

## KY TRIVIA

The University of Kentucky added women's swimming to its competitive sports in 1983.

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# Frankfort & Kentucky



## Program aims to improve smiles

### Westridge students help Beshear kick off \$2M dental care effort

BY JOE BIESK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Kentucky health officials are hoping a new program will improve dental care in a state more known for gaps in its oral health and its smiles.

Gov. Steve Beshear announced the plan on Tuesday, pledging about \$2 million in state and federal money designed to improve access to dentists in impoverished eastern Kentucky counties and elsewhere. Beshear flanked himself with 13 youngsters from a local elementary school to emphasize his desire to improve dental care for children.

"Whether it's a '20/20' news show or a made-for-TV movie, too often the face of our state is that of a person missing a mouthful of teeth," Beshear said. "While this stereotype is unfair, there's little doubt that we do have a serious problem."

Kentucky's shortcomings with dental care have been highlighted in recent years.

A 2004 study found the state had the most people in the country over age 65 who were missing teeth, and more than a quarter

of all residents had lost six or more teeth to tooth decay or gum disease. A 2001 study found nearly half of kids age 4 or younger had untreated dental issues, more than double the national average.

Dental problems, which can often be painful, often lead youngsters to developing poor nutritional habits, affected speech and harming performance in school, Beshear said.

"This isn't just a dental program, it's a health problem," Beshear said. "Teeth aren't just for looks and good oral health isn't just cosmetic — it's a key factor to overall health."

The new three-year plan is supposed to help train more dentists to be comfortable working on children.

Pediatric dentists operate in just 28 of Kentucky's 120 counties, Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Janie Miller said.

Officials are also hoping to create 12 coalitions in economically distressed counties to help design oral health programs, and be eligible for additional grants for local needs, Miller said.

The state is hoping to buy



AP/ED REINKE

Children from Westridge Elementary School surround Gov. Steve Beshear as he unveils a plan to improve pediatric dental health during a news conference Tuesday.

two sets of portable dental equipment to treat patients in nontraditional settings such as schools, day care centers and senior citizen centers, Beshear said.

"Dental problems are preventable, they just have to be made a priority," Beshear said.

Access to dental care is a problem, especially in Appalachia and far western Kentucky, officials said. Many children in those areas are eligible to get Medicaid-funded dental care, but there are not enough dentists to serve them.

Mike Porter, executive

director of the Kentucky Dental Association, said he thinks the plan should help improve the state's overall oral health.

"It will be meaningful in the long run," Porter said. "You have to start somewhere and this is a very, very good start."

## Autumn climb



STATE JOURNAL/HILLY SCHIFFER

Jack Martin, 4, Kamyryn Rider, 5, and Sonny Martin, 6, climb and play around a tree in front of Kamryn's house Tuesday afternoon. The three children said they play together all the time.

## State workers honored

### Award highlights positive impact

STATE JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Twenty public service employees were recognized at an awards ceremony Tuesday.

First lady Jane Beshear presented them the first annual Governor's Ambassador Awards.

Created in October 2008, the awards program was established to highlight stories of employees who have positively impacted the lives of their co-workers, customers and community.

"State employees are official ambassadors of our Commonwealth," said Gov. Steve Beshear.

Nominations were accepted throughout the year in six categories: customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork or community service and volunteerism. Ninety-eight nominations were submitted, involving more than 300 employees.

Award recipients will be honored by having a personalized engraved brick placed along Ambassador Avenue outside the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

The recipients include: >Michele Sither, Community Service and Volunteerism award. She initiated fund

raising efforts, and supervised construction for the "boundless" playground located in Paducah's Noble Park, the first playground of its kind in Kentucky.

>Michael Cepeda, Courage Award. Michael not only works to ensure the safety of the public as a correctional officer but also serves as a sergeant in the Kentucky Army National Guard.

He was injured when his truck was hit by a roadside bomb but Michael applied a tourniquet to a soldier's severely injured legs and provided medical aid to others. His actions helped save their lives.

>G. Mitchell Mattingly, Customer Service Award. Mitchell serves as staff attorney for the Crime Victims Compensation Board, the Board of Claims and the Sexual Assault Examination Program.

During challenging economic times he was able to reduce case backlogs by 50 percent, worked to revise statutes to serve crime victims more effectively, and prevented a break in service for indigent and financially challenged victims of violent crime and citizens who are victims of negligence.

>Melissa Humphrey, Leadership Award. As branch manager for the Children's Benefits Workers, Melissa oversees a team

of 60 or more statewide. She works diligently to create a great team and reinforce a teamwork concept.

>John A. Carrico, Professional Achievement Award. John works as a family support supervisor in the Department for Community Based Services.

In an attempt to make the work process easier and more efficient for all case-workers John created: Excel versions of commonly used forms with workbooks to simplify entry for staff, online operation manuals, web pages, and instructional materials for case-workers.

>Lori Hardwick-Hill, Guinn Cost, Sam Beeny, LaDonna Scott, Angela Wolfe, Mary Lynn Troop, Ruth Pettus, Kathy Son, Morraine Cox, Gina Marks, Lisa Foster, Candice Watts, Mark Bandy, Tim Brister and Lisa Revlett, Teamwork Award.

During the ice storm of 2009, these employees exceeded all set standards to ensure the health, safety and emotional well-being of the residents of the Western Kentucky Veterans Center.

For additional information regarding Kentucky Public Service Recognition Week and the Governor's Ambassador Award Program visit the Personnel Cabinet's Web site, <http://personnel.ky.gov>

## AROUND FRANKFORT

### Health fair canceled

Frankfort Regional Medical Center is canceling its annual health fair originally scheduled for Saturday because of lack of available flu vaccine, according to a news release.

The hospital was expecting to receive an additional 1,400 doses to provide the community during the health fair but because of ongoing demand and a waiting list, the hospital's supplier ran out.

FRMC recommends individuals contact their health care provider and/or local pharmacy to see if any seasonal flu vaccines are available.

There are no plans to reschedule the health fair at this time.

For more information call 877-FRMC-MD1 or 226-1655.

### Church plans 'Hobo Party'

Graefenburg Baptist Church will hold a Hobo Party from 6-9 p.m. Friday at the church, just across the Shelby County line on US 60. Babies and children through the sixth grade and their families are invited to share fall arts and crafts, a bonfire, supper, campfire songs, storytelling, hayrides and s'mores.

Dress up like a hobo (optional) and bring two cans of food, one for hobo stew and the other for an area homeless shelter. For more information, call the church at 829-5324 or 223-5325.

### Prom dress drive kicks off

The organizers of Cinderella's Closet, a program that gives prom dresses to low-income teens, will have a dress drive the first week in November.

Donations can be dropped off at Franklin County, Western Hills and Frankfort High schools, or First United Methodist Church. Formal dresses can be donated year round at the church, weekdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

There will be a jewelry-making party at First United Methodist Church on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. Participants should bring beads and jewelry making supplies to donate or \$10. Refreshments will be provided.

So far, more than 250 people from the Frankfort community have supported the program through box lunch fundraisers. The revenue has gone to purchase 15 dress racks, new shoes and plus-sized dresses.

Cinderella's Closet will be held on March 6. Organizers need more than 60 volunteers for the event. If interested, contact Amy Nance at (502) 352-2151, or [amy.nance@franklin.kyschools.us](mailto:amy.nance@franklin.kyschools.us).

Any girl who needs a dress should contact Nance at FCHS, Betty Lawson at WHHS, or Lou Ann Hodge at FHS.

## AROUND KENTUCKY

### COVINGTON

#### Teacher tried in sex case

(AP) — The trial of a former northern Kentucky high school English teacher continues in Covington.

In opening day testimony on Tuesday, a former Dayton High School football player testified, saying four or

five sexual encounters with teacher Nicole Howell were consensual. At the time of the alleged incidents, the boy was 16 and Howell was 25.

The Kentucky Enquirer reported the defense asked the student why he couldn't remember many details and the teen repeatedly said he was drunk and "could barely stand."

Howell is charged with

the felony of first-degree sexual abuse.

Defense lawyer Eric Deters told the jury the boy made up a story that he had sex with Howell so he could brag to his friends.

State statute was changed last year to criminalize teachers having sex with students under 18.

The age of consent in Kentucky is 16.

### GEORGETOWN

#### Sixth swine flu death in state

(AP) — The death of a man in the bluegrass region brings to six the number of confirmed swine flu deaths in Kentucky.

A sister of 39-year-old Matt Finger of Scott County told the Lexington Her-

ald-Leader her brother "just wasn't that sick" in the days before he died on Oct. 3.

Beth Butrum of Georgetown said she checked on her brother that day and he was up and about. He asked her to get him some mashed potatoes and gravy from Kentucky Fried Chicken and she found him dead when she returned the food.

Butrum said Finger has felt ill for about 10 days be-

fore his death, but seemed to be feeling better.

The newspaper reported Finger is the first confirmed swine flu victim to die at home.

Scott County Coroner John Goble said Finger didn't have any known underlying medical conditions.