

All Around Kentucky

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION



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Looking In



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AUTO APPRAISER MESHES EMPLOYEE MOTTO WITH HIS PERSONAL MISSION



Photo by Rachael Kamuf

JAMES TEANEY, WHO WORKS OUT OF THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU DISTRICT OFFICE IN LONDON, AND WIFE SHARON HAVE BEEN KEY TO LIGHTHOUSE MISSION CENTER'S EFFORTS TO BRING FOOD, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL CARE TO NEEDY PEOPLE IN SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY.

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

The name-defining landmark that set Trinity Pentecostal Lighthouse Church apart from numerous other places of worship framed by rugged sections of Bell County has disappeared under layers of paint. Nearby buildings along Kingdom Come Scenic Parkway outside Pineville, however, remain as physical tributes to the work of a small congregation.

In addition an abandoned grocery store that is now the church, there is a former junkyard recycled into a repair shop that has been revived again as a combination food pantry, clothing closet, community

center, a day care facility and a free-standing medical-dental clinic.

What began 11 years ago as the dream of the pastor, the Rev. Darrell Lowe, to help Bell County's poorest residents has expanded to nearby Tennessee and Virginia communities since the first of the Lighthouse Mission Center programs started in two small rooms above the church sanctuary.

An integral part of the transformation is James Teaney, a Kentucky Farm Bureau senior auto damage appraiser based at the London District Office. The Bell County native spends most of his free time at the center where his high school sweetheart and wife of 30 years, Sharon, is the unpaid administrator.

See LIGHTHOUSE, page 10

Health care tops KFB's 2008 goals for lawmakers

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

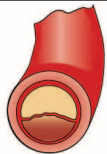
Health care, education and jobs that contribute to the economic well being of all Kentuckians are the focus of issues that Kentucky Farm Bureau will press for legislative action during the upcoming General Assembly.

"Health care continues to be our top priority," said Laura Knoth, Kentucky Farm Bureau's director of public affairs and chief lobbyist. "It is a concern for all Kentucky families – not just our members - and we will be looking at all opportunities to increase access and control costs."

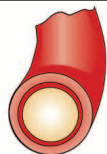
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(By Frank K. Wood)

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- ▶ What you should never drink if you're taking high blood pressure medicine. This fruit juice will drive your blood pressure to toxic levels.
- ▶ Most powerful heart healer on earth. Keeps arteries flexible, improves cholesterol levels, and lowers heart attack risk.
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High Blood Pressure Lowered Naturally for \$9.99. See coupon. ©FC&A 2008

“HONEY Can Heal WHAT?”

(By Frank K. Wood)

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- ▶ Flatten your stomach without gut-wrenching exercises. These tips turn ugly flab into rock-hard abs!
- ▶ A natural way to rejuvenate your veins and arteries that will have you feeling brand new.
- ▶ Miracle healing seed lowers blood pressure, reduces risk of stroke, plus fights arthritis, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stomach disorders, and even mental problems!
- ▶ Prevent high blood pressure, colon cancer, senility, and fragile bones. All with one — yes, one — inexpensive daily supplement that keeps you healthy and strong.
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“Foods that EXPLODE in Your Bowel!”



Plain Answers about IBS, Constipation, Diarrhea, Heartburn, Ulcers, and More!

(By Frank K. Wood)

If you suffer from bloating, abdominal cramps, chronic constipation or diarrhea, varicose leg veins, digestive spasms, fatigue, or symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), you need *The Complete Guide to Digestive Health*, an informative new book just released to the public by FC&A Medical Publishing® in Peachtree City, Georgia.

Intestinal problems? Learn about important new research discoveries that identify which foods are your allies and which foods are your enemies, including information about what you should avoid drinking. Discover what you can do to clean out your intestines, ease stress, and calm your digestive system. And find out how you can soothe an irritable bowel just by sipping this beverage.

The authors provide many health tips with full explanations.

- ▶ Two-cent colon cleanser!
- ▶ Eat this kind of cereal daily, and help prevent constipation, colon cancer ... even weight gain!
- ▶ Make these simple changes and be rid of gas!
- ▶ Belching and bloating — they could be warning signs of up to 7 hidden health problems.
- ▶ Constipation? Discover a natural cure that's better than fiber!
- ▶ Simple (and free) way to slash your heart attack risk in half!
- ▶ Lower blood pressure ... fewer ulcers ... less colitis ... just some of the benefits of letting yourself do this.
- ▶ 12 ways to ease stress and calm digestion.
- ▶ Sweep artery-clogging cholesterol out of your body with this type of super-absorbent fiber.
- ▶ Put a stop to constipation with as little as one tablespoon a day of this mystery food.
- ▶ Does your digestive system benefit more from savory breads and cereals or from scrumptious

fruits and vegetables? The answer may surprise you!

- ▶ Vitamins and minerals may keep you from getting colon cancer, even if this awful killer runs in your family.
- ▶ Drop pounds and ditch heartburn with these good fats.
- ▶ Irritable bowel syndrome? Check here for another common disorder that could be your real problem.
- ▶ Like red meat? You can still lower cancer risks by adding this to your plate.
- ▶ Soothing bedtime drink can help you sleep and relieve digestive problems.
- ▶ One tiny seed protects against constipation and diarrhea; soothes stomachaches; eases indigestion and heartburn; relieves cramps; reduces gas ... plus, it lowers your risk of colon cancer!
- ▶ Heal your body, improve digestion, moisturize skin, help control weight, and it's free.
- ▶ Chew this at every meal for a happy, healthy colon.
- ▶ How to prevent the embarrassment of a leaky bladder!
- ▶ Serve safe spuds ... foil wrapped potato can spell danger.
- ▶ These herbs may actually be better at relieving gas than some commercial products. Find out what they are.
- ▶ What food should you definitely banish from your table if you are subject to intestinal gases? (And that food isn't beans!)
- ▶ Learn about the secret "sponge" in your digestive tract that absorbs water and prevents constipation.
- ▶ Don't poison yourself with over-the-counter antacids, laxatives, or pain relievers. Find out which ones to watch out for.

TO ORDER A COPY

The Complete Guide to Digestive Health for \$9.99. See coupon. ©FC&A 2008

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Kentucky Farm Bureau moving forward to meet members' needs

Kentucky Farm Bureau's exemplary record of service continues to attract Kentuckians to our great organization.

I'm pleased to report that in 2007 we had our 46th consecutive year of growth and moved forward in many ways to provide a broader range of services. We remain very strong on the fiscal, organizational and political levels. We have more resources and offerings for our members than ever before. And most importantly, we continue to embrace a commitment to serve.

The spring freeze and summer drought made 2007 a difficult year for farm families, and all associated with Kentucky Farm Bureau did all we could to be of service who needed help to overcome the disastrous results for crops and livestock. Emergency assistance is part of our national legislative agenda, and we will be working with our congressional delegation in hope of making federal programs available to Kentucky farmers.

At the state capital, our public affairs team will be busy during the legislative session with the issues that surfaced at our annual meeting last month. The many resolutions forwarded from the county Farm

KENTUCKY grassroots



MARSHALL COYLE | PRESIDENT | KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Bureaus gave us a clear idea of what's on your minds.

The high cost of health insurance continues to be a major concern of all families. This is a long-standing problem that we have struggled to resolve. We have been successful in gaining some relief for small businesses. And we continue to offer our members comprehensive coverage plans through Anthem, but certainly not at rates that many consider to be affordable.

We haven't lost sight of our members' concerns, nor of the goal to reform state laws to encourage competition and stabilize the market, and we will continue to press the case to your state lawmakers.

We'll also keep working to preserve the tobacco settlement funding level for our

state's historic agriculture development initiative. Not only will we continue to advocate the 50-percent funding level, but we'll insist that those monies be restricted to investments in production agriculture.

In another crucial issue, a special committee led by our second vice president, John Hendricks, has developed recommendations to address the critical shortage of large animal veterinarians in the state.

We've met with several key legislators and are encouraged by their interest in doing something about this troubling situation.

There are many ways to boost our farm – and the state's – economy. Our efforts extend from lobbying the U.S. Congress for national farm policy to promoting local farmers' markets. The bottom line always is to improve net farm income. It's also important to maintain a strong infrastructure for our agriculture industry.

Farm Bureau pursues that objective in many ways, and one key element is to ensure adequate funding for programs and facilities. Several of these issues are before us on the state level.

Once again we'll be asking the General Assembly to provide funding for upgrading our livestock disease diagnostic labs in

See GRASSROOTS, page 4

NOTICE ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 10:00 a.m. ET, at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

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Grassroots

Continued from page 3

Lexington and Hopkinsville. We'll also keep lobbying for the merger of the dairy farms at the University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University.

Another funding issue involves the much needed renovation of the FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg. Our staff has worked hard this year to inform state lawmakers and farm interests about the severity of this problem.

On the national level, immigration reform still looms large on the Farm Bureau agenda but Congress doesn't appear to be in any hurry to act. American Farm Bureau Federation president Bob Stallman, in fact, predicts that nothing will be done until after the presidential election. He says it's too big of a political issue to be decided before then.

The gridlock is very disappointing, particularly for the thousands of farm operations that depend on migrant workers. Farm Bureau continues to stress to Congress the consequences of a declining workforce. The

fresh fruit and vegetable sector alone could see production decline by up to \$9 billion a year if we don't address this crisis.

We urge lawmakers to put aside their partisan and ideological differences and do what is right for agriculture and the country.

A good first step would be to speed up the visa process for H-2A workers. We are encouraged by the administration's review of the H-2A program and think that this may bring some relief to the farm labor problem. It's not a cure-all, but it could be helpful in eliminating red tape.

The new farm bill is drawing most of agriculture's attention these days. The House and Senate have passed separate legislation that contain important provisions for all sectors of agriculture, including an economic safety net for farmers, initiatives for beginning farmers, expanded marketing, conservation and research programs plus incentives for the production of renewable fuels.

We look forward to working with the House and Senate as they move to conference on this important legislation.

Kirby Hancock advances to national ag competition

Staff report

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kirby Hancock of Columbia will represent Kentucky this month in the National Excellence in Agriculture competition that will be held during American Farm Bureau's annual meeting.

Hancock, an ag-education teacher and FFA advisor at Adair County High School who also helps operate a cattle and tobacco farm, earned the right to advance in the contest when he took top honors in state competition.

As the 2007 winner of the 6-year-old Kentucky Farm Bureau award program that recognizes part-time farmers or people involved in ag-related careers, Hancock was presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, \$500 from Dodge Truck Division of DaimlerChrysler Corp. and trip expenses to the national contest in New Orleans.

Second place went to Curt and Carrie Divine of Morganfield. The other finalists were Roger and Brandi Miller of Lancaster and Clint and Amanda Hardy of Owensboro.

When he competes for the national award in New Orleans, Hancock also will be vying for a 1500 Dodge Ram Quad Cab pickup truck.



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Strangers dialing Kentuckians for personal information coveted by crooks

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance is cautioning members about telephone scams to solicit personal information coveted by thieves specializing in identity theft or stealing credit card numbers.

"We have been getting reports of customers receiving unsolicited calls" in recent weeks, said Tracy Wilkerson, Kentucky Farm Bureau's corporate security manager.

In some instances, she said, callers tell people that their insurance has or will soon lapse and that they need to make immediate payment and request credit card account numbers to ensure coverage continues.

Wilkerson said there is no indication that the company's customers are specific targets as extended warranties for vehicles also have been the focus of suspicious calls reported by Farm Bureau members.

"They are likely to be fishing for information," she said of the people behind the calls.

Wilkerson said no Kentucky Farm Bureau agents or employees would make such blind calls. And none have been made by anyone retained by Kentucky Farm Bureau.

If an agent calls on someone to sell insurance, he or she always identifies himself or herself by name and local office. "We have personal relationships with our

customers," Wilkerson said.

And she urged anyone who receives such a call to pose questions, too. "Don't give out any information. Ask the person's name. Ask, 'May I call you back,' and try to get a phone number. Confirm why this information is needed. Whatever answer you are given, never share your personal information. Hang up and call your agent right away."

It is unlikely that such queries will elicit truthful — if any — response, Wilkerson said. "They don't want you to know who they are. They want only one thing — information that they can use ... most likely to steal someone's identity or abuse their credit card."

Kentucky Farm Bureau officials have reported members' complaints about such contact to the

Kentucky Attorney General and FBI for investigation into possible violations of state and federal laws. Similar problems have been reported nationwide, Wilkerson said. While there have been "some consistencies," she said, there seems to be no specific pattern to the scam in Kentucky. "We have no idea of the sources."

People contacted by strangers purporting to be from Kentucky Farm Bureau should call their agent or local Farm Bureau agency or contact the Kentucky Attorney General (502-695-5300) or local police.

Said Wilkerson:

"We don't want to alarm people, but we want them to be informed. If we can spot a trend, we might be able to catch — or at least stop — these thieves before they steal someone's identity or good credit standing."

**'They want only one thing
— information that they can
use ... most likely to steal
someone's identity or
abuse their credit card.'**

Vigilance is best weapon to protect against identity and credit thieves

There are a host of sources, ranging from government agencies to trade associations to consumer groups, for tips on protecting information from online predators, telephone scam artists and thieves who scavenge through personal and business garbage for sensitive data.

To review the Kentucky Attorney General's suggestions — or to register for the federal No Call list online — visit www.attorney.general@ag.ky.gov/consumer. The nonprofit ID Theft Resources Center site, www.idtheftcenter.org, or Federal Trade Commission's Web page, www.ftc.gov, are other



TRACY WILKERSON

If you think you have been approached by a crook on the prowl for personal information, file a complaint with the Attorney General at 502-695-5300.

The best protection is vigilance, said Tracy Wilkerson, director of corporate security at Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Cos. "Be wary," she said. "Don't share your Social Security number or other personal information — even your birth date — with someone you don't know or you did not initiate a business transaction. Even under those circumstances, when in doubt, don't."

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU



BIG ON COMMITMENT.®

Kentucky Farm Bureau renews GM partnership

By Rachael Kamuf
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau and General Motors Corp. extended their partnership to offer savings on the purchase or lease of most GM vehicles, including the new GM E85 FlexFuel vehicles that are powered by an ethanol-gasoline blend.

January marks the beginning of the second year of GM's participation in the organization's member-services program, with the automaker offering a minimum \$500 off the price on about 75 cars and light-duty

Beck said. "We are offering a service that benefits our member-families and GM."

As of late November, the last month sales figures were available, Kentucky Farm Bureau members throughout the state bought more than 6,400 GM vehicles, according to Dwight Greenwell, director of member services at Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Kentucky Farm Bureau previously had a similar arrangement with Daimler-Chrysler Corp., which has a smaller presence in Kentucky and only offered discounts on a few trucks and autos. GM has more dealers in addition to including a wider assortment of vehicles, making the deal more attractive

and convenient for a greater number of Farm Bureau members, Beck said.

"We are always looking at ways to enhance membership in Kentucky

Farm Bureau," he said. "We

set high standards before accepting products and services for the program, and that commitment to our members was a factor in GM's decision to become a partner with Kentucky Farm Bureau."

The vehicle incentives apply to Chevrolet, GMC, HUMMER, Pontiac, Saab, Saturn, Buick, and Cadillac lines of autos and light-duty trucks. There are some exclusions,

including Cadillac CTS-V, XLR-V and STS-V; the Corvette Z06 and HUMMER H1.

To be eligible, buyers must be members of Kentucky Farm Bureau for at least six months prior to date of delivery and show an authorization number, which can be found online at www.gmfleet.com/kyfb, to their car dealers.

The Kentucky Farm Bureau private offer

may also be combined with other manufacturer and dealer incentives, including GM Business Choice. See participating dealers for information on other offers. For more details on the GM program, contact local Farm Bureau offices or Greenwell by e-mail at dgreenwell@kyfb.com or by phone at 502-495-5000.



trucks. A \$750 cash incentive on GM's trucks that use renewable fuel primarily produced on U.S. farms also is included.

David S. Beck, Kentucky Farm Bureau's executive vice president, said the contract was extended because the organization and GM were pleased with members' response after the discounts were introduced in early 2007.

"It has exceeded both our expectations,"

NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 2:00 p.m. ET, at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

NOTICE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 3:00 p.m. ET, at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

 Secretary

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'Bluegrass and Backroads' opens Kentucky to national TV audience

By RACHAEL KAMUF
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Kentucky Farm Bureau's TV staff has explored almost every corner of the state to bring the attention of a national audience to unique Kentucky places and people for the new season of the "Bluegrass and Backroads" television series.

"There are so many stories to tell," said Bob Shrader, Kentucky Farm Bureau's video production coordinator.

The 30-minute program begins its fifth season this month, airing in most television markets in Kentucky and nationwide on the RFD-TV network that is carried on DirectTV and Dish satellite systems.

"We get wonderful response from viewers in Kentucky and from as far away as California," Shrader said. "Most are requesting additional information about our subjects, and all the comments are positive."

Each show focuses on three different subjects, with interviews and photography by Shrader and Kentucky Farm Bureau video specialist and coproducer Matt Hilton. The host is Mike Feldhaus, the organization's director of broadcast services.

The stories illustrate the business, cultural, geographic and arts diversity of Kentucky. "I like stories that are very Kentucky," Hilton said. "There are so many artisans and agricultural themes that are so unique."

Hilton and Shrader began shooting for the 16-week season in early 2007.

They braved the cold winds to showcase Maker's Mark Distillery in Loretto where Bill Samuels pioneered modern concepts of marketing premium Kentucky bourbon labels to the worldwide market. And they endured extreme heat during the summer drought to film racing at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta.

Showing vehicles maneuvering the curves and straightaways of the NASCAR-ready

asphalt track required climbing 250 steps as the temperature stayed at 105 degrees. Shrader said an usher at the top looked at him and said, "Honey, I think you need some water."

The conditions may have been less than ideal, but Shrader is pleased with the outcome. "I think it will be a good story."

That is his and Hilton's assessment of all the shows. "Each is special," Shrader said.

On the schedule this year are such features as the J.B. Speed Art Museum in Louisville; Oak Level Forge in Benton; Apollo Choppers, an Eminence business that makes custom motorcycles; Chris Korrow, a Burkesville resident who was featured on PBS in 2007 for his photography of insects in his back yard; Beattyville's Woolly Worm Festival; Jeff Lambert, a Methodist minister in Henderson who makes dulcimers; and Wildwood Inn in Florence, where every room has such unique themes as a drive-in theater or pirate ship.

Each show will have at least one story with a focus on agriculture, including the farmer-owned Commonwealth Agri-Energy Corp. plant in Hopkinsville where corn is distilled into a gasoline additive, and the Austin farm where Kenny's Country Cheese is produced.

Studio production for 2008 is wrapping up, and there is no dearth of ideas for the next year's shows. Viewers frequently send in suggestions, and Hilton and Shrader also have picked up ideas on their trips for the completed shows.

"Kentucky is a wonderful state with so many highways and backroads to travel," Shrader said.

Satellite subscribers can watch "Bluegrass and Backroads" on Wednesday at 2 p.m. and midnight (E.S.T.) on RFD-TV, which is carried on Channel 231 on the Dish Network and DirectTV's Channel 379.



Photo by Rachael Kamuf

Coproducers Matt Hilton and Bob Shrader filmed at historic Maker's Mark Distillery in Loretto for an upcoming segment of Kentucky Farm Bureau's "Bluegrass and Backroads" television series.

In Louisville, the show can be seen on Insight Cable Channel 2 at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. WBKI-TV in Louisville and Lexington airs the show at noon on Sunday.

In Northern Kentucky, the broadcast time is 9:30 a.m. on Saturday on Insight Cable's Channel 6. Fleming County Cable, which serves Fleming and Lewis counties, carries the Kentucky Farm Bureau show Tuesday and Friday at 7 p.m. on Channel 6. (WYMT-TV in Hazard will start the new series in April at noon on Saturday.)

In the central time zone, "Bluegrass and Backroads" is available on:

Bowling Green's WBKO/Fox-TV at 1:30 p.m. Saturday; the Western Kentucky TV market served by WEHT-TV in Evansville, Ind., on Saturday at 5 p.m.; WKAG-TV in Hopkinsville at 11:30 a.m. Sunday; and in Paducah on WPSD-TV at 5 a.m. Saturday and CW cable channels 9 and 6 at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Check local listings for cable coverage and schedule changes.

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Lighthouse

Continued from page 1

"This is my weekend and night job," said Teaney, who described himself as originally reluctant to move back to Southeastern Kentucky much less devote so much time to charity work.

Now, he said, "This is my stress relief. And this is where I have my reality check."

The Teaneys enjoyed a very comfortable lifestyle in Northern Kentucky, where he operated his own businesses before joining Farm Bureau in 1992 and she had a successful career at Procter & Gamble, the food and household goods giant based in Cincinnati. The couple also were active in their Verona church and made frequent mission trips to Southeastern Kentucky to repair homes and distribute donated food and clothing.

When Sharon Teaney announced to her husband in 1996 that she wanted to quit her job to work fulltime with needy people — near their hometown — it "didn't go over too well," he said. "We easily had a six-figure income. Like everyone else, I wanted to retire a millionaire."

Although "it took awhile, she softened me up," Teaney said, and Farm Bureau agreed to his request for a transfer to the London office in the summer of 1997. The Teaneys and their now 19-year-old son Michael, lived in London for almost two years. It was during that time that they discovered Trinity Pentecostal Lighthouse Church, which was formed in 1998, more than 60 miles away and became acquainted with Rev. Lowe.

Still, it wasn't until they joined Lowe's congregation of about 50 people that Teaney said he really embraced his wife's life-altering plan for the family. "I never fully accepted this," he said, before their pastor convinced him and others that the church should buy adjacent property to truly fulfill the vision he had for community outreach programs.

It was almost literally done on faith and a prayer, Teaney said, as five church members put up \$20 each to start a building fund. Within three months — on Sept. 11, 2001 — the new food and clothing distribution center was dedicated. "It was a joyful, yet sad day," said Teaney, who is listed with his wife as directors of Lighthouse Mission Center.

The bank account grew, and construction of the medical clinic was completed in November 2002. The day care center — overseen by Lowe and his retired school teacher wife, Jean, for no pay — also began operating that same year. Currently, 72 children are enrolled.

There have been times when the center's checking account has been down to 98

cents, and Teaney admits there have been moments when he has felt like he's "having a nervous break down."

The pastor and a core group of about 10 volunteers persevered and found the \$50,000 needed to operate all aspects of the Lighthouse Mission Center last year; only the day care workers — who must be licensed by the state — draw salaries.

All aspects of the operation, which has earned the 501(c)(3) nonprofit status required by many groups and companies donating to charitable causes, are approached like a business, extending to an audited annual report detailing expenses and contributions.

A rental company practically gave away the tractor-trailer rig needed to meet federal food-safety regulations and handle the volume of food contributed from outside the region. Churches, religious and secular charitable groups, food companies, corporate entities and retailers donate meat, canned goods, produce, clothing and personal items. Doctors, dentists, nurses and other health care professionals volunteer their services at the clinic and other individuals help distribute food and clothing and repair houses.

Strangers have driven from Georgia and points beyond to bring money. It may be a few dollars, a large wad of bills or checks with four or five zeros before the decimal

weekly at the local jail through the mission, but no one is expected to attend any church service to receive help at the center. James Teaney said: "We do not discriminate. We don't ask. The only requirement is that someone is in need."

Such people are not hard to find in an area where one-third of the residents have incomes below the federal poverty level and more than 80 percent of the children are eligible for free or subsidized school meals.

Teaney credits his Farm Bureau background and his wife's corporate experience as valuable assets in his avocation. "At Farm Bureau, it is about helping people who need our services."

He said he learned to ask the right questions through programs that taught him to listen to people who file claims for their autos and homes in Kentucky or those he has assisted after hurricanes devastated Gulf Coast communities.

"I am a big man," said the 6'6", 300-pound Teaney. "I can intimidate people. I had to realize that I had to quit always taking control."

He is no pushover for every hard-luck story he hears, however. "I think I know a scam when I hear it," Teaney said.

He'll give in, though, when children are involved and there is a chance — however slight — that the food or clothing leaving the center will go to them and not be sold so the adult can buy drugs or alcohol. "It's not the children's fault."

As the Lighthouse Mission Center has grown — sometimes in great leaps — it has built a reputation throughout the Southeast and nation as an efficient, as well as caring, organization. The operation has become more sophisticated, too, with its own Web site, www.lighthousemissioncenter.org that includes financial reporting along with highlights of events.

The activities have even caught the eye of Louisville native Diane Sawyer, who lives in New York and is a co-anchor of Good Morning America and reports for other ABC News shows. Her producers have suggested that Sawyer might do a feature on Lighthouse Mission but no interviews have been scheduled.

Teaney is pragmatic about his personal plans to remain active in the Lighthouse's efforts and a Kentucky Farm Bureau employee. "I have to take care of my family. My work at Farm Bureau allows me to do this."

And in a sense, Teaney said, he is carrying out the mission statement of Kentucky Farm Bureau as a Lighthouse volunteer.

"They tell us to leave it better than we found it. That is what I hope to do here, too."



Photo by Gary Ferguson



Photo courtesy of Lighthouse Mission Center

A rental company gave Lighthouse Mission Center a major discount on the price of a used truck to haul items donated to the charity. The center operates a food pantry and clothing closet as part of its services to needy people in Southeastern Kentucky.

With the exception of income from the day-care center and a \$20,000 grant from Bell County's share of the state coal severance tax that was used to pay off the clinic mortgage and purchase a forklift for the warehouse, all the endeavors have been financed by private donations.

Contributions come in many forms.

'What you see here is a miracle.'

- Sharon Teaney

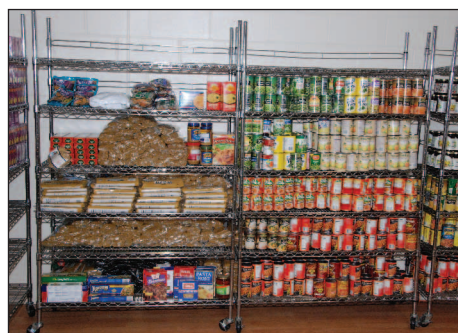


Photo by Gary Ferguson

point. A young father hauling coal mining equipment stopped by recently and handed Teaney some money without leaving his name and saying only, "I appreciate what ya'll are doing here."

Sharon Teaney said, "What you see here is a miracle."

Religion-centered counseling is offered

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UK program offers cancer test for Kentucky women

By Lalie Dick

SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

A new year, a clean slate and a free opportunity for a longer, healthier life for women is available through a unique program — the Ovarian Cancer Screening Program — administered for two decades by the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.

"Kentucky is the only state in the nation to have a free ovarian cancer screening program such as this," said the program's director, Dr. Edward J. Pavlik, as he gestured toward a computer screen showing a video that outlines screening procedures.

In the video, Noi Doyle, an early participant, was asked, "If you hadn't had a screening done, what would that have meant to you?"

"I'd be dead by now," was her emphatic reply.

That got my attention, although I have traveled to Lexington for annual screenings for 12 years.

A paper produced in 2006 by Pavlik's



Photos courtesy of UK Medical Center

Dr. John R. van Nagell Jr., a pioneer in the free ovarian cancer diagnostic program at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, and staff checked the computer image showing results of a participant's ultrasound.

group and endorsed by the American Cancer Society noted that ovarian cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer mortality among women in the United States. The projections were that 16,000 women throughout the country would die of ovarian cancer just in that year.

Pavlik and his dedicated associates are trying very hard to lessen that number.

Their mission, as stated on the program's Web site (<http://clik.to/ovary>): "To reduce deaths due to ovarian cancer in the group that is screened."

Doyle is a living example of how that goal can be met.

"Ovarian cancer is a silent killer, and women want to know if there is something out there available that works to combat it," Pavlik said. "This works."

Envisioned in the early 1980s by Dr. John R. van Nagell Jr., renowned physician in the Gynecologic Oncology division at UK's Markey Cancer Center, and others - including Virginia McCandless of the UK College of Agriculture's Extension Homemakers - the screening program has been ongoing since January 1987.

"We have over 30,000 participants who are screened every year," Pavlik said. "And over the past 13-plus years, we've performed more than 150,000 free screenings — upwards of 100 new and 1,000 repeat screens monthly."

In this day and age of higher prices for everything from aspirin to zinc oxide to almost every aspect of health care, I asked how the testing can be offered at no cost, except maybe for transportation to screening locations.

Pavlik's answer: "The program is funded by grants from the National Institute of Health, the state of Kentucky and by donations from county extension services — the homemaker's organizations — across the state."

Here are some other questions I put to Pavlik:

Who are those eligible to participate?

"Any woman who is 50 or more years of age and women 25 or more years of age with a family history of ovarian cancer. However, any woman with a known ovarian tumor or history of ovarian cancer is not eligible."

What is the procedure for the screening?

"It's called transvaginal sonography, and it is performed using ultrasound (sound waves), which can form an accurate picture

See UK PROGRAM, page 13

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UK program

Continued from page 12

of each ovary. Even small tumors can be detected.

How long does this take?

"The procedure is virtually painless – less than 10 women in over 100,000 experienced any discomfort – and the screening only takes five to 10 minutes."

What are some of the symptoms of ovarian cancer?

"Ovarian cancer is very often not accompanied by symptoms until the disease is advanced, so that's why it's so important to be screened. Some of the symptoms significantly associated with ovarian cancer (when occurring more than 12 days a month) are pelvic or abdominal pain, frequent or urgent urination, increased abdominal size or bloating and difficulty eating or feeling full."



DR. EDWARD J. PAVLIK

Is Lexington the only location for screenings? "Oh, no. In addition to the screening center at the Markey Cancer Center in Lexington, there are

locations across Kentucky – our personnel go to health departments (that) serve women all over the state. Appointments for all locations are made by calling ... our 800 number (800-766-8279)."

Now a question for all women of Kentucky and the people who love them:

When the personal costs of treating ovarian cancer – surgery, chemotherapy, palliative care, not to mention the mental angst of dealing with the known fact that ovarian cancer kills more women than all other gynecologic malignancies combined – can reach \$200,000 or more, doesn't it make a whole lot of sense to be a part of a free program to detect a curable cancer that if detected early can achieve extended survival?

Call for information or to schedule a screening in Lexington or other locations throughout Kentucky.

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Even grandma knew that her old remedies worked even if she wasn't able to explain why. And scientific research confirms this.

For instance, grandma said putting diluted vinegar in the ears would ward off infections. The American Academy of Otolaryngology's doctors – who specialize in treating infections like swimmer's ear - now recommend using a vinegar mixture as a preventative.

The Yale-New Haven hospital uses vinegar as a hospital disinfectant. When after-surgery eye infections became a problem, their Department of Bacteriology solved it with vinegar.

Food poisoning? Some doctors suggest that regular vinegar use can prevent it!

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50 years ago a daily dose of an apple cider vinegar and honey tonic was used to ease arthritis. During the last 30 years or so, many wonder drugs have replaced this time-tested home remedy. Now vinegar, along with countless other old-time tonics, have new supporters including many medical professionals. *The reason?* Almost everybody has experienced the negative side of some of the powerful new drugs.

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Deadline is Feb. 15 to be certified as a roadside market

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Feb. 15 is the last day to apply for certification as a Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market.

Meeting the deadline guarantees placement on Kentucky Farm Bureau's Web site and listing in 40,000 brochures distributed statewide and promotion in ads placed in publications throughout the state.

Kentucky Farm Bureau also sponsors tours of established roadside markets to help producers see first-hand how other farmers who sell locally grown produce and plants or homemade foods operate their businesses.



Stops at markets in the Piedmont region of northern Georgia and South Carolina are planned during a four-day bus trip to the area in late July. In October, a one-day visit in south-central Kentucky is being planned.

Seventy-eight markets took part in the program last year, said Sandy Gardner, Kentucky Farm Bureau's director of commodity marketing. She expects an increase of about 20 percent in the number in 2008. "The demand for locally grown products has spurred the opening of more markets, and consumers have come to look for the Kentucky Farm Bureau certification as a guarantee of quality," Gardner said.

To qualify, a producer must:

Be a Farm Bureau member;

Pay the \$300 Certified Roadside Farm Market annual fee;

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For more information, contact Gardner at 502-495-5106 or e-mail her at roadside@kyfb.com.

Discounts for heating systems available to KFB members

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

An addition to the Kentucky Farm Bureau member-services program could save on winter heating bills.

Scotty Lee, co-owner of Lee's Garden Center in Hodgenville, is now a dealer for The Wood Doctor wood-burning systems for business and residential use at a discount for Kentucky Farm Bureau members.

With proof of membership in the organization, buyers can save \$500 on a residential unit and \$750 on the commercial boiler, both of which have 30-year warranties. The price without the discount is \$6,790 and \$15,590, respectively, said Lee's wife and partner, Robin.

The units - located outside a house or commercial building - work with regular gas or electric furnaces, using hot water for heating forced air or radiant systems.

The couple's experience with The Wood Doctor at their greenhouse convinced her husband to become a dealer, she said. The

gas bill last year, dropped to \$150 a month from \$1,200 a month.

She suggested that anyone considering installing The Wood Doctor consult local planning and zoning ordinances or neighborhood associations to determine if there are any regulations or rules governing its use. She also recommended that homeowners use a licensed heating-and-air specialist for installation.

For more information on The Wood Doctor, visit the Lees' Web page at www.leesgardcenter.com or the manufacturer's site at www.wooddoctorfurnace.com.

The Wood Doctor discount is just one of more than two dozen additional benefits of being a Farm Bureau member. Discounts include savings on General Motors Corp. vehicles (see related story on Page 7) and such services as banking, hotel lodging,

home security and fire monitoring systems.

Dwight Greenwell, Kentucky Farm Bureau's director of member services, can provide a complete list of discounts offered to anyone who belongs to Kentucky Farm Bureau. He can be contacted at dgreenwell@kyfb.com.

Member-services information also is available at www.kyfb.com and any Kentucky Farm Bureau office throughout the state.

Scholarship applications now being accepted

Staff report
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Applications are now being accepted for Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2008 Education Foundation scholarships.

The foundation annually awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school seniors with top scholastic and leadership backgrounds. Scholarships totaling more than \$1.4 million have been handed out since the program began in 1953.

To be eligible, applicants must be the child of a Kentucky Farm Bureau member (only the Leadership in Agriculture and new Sam Moore scholarships are limited to children in farming families); have either a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or 23 ACT score; finish high school this year; and plan to enter college in the 2008 fall semester.

Application forms are available at county Farm Bureau offices or on the Web at www.kyfb.com (click on "organization"). All applications must be postmarked by

Feb. 28 to be considered or hand delivered to the State Office in Louisville by that date.

Winners will be notified by May 15.

Scholarships can be applied to tuition, housing and books; payments are made directly to the school the students select to attend. Recipients may enter any accredited college but must pursue a four-year degree.

In addition to the state program, many county Farm Bureaus administer their own scholarship programs. Check with local offices for details.

SPORTS TECH NEWS — 2007

New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.

Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.

ORLANDO, FL — A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals



by Charlie Allen

couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

Fish would probably prefer to see it

restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new lure (called The Kick-Tail®) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail® and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait). The four using the KickTail® caught 41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail® won 19 to 4. The KickTail® also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tournaments. An almost 3 to 1 advantage can mean thousands of dollars to a fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.

The KickTail's magic comes from a patented technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water rushes by on retrieval, a little-known principle called aeronautical flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this.

"Fish attack live things, and they determine if something is alive by watching its movements. Marine biologists will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail® doesn't do is breathe. It's

better than live bait! It lasts longer and it never hangs half-dead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail®. It's like having another potato chip.

Increases catch almost 3 to 1.

"To make the KickTail® even more lifelike, we gave it a natural shad color and shaped it like the most prevalent bait fish of all, the threadfin. Game fish gobble up more threadfin shad than any other baitfish.

"We knew the KickTail® would out-fish other lures. It had to. Other lures wobble their heads and swim on an angle. But 41 fish to 14? That's huge! I tell you, in ten seconds anyone who has fished a day in his life knows this little swimmer's a home run. Fishermen reserved thousands of KickTails before we produced it! Here, reel it in and watch it swim toward you. Can you tell the difference between it and a live fish? (I said no.) Neither can the fish.

"The flutter technology also allows the KickTail® to swim at the water's surface. Other top water lures must be worked to have any live action, or have a bill that makes them dive on retrieval. Our diver version is the only deep crank bait that let's you do tricks like 'walk the dog.' Twitch it at deep levels



New lure swims like a real fish--nearly triples catch in Florida contest.

and it gives an irresistible, lifelike action. Other lures 'dig.' And there's no need for rattles. The five tail segments click together as you pull it through the water, calling fish from a distance."

Whether you fish for fun or profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail® becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard for fishing lily pads and other feeding spots. The company says it's the only hard bait

of its kind in existence. Each lure costs \$9.95 and you must order at least two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only \$79.95, a savings of almost \$20.00. S/h is only \$7.00 no matter how many you order.

To order call **1-800-873-4415** or click **www.ngcsports.com** any-time or day or send a check or M.O. (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (Dept. KT-1227), 60 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. CT add sales tax. The KickTail® is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water.

Are you over 55?

“It’s All Free for Seniors”

Washington DC (Special) Are you over 55... or have a loved one who is? Then you'd better take a close look at this!

Every year Uncle Sam gives away hundreds of millions of dollars in cash, goods, and services to people just like you.

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All this free stuff is one of America's best kept secrets... simply because the government doesn't advertise that it's available.

Now, an amazing new book reveals thousands of sources of fabulous freebies which are yours for the asking. Entitled “Free for Seniors”, you'll learn all about such goodies as how you can:

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- ▶ Get up to \$800 for food.
- ▶ Free legal help.
- ▶ How to get some help in paying your rent, wherever you live.
- ▶ How to get up to \$15,000 free money to spruce up your home!
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Gene Lanham cited for service to KFB

Staff report

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Marion County farmer Gene Lanham has been named winner of the annual award for Distinguished Service to Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Lanham, 74, has served Farm Bureau and the state's dairy and beef cattle industries for many years and is a former member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau board of directors.

He had a purebred Holstein dairy operation on his farm near Gravel Switch for 40 years before getting out of the business in 1992 to focus solely on beef cattle production. He is a former director of the Kyana Milk Producers, National Milk Producers, Southeast United Dairy Industry Association and Kentucky Dairy Association.

Lanham has been an active Farm Bureau leader for 20 years, including 10 years as president of Marion County Farm Bureau. He



GENE LANHAM

served a two-year term on the state board, representing the organization's 5th District.

As the county Farm Bureau president, he encouraged farmers to join the Marion County Chamber of

Commerce. He was instrumental in the start-up of a highly popular Farm, Home and Garden Show in Lebanon. He also has been active with various extension service events, the Marion County Cattlemen's Association and the fall “Ham Days” festival.

For many years, Gene Lanham has organized an annual breakfast to bring together local farmers and political officials, including state and federal lawmakers. He and his wife, Montrude, annually host a dinner meeting where Marion County Farm Bureau directors develop public policy recommendations to present to the state organization.

Lanham also convinced Marion County Farm Bureau to sponsor a member in the “Leadership Lebanon” program and was instrumental in the establishment of the group's college scholarship fund.

He currently is president of the Marion County Cattlemen's Association, a director and agriculture committee chairman of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, president of the Marion County 4-H Leaders Association and a director of the Kentucky Beef Council.

Maysville invites one and all to 'come on' over to visit

By Herb Sparrow

SPECIAL TO KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

One of Rosemary Clooney's hit songs was "Come On-A My House." That invitation could apply to her hometown of Maysville.

"We have where she grew up, went to school, married, had a premier and is buried," said Maysville tourism director Duff Giffin.

Giffin has developed a tour that includes the childhood home of the actress-singer and her brother, former Cincinnati TV personality and newsman Nick Clooney; the 1930s

called Maysville home at some point in their lives, including explorers Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton, Civil War general Albert Sidney Johnston, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed, baseball Hall of Fame manager Casey Stengel and Miss America 2000 Heather French Henry, now the co-owner — with her husband, former Lt. Gov. Steve Henry — of the Clooney house.

"We've always relied on our history," said Giffin.

That history dates to the earliest days of Kentucky. Limestone Landing on the Ohio River — which later became Maysville — was a key northern gateway into the Bluegrass in the 1780s. Nearby Washington, now a part of the city, was a prosperous economic center in the late 18th century, and Maysville became an important and busy riverport in the mid-19th century.

You can discover that history around every corner in Maysville.

Begin at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, which tells the city and region's history with detailed dioramas, artifacts, photographs and documents.

The newest addition to the center is a large collection of miniatures donated by Maysville native Kathleen Savage Browning. The museum recently underwent a \$4.5 million expansion and renovation to house the collection.

Displayed in the 3,300-square-foot gallery includes are miniature houses, room boxes, vignettes, furniture and dolls built to 1/12th scale, meaning one inch equals one foot. The houses range from a 16th-century English pub to a 1950s five-story apartment house to a large replica of Spencer House, the ancestral home of the late Princess Diana.

"I cannot put into words what it is like in detail and intricacy," Giffin said. "In Spencer House, if it is suppose to be an oil painting, it is an oil painting; if china it is china, if gold leaf is in the house, gold leaf is in the collection.

"You walk in and say, 'Oh, my gosh.' It is the wow factor."

The museum center also includes an art gallery with work by local and regional artists.

Talented artists have also traced

Maysville history on the sides of its flood-wall, with nine large detailed murals depicting scenes from a 16th century Native American bison hunt to a 1920s Maysville streetscape.

Take a stroll down Maysville's charming three-lined streets and absorb another kind of artistry that traces the city's heritage.

Well preserved 19th- and early 20th century buildings, churches and houses display a wide variety of architectural styles.

Mechanics Row — seven row houses on West Third Street — combine Federal style with a New Orleans influence with descending parapets, iron balconies and grille work, chimney pots and Mansard rooflines.

Buildings also help tell the story in Old Washington, a collection of historic buildings from the former town where costumed guides give tours from spring through fall.

"Our historic tour includes seven buildings plus a video," Giffin said. "One of the neatest things about Old Washington is the community grew and became sophisticated very fast. So there is everything from original 1780s log cabins to Federal mansions. Within a quarter mile, you can see how civ-

ilization progressed.

Because of its location just across the Ohio River from the free state of Ohio, Maysville played an important role in the Underground Railroad, the informal system of people who helped slaves escape from the South.

The National Underground Railroad Museum is located downtown in a former safe house and includes slave artifacts, the original kitchen and quarters where fugitive slaves were hidden under a false floor.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Slavery to Freedom Museum in Old Washington also contains information about the Underground Railroad.

IF YOU GO

Maysville is located 65 miles northeast of Lexington on U.S. 68. The Maysville-Mason County tourism office is at 216 Bridge St. Brochures, maps and information is available Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 606- 564-9419 or go online to www.cityofmaysville.com.



Photo courtesy Kentucky Department of Tourism

Maysville tourism director Duff Giffin said "more and more people" are appreciating her community's distinctive architecture.

Spanish-style Russell Theater where her 1953 movie, "The Stars are Singing," premiered; and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where she married her last husband in 1997.

The tour also includes the house she purchased in nearby Augusta and used as a getaway from Hollywood and is now furnished with memorabilia of her career and items donated by her nephew, actor George Clooney.

Maysville is justifiably proud of its native daughter. However, Clooney is only one of many famous or historic figures who have

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Legislature

Continued from page 1

The core of Kentucky Farm Bureau's long-standing policy on the issue is endorsement of changes in existing law to encourage competition among insurers, increase consumer choice and allow for association health plans to offer group savings for more families.

Kentucky Farm Bureau, the largest membership organization in Kentucky with 462,494 member families, also has a long history of supporting education at all levels. The reason behind the push for strong education programs from kindergarten to retraining nontraditional students for the high tech jobs that existing and future employers create is simple, Knoth said.

"An educated Kentucky is a prosperous Kentucky. It is what will take Kentucky forward. If we stop learning, we stop growing."

An example of legislation that Knoth identified would enable high school students to prepare for the evolving job environment is a proposed bill that would expand access to career and technical classes in such areas as health sciences, pre-engineering and information technology.

Knoth said support for education and the

state's future can be found in Kentucky Farm Bureau's call to fund renovation and improvements at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Hardinsburg. Approximately 3,000 high school students from urban and rural areas take part in programs designed to develop upcoming generations of leaders every summer.

The 60-year-old facility has not been upgraded in some time and needs new sprinkler systems, a larger cafeteria and dilapidated buildings repaired.

"The money requested by the Department of Education, which manages the center is minimal but urgently needed," Knoth said. "We are training our future leaders from all across Kentucky there. These are our children, and they are entitled to a safe environment."

Health and safety also are factors in the organization's call to restore funding for the renovation and expansion of the University of Kentucky Livestock Diagnostic Center in Lexington and the Breathitt Veterinary Center that Murray State University operates in Hopkinsville as well as incentives for new veterinarians to enter large animal practices.

While the state's \$4 billion agriculture industry obviously would benefit from improvements at the veterinary facilities, Knoth said, the testing and research into

new techniques and medicines for animal care ultimately are for the protection of consumers.

"Our animal labs are where our future scientists train and learn," Knoth said. "They also are our front line of defense in the event of disease outbreak such as West Nile, which affects people and animals."

On the economic front, Kentucky Farm Bureau also is calling for the continued allocation of 50 percent of the state's share of tobacco settlement money to support agricultural diversification as mandated by the 2000 General Assembly.

The organization objects to subsequent shifts to earmarking money from the settlement's Agricultural Development Fund to finance debt service for other projects not associated with the transition from a farm economy based on tobacco production.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's position is that allocations from the Agricultural Development Fund should go for programs that directly benefit farmers and improve net farm income as intended.

"Ag development funds have allowed many producers to move from tobacco to other products — from beef cattle to grapes to greenhouses to tourism," Knoth said. "There are people who want to continue raising tobacco, but for those who don't or cannot,

helping them find other means of preserving the farm land and open spaces that make Kentucky a special place to live and visit is essential."

Kentucky Farm Bureau officials have been laying the groundwork for the 2008 session well in advance of the Jan. 8 starting date.

The organization maintains an office in Frankfort, and Knoth and her staff research every pre-filed bill as well as measures introduced during annual sessions. As a matter of routine, they also attend House and Senate committee hearings and work year-round with legislators, the governor's office and state agencies to ensure that the interests of Kentucky Farm Bureau members are protected and that the priorities and concerns that were first identified as needing special attention at the local level are addressed.

(For more details on the Kentucky Farm Bureau legislative priorities, go to the organization's Web site at www.kyfb.com. To contact lawmakers directly, call 502-564-8100.)

Knoth is optimistic that legislators will act on the understanding that the issues and priorities raised by Kentucky Farm Bureau will strengthen the state's overall economic base.

"The members of the General Assembly have a tough job," Knoth said. "And we will work with them for the best interest of all."



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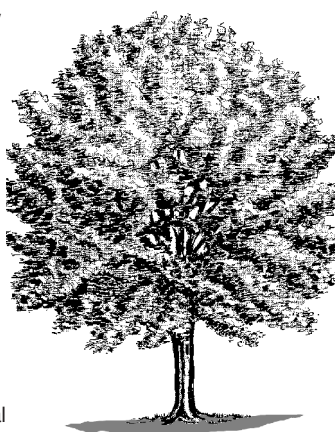
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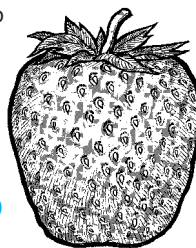
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	N6817	SCARLET RED MAPLE	
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