

PEARL OF THE 'PURCHASE'

MAYFIELD, GRAVES COUNTY, KENTUCKY



THE MOUNTAIN WORKSHOPS • 2008 • THE 33RD YEAR

The 2008 Mountain Workshops GRAVES COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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SPECIAL THANKS:

TO THE PEOPLE OF MAYFIELD, GRAVES COUNTY AND WESTERN KENTUCKY
WHO GAVE US THEIR TIME AND LET US INTO THEIR LIVES.



PHOTOS BY
ELIZABETH LAUER,
KATIE SIMPSON AND
NINA GREIPEL

Coming home to Mayfield

We find a unique flavor to life in Graves County

Photo, this page •
Broadway St. and
downtown Mayfield as
seen from the air
Oct. 4, 2008.

PHOTO BY
BENJAMIN D. NORMAN

Cover photo • Scooter

Dana Heath lived in New York City for several years and loved it. But when it was time to settle down, she came home to Mayfield.

“This was like the perfect place to grow up. It was like Mayberry – a perfect sense of community,” said Heath, who runs the local art guild’s small gallery in a converted 1920s ice house. “It’s just an easy, pretty place to live.”

You hear that a lot around Mayfield. This town of 10,350 calls itself “The Pearl of the Purchase.” That refers to the Jackson Purchase, the eight-county western chunk of Kentucky that President Andrew Jackson bought from the Chickasaw Indians in 1818.

Beyond Mayfield’s city limits, another 28,000 people live in Graves County, a 556-square-mile rectangle of gently rolling fields and forests. It is a land of soybeans, corn and dairy farms and more than three dozen communities with colorful names such as Boaz, Cuba, Golo and Wingo.

The most famous of these is Fancy Farm, where St. Jerome Catholic Church has had an annual picnic for 128 years. The village swells to more than 10,000 the first Saturday of each August. Some come for the barbecued pork and mutton; others for the spicy political speeches that mark the traditional launch of Kentucky’s fall campaigns.

Like the hickory-smoked meat, Graves County has a unique flavor and a special draw. It may be because of the relative isolation of the Purchase, which is bounded on three sides by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and Kentucky Lake.

Outsiders have glimpsed this region through the novels and short stories of Bobbie Ann Mason, who grew up on a dairy farm near the Clear Springs community and has written regularly for *The New Yorker* magazine for three decades.

“The isolation of the place made it a rich environment for my fiction because I was always preoccupied with why some people stay put, where they were raised, and some people headed

out,” said Mason, now a writer in residence at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. “Both temptations are there, and it makes an interesting dramatic tension.”

Mason’s stories give an unromanticized view of the Purchase, its people and their everyday struggles. Her novel “In Country,” which was made into a 1989 movie starring Bruce Willis and Emily Lloyd, was filmed in Mayfield.

For many years, Mayfield thrived on agriculture and small business. Several waves of factories have come and gone. Most

recently, more than 5,000 jobs were lost when Ingersoll Rand shut down its headquarters and the General Tire plant closed. Still, the county supports 35 small manufacturers, many of them home-grown and thriving. The rich farmland has recently attracted Amish settlers.

“Our challenges are jobs and job-creation,” Mayor Arthur Byrn said. “Still, we are weathering the storm better than I thought we might.”

Betsy Cook, a musician who has lived in England since 1972,

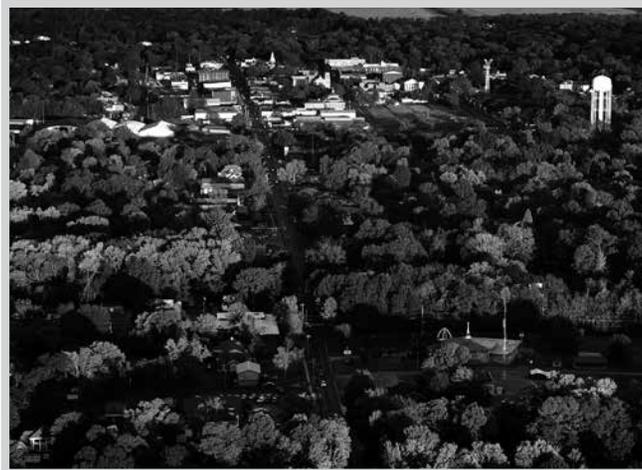
strolled Mayfield’s town square on a rare visit home and longed for the bustling days of her childhood. But around town, there are hopeful signs. The two high schools regularly produce championship football teams, cheerleading squads and marching bands. Active local churches are reaching out to Hispanic immigrants more than in most towns.

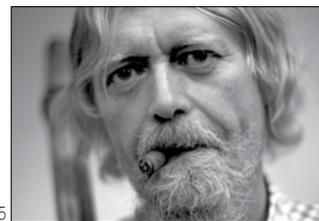
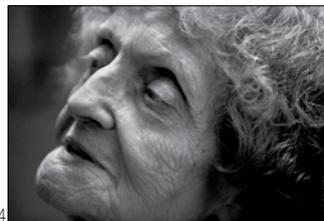
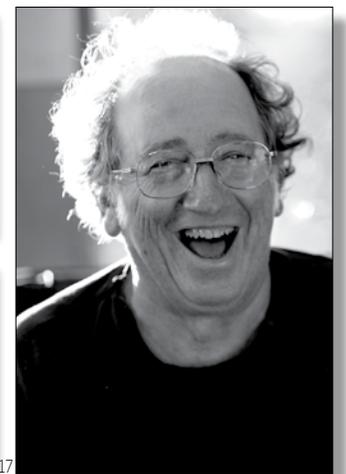
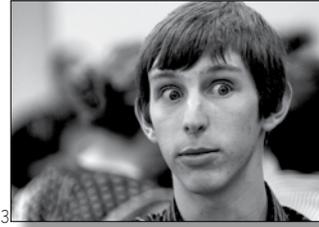
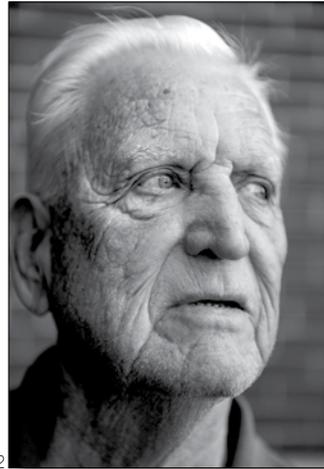
Mayfield seems determined to build a bright future while holding onto the best of its past.

“Graves County was always a plot of very settled, agricultural land, bordered by anxious movement and change,” Mason said. “The way people talk there is what makes my fiction. I love to hear it. It’s poetry.”

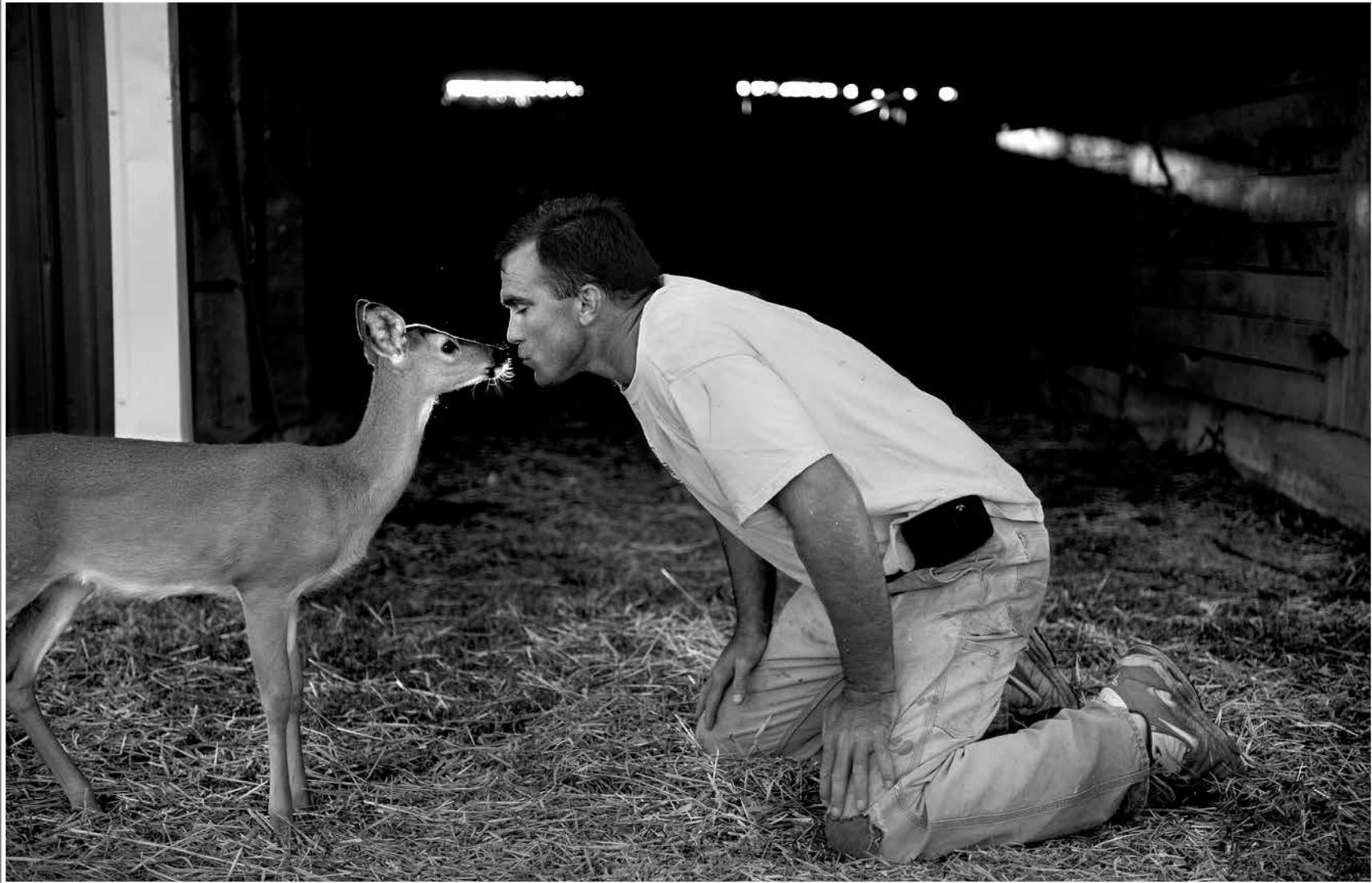
• **Tom Eblen**

Lexington Herald-Leader





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Jason Riley, 34, of Lynnville, kisses "Tink," a fawn he has raised since it was a few weeks old. Riley, director of transportation for the Graves County school system, took care of the deer after its mother was killed.

PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMONETTI



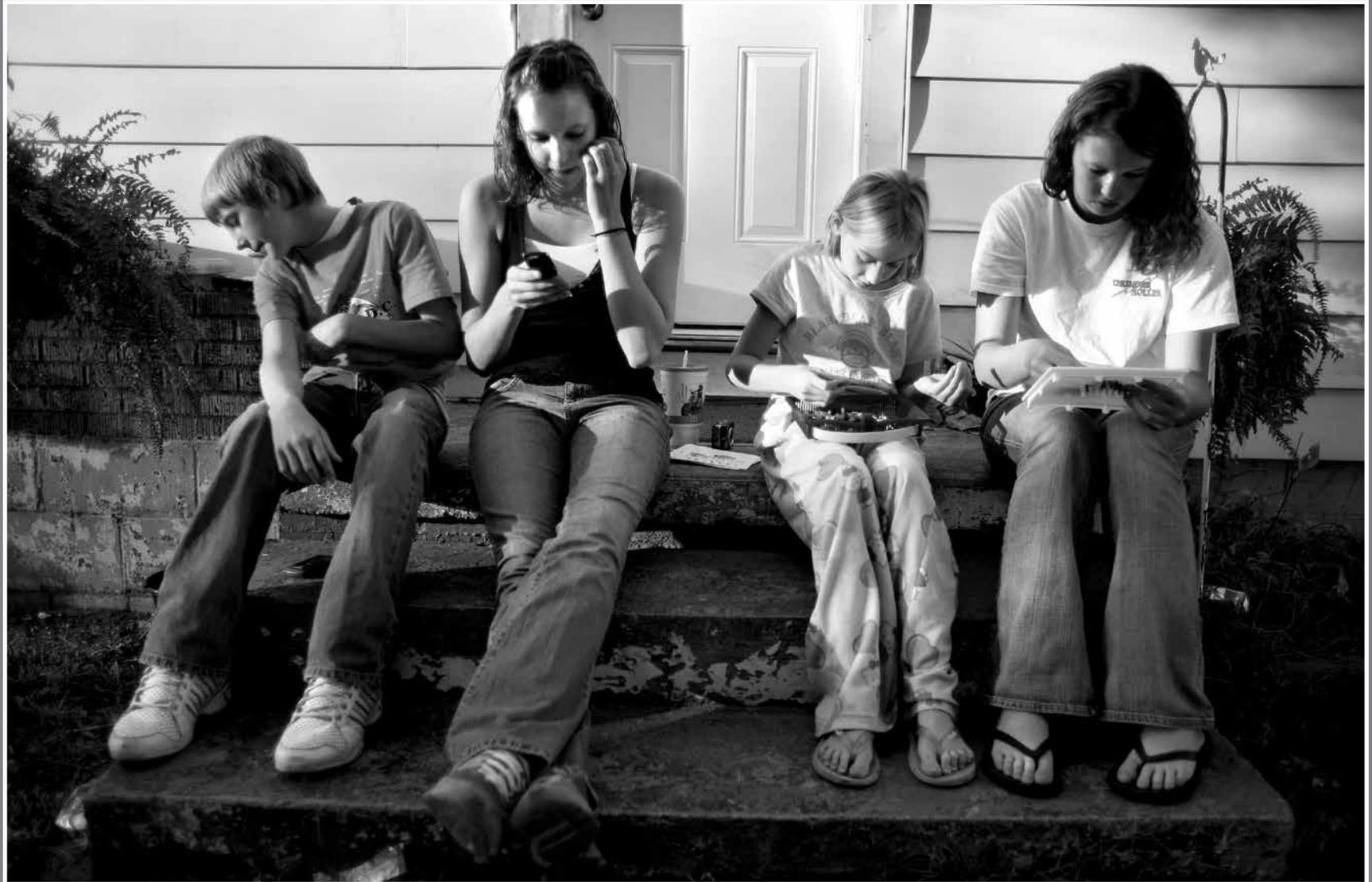
Among the Wooldridge Monuments in Maplewood Cemetery are sculptures of Col. Henry Wooldridge's mother and two sisters. They were made a century ago by Mayfield's Percy and Radford monument company.

PHOTO BY ALYCE HENSON



Randall Conklin watches Isaiah Stults get blocked by Scotty Reeves in a pickup game of basketball at a park in Mayfield.

PHOTO BY MATT FIELDS-JOHNSON



From left to right, Zach Slayden, 12, Jordan Hubeny, 15, Jennifer Slayden, 10, and Tracy Hubeny, 17, hang out on the steps of the Slaydens' house in Farmington. Walter Slayden had to go cut down a tree that was broken by the wind and left his kids and his neighbors' take care of a yard sale.

PHOTO BY ANDREI PUNGOVSKI



Gabby Lopez reacts to a llama named Danny as friends Ali Morris and Allie Goatley watch during a health fair at Graves County High School.

PHOTO BY CODY DUTY



Dr. Charles Badger looks at Winston's ears during a routine check-up at Mayfield Veterinary Clinic.

PHOTO BY CODY DUTY



Barbie Hill holds her two-year-old son, Mason Oliver, as Brenda LaRue gives him a haircut. Barbie said Brenda is “the only one who can” cut Mason’s hair.

PHOTO BY LANCE BOOTH



Laura Hill instructs her string ensemble composed of violin, viola, cello and bass players in the empty auditorium. Practicing here instead of in the classroom is different for students, because the auditorium requires a much stronger sound to fill the room.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY GREER



Amber Podgorski, 7, watches television after school.

PHOTO BY ALYCE HENSON



Kris Johnson, 16, kneels in the commons area of Graves County High School to propose to Amber Lane, 17, his girlfriend of four months. "I'm young, dumb and in love," said Johnson moments before the proposal. Amber burst into tears after accepting his proposal.

PHOTO BY PHILIP ANDREWS



Robert Feezor, retired, lives in the housing authority units near Maplewood Cemetery. Every afternoon he rides over with his dog, Mutton, to get some fresh air and exercise.

PHOTO BY LEAH NASH



Morningside Assisted Living residents, from left, Evelyn Shemwell, 96, Linda Englert, 82, husband Joseph Englert, 82, and Pauline Monroe, 91, participate in a group exercise activity in Mayfield. The Englerts have been married 61 years and moved to Morningside three months ago.

PHOTO BY KEVIN MARTIN



Cheerleaders flank the casket of the Tilghman player in the Mayfield High School Gymnasium during the traditional pep rally in Mayfield, Kentucky. Usually an effigy of the Tilghman player is burned the night before the pep rally at a bonfire but due to a fire ban, the bonfire was canceled. During the pep rally, the Tilghman player is resurrected as a Mayfield player.

PHOTO BY ALONSO NICHOLS



Football officials Herb Lipscomb (center), Mike Felker (right) and Jim Sheridan prepare for the rivalry game between Mayfield High and Paducah Tilghman. Mayfield won the game 21-12.

PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMONETTI



Suni Bennett works on homework with the help of friend Charlene Tarver.

PHOTO BY CODY DUTY



Sandy Marquez, 8, comforts her brother, Cristian, 6, after he was chased by a stray dog. The family moved from Mexico five years ago and represents a steadily growing Hispanic population.

PHOTO BY LEAH NASH



Javier Gonzales Delgado, 31, of Lomo Bonita, Mexico, works on Marty Feezor's farm in Melber. "It is a beautiful day," Gonzales said. Delgado has worked on Kentucky tobacco farms for the last five years. "I work all year in farms," Gonzales said, "I work seven months in United States and five in my country."

PHOTO BY ELIO C. PAJARES-RUIZ



As James "Catfish" Ryan attempts to sight in his .30-06, Phillip and Cheryle Beauchamp return from checking on the outcome of their test shots.

PHOTO BY SHANE NOEM



The early morning fog clears as the sun rises over KY-121 Bypass in Mayfield.

PHOTO BY MATT SCHAUER



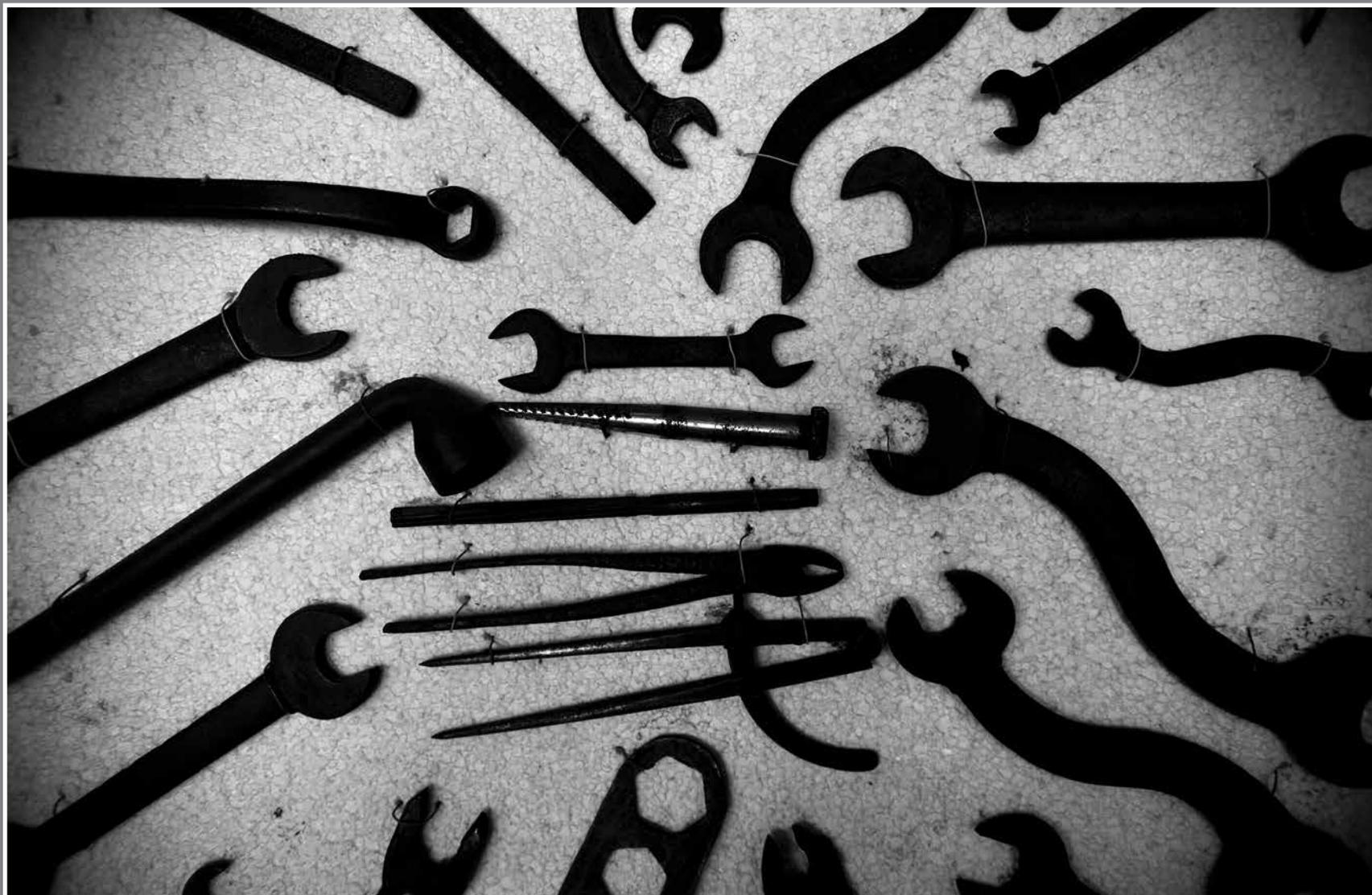
A wry sense of humor is reflected in a sign along Cuba Road south of Mayfield.

PHOTO BY H. DARR BEISER



Jason Riley, 34, tosses bales of hay down to Barry Irvan, 48, in south Graves County.

PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMONETTI



Collections such as this display of old tools line the inside of Leon Carter's garage. Carter, 96, of Mayfield, is a retired master craftsman who worked on many important projects in the area, including the building of the Barkley Dam on the Cumberland River. That project started in 1959.

PHOTO BY JAKE STEVENS



Tucker Nelson, 61, and Justin Jackson, 25, replace a roof at 505 South Third St. in Mayfield. Nelson Roofing's five-man crew ranges in age from 23 to 74.

PHOTO BY BRENDAN SULLIVAN



Zack Holder, 16, gets gas for his lawn mower. Holder, a high school dropout, makes money by mowing lawns.

PHOTO BY BRENDAN SULLIVAN



Jason Kendall and his wife, Traci, frequently go to Carr's Bar-B-Q Barn for breakfast.

PHOTO BY MICAH BOOTH



Three-year-old Cejay Riley plays with her grandfather, John Riley, while he waits for his turn to get a haircut.

PHOTO BY LANCE BOOTH



Michael Elliot, left, Randy Shelton, and John Costello are volunteer firefighters with Mayfield/Graves County Fire Rescue. These smoking stumps violate a burn ban that went into effect in October 2008.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY GREER



Jayce Riley, 5, a kindergartner at Sedalia Elementary, gets off the bus in front of her great-grandma's house. Her grandma meets her at the end of the driveway every day as she gets off the school bus.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY GREER



Recently cultivated earth mimics a Zen garden as seen from above.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN D. NORMAN



Major, a Belgian draft horse, lives on David Wilford's farm.

PHOTO BY LEAH NASH



Jace Woods, 11, parts the sea of chickens in a barn on his uncle's farm.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN D. NORMAN



Jackets and a cowboy hat hang by the back door to Jeff Riley's office in Mayfield.

PHOTO BY AARON ROSENBLATT



Michael Williams heads home with his son, Brian, after riding to Wendy's for lunch.

PHOTO BY CODY DUTY



Morning comes to a soybean field.

PHOTO BY AARON ROSENBLATT



Christopher Wooley stands with his 1-year-old son Luke outside his parents' house in Melber.

PHOTO BY DANIEL HOUGHTON



Jimmy Lindsey, 10, became interested in skateboarding four years ago. "My uncle had a skateboard, and I thought it would give me something to do other than play Playstation," he said. "I've lost a lot of weight in my legs."

PHOTO BY LINDSEY GREER



A Chihuahua mix waits for its owner in the Goodwill parking lot off Kentucky 121 in Mayfield.

PHOTO BY MATT SCHAUER



Sandy Marquez, 8, rests on the roof of her aunt's truck. Her family moved from Mexico five years ago. "I like English, but I want to learn more Spanish," she said. "I forget it."

PHOTO BY LEAH NASH



A Tennessee walking horse peers out a barn window in Graves County.

PHOTO BY THOMAS SIMONETTI



“I think it’s a shame to leave the flag out all night or in the rain,” said Leon Carter, 96, of Mayfield. He served two years in the U.S. Army starting in 1944.

PHOTO BY JAKE STEVENS

The Mountain Workshops

Welcome to the Mountain Workshops family, Mayfield! After more than three decades of telling stories about Kentucky and Tennessee communities, family is the most fitting description for this unique relationship between the Mountain Workshops and the people and places we have documented over the years.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH LAUER

I liken the relationship between the Mountain Workshops and their subject communities to a long-lost relative who has come home for a visit. It's a bit awkward that we invite ourselves in, but we still have to be welcomed past the front door. Mayfield's gracious people even let us stay a while.

As my colleague, Jim Bye, and I sat in Jill Celaya's photography studio in

downtown Mayfield in January 2008 enjoying some of the best home-grown barbecue we had ever tasted, we explained to Mayfield leaders how the Mountain Workshops typically draw over 100 people from all parts of the country (and a few from overseas) for five days to document a community through pictures, words, audio and video, while producing a book, Web site, DVD program and a 50-print photography exhibition. Our explanation was met with an enthusiastic invitation to make Mayfield the location of our 33rd Mountain Workshops.

The main challenge of hosting the Mountain Workshops is finding a place in town that can house a network of over

80 computers pushing thousands of photographic, audio and video files through the digital pipeline. After an intense search, we found a perfect place on the second and third floors of a Regions Bank building.

The location worked perfectly, with the digital network running as smoothly as it had in recent memory. Of course, this also had a lot to do with our journalism profession volunteers who come year after year to help make the workshops succeed. To them, my simple thank-you seems extremely inadequate, but I hope they know how deeply that thank-you goes.

Our student volunteers, who may not mind missing a week of school, nevertheless make a huge sacrifice to help the Mountain Workshops run smoothly. I particularly want to thank Mayfield native Josh McCoy, a former student. He was invaluable (along with Jill Celaya and Fred Biggs) in connecting us to the Mayfield community. After the initial contact, Graves County leaders such as Mayor Arthur Byrn, Wendy Hunter, Denina Robertson, Judge/Executive Tony Smith, Kenny E. Perry and many others all made tremendous contributions to bringing us to Mayfield.

Finally, I want to thank our sponsors, who believe in our educational mission so much that they are willing to contribute valuable resources and personnel to make the workshops flourish.

Our time in Mayfield was too short. As in any healthy family relationship, it was important not to overstay our welcome! Some of our lasting memories can be found in the pages of this book, our gift to the people of Mayfield for opening their doors and welcoming us into their remarkable community.

• **James Kenney**
Mountain Workshops Director

The stories we tell

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Mornings at the barn

Photography by ANDREI PUNGOVSKI
Editing by KOHL THRELKELD



ABOVE • Suzanne Sanderson and her mother, Dolores Kuhlman, prepare lunch at Carr's Barn. Suzanne has been running the place for the last 11 years. Dolores is retired, but likes to help out.

The diner first opened in 1953. Three years later the Carrs bought it. Hal Carr is the current owner of Carr's Barn, and his niece Suzanne Sanderson has managed the diner for 11 years.

"I've been a waitress all my life. I like it here. It's all I've ever done," she says.

Dolores Kuhlman, Suzanne's mother and the owner's sister, retired now, helps out daily. Suzanne's husband, Ronnie Sanderson, eats here every day. "He's the luckiest man in

the world" Suzanne says. "Why? 'Cause he married me," she replies. Most men at the counter agree out loud.

Carr's Barn opens at 5:45 every morning. Suzanne comes in at around 3:30 a.m. to get things started.

Doyle Berryman is one of the regulars. He has been eating here for 50 years or so.

"The secret to a good business like this is to open up early, around 5:30," Doyle says.

Albert "Red" Nance is another longtime customer. "I come here for the good food.

It's the best in town. You know what you're eating and it's fairly cheap," says Red. Pancakes with bacon cost \$2.45. Coffee is less than a dollar.

Stacey Perkins is the other waitress/cook who works the week days with Suzanne. She has been working here for a year.

The thing she likes most about her job is the people she gets to see every day.

The place feels pretty warm and the air is often filled with smoke from the hot stove.



ABOVE • Ronnie Sanderson eats at Carr's Barn every day. Re



gulars consider him the luckiest man in the world since he is married to Suzanne, Carr's Barn manager.



TOP • Money waits to be stashed in the restaurant's vintage cash register.

MIDDLE AND BOTTOM • Little details provide the character of Carr's Barn and help turn random customers into regulars.

Lasting in love

Photography by JAKE STEVENS
Editing by GREG A. COOPER AND RODNEY CURTIS



ABOVE • “When I married her it was for a lifetime,” said Leon Carter, 96, about his 91-year-old wife, Mae. “Maybe we will have a few more years together.”

When Leon and Mae Carter first started dating, they were only allowed to go out on Sundays until 9 p.m. and only with a chaperon. That was more than 72 years ago.

Today 96-year-old Leon and 91-year-old Mae still live in the home where they raised one son.

“I was running around for a girl to marry,” Leon said. “I found her and didn’t look no more.”

While courting Mae, Leon took her on a date to fly around Mayfield in a plane. “I believe it only cost \$1 or \$1.25 for the flight,” he said.

Leon was a master craftsman and a farmer. He worked on many homes in Mayfield, but one of the biggest projects he worked on was the Barkley

Dam. He built all of the furniture and cabinets in his home. Carving is a hobby for Leon. Some works are even gag gifts like an exploding out-house.

Leon and Mae have a son Jimmy Carter, 71, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., and a grandson, Chris Carter, 41, of Asheville, N.C.

“There has been so many happy times but the birth of Chris was one of the best, he was just so precious,” said Mae. She was a member of the Mayfield Homemakers Club when it was in operation. She said she looked to keep a clean home and take care of her family.

“If I told you we never fought, that would be a lie,” Mae said. “We still have each other, and we still kiss and make up.”





ABOVE • After picking through a tree of bananas, Leon Carter hands a banana to Mae at the Food Giant in Mayfield. Mae and Leon share bananas because a whole banana is too much to eat for one of them. “He can still eat all day,” Mae said. “I don’t nearly eat as much I used to.”

LEFT • “Each day I ask the Lord to take care of us, and each night I thank the Lord he has,” said Mae. She fastens her husband’s buttons. “He just can’t do it for himself anymore,” she said.

Balancing act

Photography by DJAMILA GROSSMAN
Editing by GREG A. COOPER AND RODNEY CURTIS



ABOVE • Virginia Garrott has her hair done by hairdresser Carolyn Copeland at Sidney's Styling Salon in Mayfield.



ABOVE • Virginia Garrott sweeps leaves in front of her house and finds solace.

When Virginia Garrott ventures out of her cozy home, she braces for warm embraces and eyebrow-raising gossip. She runs into friends by the dozens. The community loves her.

"I think everyone in the community knows her because she's been in the newspaper and in the church," said her hairdresser, Carolyn Copeland. "She's just a good, wholesome person."

Ties to journalism run deep in her family. Virginia was inspired by her father, George Bingham, a syndicated columnist with the *Mayfield Messenger* during the 1920s and 1930s. Virginia, 85, also worked at the paper off and on for decades as a columnist and society page editor. Now she produces the Virginia Garrott Homes page — a biweekly feature on noteworthy houses in the area.

"It's just in her blood," said *Mayfield Messenger* editor Jim Abernathy. "She can make a story out of anything."

Hustling to community meetings, beauty shop appointments and the dry cleaner, Virginia says she finds moments when her life comes to a halt.

She naps at the beauty shop, lulled by the steady hum of the dryer and the chatter of the women around her. In the early morning quiet of her Mayfield home, she shares the newspaper and a cup of tea with Dan Garrott, her husband of 62 years. After the morning paper, the lure of her garden and freshly fallen leaves offers another chance for some time alone. And she makes a bit of time to play "walnut golf."

"I have been trying to have a little 'my time' — not in a selfish way, just for my own good," she says. "You just have to have breathing time."



LEFT • Virginia reads the morning paper over breakfast with her husband, Dan, in their Mayfield home.

Continuing a legacy

Photography by BRENDAN SULLIVAN
Editing by EMILY-ROSE BENNETT



ABOVE • Showing off a 1960s outfit she wore for “Decade Day,” Amy Bell celebrates with students in her freshman English class during a grammar activity. Bell teaches in the Mayfield High School classroom where her mother taught for 35 years.



ABOVE • Amy Bell wore her mother's jersey -- with some alteration -- to class the day of Mayfield's big game against Paducah's Tilghman High School. The jersey is from 1979.



LEFT • Kay and Amy share a moment after a pep rally in the Mayfield High School gym.

When Amy Bell was a freshman at Mayfield High School, she was around her English teacher almost 24-hours a day. Her teacher was her mother. Amy, 24, now continues her mother's legacy, teaching freshman English in the same classroom Kay Bell, 57, used for 35 years.

"I passed on the torch to Amy," Kay said. "I just hope she doesn't burn herself."

Like her mother, Amy is a popular teacher. She can't go anywhere in the school without students yelling out "Ms. Bell, Ms. Bell" or running up to gossip. She's always surrounded by a fan club.

"I am like a mother figure to these kids," she said. "I am the only teacher in the building who sees every single freshman each day."

Whether it's contributing to school spirit, helping coach the girls basketball team, or studying to get her masters degree in administration, Amy is always busy.

"I just love and really care about the kids," she said. "If I could be half the teacher my mom was, I'd be set."



ABOVE • Amy Bell reviews Powder Puff photos on her camera with freshmen Miranda Rodgers, left, Allie Gream and Jessie Gream, moments before a pep rally at Mayfield High School. "I am like a mother figure to the freshman," Amy said.

Running on fumes

Photography by THOMAS SIMONETTI
Editing by CHRIS WOLFE

The metallic, dusty smell of worn tools piled on shelves and hung on walls fills the air. A handwritten sign declares the Burton Gas and Oil service station in Lynnville is closing after more than 50 years.

“A mom-and-pop operation like we’ve got, it’s a dinosaur,” said 84-year-old owner Tince Burton, who operated the station with his wife, Margie, and son, Scotty.

The shop opened in 1955, when gasoline and tires sold themselves in southern Graves County, Tince said. But over the years the town shrank and other businesses closed, and it became harder and harder for the Burtons to make money.



ABOVE • Tince Burton, 84, brings in an air hose at the end of the day at Burton’s Gas and Oil service shop in Lynnville.

The last few spikes in gas prices were the final straw. Closing the shop ends a chapter in the Burton family story. Before Margie’s health deteriorated, all three would man the store. If they found out

about a customer’s birthday, together they’d harmonize the Happy Birthday song – often to applause.

“People enjoy little touches like that,” said Scotty, 55-year-old son.

The station has served many out-of-towners passing through Lynnville. Now it’ll take another eight-mile drive to fill up.

Local patrons often come to the store for gas, tires and oil changes -- and to find out what’s new around town.

“Them two probably can tell you more stories about more people than anybody,” said Danny Howard, 56, of Mayfield.

Anthony Roy, 81, travels down from Sedalia -- a town just north of the shop. For 30 years, Roy’s been buying gas on credit and paying his tab at the beginning of the month.

“I don’t know what we’re gonna do,” Roy said. “There’s going to be nothing left here. I hate to see it close.”





ABOVE • A dog with its head out the window catches Tince Burton's attention.



ABOVE • Burton catches a few minutes of sleep in between customers.

LEFT • Steve McClure starts up his bike while Scotty Burton relaxes in the Burton Gas and Oil shop in Lynnville. The station is soon to close because the small shop can't keep up with rising gas prices.

Lifetime of compassion

Photography by MERISSA FERGUSON
Editing by CHRIS WOLFE

Ruth Tucker gives herself no limits. While the 95-year-old Mayfield resident may no longer be able to do the things she loves – teaching in a classroom and horseback riding – she makes sure to make the most of her days by giving back to others.

Every other week, Ruth visits local nursing homes checking name plates for familiar faces. Lively, even though she's older than most residents, Ruth greets old friends and gives them a few moments of her day.

"Oh my, I know you," said a surprised Hattie Jackson, 87, a resident of Green Acres Healthcare. "That's the first time I've seen her in a long time," Hattie said of the meeting. "It's a thrill when she comes to see me."

Hattie's son, who is now 57, attended Ruth's second grade class years ago. "She was a good teacher," Hattie said. "Everybody liked her."

"I would [guess] that I have taught over 1,000 students," said Ruth about her 37-year teaching career. She retired in 1974.

Now she finds former students and parents of former students just about everywhere she goes.

"I've never been a girl that didn't know strangers," she said.

The smell of coffee fills the room as Ruth pours a cup for Carl and Margaret Key in the



ABOVE • "This is my favorite cookbook," says Ruth Tucker, 95, as she flips through her battered 1952 Mayfield Business and Professional Women's Club "Favorite Recipes" cookbook. Tucker was president of the club in 1952.

waiting room of the Jackson Purchase Medical Center. Carl reminds Ruth that they used to be neighbors.

Ruth also volunteers at least once a month to serve coffee, juice and pastries to



ABOVE • Tucker started driving 84 years ago when her grandmother gave her a Ford Model T. "The boys would always ask me to drive them around because they thought I was the best driver," said Tucker.

families of patients in the hospital, part of a First Baptist Church ministry. She taught Sunday school at the church in 1933 and didn't stop until two years ago.

Ruby Shipwash, 90, misses Ruth's lessons every Sunday.

"Ruth taught me," she said. "I loved having her as a teacher. I still love her."

Ruth has been a charter member of the American Red Cross for the last 53 years.

"I never dreamed I'd be working that long," she said. "I'd at least like to get to 55 even 60 (years), but I don't think I'll get that long."

Ruth's husband of 41 years, Terrell, died in 1984, and she has lived alone since her foster son moved away. Her nephew Charles Wiman and nieces Norma Wilson and Barbara Sullivan are her only relatives in Mayfield now. One fall afternoon, they visited her for popcorn, pie and soda.

"If it had not been for her I don't know what I would do," said Charles about his aunt Ruth. She raised him and his brother, Wilber, after their mother passed away at a young age. "Really, I never could have made it without her."

Ruth tries to keep a positive attitude as many of her loved ones leave her behind.

"You don't question God, but you wonder why I'm left and so much older," Ruth said. "I think God has been good to me."

Ruth Tucker, 95, at left, talks about when she smiled," said Tucker of visiting old friends every other



ABOVE • Ruth Tucker, 95, at left, talks about when she smiled," said Tucker of visiting old friends every other



She taught Hattie Jackson's children, while visiting the Green Acres Healthcare nursing home. "I always see if I can give them a week. Most of those she visits, like Jackson who is 87, are younger in age."



ABOVE • Ruth Tucker's white locks are massaged by her second cousin Betty Dillon at the Hairport Hair Design near downtown Mayfield. "If you live your life real good you will have this hair when you're 95," said Dillon.



LEFT • Tucker struggles to break apart bananas at the Food Giant in Mayfield. She does her own driving and grocery shopping.

A new lease on life

Photography by ARMANDO SANCHEZ
Editing by KOHL THRELKELD



ABOVE • Sam and Shirley Perry have known each other forever. They've been married for 14 years, long enough to become smooth dance partners. Both lost first spouses after many years of marriage. When Shirley decided to start dating again she saw Sam in the Wal-Mart parking lot. She invited him to church, and things "just went on from there," Shirley said.

Shirley was married to James for 43 years before he died of pneumonia. Sam lost his wife Marjorie after 49 years.

A decorated World War II veteran who survived a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp, Sam came home to create a successful construction and real estate business. He prepared to live out the last chapter of his life alone.

The widow and the widower had known each other casually for years, but after a chance meeting in the Mayfield Wal-Mart parking lot, they began to see each other differently. Shirley invited Sam to accompany her to church services at the Pentecostal Tabernacle in Water Valley.

The two quickly became inseparable. "The first time he put his arm around me I thought I had come home," Shirley said.

In the Golden Nugget jewelry store after they dated for a year, Sam asked Shirley to marry him. They were married in the same church where they had their first date.

Sam, 84, and Shirley, 68, have been married for seven years now. They share a lively Australian shepherd named Champ, a home filled with pictures of all their loved ones past and present, and the country songs to which they dance like high school sweethearts.

Shirley calls finding love again "the most precious thing" that can happen to anyone.



LEFT • Sam holds a rolled up bunch of American flags he found in a house outside of Mayfield that he is considering fixing up and renting out. "It needs a lot of elbow grease." Sam rents out several houses in Graves County.



LEFT • Carolyn Shelton, right, joins Shirley in a prayer for Andrea Mcknight during a Wednesday meeting at the Pentecostal Tabernacle.



ABOVE • Shirley gets Sam's B12 shot ready after she gets home from work. Sam was recently told by his doctor to take a B12 shot on the first of every month.





ABOVE • Shirley washes the dishes while Sam dries after dinner Friday night. Shirley is 16 years younger than Sam, but the two are optimistic about the future. “We take things one day at a time, and we make it count,” she said.

LEFT • After she gets home from work Shirley plays fetch with their dog Champ. “I wanted him to get a dog so he wouldn’t be so lonely while I was at work,” she said.

Home life

Photography by BENJAMIN D. NORMAN
Editing by KOHL THRELKELD

For Lisa Woods, her husband, and their three children, family time, learning time, and play time all happen in and around their house in Mayfield.

“I always knew,” Lisa said, “that God wanted me to homeschool my children.”

Lisa and Steve Woods and their three children spend more time together than the average American family. Their home is their school and their lessons are as much about faith as knowledge.

Of the three children, Katie, 11, Jace, 13 and Kelsey, 16, only Kelsey has known what it’s like to go to school. But her mother pulled her out of school after second grade. Kelsey is technically now an 11th grader and receives her instruction from Pensacola Christian College, a religious high school in Florida that sells taped lessons on DVD.

“Besides,” said Kelsey, “I used to throw up on the bus . . . a lot.”

For her two younger children, Lisa is the teacher for most subjects. The day starts around 9 a.m. when Lisa gives Katie and Jace a Bible verse to memorize. Then they move on to geography, reading, Spanish and other subjects.

Only chemistry and gym aren’t covered at home. For those subjects the children meet with other home-schooled children every Tuesday.





ABOVE • First comes prayer and then a geography lesson.

LEFT • Taking a break from home schooling, Lisa reads a religious story to her children. While Katie listens attentively, Jace texts his friends at public school on his cell phone.



ABOVE • Kelsey (left) and Katie (right) tease their brother, Jace, while sitting on a swing on the family's porch.

RIGHT • Katie takes notes while she watches a Spanish lesson DVD.

FAR RIGHT • Lisa helps Jace with science in his small study space.





Immersed in tobacco

Photography by ELIO PAJARES-RUIZ
Editing by GREG A. COOPER AND RODNEY CURTIS



While the immigration issue inflames many Americans, Javier Gonzales Delgado, 31, of Lomo Bonita, Mexico, found a way to support his family while maintaining his culture and legal status.

Javier obtained a temporary agricultural work visa, known as an H-2A visa. American farmers are allowed to hire migrants to work from May to December with the H-2A visa.

Javier has made four trips to the United States to work in tobacco fields. In Graves county, he and his 19 “camaradas” (Spanish for brothers), live in a building behind the tobacco barns.

“When I am in Mexico, I work carrying watermelons,” Javier said. “They pay us \$14 per a full truck.” He makes three times as much in Graves county.

This year Javier began work in August. He works 14-hour days Monday through Saturday; sometimes Sunday. But Saturday is a special day. That’s when Javier calls his family back in Mexico.

Recently he called nearly every day because his wife was feeling ill. He learned that she was three months pregnant.

“I will need to buy more toys to take to Mexico this December,” Javier said.

But before he can return to his wife and family, Javier has work to do. His day begins at 5:30 a.m. when the workers fix breakfast (usually beans and tacos) and watch the news on a Mexican TV channel.

Job conditions on a tobacco farm vary depending on the season. For the camaradas, the hardest part is cutting tobacco in the summer heat. Some get sick and have to return home.

The only free time Javier has to visit the town of Mayfield is on Sunday when he and his camaradas go shopping and buy groceries for their favorite Mexican meals, a little taste of home.

LEFT • Javier Gonzales Delgado, 31, of Lomo Bonita, Mexico, uses the money he makes working on Marty Feezor’s farm in Graves County to build his home and have a good time with his 7-year-old son.



LEFT • Javier shares the restroom with 19 “camaradas,” who work 14-hour days.



BELOW • Javier prepares his dinner after a day’s work. Fernando Castro watches Javier cutting potatoes.



ABOVE • Javier calls his wife in Mexico during his lunch break at Marty Feezor's farm in Melber. "I am worried for my wife," he said. "Today my wife went to the hospital."



LEFT • Javier, left, Francisco Castro and Karin Abud pack down tobacco leaves before baling. Hugo Zamarripa drives a forklift in the background.



LEFT • Javier hangs tobacco on Marty Feezor's farm. "Every day I miss my son," he said. "I keep going just for him."

Simple gifts

Photography by KYLE KURLICK
Editing by GREG A. COOPER AND RODNEY CURTIS



ABOVE • As a long day of work comes to a close, Cindy Trout and her youngest daughter, Johannah, 2, make their way into the house for dinner.

Terry and Cindy Trout found their own little slice of heaven tucked away on Howard Road in Sedalia. It's Fountain Fresh Farm, where they have about 100 dairy cows and raise their seven children.

In April 2005, they moved from the Trout's family farm in Maryland, where Terry's family marked the fifth generation on that land. Terry said they felt a need to move south because of the high cost and limited availability of land up north.

"We felt it was God's calling for us to move our family to an area where my husband could own his own farm," Cindy said. "We like the rural lifestyle."

Moving to Kentucky with six of their seven children – Caitlyn, now 20; Tyler, 19; Courtney, 18; Carligh, 16; Josiah, 7; and Jesse, 5 – Cindy and Terry continued to educate their children at home. Their seventh child, Johannah, 2, was born after the move.

"Homeschooling was new to me 'cause I had never known anyone who had homeschooled before," Cindy said. "I thought it was a very strange idea, but the more we prayed about it, we felt this was God's calling for us. It seems from the moment they are born we begin to homeschool our kids because they are always learning something."

Moving beyond reviewing lessons at the kitchen table, the Trouts found a practical and reliable curriculum in the day-to-day activities of the 173-acre farm.

Every year each of the four older children takes on a different responsibility: managing the finances of the farm to learn about accounting; learning the anatomy and biology of cows; and practicing mechanical skills for repairing malfunctioning equipment.

The younger boys, Josiah and Jesse, run their own egg business, selling fresh farm eggs from the side of the road.

"These kids could run the farm without me," Terry said



LEFT • Gathering bales of sorghum to store for winter requires the effort of the entire Trout family. Josiah, right, watches his older brother Tyler load the bundles onto a trailer. Josiah then guides his mother, Cindy, back across the 173-acre property where one of his sisters waits to unload.

BELOW • The Trouts' three youngest children accompany Cindy Trout as she hauls bales of sorghum to be stored. Josiah, 7, Jesse, 5, and Johannah, 2, review phonics cards while waiting for the trailers to be loaded and emptied. All the children are home-schooled.





ABOVE • Every morning, the Trouts spend time together praying and reading through a chapter of the Bible. Cindy Trout, center, reads some verses while her children Johannah, 2, and Tyler, 19, follow along.



ABOVE • A good drying day on Fountain Fresh Farm, a 173-acre dairy operation near Sedalia. Terry and Cindy Trout moved there from Maryland four years ago.

Serving roots

Photography by MATT FIELDS-JOHNSON
Editing by GREG A. COOPER AND RODNEY CURTIS



In 1971, John Davis got a call from the Mayfield police chief. "Have you ever thought about law enforcement?" the chief asked.

Davis said "Yes," and hung up the phone.

The chief immediately called back and asked Davis to consider joining the police force. Davis agreed, served 20 years, including four as police chief, and retired. Now 59, he's in his third term as Graves County Sheriff.

Having lived his entire life in Mayfield, he identifies with its citizens as a person first.

"I am John, and I happen to be sheriff," he said.

As he walks through town, people easily relate to his lighthearted joking, and everyone is eager for a handshake or hug.

"I have always been a nice guy," Davis said. He says he uses the golden rule

as his philosophy for making a difference in the lives around him.

He says some of his duties are less pleasant than others.

"Administration is not as fun as law enforcement," he said. Hours of paperwork, coordinating the work of his deputies all keep him away from the streets. He said his deputies' main work is routine traffic patrols and small domestic disputes. Davis helps at accident scenes, and sometimes escorts children as they walk to school on busy roads.

But he has also raided meth labs and marijuana fields, and performed high-speed pursuits across the county.

LEFT • Wal-Mart employee Janie Carr pins a boutonniere on Sheriff John Davis before he goes on stage to say a few words at the grand reopening of the Mayfield Wal-Mart.



ABOVE • Davis plays with his eight-month-old granddaughter, Ella Morton, at a birthday celebration for his sister. Davis likes to spend time with his grandchildren every day after work.

LEFT • A pair of old handcuffs hang loosely from the door of the sheriff's office.

Davis has had two close calls, once in a collision during a high speed chase, and again when he was almost shot point-blank in the head while responding to a call of a man firing a rifle at neighbors.

Davis looks to his home for balance. He lives in Mayfield with his wife, Barbara. His three grown children, Melanie Morton, Brian Davis and Brent Davis, and two grandchildren, Kye and Ella Morton, also live in Mayfield.

That is why the best part of his day is going home. "Grandad time is my fun time," he said.

RIGHT • Davis shares a moment of laughter with LeeAnn Helfin after a meeting about the Mayfield High School Alumni Board of which he is a member.



ABOVE RIGHT • Davis's job involves more administrative than street work. His staff does most of the law enforcement while he juggles the responsibilities of the office.



RIGHT • Sheriff Davis whispers to longtime friend Mayfield Mayor Arthur Byrn about the male cheerleaders in female garb at the pep rally for the football game against Tilghman High School.



LEFT • Davis directs an Amish family around a car accident on Ky-58 on the edge of Graves County so they can walk home safely.



LEFT • Davis dresses his grandson, Kye Morton, before dinner with his family.

An affair of the heart

Photography by TRAVIS GARNER
Editing by MICK COCHRAN AND RODNEY CURTIS



ABOVE • Amy Pervine watches intently as her 19-month-old daughter, Addison, fades to sleep for an afternoon nap. “They said she may not be able to participate in competitive sports or P.E. classes. . . We just don’t know how things are gonna turn out for her later on in life,” said her father, Trevor.



ABOVE • With her prize for participation raised high, Addison responds to a sing-along lesson by nursery class teacher Kay Boyd at Sutton Lane Church of Christ. Addi goes to the nursery three days a week and is one of the best-behaved students, according to her teacher.

Addison Pervine may not remember being born with a life-threatening heart condition, but her family won't forget it.

Because she was born weighing only 4 pounds, 9 ounces, with an underdeveloped left side of her heart, Addison's parents, Amy and Trevor, were faced with a decision: give her a series of corrective heart surgeries or a heart transplant within days of her birth.

Addi had her first open-heart surgery when she was only 19 days old. By the age of 13 months, Addi had survived two major heart surgeries. Now, she faces her final surgery, the riskiest yet and set to take place in spring 2009.

"They can't fix her heart the way

a normal heart is supposed to be," Amy said. "Most of the middle part of her heart is missing. There's always a concern that the surgeries won't keep it going the way it should."

While waiting for Addi's next surgery, her family has learned to shape their lives around her condition, and Addi shines like a child without a care in the world.

No matter how difficult her future may prove to be, Trevor and Amy wouldn't change a thing about their daughter.

"I feel like we've been really blessed with her. . . I wouldn't trade her for a healthy child 'cause she wouldn't be our girl," Trevor said.



ABOVE • Addison waits on her bedroom floor for her mother, Amy, to rub on lotion after bath time. Although only 19 months old, Addi bears scars on her chest from two heart surgeries that marked her struggle to survive a heart defect from birth.



ABOVE • Addi washes her hands while in the arms of her mother, Amy. The Pervines take many measures to keep Addison from getting sick, because any infection or illness could be deadly due to her heart condition. “During the flu season, we have to be careful taking her out. She can’t be around people who are coughing and sniffing and all that,” said her father, Trevor. “We don’t even shake people’s hands in church because we don’t want to spread germs,” Amy said.



ABOVE • Addi, right, shows signs of fatigue at a nursery Bible sessions at Sutton Lane Church of Christ. Addi’s heart defect makes her tire more easily than other children.



LEFT • Regular baths are part of the constant effort to make sure Addi doesn’t get sick. “Any respiratory illness would cause hospitalization and could be fatal for her,” said her mother Amy.



ABOVE • Amy Pervine irons her daughter's clothing in Addison's bedroom while the toddler watches Elmo before being put to bed Tuesday night. Amy stays at home with her daughter every day, while her husband, Trevor, works the night shift as a Kentucky state trooper.

Angels . . . and grandkids too

Photography by SCOTT McINTYRE
Editing by MICK COCHRAN AND RODNEY CURTIS



ABOVE • Lisa West owns and runs the Little Angels Day Care center in Mayfield. She has operated the center for about 10 years and is assisted by her three daughters. Their children attend the center.

Lisa West, 49, is a woman who cares for lots of children. She has three daughters, but her caring extends to her granddaughters and about 50 children at Little Angels, her day care center.

She is quite involved in the community as part of different associations that all raise awareness toward God and child care.

Her family is extremely important to her. Her youngest daughter, Marley, 20, just got engaged and still lives at home. Her other daughters, Miranda and Marissa, live in mobile homes in her backyard.



LEFT • Kierney Wilson, 3, bottom, and Kiley Engard, 3, take their naps at Little Angels Day Care in Mayfield.



ABOVE • Raegan Manning, 2, takes a bouncing break from a cookout at the home of her grandmother, Larue Crittenden.



ABOVE • Lisa West, 49, center, attempts to control one of her day care charges, Robert Halvorson, 4, while she and her granddaughter, Madalie Fletcher, 3, read a story for the day's class.



ABOVE • Waking up early from a nap at Little Angels Day Care, Mike Russell plays with a train set to pass the time before other children awake.



ABOVE • The daycare center's playground, seen through a decorated window, is filled with toys, bicycles and other things fit for a child.

Home away from home

Photography by JENNY KANE
Editing by KOHL THRELKELD

Ten migrant workers from Mexico live together in a house on a Graves County farm. Their labor is poured into another man's property, but their spirits have created a community of their own.

"These people are something else," said farm owner Jerry Barber. "They are beautiful people, work like horses and are very family-oriented." Wedged above the workers' bunk beds and pressed in their wallets are pictures of wives and children far away. Inside the house, the television is tuned to Spanish-language programming, someone is almost always cooking and laughter echoes through the space.

Lino Cortes has four children: One attends university, one works in North Carolina and two others are still in school in Mexico. Lino's labor in the United States allows him to send home about \$150 weekly. That money will help his youngest go to college. "Maybe they would come to visit me here," the proud father said, but neither will need to move to the United States for good jobs, "because they will have finished university."

The long bus journey to Mayfield, and work days as long as 12 hours, don't bother Jose Guadalupe. Savings from his U.S. earnings will help him finish college in Mexico. He talks to his mother on his cell phone once or twice a week. Guadalupe characterized his relations with Jerry as distant. The men stay on the Barber property almost all the time, but the owner doesn't come around much during their off hours. They're only permitted to go into town on Sundays.

Neither Jerry nor his son Chad speaks much Spanish, and few of the workers speak much English, so most communication about farm tasks happens through a combination of few words and many gestures. "You show them one time and you can go off and leave them in the field," Chad Barber said.

The men have faith that hard work will earn them and their families better lives in the future. "We work and wait," Jose said.



ABOVE • Migrant laborers from Mexico have been working on Jerry Barber's Lynnville farm for a decade. Four of the 10 men on site in Octo Town – before repainting. To save money, Jerry, in foreground, used recycled tin for the building, and rust had begun to show through the something to be done," said Barber's son, Chad.



ber scrape paint off a barn – one of seven at “Red
paint. “It is a never-ending process out here, always



ABOVE • Jose Guadalupe, 24, has been in America for five weeks. After working with four other migrant workers scraping rust off a barn, Guadalupe rests and waits for the other workers to finish painting the roof. The long travel on the bus to Mayfield and the eight- to 10-hour work days do not bother him. He takes loans in hopes of paying for a college education in Mexico. He thinks it will take him four more years of working to finish.



LEFT • Relaxing before working in the potato fields, Angel Rodriguez Castillo, 34, (left) and Jose Guadalupe, 24, (right) play chess on their new board. The farm owner’s son, Chad Barber, recently began playing chess with the migrant workers at the farm. Barber found an old chess board and gave it to the workers to replace their smaller one. “He is my teacher,” said Guadalupe about Rodriguez.



ABOVE • Jose Guadalupe, 24, of Morelos, Mexico (second from left) watches out the window in the migrant house while the chaos of breakfast begins. Saul Mortinez, 29, (right) and Rawon Salgado, 24, (left) reach into the cabinets as Samuel Mortinez Bello, 34, eats his Coco Puffs while watching a Latin soap opera. Guadalupe was the last to start working on the Barber farm five weeks ago.

RIGHT • Stringing together a used Gatorade bottle, some fishing line, a hook and grasshoppers caught on the way to the pond, 28-year-old Mexican migrant worker Saul Mortinez went fishing. Here, he uses a hose to clean one of the bass he caught, while fellow workers admire the catch. The fish will become lunch or dinner tomorrow.



ABOVE • Many of the men say the distance from Kentucky to Mexico mirrors the emptiness in their heart. Angel Rodríguez Castillo, 34, is one of those men at Jerry Barber Farms that misses home. During his birthday he lies on top of his twin mattress away from the other immigrant workers to look at pictures of his 1-year-old son, Maximo Rodríguez, who on his cell phone.

LEFT • It was a slow day on the farm for migrant workers. To pass the time they brought out a soccer ball. Nestor Filipe Moncroy, 28, from Cocoyotla, Mexico, accidentally kicked in the groin, curls up on the ground with the ball. In an effort to cheer him up, the rest of the men pile on top of him.

Spreading cheer before the big game

Photography by PATRICK FALLON
Editing by MICK COCHRAN AND RODNEY CURTIS



LEFT • Mayfield High School cheerleaders prepare yard signs for individual members of the Mayfield Cardinals football team after school on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008, in preparation for Mayfield's Friday night rivalry game against Tilghman High.

“**M**ayfield Cardinals – Class A Football Champions: 2002” reads the green sign outside of the Sonic on Paris Road. Instantly one knows this is a football town.

Friday night, 6 p.m. – stadium lights turn on, people swarm to stadiums, players battle it out on the field. And fans cheer in support of their hometown heroes.

Among those cheering their hearts out is Mayfield High School senior cheerleader Alex Adams.

The sixth generation of her family to live in Mayfield, Adams says, “Everything is just red and black. Everything has to do with red and black.

Everything revolves around the high school.”

High school is the center of her life, not just a source of entertainment. The relationships she has developed within the Mayfield community define her life.

“I would not live the life I live without the connections I have,” she said, “We are very intermingled . . . You know so much about people. You know how they are.”

Alex does not limit herself to being simply a cheerleader, she challenged herself academically with AP statistics and other academic courses, while also pursuing her talents in golf, reaching the state individual championships in October.

Listening to Alex talk about her golfing experiences, one learns that golf might be the only thing she loves more than Mayfield football.

“Everything around you is just so beautiful, so peaceful,” she said, “Then you add competition to it, and I’m a competitive person. I love to practice and get better.”

Alex seems to have a genuine affinity for her town, her legacy and the people in her life.

“Anyone who lives in a town like this is the most blessed person on earth,” she said.

As for the sign and Friday nights, there is plenty of room on the sign for more state championship claims.

RIGHT • Adams, foreground, rides on the back of a pickup truck on the way to a “Destroy Tilghman” pep rally at the school football stadium. Sitting beside Alex is Marielle Faraone.



ABOVE • Mayfield High School cheerleader Alex Adams cheers for students at Mayfield Elementary School during the “Beat Tilghman” pep rally at the school.



ABOVE • Adams talks on her new cell phone at lunch during school on Wednesday of Spirit Week.

ABOVE • Longtime friend “Big John” Stevens is encouraged by Adams as he does push ups after climbing out of his wheelchair during the “Destroy Tilghman” pep rally. Stevens, still a member of the football team, is recovering from a spinal shock as a freshman.

Football does not define him

Photography by ALONSO NICHOLS
Editing by CHRIS WOLFE



ABOVE • Mayfield quarterback Luke Guhy heads through the tunnel to take the field in the Mayfield-Paducah Tilghman football game. The Mayfield Cardinals won 21-12.



Yeah, this is a big day for Luke Guhy. At 16, he is the new quarterback for Mayfield High School, and this game against rival Paducah Tilghman, will define his place in the long history of sports in Graves County.

Nervous? Sure, there's a hint of that in the uneasy smile of a teenager carrying the pride of team and town on his broad shoulders. But there is also a sense of confidence in that smile. He will play his guts out, but in the end, football is not what defines Luke Guhy. It is more like the icing on the cake.

Luke also plays baseball and basketball. He is a drummer in the high school band, and he taught himself to play the guitar. The son of two Mayfield educators, he is gifted academically and popular in school. He doesn't need football; football needs him.

In daily practice the week before the Tilghman game, the sun beat down on the dried grass of the field, and the scent of stale, sour sweat wafted up from pads and jerseys. "Hup-hup. Hup-hup," Luke called, and then he rifled his passes down the field.

Long and rail-thin, he looks more like a distance runner than a quarterback. But he can do the job.

Game Day: As the Mayfield offense takes the field, the crowd begins to chant, "Luke! Luke!" But Luke displays his characteristic restraint and calm, inspiring his team, but never playing to the crowd. After the game, after the defeat of Paducah Tighlman, fans crowd around, shouting "Good job, Luke!"

He smiles and climbs into the minivan with mother Mitzi, father Chris and younger brother Jake.

It's time to go home.



FAR LEFT • Guhy, center, listens intently as head coach Joe Morris reviews strategy for the second half of the Mayfield-Paducah Tilghman game.

LEFT • Also a drummer in the school marching band, Guhy laughs with girlfriend Shelby Moses, 18, at a school rally for the upcoming Mayfield-Paducah Tilghman game.

BELOW • Mayfield offensive coach Stephen Hatchell directs quarterback Guhy during the Mayfield-Paducah Tilghman game.



Circulating care

Photography by CRISTA CHAPMAN
Editing by MICK COCHRAN AND RODNEY CURTIS

RIGHT •
Bookmobile
librarian
Sandy
Alderdice
drives the
bookmobile
and helps
patrons
throughout
Graves County
in selecting
books to read.



Sandy Alderdice travels 600 to 700 miles each month throughout Graves County on behalf of Graves County Public Library. Distributing more than just books, Sandy delivers compassion and friendship to patrons in need of more than just a good read.

Every Monday through Friday, the bookmobile provides library materials for patrons who are unable to come to the library because of age, illness or lack of transportation.

Sandy's bookmobile carries approximately 2,000 titles on board and circulates up to 2,500 materials each month. She visits homes and care facilities throughout Kentucky's sixth-largest county that covers 557 square miles.

The library has enough funding now to afford



ABOVE • Librarian Sandy Alderdice drives the bookmobile down Purchase Parkway.

bookmobile fuel costs, roughly \$450 each week. The importance of having a bookmobile is Sandy's personal contact with patrons who trust and

depend on her to offer them book suggestions and company.

Sandy makes seven to nine stops in an eight hour day. Within her busy delivery schedule, she makes time to visit with patrons, many of whom live alone.

"[I] have more personal contact with them," she said. "I consider them all my friends."

"This has been an absolute godsend for me," said Diana Ruge. "She's got me spoiled. She knows exactly what I like."

As both librarian and friend to patrons, Sandy sees the bookmobile as an integral part of the community.

"Most people have been on the bookmobile at some point in their lives," she said. "When people see it now, it brings back those memories of being young."

RIGHT • Bookmobile librarian Sandy Alderdice sorts flyers on the bookmobile. Her route stretches throughout Graves County.



LEFT • Clayton Bivens, 12, runs to his classmates awaiting their turns on the bookmobile at Cuba Elementary School.

A brother apart

Photography by PHILIP ANDREWS
Editing by MICK COCHRAN AND RODNEY CURTIS



LEFT • Jordan Dowdy carries water onto the field as the Graves High School girls soccer team stretches for practice. As team manager, he is responsible for fetching balls, setting up cones and getting water for the girls.

It's a weekday morning, and as on so many others Ashlyn Dowdy is up early. Fighting through the fatigue that comes from long nights of homework, she dresses, gathers her books and drives herself and her brother, Jordan, to school.

They have an unusual relationship, Jordan said. He is eight months older, adopted and has symptoms of autism.

Both are involved with the girls soccer team at Graves County High School, but that's where the similarity ends.

Jordan, the team manager, spends practice fetching balls, setting up cones and hoisting the water jug on his shoulder so the girls can drink. He is alone, just yards away from the camaraderie, friendship and competition shared by his sister and her friends.

Jordan's autism prevents him from having the life his sister can achieve. She takes advanced-placement classes, and he takes vocational classes that teach carpentry, plumbing and foundation laying. When she goes off to college after graduation in May, he said he will stay behind to live at home and take a job in Mayfield.



ABOVE • Sociable Ashlyn Dowdy, second from left, watches as several friends play Guitar Hero.



ABOVE • Jordan trails behind his parents, Lori and Richard Dowdy, and Ashlyn after she was honored during the Senior's Night soccer game.



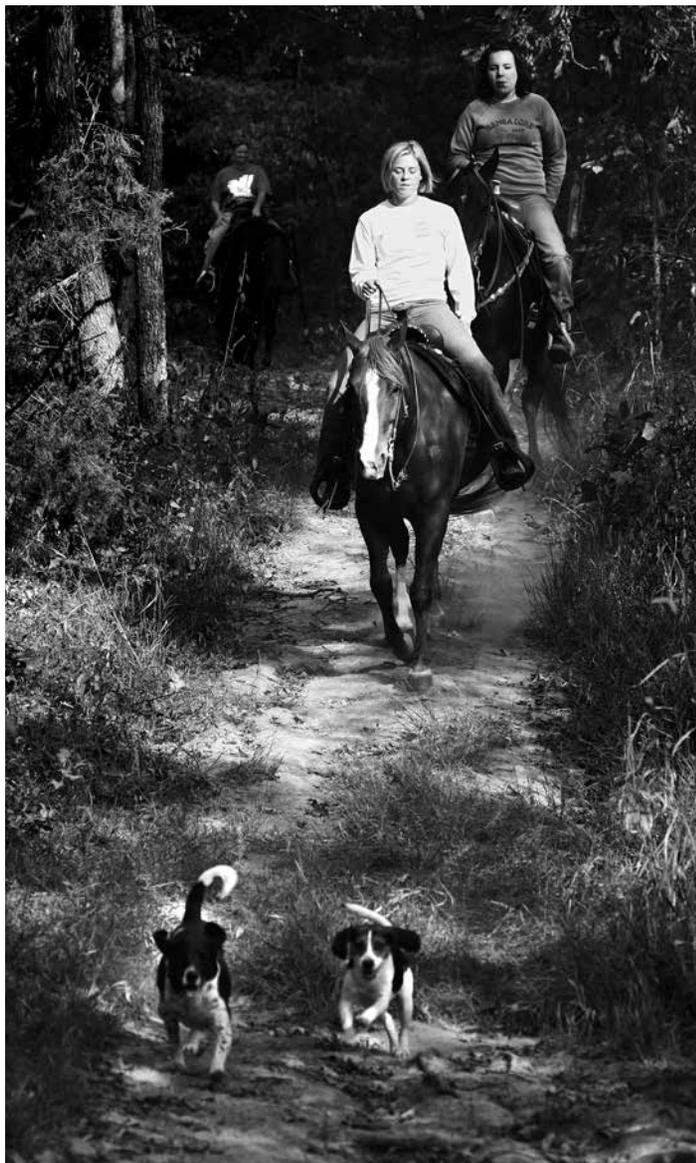
ABOVE • Alone in his room, Dowdy strikes a note.



ABOVE • Dowdy holds a water jug so freshman midfielder Lauren Alexander can quench her thirst after an afternoon practice.

Nothing slows her down

Photography by MICAH BOOTH
Editing by EMILY-ROSE BENNETT



ABOVE • Debbie Kendall, Cheyenne Leon, and Traci Kendall, clockwise from left, ride once a week on Debbie's farm.

Traci Kendall has two horses and helps raise three more. She has three dogs, a husband and owns an insurance agency. She is so full of energy and has such a busy life, you would never guess that she has diabetes and arthritis.

Traci, 39, drags herself out of bed at 6 a.m. and, still in her pajamas, trudges out to feed and water the horses. When she's done, she cleans up and heads to The Kendall Agency, where she works an eight-hour day. Then it's back to her farm on Bob Road.

Her family farm has fields full of horses and chicken coops. She and her husband, Jason, live in a small, two-story garage with living space upstairs that overlooks a woods.

Her favorite time of day is late afternoon and evening, when she works with her horses. "I love riding; it's my passion," she said.

As she rides Kit Kat in the arena, dust swirls around her. Depending on what she needs to practice for the next horse show, and what needs cleaning, she may be out there until 10 p.m. or later. Finally, she and Jason settle down for dinner.

Traci has overcome her disabilities and tries to live life to the fullest.

"You either let your disabilities control you, or you control them," she said.

Traci Kendall is in control.



ABOVE • Outside of her insurance job, Traci Kendall spends most of her time around horses.



ABOVE • Traci Kendall rides her horse Kit Kat in an arena.



ABOVE • Kendall sports silver spurs,



ABOVE • Traci Kendall washes her horse Kit Kat once a week.

They call her Mrs. Brown

Photography by MATT SCHAUER
Editing by CHRIS WOLFE



ABOVE • Mayfield High School has employed Katherine Brown for the past 30 years. She said she receives the respect of a veteran teacher in the classroom and can still connect individually to students of all backgrounds.



ABOVE • “I try to use different techniques of teaching, so students can grasp whatever I’m doing,” said Katherine Brown. However, at 9 a.m., it is hard for freshmen Steven Earles, 14, and Jordan Starks, 15, to even stay awake, much less grasp difficult algebra concepts.



ABOVE • Katherine joins her husband Marvin, 55, for their evening meal and a discussion about the day’s events. She believes that good communication keeps her family strong. Their son, Frederick, 20, cooked the meal.

The Browns moved from Eupora, Miss., 30 years ago because the schools in Kentucky provided more opportunities for their children. While growing up in Eupora, Katherine Brown attended a segregated school and lived through the hardships of the civil right movements.

When the Browns moved into their Mayfield home, no African-Americans lived in the area.

“We would get calls at night and different things would happen, but we stayed there and didn’t let that intimidate us,” Katherine said.

Since those early days, things have changed. “It took the neighborhood a long time to accept African-Americans,” Katherine said. “They finally, finally came around.”

Katherine said she receives love and respect from her family. “They’re my support” she said. “Words can’t explain what they are to me. I try, and it goes beyond that.”

Katherine said her husband, Marvin, is patient, loving and dependable. He stands tall in church and the community, and he’s there when they need him, she said.

“Communication is important to us, our family, and if something is wrong, we try to work it out,” Katherine said. “That’s what makes a family stronger.”

The Browns have also taken the responsibility of holding together a congregation of eight with no pastor at the Church of God and Christ in Mayfield. “My husband is the deacon. I am the clerk, and I have many more other titles,” Katherine said. “We operate together.”

Katherine has three sons. The youngest, Frederick, 20, still lives at home. Marvin Jr., 29, and O’Brien, 28, live in the house next door.

Brown describes herself as a little person with a big voice who needs that big voice surrounded by men at home – and by growing teens at Mayfield High School, where she has been a math teacher for 30 years.

The rewards of teaching are helping students learn and seeing them succeed and move forward, Katherine said.

She is known around the school as being tough, but every student gets individual attention throughout class to help them understand difficult material.

“We are determined to follow our faith until change comes, and that goes for teaching too,” Katherine said. “The Lord has really blessed us.”

A life of service

Photography by ALYCE HENSON
Editing by EMILY-ROSE BENNETT



ABOVE • Kindergartners at Northside Baptist Christian School gather around teacher Cathy Stedum as they check out Noah Nichols' class picture.



LEFT • Robbie Steddum gets a haircut at Hair Tek and Tanning Salon. His mother, Cathy Steddum, approves.

Cathy Steddum is always on the go. In addition to caring for her son, Robbie, she teaches kindergarten, Spanish and adult special education. She also works with homeless women and children and is active in community theater.

Robbie, 26, has cerebral palsy. Cathy adopted him when he was 2. She loves him unconditionally and has worked hard to make him to be a productive member of society. He works at the Kevil Center, a sheltered workshop, where he assembles lawn mower parts.

Cathy divorced her husband after five rough years of marriage. Knowing that she couldn't raise Robbie on her own, she and her son moved back to Mayfield from San Antonio, Texas, to be near her parents.

Cathy says God and family have supported her through tough times and been the foundation of her life. Now, she gives back at The Lighthouse, a shelter for homeless women and children.

She starts her mornings at Northside Baptist Christian School. Her day starts with a faculty prayer meeting, then she dashes down the hall to her first class.

"We love you, Ms. Cathy," the class calls out when she enters the room.

Cathy, 47, says that if she is having a tough day, her kindergarten students always make it better. "If you're ever in a down mood you can't stay in it long if you're around them," she said.



ABOVE • Cathy Steddum straightens her classroom at the end of the week while son, Robbie, waits.

Style sustenance

Photography by LEAH NASH
Editing by EMILY-ROSE BENNETT



ABOVE • Maxine Lamb reads about Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin while getting a perm at A Cut Above Hair Salon. “I like her,” she said of Palin. “She’s very attractive.”



ABOVE • Vivian Biggs applies makeup while under the dryer at A Cut Above Hair Salon. Biggs has been coming to the salon for eight years. “They all make fun of me, but this is always when I do my face,” she said. “That’s the only time I sit still.”



ABOVE • Don Kerr has been getting his hair and mustache cut by Denise McAlpin at A Cut Above Hair Salon for more than 15 years. His wife, Shirley, was one of Denise’s first customers when she got out of beauty school 30 years ago.



ABOVE • Jake Stokes, 4, gets a little taken off the top by Kay Reynolds at A Cut Above Hair Salon.

Open the door of A Cut Above Hair Salon and you smell the hairspray, perm solution and baby powder and hear a steady stream of chatter.

If you listen long enough, the characters in town come into focus: Someone got run over by a tractor; someone’s husband ran off with her best friend; someone’s son is in jail. In addition to hairdos, they come for the gossip and the gossip magazines, both which are full of juicy tidbits.

Denise McAlpin, 49, works more hours than anyone else at the shop, often opening in the morning and turning off the lights at night. She has been a hairdresser for more than 30 years, following in the footsteps of her mother and aunt. While she enjoys the flexibility, the hours



ABOVE • Eva Hopwood has her hair done by Cathey Alexander.

on her feet have taken their toll.

“If I had a daughter who wanted to do hair, I’d disown her,” she said. “I tell everybody I know, ‘Get a real life. Don’t be a slave to the chair.’”

McAlpin and the four other women with chairs at A Cut Above provide a sort of down-home therapy with willing ears and ready advice. Most customers are elderly; the only time some leave their homes is for their weekly shampoo and set.

“They’re gonna get their hair done if they have to get in an ambulance to do it,” McAlpin says.

Stylist Sandra Hawkins has had most of her customers for more than 20 years. “We’ve been through births, graduations, marriage, grandchildren and even death,” she said. “We do their hair that last time because it’s the last thing you can do for them.”

Kay moves on

Photography by SHANE NOEM
Editing by KOHL THRELKELD



ABOVE • Now that she has retired, Kay Mart owner, Kay Saltzman plans on spending more time with her four grandchildren. She also will spend time with her husband Earl, who will retire in May. At right, Kay posted a sign asking that all debts be paid before the store changed hands.

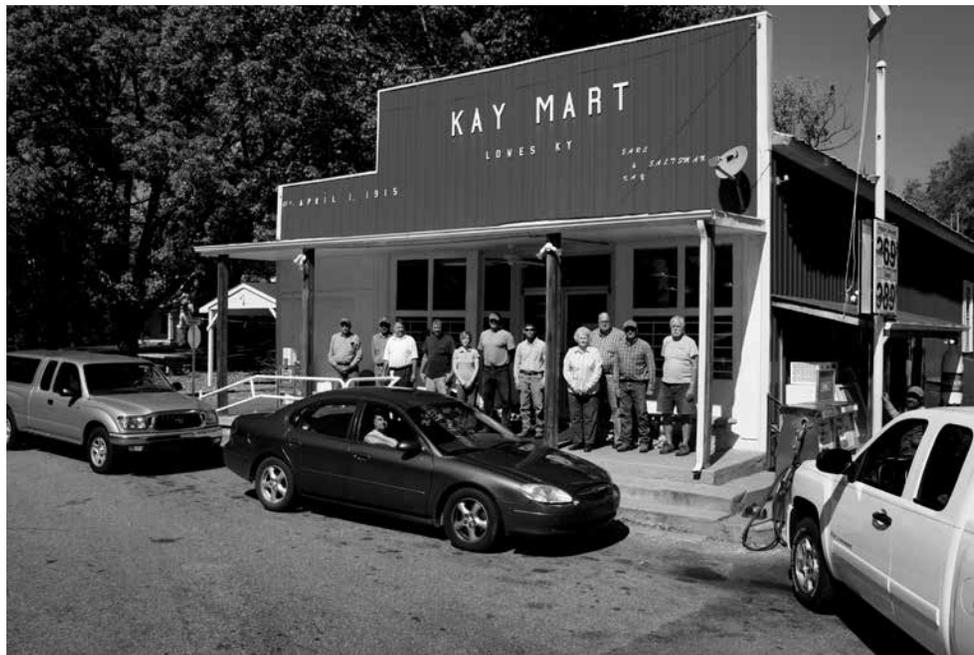
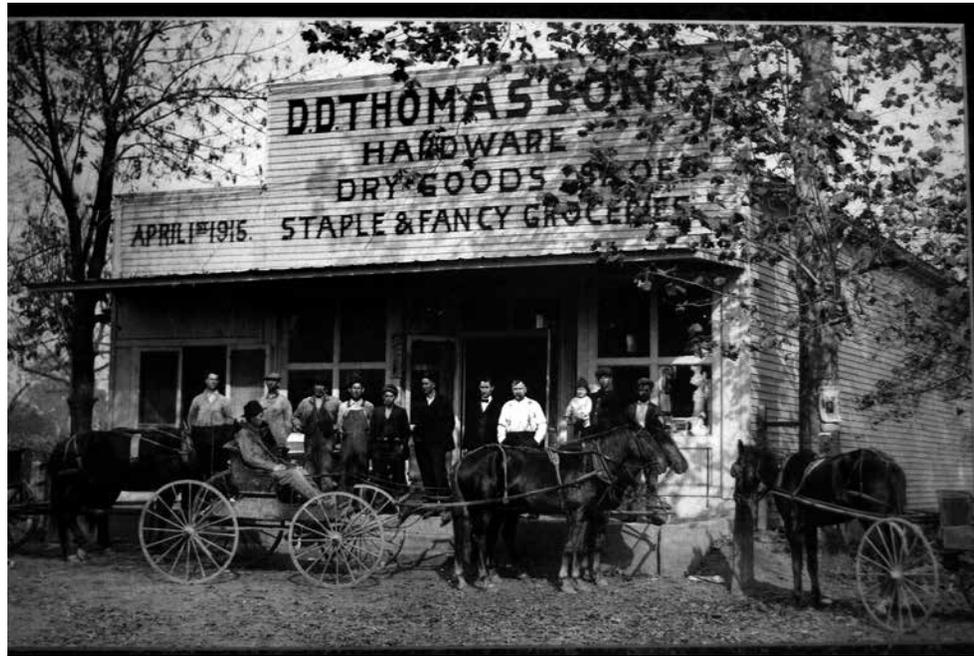
As she packs boxes of antiques that decorated her store, Kay Saltsman thinks back on three years as the owner and operator of Kay Mart, in Lowes.

Her tenure as owner of the nearly-century-old building has been credited with reviving a lively social spirit in the town, and during that time she more than doubled the store's gross income. "When she bought it in 2005 we made \$300,000 in a year. This past year we have made \$800,000, and that is all thanks to Kay," said husband Earl.

Kay started her store-keeping days at 4:30 a.m. As soon as she arrived at the store, she checked inventory and made biscuits for the local farmers who stopped in on their way to their fields. The doors were unlocked at six each morning, and they weren't closed again until six in the evening. Two employees helped keep the customers tended and the business humming. At the end of her long day, Kay would return to a quiet house.

She decided to sell the local hang-out so she'd have more time to spend with her grandchildren and her husband, Earl. The store was on the market for several months before it was purchased by Charlene Feezor.

Kay said her feelings about the sale were mixed. The hardest part for her was saying good-bye to the regulars who'd come in nearly every day for years. "They thanked me for the store," Kay said. "I thanked them for making the store a success."



TOP AND ABOVE • The original D.D. Thomasson store is shown in a photograph made in 1915. Friends and regular customers reenact the same moment with store owner Kay Saltsman.

Farmer undaunted

Photography by DANIEL HOUGHTON
Editing by CHRIS WOLFE

In 2005, a minivan going 60 mph ran a stop sign and slammed into the driver's side of Jacob Wooley's minivan. He was not wearing a seat belt.

"I'm not sure how, but I was thrown out of the car and into a ditch full of rocks," Jacob said.

The accident left him paralyzed from the waist down, but he was determined not to let his disability keep him from doing what he loved. When he started working again, he used a rope to pull himself into the cab of his combine and tractor.

"By the time I got up there I was so tired it was hardly worth it," he said.

He called the University of Kentucky and explained his situation, and today Jacob, 30, has a custom-designed lift on his combine and tractor that UK independently funded and built for him. It allows him to continue operating his 400-acre plus farm that he began when he was 19. Wooley bought his combine used from a farmer who was retiring. Although it's 20 years old, he would rather repair it than replace it.

"Jacob likes his money in his pocket," said his mother, Denise Wooley.

Many modern combines have all the necessities of life, including cup holders, CD players and

air conditioning.

"I do have air conditioning, and I don't think I could work in here without it," Jacob said. "I have never listened to music or the radio when I work in my combine, I like to think. Deer hunting and driving the combine are two times I really like to think."

Jacob's father, Larry Wooley, said Jacob doesn't need any help.

"He has figured out how to do just about everything by himself," Larry said. "He has more determination than anyone that I've ever met. Since the accident, we have become a lot closer. He needs me, and I need him. We are codependent on each other. Honestly, I don't know what I would do every day without Jacob."

Jacob's daily activities include farming and spending time with his dad. Most days, he does both, with Jacob and his father spending the morning getting the combine ready for the day's work. Larry often naps in a shady spot while Jacob shells soybeans on the farm.

"I've had a major attitude change since the accident," Jacob said. "I used to get up and work hard all day every day. I packed my own lunch, and I don't know how social I was. Once you realize how much more there is to life, things change."



ABOVE • Jacob Wooley, left, and his father, Larry, bolt a support bracket onto Jacob's combine. Jacob, paralyzed from the waist down, runs a large farm in Graves County with specially designed equipment.



RIGHT • Jacob shells a soybean field for his neighbor whose combine broke.



ABOVE • Jacob gets into position to stretch his legs in the morning when he wakes up. “The doctors told me that I would never walk again, but they also told me I would never move my toes again and they were wrong. I want to keep my leg muscles strong so that I will be ready if I can ever walk again. I don’t want my leg muscles shrinking like other people I see in a wheelchair,” he said.



ABOVE • Wooley has hand controls on his pickup truck and a wheelchair that disassembles to fit in his back seat. “Jacob doesn’t need any help. He has figured out how to do just about everything by himself,” said Jacob’s father, Larry Wooley. “He has more determination than anyone I’ve ever met.”

RIGHT • Before leaving for a truck pull, Wooley reads his mail. He began competing in truck pulling competitions after the accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down.





ABOVE • Wooley holds his one-year-old nephew, Luke, outside his parents' house in Melber.





33 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.
- 2005 / LAWRENCEBURG, KY.
- 2006 / MADISONVILLE, KY.
- 2007 / DANVILLE, KY.
- 2008 / MAYFIELD, KY.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH LAUER

Cast of characters

All the folks who came to Graves County

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- *USA TODAY*
- *The Virginian-Pilot*
- *The Washington Post*
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They came to Mayfield from 22 states plus Canada, Peru and Romania, 49 participants in all. Most came to hone their skills in documentary photojournalism with still cameras, and three worked as design editors, helping select the material for this book, and designing these pages.

But 14 of them chose the newest and fastest-growing component of the workshops, using video cameras and audio equipment to expand their multimedia skills.

Dot Paul has been a staff photographer at the University of Georgia for five years. Paul shoots for the alumni magazine and the faculty/staff newspaper and has been trying to do slide shows with audio. At the Mountain Workshops, she did video, audio and stills.

“It’s a lot to juggle,” she said.

Paul, who has an English degree from Hollins University in Roanoke, Va., said Mountain Workshops has been on her list of things to do for 10 years.

“As long as I’m going to learn multimedia, I might as well learn it from the best people,” she said.

Looking at the work of other students and the faculty was inspirational, she said, even though the evening presentations often ran late, extending her workdays from 7 a.m. until 2 a.m.

“No matter how tired I am, nothing I have seen has put me to sleep,” she said.

“I just wanted to grow.”

Dave Smith is a Canadian who graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in photojournalism in 1996. He worked for years in Asia, but is now a staff photographer at the Daily News in Bowling Green, Ky.

“The workshop has helped me ‘see’ things better,” Smith said. “I really think one of the strong values of it is that it encourages visual creativity, doing things outside the norm.”

Smith said the workshops, particularly the multimedia component, provide great training for working professionals as well as students.

“In today’s precarious financial and workplace situations, any advantage photojournalists have will help them,” he said.

The multimedia workshop helps photographers make the transition from still to video, Smith said.

“I have a lot of colleagues overseas that I have recommended the workshop to,” he said. “I think that the contacts you make there from the amazing faculty, staff and fellow students is invaluable. It’s a no-brainer to spend the money to go, whether your publication sponsors you or you have to pay yourself.”

Darr Beiser, a staff photographer at USA TODAY, has been working at the paper since it was established in 1982. He too came to Mayfield to

sharpen his multimedia skills, and he wasn’t disappointed. Beiser said his multimedia coach, Sam Riche, gave him great creative ideas and guidance with the editing software.

Darr has shot still photos of popes, presidents and Olympic Games, but he didn’t start shooting video until 2007.

Now, he says, if a big news event happened and he could take only one camera, he’d grab a videocamera.

“If I took still pictures, everybody would be asking why I didn’t shoot video,” he said. “Nobody would ask why I didn’t shoot stills.”



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH LAUER

Multimedia workshop student Jack Gruber captures “B-roll” on his story in a pumpkin patch.

• **Harry Allen**

*Western Kentucky University
School of Journalism & Broadcasting*



PHOTO BY NINA GREIPEL

LEFT • Workshop
Director James Kenney
inspires students and
coaches alike during
opening ceremonies.

BELOW • Staffer
Courtney
Hergesheimer gets in
the workshop spirit.



PHOTO BY KELLIE MANIER

“It’s just an easy, pretty place to live.”

Dana Heath
Mayfield, Ky.



THE MOUNTAIN WORKSHOPS • 2008 • THE 33RD YEAR