

Legislative Update

From State Rep. Danny Ford The legislative process was in full swing, rivaling March Madness this tenth week as numerous bills were considered in long committee meetings and passed in the House Chamber.

Big news was the support for farmers and local communities shown by the passage of a substitute bill for HB 611 which would put the bulk of tobacco company settlement funds under local control. The original proposal proposed establishment of a state board that would control all the settlement money for farmers.

The well known and publicized Bottle Bill fell to defeat in a 41-54 vote, but the issue resurfaced quickly in the form of HB 745. The new bill calls for a public referendum vote that would decide whether to establish a container deposit and refund system.

HB 996 is a tax measure that proposes three main revenue sources that include a seven percent communications excise tax, a corporate tax on limited partnerships, and a new formula for the state tax collection on real property. The proposals would raise about \$178 million over the next two years, most of which would come from the tax on long distance phone calls. I voted against HB 996, but the bill passed the House by a vote of 57-39.

The Early Childhood Development Program was addressed and

approved by passage of HB 706. Assisting approximately 257,000 preschool children throughout the state, the Office will direct programs from state-wide immunization and home visitation programs, hearing and vision screening programs, and scholarships for child care providers.

Perhaps one of the most significant actions for economic development was the passage of companion bills HB 805 and HB 806 in the House this week. These bills would provide incentives to promote high-tech and environmentally sensitive coal fired electric generating facilities in Kentucky. Successful action from this legislation would provide a resurgence of the Kentucky coal markets that have declined considerably during the past few years. Surrounding states are now providing forty percent of the coal that is burned in the Commonwealth. A market recapture of fifty-percent of the approximate 14 million tons per year being purchased from other states would increase jobs and stimulate economic development in Kentucky's coal mining communities in both Eastern and Western parts of the state.

Resolutions passed in the House would set up task forces to study the salary scale of classified school employees, the instruction principles of economics being taught in the public school system, and the impact of the certificate of need process on

the quality of health care in the Commonwealth. Under potential federal legislation, Kentucky stands to gain an additional \$70 million dollars through an increase of funding from the Abandoned Mine Land Act of 1977. A Resolution encouraging our Congressional delegation to support the legislation was passed unanimously.

As we continue to debate, amend

and pass issues important to us all it is especially important that I hear from you. Please continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me at any time. A legislative message line is available where you can leave comments for me toll free at 1-800-372-7181. For checking a bill's status call toll-free 888-701-1488 or get information on committee meetings at 1-800-633-9650.

Library News

By Pam Chaliff

The flowers are blooming, birds are singing and it's time to start thinking about gardening. I must admit I am not much of a gardener, but I do enjoy the flowers and fresh tomatoes just can't be beat. If you need new ideas for your flower or vegetable garden, we have lots of information available at your public library. Carol has a display of gardening books and there are some seed catalogs for you to browse through.

As I travel around Rockcastle County on the bookmobile, I realize that we truly live in a beautiful part of the country. There is one problem that becomes much more noticeable during the winter months and it seems even more so at this time of the year. We have a horrible trash problem on our roadways. There are fast food containers, bottles, cans and any other sort of trash that you could think of. There are workers out trying to make a dent in the trash, but I think all of us could help this problem if we would just stop and think for a minute before we roll that window down and toss the trash out. I personally would

like to see the litter laws enforced, but realize that this is a difficult task since you don't usually see the trash being tossed out. Look around you at our county and decide to help out with this one huge problem. If all of us try just a little harder, we can have an area to be proud of.

I realize that our litter problems have nothing to do with the library's services, but since I am on the road, I just had to get on my soapbox for a few minutes. We have lots of services available at our public library. I feel like that we say the same things over and over, but hopefully you will realize that a valuable resource we have in our library and use some of the services here in Rockcastle County...books for all age groups, videos, audios, reference material, magazines, public computer access, bookmobile, tax forms and access to libraries all around Kentucky as well as the southeast United States. And best of all the library is open six days a week...

I hope to see you in the library or on the road.

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Popeye Was a Model of Mental Health.

Remember Popeye? If you are a baby-boomer as I am, you grew up with Popeye cartoons. Even now if you tune to the right cable channel, you can see the forty-year-old cartoons in reruns. You may also view the movie "Popeye" that starred Robin Williams. It was not particularly a box office success, but I liked it.

I contend that Popeye was a model of mental health in many ways. He was considerate of others, particularly those of the feminine persuasion.

(I will leave it to someone else to decide whether or not he was a male chauvinist.)

Olive Oyl was Popeye's true love, and he always went out of his way to assure that Miss Oyl was treated kindly. Nothing angered him more than to see her being abused.

I must admit that Popeye's taste in women may not have been the best. Miss Oyl was a bit flighty and hysterical, given to squealing, "Popeye! Popeye!" in the midst of any kind of trouble. And as for her looks, well, suffice it to say that Popeye was probably nearsighted. (Miss Oyl probably was too, considering that

Popeye was no beauty himself. This just proves that one does not have to be among the beautiful people to be mentally healthy.)

Another way in which Popeye was mentally healthy was that he did not allow himself to be walked on by a bully. Popeye's bully nemesis was Bluto, a blowhard braggart who continually tried to win Miss Oyl's affection. Even though the bully was considerably bigger than he, Popeye stood up to Bluto and protected Miss Oyl.

Another example of Popeye's mental health can be seen in his concern for his diet. He was very careful to eat ample quantities of the four basic food groups, particularly great quantities of this one leafy green vegetable. Let's see, what was that? Oh, yes, no I remember - spinach.

Though others disdained eating the stuff, Popeye realized its value in a comprehensive diet. He even carried his own cans of spinach with him

on trips in case it was not available locally. Somehow he managed to carry ten or twelve cans inside his shirt without it ever being noticed.

Not everyone in the comic strip was as diet conscious as Popeye. Remember Wimpy? Wimpy was an addict. He was hooked on hamburgers. Wimpy's famous line was, "I will gladly pay you Thursday for a hamburger today." Wimpy never did get help to deal with his addiction and, sadly, his steady diet of hamburgers left him in a weakened state where he was of no help to Popeye in the fight against Bluto's tyranny.

The best reason to consider Popeye as a model of mental health was his confidence in and acceptance of himself. "I y' am what I y' am and that's all what I y' am, I'm Popeye the sailor man," went Popeye's theme song. That is the son of a very mentally healthy person. He was proud of who he was. Here's to Popeye, a model for us all.

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"It is Written"

What happens when a child of God errs from the strait and narrow way. Can a saved person so sin as to be lost? Is a man or woman who is once saved, are they always saved? Can the servant of the Lord fall from grace? What must the erring saint do to get back right with God? Let us look at what is written.

In Gal 5:4 we read, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Now beloved, how could it be any plainer, that the saints of God, CAN err and fall from grace. Now God does not desire that his children get in this position, but we have the power to choose; and sometimes people just make very bad choices.

What should an erring child of God do? Consider from Acts 8, concerning Simon the sorcerer, who was converted. In verse 13 we read about his conversion. But Simon erred in his service, vs 18-19. Then Peter told him what he needed to do, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter; for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Ac 8:21-22. Yes, the child of God who sins, needs to repent and pray for forgiveness, cf. 1 Jn 1:7-2; Matt 6:12.

Providence church of Christ

Dan McKibben - 758-9316; e-mail - Dan.McKibben@Junco.com
HomePage: www.hemation.net/providence
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Environmentally Friendly

Jeff Hohman, employee of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Jeff Hohman creates quite a stir when visiting classrooms across Kentucky. Jeff is an environmental specialist with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. And when talking with students about the environment, Jeff always introduces them to a few of his friends.

But we don't just talk about the environment. For many years, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have been recognized as leaders on environmental issues. The way we see it, if we can provide a better home for the frogs and salamanders, then we're making a better place for our members.

It's just part of our commitment to do our best for our friends and neighbors - even the little green ones.

Jackson Energy Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO STOMACH THE FACTS ABOUT COLON CANCER

- ✓ Colon cancer is expected to claim nearly 48,000 lives this year - enough to fill Rupp Arena twice.
- ✓ Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, just behind lung cancer.
- ✓ When detected early, the five-year survival rate for colon cancer is 92 percent.*

That's why the hospital has declared March "Colon Cancer Awareness Month."

Stop by the hospital or your local pharmacy to pick up a free colon cancer screening kit, courtesy of Rockcastle Hospital. The results are confidential and mailed directly to your doctor.

However, Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center knows that only 37 percent of colon cancer cases are found in the early stage.*

Take a moment for yourself.

Take a moment to save your life.

*Statistics supplied by the American Cancer Society, 1-800-ACS-2345

ROCKCASTLE

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