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HS FOOTBALL

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briefs

Miner killed in Harlan

A Knox County miner died Wednesday afternoon from injuries suffered in an underground mining accident caused by a rib roll.

The miner has been identified as 42-year-old Jimmy R. Carmack of Barbourville. Carmack was a section foreman at the Lone Mountain Processing's Clover Fork Number 1 mine near Holmes Mill in Harlan County.

The accident was reported to state officials at approximately 3:30 Wednesday afternoon.

Investigators from the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing (OMSL) and the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will continue their investigation today.

This is the fourth mine-related fatality in Kentucky in 2010.

Correction

Court records incorrectly listed Delbert Conn as having been arrested on charges which were in turn published in the June 4 edition of The Times. It was actually Jonathan Niece who was charged with possession of marijuana and alcohol intoxication. Conn was the individual who posted bond for Niece following the arrest.

The Times

WEEKEND EDITION

Serving the Citizens of Floyd County since 1927

Sword-wielding robbers hit pharmacy

by JARRID DEATON FEATURES WRITER

EASTERN - Police are searching for two suspects who allegedly used a shotgun and a sword in the robbery of Howard Family Pharmacy in Eastern on Thursday.

According to Wes Howard, pharmacist, two men entered the pharmacy around 10:30 on Thursday morning and demanded certain types of pills. Howard said one of the suspects had a shotgun that was still in its case and didn't remove it during the robbery.

Officials with the Floyd County Sheriff's

Department said that the suspects left the scene in a black Ford Explorer.

Despite the robbery, the pharmacy remained open on Thursday.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Kentucky State Police.

COURT APPEARANCE



photos by Sheldon Compton

Court bailiffs led John C. Combs from a Floyd County courtroom Thursday. Combs was found competent to stand trial for the murder of Perry County physician Dr. Dennis Sandlin in December. Combs is accused of entering a clinic and gunning Sandlin down after the doctor refused to fill one of his prescriptions.

Accused clinic shooter found competent

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - John C. Combs, the 46-year-old Knott County man who is accused of fatally shooting and killing Perry County physician Dr. Dennis Sandlin this past December, was found competent to stand trial Thursday morning in Prestonsburg.

Floyd County Circuit Judge John David Caudill, who has been assigned as special-judge in the case, heard testimony from Dr. Steven Simon, the psychologist who gave Combs his competency evaluation.

Combs showed no emotion during the hearing, keeping his head lowered for the hour-long proceeding and speaking briefly only once to his defense attorneys.

Combs was indicted this past January on charges of murder, burglary, tampering with physical evidence and terroristic threatening after police said he entered the Leatherwood-Blackey Clinic on Dec. 8 and shot Sandlin after being denied prescription medication. Police said Combs had been at the clinic earlier that day and had become irate when he was asked to submit to a urine test as a requirement to obtain the medication.

Sandlin's daughter, Danielle

(See HEARING, page 7)



Danielle Sandlin, Dr. Dennis Sandlin's daughter, waited for her father's accused killer to enter the courtroom Thursday morning.

(See BUILDING, page 7)

Victim of fiery wreck still not identified

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

MAYTOWN - A one-vehicle crash along Route 80 left a man dead Wednesday and state police and investigators still seeking to determine the identity of the driver.

Though authorities say they are close to a determination on the victim's identity, there has been no official reports sent back from Frankfort, where the body was sent for autopsy and identification shortly after the accident.

According to reports from State Police Post 9 in Pikeville, their dispatch center received a call of a vehicle on fire on Route 80 near Maytown at about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. The as-yet unknown driver was traveling east on Route 80 and crossed into the westbound lane, striking a cliff.

When the Maytown Fire Department arrived on scene, the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. Crews worked to put the fire out, finding the body inside the vehicle.

The case remains under investigation by KSP Trooper Ryan Hamilton, while Post 9 officials expect to release word of the driver's identity possibly by this morning.

Archer Medical Office nears completion

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - Officials with Highlands Regional Medical Center are saying that recent skyrocketing temperatures have not slowed progress of construction for the hospital's new Archer Medical Office Building along University Drive.

"The long days of summer may be a bit oppressive for many in the Big Sandy Region," said Highlands Director of Marketing and Public Relations, "but for construction workers diligently crafting the Archer Medical Office Building, each swelter-

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 88 • Low: 67

Tomorrow



High: 88 • Low: 63

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

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# Viewpoint

Amendment 1

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

## Worth Repeating ...

Any American who is prepared to run for president should automatically, by definition, be disqualified from ever doing so.

— Gore Vidal

## Guest View

### Prescription drug use among teens troubling

A recent report that indicates more and more teens are taking prescription drugs shows we must do more as a society to grapple with this alarming epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's report showed that 20.2 percent of students admitted taking a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their lives.

We are talking, in some cases, about teens taking some pretty powerful prescription drugs, such as Oxycontin, hydrocodone and Dilaudid.

These teens are taking huge risks not only in terms of legal implications, but are also risking potential overdoses or death.

Law enforcement has taken note of the report and has come together with medical professionals and community leaders to head off illegal prescription drug use and reduce the incidence of addiction.

Law enforcement and local pharmacists maintain a relationship to help ferret out those who fraudulently obtain prescriptions from multiple doctors, often referred to as "doctor shopping," and have them filled at numerous pharmacies.

The drug of choice among teens still seems to be marijuana, which is certainly a concern, but the way in which these teens are getting these illegal prescriptions raises eyebrows.

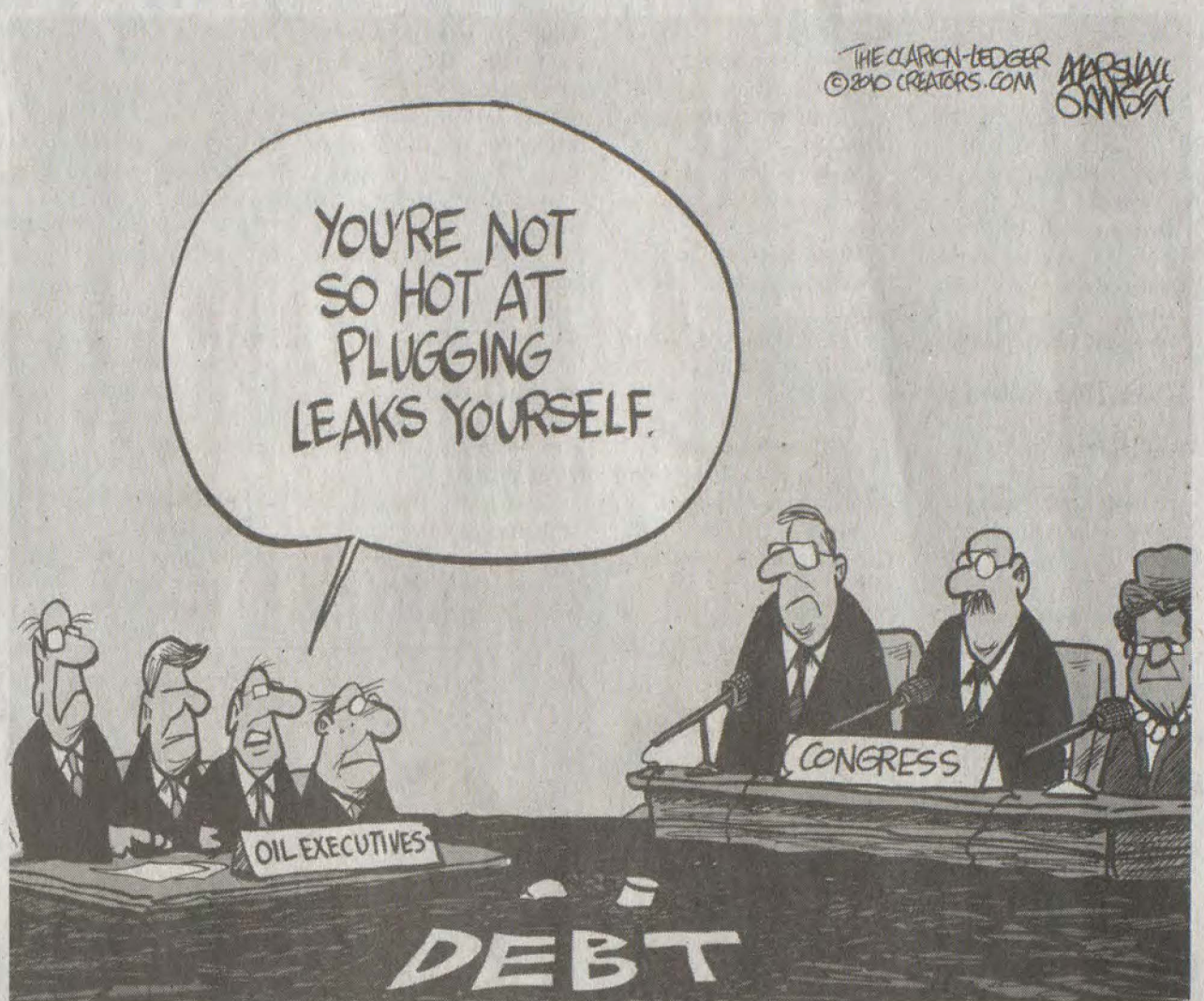
A lot of teens are simply sneaking into their parents' medicine cabinets and stealing painkillers and other types of drugs for recreational use.

Parents would be wise to keep all narcotic prescription drugs locked up or hidden so teens cannot access them.

State and local law enforcement have done a good job thus far battling drugs such as methamphetamine and marijuana, but prescription drug abuse is a different problem. It is a welcome sign that law enforcement is doing all it can to ensure that fewer teens have access to these very dangerous drugs.

While law enforcement has an important role to play, parents and others for whom drugs are intended have an equally important role in seeing that prescription drugs don't fall into the wrong hands.

— The Daily News, Bowling Green



## Beyond the Beltway

### Oil spill: It's your fault

by DONALD KAUL  
OTHERWORDS

The great question of the day is: Who is to blame for the BP oil disaster that's dominating the news? There are many answers.

Texas Governor Rick Perry, known as the conservative's conservative, provided my favorite. He thinks God did it. At least he called the spill "an act of God," which is pretty much the same thing.

An oil company goes out into the Gulf of Mexico to sink a well two miles into the bottom with a mile of water on top. When its equipment breaks down and the well starts sending vast clouds of oil into the environment, one of its bought-and-paid-for politicians blames God for the mess.

I can just hear God's response: "Now wait a minute. I'm willing to take responsibility for hurricanes, volcanoes, floods and earthquakes, even plagues of locusts if I'm in the mood. But oil spills? You yokels are on your own on with that one."

Still, I give the governor's answer high marks for originality. Texans must be proud.

My second favorite answer came from Sarah Palin, Alaska's gift to Tina Fey. She blamed President

Barack Obama. Not for the leak so much as for taking "so doggone long to get in there, to dive in there and grasp the complexity and the potential tragedy that we are seeing."

Pretty much any politician can talk without saying anything, but it takes a kind of genius to make a statement that is so empty of meaning yet still works "doggone" into the sentence. It is a beautiful thing to see. She has the second-best answer to almost everything.

Conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer was almost as ingenious as Gov. Perry. He blamed environmentalists who, he said, "have succeeded in rendering the Pacific and nearly all the Atlantic coast off limits to oil production."

These environmental extremists have forced the poor oil companies to abandon remote areas like the Arctic in favor of regions where people live and work.

In other words, if only we had drilled in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, none of this would be happening today. Or, at the very least, we wouldn't know about it.

No wonder he won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

Then there are those wishy-washy centrists who say: "There's a lot of blame to be spread around." Or, "It doesn't do any good to point fingers."

They're all wrong. Blame spread is blame denied, and that's what fingers are for—pointing.

In that spirit, I accuse...

You. Yes you there, wearing your complacency like a suit of medieval armor, proud that you only have three cars in your family and that you keep the thermostat at 70 degrees in the winter.

It's not enough, dude, not nearly enough. We, as well as the other nations of the Earth who are straining to catch up with us, have gorged ourselves on cheap oil for decades without regard for the consequences. The oil spill is a consequence.

BP is out there drilling in deep water to feed our oil addiction, just as the drug lords of Colombia and Mexico kill to feed our addiction to cocaine, pot, and heroin.

And don't imagine that the BP oil disaster is unique or even very unusual. Oil spills, some of them gigantic, are happening all over the world, all the time. You don't hear about them because they're in Africa, Indonesia, or South America. No one cares, least of all the corrupt governments there.

Nor are our agencies free of the corruption (although the bribes given to our agency officials tend to be pathetically small). Still, they work.

As John Vidal, writing in The Guardian, a British newspaper, said: "If the industry were forced to really clean up the myriad messes it causes, the price would jump and the switch to clean energy would be swift."

But don't expect that to happen any time soon. And it's your fault.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

# The Times

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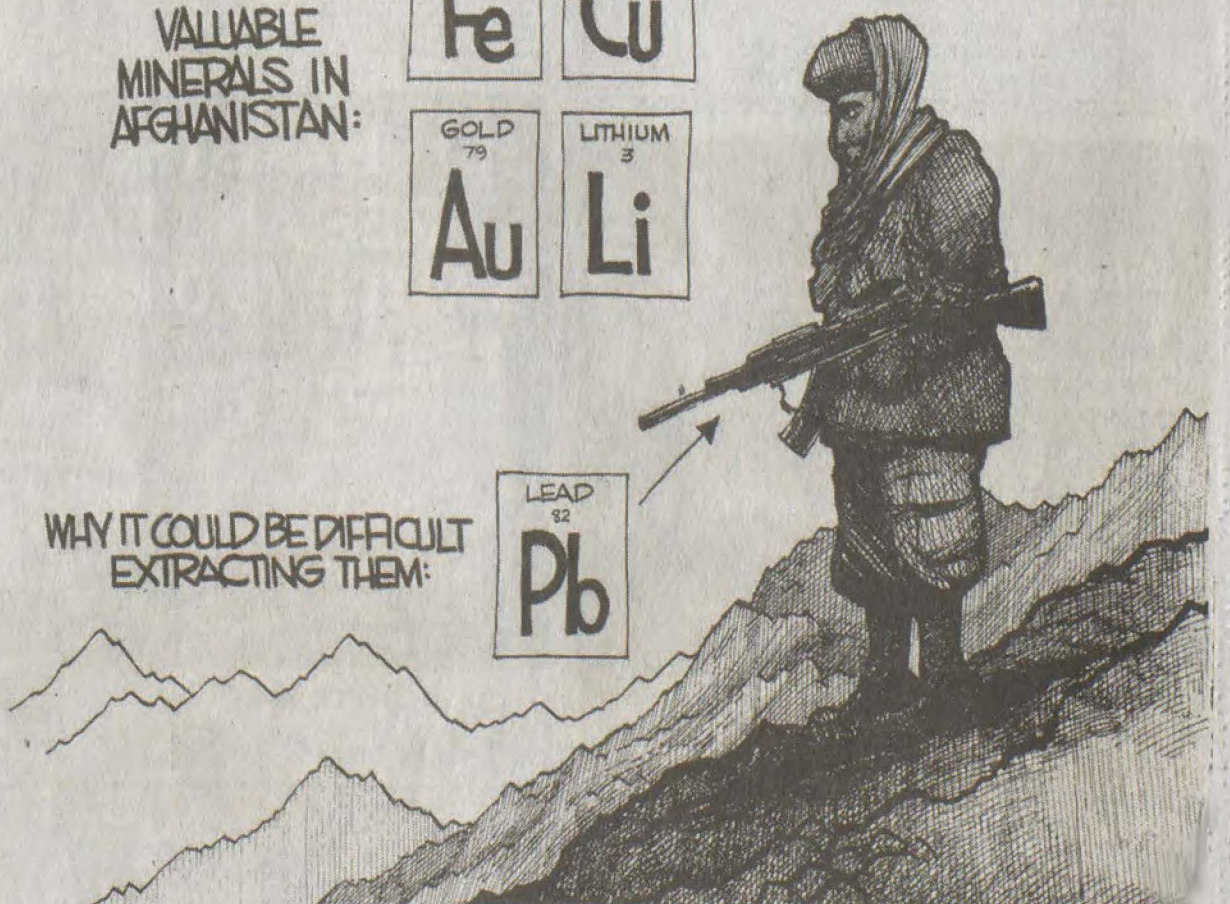
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# Taylor elected Chief Judge of Kentucky Court of Appeals

FRANKFORT — Judge Jeff S. Taylor of Owensboro has been elected by his fellow judges to serve as chief judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. His term as chief judge will begin July 1.

"I am deeply humbled that my fellow judges have selected me as their chief judge," Judge Taylor said. "It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity for our court. I look forward to working with my fellow judges and court

staff to make the Court of Appeals more efficient and to further enhance the administration of justice in Kentucky."

The Court of Appeals judges elected Judge Taylor during their regular court meeting June 15. The chief judge provides administrative oversight to the Court of Appeals and serves in the position for a four-year term under the Kentucky Constitution.

Court of Appeals Judge Laurance B. VanMeter has served

as the court's acting chief judge since Judge Sara Walter Combs resigned from that position in May. Judge VanMeter will continue as acting chief judge until Judge Taylor's term begins.

Judge Taylor was first elected as a Court of Appeals judge in November 2003 to represent the 2nd Appellate District, which is comprised of Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Daviess, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, LaRue, Meade, Ohio,

Union and Warren counties. He was re-elected in November 2006 to a full eight-year term.

Judge Taylor previously practiced law in Owensboro for more than 20 years and was a sole practitioner from 1990 until his election to the Court of Appeals.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Murray State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Memphis State University. He earned his law degree from the

University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, graduating with honors in 1982. He is a 1971 graduate of Elizabethtown High School.

Judge Taylor serves on the Kentucky Bar Foundation Board of Directors and on the board of directors for the Daviess County Public Schools Foundation. He served on the Murray State University Board of Regents from September 2006 to September 2009.

## SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

# Kids: Invite your grandparents to our online office

by JENNIFER HOPKINS  
SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE  
SOCIAL SECURITY  
ADMINISTRATION

Did you know that with age comes wisdom? Clearly, there is a lot of knowledge and experiences that grandparents can pass along to their children and grandchildren. But there's one place where young people can teach grandma and grandpa a thing or two: online.

Show your grandparents how they can use [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to avoid unneeded trips to a Social Security office. Take them to the online Retirement Estimator, a tool that helps them figure out how much they may get in monthly benefits depending on when they retire. It's available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

You also can show them our library of online publications containing all the information they need to know on an array of Social Security, retirement, and Medicare subjects. The publications can be found at

[www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/index.html). If they were thinking about retirement, you may want to show them just how knowledgeable you are by suggesting they read the publication When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html).

Now you've done it! You've been so helpful that they've decided they're ready to retire right away. When they grab their hats and try to drag you to the local Social Security office, remind them that all they have to do is drag the mouse across the mouse pad. Take them to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline), where they can apply online for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes - that may be less time that it would have taken to lock the front door and start up the car. Once they click the "submit" button, they're done. (And so are you.)

While you're online with them, here's an excuse to visit Facebook and Twitter. Show them how to follow Social Security on both! The

icons are right on our main page, [socialsecurity.gov](http://socialsecurity.gov).

So many of the things grandparents (and even parents) may want to do at a Social Security office can be done online these days. See


for yourself. Even better, help someone less web-savvy than you check it out Social Security online.

For more information about online services just call your local Social

Security Office in Prestonsburg at (606) 886-8525. The office is located at 1897 Kentucky Route 321 in Prestonsburg, KY. Representatives are available to answer questions.

And remember, we have representatives available to give presentations and speeches about Social Security Programs. Contact the office for more information.

*Happy Father's Day*  
**Anthony Osborne**  
Feb. 19, 1987 - Nov. 10, 2006



Anthony,  
I know you would have been the best Daddy ever, because you're the best son ever. You've always been our pride and joy and you always will be.  
We love and miss you more every day!  
Love always,  
Mom, Dad, and all the family

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# Lifestyles

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## MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

### 'Angel of Death'

by TOM DOTY  
TIMES COLUMNIST

A hit-woman wages war against the mob, to appease the ghost of one of her victims in this quirky and effective yarn that mixes supernatural elements with action movie set pieces.

This movie messes with you from the start with an ordinary opening sequence that doesn't hint at how weird things are going to get. It starts with our heroine, Eve, embarking on her latest assignment while training a new recruit. The trainee has an annoying habit of asking questions about their target and questioning whether he deserves to die. Eve makes it clear that she doesn't care and we are off to the races, plot wise, as the job proceeds to go entirely wrong.

Eve manages to close out the job but walks into a couple of bodyguards as they step off an elevator and quickly determine that she's not there to deliver a pizza. Everyone whips out guns and Eve goes into work mode. She decimates the pair but makes two costly errors. First, she accidentally kills her target's young daughter, and then she compounds the error by using her head to stop a knife attack. She winds up with four inches of steel in her brain and a miraculous change in attitude.

Pretty soon she is caring about

(See LAGOON, page three)



Tom Doty  
Times Columnist

## This Town, That World

*Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being reprinted due to request.*

I have more than one objection to this new Turn Right on Red law, but the strongest stems from the fact that this is going to make that driver's test that much more difficult. Now, a fellow's going to have to be able to know right from left.

### PHILOSOPHY

There's always some smart aleck. The fellow was expounding on Emerson's Law of Compensation, tossing in a few ideas of his own while the others yawned. He pointed out that nature balances matters pretty well, that the runt is agile but not strong while his big brother has all the muscles but moves like a turtle; that the rough land is unfit for farming but has rich mineral resources while the rich lands have neither coal nor oil nor gas, that where one is up the other is down.

"Yeah," remarked one of the bystanders. "The rain falls and the river rises."

### PIPING WARM

One of my liar-friends was telling one about the inveterate pipe-smoker. Said this fellow fell out of a john-boat crossing the river here and came, up some minutes later, with his pipe still in his mouth. "Was it still lit?"

(See ALLEN, page two)

## Goose Creek Symphony returns to MAC

by JARRID DEATON  
FEATURES WRITER

Charlie Gearheart was fishing on Wednesday morning, taking it easy and hoping that the rain would stay away, but Gearheart, the lead singer of Goose Creek Symphony, will not be relaxing on the water on Saturday as his band returns to Prestonsburg for a show at the Mountain Arts Center.

Gearheart, a native of Floyd County, plans to visit a number of friends and family while he is in the area for the concert.

"I've been all over the place and I wouldn't trade growing up in Floyd County for anything in the world," Gearheart said.

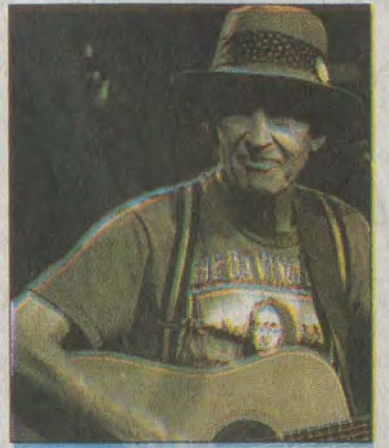
The band is only going to be playing for a couple of months, and Gearheart said that the show at the Mountain Arts Center is one he is really looking forward to playing.

"It's a great theater and we always get a really good crowd," Gearheart said. "I think we were one of the first bands to ever play at the MAC. Plus, I always look forward to coming home to Floyd

County."

Fans of Goose Creek Symphony have more to look forward to, as Gearheart said he has written new songs and hopes to get the band back in the studio for a new album. Also, a PBS special concert is scheduled to air this winter.

The concert at the Mountain Arts Center is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. with opening act The Deadstring Brothers. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 on the day of the show.



Charlie Gearheart

# CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE

## Local author writes book to help children

by JARRID DEATON  
FEATURES WRITER

Lenora Wheeler spent the majority of her working life as a teacher, and now Wheeler's illustrated book "Why am I Different?" is available to help children understand that it is fine to be different in school and in life.

Wheeler will be at the Paintsville Public Library on Saturday to sign copies of the book and talk about her experiences as a teacher, including her final year as a special education teacher at Paintsville Elementary School.

According to Wheeler's biographical information, "She never had bad days at school, just different days. Lenora loved all the students, staff, and parents. Her goal as a teacher was to inspire each student to reach his or her best potential and to become an asset to their school, family, community and country while realizing it is okay to be different. Lenora desired to write the book so that people could know it is okay to be different."

"Why am I Different?" features full-color illustrations by Cindy Ramey and was printed by Williams Printing Company in Prestonsburg.

A portion of the sales from the book will go toward charities that help to feed children in eastern Kentucky.



### DINNER DIVA

## Blessed responsibility



There are times when you cannot help but feel disheartened when you read what's happening at home and in the rest of the world. It's times like this when we need to keep our home fires burning, regardless of what is going on. The one place where we do have some control is in our homes. We cannot control the Middle East, we cannot control the winds of war, the price of gas or the cost of food, but we can control the environment around us that we call home.

Your home is a gift. Likewise

your family is a gift, too. And with these gifts comes blessed responsibility. Every time you feed your family a meal, it is an expression of your love and nurture for them. That meal says that you love them, you care about their needs and that you're there for them. One of the first things a woman is able to do after giving birth to a baby is feed it. The privilege of feeding our children and families goes beyond infant care and into the very fabric of our families' lives at the place we call our dinner tables.

The meals you prepare for your family is how you can bless them. We live in uncertain, scary times. We need the comfort of hearth and home and you have the privilege of bringing that comfort to your family with the meals you serve. Make your menu, put it on the fridge and keep at it! You CAN do this! If you need a little help with menus, go to my website for a prepared menu and shopping list already made out for you.

(See DIVA, page two)

### inside lifestyles

**CAR TALK**  
Nervous mom wants electronic help

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