ramblings....

Called "Fall Back" too soon, my bad

by perlina m. anderkin

It was the second time in 37 years and, once again, I have definite proof that *The Signal* is well read.

I am, of course, referring to the fact that in last week's *Signal*, we (and I use the editorial "we" loosely), reminded our readers to set their clocks back Saturday night because daylight savings time ended at 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Of course, as everyone else in the county knows, it's actually the last Sunday in October that time goes back and my "senior moment" caused some confusion to put it mildly.

Our phone rang constantly from early Thursday to close of business Friday and I even got two calls at home. The calls ranged from mostly polite ones of "I am confused, I thought time went back the last Sunday in the month" to "I just wanted you to know that time doesn't go back until the last Sunday in October" to "You owe your readers an apology for putting in your paper that time goes back Sunday when it doesn't."

Of course, I had no defense for the last one and could only assure the caller that, of course, there would be an apology forthcoming this week and I would be eating crow big time.

This was even worse then the first time many years ago when there were five Sundays in the month and I announced that time changed on the fourth Sunday.

Dr. Joe Henderson was the only one late Sunday at our church and I haven't heard from him yet but have no doubt in my mind that I will.

Anyway, consider this my official apology and, trust me, I now have a good grip on the dates of the two time changes each year. However, to avoid the chance of this happening again and, to be on the safe side, I may just ignore them totally.

Points East

By: Ike Adams

The Rose Beans were well over six feet tall and hanging full of nine inch pods when the forecast was confirmed by mid-afternoon on Wednesday, October 1.

"A chance of frost in low-lying areas" according to WUKY, my favorite NPR station, which is a huge source of information for home gardeners and which was taking time out from its fall pledge drive to remind folks like me who are only good for maybe ten bucks a year when gas is cheap, we aren't experiencing a drought, all the plumbing is working, we never had to buy much prescription medicine since the last drive a few weeks back, we have avoided bites by poisonous snakes, rabid skunks and skeepers carrying the West Nile Virus, etc.-- that we might also avoid getting "frostbitten" if we drove 40 to 100 miles to Lexington with cold hard cash and plunked it down on the desk.

They already know we don't have cell phones and they have learned the hard way that a pledge over ten bucks is only good if we hit the Powerball and the jackpot is over $100 million. But they know we mean well and we'd gladly settle up if we got loaded and actually tucked the money in an envelope and posted it before we came to our senses.

I don't even bother calling anymore but I do encourage all my friends to do so. Heck, it's a good cause and the commercials are usually pretty short unless you are partial to liberal democrats who sometimes hog up an hour at a time deriding President Bush when we all know the debate (however unfair to the White House) to be a more appropriate activity for kindergarten kids in Kentucky and West Virginia engaged in serious discussion with the President's Cabinet. I realize that it's not fair that the kids win all the time, but that's politics.

Anyway, when you hear one of those long liberal knee-jerk tirades coming on, you can always plug in a John Prine or Zoe Speaks tape to keep your tape player from rusting up while you listen to some of America's best music. (If you don't have a tape player in your car truck or whatever it is you drive, please don't try to convince me that you are American).

In the meantime, as far as I can tell, the Lowell Branch Borough of Paint-Lick is approximately ten feet lower than Death Valley. We did have frost because we failed to get our money to WUKY on time but we had a reprieve. It only hit us hard enough to wipe out the late cucumbers and maters that first night. We picked off the bitten leaves of the Rose Beans and covered them with some of that white fabric that all the tobacco farmers use to fight off frost and we think we saved them when the big one hit a night later. There's a bushel or two hanging on the vines. All we're praying for right now is enough seed to ripen so we can try again next year. And we're hereby pledging 10 full dollars to WUKY's spring drive. You can trust us UKY. We just sent WMMT at Appalshop ten bucks and they didn't even ask but we don't live close enough for them to keep the frost off.

In the meantime, don't be calling for green tomatoes to fry up late. They're mostly in the compost pile by now. Maybe next year I'll drive up to WUKY in Lexington and hand deliver a $20 bill the day the pledge drive starts. Or maybe WMMT will get a power boost. In the meantime the Rose Beans are nearly 11 inches long and they are beginning to swell up like pregnant eels. No forecasts for frost for the next 4 days but we need about ten.

We still have a chance here.

Don't change that dial. We'll keep you posted.

T.J.'s Journal

by: Tonya J. Cook

Spring ahead and fall back. That's the cliché that we keep in mind about this time of year when we change our timepieces and go back in time one hour each fall. It really feels good to sleep that extra hour that first morning after the time change, doesn't it?

Imagine going back two hours instead of one. A few years ago, my mother said that when she was a little girl, (this would have been in the 1920s) the time was one hour faster than the current time. She said that it benefited people like the farmers and schoolchildren. The children could walk to school and the farmers could do their early morning chores in the daylight. Otherwise, these activities would have been done in the dark, for the most part. I guess the progress of the school buses, industrialization, and virtually every household having electricity slowly did away with that time.

I've often wondered why people can't just leave the time alone. After all, we just have twenty-four hours in a day, and only so much can be done in it. About the time we get our minds and bodies adjusted to one time being a certain way, somebody has to come along and change it. Of course, if one time zone changes, the others must follow suit not only in the United States but all over the world or else there would be two or more time zones at the same time. At least the world cooperates about this one topic.

Personally, I'm not thoroughly convinced we need a strict adherence to hours anyway. Back during the time of the New Testament Church and before that, they had four watches a night: six P.M. to six A.M. divided into three hours each, and kept hours during the day which began at six A.M. until six P.M. I guess they used sundials. If we kept time like this, people could relax more, and not be on such a rigid schedule. We could be at school or work at eight-ish. Wouldn't that be nice? We would never be late for an appointment again. Besides, whoever really ever gets in on time for an appointment anyway? It's time we stopped and smelled the roses.

Speaking of going back in time or time travel, I think I would like to go back in time for a few days. I've always said I was born far, far too late. I think it would have been fun to have been a teenager in the 1950s. Wouldn't it have been fun to have witnessed the birth of rock and roll? Maybe even go back to about 1900 and be a Gibson girl. That would have been an exciting era. America was just coming of age and becoming a national power. The Industrial Revolution was at its peak. It was also a time when ladies were ladies and men were men, and as John Wayne once said, "That makes for a d**n good situation." Of course, I would have a big, fancy hat like Kate Winslet wore as Rose Dawson in Titanic for every day of the week. The bigger the hat with the more feathers, bows, and flowers, the better. Then, who wouldn't like to be a lady-in-waiting in medieval England? They were big on hats, too. I think I've got this thing about hats, don't you? But, it would just be my luck to be a poor peasant and die from the Black Death. Yes, it would be fun and exciting to be a time traveler and visit various eras through the centuries. Sometimes I have déjà vu, and almost feel that I've been in some of these times and places. Some call it reincarnation, however, I don't believe in it.

Sometimes I wish I could travel back to different eras and see my relatives from generations from long past. I'd love to see how they looked and how they lived their daily lives. I recently went to a Norton family reunion and heard stories of long ago of when our great-great-great-grandparents lived. I learned of a William Norton, the patriarch of the Norton clan who first came to settle in the Mt. Vernon/southern Laurel County area. This was just after the Civil War, and he came to this area from North Carolina. His son, Joe, who was about four years old at the time, made the journey and led the family trek. I recently saw some old photographs dating back to the early 1800s sent to me by a newly found cousin, Louise, from Illinois.

I think one's own family history is the most exciting history of all. In the months ahead, I hope to research as much history as possible to pass on to future generations. I heartily encourage everyone to do as much family history and the recording of that history as possible before it's all gone. Every time an older member of our family dies, or an older member of the community for that matter, we say good-bye to a chapter of history. So, I guess until next time, I'll be travelin' on.

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Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

First of all let me say that I was born and raised in Mt. Vernon and no matter where I live I will always call Mt. Vernon my home.

I left Mt. Vernon in 1962 as there was nothing there for a person to look forward to. Since I left Mt. Vernon I have kept up with the happenings of all the people that I grew up with through the *Mt Vernon Signal*. Today when I received my *Signal* dated Thursday September 25, 2003 I read the best article that I have read since I left there. It was T.J.'s Journal by: Tonya J. Cook.

That young lady has a vision and has just issued Mt. Vernon a wake up call. I just hope someone will wake up and hear what she has to say. I have been coming home every year since I left Mt. Vernon and nothing has changed except Hwy 461.

When I go to Somerset or London or other towns around Mt Vernon and see the changes that has taken place over the years that I have been gone I can see why I left. I always thought I would come back to Mt. Vernon someday when I retired but what is there to come back to except the memories of old times. Like Tonya said Mt. Vernon doesn't even have a movie theater or the little diners of the old days where people met. To the young people that still live there wake up and hear what this lady is trying to tell you. The old people is gone and cannot stop you from making changes to Mt. Vernon.

Bobby G Harper
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Editor,

Doctors who campaign for Fletcher during a medical visit are abusing the doctor/patient relationship. I am writing this letter to explain how Fletcher's proposed prescription drug plan shortchanges seniors.

Congressman Fletcher brags that the prescription drug bill he drafted will solve Kentuckian's health care needs. If people believe this, then they will probably believe that the gelding Funny Cide will soon have a colt running in the Kentucky Derby.

As reported in national news media, a participating senior would pay $420 a year in premiums, then a $250 deductible and a 20% co-payment. If your yearly prescription drug bill is $1,000, you will pay $870 out of your own pocket.

That's bad, but it gets worse! There is no coverage between $2,000 and $4,500. For a $4,900 prescription drug bill, you would pay $3,920 or 80% of the cost.

Fortunately for seniors, the AARP's amendment to give access to cheaper prices in Canada passed. This was over the objections of Fletcher and the big drug companies who have contributed over $15 million to Republican causes.

Fletcher and some doctors seem more motivated by loyalty to the drug companies than to Kentucky's senior citizens! If a senior had $870 or $3,920 to begin with, the savings from Fletcher's plan might buy a bologna sandwich every other day. That is, if you don't starve before 2006 when Fletcher's proposed bill would go into effect.

Sincerely,
Gene Spalding (270) 865-2842
1255 Spencer Hamilton Rd.
Loretto, Ky. 40037

Dear Editor,

The future of Kentucky is at stake on November 4. It is vital that we elect the right leadership to send to Frankfort. That is why I plan to place my vote for Ernie Fletcher.

It is easy for candidates to say they plan to make things better if elected. Everyday we hear candidates saying, "I'll do this if you will elect me" but rarely do they offer any specific plans. I know there needs to be change in our state government, and because of the detailed plans Ernie Fletcher has released on many important issues- he has won my vote. No matter what the issue, he has provided a plan of action, instead of just empty promises.

One issue that the Congressman has really impressed me on is education. Personally I feel there is no issue more important. Education is the foundation of our society. I believe a good education can take one anywhere in life!

However, in order to receive this key to success, a person must be able to READ. There is no getting around it. Reading equals success. Did you know statistics show that 71% of Kentucky's fourth graders are only at a basic or below basic reading level? This is simply unacceptable.

I believe, like Ernie Fletcher, that the children of Kentucky deserve only the best. That is why I agree with his Read to Achieve initiative that will use various methods to ensure

(Cont. to A4)

BIDS WANTED

Bids wanted for approximately 30 acres of trees to be clear cut. Area may be viewed by appointment. Call 453-9053.

GARAGE SALE

Sat., 8 to 2 on Hwy. 25, 2 miles north of Renfro Valley on left. Fishing equipment, clothes, furniture, stereo, etc. Watch for signs. 606-256-5791

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Bittersweet Festival

Main St. - Mt. Vernon
October 10th & 11th

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th

4:00 p.m. Festival Opens
4:00 p.m. Country/Western group C.C. Chance performs on stage
5:00 p.m. Open Microphone Karaoke
6:00 p.m. Bad Temper Band
6:30 p.m. Contemporary Christian group Fire the Choir performs
7:00 p.m. Contemporary Christian group 40 Days West performs
7:30 p.m. Bittersweet Cloggers
8:00 p.m. Street Dance featuring Wild River Band
11:00 p.m. Festival Closes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th

7:00 a.m. Late registration for Health Essentials/Bittersweet 5K Run/Walk
8:00 a.m. Health Essentials/Bittersweet 5K Run/Walk
Tamara Feller sings Mountain Music on stage
10:00 a.m. Northside Baptist Church Puppets, Interpretive Movement
11:00 a.m. Parade lineup at MVES - Bittersweet Cloggers perform on Main St.

Anyone wishing to participate in the parade including churches, groups, civic organizations, please meet at MVES at 11 a.m. for lineup

Noon Parade down Main Street
2:00 p.m. C.C. Chance performs
3:00 p.m. Kentucky Comfort bluegrass band performs
4:00 p.m. Southern gospel singer Michael Fredrick performs
5:00 p.m. Gospel group Behind the Cross performs
6:00 p.m. Ruby Powell and J.B. Baker performs
8:00 p.m. Street Dance featuring Wild River Band

This year's festival includes over 120 food/vendor booths with arts/crafts, jewelry, antiques, candles, wood crafts, gourds, pillows, mop dolls, floral arrangements, pictures, birdhouses, Henna tattoos, soy candles, baseball cards, knives, Hot Wheels, quilt kits, hand painted mail boxes, face painting and many other great items!

Also visit the Petting Zoo and Pony Rides in gravel pit below courthouse
Inflatable rides including fire engine slide, Deluxe Bouncer and Lil' Lambs Playhouse in parking lot beside Cox Hardware