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# Troublesome Creek Times

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Wednesday, April 5, 2006

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## News in Brief



### Governor reappoints Cody to motorcycle commission

Governor Ernie Fletcher has reappointed Tim Cody of Hindman to the Motorcycle Safety Education Advisory Commission.

Cody is a lecturer for Morehead State University and an instructor with Eastern Kentucky University. He has been an instructor for the Kentucky Motorcycle Program for the past ten years and became a Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider coach trainer in 2004, one of only 200 in the nation.

He is a graduate of Morehead State University and is president of the Hindman Main Street Association.

The Motorcycle Safety Education Advisory Commission is made up of seven gubernatorial appointees. The commission is charged with fostering the growth and development of the motorcycle safety and education program of the Commonwealth.

### What's inside . . .

More of county's military tribute, pages 11, B1  
Another soldier recovering -- page 3  
Kilburn pleads guilty -- page 3

**Dr. Chandrashekar**  
**Mountain Heart Center**  
606-785-5505 or 1-888-HEART-16

### Home invasion, attempted robbery in Kite

Intruders entered the home of a Kite resident on Monday and attempted to rob him, according to a press release from Kentucky State Police Post 13.

State police received a call at 3 a.m. on Monday stating that two white male subjects had knocked on the door of Mr. Ollie James Terry's home and asked for money to buy gas. Mr. Terry replied that he didn't have any money; the two then forced their way into the residence. One of the individuals held Mr. Terry while the other searched his person. When they found no money, the intruders fled. Mr. Terry was not injured in the invasion.

The state police are asking for anyone with any information, please contact them at 435-6069 or 1-800-222-5555. The investigation is continuing by Tpr. Lloyd Cochran.

### Clarification on arrest of 'Tonto' Combs

## Knott soldiers, veterans honored

By KAREN JOY JONES  
The room was decorated in flags and photographs, and the crowd was sprinkled with soldiers . . . soldiers from World War II and Korea who still carried themselves proudly, soldiers from war in Vietnam who are finally respected, soldiers from Desert Storm and those just home from Iraq.

At the front of the room, one young soldier sat patiently. From his shy smile and quiet demeanor, it seemed the last thing he wanted was a lot of attention, but Specialist Travis Fugate, who is recovering from injuries sustained in Iraq, was a guest of honor.

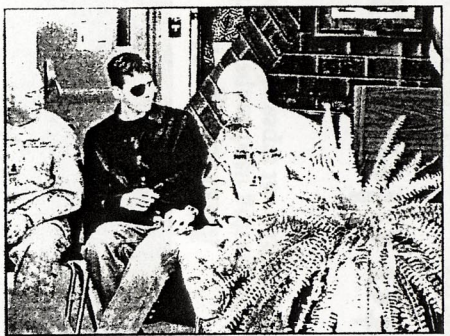
Last Saturday was a memorable day in Knott County — a tribute to American soldiers was held in Hindman. The Knott

County Human Services Center was filled to capacity with special guests, friends, family members and residents who came to honor the men and women who have so unselfishly served their country.

The event began with the arrival of a Blackhawk helicopter at the Knott Central football field. Major General Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General of Kentucky, flew in to honor Travis Fugate and the other soldiers and veterans.

Other distinguished guests included Knott Judge-Executive Randy Thompson, State Representative Ancil Smith, State Senator Johnny Ray Turner, and State Command Sergeant Major Phillip Gerald.

Turn to **MILITARY**, pg. 2



Sgt. Major Phillip Gerlds, Specialist Travis Fugate and General Donald Storm talked before the ceremony. (Photo by Karen J. Jones)

## Adventure tourism can boost economy

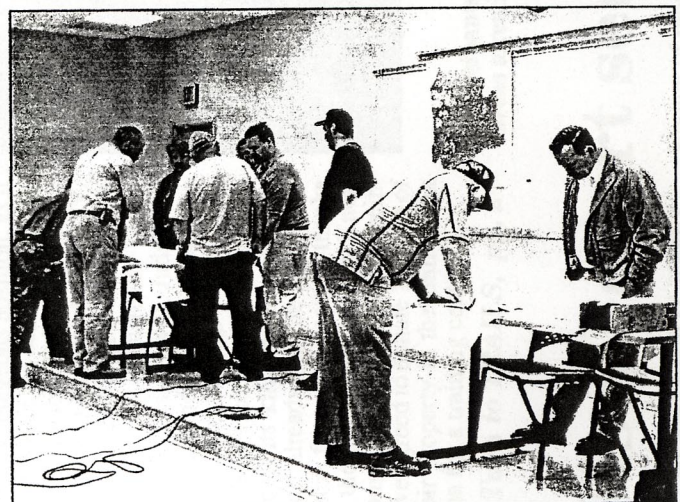
By KAREN JOY JONES  
More than 50 people gathered at the Opportunity Center in Hindman last Thursday to discuss a new project which would bring tourists to visit Knott County and offer recreation possibilities for local residents.

The Knott County Fiscal Court voted recently to join sKYward Trails, a 14-county coalition, in an "adventure tourism" effort, developing trails for horses, ATVs and dirt bikes, as well as viewing of elk and other wildlife.

Knott County is in a particularly advantageous position, as it is located in the center of the 14-county region. This would make Knott the ideal site for an ATV/motorcycle training facility — a related project currently in the planning stages with Judge-Executive Randy Thompson and the Knott Fiscal Court.

This center could be the only one of its kind in the state. The court already has the perfect location for such a facility, thanks to the generosity of one Knott County family. The Sutton heirs have agreed to donate 10 acres of their property in the Ball Creek area for a training center.

Turn to **TRAILS**, pg. 2



### Marking the trails

Participants in last week's meeting used maps provided by Summit Engineering to outline areas already being used for different types of recreational activities.

## Fiscal court seeks to clean up watershed

By KAREN JOY JONES  
The Knott County Fiscal Court passed a resolution and held the first reading of a related ordinance concerning cleanup of the watershed of Troublesome Creek.

In a special meeting held Friday morning, the court voted to enter into an inter-local agreement with Breathitt and Perry counties relating to the Troublesome Creek Environmental Authority.

Judge-Executive Randy Thompson explained that coal companies must pay a sizeable

amount of money into a fund for stream mitigation. Creating this authority will allow part of these funds to be used in constructing a sewage treatment plant to take care of the watershed area of Troublesome Creek, as well as do some creek bed enhancement in the area.

"It's as close as we could get to having a free sewer system," Thompson said.

Don R. Gibson of ICG coal company was present at the meeting to provide information about the authority. He noted that his

company had budgeted more than \$5 million for stream mitigation.

Ron Johnson of R.M. Johnson Engineering told the court, "The coal industry has almost been shut down because of mitigation costs. They would rather pay into something that will stay here and help this area than have all the funds going down-state."

Magistrates voted unanimously to join forces with Breathitt and Perry in the agreement. (Keith Combs and James Huff were absent from the meeting due to conflicts with their work schedules).

The related ordinance establishes that anyone without an adequate sewer system in the watershed area will hook onto the sewer service once it is available. County Attorney Randy Stone asked if this measure would be controversial; Ron Johnson said it would only apply to those with no sewer system or a failing system.

Representatives of the Knott County Water and Sewer District addressed the court with a request for financial assistance. The dis-

Turn to **COURT**, pg. —

KSP Troopers



here -- fine folks, good leaders who are doing you proud here and in Frankfort.

"I'm honored to be part of this day, and any time I can be around Travis Fugate, this great American hero -- I'll be here."

As he introduced our state legislators, Judge Thompson explained that they had passed a valuable piece of legislation. "There was a group -- they call themselves a church group -- that was going to different states and protesting at military funerals. When I heard about it, it sickened me. These gentlemen went to war in Frankfort, and such a protest is now against the law in Kentucky."

State Rep. Ancil Smith, a Vietnam veteran, visibly moved by the tributes, told the crowd, "Freedom is not free. We will continue to be a strong nation and a free one."

State Sen. Johnny Ray Turner told the crowd, "One of the most heartfelt things I've done in my six years in the Senate is attend the coming home of the 206th Battalion. It was such an honor to be there and see their loved ones greet them."

Turner referred to the legislation mentioned by Judge Thompson. "We've heard that in states which have passed such a law, the group does not come in."

Turner said the legislature had also passed a bill authorizing a low-interest loan program to help veterans pay for a home, business, business property, or education for spouse or children. Another bill would give extra consideration to veterans applying for employment.

Following the speeches, citations and flags were given by Sen. Turner and Rep. Smith to veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and those still active in service.

The Carrie Community Care Committee had their own presentation for Travis Fugate, then Sylvia Combs shared a list of contributions from local businesses and individuals (see page -- for details).

The tribute ended with a meal prepared by the Senior Citizens Center staff, desserts from Beta Sigma Phi, and time to visit and talk with friends.

Those who attended Saturday's military tribute had a unique opportunity to look into the

## Trails, from page 1

In opening the meeting, Judge-Thompson shared his own pleasant experiences riding ATVs years ago, and recalled the popularity of the horseback riding event "Ride the Cyprus."

Thompson explained to those assembled that the county has hired a group called WMTH ("We Make Things Happen") to collect information and create a master plan for trails in Knott County.

Debbie Spencer of WMTH began her presentation saying, "We'll start with a big vision from another state." She introduced Mike Witt with the Hatfield-McCoy Trails in West Virginia.

Witt related that as of 2004, their trail system, which opened in 1991, had attracted visitors from 48 states and nine foreign countries.

"The biggest thing is the economic impact," Witt said. "We have 500 miles of trails, and our local businesses have a customer base. Our state measures visitors through 'user days' -- we've overtaken whitewater rafting in user days, and we think the trails will overtake skiing in the next five years."

Witt said the kinds of businesses needed to support the trails include campgrounds, souvenir shops, convenience stores and motels. "Local residents can take advantage of this opportunity to develop successful businesses," he said.

"You have the potential here for a state-of-the-art facility, and activities that are both safe and exciting, where families can come in and enjoy the community."

"One key element in developing trails is the passage of legislation so KACO could provide insurance and any land owners in the trail project would be free of liability," Witt said. "It took a long time for us to get up and running, but it shouldn't be that way here."

Another initial task in developing trails would be to identify land owners. Many large portions of suitable property belong to coal companies; Judge Thompson said he believes several of these would be agreeable to working with such

fall. Here were these little coal towns that had faded away, but now, all of a sudden, you see life again."

Tim Cody, motorcycle and ATV instructor, pointed out, "I know two people who are building cabins in the area of the Harlan trails, and they can't build them fast enough." Judge Thompson added, "The judge in Harlan said their county invested \$40,000, and they've realized a \$5 million return."

Debbie Spencer prefaced her Powerpoint presentation by saying, "Judge Thompson is looking at much more than ATV trails. His vision, this master plan, is an adventure tourism park system."

"Adventure tourism includes horseback riding, ATV trails and wildlife viewing. Coordinating these activities would designate areas for each so there is plenty of room for all, and no conflict of activities that don't blend well."

Spencer said three goals of Knott County's project are to focus on safety, protect the environment, and develop multiple-use trails that do not conflict with each other.

Other members of the team led by WMTH also spoke to the crowd. Bill Owens of the Economic Research Association from Washington, D.C., said he would work to quantify the benefits of a trail system -- number of users, funding strategies, maintenance strategies and impact.

Rick Russell has been involved in creating three training facilities across the country. He talked about touring the state-of-the-art center in Alpharetta, Ga., recently, along with Judge Thompson.

Russell explained that when a customer purchases an ATV, usually the manufacturer gives a rebate for those who will take a safety class. (Honda, for example, gives \$100). Currently, local classes which provide this training are available on request, but there is no permanent training site. "If things work out, Knott County could be the location for that center. This would be convenient for the whole area. Additionally, two dealers in the area have massive sales of ATVs -- one in Prestonsburg, one in Hazard."

Judge Thompson added, "The Alpharetta center is owned by Honda. We talked with

tatives, and they could do a center here, but if we do it ourselves, we can work with all manufacturers, and Honda will still provide guidance."

"Their facility had nothing for horses, but we could add a section to teach horseback riding if we choose."

Debbie Spencer noted, "In Alpharetta, they have the facility to train riders of ATVs, dirt bikes and street bikes. For off-road training, they had to build trails. Here, it would be much less expensive because the trails are almost ready-made. They added another component we can do here -- environmental education. This could be utilized by other groups -- schools, scouting programs -- as well as riders."

The final phase of the meeting focused on identifying any trails already in use. Summitt Engineering provided detailed maps of Knott County, and the audience gathered around the maps and used markers to indicate places where they ride horses, ATVs or dirt bikes.

Finally, Judge Thompson expressed his gratitude, and all participants echoed this, to members of the Sutton family in attendance for their unselfish gift.

"We have all this property, and we're getting old," Thora Sutton Parker explained. "Our parents lived their lives helping others. We would like to see this property used for something to benefit our county. It's what they would have wanted."

### Special called board meeting Knott Water/Sewer District

There was a special called meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., of the Knott County Water and Sewer District Board. The meeting was called to order only to adjourn for closed session.

The agenda items for the closed session were threatening litigation, interlocal agreement, and personnel issues - Steve Basham and Alice Ritchie management.

The meeting was called back to order and adjourned. There were no announcements in open session of actions taken.



...and Rep. Sam Harris Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and those still active in service.

The Carrie Community Care Committee had their own presentation for Travis Fugate, then Sylvia Combs shared a list of contributions from local businesses and individuals (see page -- for details).

The tribute ended with a meal prepared by the Senior Citizens Center staff, desserts from Beta Sigma Phi, and time to visit and talk with friends.

Those who attended Saturday's military tribute had a unique opportunity -- to look into the faces of men and women of all ages who embody courage and dedication. General Storm described them well -- real heroes. It was a moving experience, and one we will long remember.

Thanks so much to all those who planned and supported this event!!

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in and enjoy the community.

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Another initial task in developing trails would be to identify land owners. Many large portions of suitable property belong to coal companies; Judge Thompson said he believes several of these would be agreeable to working with such a project.

Witt described the popularity of the trails in West Virginia. "It's unbelievable -- on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, you can see them coming. Some have big trailers with five or six machines. They have cash, and they spend it. If you don't believe it, just come to Mingo, Logan, Boone counties and see for yourself," he said.

Witt praised Knott County's initial effort. "I commend you for this grassroots support and for getting public input. You people are the key to the whole thing."

Judge Thompson related, "I rode through Mingo County last

ally the manufacturer gives a rebate for those who will take a safety class. (Honda, for example, gives \$100). Currently, local classes which provide this training are available on request, but there is no permanent training site. "If things work out, Knott County could be the location for that center. This would be convenient for the whole area. Additionally, two dealers in the area have massive sales of ATVs -- one in Prestonsburg, one in Hazard."

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← April 5, continued