



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

South Charleston's perfect ending

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Presidents Day



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Three shot dead in Logan

By Lori Kersey
Staff writer

INSIDE: Photo 12A

BIG CREEK — Logan County officials found three people shot to death in a house on Huckleberry Road near Chapmanville, police and relatives of the deceased said.

The bodies of 51-year-old Paul

David Jarrell, Eddie Bell and Michelle Bell were discovered about 9 a.m. Sunday morning, according to Jarrell's family members.

"I lost my mom, my older brother from a stroke, and my dad a week and a half ago and

now my brother," Jarrell's sister, Brenda Jarrell said, standing in front of the house where her brother died. Jarrell and other family members were taking items from the house where the slayings occurred. They feared that thieves would break in and steal from the empty house, she said.

Police are calling Trevor Tomblin, 34, of Chapmanville, a person of interest in the homicide investigation. Tomblin wrecked about 5:25 a.m. Sunday morning at Big Creek while driving a 2000 Sonoma truck that was registered to one of the victims. Additional handguns and other evidence were found at the

crash scene, according to police. Tomblin was transported to Logan Regional Medical Center and later to CAMC General, where he died.

Authorities found a handgun, prescription medication and a large amount of cash in the stolen vehicle with Tomblin.

Earl Akers, Brenda Jarrell's

nephew by marriage, said he knew Tomblin.

"We went to a Christian school," Akers said. "I went to school with him all the way up. It's just unreal."

Tomblin lived about a mile away from Paul Jarrell, Akers

SEE LOGAN, 12A

ROCKIN' THE GYM

AT 7:30 A.M.



THE SHAPE WE'RE IN



KATE LONG | Gazette photos

First thing every morning, Wood County's Kanawha Elementary students hit the gym for 30 minutes. Sometimes they dance; sometimes they choose activities like these. "Childhood obesity is a major problem, and we want to at least establish the mindset in these kids that physical activity is fun," says Principal Mike DeRose. "Then hopefully, they'll carry on when they get older."

Wood school helps kids get fit before they sit

By Kate Long
Staff writer

DAVISVILLE — It's 7:15 a.m., still dark outside Wood County's Kanawha Elementary School. In 15 minutes, school buses will roll up to the door. Sleepy-eyed kids will spill into the school.

In the gym, Principal Mike DeRose and gym teacher Vicki Lacey are hauling stuff out of a closet: crates of jump ropes, huge rubber balls, tummy scooters. They spread giant plastic bowling pins, hopscotch sheets and hula hoops across the gym floor, creating colorful, instant activity stations.

"Every morning, we get these kids moving for a half-hour before school," Lacey said.

"They used to come in off the buses and just sit on the bleachers, waiting for school to start. Now we work their bodies and

SEE ROCKIN', 13A

ALLEGED SEX ASSAULTS

Family awaits teacher arrest

By Travis Crum
Staff writer

The family of one Mingo County middle school girl wants to know why the teacher accused of sexually assaulting her has not been arrested.

Mingo County Prosecuting Attorney C. Michael Sparks said he couldn't prosecute the teacher until State Police Trooper L.D. Hensley completes his investigation.

In December, Sparks announced an investigation into James Hiram "Jimmy" Keatley, 47, after "multiple students" made sexual assault claims against him.

Keatley is a math teacher and boys basketball and football coach at Matewan Middle School. He has since been suspended without pay

SEE TEACHER, 13A

FREE SPEECH ISSUE

Court to review valor act

By Mark Sherman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Xavier Alvarez was in good company when he stood up at a public meeting and called himself a wounded war veteran who had received the top military award, the Medal of Honor.

Alvarez was lying about his medal, his wounds and his military service, but he wasn't the first man to invent war exploits.

He was, however, one of the first people prosecuted under a 2006 federal law aimed at curbing false claims of military valor.

Concerns that the law improperly limits speech and turns people into criminals for things they say, rather than do, are at the

SEE VALOR, 13A

get their heart rate up. They have fun, then they're alert and ready to sit down and work."

State Schools Superintendent Jorea Marple is encouraging each school to add at least 15 minutes of physical activity a day to their schedule. Kanawha Elementary needs no encouragement. "This school is doing what she hopes to see all over the state," Lacey said.

A former physical education teacher, DeRose is a fan. "They need this," he says, pulling jump ropes out of a crate. "Actually, they need a whole lot more than 15 minutes. Over my 29 years in the schools, I've seen a change in the kids. They've gotten much less active. They're sitting around a lot more, and they're getting heavier. That's not good."

Physical education time has dropped as the demands of the federal No Child Left Behind Act escalated, he says. "P.E. is getting crowded out of the schedule. We're trying to fill that gap."

Maybe because Wood County has emphasized physical activity in recent years, the county's obesity rate is significantly lower than the state average: 22 percent, compared with 29 percent.

At 7:30, the buses pull up outside the school. Kids pour through the doors, strip off coats and pile them on cafeteria tables. Some head for breakfast. Others head for the gym.

They know what to do. Within minutes, the gym is rocking with bouncing, jumping, rolling, scooting kids. Nobody's telling them what to choose. "The rule is, pick anything you want to do, but no fighting and no sitting," DeRose says.

Research shows that when kids are allowed to choose activities, they get more actual exercise, he says. The kids have choices, within a structure. At a different time of day, this would be called a "structured recess."

Within minutes, in one corner, kids are doing push-ups on a plastic sheet. At one end of the gym, they propel up and down on tummy scooters. On the other side, they're rolling down a long plastic sheet as human

"P.E. is getting crowded out of the schedule. We're trying to fill that gap."

MIKE ROSE

Principal, Kanawha Elementary

bowling balls, knocking down plastic pins.

Laughter and excited talking echoes off the walls, mixed with the thwack-thwack of jump ropes.

DeRose is circulating, chatting and patting kids on the shoulder. "These are country kids," he says. Sixty-six percent of the school's 315 kids are eligible for reduced price meals.

In the center court, a dozen kids are bouncing on huge, colorful rubber balls. To one side, big jump ropes circle. Boys are out-jumping the girls. In another corner, three kids are making up a game with hula hoops and a jump rope.

"I love it," DeRose enthuses. "Gets the blood going. Gets brain cells stimulated! Reduces

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IN TUESDAY'S GAZETTE:

A Nebraska school district cuts its obesity rate — but how?

classroom problems, too, you know?"

Some mornings, he says, the kids line dance. Other days, they do aerobic exercise. "We try to mix it up. Last year, all we did was walk in the mornings. It got old, but at least they were moving.

"So we brainstormed over the summer and came up with this program. Everyone's loving it.

"Childhood obesity is a major problem, and we want to at least establish the mindset in these kids that physical activity is fun," he says. "Then hopefully, they'll carry on when they get older."

The kids swirl and drift from one activity to another, laughing and talking. The half hour speeds by. At the signal, kids gather up the equipment and carry it to the closet. Within minutes, the gym floor is clear, and the kids are in the bleachers, waiting for the signal to line up,

class by class.

Then they're off, to class or breakfast. Nobody looks sleepy anymore.

Taking a break

A couple of hours later, it's raining outside, so Vicki Lacey is at the cafeteria tables, playing cup-stacking games that causes the kids to cross right hand over left. The clatter of cups fills the cafeteria. "Eye-hand coordination helps when you're learning to read left to right," Lacey says.

A teacher pulls a cart filled with colorful items out of a storage closet and wheels it down the hall. "That's our activity cart," DeRose says. "They're getting ready to take a physical activity break."

The activity cart goes into the classroom, and within minutes, fourth-graders are standing by their desks, throwing colorful scarves in the air, trying to turn

around before they catch them. A few are pitching foam horse-shoes. Others throw fuzzy balls at a sticky target. They're laughing, having fun.

In about 10 minutes, the teacher gives a one-minute warning. Students put the items back on the cart. "I love it that you can roll the cart in and roll it out," the teacher says. "Then we're back to work."

Out in the hall, DeRose is walking a child to class. "Kids became less active about the time technology started to boom," he says. "Instead of going out to play after school, they went home to watch MTV. And from MTV, they got on their computers and PlayStations, etc. etc. etc. and pretty soon, they were sitting most the time.

"At least at this school, they're active.

"This should help us pull our school's test scores up, too," he says. "There's research that says kids do better academically when they're physically active. It all goes together, doesn't it?"

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