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## KHEA NEWS

FEBRUARY 2005

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## Understanding the legislative landscape:

*What pressures drive potential proposed homeschool regulations?* by Connie Laffin and Jan Fletcher

The 2005 Kentucky Legislative Session is scheduled to begin February 1<sup>st</sup>. The pressing need for a state budget will likely dominate this 30-day session. KHEA is keeping an eye on the legislature. In the world of politics, things really can change overnight.

However, new efforts to add restrictions to a parent's right to homeschool will surely resurface in 2006. That is because the issues cited by reformists still exist. So what are the issues raised by those driving legislative reform efforts that target homeschooling?

### Unintended deleterious effects from school-reform efforts

Without a doubt, the main driver behind any proposed restrictions on homeschool freedoms will be the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). Scott Somerville, an attorney for Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), confirmed this at the Christian Home Educators of Kentucky Conference in Louisville in July 2003.

"A funny thing happened on the way to transforming Kentucky's education system. KERA is a high-stakes system. If the children don't do well



A small 1982 eruption of Mt. St. Helens. In the same fashion as this volcano, school reform creates similar pressures in the system, frequently erupting into new calls for homeschool regulation. [Photo by Peter Frenzen, 1982.]

there will be consequences," said Somerville. "In theory, we punish the teachers for not teaching. KERA scores define what happens to local schools."

As a result, he said, the pressure increases on schools to "dump"

students on the low end of the testing scale: those children who pull down KERA averages for a given school. When faced with a youth who is failing, school officials find themselves asking, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if those kids went somewhere else?" said Somerville. That somewhere else may be a homeschool. "We call this dumping. It's a problem we see in states where they have high-stakes testing and good homeschool laws," said Somerville.

This pressure, much like the pressure from underground volcanic vents, can make for strange eruptions – eruptions that the public at large may not connect to the root source. One of those eruptions is driven by competing "funding" pressures resulting from the state's effort to lower the dropout rate.

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### KHEA NEWS deadline

The next KHEA Newsletter is expected to be published in April. Have you ever thought about writing an article for the KHEA Newsletter? We'd love to have more membership involvement as to what goes in the Newsletter. If you have an announcement you would like to submit, or an article to submit to the April KHEA Newsletter, please send it to [kheanewseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:kheanewseditor@hotmail.com) by April 1st.

**Support Group Leaders: There's still time to sign up for our Winter Seminar! See Page 6.**

### The dropout tug-of-war

Well-meaning education reformists seek to slow the dropout rate by strengthening laws that will keep kids in school. The compulsory education laws in Kentucky require all children to attend school from the ages of 6-16. Dropping out has definite negative ramifications. Many dropouts find that they can't obtain a good job without a high school diploma. Students who drop out must wait to take the GED until they are 19, while homeschoolers can apply for an exemption allowing them to take the GED at 17. As a result, many 16-year-olds have chosen to avoid dropout sanctions by withdrawing from school as homeschoolers. Such a move also benefits the school, since they can record the student as a transfer to a private school, rather than a dropout. Reformers attempt to fix the problem by making all homeschoolers submit to extra regulation and inspection in order to "catch the dropouts." They also support penalizing schools that have higher-than-desired dropout rates, thereby giving an incentive to schools to push out poor performers.

This is just one way that school reform is creating pressures that result in unintended consequences. As children fall through the cracks, legislators may try to cap the vent that is releasing the pressure. This happens because two parts of the school financing system are actually pulling against each other. Schools are financially penalized for a high-drop out rate, AND, for low-test scores. The penalties that provide the teeth for school reform implementation unfortunately lead both school officials and families to seek release from the pressure of sanctions.

As soon as lawmakers try to fix one eruption, just like a volcano, the lava will continue to flow and erupt somewhere else. This is because the underlying pressure on children and teachers to "leave no child behind," refuses to recognize human nature

and the reality that not every child or school will be able to pass the performance tests mandated by school reform. Therefore, children who cannot will be pushed out the door by schools desperate to keep their dropout rate low, and, at the same time, desiring to protect their high-stakes testing scores. Both figures affect school funding.

What can you expect in 2006 as lawmakers try to stem these eruptions? Watch for efforts to reinstate the No Pass/No Drive law, efforts

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**"It's the source of this pressure that needs addressing. Homeschooling parents need to understand the true nature of school reform."**

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to extend the compulsory education age to 18, and bills burdening homeschoolers with extra statutory requirements. Look for bills to advocate that homeschoolers submit to annual standardized testing, file copies of their students' grade reports, and submit to regular inspections of their school. Sadly, these measures will only force troubled families further underground while unduly penalizing responsible parents.

How can you help right now from your home? The dropout issue begins with the public schools. So, encourage lawmakers to close the dropout exodus from within the public school setting by dealing with the underlying pressures lawmakers have actually created through past efforts to fix the system.

Encourage them to develop innovative educational reform that will help students who are chronically academically deficient find an alternative pathway to the GED that does not involve dropping out of school, or withdrawing to homeschool.

It's the source of this pressure that needs addressing. Homeschooling

parents need to understand the true nature of school reform and how devastating it is to our Commonwealth's children. A good place to begin understanding the nature of this nationwide problem, and to see how informed parents of public-schooled children are fighting back, is this website: [www.susanohanian.org](http://www.susanohanian.org).

It is doubtful that lawmakers will scrap the outcome-based education system, whose sanctions are creating these human tragedies, simply because the propaganda supporting it has been voluminous. However, they can at least create some pressure-release valves so children who cannot meet such performance pressures will be able to pursue an education using other state resources like an alternative GED program, or adult literacy avenues.

### Failure to address the root causes of truancy

The public schools identify truancy as a key issue contributing to student academic failure and the dropout rate. Certainly, it is commendable to encourage regular attendance so that students may achieve academic success.

Unfortunately, as one legislator recently admitted to one of our board members, there is also some measure of self-interest at work here, on the part of school administrators. The lure of increased Average Daily Attendance funding is one motivation behind truancy enforcement, particularly in rural areas where increasing pupil attendance can make the difference in a district strapped for cash and facing teacher layoffs. This same motivation may be at work in recent efforts by truancy officers (DPPs) to pay "friendly" visits to homeschoolers in Kentucky – again, in rural areas – urging them to return to public schools.

According to an HSLDA alert,

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## Legislative landscape cont'd from pg. 2.

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“on January 10, 2005, an unsuspecting HSLDA member family in Harlan County received a visit from their local public school principal and a Board of Education representative.

“Stepping outside to speak with the two individuals, the mother learned that the visit was intended to ‘invite’ all homeschool children to enroll in the public school system,” said the alert. “These school officials ended the short conversation by offering their services to homeschoolers in the area.” This invitation appeared to be an effort to increase enrollment by giving homeschoolers a door-to-door sales pitch. “This visit appears to represent a pattern of similar incidents in Harlan County. Other homeschoolers in the area have reported that they have also experienced similar visits,” said the alert.

Some public schools go to elaborate lengths to ensure that students daily attend school and arrive on time. The motivational tools they choose to prevent truancy are negative consequences. Students who miss nine days of school due to unexcused absences are taken to court along with their parents. Sometimes families facing a court appearance the next time their child is absent from school decide to circumvent the court date by withdrawing their children to be homeschooled. This is yet another eruption affecting homeschoolers as pressure builds on families and school officials attempt to “catch the truants.”

According to DPPs (truancy officers), these families aren't any more able to make their children do their schoolwork at home than they were able to make their kids attend school. In these situations, DPPs find that the truancy simply continues under the guise of homeschooling. However, instead of taking action to resolve the underlying causes of truancy, educators push legislators to advocate increasing the reporting requirements for homeschool families.

How can you help? This is the reason that the Best Practices Document was written. If you are contacted by someone hoping to pull their child out of public school as a knee-jerk reaction to truancy problems, give the DPP latitude in dealing with the family. Don't send them to HSLDA for membership immediately after your call. Help these families see that they probably won't have a successful homeschool experience. Hopefully, between talking to the DPP and talking to you, the parent will see the situation clearly and can make a realistic decision.

When lawmakers seek to “fix” homeschool laws in order to solve this problem, help them understand that current laws do provide adequate remedies if local officials have a genuine commitment to help these families resolve the actual underlying problems creating the problem in the first place.

When KHEA board members get these calls from truant families, they are unfortunately, oftentimes heartbreaking because the system has failed to provide resources for the family to solve the underlying problems driving the truancy. In many cases, these families are poor, and have difficulties obtaining proper medical care, life skills, and access to people who can actually solve the practical problems that create the stress within the family in the first place.

Families facing court action over truancy may not understand that both parents and children have the right to an attorney. The children have a right to legal representation for the status offense charge of habitual truancy, and the parents have the right to legal representation for the charge of educational neglect. For low-income families, these attorneys are provided free of charge.

Tim Arnold, manager of the Juvenile Post Disposition Branch of the Kentucky Public Advocacy Office, in Frankfort, addressed this issue in a January 27 article in *The Central*

*Kentucky News Journal*. “The time to fix the [underlying reason for truancy] problem is the first time the kid goes to court. If there's no one there to help the kid advocate for whether or not he can obey the order in the first place, it's too late to address the issue when he does violate it,” Arnold said. “Parents, teach your kids to say, ‘I want a lawyer.’”

The same article said, “In a recent Boone County, Ky. study, a truant officer discovered that poor health was responsible for 80 percent of all truancy in his county. Children from poor families in particular and a lack of access to health care services too often led to chronic absences from school, the study showed.”

Underlying pressures in distressed families can erupt like a volcano in an adolescent's life. Eyeing homeschool laws does nothing to resolve the real issues. Instead, lawmakers need to be informed as to the real causes for truancy.

Encourage legislators and school officials to fix the truancy problem at the source. Lawmakers need to identify and reform the school policies that contribute to student truancy, and also provide funding for genuine relief for families in distress before a child's educational future is compromised.

The year 2006 will be here quicker than we would like, but you can help change the attitudes of your community toward homeschooling today. Talk to your school officials. Talk to your legislators. Encourage them to find creative solutions to these public-school problems. Get involved in your local community. That is where you have the most power to prevent bills that would negatively impact your homeschool freedoms.

Like it or not, homeschoolers had better understand the subterranean pressures that are building as a result of outcome-based school-reform efforts. When pressure builds and fingers point our way, we need to, in turn, point lawmakers to the facts.

## What are we up to?

What has KHEA been doing since school began?

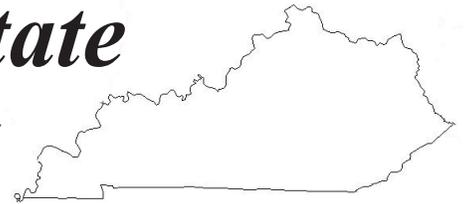
- We've been answering numerous emails from folks wanting information or inquiring about how to start homeschooling.
- Reworking and revising our database and the records stored in it.
- Since mid-December we have answered 20+ calls from people asking about how to homeschool. We've also spoken with 10+ support groups about a variety of issues.
- One of us did a newspaper interview about homeschooling.
- We have called two DPPs, trying to smooth out any difficulties with how they are dealing with the homeschoolers in their school district.
- We've been updating and adding to our website.
- We are actively working on setting up a meeting with the KDPP (KY Directors of Pupil Personnel – a professional organization) and CHEK in order to re-sign the Best Practices Document. Two of our KHEA board members will attend the KDPP meeting on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. KHEA is scheduled as part of their discussion about re-signing the BPD.
- We've been making arrangements for the Support Group Leader's Seminar in February. Lots of arrangements . . .
- We have been monitoring the bills currently scheduled to be considered during the legislative session beginning in February.
- Putting together and mailing out both this newsletter and a brochure.

By supporting KHEA, you have had an active part in shaping the environment in which Kentuckians homeschool. You have helped strengthen our rights and our freedom. Thanks for your support!

# Across the State

## Trouble in Ballard County

By Connie Laffin



In mid-January, Ballard County homeschoolers received a letter from their DPP asking them to “present the appropriate documentation to our local Superintendent.” The DPP, Mr. Wilson, noted that “there are other requirements set forth by law for homeschools in Kentucky” requiring “that all non-public schools be open for inspection by directors of pupil personal.” In response to his interpretation of the statutes governing private schools in Kentucky, he asked each homeschool family to make an appointment and meet with him to go over their documentation, and discuss their “success stories” for the year.

Having been alerted to the situation by one of our members, Connie Laffin called the DPP to discuss his “interpretation” of the law and how it should be applied. Even though he accepted the approach laid out in the Best Practices Document, he chose to emphasize his right to ask for documentation from each of the homeschools in his area. He understood the rest of the Best Practices Document, but he chose to take one portion out of context and apply it in a “blanket” fashion to all of the homeschools in his district. By the end of the conversation with Connie, Mr. Wilson remained unwilling to reexamine his interpretation of the law.

This was an unusual response. Most DPPs are willing to admit that they may have acted inappropriately. Generally, a friendly call to a DPP

from a local resident or from KHEA will “clear the air” and resolve the issue at hand. In this case, no headway was made. We don't expect to see Mr. Wilson pressure any more families to set up an appointment, since there are several HSLDA member families in the school district. We would advise all of our members in Ballard Co. to just let the situation lie as it is. You don't need to contact Mr. Wilson to set up a meeting. If he contacts you again, let us know and we will call him again to try to work things out

In general, what should you do if your DPP contacts you in an inappropriate manner or asks all homeschoolers in your area for documentation? It is important to not just think about your short-term response to your DPP. You also need to think about how your response will affect local homeschool families in the long term. Think about the situation from the DPPs perspective. If you were the DPP, you would like the local homeschool family to call you to discuss the situation. And you would rather have a friendly conversation with a KHEA board member than receive a letter from the lawyers at HSLDA.

We suggest that you do the neighborly thing. Contact your DPP yourself. Call KHEA and ask us to call the DPP. Save calling in HSLDA until being neighborly has proven ineffective. You will have to relate to your DPP for several years. Cultivate a working relationship with your DPP.

**NEW!!! JOIN KHEA'S ON-LINE FORUM.**

[www.khea.info/forum](http://www.khea.info/forum)

**This forum will replace our current KHEA MSN Group list. Our new webserver gives us expanded options for our forum. You'll really like it!**

**Need to join HSLDA?** (Home

School Legal Defense Association)

You can access an application online

at [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org). KHEA members

may use the KHEA discount number,

# 291057, to receive a \$20 discount on

HSLDA membership.



## Teen cruise

Home School Teens are cordially invited to attend a luncheon cruise on the Star of Louisville!

**When:** Monday, May 16th (boarding will begin at 11:00 am, the boat will cruise from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm).

**Where:** The Star of Louisville is docked in Jeffersonville, IN. (For directions, go to: [www.staroflouisville.com](http://www.staroflouisville.com)).

**Dress:** This is a dress-up event. Not anything formal, just dresses for young ladies and moms, ties for young men and fathers.

**Who:** This cruise is for those who are 13-19 years old. 11 & 12 year olds are allowed to come ONLY if they come with a group or "school" that sends chaperones. They must have finished at least 6th grade. Chaperones are needed, but younger siblings will not be allowed. I will need to be stricter on the age limit this year!

**How Much:** The cost of the cruise is \$23. This includes a buffet lunch and tea or coffee. This also includes tips for the servers and the DJ. (If you want to have soda, you can pay \$1.75 extra that day) The price is the same for students and chaperones. You can also bring money to purchase a picture. Last year they were \$6 each.

**How do I sign up and pay?:** Reservations need to be made with Marilyn McAloon. Checks should be written to her. Checks and a note as to how many are coming, ages, your group or area affiliation, and email address, need to be mailed to:

Marilyn McAloon, 4115 Suwanee Dr., La Grange, KY 40031

She will then send an email confirmation. This is your "receipt" and should be kept until the day of the cruise.

**When should I sign up?:** Now! Registration must be in by Saturday, May 7th. No late reservations will be accepted this year. I must give the count on Monday the 9th and I don't work on Sundays!

**What if I have more questions?:** If you have more questions, please email Marilyn McAloon at: [mrsms@insightbb.com](mailto:mrsms@insightbb.com) or call 241-1091. (I prefer email!)

## Focus on P.E. Work out the wiggles

### *Lexington facility offers PE for homeschoolers.*

The Pep Club of Lexington and the HIT center would like to offer the homeschool population of central Kentucky a group physical education program at their facility, The Omni Center, located at 261 Ruccio Way in Lexington (behind Meijer's off Reynold's Rd).

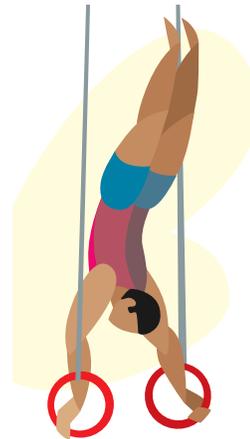
The 71,000-square-foot facility houses several gyms in which staff teaches dance, cheer-leading, tumbling, and gymnastics. In addition, the HIT Center trains any athlete of any age for any sport. They also house Kentucky's only PRO BATTER, a hi-tech video simulation pitching machine, one of only 38 in the world.

Many of the Club's coaches received their degrees in Education, and the Club is in the process of developing a regular weekly Phys. Ed. curriculum to offer to the home school population of central Kentucky.

They serve families in Fayette, Jessamine, Woodford, Scott, Clark, Bourbon, and Madison counties. "However many of our competitive athletes drive up to two hours to train at our facility," said Club Marketing Manager Christine Cohen. For more information, call Cohen at (859)278-4404.

### *Northern Kentucky Gym center targets homeschoolers*

Gymnastics is the foundation of all dry land sports. FunNastics Gymnastics is a non-competitive, fully equipped, gymnastics facility located in Northern Kentucky. Children will learn, strength, flexibility, and coordination, as well as skills on bars, beam, vault, floor, and tramp in a safe and fun environment. "We are also able to offer more convenient morning and afternoon times to homeschoolers," said Rene Reiter. Call her for more information at 859-426-7777.



### *National Homeschool Games in May*

The National Homeschool Games will be held May 19, through May 26, 2005, in Cocoa Beach Florida. The purpose is to provide a national platform for homeschool student/athletes to compete against other homeschool student/athletes. Most of the events are individual events but there will also be some small team events. Visit the event's website at <http://www.aseml6.com> to get more information.

### **Affiliated Support Groups and individual members...**

Please [contact](#) us if you have questions or have ideas for statewide events. We want to hear from you AND we want your involvement! Keep in touch and let us know how we can serve you. You can also call your area KHEA board representative and have us come speak to your affiliated group.

# Great Field Trips and More ...

**“Rollin’ On The River” Super Saturday at the KY Historical Society – Feb. 12 10:00 am-3:00 pm**

Come aboard for an exciting day of family fun as you voyage through the history of life on the river in Kentucky. There will be plenty of hands-on activities to enjoy. Explore the relationship between Kentuckians and their waterways in their latest exhibit called “A River Runs Through Us: The Rivers of Kentucky.” See a live museum theatre performance.

Super Saturdays are for kids ages 5-10 and their families. All activities take place at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort. For more info call 502-564-1792 or visit them on the web at <http://history.ky.gov>.

## Calling all Spelunkers!

In the center of the state, Kentucky has a wonderful resource, which many residents never explore. It is open year round and offers tours, expeditions, and information all at low, government-subsidized price. If you have not explored the Mammoth Cave area, then you are really missing out!

## Mammoth Cave National Park

Looking for a good, outdoor excursion or field trip that is in a climate controlled area? You are looking for a cave. Mammoth Cave is the most extensive known cave system in the world, with over 350 miles of passage-

*Continued next page*

## KHEA 7th Annual Support Group Leadership Seminar

### Preparing the Ground: Nurturing and Cultivating Support Group Leaders

**Saturday, February 12 in Hopkinsville  
Saturday, February 19 in Lexington**

Sharon Grimes, national homeschool speaker and support group columnist, is our featured speaker this year, and she will bring both practical and encouraging tips for you.

Attending KHEA Support Group Leadership Seminar is the best thing support group leaders can do to train and motivate their leadership team.

When your group’s leadership team is unified and knows where they are going, the whole school year will go better. By coming to the seminar now, and bringing new and emerging team leaders with you, your group will be better prepared for the challenges that will inevitably surface.

Bend your calendar! Leave the kids with Dad, a sitter, or someone from your support group and find the kind of encouragement you won’t find anywhere else!

Look for more information about the seminar on our website at <http://www.khea.info/events.html>

## New Online High School



There’s a new online resource for homeschoolers: Providence High School ([www.provhigh.com](http://www.provhigh.com) <http://www.provhigh.com/>).

Dr. Donna Johnson, with the facility, says:

“As an experienced teacher and home school mom, I know how some parents get intimidated when their children get to high school because they are not sure if they can handle all the curriculum needs of their children. That’s where Providence High School comes in. Our courses use nationally recognized textbooks with study guides that provide instruction through the texts.

“But what sets us apart from the average curriculum resources is that we offer (1) online testing, which gives students immediate feedback on their test results and a cumulative average, and (2) we provide student support for academic questions.

“Our faculty has Master’s degrees or above and they are proficient in their fields. Students can e-mail questions and expect an answer within 24 hours, or can request a phone conference if needed. Our courses are affordable (\$650 per year [4-5 courses]) and we offer easy, interest-free payment plans as well as family discounts.”

For more information call Johnson at 1-866PROVHI, or email her at [DrJohnson@provhigh.com](mailto:DrJohnson@provhigh.com).



Sharon Grimes

## Field Trips continued from pg. 6.

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ways mapped and surveyed. The National Park System offers a big selection of tours and excursions both above and below the ground. And here is the best part: The air in the cave stays a constant 57 degrees year round. So if it is windy and cold above ground, it is very comfortable in the cave below.

The Cave is located off of I-65. Tour offerings and schedules vary by season, so you need to plan ahead and visit the Mammoth Cave website for info at <http://www.nps.gov/macac>. This is one place you MUST buy your tickets ahead of time. If you wait to buy a tour ticket until you arrive at the park, you won't be able to get a place on a tour that day. This is such a popular place that the tours are generally sold out a day or two ahead. So make your reservations at <http://reservations.nps.gov/index.cfm>.

The tours are all good, but my children's favorites were the tours that took you off of the beaten path, allowing you to do some exploring in a small group accompanied by two guides. My kids loved the Trog Tour for ages 8-12, where they explored a small cave wearing safety helmets with a light attached. They even got to take the helmet home! The older set can book the Wild Cave tour and explore passages that must be climbed up or crawled through. There's nothing like getting dirty!

To receive an information packet call (270) 758-2180 or email: [MACA\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:MACA_Information@nps.gov). They also offer school tours and/or group rates.

### **Diamond Caverns**

This is a privately owned cave adjacent to the National Park. The tour is more commercial, but also more personal. Prices are a bit higher, but they do offer group rates. They have been actively seeking to set up tours with homeschoolers on school days. For info on Diamond Caverns call 270-749-2233 or check out their website at <http://www.diamondcaverns.com>.

### **Kentucky Down Under**

Kentucky Down Under hosts an Australian-themed animal park and beautiful, natural onyx cave.

Have you ever met a kangaroo? Ever played a didgeridoo? Ever fed a lorikeet? You could travel 9,500 miles to Australia to do these things, or just go to Kentucky Down Under. At most zoos, you walk around, see the animals in the cages, and read the signs to learn about the animals. At Kentucky Down Under, you actually get in the cages with the animals. Pretty fun!

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Kentucky Down Under has been actively seeking homeschool tour groups. They held a Homeschool Day this fall. For more information call 1-800-762-2869 or visit their website at <http://www.kdu.com>.

### ***Sigma Zeta's Kid's College at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY (near Lexington) – March 5***

Sigma Zeta is a national honor society for those majoring in math and the sciences. Asbury's chapter is hosting Kid's College – a program for the homeschooled students in the area. The program includes chemistry, biology and hands-on activities and demonstrations. This year's Kid's College will be held on Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am-1:00 pm on the Asbury campus. They also welcome homeschool students who live outside the Lexington area.

They invite all students K-8 to participate. Call Carol Baker at 859-858-3511 x 2230 to sign up by no later than March 3. They also have a separate program set up for homeschooled high school students, although that program is not taking place on March 5<sup>th</sup>. For info on the high school program call Ann Witherington at 859- 858-3511 x2360.

*Editor's note: Most Colleges and Universities host special programs for elementary through high school students. Homeschoolers are usually welcome in those programs. Contact your local college or university for information about this type of programming.*

### ***Kudos to the Barren River Home School Association***

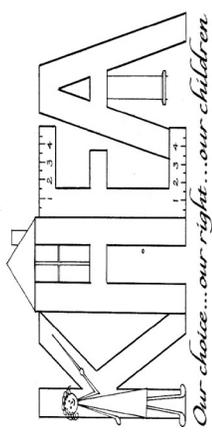
BRHSA attended our Support Group Leader's Seminar last year. During the seminar entitled "ABCs of Public Relations," they became inspired, going home with the resolve to generate positive PR in their community. BRHSA, located in Bowling Green, formed strong relationships with both their local newspaper, the *Daily News*, and with the local ABC affiliate (WBKO).

Since May, a month has not gone by without the general public being exposed to news about the local homeschool group. They have been the subjects of at least four television reports – most of them aired prime time. They've also garnered at least four feature articles in the *Daily News*. The latest article, "How is that spelled?" featured the group's spelling bee. It ran with two adorable pictures and took up a full half page.

And the local public relations campaign didn't end there. Suddenly interested in homeschooling, WBKO has also run more segments about a neighboring homeschool support group.

Kudos to BRSHA. Your actions have changed how your community views homeschooling and have inspired us all. - **Connie Laffin**.

# In this issue of the



## Newsletter:

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- News from around the state
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  - Great Field trips
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