. "I want to commend this school district and this school board... You have a lot of really great things going on and I've been glad to be a

part of it."

The board also voted to approve to employ Fantress' services as a consultant for 10 additional days past his service contract.

Floyd district teachers Glendine Hale and Angela Duncan, as well as the Prestonsburg High School football team, were also recognized for meritorious achievements, and Jesse Osborne, a student at McDowell Elementary and member of the Kentucky Opry Junior Pros, performed two song selections for members of the board.

## Rewards

the three schools, Wicker said "that would pay the salary of a classified employee."

Wicker said that the teacher's association members suggest continuing the practice of offering such rewards as ice cream, class parties, field trips and such for school and stu-

dent successes and that the granting of monetary awards suggests fiscal irresponsibility.

Board chair Jeff Stumbo said that the members of the board would prepare a written response to the FCEA's comments, to be released at a later date.

## Rogers

premises and outdated economic models."

Other critics say the money spent on the project would be better used to repair existing roads and bridges in the state.

While nearly all of the states west of Kentucky have abandoned the project, Rogers believes the interstate can still be salvaged. Mike Hancock, the Transportation Cabinet's chief of staff, said officials hope the road can stretch across Kentucky into West Virginia and Virginia.

Just how the project would be paid for remains unclear. U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth, a Democrat representing the 3rd District, said he doesn't see any federal funding becoming available for I-66 or the Louisville bridge projects anytime soon. It means the state

would have to seek alternatives to pay for the road.

How? "That's for wiser heads than mine," Rogers said.

The state's six-year highway plan provides money for the bridges project, but not for I-66. Gov. Steve Beshear is against a gas-tax increase and said recently he's "not a fan" of tolls.

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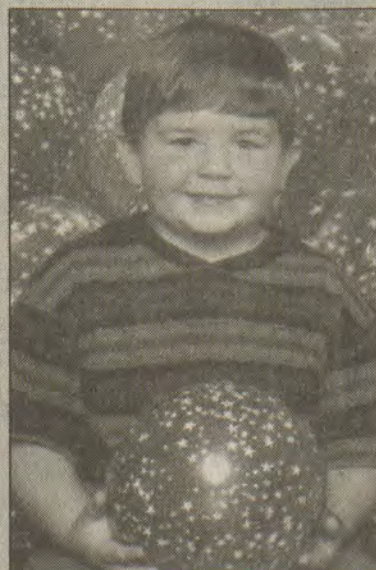
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Continued from p1

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# Odds & Ends

■ **RANCHO CORDOVA, Calif.** — Happy holidays. Now pull over to the side of the road.

Motorists may be in for a surprise if they spot flashing red lights in their rearview mirrors in this Sacramento suburb during the holiday season.

Police are stopping law-abiding motorists and rewarding their good driving with \$5 Starbucks gift cards.

A traffic officer came up with the idea to "promote the holiday spirit and enhance goodwill between the traffic unit and the motoring public," police Sgt. Tim Curran said.

Local businesses donated money to buy the gift cards. "They raised a substantial amount of money," Curran said. "They'll be pulling over a lot of people."

■ **CHERRY HILL, N.J.** — One dry cleaner now knows how to get on Santa's naughty list: lose his suit.

After Christmas last year, Max Weisberg took his red velvet suit to Royal Cleaners, which accidentally gave it to someone else. The family-owned business acknowledged the mixup and offered to pay him half the value of the nearly \$400 suit, said Jean Hwang, who said she's the owner's sister.

Weisberg, 54, a civilian employee of the Navy, took the business to small claims court and won a \$396.50 judgment to cover the suit and court costs.

But he had to collect the money himself. So Weisberg decided to do it with flair. His wife's public-relations firm notified the media that he would drop by the shop.

Donning a new red velvet suit with soft white trim and shiny black boots, a jolly Weisberg burst into the dry cleaners Monday, television cameras rolling.

"Merry Christmas! Have you been a good girl?" he

asked a smiling Hwang. She promised to put the check in the mail to Weisberg the next day.

Weisberg, who has been playing Santa at events for about a dozen years, made a promise, too: If it didn't arrive, he'd be back to protest again.

■ **DANBURY, Conn.** — Santa Claus says that a woman who sat on his lap was naughty, not nice.

A Santa at the Danbury Fair mall said the woman groped him.

"The security officer at the mall said Santa Claus has been sexually assaulted," police Detective Lt. Thomas Michael said of the weekend complaint.

Sandrama Lamy, 33, of Danbury, was charged with sexual assault and breach of peace. She was released on a promise to appear in court on Jan. 3.

Police quickly found and identified Lamy because the woman was described as being on crutches, said Capt. Bob Myles.

A call seeking comment from Lamy was answered by a recording Tuesday morning. A woman later called back and said: "It's a false report and I don't have any idea."

Police did not give the name of the disconcerted Santa, but they said he is 65 and felt badly because children were waiting to see him. "He was apparently shocked and embarrassed by the whole incident," Myles said.

A man who teaches hundreds of prospective Santas a year, "Santa Tim" Connaghan, president of RealSantas.com, said he's never heard of a similar incident, though it's not unusual for adults to want to pose with Santa.

"I've had some very nice ladies sit on my lap," said Connaghan, who did not train the Danbury Fair Santa. "Once in a while they'll say 'I hope

Mrs. Claus isn't going to be upset. You have to be discreet and kind and say 'Oh no, she'll be OK. You can sit here, but only for one photo.'"

A spokeswoman for Cherry Hill Photo, the company that coordinates Santas for Danbury Fair, declined to comment Tuesday.

■ **FARGO, N.D.** — A bank is giving its full-time employees \$1,000 each and part-time employees \$500 each. There's one condition — use it for people in need.

State Bank & Trust Chief Operating Officer Michael Solberg said each full-time employee will receive \$1,000 and each part-time employee will receive \$500, as part of a \$502,000 "Pay it Forward" initiative.

"We're going to really see some huge impact on our community," Solberg said.

Employees were told not to

use the money for themselves, their families or families of other bank employees. The bank asked each employee to document the good deed with a video camera. The deadline is June 30.

The employees were told they may choose an individual cause, pool their money for a larger project or collaborate with donors outside the bank. The privately owned bank has more than 500 employees, he said.

The bank made the announcement over the weekend.

In previous years, the Fargo-based bank has taken 5 percent of the company earnings and divided it up at holiday time among employees.

■ **FOND DU LAC, Wis.** — A driver did not make a clean getaway early Sunday, despite taking his vehicle through a car wash while fleeing an offi-

cer. A reserve officer tried to stop the driver on suspicion of drunken driving, the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. But the motorist fled by driving through a car wash, then sped away and nearly struck a Fond du Lac police officer who had stopped to help.

A tire deflation device was eventually used to stop the car, and officers used a stun gun to take the 18-year-old driver into custody, the Sheriff's Department said. An 18-year-old woman also in the car was arrested and released.

■ **HAZLETON, Pa.** — Talk about taking the plunge. Jeanie Dulski and Jamy Knittle actually took two plunges on Friday: First, they got married at Hazleton Municipal Airport, then they went skydiving.

As Dulski explained, "Getting married is scarier than jumping out of a plane." Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta performed the ceremony on the ground for Dulski and Knittle, both 30. About 45 minutes later, the bride and groom took a plane up to 10,000 feet and leaped out.

It was the second marriage but first skydive for Dulski, who made a tandem jump with an instructor. Knittle, who had skydived once before, jumped separately.

Barletta called it perhaps the most unusual wedding ceremony he has performed.

"I'm sure my wife would

(See **ODDS**, page fourteen)

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## Card of Thanks

The family of Mr. Donald H. Goble wishes to gratefully acknowledge the thoughtfulness and many kindnesses of all our friends, relatives, and neighbors during the illness of our husband, father, brother, and grandfather who passed from this world into one of glory on November 18, 2007.

Abundant thanks to all who brought food, flowers, and offered their sincere condolences. Many thanks, also, to all the churches and faithful members across Floyd County that offered up heartfelt prayers on his behalf. We especially thank all those who took the time to speak kind words in an effort to ease our aching hearts.

Thanks to Ron Wright and his sister, Mary, for the beautiful songs and music. Thanks to Joan Chaffins for singing our loved one's favorite song, "Beulah Land."

To clergymen, Arnold Turner and Steve Pescosolido, we wish for you to know that no kinder words could ever have been spoken. Your blessed words did so very much to comfort us. God bless you both.

Special thanks to Hospice of Big Sandy for their service to Don. Everyone was so kind to him, and a very special thanks to Risa Teeters, RN, of Hospice, who came and stayed with us to the end - you will never be forgotten.

We will also never forget Dr. Jain and the Highlands Cancer Center doctors; Chris Bailey and his office staff; and all those at Highlands Regional Medical Center who took such good care of our loved one. Don's caregiver, Helen Slone, will also remain in our hearts forever. We thank you, Helen, for all you did.

A special thanks, also, to the Kentucky State Police Honor Guard for attending the funeral and for changing guards and standing at attention at his casket at the funeral home. Thanks to Pikeville Post 9 Troopers for serving as pallbearers alongside Don's two beloved sons, Donnie and Ronnie, and for the police escort provided as Don's casket was transported to Davidson Memorial Gardens to be laid to rest.

Thanks to Julie Pescosolido for playing taps at the gravesite, and to our much loved Miss Katherine Emily Goble, Don's beloved granddaughter, for playing "My Old Kentucky Home" on her violin at her grandfather's gravesite.

And, we cannot forget Community United Methodist Church for the wonderful dinner prepared for the family following the funeral and burial services.

Thanks, too, to Carter Funeral Home for its kind and efficient service.

THE FAMILY OF DONALD H. GOBLE

*A Christmas Blessing*  
 BY HELEN STEINER RICE

*May the love of God surround you,  
 may His peace be all around you,  
 And may your day be blessed  
 with everything that's happiest.*

A blessed Christmas to all,  
 Love, Maxine Goble, Donnie and Tammy,  
 Ronnie, Laura and Katherine,  
 Pamela Sue, Laura Vaughn,  
 and Mary Lou Lavender

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# Study hints timing of blood pressure pills might help high-risk patients

by LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON — Taking a blood pressure pill at bedtime instead of in the morning might be healthier for some high-risk people.

New research suggests that simple switch may normalize patterns of blood pressure in patients at extra risk from the twin epidemics of heart and kidney disease.

Why? When it comes to blood pressure, you want to be a dipper. In healthy people, blood pressure dips at night, by 10 to 20 percent. Scientists don't know why, but suspect the drop gives arteries a little rest.

People with high blood pressure that doesn't dip at night — the non-dippers — fare worse than other hypertension sufferers, developing more serious heart disease. Moreover, heart and kidney disease fuel each other — and the 26 million Americans with chronic kidney disease seem most prone to non-dipping. In addition to heart problems, they're at extra risk of their kidney damage worsening to the point of dialysis.

Most blood pressure patients need two or three medications. So Italian researchers performed an easy test: They told 32 non-dippers with kidney disease to switch one of those drugs from a morning to a bedtime dose. In two months, nearly 90 percent of these high-risk patients had turned into dippers. Their nighttime blood pressure dropped an average of 7 points, without side effects or increase in daytime blood pressure.

Better, a key sign of kidney function improved significantly, too, Dr. Roberto Minutolo of the Second University of

Naples reports this month in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases.

It's the latest research in the field of chronotherapy: How our bodies' internal rhythms make certain diseases worse at certain times of the day, and in turn affect how to time treatments.

While the Italian study is too small for proof, similar studies from Europe also back a bedtime switch for non-dippers. The work is catching the attention of U.S. hypertension specialists, and now doctors at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University are planning a larger study to see if a bedtime switch really could give certain people healthier hearts and kidneys.

How big a problem is non-dipping?

"I think it's huge," says Hopkins' Dr. Lawrence Appel. "This is our best lead" into why black Americans with kidney disease, in particular, tend to worsen despite treatment.

Appel found 80 percent of black kidney patients in a recent study were non-dippers. Most startling, 40 percent had nighttime blood pressure that was even higher than daytime levels.

Two-thirds of chronic kidney disease patients, and at least 10 percent of the general population, are estimated to be non-dippers, says Dr. Joseph Vassalotti of the National Kidney Foundation. One theory is that their bodies have trouble excreting salt.

Yet few patients have ever heard of the problem — and few doctors know who is affected. Most people get their blood pressure checked only during the day. A 24-hour blood pressure monitor can tell but is rarely used, partly because insurance seldom

pays for the extra visit to download and diagnose the readings.

And most patients who take several once-a-day pills swallow them all in the morning, meaning they all start wearing off around the same time, says Dr. Gina Lundberg of St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta.

"It does make good sense to take some in the morning and some in the evening," says Lundberg, a spokeswoman for the American Heart Association.

Everyone has an internal clock, determined by genes,

that affects health. Many of these biological rhythms are circadian, meaning they fluctuate on a 24-hour cycle.

Consider how that can affect the timing of treatments. Some older "statin" pills fight cholesterol best if taken at bedtime; they target a liver enzyme that's most active at night. Asthma attacks are more frequent at night, and the stomach secretes more heartburn-causing acid at night, affecting some patients' dosing requirements. Researchers even are studying how to better time certain cancer

chemotherapies and allergy treatments.

The best-known example: Blood pressure jumps in the early morning hours, as the awakening body produces more stress hormones. That's also why heart attacks and strokes are most common in the morning.

The nighttime dipping problem has gotten far less attention. The new Italian study marks an important advance, says Dr. Mahboob Rahman of the University Hospitals of Cleveland.

"We know now that you

can change medication timing and lower blood pressure at night," he explains.

That doesn't mean everyone should switch willy-nilly to bedtime dosing. Morning may be best for people on just one drug, and no one yet knows if the switch truly gives non-dippers better overall health. "That's the million-dollar question," Rahman cautions.

Still, Lundberg says it's worth asking your doctor how to time doses, saying one at night for someone taking multiple medicines couldn't hurt.

## Odds

like to see me jump out of an airplane without a parachute," he joked.

PITTSBURGH — Richard Desrosiers never made it to Heinz Field to watch his beloved Steelers play football, but his widow helped him fulfill his dream in death.

Thanks to some help from sympathetic donors, Kathleen Desrosiers attended Sunday's game, bringing an urn with some of her late husband's ashes, as well as his ring and two pictures of him. He had died in March of a brain tumor.

"I couldn't take the tumor away. I couldn't take the pain away. I couldn't make him better. But I can do this," Kathleen Desrosiers, 60, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Though he lived in Exeter, N.H., Richard Desrosiers adopted the Steelers at an early age and followed them closely. He named his dog Steeler and his wardrobe, by his widow's estimate, was 95 percent Steelers gear.

Braving the biting cold and the Steelers' disappointing 29-22 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars, Desrosiers waved her new Terrible Towel, showed off her painted face and warmed her head with a Steelers hat.

She called it "an overwhelming experience."

"It's sad to think that he got here in death," she added. "But this is where he wanted to be. It was what he asked me to do. I got to be with him one last time while he did something he wanted more than anything else in the whole wide world."

Amy Litterini, a western Pennsylvania native who now lives in New Hampshire, was the couple's counselor during Desrosiers' yearlong battle with cancer. She arranged for the purchase of the two tickets to Sunday's game and raised money for Kathleen Desrosiers and one of her sons to spend a night in a Pittsburgh hotel.

Desrosiers was covered with a Steelers blanket when he died, and at his funeral, his two stepsons honored his memory by donning Steelers jerseys.

CLEVELAND — A contractor who helped discover bundles of cash totaling \$182,000 hidden behind bathroom walls says the homeown-

er should turn the money over to him — or at least share it.

Bob Kitts said his feud with the owner of the house, a former high school classmate, has deteriorated to the point where they speak to each other only through lawyers.

Kitts said his lawyer has drafted a lawsuit that he hopes will force Amanda Reece to turn over the money she has kept. Meanwhile, Reece accuses Kitts of shaking her down.

Most of the currency, issued in 1927 and 1929, is in good condition, and some of the bills are so rare that one currency appraiser valued the treasure at as much as \$500,000, Kitts said.

The fight began in May 2006 when Kitts was gutting Reece's bathroom and found a box below the medicine cabinet that contained \$25,200.

"I almost passed out," Kitts recalled. "It was the ultimate contractor fantasy."

He called Reece, who rushed home. Together they found another steel box tied to the end of a wire nailed to a stud. Inside was more than \$100,000, Kitts said. Two more boxes were filled with a mix of money and religious memorabilia.

"It was insane," Kitts said. "She was in shock — she was a wreck."

The bundles had "P. Dunne" written on them, probably a reference to Peter Dunne, a businessman who owned the home during the Depression.

Kitts said he took some of the currency for an appraisal and learned that many of the \$10 bills were rare 1929-series Cleveland Federal Reserve bank notes, worth about \$85 each. There also were \$500 bills and one \$1,000 bill.

John Chambers, an attorney for Reece, said Kitts rejected his client's offer of a 10 percent finder's fee and demanded 40 percent of the small fortune.

Kitts asserts he found lost money, and court rulings in Ohio establish that a "finders keepers" law applies if there's no reason to believe any owner will reappear to claim it.

Kitts said it would be unfair for him to take everything.

"For such a happy, exciting adventure, I can't believe it just went to heck like this," he said.

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# New quarterback sparks Niners past Bengals

by GREG BEACHAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — From the third-string quarterback to the \$80 million corner-back, the San Francisco 49ers finally came together as the team they imagined three months ago.

And from Cincinnati's awful opening drives to Chad Johnson's final drop, the Bengals' season fell apart in ways they couldn't believe.

Shaun Hill passed for 197 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score in his first NFL start, and the 49ers beat the Bengals 20-13 on Saturday night for just their second victory in 12 games.

Frank Gore rushed for a season-high 138 yards, and Darrell Jackson had a season-high eight catches for 86 yards in a surprisingly effective San Francisco (4-10) attack led by Hill, a six-year veteran backup who only threw his first NFL passes last week after Trent Dilfer got a concussion.

With Alex Smith also sidelined, Hill was the only quarterback left in San Francisco — and he improbably sparked the 49ers' league-worst offense to the club's first home victory since opening week. Hill went 21-of-28, hitting Vernon Davis with a precise TD pass 9 seconds before halftime and generally running the show with confidence.

"I had confidence in myself, but obviously it's nice to go out and actually do it," said Hill, whose last start was for NFL Europe's Amsterdam Admirals in 2003. "It's one thing to sit there and visualize everything and feel like you can make all the plays. It's another to go out and do it."

The third quarterback was the charm for the 49ers, but the defense also deserved some credit. Cornerback Nate Clements led a solid effort against Carson Palmer's receivers through several tough situations, including the Bengals' last drive.

"We just wanted to show we can do what we've been capable of doing all season," said Clements, who became the

NFL's highest-paid defensive player when he joined San Francisco as a free agent. "Shaun did a nice job, but it was good to have a chance to win a game as a defense. They're high-powered, but we mostly kept them in check."

Palmer threw his 100th touchdown pass, a 52-yard strike to Chris Henry in the first half, to become the fifth-fastest passer in NFL history to reach the mark. Palmer passed for 252 yards, but last season's Pro Bowl MVP couldn't rally the Bengals (5-9) to a tying score — not after Johnson dropped a difficult fourth-down catch in the end zone with 2:14 left.

"It's the same thing that's been killing us all year — execution," Palmer said. "If you don't have 11 guys doing each of their own jobs right on every single play, you're going to have bad plays and miscues and negative plays."

Losing to the NFL's worst offense had to be one of the Bengals' most embarrassing defeats in coach Marvin Lewis' five seasons. Cincinnati, which hasn't won consecutive games all season, is assured of its first losing record since 2002.

"Frustrating, just a little, but it's a lot more disappointing because we've underachieved so much," Cincinnati guard Bobbie Williams said. "It's not like us, but that's what we keep putting on film."

After spending most of the season dead last in many offensive statistical categories, the 49ers looked downright competent from their opening 76-yard drive. Hill finished it with a 3-yard bootleg for a touchdown that gave San Francisco its first lead at home since its season-opening victory over Arizona.

Hill rallied the 49ers again on another long drive capped by an impressive 17-yard throw to Davis in coverage. Davis, the athletic tight end often underutilized by Smith and Dilfer, celebrated by jumping into the crowd as the 49ers earned their first halftime lead of the season.

"Shaun did a great job," said Davis, who had five catches for 46 yards. "He came out and took charge. He showed everybody that he can play. He

stepped it up a notch."

Joe Nedney hit two field goals in the third quarter, but 49ers coach Mike Nolan passed up the chance to kick a 42-yarder with 6:15 to play at his players' insistence, instead failing on a fourth-down conversion attempt.

The Bengals' T.J. Houshmandzadeh set the franchise record with his 101st reception on a fourth-down conversion as Cincinnati moved to the 49ers 24. But Johnson couldn't hold on to a fourth-down throw in the end zone with 2:14 to play, failing to gather the precise pass to his body as he fell out of bounds.

"I just hit the ground really hard," Johnson said. "I tried to squeeze it. I had possession, I had my feet in, and I tried to hold onto the ball the best I could. I had control until I hit the ground."

The call was upheld on video review, and Gore sealed it with a gutsy 10-yard run on third-and-9 for the 49ers' final first down.

Notes: San Francisco DT Bryant Young again hinted at retirement, saying he'll announce his decision in the days before next Sunday's home finale against Tampa Bay. "It's near the end, like I said before," said Young, a 14-year veteran. "My days are numbered, so it's time for me to enjoy it." ... Cincinnati LB Rashad Jeanty was deactivated despite being listed as probable. Corey Mays replaced him. ... Only Dan Marino (44 games), Kurt Warner (50), Johnny Unitas (53) and Peyton Manning (56) reached 100 TD passes faster than Palmer.

Jaguars 29, Steelers 22: At Pittsburgh, Fred Taylor scored the winning touchdown on a 12-yard run in the final 2 minutes while gaining 147 yards and the Jaguars (10-4) withstood the bad weather and Pittsburgh's fourth-quarter comeback.

The Steelers (9-5), losing at home for the first time in eight games, fell into a tie with the Browns for the AFC North lead. The Steelers own the tiebreaker. Pittsburgh's last chance of tying it ended when Heath Miller was

stopped a half-yard short of a first down on fourth-and-7 pass from the Jacksonville 45 in the final minute.

The Steelers were down 22-7 after David Garrard threw three touchdown passes, only to tie it by scoring twice in 7 1/2 minutes with the help of two missed extra points by Jacksonville.

Browns 8, Bills 0: At wintry Cleveland, Jamal Lewis plowed for 163 yards and Phil Dawson somehow kicked two field goals through harsh winds. The Browns (9-5) picked up one of their biggest wins since returning as an expansion franchise in 1999 and will clinch their first playoff appearance since 2002

with a win at Cincinnati next week.

It was Cleveland's first shutout since 2005 and just the Browns' third since 1999. And Lewis moved over 1,000 yards with his fourth 100-yard game this season.

The Bills (7-7) were eliminated from making the postseason.

Panthers 13, Seahawks 10: Rookie Matt Moore, the fourth starting QB for the Panthers this season, engineered three scoring drives in the fourth quarter.

Coming in with six losses in seven games and with coach John Fox sitting on the hot seat, the host Panthers (6-8) turned in their best defensive perfor-

mance of the season. Moore surprisingly outplayed Matt Hasselbeck as the NFC West champion Seahawks (9-5) had their five-game winning streak snapped.


In a game that was scoreless until the fourth quarter, Moore led the Panthers on two scoring drives, the last ending with John Kasay's 37-yard field goal with 2:59 left that gave Carolina a 6-3 lead.

On the next possession, Hasselbeck fumbled on a sack by Thomas Davis and Carolina's Richard Marshall recovered. That led to DeAngelo Williams' 35-yard touchdown run with 1:20 left that put it away.

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### POISON OAK

## Before plastic snowmen

Well, for about the twentieth time, I find myself penning what I've come to regard as my "official Christmas column." And, as has been the case in previous efforts, I find my thoughts turning to those Christmases before plastic snowmen, plastic trees, and plastic money, a time, quite frankly, when Christmas seemed to mean a lot more to people than Christmas does now. And even though I



Clyde Pack

might be accused of criticizing progress—if indeed what has appeared to the holiday is the result of progress—I still find myself feeling nostalgic for Christmases, like I experienced as a happy-go-lucky coal-camp kid in the 1940's; Christmases when gifts were minimal, but it didn't seem to matter.

Since the original Christmas story has been told over and over for more than 2,000 years. I suppose its perfectly OK to repeat an incident, from my own distant past that continues to replay on the big movie screen in my memory every time I start thinking about my Christmases as a kid.

I don't remember exactly how old I was, but I couldn't have been more than 7 or 8. I do remember, however, Mom had put up a Christmas tree, all decorated with bubble lights and pop-

(See OAK, page six)

### KIM'S KORNER

## Coal Basket Bible

Living in Eastern Kentucky and being born a Coal Miner's daughter, this story, sent to me by Elmo Lawson of Oregon, truly blessed the soul. Enjoy.

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him,



Kim Little Frasure

tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?" The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water." The boy did as he was told, even though all the water

leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

(See KORNER, page seven)



Children from the Martin area lined up in eager anticipation to visit with Santa and share some Christmas dreams this past weekend at the Martin Community Center.

## Martin area youth treated to 'Christmas with a Cop' ... and bikes ... and toys ... and more

by KATHY J. PRATER  
FEATURES EDITOR

Nothing makes Christmas any more special than seeing a child's face light up with joy when presented with a special or much-hoped for gift. This past Friday evening, at the Martin Community Center, the smiles of children lit the hearts of many as the city's police department came together to celebrate their annual "Christmas with a Cop" event.

Approximately 31 children, along with their families, were served a hot Christmas dinner of baked ham, chicken, mashed potatoes and assorted vegetables, and an array of desserts before an announcement was made by Martin Mayor



This little girl couldn't wait to get back to her table to get a peek inside the big bag filled with presents that Santa had given her. Mayor Thomasine Robinson and the police officers who helped organize the event were all smiles throughout the event.

Thomasine Robinson that bells had been heard in the back of the building.

As anticipation mounted, children wiggled and giggled as they awaited the arrival of one very special guest - Santa Claus.

Laden with gifts for all, Santa visited with each child present as they sat atop his knee whispering Christmas secrets. Each child was presented with a stocking filled with toys and goodies along with gift bags filled with new coats, shoes, caps, gloves and scarves, underwear and socks, and new outfits of clothing. Working closely with school family resource centers, children selected to participate in the Christmas with a Cop pro-

gram receive all this and more, as well as each of their siblings.

Additionally, each child, and their siblings, receive a brand new bicycle or riding toy, appropriate for their age group.

"It's all about the smiles on those faces," said Rita Whicker, director of the community center. "It's a lot of hard work putting it all together, but seeing those smiles makes it all worthwhile."

In addition to the Christmas dinner, gifts and bicycles, each family was also presented with a \$50 gift card from Food City to help with the pur-

(See CHRISTMAS, page five)



A new bike - a Christmas dream come true.

### CRITTER CORNER

## Think twice about giving a pet for Christmas

We received a good response the last time we ran the following offering. We think it's worth another run this holiday season.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house;

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care;  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
With no thought of Labradors filling their heads.  
And mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Knew he was cold, but didn't care about that.  
When out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window, I flew like a flash,  
Figuring the Lab was free of his chain and into the trash.

(See CRITTER, page seven)



This adorable little critter is a baby boy chihuahua that goes by the name "Rascal." Rascal, who is owned by Kennedy Conley, of Prestonsburg, attended the "Shop with a Cop" Christmas party held this past Saturday at the Mountain Arts Center. Rascal was gaily dressed in a bright green holiday sweater that his owner said he borrowed from another tiny "creature" - a Beanie Baby! Merry Christmas, Rascal and Kennedy!

photo by Kathy J. Prater



Not only the children selected by their school resource centers to participate were presented with gifts, but each of their siblings as well.

**Christmas**

chase of their holiday dinner. "Is everybody happy, kids," Mayor Robinson asked as the children were happily trying out their new rides. "Yeah!" was their resounding reply. "We have a lot of wonderful volunteers and sponsors that make this whole thing happen," Mayor Robinson said. "Each year, they always say yes to helping. They make it happen for these children." As the evening came to a close and each family gathered their belongings, Mayor Robinson thanked them each for allowing their children to participate. "Thank you for your children," she said. "Our children are the most important part of our city. We thank you for allowing us to serve them." Members of the Martin Police Department participat-

ing in the Christmas with a Cop program are: Chief of Police Jim Slone, Lt. Matt Varney, Officer Brian Ratliff, Officer Janice Conn, and Sgt. Ronald Peppi, Kentucky State Police. Special thanks is extended to Linda Bailey, Brenda Francis, and Stephanie Bailey. Community sponsors of the program are: Hall Funeral Home, Downtown Drug, Blaine's Gun & Ammo, Eastco Supply, Auto Traders, Seasons Inn, Merion Brothers Monuments, Jacobs Citgo, Kenny's Florist, Jones Pack & Associates, Giovanni's of Martin, Mike's Sealing and Stripping, McDowell Professional Pharmacy, MedZone Pharmacy, Ebony & Ivory, Rick Salyer Body Shop, Guest Room Furniture,

Continued from p4  
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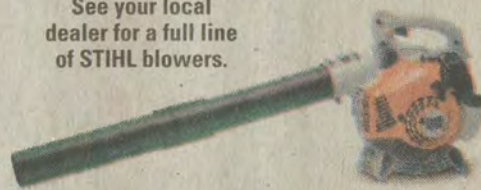
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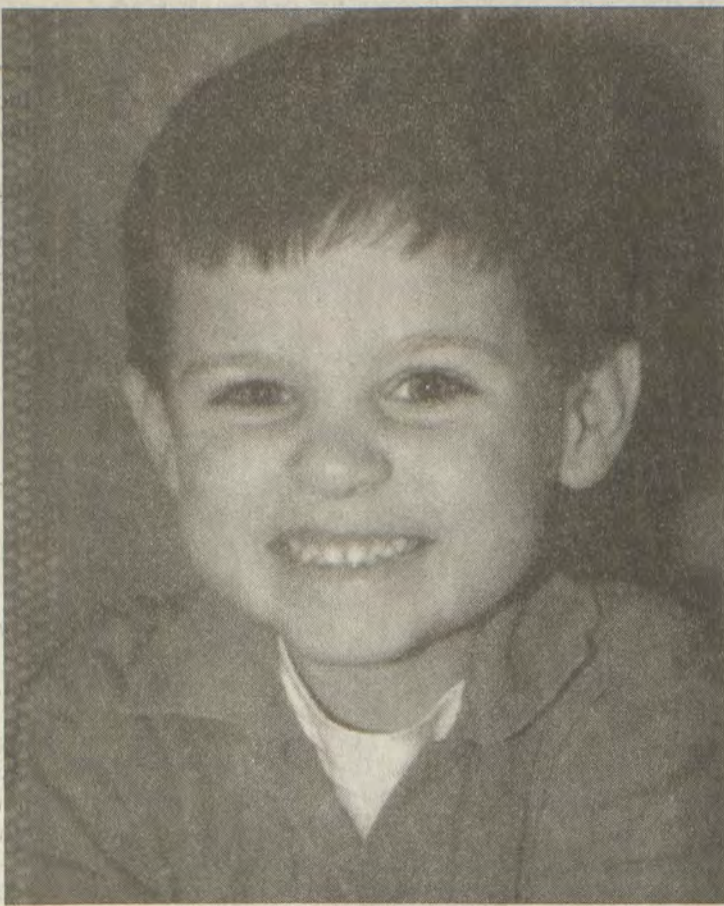
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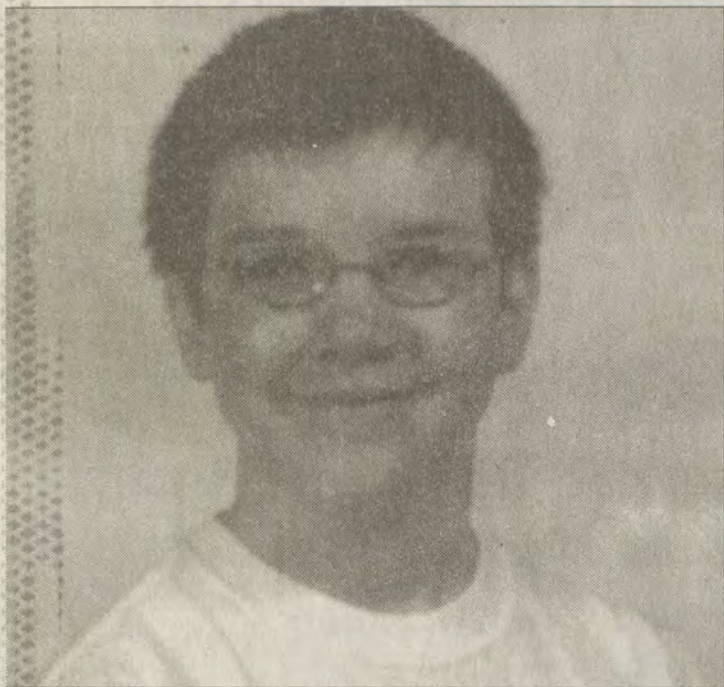
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**BIRTHDAYS**



**Alex is 3!**

Alex Joseph Begley celebrated his third birthday on November 10, 2007, with a "Lightening McQueen" theme party, held at the Martin 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.



**Happy Birthday, Matthew!**

Matthew Charles Stacy celebrated his 12th birthday on November 15, 2007. Matthew is the son of Marcus Wayne and Mary Lynn Stacy, of Wayland. He is the grandson of Antha Jean Watkins, of Wayland, and the late Charles Watkins, and Marcillous Stacy, also of Wayland, and the late Carolyn Stacy.



**Happy Birthday, Robert!**

Robert Wayne Stacy celebrated his 15th birthday on December 5, 2007. Robert is the son of Marcus Wayne and Mary Lynn Stacy, of Wayland. He is the grandson of Antha Jean Watkins, of Wayland, and the late Charles Watkins, and Marcillous Stacy, also of Wayland, and the late Carolyn Stacy.

**Oak**

■ Continued from p4

Christmas tree, all decorated with bubble lights and popcorn tinsel we family members had strung ourselves.

For some reason, Northeast Coal hadn't been operating regularly, and when the opportunity presented itself, Dad never turned down a days work, so on this particular Christmas Eve he was working the night shift and there was to one home with my younger brother and me except Mom.

We spent the evening just sitting around—doing those ordinary things, like listening to the radio. I could sit for hours staring at the little lighted dial on the tall-as-me Phileo, that set near the living room window, and listen to "I Love a Mystery" or Randy Blake's "Suppertime Frolic" on WJJD, Chicago.

Then just before bedtime,

Mom gave us our presents, two genuine imitation-leather; cowboy-style wallets that she had ordered from Montgomery Ward. Since I was a big fan of cowboy movies, I was tickled to death with my new gift, and spent all day Christmas day cutting pictures for its little plastic windows from movie magazines that belonged to my older sister.

I doubt seriously that the wallet ever carried a real piece of money, but the memory of that Christmas—as they say on the TV commercial—is priceless.

While grandkids, Alison and Owen are sure to make things more special at the Pack house, hopefully, the Christmas of 2007 will also provide you with good memories that will still be hanging around some 60 years later.

**WEDDING**



**Conn-Murphy**

Matthew Layne Conn and Nancy Murphy exchanged wedding vows on November 10, 2007, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Matthew is the son of Ranal and Marie Conn, of Harold. Nancy is the daughter of Theron and Hester Farmer, of Kimper. A reception/shower will be given in their honor at the Betsy Layne Senior Citizens Center, on December 29, at 2 p.m.

**ANNIVERSARY**



**Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary**

LeRoy and Bonnie Gibson, of Prestonsburg, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2007. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have been blessed with two daughters, one grandson, four granddaughters, five great-granddaughters, and one great-grandson throughout their years of marriage. They are grateful for the abundant love and many blessings within their family and look forward to celebrating this special occasion with those they love most.

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that will last all  
year long—***



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# School Happenings

## Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

•Dec. 19 - YSC regular Advisory Council meeting, 4 p.m.

•Those students interested in learning about fun ways to exercise and about good nutrition are invited to sign up for "Get Moving AMS." Call 886-1297 for more info. Program will be conducted by the Floyd County Extension Office.

•Lending Library available for student/parent use. Pamphlets, videos, books and more on a variety of topics available.

•A nurse from the FCHD is currently available at the school to provide services including: School physicals, immunizations, WIC, well-child exams, etc. Call 886-1297 to schedule an appointment. Child does not have to be a student at AMS to receive services. HPV vaccines and flu shots currently available.

•The Youth Services Center is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and later by appointment. Services offered to students and families regardless of income. Coordinator is Michelle Keathley. Center telephone is 886-1297.

## Allen Central High School

•Dec. 19 - Semester exams, 2nd, 4th, and 6th.

•Dec. 19 - Last day of school before Christmas break!

•Center hours: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. Sharon Collins, coordinator. Telephone 358-3048. Center provides services for all families regardless of income.

## Allen Central Middle School

•Please have your Food City Valu Card scanned for ACMS! Points help purchase school merchandise.

•Career Decisions and Job Development videos available in YSC lending library.

•The ACMS Youth Service Center offers services to all families, regardless of income. For more information, call Marilyn Bailey, center coordinator, at 358-0134.

## Allen Elementary and Family Resource Youth Service Center.

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

## Baptist Learning Center

•Now accepting applications for new students, Toddler I class thru Pre-K class. Located in the First Baptist Church, S. Front Ave., downtown Prestonsburg. Call 886-8681.

## Betsy Layne Elementary

•Center hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. Center offers services to all families, regardless of income.

•The Betsy Layne

Elementary Family Resource Youth Service Center is located in the 7th and 8th grade wing. The goal of the FRYSC is to meet the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood by the school in which the center is located. For further information, please contact the center at 478-5550.

•Brian H. Akers, Center Coordinator.

## Duff Elementary

•The center is in need of gently used clothing, shoes, belts and backpacks.

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

•The J.A. Duff Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the area where the old main office used to be. Contact persons are Judy Handshoe, coordinator.

## May Valley Elementary

•Special Announcement: May Valley Elem. has been nominated as a Blue Ribbon School by the Commissioner of Education. Only 5 schools in the state have received nominations!

•May Valley is currently accepting applications for the May Valley Elementary Early Childhood Program (3-4 year olds). Fee for services is \$18/per day. Services available Mon. thru Fri. Contact school at 285-0883 for more information. Slots will be filled on first-come, first-serve basis. Remaining applicants will be placed on waiting list.

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

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

## McDowell Elementary and Family Resource Center

•Parents of 5th grade students are urged to call the FRC and make an appointment for their child's 6th grade physical exam!

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

ment.

•Parent lending library available to all parents for video/book checkouts. A variety of topics are available.

•Family Resource Center is open weekdays, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Center is located upstairs in the old high school building, on the McDowell Elementary School campus. For further information, call Clara Johnson, director, at 377-2678. The McDowell FRC provides services to all MES students and their families, regardless of income.

## Mountain Christian Academy

•Tuition assistance and bus transportation is available. For more information or a tour of the school, call 285-5141 or 285-5142.

•Call 285-5141, Mon. thru Fri., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•MCA is an accredited non-denominational Christian school.

## Prestonsburg Elementary and Family Resource Center

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

•After-School Child Care: 3-6 p.m.

•Call 886-7088 for information and referrals regarding GED classes, preschool child care, and other programs or services offered to the community.

## South Floyd Youth Services Center

•Parents needing assistance with daycare may contact Mable Hall for information, or the "A Step Ahead" daycare center, at 452-1100.

•SFMS parents with concerns about your child's grades, visit the STI Home! site at <http://iiod.ssts.com> and click on the STI program. Select state, county, school, child's pin number and password. You may view your child's attendance record, class average, schedule, grades, and discipline referrals. Questions? Call 452-9607.

•Walking track open to public (track closed during special events).

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

•All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus, Room 232, and see Mable Hall. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

•For more information call 452-9600 or 452-9607, ext. 243 or 153.

## Stumbo Elementary/Mud Creek Family Resource & Youth Service Center

•Yearbooks are \$22 and will be on sale January 1, in school office.

•Lost & Found located in Family Resource Center.

•The Mud Creek FRYSC is located on the right, by the school gymnasium. Services are offered to all families, regardless of income. For more information, call Anita Tackett, center coordinator at 587-2233.

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

•The FRC accepts donations of children's clothing, shoes, belts, book bags, etc. May be used but need to be in good condition. Donated items will be appreciated and utilized by OES students.

•The Family Resource Center is located in the central building of W.D. Osborne Elementary. Those wishing more information about the center are welcome to visit, or call. Ask for Cissy (center coordinator). Center telephone and fax: (606) 452-4553.

## Wesley Christian School

•Dec. 19 - Christmas play, "Christmas Around the World," 10 a.m., followed by dismissal

at noon for Christmas break.

•Dec. 20 - Circuit Riders vs. Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.; away game.

•Dec. 27 - Circuit Riders vs. Adams, 6 p.m.; home game.

•Jan. 3 - Classes resume.

•WCS Learning Center accepts toddlers, preschool age (2-4). Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

•For more information about Wesley Christian School, call 874-8328.

## Big Sandy Community & Technical College Adult Education and GED

Monday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - McDowell FRC; Martin Comm. Ctr.; Auxier Learning Ctr.; BSCTC.

1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC; Martin Comm. Ctr.

1:30 - 5 p.m. - Wheelwright Baptist Church.

Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Mud Creek Clinic; BSCTC.

9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. - David Craft Center.

9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Dixie Apartments.

1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC; Mud Creek Clinic; Floyd County Jail.

6-8 p.m. - Auxier Learning Ctr.; Martin Community Ctr.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Martin Comm. Ctr.; Auxier Learning Ctr.; BSCTC.

1-4:30 p.m. - Layne House; BSCTC; Floyd County Jail.

6-8 p.m. - BSCTC.

Thursday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - BSCTC.

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Weeksbury CC.

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Betsy Layne YSC.

1-4:30 p.m. - BSCTC;

Kay Hale Ross - Manager of Adult Education, 886-7334

Lisa Pelfrey - Assistant, 886-7397

Ron Johnson, Stephanie Conn, Lynn Hall, Nancy Bormes, Cindy Justice and Wayne Combs - Adult Education teachers.

\*Program will be closed from Dec. 20 through Jan. 4.

All centers will re-open on Jan. 7.

Come join us for our upcoming  
Christmas play...

## "The Perfect Gift"

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## Korner

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he

wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket

was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different.

Continued from p4

Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible.

You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

That is the work of God in our lives, to change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son.

Til Next Week,  
God's Blessings to you and yours.

## Critter

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.  
When, what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But Santa Claus himself - with eyes full of tears.  
He unchained the dog, once so lively and quick,  
Last year's Christmas present, now painfully thin and quite sick...  
More rapid than eagles, he called the Lab's name,  
And the dog ran to him,

despite all its pain;  
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! On Cupid! On Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!  
Let's find this Lab a home where he'll be loved by all!"  
I knew in an instant there would be no gifts this year,  
For Santa Claus had made one thing quite clear.  
The gift of a dog is not just for a season,

Continued from p4

We had gotten the pup for all the wrong reasons.

In our haste to think of the children a gift,

There was one important thing we had missed.

A dog should be family, and cared for the same.

You don't give a gift, then put it on a chain.

And I heard the old fella as he rode out of sight,

"You weren't giving a gift! You were giving a life!"

-Author Unknown

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