



Storyteller Octavia Beverly Sexton entertains children last Friday night at the Rockcastle County Senior Citizen Center. Over 60 children were treated to refreshments, ornamental coloring and Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well as storytelling.

ramblings...

by: perline m. anderson
 'Tis the season to be jolly... but things weren't too "jolly" around our house last Thursday afternoon. I centered around our seven-month-old 60 lb. black Lab, "Annie," who won the battle of whether she came in the house or not by knocking me to my feet, dislocating my right elbow and chipping the bone.

My pain threshold must be about as low as a whale's belly because everyone within a good distance of me knew exactly what had happened and exactly the degree of discomfort I was feeling at any given moment.

It does hurt. I have never dislocated anything before and the "relocating" wasn't something I would recommend to fill a dull moment.

I will have to admit the shot of dental and whatever it was that was injected into my IV just beforehand helped. Dr. Stern at Rockcastle Hospital was as gentle as possible and I didn't have to apologize profusely to everyone within a ten foot area afterwards, for a change.

The fate of Annie is still to be determined but she is definitely *persona non grata* in the house now and I am busily figuring up the actual cost of the dog that Jim and Allison "had to have."

It's not her fault. She's hyper but all Labs evidently are. Our vet told us, at her last check-up, that the puppy stage lasted about three years. Quite frankly, I don't think our house will last the three years.

We will probably banish her to our daughter's house which has a huge fenced-in back yard, go by and see her occasionally, and then try to take her back when she can greet you without putting your welfare in mortal danger. One consideration is our grandchildren who use our pool a lot during the summer and run screaming in terror when they see Annie approaching. They're tiny and if one of them had taken the lick I did, it wouldn't have been pretty.

I'll settle for my miniature Jack Russell whose main output of energy is chasing our Mama Cat around the

house and jumping up to be petted by everything that moves or decides exactly which side of Jim's recliner she wants to occupy for the better part of her waking hours.

They're great pets. They're affectionate, make great watch dogs (although they're too small to back anything up) and will eat anything as long as she knows humans are eating it first, or the cat wants it.

I like animals and smothered my first instinct to drown Annie in the pool or abandon her to the animal shelter. Our daughter, Allison, wants to take her to obedience school, at a cool \$400, but that would bring her total cost somewhere within range of the Hope diamond and stray close to

Community Support group meeting

Cumberland River Comprehensive Care Center will be hosting a Community Support Group meeting Thursday, December 18 with a reception, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Comprehensive Care Center in Mt. Vernon.

Speakers from various departments, within the agency, will tell about the area in which they specialize, including: outpatient mental health, substance abuse, community rehabilitation/mental retardation, child family intervention and others. During their presentations, time will be allowed for questions and comments.

Cumberland River Comprehensive Care hopes to utilize this support group for the betterment of Rockcastle County and its citizens.

It is our hope that this interaction will increase the knowledge of Comp Care services in our area and bridge the gap between local referral sources and the agency. Sonny Daniels, employment specialist with the center said.

the ridiculous for an investment in a dog.

I didn't pass along this love of animals to all my children - perhaps it had something to do with being raised in close proximity to them and having an aversion to being sat on, jumped on and generally aggravated by.

However, even with a non-functioning right arm, I did manage to get in some serious shopping Sunday and wasn't above using the arm in a sling to gain an advantage with sales people.

Homespun Shopping

The Bittersweet Cabin Museum is owned and operated by the Mt. Vernon-Rockcastle County Tourist Commission. It is a group of authentic log cabins with fixtures, furnishings and artifacts from as far back as the 1700's. The village museum is a realistic step back in time for all ages to enjoy.

In addition to being a tribute to the past, the museum has a gift shop of local artisans and crafters to display and sell their merchandise. There are hand-woven baskets and bonnets by Charlene Gentry, cornshuck dolls and art by Darlene Clark, wooden toys and Charles White, loom rugs handmade by Virginia Meece and hand-made "rag" rugs and decor by Fay Bullen and Flora Mae Taylor; ceramic ornaments and wind chimes by Debbie Bugge; handmade brooms by Chris Robbins and birdhouses by Andrew Robbins; crocheted towels and gifts by Geraldine Robbins; crafts by Hans and Betty Lindholm; handmade items by Pearl Howard.

Phobe Huff, Leolla Wynn, Joyce Mink, Debbie Robinson, Hilda Tellman, Barbara Shipp, Marsha Fields, Fenton Kohler, Jamie Johnson and Bethel Hensley; candles by Janine Norman, Ruby DeSurne and Jim Collins; framed photography by Bryant Bryant; an Appalachian calendar by Ben Perry; cookbooks, including Lucille Carlisle's book, *Recipes of Red & Bluebirds and Inns across America*.

This week is the final week for this season's merchandise to be offered until our reopening in the spring. Hours: Friday, noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon. The phone number at the gift shop is 606-256-0715. There are a lot of reasons to shop locally. The Bittersweet Cabin Museum Gift Shop is one of those good reasons. Give a homemade gift that someone you love will cherish forever.

"City Council"

(Cont. from Front)

Chief Jackson gave a report of his department to the council and told them of his acquiring two radar units and four preliminary breath tests from the Kentucky State Police surplus at a savings of about \$3,000 for the city. Jackson also said he had been guaranteed four more radar units when available.

The city will receive COPS grants in 2004, Jackson said, since the city was not on the list for the grants this year. The grant will provide for two additional officers. He said, an application has been made for equipment through Homeland Security funding. Jackson reported, which will provide video cameras for a couple of cruisers for the city's own police fleet. Jackson also said they could apply for a pay increase for his officers, telling the council that they could approve a \$1.50 per hour across the board raise, excluding himself, and still stay in the current budget.

H Jackson said that currently, the base pay range is from \$5.15 per hour to \$8.25 and he would like to see the base pay raised to \$7.50 per hour for new officers with a raise to \$9 per hour after training is completed.

"This would help us bring in quality people and keep them," Jackson told the council. He also said the increase would not bring the pay up to the level of surrounding towns but would make it "comparable" to Lancaster, Berea, etc.

The mayor does have the discretion to increase the starting pay for a policeman, an above the \$5.15, provided for by policy, and the last two officers hired were hired at \$7.50 per hour. Kirby told the council that, even this raise comes out to only \$15,600 per year.

The department currently is one policeman short and two are in training, having only four active policemen and himself, Jackson said.

The council agreed to look into the matter. In other business, the city opened bids for surplus vehicles and they ranged from \$5 to \$2,772.

"New Program"

(Cont. from Front)

garded local and outside experts to conduct these sessions," says Jerry Renner, the Development Board's Executive Director. There is a \$300 registration fee, which covers all materials, meals and other expenses for the course.

Anyone interested in applying for this program can contact the Rockcastle County Development Board office at 606-256-8003 or via e-mail at rockdev_board@yahoo.com

"Rockets"

(Cont. from A-8)

two three point baskets, for the Rockets and Cash and Lunsford each added a free throw for the 38-35 halftime margin in favor of the Generals.

In the third quarter, the Generals drew first blood but a free throw by Taylor tied the score at 40 all. A turnover by Jackson County gave the ball to the Rockets and Cash put in a shot to give his team their first lead of the game, 42-40. A three point shot at the buzzer by Taylor put the Rockets up 53-51 at the third quarter stop.

The Generals tied the score at 67 all in the fourth quarter on a basket

that proved to be the last one of the game for both teams but, with the Rockets up 69-68, after two free throws by Roberts and a turnover by Jackson County at the 43 second mark, the Generals were forced to start fouling and the Rockets were equal to the task, getting seven of eight at the charity stripe for the final 76-69.

Cash led the scoring with 28; Brown got 20; Taylor, 14; Roberts 8; Mullins 4 and Lunsford and Hurst, 1 each.

The Rockets have an open date this Friday night and will resume action against Oneida Baptist next Tuesday night at home before beginning play in the Greenup Co. Classic at Raceland on December 20th.

The Rockets will also play in the Fifth/Third Bank Classic at Lexington Catholic December 26-30.

"PRIDE"

(Cont. from Front)

Together we are cleaning up our environment, laying the foundation for new economic development opportunities, and creating a better life for all the residents of our region. This funding builds on all that we have achieved and allows our cleanup efforts to continue."

PRIDE will receive \$9 million through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) budget to provide grants to low-income homeowners seeking to replace failing septic systems and straighten pipes. NOAA funding will also be used to design and construct special water and sewer projects, provide community grants for cleanup activities, and provide grants to schools for environmental education programs. Rogers also included \$1,630,000 in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget for three specific PRIDE wastewater projects in Whitesburg, Mt. Vernon, and Martin County. Earlier this year, Rogers announced that he included \$2.5 million in the budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and construct new, innovative wastewater improvements in southern and eastern Kentucky through the PRIDE program.

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE - Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment - was created by Rogers and the late General James Bickford, the former Kentucky Secretary of Natural Resources. PRIDE links citizens with the resources of local, state, and federal agencies to clean up the region's waterways, end illegal trash dumps, and promote environmental education and awareness. Since the creation of PRIDE in 1997, Rogers has secured \$161 million for the program.

The Bittersweet Cabin Museum and Gift Shop has homespun gifts for all your favorite people. Local crafters and artisans have an array of gift items for your gift list purchases: Cookbooks, baskets, toys, corn shuck dolls, ornaments, woven rugs and home decor, framed photography, wooden kitchen tools and small furniture, afghans, candles and bath salts — everything for heart and home. Shopping days left are December 12, 13, and 14, 2003, and hours are: Friday - Noon to 7:00 p.m., Saturday - 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday - 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The gift shop is located across from the Renfro Valley Lodge Restaurant on US 25. Gift Shop Phone 606-256-0715

Thanks Santa for Early Christmas Present Dear Santa,

We asked you to bring us lots of participants in the parade and you did. We had beautiful weather and we thank God for that.

We would also like to thank Bro. Chad Burdette from Northside Baptist for the beautiful devotion and to Mr. Trey Grayson for being Grand Marshal. To all participants in the parade, we say thank you for making the parade so special. We also thank each and everyone for coming out and attending the parade.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

May God bless each of you and we hope to see each of you Christmas 2004.

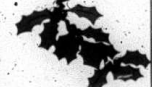
Victoria Dunn, Larry Taylor and Mayor Walter Cash

Parade Committee & Brodhead Fire Dept.

P.S. Santa

Thank you for all the homes and businesses who decorated. They were beautiful.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good nite! Happy Holidays!!



First Baptist Church

Christmas Choir

Presents

Bethlehem

MORNING

A TIMELESS MUSICAL FOR

Christmas

Directed by Jamie Cornelius

Sunday, December 14th 2003

7:00 p.m.

Corner of West Main and Craig Streets
 Mt. Vernon, KY
 606-256-2922