



Blessings of the Seasons

On Saturday, December 18 dangerous conditions in the wake of a major winter storm dropped heavy snow over our City and left thousands without the basic necessities of electricity. Imagine the impact on the community.

This was the week before Christmas. December 25, was nearing and people in our City and people around the world was preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas has many traditions and symbols related to the holiday. Family and friends gather together to celebrate by giving gifts and children may be thanking Santa Claus for new toys.

Families realized the true meaning of togetherness for the holidays. The week before Christmas and there is no power to light the trees and decorations. The old saying roasting chestnuts by the open fire gave new meaning to many. You never know how much you miss the basic need for something until you don't have it.

One story I keep hearing is "we were all standing in the dark and when the lights came back on it was like a celebration." A small hang up became a blessing.

A local Church held their annual Christmas play on December 27, 2009, yes a few days after Christmas, but the first day the children and families had the luxury of electricity. As I sat there and read the theme of the play my thoughts immediately related back to the

week as the one night of the year came and went, but all blessings were delivered in good time. If you celebrate Christmas, what are your traditions on this day? How do your relatives and friends celebrate the holiday? By going to church? Decorating a Christmas tree? Eating massive amounts of turkey or pie? Christmas 2009 all was blessed and with only a few hang ups to remember.



Christmas "Hang Ups"
Taylor Bevins, Bronna Ray,
Matt Ray and Nelonna Branham

Did You Know.....2010 Tax Rates Information

Its time to start thinking about your finances for 2010. As most of you know or have seen the tax rates for the new year have been changed. The IRS announced that the tax rate brackets and various tax benefits will remain unchanged or change only slightly in 2010 due to inflation. Key provisions affecting 2010 returns, filed by most taxpayers in 2011 include the following:

- *The value of each personal and dependency exemption available to most taxpayers is \$3,650, unchanged from 2009.
- * The new standard deduction for heads of household is \$8,400, up from \$8,350 in 2009.

- * The standard deduction remains unchanged at \$11,400 for married couples filing a joint return and \$5,700 for singles and married individuals filing separately. Nearly two out of three taxpayers take the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions, such as mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and state and local taxes, the IRS said in a statement.
- * Various tax bracket thresholds will see minor adjustments. For example, for a married couple filing a joint return the taxable income threshold separating the 15 percent bracket from the 25 percent bracket is \$68,000, up from \$67,900 in 2009.
- * The annual gift tax exclusion

remains unchanged at \$13,000. By law, the dollar amounts for a variety of tax provisions must be revised each year to keep pace with inflation. As a result, more than three dozen tax benefits are subject to inflation adjustments each year, but because recent inflation factors have been minimal.

For more information on the 2010 Tax Rates, or to view the Tax Tables, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/n1036.pdf?portlet=7>.

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Congratulations, Detective Sue Hayes



Sue just celebrated 25 years (12/03/1984) with the Pikeville Police Department. The Police Department would like to congratulate her for her hard work and dedication.

City of Pikeville— New Hires

Lloyd Nichols— Dispatch
Melissa Shouse— Dispatch
Nicholas Potter— Firefighter/EMT
Kevin Fox— Firefighter/EMT
Brenton Tackett—Firefighter/ EMT



Continuing to Serve our Citizens



Beginning, January 4, 2010 the City of Pikeville began offering a new feature to the City of Pikeville website. The new online solution will provide better control of the recreation programs and provide citizens with more available services. Residents do not need to add in house hardware or software. Access to the application is available with a standard web browser.

The Garfield Community Center, Tommy Hall Training Center, City Park and Shelters at the Bob Amos Park will all be available to reserve online. The new application provides online viewing of the facility listings with pictures and descriptions.

A scheduling calendar for each facility; by time segments, which are different based on the facility, and the locations shows availability so citizens may view different dates for easier planning of events. Some facilities require rental fees and deposits, the online reservation application allows citizens to complete the booking and process the fees through the secure on line bill pay system. Please visit the City of Pikeville website at www.cityofpikeville.com for more details.

