

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Know how the system sometimes works - "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." It seems to me that there is a situation where this is happening in a local, heartbreaking murder case.

It's a shame that a person that has confessed to taking part in a murder, now fears for her life. This person was not given a chance to fear for his life. When the choice was made for him to die the choice was not his choice. No mercy was shown for him, his child or his family. And yes, he did and still does have a family that cares and misses him dearly.

This may not have been the best person around, or the most law abiding citizen, but he did not deserve to die in the manner in which he did. There are lots of things, we as a family, will never know, but one that makes me wonder most is how anyone can kill and bury someone, then proceed on with building a home on top of the site to which a family is to be raised. This is disgusting and more so, heartbreaking. Even with all that has happened, we still have faith in the good Lord above that justice will prevail, in this life or the life after death.

We would just like to thank all our friends for all the prayers and thoughts through this whole ordeal. We appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Pat Gray & Sisters

Dear Editor,

National Volunteer Week (April 9-15) is a chance for the National Weather Service to single out the role of the volunteer Cooperative Weather Observers, who help us spot important weather and climate trends. Since 1890, a vast network of cooperative observers has served the nation by reporting weather findings—such as temperature and precipitation—to the National Weather Service. Our meteorologists use this information, along with observations taken by weather satellites, Doppler radar and other advanced technology, to develop forecasts that are increasingly more accurate.

The observations of the volunteer become part of America's weather annals and help meteorologists and climatologists shape their understanding of the relationship between weather, water and climate.

Many of the 11,700 volunteer weather observations have taken measurements for decades, passing down the tradition to younger generations. In some cases, weather records have been collected at the same locations for more than 100 years. Each day in eastern Kentucky, 59 cooperative weather observers collect various types of weather information.

The observers report their weather information to the National Weather Service, forecast office in Jackson, and thus contribute to America's historical data collection. These records also help guide agricultural and commercial interests, and have a critical impact on preparing areas for severe weather, such as flooding.

Cooperative weather observers themselves are unique people, with backgrounds that run the gamut from grandparents to home-business owners, to pharmacists and retired military veterans. Without their dedication and enthusiasm, the National Weather Service would not be the meteorological leader it is today.

As the nation observes National Volunteer Week, please remember these unsung heroes in weather forecasting.

Sincerely,
Shawn B. Harley
Meteorologist-in-Charge
Jackson, KY

Dear Editor,

Each year, more than 3 million children in the United States are reported as being abused or neglected, according to statistics released by Prevent Child Abuse America, the nation's leading child abuse prevention organization. Approximately one million of these cases are confirmed.

Here in Kentucky during fiscal year 1998, 55,316 children were reported as being abused or neglected. These statistics are particularly alarming in light of the fact that overall crime statistics have gone downward since 1993 (by 21 percent) while the number of children reported as being abused and neglected increased nine percent from 1993 to 1997. While it is important to take notes of these statistics and to learn from them, it's just as important—maybe even more so—to prevent abuse and neglect from happening in the first place. That's what April's observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month is all about.

Here are a few simple ways each of us can help prevent child abuse and neglect.

1. Be a nurturing parent. Children need to know that they are special and loved. Educate yourself about a child's development process so you can have reasonable expectations about what your child can and cannot do.

2. Help a friend, neighbor and relative. Being a parent isn't easy. Someone you know may be struggling with his or her parenting responsibilities. Offer a helping hand.

3. Help yourself. When the big and little problems of everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed and out of control, take

time out. Don't take it out on your child. Take a deep breath and calm down. Know where you can turn for help when you need it.

4. If your baby cries...! It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry, especially when nothing you do seems to work. Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying. But never shake a baby!

5. Get involved. Advocate for services to help families. Ask your community leaders, clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of children and families.

6. Monitor your child's television and computer use. Watching violent films on TV or playing violent computer games can harm young children. Not only does it scare them, it also teaches children that aggression

is a good way to handle frustration and solve problems.

7. Spend time playing with your children...or read to them instead! Spend at least ten quiet minutes with your child, one on one, each day, no matter how old they are!

8. Report suspected abuse or neglect. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of every adult in our community. If you have reason to believe a child has been—or may be—harmed, call your local Cabinet for Families and Children.

April's observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month is an appropriate opportunity to remind ourselves of our collective responsibility to prevent the abuse and neglect that robs so many of our society's children of their childhood, their sense of security and well-being, and their future. Together, we really can make a difference.

For more information about how to prevent child abuse and neglect, call Jill Seyfried, ACSW, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky 1-800-432-9251.

Very truly yours,
Debra Hembree Lambert
Family Court Judge &
Statewide Board Member of
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky will hold a public hearing on April 19, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purpose of cross-examining witnesses in Case No. 2000-095, Application of PowerGen plc, LG&E Energy Corp., Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company for Approval of a Merger and receiving public comment on the same.

KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY
220 West Main Street
Louisville, Kentucky



Local emergency leader attends Disaster Management training

Computer specialist Jim Colwell (third from left) of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KyEM) demonstrates a hand-cranked AM/FM radio to, from left: local emergency management directors William Gay (Jackson County) Keith Graves (Rockcastle County) and Joe Bradshaw (Knox County) along with KyEM area manager Richard Francis of Middlesboro during a "Principles of Emergency Management" course conducted recently by KyEM in Lexington. "Throughout Kentucky's 'Severe Storms Preparedness Month,' state and local emergency managers have been recommending a battery operated radio as a key part of any family's disaster kit.



State Representative Danny Ford (top left) is shown with students from Rockcastle High School during the group's March 17 visit to Frankfort. Part of the day's activities included a tour, arranged by Rep. Ford, of the historic state Capitol Building and lunch with Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, the Honorable Joseph Lambert. Since members of the General Assembly are currently involved in the 2000 legislative session, they also had the opportunity to see firsthand how laws are shaped. Ford serves in House Leadership as Minority Floor Leader and represents all of Rockcastle County.

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Wednesday thru Saturday Services - 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Speaker will be Evangelist

Doug Hawkins

Mt. Vernon, Kentucky

Everyone is invited to attend.