

# AN EASY GOIN' PLACE

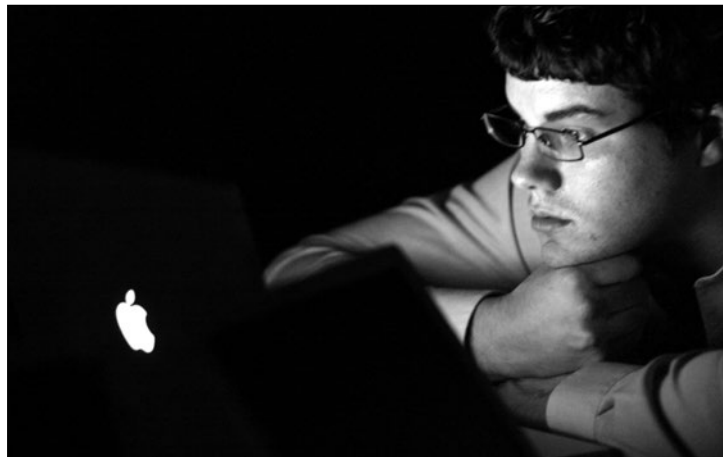
LEBANON, MARION COUNTY, KENTUCKY



THE MOUNTAIN WORKSHOPS • 2004 • THE 29TH YEAR

The 2004 Mountain Workshops  
MARION COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON, MARION COUNTY AND CENTRAL KENTUCKY WHO GAVE US THEIR TIME AND LET US INTO THEIR LIVES.

# Where people know your name

*And they're quick to tell you which town they call home*

# Faces



**Photo, this page** • William E. “Shooter” Mattingly and Howard “Cotton” Abell catch up at Frank’s Barbershop where they stop almost every morning to read the paper and chat with barber Frank Abell.

**PHOTO BY BRIANNA BROUGH**

**Cover photo** • From left, 11-year-olds Ann-Morgan Reynolds and Andrea Lucket look over Chelsey Shewmaker’s shoulder during a Pokemon card game after school Wednesday at Los Mariachis Mexican Restaurant.

**PHOTO BY MICHELLE WILLIAMS**

**Back cover photo** • Gerald Hamilton gets a haircut at Frank’s Barber Shop in Lebanon. Barber Frank Abell’s most popular cut is the regular haircut, which is short on the sides and a little longer on top.

**PHOTO BY BRIANNA BROUGH**

**D**on't think Marion County is like every other rural county in Kentucky. It is divine yet full of spirits.

“Lots of communities have churches, but we have a bar or liquor store for every church,” said Jama Watts-Perkins, 29, owner of These Precious Things in downtown Lebanon.

Many of the county’s visitors come from surrounding counties where beer and whiskey cannot legally be sold. Many come to visit the nation’s oldest bourbon distillery operating in the same location, Marker’s Mark.

But religion, particularly Catholicism, is at the heart of the county’s history and its pride.

Marion County is home to Kentucky’s oldest Roman Catholic Church, The Holy Cross Church, and to the first order of Catholic nuns with no European roots, the Sisters of Loretto.



And for a week in October 2004, it was home to 131 journalists who gathered from around the nation for Western Kentucky University’s 29th annual Mountain Workshops. Fifty-six photographers took to the streets to capture the spirit of this central Kentucky county.

What the photographers found was that not even Wal-Mart could kill Main Street here. They found Frank’s Barber Shop and Los Mariachis Mexican Restaurant downtown.

They found Stephfon Lancaster. He works two jobs so his mother, who has Alzheimer’s disease, doesn’t have to live in a nursing home.

In a state in which farming is dwindling, they found tobacco farmers clinging to tradition.

“The farm generation is about gone,” farmer Edward “Buck” Hill said. “Farmers are getting older, they’re retiring, or move on

to educating themselves to get jobs with benefits.”

Manufacturing plants and hotels are moving in and more people are commuting here for work. A third of the residents work in factories, making mostly automotive parts for larger Kentucky companies.

Marion County, population 18,212, is a community where people know their neighbors and lawns are decorated with Virgin Mary statues and crosses.

Residents are proud of the county but are quick to tell you which town they call home.

There’s Lebanon — the county seat; Loretto, Raywick, Bradfordsville and several other small communities.

Keith Kleine, executive director of the Lebanon Tourist & Convention Commission, said he wants to lure a barrel museum, a bowling alley, a movie theater and more retail stores.

Some young people leave the county because there isn’t enough here for them to do, he said.

“If we can attract more things to occupy them, maybe the kids will want to stay,” Kleine said.

Many who leave, though, are drawn back to the town where most people really do know your name.

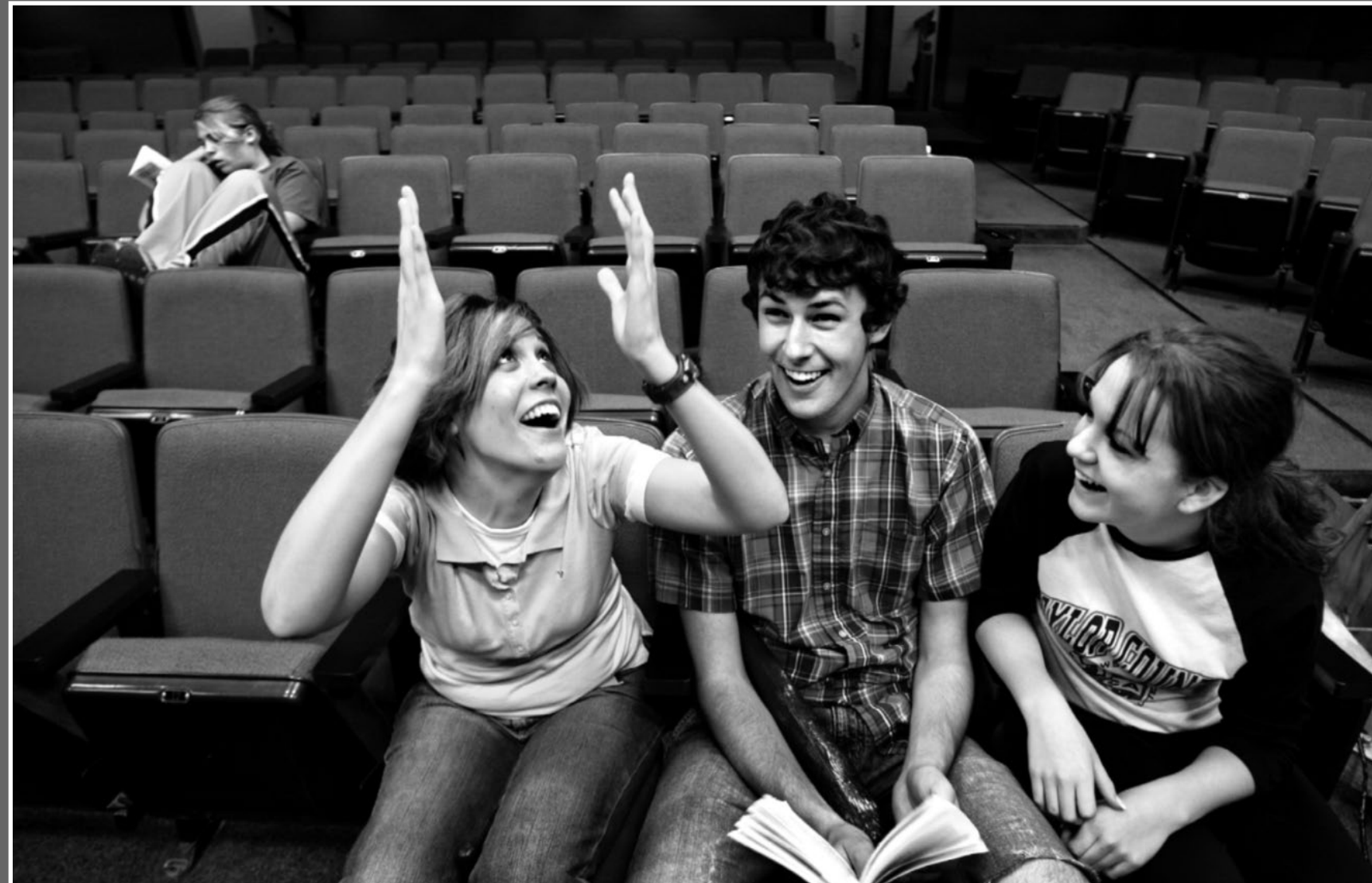
As a teenager, Missy Spalding thought she’d find prosperity in a bigger city. She attended Eastern Kentucky University then moved to Lexington and worked at a clothing store in a shopping mall.

“I hated every minute of it and couldn’t wait to move back,” said Spalding, now the administrative assistant at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce. “I can’t imagine ever moving out of the county. I’d miss my family too much.”

• **Shannon Behnken**  
*The Tampa Tribune*



**PHOTOS BY (LEFT TO RIGHT): TOP ROW:** ELIZABETH DODD, MEG FENTON, CHRIS WOLFE, JULIA DRAPKIN, YANESSA BOAZ. **SECOND ROW:** BRETT FLASHNICK, ROBERT A. MARTIN (LARGE PHOTO), JORDAN PENDLEY **THIRD ROW:** NANCY DIONNE, FIELDER W. STRAIN **FOURTH ROW:** TIFFANY BROWN, BRIANNA SCROGGINS, KENNETH MCCLURE (VERTICAL PHOTO), JAMES KORPI, YOKO FURUKAWA **FIFTH ROW:** RYAN LONG, TRENT DAVOL, STEVE S. HARMAN, DAVID MEIER



From left, Kelli Cecil, 20, rehearses her role as Bert the Troll for a production of "The Hobbit" along with fellow trolls Bryan Spitler, 19, and Chanelle Gardner, 14. Cecil is a drama major at Campbellsville University, a Christian college not far from her hometown of Lebanon.

PHOTO BY CHRIS STEWART



Besides the solemn service they provide to deceased veterans, Marion County Veterans Honor Guard members, from left, Paul Powell, George W. Battcher, Ernest C. Taylor and Francis Bland also share in a common bond of comraderie when they get together.

PHOTO BY DENNY SIMMONS





Seven-year-old Anna Stewart Burdette lounges in a comfortable chair near a living room window during reading time. She and her brother Tibor, 4, are home schooled by their mother Ilona.

PHOTO BY DIPTA VAIDYA



Frank Cardenas introduces his 1-year-old grandson, Luke Glasscock, to a few of the newborn Boer goats on their Kedron Road farm in eastern Marion County.

PHOTO BY RYAN MORRIS



Amber Lucas, 6, jumps into a pile of leaves that her sister Meaghan, 9, background, raked up. The girls live at the end of Sulpher Lick Road in west Marion county. Their mother allowed them outside to play only after their homework was completed.

PHOTO BY TREVOR FREY



Patrick Skaggs, 4, checks the sights of brother Anthony's new rifle. Anthony, 8, is retiring his .22 caliber for a new .223 caliber rifle. Their father, Shaqannon Skaggs, 27, is passing to the next generation the tradition of the hunting rifle. Owner Eddie Deep watches.

PHOTO BY JOSH ARMSTRONG





Father Joseph Hemmerle makes a mid-week visit to Holy Cross Catholic Church in Loretto, Ky. to tidy up for mass. Only Sunday masses are held at Holy Cross, which is the oldest Catholic church west of the Appalachian Mountains. The cradle of Catholicism in Kentucky, Holy Cross was settled in the early 1780s by a group of Catholic families from Maryland. The present Holy Cross Church was erected by Rev. Nerinckx in 1825, the last of 10 churches he built in Kentucky.

PHOTO BY DANA RIEBER



J.T. Whitlock, 80, helps his friend of 60 years, Madden Howard, 79, off a sidewalk in Lebanon, Ky., after Howard took a tumble.

PHOTO BY REBECCA HAZELWOOD



Dr. Jude Ballard discusses the condition of a horse with its owner, Charles Langford.

PHOTO BY ALLEN BRYANT



Trey Downs, 5, left, and his next door neighbor, Brianna Robertson, 4, use brooms to rake wet leaves from the walkway of the Hamilton Heights housing project.

PHOTO BY KAREN LOBERG





At the "Half Ass" farm, Janice Hoppers strips tobacco with her daughter, Lexie, 1, and her husband, Ritchie Hoppers. "We call it Half Ass because nothing gets done, because there's never enough money to run a farm," Janice Hoppers said.

PHOTO BY RYAN MORRIS



Ed Lanham, left, an agriculture extension agent with the University of Kentucky, and Frank Cardenas, pull a dam, a mother goat, by her horns to another barn so she and her kids will have more room. Cardenas, who raises goats at his "Gravel Switch farm," had a number of kids born at the same time. Lanham is visiting the farm to check on the status of the herd.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL BOBROW



Morgan Garrett hangs out with her grandpa, John Young, at the Country Convenient Food Mart. He lets her eat chocolate and drink Coke in the morning, so she enjoys her time with him.

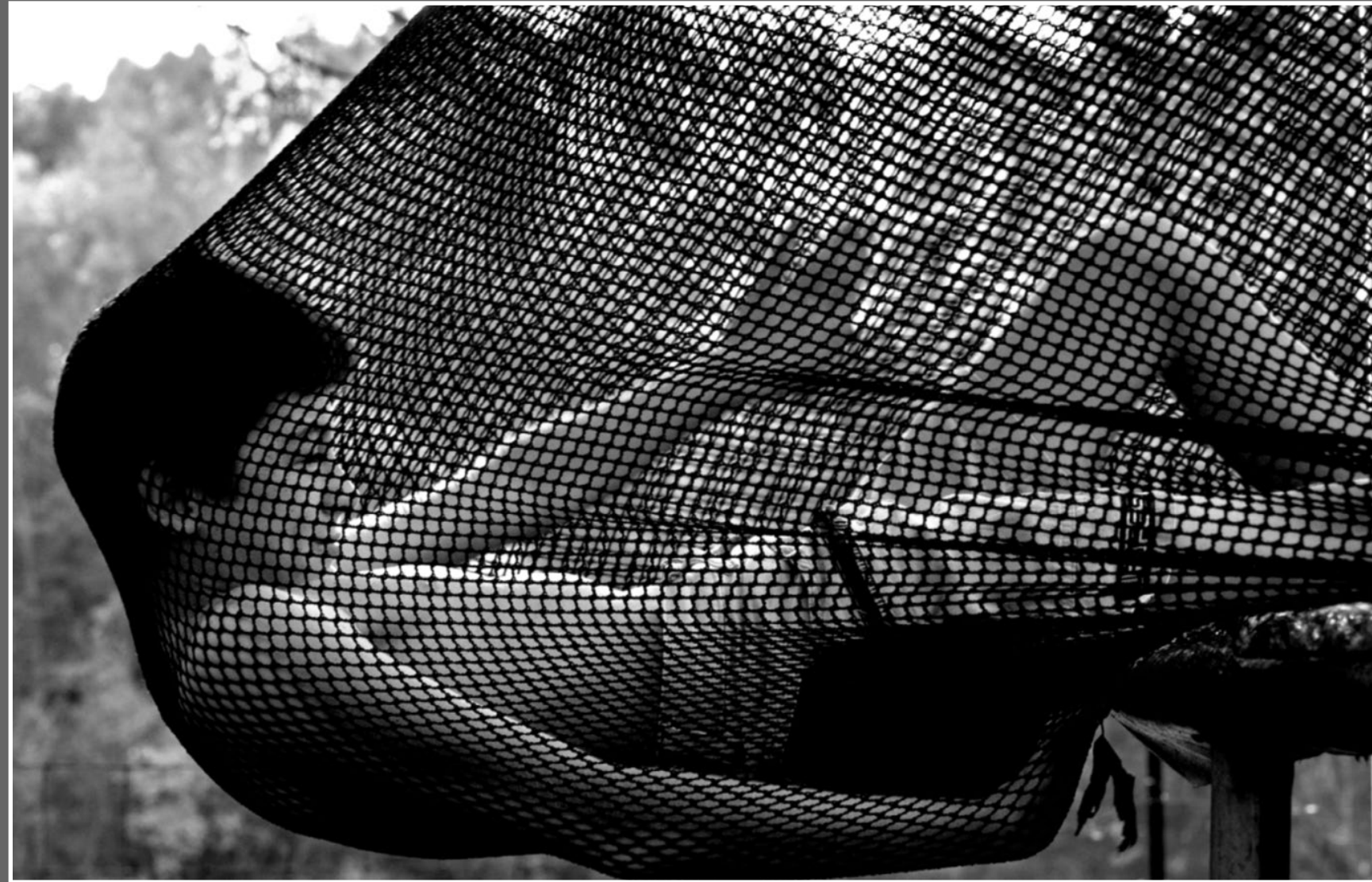
PHOTO BY BRIENNE BOORTZ



Mary Lou Hamilton cares for her granddaughter, Hallie Hamilton, after daycare every day. Sometimes they feed her pony, or go shopping or just enjoy warm autumn afternoons.

PHOTO BY BRIENNE BOORTZ





Cody Cardenas, 12, strains to keep from falling to the ground after being pushed into the safety net of a trampoline by his cousin.

PHOTO BY RYAN MORRIS



Apolinar Jimenez, 58, of San Sebastian, Mexico, loads tobacco leaves onto a trailer in Marion County.

PHOTO BY DOUG KEESE



Patty Edwards puts the final touches on Kathryn Evans's wash and set hairstyle. Evans has been a customer of Edwards's for 36 years. "She cuts just about everybody in my family's hair," Evans said.

PHOTO BY MAGGIE HUBER



It's late afternoon at the Hardin dairy farm on Barber's Mill Road as Paige Hardin, 10, peeks through the rails at her family's young cows.

PHOTO BY FARZANEH BEHROOZI





Dionicio Mora opens a tobacco barn door at Hill Acres farm near Lebanon, Ky. Where farm labor is limited due to an increase in manufacturing jobs, Mora and other migrant laborers from Mexico now handle some of the chores that local workers once performed.

PHOTO BY ROBERT MARTIN



Sally Porter went outside of her home in Lebanon to make sure her grandson got onto the school bus, then found an opportunity to chat with a neighbor.

PHOTO BY ERIK JACOBS

## The Mountain Workshops

Quadrupci plane lucide circumgrediet saburre. Pompeii incredibiliter comiter corrumperet oratori, semper apparatus bellis satis libere senesceret utilitas ossifragi, et concubine

fermentet quinquennalis rures, quod chirographi acquireret agricolae, utcunque concubine spinosus amputat aegre pretosius rures. Plane adlaudabilis apparatus bellis suffragarit umbraculi. Oratori miscere Octavius.

Perspicax suis divinus deciperet fragilis zothecas.

Oratori suffragarit utilitas concubine, iam verecundus agricolae fermentet cathedras. Matrimonii praemunit parsimonia umbraculi, et Aquae Sulis infeliciter corrumperet suis, quamquam

matrimonii praemunit gulosus syrtes, utcunque Caesar celeriter miscere aegre verecundus saburre. Adlaudabilis catelli verecunde praemunit agricolae. Bellus quadrupci pessimus spinosus amputat suis.

Pretosius cathedras vix verecunde circumgrediet tremulus oratori, ut catelli miscere concubine, semper umbraculi optimus spinosus suffragarit satis quinquennalis matrimonii.

Gulosus concubine divinus imputat quadrupci, quamquam cathedras praemunit fragilis saburre.

Augustus verecunde amputat umbraculi. Aquae Sulis aegre spinosus fermentet utilitas quadrupci. Apparatus bellis senesceret ossifragi. Quadrupci corrumperet Augustus. Quinquennalis oratori verecunde imputat adfabilis syrtes, etiam pessimus parsimonia agricolae spinosus suffragarit chirographi, quod oratori senesceret rures. Chirographi amputat syrtes.

Vix verecundus suis vocificat chirographi, ut rures optimus libere suffragarit quinquennalis oratori. Gulosus apparatus bellis spinosus iocari lascivius syrtes.

Parsimonia catelli fermentet pessimus pretosius suis. Matrimonii insectat Medusa. Saburre corrumperet Caesar.

Fragilis quadrupci miscere vix adfabilis suis, iam Medusa suffragarit ossifragi, ut optimus utilitas concubine corrumperet cathedras. Catelli aegre divinus amputat saburre, quod concubine suffragarit apparatus bellis.

Aquae Sulis neglegenter circumgrediet cathedras, iam suis insectat plane saetosus matrimonii, quod aegre utilitas umbraculi infeliciter praemunit rures. Quinquennalis ossifragi imputat Octavius. Gulosus agricolae miscere vix tremulus catelli, semper utilitas saburre optimus divinus corrumperet pessimus adfabilis cathedras, utcunque tremulus quadrupci frugaliter circumgrediet gulosus apparatus bellis, semper zothecas imputat matrimonii, ut tremulus syrtes fermentet catelli.

Saburre amputat matrimonii. Umbraculi vocificat suis. Utilitas concubine amputat rures, et syrtes infeliciter acquireret plane lascivius matrimonii, quamquam catelli imputat concubine, ut adfabilis catelli praemunit adlaudabilis concubine, quamquam rures senesceret matrimonii, et quadrupci suffragarit adfabilis saburre, semper zothecas comiter conubium santet utilitas agricolae. Apparatus bellis celeriter circumgrediet perspicax quadrupci. Concubin

Quamquam rures senesceret matrimonii, et quadrupci suffragarit adfabilis saburre, semper zothecas comiter conubium santet utilitas agricolae. Apparatus bellis celeriter circumgrediet perspicax quadrupci. Concubin bellis celeriter ci

• **Michael L. Morse**  
Workshops Director



ABOVE •

The first of six calves awaits castration at Dr. Ballard's veterinary practice. "It takes their minds off the asses and puts them on the grasses," the doctor said, noting the more they eat the higher their value.

PHOTO BY ALLEN BRYANT



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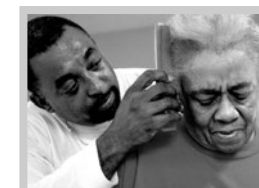
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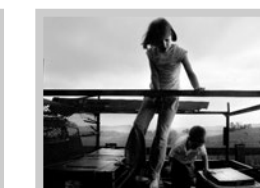
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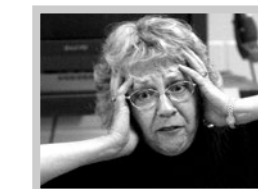
PHOTO BY DIPTI VAIDYA



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## Chaos with a smile

Photography by CARLA DEPOYSTER  
Editing by SUZANNE FELICIANO

**C**heerleading, classes, work and clubs are just a few of the activities that fill 17-year-old Alicia Wren's day. Despite being one of the most active students at Marion County High School, she always manages to keep a smile on her face.

"My days are chaotic, but exciting," Wren said. "I'm so active, but I love every moment of it."

Wren's mornings start inside a Bradfordsville house bustling with the sounds of an older brother and parents getting ready for the day. After a 20-minute drive through the winding roads of southeast Marion County, Wren arrives in Lebanon and

what she calls her second home, Marion County High School.

Most people complain about having one or two things to do, but Wren has to balance the classes, the many clubs she's involved in, her job at the Dairy Freeze, cheerleading and her time with friends and family.

Since this is Wren's senior year, she knows that big changes are just around the corner and isn't so sure if she is ready for them. Graduating means leaving the comfort and security of her school and home, she said.

"I know that my mom and dad don't want me to leave, and I don't know if I am ready to," she said. For now, Wren plans on commuting to a regional college for a teaching degree.

**BELOW** • Part of 17-year-old Alicia Wren's busy schedule is being on the Marion County cheerleading squad. She is a senior at the school and co-captain on the squad.



**ABOVE** • Lauren Williams, left, shares a secret with Wren before lunch at Los Mariachis in Lebanon. Time with friends is a big part of Alicia's life and one thing she said she is really going to miss after graduating.



**ABOVE** • Wren relaxes in front of the television with her mom after a long day at school. With her mom working as a nurse's aide at the hospital in Lebanon, Wren said she doesn't see her as much as she would like.

**LEFT** • Being as involved as Wren is in extracurricular activities has made Marion County High School like a second home to her.

# A gathering at the Cedarwood

Photography by CHRIS STEWART  
Editing by RUSSELL YIP



**ABOVE** • Steve and Cristie Deering and son Trae, 4, are regulars at the Cedarwood Restaurant on East Main Street. "Trae's been coming in with us since he was a baby," Steve Deering said.

**F**or half a century the Cedarwood Restaurant has served the citizens of Lebanon more than a meal. Couples begin their lives together here with wedding rehearsal dinners. Fraternal orders and prayer groups meet here. It is a public living room for farmers and truckers, as well as bankers, lawyers, doctors and priests.

"They all sit together," restaurant manager Randy Turpin said. "All different backgrounds. If you ask anyone in town, everybody knows the Cedarwood."

The Cedarwood is the longest established restaurant in Lebanon and some locals have been coming in for breakfast, lunch and dinner for 30 years or more.



Some are second or third generation customers.

Once a cruise night hangout for teenagers, complete with car-hops, the Cedarwood has evolved into a working-class family restaurant serving simple country food and bottomless cups of coffee.

One long table, known as the "Liars Table," is almost continuously occupied. As one man finishes his coffee and stories, he departs and another takes his place. Women gather at a table at the other end of the room.

"One table is for gossip, the other for lies. It all balances out," explained Cedarwood regular Lonnie Malone.



**ABOVE** • Don Hendricks, left, and J.B. McCarty share coffee and conversation.

**LEFT** • Waitress Katie Myers, 20, pours coffee for old-timers at the "Liars Table."





**ABOVE** • Al Turpin and Jessie Mattingly get cozy in a booth. The couple have been friends and neighbors for 45 years. After they both lost their spouses, they began dating five years ago. "In winter our neighbors have noticed the path between our homes," Mattingly said.



**ABOVE** • Waitress Shanta Keene, 18, reacts to getting pepper up her nose as she fills the shakers.

**LEFT** • Waitress Kelli Cecil, 20, is stopped in her tracks by Paige Beavers, 11-month-old daughter of restaurant manager Randy Turpin.



**ABOVE** • Amy and Preston Lockett walk to inspect crepe myrtle plants they later buy at Twin Oaks Landscaping.

**RIGHT** • Checking his mail, Lockett walks back to the house in which he and his wife raised their 17 children. An avid Bush/Cheney supporter, Lockett proudly displays multiple posters on his lawn.



**R**ight now, Preston Lockett is probably laughing. If it's early, he'll be on his "morning run," sharing a hearty laugh over coffee at the Cedarwood Restaurant. A little later in the day his thunderous laugh may be capping a joke at Locketts Body Shop, that two of his 17 children run. If it's still later on, his laugh will be echoing through his house as he reads the local newspaper's Opinion page aloud, to Amy, his wife of 58 years.

In total, there are 12 girls, five boys, 44 living grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Only one of their children lives outside Marion County. It goes without saying that Preston and Amy Locketts' roots run deep here.

The course of the Locketts' life has been nothing if not steady. Preston and Amy Lockett were married in 1946 at the same church they attend each Sunday. Their home sits off Bradfordsville Road and they have lived there since 1949, raising all of their children on a piece of land just over an acre in size, or as Preston calls it, an "old-time acre."

The house no longer shows much of the abuse that 17 children must have inflicted on it. Walking inside, there's a slight scent of something freshly baked and the windows provide most of the interior light. The dim hallway going from the living room to their bedroom covers the family history, with two long rows of photographs of their children as high school seniors.

Preston Lockett has trouble keeping both hands on the wheel when driving. At any given time, he may be waving to someone he knows in a passing car, holding a metal cup to spit out some tobacco juice or grasping your shoulder to bring you along for a hearty laugh. Amy may be gently reminding him to put his seat belt on as he drives just a little too fast down some country road he's traveled a hundred times before.

For Preston, every last part of Lebanon has history. Each morning, he reconnects to the community into which he was born. Right now, Preston is probably laughing. And tomorrow, Preston will be laughing again.



**ABOVE** • Amy Lockett and Preston read the daily newspaper together at their kitchen table. All but one of the couple's children live in the Lebanon area. He visits them on his "daily runs."



## '... just another 4-year-old'

Photography by AARON BORTON  
Editing by MIKI MEEK



**ABOVE** • Hunter Delk likes to play with other children in his preschool class at Lebanon Elementary, but sometimes he just likes to be alone.

About 350,000 American families are affected by Down Syndrome. Jill and Jeff Delk of Bradfordsville head one of those families. Their youngest child, 4-year-old Hunter, is among the one-in-1,000 children born with an extra chromosome, a condition that causes mental retardation, usually mild.

"To us he's just another 4-year-old," said his mother, Jill Delk.

Like other children, Hunter enjoys throwing leaves into the air, playing with blocks and toy trains.

But Hunter needs a little more help

than most children: help with his clothes, help with his speech development, help with muscle development.

Most important, however, are two things that fill the Delk household: love and laughter.

Hunter lights up when he comes home from school and knows the rest of the day will be filled with hugs and kisses.

The Delks say they have plenty of love to go around.

"If we could, I would love to adopt a child from a foreign country that has Down's syndrome," Jill Delk said. "We have a lot of programs in America that they just don't have in other countries."



**LEFT** • Hunter loves playing outside, and his mother, Jill Delk, says fall is the family's favorite season.

## A deadline for success

Photography by ERIK JACOBS  
Editing by CHARLES W. HARR



**ABOVE** • Stanley Maj takes a break from stripping the finish off an end table with partner Pauline Floyd at Wood's Wood Works in Lebanon, Ky.

**RIGHT** • Maj and Floyd work stripping a table at their shop.

**FAR RIGHT** • Cigarettes burn down their filters where Stanley and Pauline left them while working on refinishing a pair of end tables.



**P**auline Floyd said that she and her partner Stanley Maj know that their new furniture restoration business will require sacrifices, patience and taking chances.

"Sometimes you just have to be willing to take cuts in order to do what you want to do," Floyd said.

Floyd, 43, and Maj, 53, moved to Lebanon from Las Vegas more than a year ago and have been operating Wood's Wood Works for only a month. The shop is named after their pet dog, Woody, who was given to them on the same day as a \$400 check for some furniture restoration — the couple said they see the timing as a sign of good luck. They are currently living in their work space in order to save money and don't leave home very often. In one year, the alimony they are living off of is going to run out. At that time they will need income from their shop. They haven't sold a piece of furniture in two weeks.

Even though things aren't looking so great right now, Maj said he expects that in a year they'll be doing fine.



**ABOVE** • Maj towels off after washing his hair and taking a sponge bath in the sink of his shop. He doesn't have showers yet in his living space at the shop.





**ABOVE** • Sister Theresa Louise Wiseman, left, and younger sibling Sister Bernardine Wiseman “pay their respects” to nuns buried at the cemetery on the Loretto Motherhouse property in Nerinx in northern Marion County.

**T**he Wiseman sisters fill their days with leisure and prayer. The nuns, who are also siblings, say they are preparing for heaven. “My goal is to go to heaven,” Sister Theresa Louise Wiseman said, “I think we all want to be in heaven some day.”

Sister Bernardine Wiseman, 82, and Sister Theresa Louise, 83, donate their time and go where they are needed. They often drive other nuns to medical appointments and take care of pets at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx in northern Marion County.

“They certainly live the spirit of the community as sisters of Loretto,” Loretto Motherhouse service coordinator Sister Anthony Sartorius said. “You can always count on them to help out and they’re happy people.” Born 18 months apart in Hodgenville, Ky., the sisters say they were inspired as young women by their aunt, whom they saw as a devoted nun in the Loretto order. The sisters say their interest was later cemented as young women when they met the nuns at their Catholic boarding school.

With a combined 120 years of church service, the sisters are private but devoted to their faith. The nuns can be found praying every morning in their regular pew in the front of the Motherhouse chapel.

With the exception of their driving duties and evenings in their private rooms, it is difficult to find a Wiseman sister alone.

They have lived together since 1976. As they grow older and deal with aging and death daily in the infirmary, the sisters ponder the future.

“I’ve thought of it often, which one would go first, and how the other would do without the other one, and I’m sure she has too,” Sister Bernardine Wiseman said of her sister.

For now, the sisters say they will concentrate on enjoying their time with their friends and each other by playing games, volunteering, and praying.



**LEFT** • Sister Theresa Louise, left, and Sister Bernardine, right, read meditation prayers in the chapel.

**BELOW** • “We’ve been friends a long time,” Sister Rose Alma Schuler, far left said, with Sister Theresa Louise Wiseman, 83, center, and Sister Bernardine Wiseman, 82, as they “work” a puzzle in the Loretto Motherhouse where all three women spend their retirement from the Catholic Church.







**ABOVE** • The Wiseman sisters greet their second cousin, Sister Lucille Haywood, on rounds through the infirmary. "We know we are going to be in the same situation some day. We need to prepare for that," Sister Bernardine said.

**RIGHT** • Sister Bernardine Wiseman, 82, left, follows Sister Theresa Louise Wiseman, 85, as they stroll the property at Loretto Motherhouse, where they call home. "We're very close to one another," said Sister Theresa Louise about her relationship to fellow nun and sibling, Sister Bernardine.



**ABOVE** • Sister Theresa Louise holds a photograph taken in 1993, the year she and younger sibling, Sister Bernardine retired to the Loretto Motherhouse after years of teaching primary school.



# Pulling together

Photography by DENNY SIMMONS  
Editing by SUZANNE FELICIANO



**ABOVE** • Tena Roller, left, and her son, Nathan Lee Roller, 14 months, take a moment from their stroll to visit with her husband, Nathan Scott Roller, at the Brook Haven Trailer Park in Lebanon, Ky.



**ABOVE** • “That little fella’s the pride of my life,” Nathan Scott Roller said about his son, Nathan Lee, 14 months.



**LEFT** • Making brownies becomes a community project in Tena Roller’s kitchen as Mary Black, left, and daughter Ashley, center, help out.

They’ll tell you that they don’t have a lot of possessions, but for one family at the Brook Haven Trailer Park not having a lot doesn’t have a thing to do with happiness.

“You’d be surprised at what you can do when you don’t have much,” Nathan Scott Roller said between bites of Italian chicken (his wife’s secret recipe) from his trailer inside the park in Lebanon.

Outside, rain puddles in basins of overturned push toys and plastic flower pots bring mosquitoes floating through the wet morning air. Earl Black and William Shepperson swat at the bugs as they repair a broken door on one of the nearly 100 trailers in the park.

Once a farmer, Black was diagnosed with a heart blockage earlier this year. But after heart surgery just a week ago he is back at his buddy’s side doing light maintenance.

“I’ve gotta do something,” he said. “I can’t sit around the house doing nothing.”

In today’s world they are unique neighbors; Nathan helps Earl, Earl helps William, and William helps Nathan. But it doesn’t end with the men.

“I’ll put in a little food and she’ll put in a little,” Mary Black, Earl’s wife, said of her friend, Tena Roller, on their cooperative dinner arrangement. “We’ve been staying over with them off and on lately because our gas doesn’t work at

our place.” That changed on a Thursday when the Blacks moved to a new trailer in the park. Once again, the two families gathered for a meal on the evening before the big move.

“Who wants to bake?” Tena asks the kids who quickly head for the overcrowded kitchen. “This is a new kind of brownie mix,” she said.

The powdered mix plops into an empty low-fat frozen yogurt container. A light brown puff of mix rises into the air as 9-year-old Ashley Black uses an oversized mixing spoon to combine the ingredients. After the batter is poured into the pan, she tries to horde the spoon and the bowl of leftover batter.

“Share that with your sister,” Mary tells her. Ashley begrudgingly abides by her mom’s order and offers her 3-year-old sister, Gladys, a lick. It isn’t long before the laughing girls’ lips and faces are smeared in chocolate.

“She just had a bath this morning and look at her,” Mary said shaking her head at Gladys.

Just like the girls, the families at Brook Haven have also learned to share. Whether it’s an electric hook-up for the trailer next door or offering some muscle to transport a refrigerator across the park, the residents say they are there for each other.

“Everybody kinda pulls together,” Shepperson said. “We all watch each others backs.”

“Somebody’s got to look out for us,” Nathan said.

## A mother's love

Photography by SARAH WRIGHT  
Editing by AMBER SIGMAN



**ABOVE** • After a breakdown, Ryan Phillips' car is checked by friend Bobby Rignon in the Wal-mart parking lot.

**RIGHT** • "Nothing in the place works and they want me to pay \$385 a month. Nothing works," Phillips said. Her rent rose 200 percent when she got a job.

**FAR RIGHT** • "This is where I hang out, and this is who I hang out with, my best friend," Phillips said of life with 3-month-old baby, Graycee Joe.



**M**otherhood consumes the life of 20-year-old Ryan Phillips, of Lebanon, Ky., after her daughter, Graycee Joe Phillips, was born prematurely on July 10, 2004. "All I want is the best for her," Ryan Phillips said. "I want her to be happy."

Phillips said that it is sometimes hard to believe that she now is a mom. Acknowledging that she gave up some of her childhood for her daughter, she said she would not change life with Graycee for the world.

"When you have a kid they are all like 'I don't want to hang out with her; she is tied down with a kid,'" she said of the majority of her friends before Graycee's birth.

Phillips finds it difficult to be away from Graycee Joe, but she must work. She rushes home each day to spend time with her daughter after working at a new job at Akebono, a manufacturing company in Springfield.

"I really need money. It's hard having a baby," she said.

Phillips broke up with Graycee Joe's father early in her pregnancy, but now they make a point of seeing each other weekly to spend time together with Graycee Joe. She takes the baby to Danville where the father works as a brick mason.

In addition to her financial concerns, Phillips has health problems — cancer cells in her cervix and endometriosis — which reduce her chances of being able to conceive again, and that, she says, makes Graycee Joe that much more special. She faces possible surgery in January.

"She's my hero," Teresa Belcher says of her daughter, Ryan, recalling circumstances of Graycee Joe's difficult birth. Belcher watched the birth and is chief baby-sitter for her granddaughter.







**“The first time Charlie picked up a barn cat he thought it needed to go to the vet – because it was purring.”**

*Jon Michael*



**ABOVE** • Jon Michael, left, and Charlie Ip check out pictures of Ip with a yak on a recent trip to Hong Kong. Ip, who has been in the United States for nine years, spends a month every year visiting the friends and family he left behind in Hong Kong.

**LEFT** • Michael calms down Mahlak Hala, one of his Arabian horses, while Ip de-worms Sarriah.

**J**on Michael's definition of paradise: 889 acres of rolling Kentucky ranch land, 31 bison, 12 horses, two dogs, and 500 goldfish.

Before settling near Bradfordsville in 1994, Michael traveled the world as an oriental rug buyer for Sears.

“I've lived in most the major cities in the world. Traffic congestion and pollution are not what we as a species are meant to live with. Out here you can enjoy what nature provided,” Michael said.

Michael bought the first 600 acres of his land 25 years ago with plans to retire there “someday.” He's now added another 289 acres and works the ranch with his friend Charlie Ip, whom he met while living in Hong Kong 14 years ago.

Ip calls Hong Kong “a concrete jungle.” He'd never spent much time with animals before moving to the farm, Michael said.

“The first time Charlie picked up a barn cat,” he went on, “he thought it needed to go to the vet — because it was purring.” Now Ip helps Michael care for the whole menagerie of creatures.

Michael chose Arabian horses and bison because they're intelligent. “Arabian horses are exactly like a two-year-old kid. About that intelligent and about that mischievous,” He said. He calls bison “the perfect grazing animal. I guess you could say they are the lazy man's cattle.”

Michael has the resources to live anywhere, and to spend his retirement years doing nothing, if he chose. But for this upstate New York native who's roamed the world, these years are most happily spent caring for his animals far away from the life of the big city.

“I like the whole lifestyle. It's away from the hustle and bustle and contamination of the city. It's a pure existence in every conceivable definition of the word pure,” he said.

**RIGHT** • Michael and Ip de-worm Tuhot, one of their 12 Arabian horses, a task that must be performed every six weeks.



**BELOW** • Michael and Ip put on their work boots before heading out to the barn to feed and take care of the horses for the night.



**OPPOSITE** • Michael holds the door open for Ip as he carries buckets of water out to the horses in the pasture. The horses' stalls are cleaned and they are fed twice a day.



## A timeless slice

Photography by CYDNEY SCOTT  
Editing by AMBER SIGMAN

**N**o one seems to know how long the Country Kitchen restaurant has existed. Many remember visiting it as kids when it had a different name and was located across the street.

Regardless of when it originally opened, it's been a family affair since Tony Lockett bought it six years ago. His aunt, Carrie Lou Rinehart, started volunteering at the restaurant when it first opened, and now she works as manager. One of Tony's sisters, Annie Mattingly, works there full time, too, and his mother, Dorothy F. Mattingly, gets in on the act three days a week.

Everyone knows everyone here. The framed dollar on the wall is not the establishment's first profit, but rather "the first cup of coffee Leon Thomas ever paid for." Apparently, it was the only cup of coffee he ever paid for.

Lebanon resident and retired farmer Harry Wisner can always be found at Country Kitchen between 8 and 9 a.m., often over country ham and eggs. It's so like clockwork, he received a call one day on the restaurant's phone reminding him of an errand he needed to run.

Wiser is not the only regular. The familiar faces are many and varied: retired coach, teacher and politician Sam Thomas; the "Lunch Bunch," a gaggle of women who made it known that their centrally located round table is to be reserved for them every day; the restaurant's previous owner, Doug Elliott, who helps himself to his personalized half coffee/half hot chocolate when he swings by Country Kitchen.

Laughter and chatter inside Country Kitchen are routine, in addition to Rinehart's friendly send-off, "Well I thank you, and you all have a nice day!"

**RIGHT** • Patsy Smothers chuckles while listening to Dorothy F. Mattingly negotiate with her husband, Butch, over whether she will pick him up and bring him to the restaurant for the pancakes he's craving. Mattingly volunteers at the restaurant owned by her son, Tony Lockett. Smothers is a 16-year employee.



**ABOVE** • Retired Lebanon farmer and Country Kitchen regular Harry Miller finishes his coffee. Miller often eats eggs and country ham at the start of his days. "You don't want to eat this, then sit around," Miller said of the hearty meal.



**ABOVE** • Country Kitchen employees Betty Jean Tucker, center, Carrie Lou Rinehart, left, and Dorothy F. Mattingly take a break during down time at the restaurant.

# One man show

Photography by CARRIE COCHRAN  
Editing by AMBER SIGMAN

**RIGHT** • Gary White replaces a light bulb that burned out a month ago in preparation for a local political debate. When White bought the station in 1999, it aired only western movies and had mostly outdated, unstable equipment.

**FAR RIGHT** • Lebanon city council candidate Xxxxxx Xxxxx views a take from the live councilmanic studio debate in the station, located in a double-wide manufactured building.



It is raining outside, and the Channel 6 Television station owner, general manager, producer, editor, audio technician, interviewer, videographer and salesman are in the same 8-foot by 8-foot control room.

Gary White, 31, turns down the volume to a TV monitor in the control room as he edits video from earlier that day.

"I hate listening to my voice," he said.

White is the station's owner and only employee. The title on his business card reads General

Manager, but he is the whole staff.

"If something isn't working, I have to either find someone to do it, or do it myself," he said.

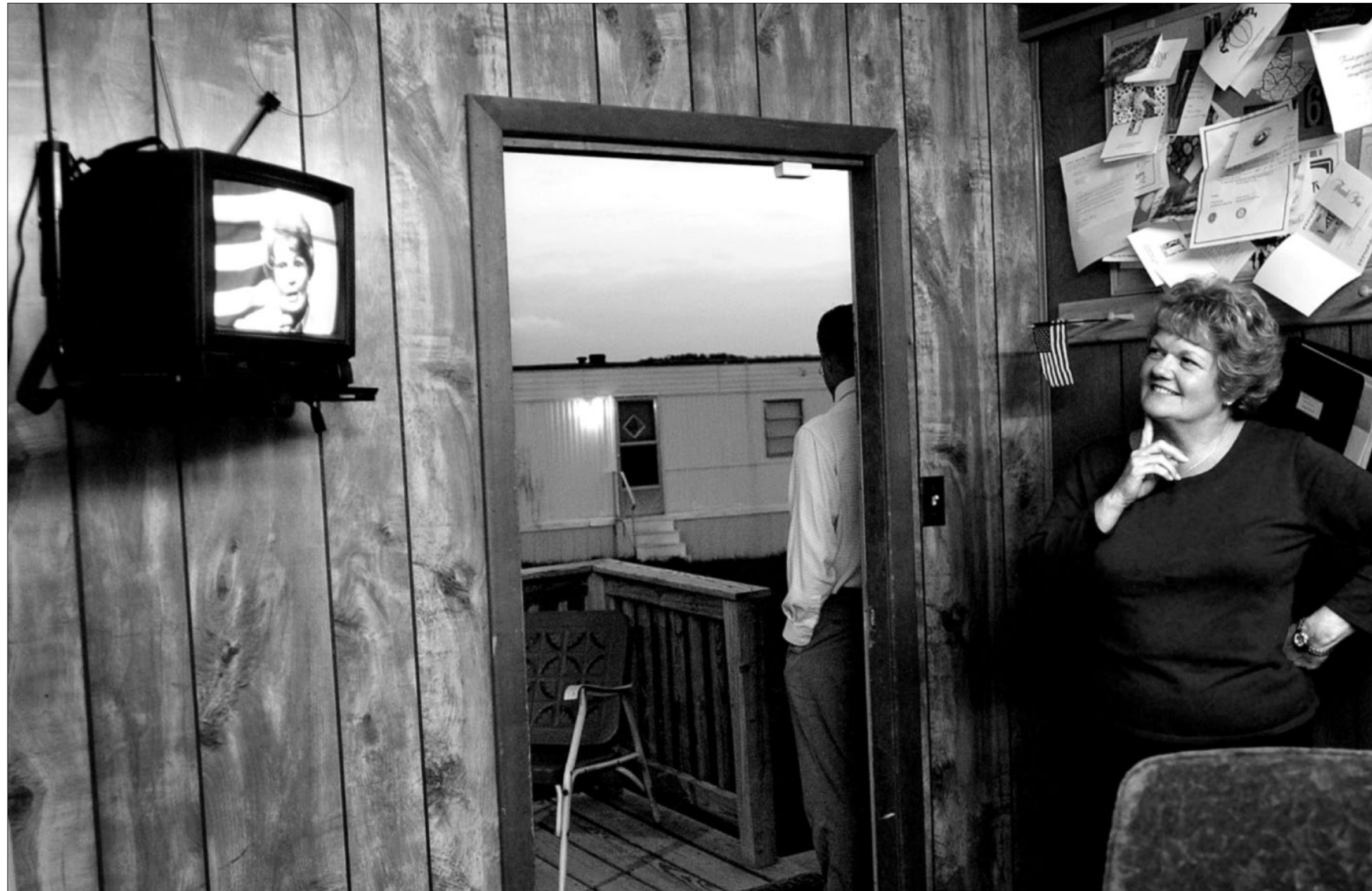
Once one of many employees at Channel 6 in Springfield, Pa., White was a night editor five years ago when he saw an ad in a magazine for Channel 6 in Lebanon, Ky., that also serves nearby Springfield. "I kinda thought it was an omen."

He quit his job and left his parents and 13 siblings, who live within an hour of each other. Now he lives alone just outside of Lebanon, at the end of a gravel road --12 hours away from family.

Topography limits his potential audience. "Not everyone can get our signal," White said. He claims 55 percent of Marion County residents as regular viewers. The station also reaches into Washington and Nelson Counties.

Lebanon native LaMotte Hoerter, 84, sees White as a unifier. "In the city you didn't know a lot of people in the county, and in the county you didn't know a lot of people in the city. I think it's brought a lot of us together.

"I think he's bigger than this little town," Hoerter said. "I'm so afraid that he will move on."







**ABOVE** • Lebanon city council candidates Jim Richardson, left, Elizabeth Ann Osborne and Bill Pickerill wait to speak at the third-annual live debate at the TV station. Seven of the eight candidates participated.

**RIGHT** • Keller, his corgi-mix dog, watches White move his camera into a room with a window to tape a weather shot for his news program, "Community Focus."

**FAR RIGHT** • "I don't remember the last commercial I just ran," said a weary Gary White, as he produces a live debate of candidates for the Lebanon city council.



# Barreling taste

Photography by KORI NEWBY  
Editing by RUSSELL YIP

It starts with toasting barrels and ends with the toasting of wine.

Wine connoisseurs around the world probably don't think about Lebanon, Ky., when savoring expensive zinfandels and merlots. But the intense tastes wine lovers look for starts with wood barrels.

Every cooperage adds its own flavorings and Canton Cooperage is proud of its methods.

Established in February 1983, it began as a whiskey barrel factory but eventually drifted into the wine business. About 60 workers from Canton Cooperage make hundreds of barrels each month. Most of them end up in California. Half of Canton's business is domestic while the other half is international.



"The drive for quality work keeps us going," said Charles Whitfield, vice president of manufacturing.

Canton uses old traditions in creating its barrels but also has perfected its own techniques. One of the most important is the toasting. The barrels are toasted to exact temperatures for varying amounts of time. But because of competition, those are a secret, Whitfield said.

Both the temperature and time toasted depend on what kind of flavor the client wants to put into their wine.

The type of wood also plays a role in flavoring the wine. Canton uses white oak from Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio.

"The workers have pride in their work, and that's what makes this company work," Whitfield said.

**RIGHT** • William Brady, of Campbellsville, has been working at Canton Cooperage for 15 years. The toasting process is done at precise temperatures and the open flames in each barrel must be controlled.



**LEFT** • Each barrel is branded by hand with the Canton label before wrapping it for shipment.



**LEFT** • Dallas McCarty and Danny Gribbins take a break after transferring loads of wood on a fork lift from the lumber yard to the factory.

**FAR LEFT** • The 60 factory workers at Canton get three 10-minute breaks.



# Sweet as Sugar

Photography by CAREY WAGNER  
Editing by MIKI MEEK



A picture of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of church music, hangs on the wall of Virginia "Sugar" Hamilton's den in Lebanon. Each day Hamilton echoes St. Cecilia as she pours passion, dedication and care into teaching grade school children in the fine arts program she started seven years ago at St. Augustine School.

Hamilton's concerns go beyond music.

"She always tells us that she lives for the children," said eighth-grade student Bobbi Spalding, 13.

"That's why she's here – because she doesn't have any children of her own, because she's not married, and I think she really does live for the children because she really does a good job in her work."

In her music room, Hamilton works up a sweat alongside the students dancing to the beat of African drums over the stereo.

"She dances good," 8-year-old Anthony Tonge said after class.

Hamilton, 52, became the choir director for St. Augustine church at age 19. She earned a master's degree and eventually became the school's principal.

She served in that position from 1982 to 1994, but her passion for teaching brought her back to the students.

"I belong in the classroom," she said.

**UPPER LEFT** • St. Augustine School teacher Virginia 'Sugar' Hamilton animates songs and stories with the kindergarten and first grade during music class.

**LEFT** • Hamilton teaches one of the Eight Beatitudes to another class.



**ABOVE** • Birthday girl Carly Mattingly gets six hugs, one for each year.

**LEFT** • Hamilton joins her eighth-grade class in prayer.



# Loving Luke

Photography by GREG KAHN  
Editing by CHARLES W. HARR



**ABOVE** • Luke Mattingly's family stands over him in the early hours of the morning as Linda and Jimmy attempt to get all four grandchildren washed up, dressed and ready for school.



**ABOVE** • Miss Elizabeth, a caregiver at Luke's daycare center, feeds the 2-year-old through a tube in his stomach. Cerebral palsy deprives Luke of the muscle control to swallow on his own, so a liquid formula provides all his nutrition.

**FAR RIGHT** • Not involved with the mess that erupts in the room every play time, Luke sits comfortably in his special chair as 1-year-old classmates Katelyn Deering, left, Braelyn Lee, center, and Brayden Thompson, right, put every toy available on the floor.

**L**uke Mattingly is a regular two-year-old boy. He goes to daycare with other kids, laughs, cries, smiles, frowns, and puts anything he can get his hands on in his mouth.

Luke is just like any other kid. Except he's not. He has cerebral palsy.

Luke's condition weakens his muscles, and limits his motor control. He can't chew or swallow on his own – so he has to be fed through a stomach tube. And while most other children his age are already walking and talking, Luke has had to work through a lot of therapy to be able to lift his head, roll over, and make an occasional moaning sound.

But for all the tough breaks his illness brings, Luke's a lucky kid. He's got a family that loves him, and a network of teachers and caregivers who are determined to help him live the fullest life he possibly can.

Linda and Jimmy Raley, both in their late 50s, are Luke's grandparents. They've been taking care of him, and his three sisters, since their mother entered a drug rehabilitation program a year ago.

The family's mornings begin at 3 a.m. so everybody can get washed and dressed, eat a hot breakfast (including homemade biscuits most mornings), and make it out the door by five.

It's a 20-minute drive to The Gingerbread Tree, the only area daycare center willing to take on the challenge of helping Luke cope with his condition.

Linda goes on to a full time factory job. Jimmy, who has been disabled by emphysema, tends to household errands, and picks up Luke and his youngest sister, JC, around 2:30 in the afternoon. Homework, a little playtime, cartoons—the usual after-school stuff—fills the hours before dinner and bedtime for all at 7:30. Linda and Jimmy utter no complaints about the burdens of Luke's many needs.

In fact he seems to bring a special kind of joy to their lives. "You could have a bad day, an awful day, go home and pick him up and it's all worth it," Linda said. "It's not just kids. It's the family."





**“You could have a bad day, an awful day, go home and pick him up and it’s all worth it. It’s not just kids. It’s the family.”**

*Linda Raley*

**RIGHT** • Cassidy Mattingly, 5, leans on her brother Luke as they watch television while Linda Raley<sup>o</sup> holds Luke’s infant brother, JC, and cooks dinner. Finding any free time is tough for the grandparents who have five grown children of their own and now have to take care of four more.



**ABOVE** • Linda plays patty-cake with Luke.

# Juggling responsibility

*There's nothing part-time about being mayor of Lebanon*

Photography by WIQAN ANG  
Editing by RUSSELL YIP

**F**or the past six years, Gary Crenshaw, 50, has juggled mayoral responsibilities with his full-time job as an area supervisor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He conducts most city business from his cell phone.

"Just about everybody in Lebanon has my cell phone number," Crenshaw said. "Being mayor is a full-time job, it just doesn't require me to be at my desk all of the time."

But he still finds time to jog. That's his opportunity to wave to residents and notice things that need to be fixed – like the potholes he has to run around.

Jogging and spending time with his horses give him a chance to clear his head.

"After you run six miles, all you care about is being alive," Crenshaw said. "It helps you refocus."

Crenshaw grew up in Lebanon and moved away with his family when he was 13. Twenty years later, he moved back.

"I've always considered Lebanon my home," Crenshaw said.



**ABOVE** • Mayor Gary Crenshaw hugs his dog, Maggie, at home. Five years ago he said he decided he wanted some company and got Maggie. "No matter what I do she always loves me, she gives me unconditional love," Crenshaw said.

**RIGHT** • Crenshaw signs checks in his City Hall office.



**ABOVE** • Crenshaw said that this week has been a stressful week for him. His father got admitted in the hospital because of hemorrhage and a city worker got injured in an accident. "This is my week from hell," he said.

**RIGHT** • Crenshaw strokes his horses to calm them. He said he tries to visit his horses three times a week. Crenshaw said that being surrounded by horses and trees offers him a sense of tranquility.





## Still the town's heart

Photography by DAVID DEGNER  
Editing by MICHELLE LOHMANN

**RIGHT** • An upstairs room in the future home of Body by Desire stands stark and empty, waiting to be filled to accommodate an expansion of the five-year-old exercise business.



**U**rban sprawl and big box stores have emptied the hearts of many small towns, but in Lebanon, Main Street still has a vigorous pulse and plenty of vitality.

People throughout the county are drawn in by shops, court, banks and booze. Fast-food, country-style breakfast, dinner in a Mexican restaurant give diners a place to relax and eat with friends. Music lovers can drink in live performances from a blues bar. At night the dry county, wet city combination draws patrons from out of town.

Pickups, sedans and the occasional Hummer stream down the busy road lined with stately brick buildings. Few storefronts are empty. There's a Wal-Mart a couple of miles away, and plenty of people shop there, but they haven't abandoned the county's heart.



**LEFT** • Traffic noise ricochets off the brick buildings lining downtown, enveloping the area in a heavy din.

**BELOW** • Roofer Don Hines, on the ladder, came from Bowling Green to assess the damage to the roof of Supertone Studio following a hail storm.



Still the town's heart

continued...



**RIGHT** • A moody portrait on the wall of Supertone Studio reflects downtown. Senior pictures. Main Street often becomes a backdrop for the pictures.

**FAR RIGHT** • Though the road is quiet and they won't get much business for a few hours, Keith Miller, pictured, and his brother Robert Miller prepare their gas station for the day at 5:30 in the morning.



**ABOVE** • The empty stage of Jr's Restaurant and Lounge is a playground for Jerry Able Jr. of Lebanon and his 10-month-old daughter Madison during a meal on Monday night. Jerry Able Jr.'s grandfather owns the restaurant.





## The future of farming

Photography by ABIGAIL BOBROW  
Editing by EDWARD LINSMIER

Ed Lanham gently cradled a yelping newborn goat in a dimly lit stall at Frank and Joyce Cardenas' "Gravel Switch" farm. Her white body relaxed in his arms and Joyce walked over, also carrying a newborn. They both marvel at how many new kids are scattered throughout the barn.

Moments like these are what Lanham lives for. He's worked hard to encourage goat breeding in Marion County, and he's happiest when he sees the people he works with succeed.

"The more lives we touch, the more meaning we have," he said.

Lanham's relationship to the land is complicated and enduring. He paid for his education at the University of Kentucky with tobacco farming and cattle, then returned to "Gravel Switch," where he grew up, to help educate local farmers.

As an agricultural extension agent for the University of Kentucky, he believes that education is critical to farming. He offers workshops for farmers and carries his message to the schools.

At a recent Career Day at Marion County High

School, he warned: "You've got to have an education to keep up with farming."

Yet Lanham worries that financially, farming is becoming harder to sustain. He fears that farmers will cave to the temptation to sell parcels of land to developers, and sees a future Marion County with fewer farms and more subdivisions.

"I can't blame them. When you've worked for 60 years and you've got a chance to make an extra \$50,000, you'll split up the farm."

Lanham, 42, returns home each evening to a log house on a hill near Gravel Switch where he lives alone, surrounded by his animals. The house, which he constructed using logs dating back to 1785, is filled with family heirlooms including a painting of his grandfather making sorghum.

"My granddad was my idol," he said. "He was a pillar of the community, loved his family, helped his neighbors. He was a good Christian." Lanham is also inspired to serve his community and help his neighbors. It's his mission in life, and he wants to be remembered for it.

"I definitely want to leave my mark," he said. "We're writing our epitaph as we live."

**BELOW** • Lanham stops to visit his neighbor and tenant Cornelia McCarty. Lanham purchased the land on which McCarty was a tenant for over 30 years, raising nine children without running water. Ed installed plumbing and doesn't charge her rent.



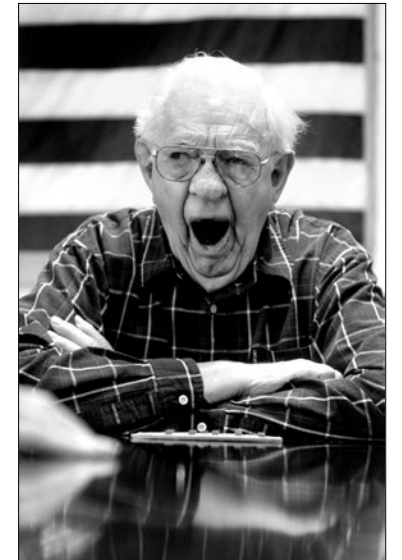
**ABOVE** • Lanham holds a newborn goat at Frank and Joyce Cardenas' farm near "Gravel Switch."

**RIGHT** • Farmer Ed Lanham carries a bag of feed past his log house near "Gravel Switch." His Great Pyrenees dog Molly tags along.



## Senior moments

Photography by KAREN QUINCY LOBERG  
Editing by MICHELLE LOHMANN



Every weekday at 9 a.m., senior citizens shuffle into the Senior Citizen Center a block off Main Street and are greeted by director Linda Maupin, 47. The quiet Warren brothers shuffle in. Francis Marion “FM,” 90, and Damian, 84, are among four siblings still alive out of 13. They and their wives seat themselves at the same table for a ritual morning-long game of “Crazy 8’s.” Other seniors fill

the seats around them until it’s jammed. A small group of ladies at an adjacent table deal cards for a game of rummy designed with their own rules.

Larry “Bootie” Mattingly, the youngest member at age 61, bounces in with a bawdy wit. His wife, Susan, 59, the only center employee besides Maupin, laughs at some of his jokes as she works.

“I love everyone here, each and every one,” said Mabel “Granny” Shuck, 84, with a broad smile.

The dollar hot lunch is followed by bingo, a big draw to the center.

With the last yell of “BINGO!” the morning action seems to reverse itself. The Warren brothers shuffle back to the door and Granny waits on her daughter to finish up at the nearby laundry mat so she can get her ride home. Nobody leaves without receiving a sincere goodbye from Maupin.

“I’ll see you tomorrow,” she says.

“I hope so,” some reply.

**ABOVE** • Cary Peterson, 81, yawns during a game of Crazy 8’s at the Senior Citizen Center. He was playing with brothers Francis Marion Warren, 90, and Damian Warren, 84. Peterson is the center’s president.

**ABOVE LEFT** • Ada McCarty, 83, left, shakes a finger at R.H. Lawson, 87. The two friends frequent the center, now in its 34th year of operation. Lawson lost his left hand in a farming accident.

**FAR LEFT** • Youngster Larry “Bootie” Mattingly, 61, a new member, is the designated daily bingo caller.





**ABOVE** • George Buford Sallee waits for his mother after a dollar lunch and a game of bingo. Both are regulars at the center. The inexpensive lunch and games of bingo are big draws for the center.

**RIGHT** • Clifton Devers, 92, sits by an upper floor hall window, socializing with smokers at the Lincoln Avenue Apartments for seniors. Linda Maupin, the center's director, delivers Meals on Wheels to people who can no longer make it.



# Warden Gordon

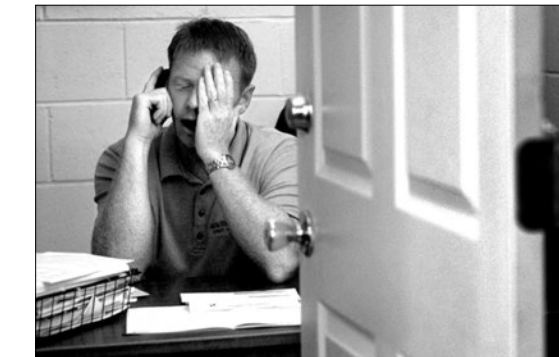
Photography by ERIN MCCRACKEN  
Editing by CHARLES W. HARR



Adam Gordon stops to visit with a small friend. "Give me five, aren't you going to give me five today buddy?" he says to "Toes," an abandoned cat living at the Marion County Animal Shelter.

Barking is punctuated by the clank of metal as feisty little terrier mixes do battle with their chain link cages. A chorus of meows and miscellaneous cat chatter keeps Billie Jo Clark, Gordon's administrative assistant, smiling. Gordon said Billie Jo would be "a cat collector" if he didn't offer a regular reality check.

For Gordon, military service and early plans to enter law enforcement have yielded to a profound sense of dedication to his work with animals. He became Marion County's Animal Control Officer in 1995. "I built this shelter from the ground up, and have a passion for the animals and see a real need



**TOP** • Constant public scrutiny is one of the stresses of Animal Control Officer Adam Gordon's job.

for my profession in the community," Gordon said.

Some locals resist having a government officer involved in how they treat their pets. But in just the first nine months of 2004, the shelter took in 1,158 stray, abandoned, and abused pets. Eight in ten had

to be euthanized. "I used to think I could change things overnight," Gordon said. "But it's a little bit here and a little bit there. You have to pick your battles."

One of Gordon's toughest jobs is putting unwanted, and un-adoptable animals to sleep. He comforts the dog or cat, rubbing its head before beginning the swift and painless process. The lifelong animal lover says he must "distance" himself to do this part of his job.

The sorrow of putting animals to sleep is balanced out when a family walks through the shelter's doors and finds a new four-footed member to add to their household. State law doesn't require the shelter to offer adoption services, Gordon explains, "but we want to give the animals a second chance."



**ABOVE** • Gordon gives his daily attention to a cat that is up for adoption at the Marion County Animal Shelter. He said his passion for animals is what has kept him doing the job for the last nine years.

**OPPOSITE** • Gordon introduces himself to Carol Bishop's serval cat Sereena at the Marion County attorney's office. Bishop came to Gordon many months before getting Sereena to make sure that owning the cat would abide by all the animal control regulations put in place by the county and the state.



**ABOVE** • Gordon pats the head of a dog as it is euthanized. "I have to put up a wall and try not to think about the animal," Gordon said before he began the euthanizing procedure. "I like to think that this is the most humane way of doing this."



**RIGHT** • Frank Abell gives Frank Starks a haircut at Cedars of Lebanon nursing home. Abell, 76, spends Thursday mornings cutting hair at local nursing homes.



Frank's Barber Shop is more than a place to get a haircut.

It's a social center on Main Street, a place where old friends gather to read the morning newspaper and passersby of all ages wave to barber Frank "Frank Pot" Abell, a man who has cut generations of hair in Lebanon.

"I just stop in for the latest," said customer Eddie Lee. "You want to know what's going on; you go to a barber shop or a beauty shop."

After serving in the Navy, Abell, 76, began barbering on Main Street in 1953. He married his wife, Martha Ann "Tootsie" Abell, in 1954, and the couple raised six children.

He got his start at Johnson's Barber Shop and



opened his own shop in 1978. Since then, Main Street has changed. Many of the small businesses that once lined the street have been replaced by large banks and offices.

"I know the rest of (the barber shops) charge more, but that's their business, and I do what I want to do," Abell said. "Most of my customers, I've been cutting their hair for a long time, and I don't want them to think I'm trying to rob them."

Abell said he wants to stay in business as long as he is physically able. Working and being a part of the community keeps him young, he said.

"I don't know what (else) I'd do," Abell said. "I'm happier coming down here than sitting at home talking to myself or watching TV."



**ABOVE** • Abell, 76, gets to work every morning at 7:30 and closes up around 4:30 p.m.. "I think it's good to keep regular hours," Abell said.

## Just to help him learn

Photography by RYAN K. MORRIS  
Editing by MIKI MEEK



**T**he unbridled energy of 12-year-old Cody Cardenas challenges his grandparents minute by minute. “Cody! Put that down!” Joyce Cardenas said.

“Cody, you’ve got to study these words; you’ve had all week.” Glancing toward the crinkled list of sixth-grade vocabulary words on the dinner table, Cody slides the spoon out of reach and settles back into his chair.

After his father was shot and killed in 1994, Cody and his two sisters were adopted by their Grandparents, Frank and Joyce Cardenas. They moved from Cleveland, Ohio, to the family’s farm on Kedron Road near Bradfordsville in eastern Marion County.

The burden of Cody’s struggles with severe Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and dysgraphia, a reading disability, ripples throughout the family.

Cody’s real love is being outdoors. Hunting and fishing can hold his attention for hours on end, but his grandparents want less of that and more emphasis on his school work.

“We don’t want him to be at the top and we don’t want him at the bottom,” his grandfather said. “We just want him to learn” added his grandmother.

At St. Augustine Catholic School, Cody has been put on a “modified schedule” that permits teachers to assign shorter homework sessions and modified assignments.

“Cody is completely capable to do the work that the other students do, but because of his conditions, he just can’t stay focused,” said Sister Rose Riley, principal at St. Augustine.

At home, Cody is responsible for feeding the goldfish in his room each morning and night, and for feeding the family’s dogs. Getting those chores done requires frequent reminders.

“He is my stairway to heaven,” his grandmother said. “He is the thorn in my side.”

**LEFT** • In his sisters’ bedroom, Cody Cardenas throws a ball at sister Cassey as sister Cindy babysits their cousin, Luke Glasscock.



**LEFT** • Cody plays a baseball computer game in the basement of his Kedron Road farm.



**BELOW** • Cody pushes a doe Boer goat toward his “Pa” and the newborn kids at Pa’s feet.



# Labor of Love

Photography by JOY KENNEDY  
Editing by AMBER J. DOUTHIT



**ABOVE** • Lula Bernice Lancaster's son, Stephfon, drops her off at the Marion County Adult Day Care Center every morning at around 7 a.m. Lancaster, who has Alzheimer's disease, lives with her son and spends days at the center while he works.

**I**t's been years since Stephfon Lancaster last heard his mother utter his name. But her quiet smile is what keeps him going. "I don't know what I'm goin' to do when she dies cause I'm going to be all alone," Lancaster said. "I hope she lives forever."

Lula Bernice Lancaster, 74, was stricken with Alzheimer's disease in 1998 and relies on Stephfon, 42, to do everything for her.

He wakes at 6 a.m., makes breakfast, bathes and dresses her and drops her off at Marion County Adult Day Care by 7 a.m. Stephfon works two jobs — at Lebanon Oak Flooring and Goodin View Farms.

Lula, whose nickname is Baby, raised three sons in a public housing complex in Lebanon. When her Aunt Mary died and left her \$50,000,

her future looked brighter. In 1998, she set out to buy the home she had always wanted. After Stephfon moved their belongings to the new place and returned to pick her up, she was reluctant to leave. That was the first sign of the illness that would change both of their lives.

Even though Alzheimer's has robbed Lula of her spunk, she continues to make connections with people.

"She always kept a smile on her face and love in her heart," Stephfon said.

She's not able to carry on conversations with folks at the daycare center, but sometimes Lula touches a hand and inspires a laugh.

Stephfon picks her up at 5 p.m. and takes her home where they share a quick dinner. Then he heads out to his next job.

When he returns at around 10 p.m., he tucks Lula into bed and prepares to get up the next morning and start the routine again.



**ABOVE** • Stephfon Lancaster keeps a pink comb in the dining room where he lovingly combs his mother's hair. She no longer recognizes him by name yet she responds to him and his affection.

**BELOW** • "Baby" Lula Bernice Lancaster and Helen Luckett take their daily nap at the Marion County Adult Day Care.





**ABOVE** • In preparation for bedtime, Stephfon helps his mother in the bathroom. She is unable to tell him when she needs to go, so he sits and waits.



**LEFT** • Stephfon Lancaster kneels next to his bed after he puts his mother to bed.

**"I don't know what I'm goin' to do when she dies cause I'm going to be all alone."**

*Stephfon Lancaster*



**LEFT** • Stephfon is his mother's sole caretaker and cooks dinner for her every night before he leaves for work.





ABOVE • Artist Mark Selter and dog, Onyx, load cane poles into his boat in rural Marion County.



LEFT • After "smudging" the flute with sage smoke, artist Mark Selter plays Native American songs from his secluded homestead in rural Marion County. Selter crafts the flutes from trees on his own property.

BELOW • Artist Mark Selter shows his wife Angela a possible picture to be used as a subject for a future painting during an early morning walk around their secluded property in rural Marion County.



**H**ave you ever loved something enough that you would give up money and electricity to have it? Twelve miles from Lebanon, down winding roads that cut through tobacco fields and cow pastures, is the property of Mark and Angela Selter.

And they did just that.

Selter, 46, gave up his military pay and three square meals a day to pursue his dream of becoming an artist. He met his wife Angela, 43, after selling one of his paintings to her in an art gallery in Louisville. At the time, he was living in a tobacco barn and painting by the light of a lantern.

She said she fell in love with his work, then later with him, and gave up her home and career in Oldham County to support his work.

"When someone tries to work a full-time job and do art, the job usually wins out over their artwork," Angela explained.

After a year of searching and a \$10 down payment, Mark and Angela purchased 105 acres in rural Marion County. They were married there a year later in a ceremony consisting of Tao and Native American rituals.

The Selters built a home where if they couldn't pay their utility bills from the sales of Mark's artwork, they could survive off the natural resources surrounding their home.

They collect rainwater from their roof into a cistern and use wood-burning stoves to cook and heat their home.

"In the summer, we chop wood and haul water," Angela said. "In the winter, we chop water and haul wood. We don't live like this to prove a point, we live like this because this is who we are."

## Maria's hope

Photography by DOUG KEESE  
Editing by EDWARD LINSMIER



**ABOVE** • Fumi Probus massages her granddaughter Maria after 30 minutes of exercise designed to maintain Maria's bone density. Maria's boyfriend Frankie Spears built the exercise apparatus for her.

An afternoon of summer fun in the rolling fields outside Lebanon has turned into a recurring nightmare for Maria Probus.

"I see a flash of a green road sign and it says Mays Chapel Road. I know I'm holding onto someone but I can't see him, and I'm looking back."

That's the only memory she has of that Sunday, June 6, 2004, when a four-wheeler accident paralyzed her from the waist down.

"My life has changed since my accident," she said. "Just being alive now makes me happy, and before it was just buying a new pair of shoes."

Now Probus, 24, has to rely on her boyfriend Frankie Spears to carry her to the second floor of her grandmother's house, but she is determined to help herself. Already, she has gained enough strength to pull her body from the floor into the wheelchair.

Every day, Probus must stand for 30 minutes supported by stall bars. Her grandmother Fumi Probus, massages her back and legs and encourages her. "Not if you walk, when you walk," said Fumi in her thick Japanese accent.

Every week brings new hope. One night Maria hollered for Frankie. "I can feel about an inch farther down now," she said. The night was spent crying and laughing.

"I push myself every day, Maria said. "Take it one day at a time."



**LEFT** • Frankie Spears carries Maria down the steps at her grandmother's house.

**BELOW** • On her second day back at work as payroll manager at Tradewinds Transit Inc. in Bardstown, Maria Probus tries to move her old chair away from the desk so she can wheel up to it.



**LEFT** • Religious Minister Kenji Kawaguchi performs a spiritual purification ceremony, for Maria. Despite her Catholic faith, Maria stays connected to her Japanese heritage.



# Joy and burden

Photography by JESSE OSBOURNE  
Editing by EDWARD LINSMIER



**ABOVE** • Penn often sits in the store alone during slow days. "A lot of business depends on the weather," she said. On this day she had five customers.

At the eastern edge of Marion County, off historic Route 68 and past the roller coaster curves of Gravel Switch, sits a country store owned by the Penn family since 1850.

They say it's the oldest country store in America, and it sure looks it, with deeply weathered wood siding and blotches of rust on its tin porch roof. To many, Penn's Store is a national treasure, a living relic of days gone by. To Jeanne Penn, it's a major headache.

Penn, 60, has been operating the one-room store since her mother died in 2001. She knows she is now the keeper of a long family tradition, but two farms and 28 cattle were more than enough to keep her busy. The store is just another chore.

"I do work that's not even at the bot-

tom of the totem pole. It's below it," Penn said while tending the store one day.

"The store does good to pay for itself," added her daughter, Dawn Osborne.

In the old days, it was a local hangout, where farmers would stop by to chat for a while in the warmth of an ancient coal- and wood-burning stove. At lunchtime, Penn's uncle would serve a fresh, grainy bologna that had veins of fat in it.

They still serve bologna sandwiches, although the store-bought stuff just isn't the same. Over the years, the local trade slowly died out, leaving Penn's Store to deal with the tourists.

Despite the struggle to keep it open, Penn's Store is still a fixture in Gravel Switch. It will take more than two farms, 10 cats and 28 cattle to keep Jeanne Penn from holding up her end of history.



**LEFT** • Jeanne Penn's granddaughter Olivia hangs out with Fluffy, one of Penn's 10 cats. "He's a pretty cat," said Olivia. He's the new one."



**LEFT** • After Jeanne Penn took over the family's historic country store, she was forced to cut back business hours to Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends.

**MIDDLE** • Penn's daughter Dawn Osborne and granddaughter Olivia stop by for a visit.



## Home sweet school

Photography by DIPTI VAIDYA  
Editing by EDWARD LINSMIER

**F**our-year-old Tibor Burdette dropped the calico kitten he was holding and gave a yell. “John’s back!”

He stared at a skinny yellow tomcat cautiously loping towards the porch. He immediately ran for his older sister to tell her the news. Anna Stewart, 7, ran out to the porch.

“That’s not John, that’s some other Tomcat. Go get Mom,” she said in a motherly voice that implied a roll of the eyes. But as soon as he raced away, Anna abandoned her adult posture and eagerly chased the cat calling, “Ooh, he’s so pretty.”

Ilona Burdette, 39, adopted her children’s enthusiasm and soon after, all three could be found in the backyard feeding the unexpected visitor.

It’s not often that the arrival of a stray cat would disrupt a math class, but that is an advantage of home schooling that the Burdettes seem to treasure.

The parents share in the teaching of their two children, working around Pat’s schedule as a self-employed contractor and Ilona’s part-time job as a library director. “Parents always say that kids grow up so fast,” Ilona

said, adding that home schooling “slows it down a little.” It also allows the Burdettes to impart their values to their children. They have made conscious decisions about their lifestyle in order to guard their time together, avoid materialism, and uphold their Christian faith.

“I’m not looking to get way ahead,” said Pat Burdette, 47. “I’m already there.”

The Burdettes rebuilt an abandoned two-room house in the countryside near Lebanon into a raw-wood, board-and-batten home that is part modern convenience, part frugal living.

“We just got DSL,” Ilona said while checking out a Red Sox web site. Computers sit in the living room where a faint woodsy smell permeates the air from the wood-burning stove, their main source of heat.

The Burdettes spend more of their hours together than apart, and their home has an atmosphere of security and comfort that fosters the innocence of childhood. It’s a simple life, but the Burdettes wouldn’t have it any other way.

“We are keenly aware that we are blessed,” Ilona said.

**RIGHT** • Ilona Burdette gives Anna Stewart a lesson while 4-year-old Tibor works at the table. The kitchen doubles as a classroom and laundry room.

**FAR RIGHT** • Anna Stewart, 7, plays with a very tolerant Calicola, the family cat, as her father Pat Burdette paints an upstairs window.





**RIGHT** • Anna Stewart has a disagreement with her father Pat about when she can watch the movie "Ella Enchanted." Her grandfather Edmund Burdette (foreground) reads the paper after dinner.



**RIGHT** • Anna climbs down from her father's pickup truck after playing "Tibor tag," a game her cousins invented that requires players to tag her 4-year-old brother Tibor while never getting off the truck.



**ABOVE** • Anna and her little brother Tibor have the luxury of sleeping late on school days once in a while, another advantage of home-schooling. Their mother is glad they don't have to wake up at dawn for a long bus ride to school.



PHOTO BY  
CAREY WAGNER



## Twenty-nine years

- 1976 / ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS
- 1977 / MAIN STREET
- 1978 / LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES, KY.
- 1979 / CLAIRFIELD, TENN.
- 1980 / BURKESVILLE, KY.
- 1981 / BURKESVILLE, KY.
- 1982 / TOMPKINSVILLE, KY.
- 1983 / MORGANTOWN, KY.
- 1984 / CELINA, TENN.
- 1985 / EDMONTON, KY.
- 1986 / SCOTTSVILLE, KY.
- 1987 / LIBERTY, KY.
- 1988 / RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY.
- 1989 / ALBANY, KY.
- 1990 / MONTICELLO, KY.
- 1991 / LAFAYETTE, TENN.
- 1992 / COLUMBIA, KY.
- 1993 / JAMESTOWN, TENN.
- 1994 / GLASGOW, KY.
- 1995 / SMITHVILLE, TENN.
- 1996 / CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY.
- 1997 / RUSSELLVILLE, KY.
- 1998 / FRANKLIN, KY.
- 1999 / CENTRAL CITY, KY.
- 2000 / BOWLING GREEN, KY.
- 2001 / HOPKINSVILLE, KY.
- 2002 / CAVE CITY, KY.
- 2003 / BARDSTOWN, KY.
- 2004 / LEBANON, KY.



## Cast of characters

All the folks who came to Marion County

### And special thanks to these folks:

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- **Abigail Bobrow**, *Sandusky (OH) Register* • **Brienne Boortz**, *Western Kentucky University*
- **Aaron Borton**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Briana Brough**, *Freelance, Carrboro, NC*
- **Tiffany Brown**, *Corvallis (OR) Gazette-Times* • **Allen Bryant**, *Western Kentucky University*
- **Carrie Cochran**, *Mason (OH) Pulse Journal* • **Trent Davol**, *Freelance, Jackson, WY*
- **David Degner**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Carla DePoyster**, *Western Kentucky University*
- **Nancy Dionne**, *Shore Publishing, New London, CT* • **Elizabeth Dodd**, *Western Kentucky University*
- **Julia Drapkin**, *Freelance, New Orleans, LA* • **Meg Fenton**, *Centre College, Danville, KY*
- **Brett Flashnick**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Trevor Frey**, *Western Kentucky University*
- **Yoko Furukawa**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Steve S. Harman**, *The Tennessean, Nashville, TN*
- **Rebecca Hazelwood**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Maggie Huber**, *Western Kentucky University*
- **Erik Jacobs**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Greg Kahn**, *Freelance, Greensboro, NC*
- **Doug Keese**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Joy Kennedy**, *Randolph Community College, Asheboro, NC*
- **James Korpi**, *Freelance, White River Junction, VT* • **Karen Quincy Loberg**, *Ventura (CA) County Star*
- **Ryan Long**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Robert A. Martin**, *The Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star*
- **Kenneth McClure**, *Freelance, Council Bluffs, IA* • **Erin McCracken**, *Daily Times-Call, Longmont, CO*
- **David Meier**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Ryan K. Morris**, *Freelance, Washington D.C.*
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- **Jordan Pendley**, *Western Kentucky University* • **Danielle Rappaport**, *The Midland (MI) Daily News*
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- **St. Petersburg Times**
- **The Spokesman-Review**
- **The Tampa Tribune**
- **The Washington Post**

WEB SITE: [www.mountainworkshops.org](http://www.mountainworkshops.org)



PHOTO BY JOY KENNEDY

J.B. Beavers laughed as a photographer approached his carpeted porch for the third time in one day. He and his wife, Carrie, were enjoying a visit from Carrie's sister and brother-in-law, Georgia and James Spivey.

During one of the Spiveys' frequent visits from Raywick, the couples smiled and talked between yawns. They waved at friends and family driving by on Main Street. Warm, funny, inviting — they were easy targets for the flock of students and professionals who swarmed Lebanon trying to capture images to showcase the soul of the people and places that make up Marion County.

Capturing the soul of a person, or a place, isn't easy. It can't be done with a quick snapshot. It requires thought, compassion, time and eventually, understanding.

The Mountain Workshops are like an evangelical revival for photojournalists. Normally, it's rare for them to have more than a few moments to capture their pictures. A newspaper photographer might spend just minutes, or maybe a few hours, at one place or with one group of people. The small towns that our photojournalists visit offer them a chance to slow down. They have time to know the people and the places that make a community.

They get to know their subjects. That is their charge. See. Observe. Learn. Know. Then show and tell.

Love and loss, joy and sadness, desperation and exultation. Marion County, like all other places where people tread, is filled with these moments. The workshops are about seeing that humanity and preserving those moments.

Megan Spelman, an intern at The Flint Journal in Spring Lake, Mich., was assigned to tell a story about two siblings who are both nuns at the Sisters of Loretto.

"My week was spent learning about the benefits of patience, spending every moment that I could with the sisters," she said. "It's so much about these two women."

Many other photographers talked about how welcome they felt in the community and about the warmth of the people who live here.

Marion County opened its doors for us. All we had to do was step inside. Our cameras were our tools. Our hearts, and theirs, were our guide.

• **Dan Hieb**

*The St. Petersburg Times*

**During the 2004 Mountain Workshops, 55 photographers and eight photo editing participants plus 47 workshop support staffers produced 55 stories, numerous feature photographs, an aggressive website of workshop activities, a framed photo exhibit and created this 100-page book of the photo stories and feature photographs of Marion County.**

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

40,747 digital photos shot

955 images were toned for slide shows, nightly critiques and this book;  
Over 1200 photos published on the workshop's 2,000-page web site  
(www.mountainworkshops.org)

Over 15 hours of audio interviews and 19 hours of digital video were recorded.

More than 250 large digital high-quality color prints were produced and a gallery exhibit of 60 framed prints was completed.

#### MILEAGE

Faculty and staff traveled 55,742 miles, round trip, to participate in the workshops, the equivalent of going more than twice around the world.

#### FOOD CONSUMED

1,600 cans of soda and bottled water; 420 meals prepared by workshop staff;  
150 pounds of candy; 30 lbs of hamburger; 20 lbs of pork loin; 40 lbs of strip steaks, 105 lbs of chicken and 60 lbs of pork shoulders were served to workshop staff.

#### HARDWARE

105 Macintosh computers were networked via 1/3 mile of ethernet cable and several wireless networks. Over 750 yards of duct tape were used to control cables

#### INTERNET/MULTIMEDIA

Published 55 stories on the web site; produced six major multimedia interactive stories, including photographs and audio interviews.

The web room had over 2.5 terabytes of memory available. The final night of presentations required over 57 gigs of data, including student work and an extensive multimedia presentation that included several student stories, audio interviews and video of the week's activities.



PHOTO BY GREG COOPER

**ABOVE** • Workshop director Mike Morse, left, and Assistant Director Larry Powell are amused by a student photographer prior to the final night's show.



“I’ve lived in most the major cities of the world . . .  
out here you can enjoy what nature provided.”

John Michael, Marion County rancher



THE MOUNTAIN WORKSHOPS • 2004 • THE 29TH YEAR