

Ford presented with plaque

Woodrow Morrison, director of Christian Heritage Center, presented State Representative Danny Ford with an official plaque from the Congressional Record, containing excerpts of America's Biblical foundations, including the ten commandments, in the formation of America's government.

Morrison, a former pastor of Scafold Cane Baptist Church, referring to Ford's commitment to Biblical values, said "We were proud to present

this plaque in honor of Representative Ford's faithful commitment to restoring America's traditional values back into state government and all of the Commonwealth. We need more representatives like him."

Christian Heritage Center is a nationwide organization promoting American Christian values back into civil government. Mr. Morrison is currently speaking across the state and working closely with legislators in Frankfort.



State Representative Danny Ford, left, with the plaque presented to him by Woodrow Morrison of Christian Heritage Center.

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Library News

By Geraldine Robbins



This has been an extremely busy week for us at the library, or I should say the last three weeks. All the end of the year tax reports plus several forms to be prepared and mailed on time. We have to do several different forms for the telecommunication act. This is worthwhile because we will get some reimbursement for phone bills, internet access bills, etc. But after we have filled out one form and done it correctly, they will change the next one that has to be done, even though it is for the very same thing. It seems they want to make it as difficult as possible for those of us preparing these forms. And the worst part of all is, they have a time frame to file these forms. After one form is sent in, they will post it on their web site and we must wait 28 days before the next one may be filed. In our case they received our form on the 15th of December, but didn't post it until the 21st, thus making the acceptable date the 18th of January and the 19th was the deadline. And to make matters worse, I was going to send it by overnight mail on the 17th and guess what? The post office was closed on that day and I had to wait until the 18th to mail it and hope it would get there on the 19th.

We also had some very bad news this last week. My brother-in-law, Pearl Shepherd, passed away last Thursday in Ohio, but was brought back here for burial. His wife and my husband are brother and sister. They were married about the same time my husband and I were and we've been very close over the years. Remembering the good times help us to get through days of sorrow. We are made to realize the brevity of life and to try to make the best of each day.

My staff has been wonderful in helping me by doing extra work since I have had to spend so much time in the office. Especially last week when I had to leave early two days, and for remembering me with a floral arrangement. My thanks go to them for their consideration and help. It is a pleasure to work with such caring people.

this web site and the staff will gladly help anyone in accessing the information on the web site.

Some new fiction books now available are *The Attorney* by Steve Madriani. Madriani takes on the case of Jonah Hale, an elderly man in dire straits. Because of the long time drug addiction of their only child, Jessica, Jonah and his wife have been raising their eight-year-old granddaughter, Amanda. After Jonah wins a multi-million dollar state lottery, Jessica revives her interest in mothering. When Jonah won't deal-maternal rights for a megabuck payoff Jessica pulls out all stops.

Enter Zo Suade, a flamboyant feminist activist with a talent of making children and mothers disappear. When the next move turns deadly, Madriani finds himself drawn into a web of deceit and high-stakes action, in and out of the courtroom.

Kiss of the Bees by J.A. Janccc...Twenty years ago, a darkness descended upon the Walkers of Tucson, Arizona. An Anglo family with solid ties to the legend of the Tobacco O'ham Indian nation. A personified evil named Andrew Carlisle-a psychopath in the guise of a nondescript college professor-brought blood and terror into their world, stalking, attacking, and nearly murdering Diana Ladd Walker and her young son, Davy. But Diana fought back, blinding and crippling

her assailant. In later years, in a uneasy collaboration with her would-be killer, she wrote a book about the horrific events that nearly destroyed her and her loved ones-a book that made Diana Walker famous. But when Carlisle died in prison, the Walkers believed their long nightmare was finally over, the monster would never be able to harm them again.

They were wrong! Also a new Father Dowling

mystery: *Grave Undertakings* by Ralph McInry.

Hopefully we are not letting our other library duties go on down or slow down and I don't feel that we are. The automation process is moving along well and I'm continuing to get new books and other materials. I also want to remind people again about the KCVL service available on the internet. Come in for more information about all the services available on

More families eligible for nutrition insurance

Choosing food that's good for you as opposed to bad food that just tastes good is hard enough for all of us. When food competes directly with rent, utilities and medicine, as it does for low-income families, the higher cost of fresh fruit and vegetables makes healthy choices still more difficult.

But now more low-income families in Kentucky will be able to afford nutritious food, thanks to changes the Cabinet for Families and Children is

making in the state's Food Stamp program.

"This is a nutrition," says CFC Secretary Viola P. Miller, "not an income program."

The new rules will make it easier for families who are leaving or have already left welfare to keep themselves and their children healthy while they work toward financial self-sufficiency. The change expands the number of families automatically eligible for food stamps regardless of other resources (such as a car).

Until now, only families currently receiving cash payments under the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP), which replaced welfare and in which all members of the household receive K-TAP, were automatically eligible for food stamps. Those strict rules for what is

called "categorical eligibility" made it more difficult for families caring for a relative or those who received non-cash benefits (such as job finding work) to qualify for food stamps.

Effective immediately, expanded categorical eligibility offers the following benefits:

- If at least one member of the household receives K-TAP benefits, the entire family may apply for food stamps.
- "K-TAP benefits" used to determine food stamp eligibility will include Employment Retention Services and Kinship Care as well as a K-TAP check.

- Recipients can own a reliable car in finding and holding jobs.

Expanded categorical eligibility is one of four major Food Stamp Program policy changes allowed by the federal government to help working families and simplify administering the program. Each state has the option of accepting or rejecting the changes. Since July 1999, CFC has been discussing these changes with folks groups, field staff and advocates around the state to determine which, if any, Kentucky should accept. CFC is still considering the potential advantages and disadvantages of the other three policy changes.

Rockcastle County Middle School Announces Mentoring Program

In partnership with GEAR UP, Rockcastle County Schools is developing a mentoring program for students in the sixth and seventh grades. GEAR UP staff Debra Gentry and Andy Belcher have been studying existing mentoring programs and taking the best from each to sign a program that will meet the needs of Rockcastle County students.

A variety of studies over the years have confirmed what many people involved in mentoring have always believed: mentoring can make a difference in the lives of young people. A 1995 Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America study showed that young people with mentors were:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs;
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol;
- 53% less likely to skip school;
- 37% less likely to skip a class; and,
- 33% less likely to hit someone.

In a study conducted by the Quantum Opportunities Program, students who had a mentor were more likely than those who did not to:

- Graduate from high school;
- Enroll in college;
- Become involved in community service; and,
- Be hopeful about the future.

Rockcastle County Middle School Principal John Hale is very excited about the prospects of the mentoring program. He is looking forward to having community members coming to the school. Hale said, "We would like to have members of the community coming to the school and showing their support for students. There are so many advantages for everyone. The students benefit from the attention. The mentors get to experience the great things going on in the school and give something back to the community. The faculty and staff at the school feel the support of the community members. And the community benefits because the students have better attitudes and are better prepared for life after school."

The mentoring program at Rockcastle County Middle School will be available to sixth and seventh grade students. If you are interested in having your child participate please call Mr. Hale or Ms. Owens at the Middle School (256-5118) for an application. Students will be bringing home applications in January as well.

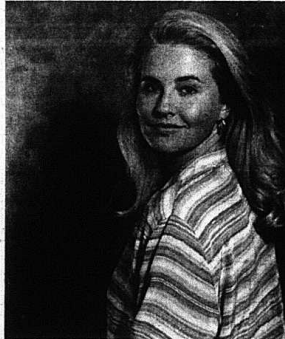
You Can Be A Mentor!

A mentor is any caring person who develops an on-going, one-on-one relationship with a young person. A mentor encourages, listens, gives advice, advocates, acts as a role model, and shares information and experience. Are you interested in being a mentor or do you know someone that would make a great mentor? We are looking for people in the Rockcastle County community that enjoy interacting with young people and who would like to participate in our mentoring program.

GEAR UP staff and school district personnel have already started recruiting mentors at some local businesses, civic groups and churches. Some individuals have already volunteered. Rockcastle County Hospital Administrators Lee Keene and his wife Patricia are excited about getting started. If you are interested, and have not been recruited, please call Andy Belcher at 606-985-3553 or Rockcastle County Schools Supervisor of Instruction Shelby Reynolds at 256-2125 to express your interest. You may also call Andy or Shelby if you would like to have them discuss the mentoring program with your organization.

All prospective mentors will receive training to help them understand the role they will be playing. Hasan Davis, a University of Kentucky Law School graduate who is known nationally as a strong youth advocate and for his work as the chair of the Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, is designing the training. Davis wants the mentors to be familiar with the challenges facing students in middle school and to realize what they are in the school to accomplish. "We do not want the mentors to think they are replacing the parents of a child. Instead we want them to think of themselves as a member of a team. The parents, the school system and the mentor are all working together to help a student achieve success." The training has not been scheduled but mid-February has been targeted.

Dr. Higgins joins Drs. Parsons & Reynolds



Dr. Gina Johnson-Higgins has joined the dental practice of Dr. John H. Parsons and Dr. Billy D. Reynolds.

Dr. Higgins is a 1999 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. She grew up in Wheelwright, Ky. and currently resides in Lexington with her husband and daughter. Her husband, Gregory Higgins is the owner and operator of Magee's Bakery on Main St. in Lexington.

Appointments with Dr. Higgins may be scheduled by phoning 256-5123.