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briefs

Brown ends bid for papers

Times Staff Report

The Floyd County Times and 22 other newspapers will remain part of Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. after Ohio-based Brown Publishing Company dropped its bid to purchase them.

Birmingham, Ala.-based CNHI announced Wednesday that the anticipated sale of the newspapers has been canceled. A statement released by CNHI said the companies could not come to successful terms on the agreement and no further discussions are expected.

The affected newspapers include 11 dailies and 12 non-dailies with a total distribution of 250,000 households.

In addition to The Times, other Kentucky newspapers which would have been affected by the sale were The Hazard Herald, Harlan Daily Enterprise, Middlesboro Daily News, The Grayson County Times of Leitchfield and the News-Democrat and Leader of Russellville.

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today Partly cloudy High: 78 • Low: 58

Tomorrow Scattered storms High: 74 • Low: 45

For up-to-the-minute forecasts, see floydcountytimes.com

Divided board approves school plan

by KATHY J. PRATER FEATURES EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — "Confusion" seemed to be the key word of the evening at Thursday's special-called Floyd County Board of Education meeting as board members, two Local Planning Committee

members and only a handful of others appeared to witness the final decision surrounding the LPC's controversial district facility plan.

George Dundon, described by Floyd County Supt. Paul Fanning as "a representative from the facilities section" of the Kentucky Department of Education, was

present to conduct a brief meeting, prior to the special-called board meeting, in which board members Earl M. "Mickey" McGuire, district 1, Dr. Chandra Varia, district 2, and Carol Stumbo, district 4, were each given an opportunity to share their opinions of the plan and some of the issues related to it that were contributing to

the reigning controversy among board members.

McGuire, first to speak, informed Dundon that he, along with many members of the district 1 community, felt that Prestonsburg Elementary had not been

(See PLAN, page plan)

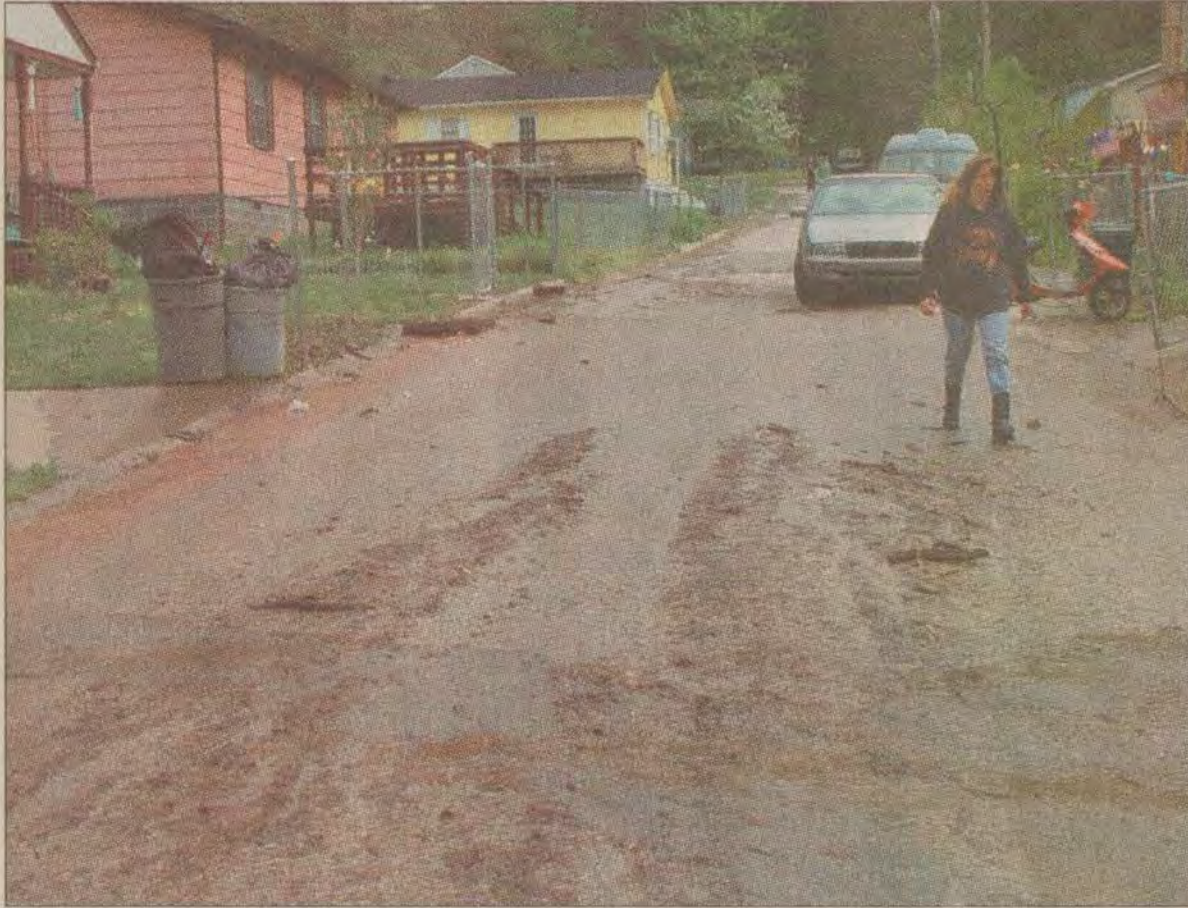


photo by Loretta Blackburn

Cindy Shepherd walks out of School House Hollow, in David, in the boots she is accustomed to wearing to stay dry in the nearly constant running water that flows from stopped up storm drains.

David residents fed up with long history of road troubles

by LORETTA BLACKBURN STAFF WRITER

DAVID — The citizens at School House Hollow are mad about a road condition that they say they have complained about for years to no avail.

The rain on Thursday left the road in this small hollow, that holds approximately 20 houses, in a state of disrepair, as stopped up drainage pipes leave no exit except the road for the continuous flow of water. This is not a new problem, say community members, who vented their frustration about the many phone calls to various orga-

nizations throughout the years.

Betty Prater admitted that Prestonsburg City Utilities did come to fix her water lines after she took them photographs to prove the need and they did fix the road where they excavated to work on the lines, but the gravel only washed down into the storm drains to further complicate the problem.

Voicing agitation about her children having to walk in the water to catch the school bus, Judy Shepherd added that she had to replace a basement wall last year because of the problem.

Three of the residents require wheelchairs, while a fourth one

needs one periodically and they say they can't even take themselves to the post office as they once did.

The residents expressed adamant agitation toward their magistrate, Jackie Edford Owens, for not having the road fixed.

"He said that if we voted for him, he would fix this," said Nancy Bieger.

Owens could not be reached for comment at press time.

The group said that nearby Fisher Hollow had been repaired, but no one had attempted to tackle

(See ROAD, page three)

Jail budget falls dead in court again

Jailer says fiscal crisis only deepened by drug roundup

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County Fiscal Court's second look at the 2003-2004 jail budget proposal was like instant replay for Floyd Jailer Roger Webb Friday afternoon.

Despite a lengthy line of defense on the part of the jailer, during which he again stressed that the financial

shortfalls of the jail were the product of increasing crime within the county, a motion to accept the proposal from Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson fell dead without a single vote of approval.

In fact, later in the meeting, Thompson was again faced with a silent panel even in making a motion to hire new employees at the jail.

(See JAIL, page seven)

Industrial site deal may be month away

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Members of the Floyd County Fiscal Court agreed to have Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson formally extend finalization on a lease agreement that could prove to be a lucrative sale of an industrial site at Ivel, during their regular meeting Friday morning.

Court members considered a one-month extension to begin leasing the Ivel indus-

trial site to Appalachian Wireless Friday, needing the time to make a right-of-way purchase from landowners near the site.

According to fiscal court records, the section of land in question is deeded to Marshall and Robert Davidson and Derek and Debbie Hicks.

Both parties have agreed to sell the parcel of land to the county for \$7,500, but the

(See DEAL, page three)

Tainted meat stopped before reaching festival

by TRACY REYNOLDS HAZARD HERALD

CORBIN — Over 200 pounds of illegally processed and stored sirloin steak was discovered Tuesday inside an unrefrigerated warehouse in Corbin, with most of the meat seized before it reached Pikeville's annual Hillbilly Days festival.

"This could have potentially caused a huge food-borne illness outbreak," said Deborah Brown, a Whitley County environmentalist who discovered — and immediately quarantined — a large quantity of the meat

April 8. "Our first priority is to protect the public's health."

Brown, who works at the Whitley County Health Department in Williamsburg, stated that she was alerted to the stockpile after receiving an anonymous phone tip at her office; the caller reportedly told Brown that several men had been observed moving meat in and out of a storage building located on the lot of Pier Rental and Storage in Corbin, a structure that is not equipped for food storage.

(See MEAT, page seven)



photo by Loretta Blackburn

After being robbed of \$74 on Monday, 82-year-old May Hamilton, of Allen, sat in this chair from 11 p.m. to approximately 7 a.m. with a broken hip when she finally felt it was safe to cry for help.

8 hours of fear

Woman spends night terrified of robber's return

by LORETTA BLACKBURN STAFF WRITER

ALLEN — Resting in her bed as she recovered from a broken hip on Monday, 82-year-old May Hamilton was bewildered by the events that happened next.

Startled by the sound of her front door being kicked in, Hamilton was lying in her bed at approximately 11 p.m. Monday night,

(See FEAR, page seven)

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Odds and Ends

■ **LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** — A 40-foot-long replica of the human colon is winding its way through Little Rock to educate people on the dangers of colon cancer.

The "Colossal Colon" is designed for children and adults to crawl through, and allows visitors to see different stages of the disease, from polyps to full-blown cancer.

Part of the National Cancer Education Tour, the exhibit was created in honor of Amanda Sherwood Roberts, who died from the disease last year.

Organizers hope that the exhibit will get people thinking about a part of the body that is usually not discussed.

"We're trying to educate as many people as we can so nobody has to go through what we had to go through," said Amanda's father, Bernie Sherwood.

■ **SCOTIA, N.Y.** — When Benedict "Bennie" Barta told his mother that he had won \$5 million in the state's instant lottery, she told him to go rake the lawn.

"She didn't believe me, even after I showed her the

confirmation from Lottery officials," the 47-year-old man said.

Now, Barta won't have to rake another lawn, unless he wants to.

As the winner of Lottery's \$10 Instant Game on Sunday, Barta will receive \$165,000 a year for life, lottery officials said.

"It still hasn't sunk in yet," he said on Wednesday.

Other than speaking with a lawyer and an accountant, he said his life hasn't changed too much.

He plans to pay off his bills and those of his loved ones. He'll also take care of his elderly mother, whom he visits twice a day.

Barta plans an early retirement from his job of the last 25 years as a heavy equipment operator for the town of Glenville's highway department.

■ **HARRISBURG, Pa.** — A 20-inch bird that survived a six-day, 850-mile road trip in the hollow of a minivan bumper has a new name and a new home.

The odyssey of the white Florida egret began last week

near Orlando, Fla., when Doug Marsico and his wife were taking their 3-year-old son to Disney World. Their minivan hit the flying egret, sucking it beneath the bumper.

"We heard a thud, then saw feathers flying," Marsico said. "I thought we killed it."

Harry Clark, Marsico's father-in-law, was the first to hear a noise under the front bumper when the family returned to their Mechanicsburg home.

When he heard the noise again Wednesday, he crawled under the minivan, where he saw feathers and a wing.

The bird eventually made enough noise that Marsico took his minivan to a body shop where employee Butch Lockey removed the hungry, irritable bird.

The egret, which has a 4-inch yellow beak and a buff orange crest, breast and shoulders, suffered a broken leg during the ordeal. The bird was placed with the Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue to recuperate.

■ **DENVER** — Land is too scarce and expensive for a cemetery in Vail, the nation's

most popular ski town. A virtual cemetery may be the answer.

Several efforts to build a cemetery in the mountain town have been defeated, with opponents saying there wasn't enough room and it didn't fit the resort's image. Supporters said Vail would never be a real town until it offered a final resting place for residents.

Town Council member Diana Donovan, a resident

nearly since Vail was created in 1962, said she supports a plan for a memorial park, where inscriptions could be placed on boulders and stone benches in memory of the departed. Ashes could be buried in urns or scattered over the scenic area.

The park would be within the means of anyone from a waiter to the rich guests that frequent the slopes.

Donovan said there just

isn't enough room for a full-fledged cemetery. The town has struggled to find space for housing for employees in the narrow mountain valley where most land is held by the U.S. Forest Service and the average cost of a condo is about \$500,000.

The Town Council voted unanimously to send the memorial park proposal to its planning staff for review.

Researcher from Prestonsburg installed as pharmacy organization president

by MARK HENDRICKS
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

AMARILLO, Texas — Dr. David Allen, an associate professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences center School of Pharmacy, has been installed as president of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists for 2003. Dr. Allen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David D. Allen of Prestonsburg.

Dr. Allen, who joined TSHP in 1996, said he was shocked when he heard the news.

"I ran against someone who

has been in TSHP a long time and was a past TSHP Distinguished Service Award winner," Dr. Allen said. "Besides shock, I was extremely honored and humbled to have been elected. It's truly the high point of my professional career."

TSHP, an affiliate chapter of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, represents institutional and organized health care pharmacy practice in Texas. Its members include pharmacists, technicians, industry representatives and other

health care professionals whose goal is to optimize pharmacy practice for the public's benefit. Pharmacy researchers like Dr. Allen are seldom members of TSHP, especially when they aren't practicing pharmacists; it is rarer still for a scientist to be elected the organization's president.

"I was nominated by two individuals and I also submitted my name and credentials to the Chair of the Nominations Committee," Dr. Allen explained. "Most people who are focused on basic scientific research are not involved in pharmacy organizations whether they are pharmacists or not. Clearly, non-pharmacists would generally not be members of TSHP unless they are in sales or in the pharmaceutical industry. However as a pharmacist, I feel a strong commitment to the profession and the only way I could continue to stay involved and close to practice issues was to get involved in TSHP."

"My job here at Texas Tech focuses on teaching and research and not practice. I didn't want to lose that connection. TSHP provides that."

Dr. Allen says his passion for the pharmacy profession, combined with his six years of experience as a member of TSHP's board of directors, will help him accomplish certain goals for the organization.

"I have three main objectives," Dr. Allen said. "The first is to increase membership. I've appointed a membership committee that is made up of past-presidents of TSHP, young practitioners and students. They have put together an aggressive plan to target membership. Second, I want to identify and secure new revenue streams and establish and grow our current revenue streams. It's a difficult economic time and TSHP feels that as well. And third, I want to

(See **PRESIDENT**, page three)

ARC chief says agency will continue to help region, despite cuts

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The new chairwoman of the Appalachian Regional Commission says the agency will continue to support economic development efforts in the 13-state region, despite a potential \$33 million budget cut.

Anne Pope said projects she saw during a two-day tour of southern West Virginia are good examples of what communities can accomplish with outside help.

Pope spent Wednesday and Thursday touring a water project in Boone County, a fish hatchery in Logan County and a wood products facility in Mingo County.

"It has been a wonderful and great experience to see what local community leaders have done to diversify their economies," she said. "It's been good to see where local, private and state and federal authorities

come together."

Pope said community leaders are the key "to find projects that will make the most difference and see that they work."

Appalachia was defined by Congress in 1965 as the swath of land between New York and Mississippi with high unemployment, low per capita income and rampant poverty. Appalachian states are Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

West Virginia is the only state entirely within Appalachia.

"I wanted to get down here to West Virginia," said Pope, who was sworn in as ARC chairwoman in February. "I'm visiting all 13 states in the Appalachian region, and I wanted West Virginia to be at the top of the list."

The ARC has supported water and sewer improvements, industrial park construction, educational initiatives, tourism development and many other projects in the past five years,

usually in partnership with state and local governments.

The Bush administration has proposed a 50 percent cut in the ARC's nonhighway funding for such projects, from \$66 million this year to \$33 million in fiscal year 2004.

"I certainly recognize the budget process is a long one," Pope said. "Whatever resources we get, we'll use the best we can to try to help people in the region."

Highways, which would receive \$450 million in fiscal year 2004, will remain a top priority, she said.

"The linchpin of the Appalachian Regional Commission mission is to get the highway built," she said.

Another priority is improving Internet access and other high technology in the region.

"While I think in years past, the communities in the Appalachian region were left behind while highways were built in other communities, that's something we don't want to have happen in the information highway," Pope said.

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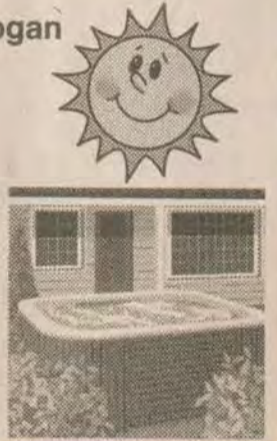
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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Easter Sunday, April 20, the 110th day of 2003. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 20, 1971, the Supreme Court upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in schools.

On this date:

■ In 1812, the fourth vice president of the United States, George Clinton, died in Washington at age 73, becoming the first vice president to die while in office.

■ In 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin was established by Congress.

■ In 1889, Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau, Austria.

■ In 1940, RCA publicly demonstrated its new and powerful electron microscope.

■ In 1945, during World War II, allied forces took control of the German cities of Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

■ In 1968, Pierre Elliott Trudeau was sworn in as prime minister of Canada.

■ In 1972, the manned lunar module from Apollo 16 landed on the moon.

■ In 1978, a Korean Air Lines Boeing 707 crash-landed in northwestern Russia after

being fired on by a Soviet interceptor after entering Soviet airspace. Two passengers were killed.

■ In 1980, the first Cubans sailing to the United States as part of the massive Mariel boatlift reached Florida.

■ In 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Littleton, Colo., as students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

Ten years ago:

President Clinton told a news conference he accepted responsibility for the decision to try to end the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Texas, but said David Koresh bore "ultimate responsibility" for the deaths that resulted. Mexican comedian Cantinflas died in Mexico City at age 81.

Five years ago:

In an unusual use of a racketeering law designed to fight the mob, a federal jury in Chicago ruled that anti-abortion protest organizers had used threats and violence to shut down clinics. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in February 2003 that federal racketeering and extortion laws were wrongly used to try to stop blockades, harassment and violent protests

outside clinics.) A Boeing 727 leased to Air France crashed in Bogota, Colombia, killing all 53 people aboard.

One year ago:

Representatives of the Group of Seven countries, meeting in Washington, agreed to intensify efforts to combat terrorist financing and also adopted a plan to better deal with international debt crises.

Today's Birthdays:

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is 83. Actress Nina Foch is 79. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 64. Actor George Takei is 63. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 62. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 55. Actress Jessica Lange is 54. Singer Luther Vandross is 52. Actor Clint Howard is 44. Actor Crispin Glover is 39. Country singer Wade Hayes is 34. Actor Shemar Moore is 33. Rock musician Mikey Welsh is 32. Actress Carmen Electra is 31. Actor Joseph Lawrence is 27.

Thought for Today:

"Life is made up of desires that seem big and vital one minute, and little and absurd the next. I guess we get what's best for us in the end." — Alice Caldwell Rice, American humorist (1870-1942).

Court to consider deal to maintain trucks

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The county is currently operating on the "tightest" budget possible, Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson said Friday.

The truthfulness of this statement was never more apparent than during the fiscal court's Friday meeting, where court officials struggled with several plans, all of which are aimed at saving the county on costs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Thompson and his magistrates spent a good deal of time listening to a pitch from Worldwide Equipment CEO Terry Dotson that would, according to Dotson, save the county several thousand dollars in cost and maintenance to vehicles in the next year.

Dotson brought what he said would be a plan "good for county government" to the table, offering to let Floyd County take advantage of what surrounding counties, such as neighboring Johnson, have already agreed to.

The plan would involve taking county dump trucks, worth

about \$100,000 each, from Worldwide through auctions where the trucks are generally sold for far higher than what it would initially cost.

Dotson told court members there would be "no cash up front" for the deal and that, pending the vehicle was resold through an auction, the total yearly costs for the county would only be roughly \$200. Additionally, the deal would find the county only paying for oil and lube jobs for the vehicle during the course of the year. All

other maintenance would be provided cost-free, something Thompson said was clearly appealing.

Spearheaded by questioning from Magistrate Jackie Edford Owens, the fiscal court, unsure about the exact workings of the deal which Dotson said has been effective for nearly a decade in other counties, Worldwide's presentation did not elicit immediate agreement from the full court. Instead, the county has agreed to review the offer.

"We're going to see what our

trucks are worth," Thompson said. "But I think it sounds like a pretty good deal and I hope the magistrates will take a thorough look and review it because we're not going to be out any maintenance."

The need to crunch numbers continued during the course of the meeting when the fiscal court opened bids from prospective timber companies hoping to win rights to timber Garth land-fill on behalf of the county.

(See MAINTAIN, page seven)

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Deal

Continued from p1

move will force a one-month extension and put a hold on the county's plans to utilize the site to attract industry.

Appalachian Wireless controller Michael Huffman gave the fiscal court assurance in December that a deal to purchase the site could be struck in the near future. It was during this time when officials were just beginning to apply for certification to ensure plans could move ahead to take advantage of a statewide program for counties to attract businesses by upgrading locations.

At the time, the county was offering to lease the development site to Appalachian Wireless for an initial fee of \$5,000 for 90 days, with an option to buy the site outright for \$330,000.

Thompson has said in the past that he and the fiscal court hope the deal with Appalachian Wireless could attract other businesses to locate at the site, adding that the one-month wait should not affect any future plans.

"It's not going to change anything," Thompson said. "They [Appalachian Wireless] are eager to see everything get started."

Huffman said in December that Appalachian Wireless hopes to set up a headquarters, a warehouse and a call center.

Road

Continued from p1

the rutted and cracked School House Hollow that now resembles a budding creek.

Gracie Burchett said that she had complained for nearly four years in an attempt to get something done with the road and was tired of having to drive her children through the water.

"If they can't fix the road, ask them if they could at least send us a boat," said Burchett.

President

Continued from p2

improve affiliate chapter relations between TSHP and our local affiliates. Relations are good now but they can better. TSHP needs to do a better job of working with our affiliates and responding to their individual needs."

Dr. Allen said TSHP is making a transition from using an organization management company to becoming an organization that uses its own executive director management model. Making that transformation a smooth one will also be one of his responsibilities.

"Our new executive director started part-time during the TSHP meeting in April and he starts full-time on June 2," Dr. Allen said. "That means this transition will take place during the first quarter of my term as president. It's going to be a busy but exciting time for the organization."

Mark Hendricks is Communications Coordinator for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Amarillo.

expression

Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of [achieving] a free society.

— Felix Frankfurter

GuestView

Cutting waste won't get whole job done

A recent audit of the state's Medicaid program found that \$1.8 million in health benefits were paid to people who are dead.

Such negligence is difficult to accept under any circumstances. It's even tougher to swallow at a time when \$250 million has been cut from Medicaid spending and another \$170 million shortfall is expected over the next two years.

But it's important that Kentuckians look past their initial anger and disbelief and stay focused on the bigger picture ahead — that the future of Medicaid is in great danger, and it has little to do with how the program is administered.

State Auditor Ed Hatchett commissioned the study, which found that between 1996 and 2001, \$1.5 million in benefits were paid out to the deceased. A separate audit, looking at transactions between July 2001 and June 2002, found another \$363,000 in such payments.

The audits will be ammunition for those leaders who use the "waste, fraud and abuse" approach as an excuse for their refusal to make tough decisions.

Consider this quote from Hatchett: "The sort of attention to detail that is lacking in the services that our audit studied can make the difference between whether Medicaid does what we want it to or not," he told The Associated Press.

Hatchett's work shouldn't be diminished. It's important that such mistakes are identified and corrected, because doing so helps restore the public's faith in government. It also makes it easier for the public to accept the demands for additional revenue if they believe what money is available is being managed properly.

But Hatchett's words are terribly misleading. He makes it seem as if better oversight of Medicaid will somehow wipe away the program's need for more money. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The \$1.8 million over a six-year period given to the deceased represents slightly more than 1 percent of the deficit Medicaid will face over the next two years. For the year 2002 alone, Medicaid totaled \$3 billion in transactions, while the average yearly payment mistakenly made to the dead was \$300,000 — far less than 1 percent of total dollars paid out.

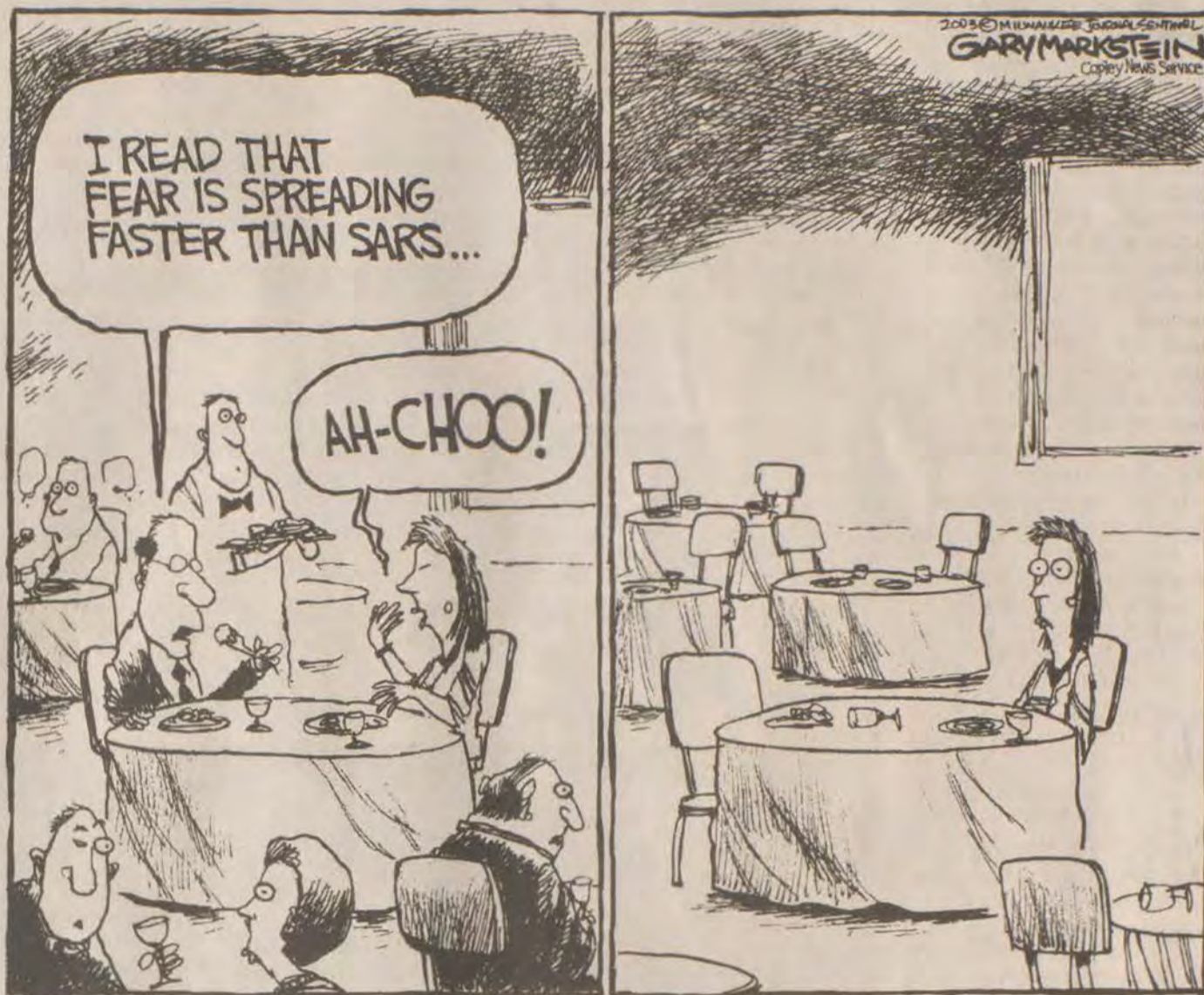
So, if estimates hold true, every payment to the deceased could be eliminated, and Kentucky's Medicaid program would still face a two-year deficit of \$169.4 million.

The truth is, the system is nearly bankrupt. U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, a Hopkinsville Republican and hardly an advocate for greater government spending, said as much last week.

That's an incredibly dangerous scenario. Medicaid provides health care coverage for more than 600,000 low-income people. When cuts are made, it not only leaves many of these people without coverage, it also affects adult day care, mental health, nursing homes, ambulance services, local health departments and numerous other health-related areas.

Ensuring that Medicaid remains a viable option will be one of Kentucky's toughest challenges in coming years, and it shouldn't be written off as simply a matter of eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.

— Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro



— Jim Davidson

Boy! Did I hit a nerve!

One of the pitfalls of probing around on a live human body, especially if it's not our own, is that if we are not careful we will hit a nerve. And boy! Did I ever hit one with my comments in a recent column titled, "We should avoid positive thinking like a plague."

When this column ran in the Benton County Daily Record in Bentonville, Ark., I got a letter the following week from a reader who greeted me and then said, "When your fine column appears in our local paper, Mary and I sit down at breakfast, and with a second cup of coffee she reads it out loud and we discuss it."

This reader, whose name is Don, goes on to tell me how much he disagreed with me and that he could not believe these were my real views on positive thinking.

I wrote back to tell him that we were not that far apart and that we were just viewing this subject from two different perspectives. The reason I am sharing this is because I feel that many of you share his feelings and with your permission I would like to set the record straight.

As you know, the three rules of communication are "be clear, be clear and be clear." The real issue here for me is not that someone disagrees with me, or even that I may be wrong, but that I did not do

a good job of expressing myself and was misunderstood.

Please be assured that I was not attacking "positive thinking" as a philosophy but rather how many people in our society use it at the operational level. This true story will illustrate what I am saying.

Several years ago a seminary student had a personal ministry of going to the local Children's Hospital to be with young terminal cancer patients in the final hours before they died. During this time he had gotten to know a young girl who was beautiful both inside and out and over the past several months she had both legs and one arm amputated.

The night before she was to have the final arm amputated her mother came into the hospital room with a copy of Norman Vincent Peale's book, "The Power Of Positive Thinking" to read to her. When she did, the girl started to cry. Her mother said, "What are you crying about?" She said, "Because Mother you don't know how to live and you won't let me die."

This seminary student said it was one of the most painful ordeals of his life and he spent a lot of time trying to think this through. This is something all of us should do even with our most cherished beliefs.

Because of the way God made us, we human beings can do a lot of things. There are however a lot of things I know

I can't do and all the positive thinking in the world won't change that.

Here is an example of what I am saying. A few days ago I was playing golf with two of my friends. While looking for a ball out of bounds I drove the cart into some high weeds and didn't see a deep rut until it was too late. The cart got stuck on high center and would not move even though the wheels were still turning. I got out and with all my strength tried to push it off, but to no avail.

Here is my point. All the positive thinking in the world would not have changed that. It was not until my two friends came and with a mighty "heave, ho" did the cart begin to move.

While positive thinking and expecting the best is a great way to live, we must also understand our limitations and always strive to keep things in the proper perspective. If we can redefine positive thinking to mean, never evading reality, never kidding ourselves of how bad things are, and what the requirements are to make it, and never deluding ourselves as to what truth is, and to remind ourselves that we can do anything so long as it is within the realm of truth, then it will be embraced and always have my blessings.

Jim Davidson is a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist. You may contact him at 2 Bentley Drive, Conway, AR 72034.



— beyond the beltway

War obscures other foolishness

by DONALD KAUL

The fog of war obscures more than just the battlefield. It is a smoke screen for almost everything else happening in society.

For example, while the nation's attention was riveted on Iraq, the issue of affirmative action tip-toed onstage and hardly anybody noticed. The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on the University of Michigan's affirmative action program, which consciously tilts a bit toward African-American, Hispanic and Native American applicants. (The university has a complex point system to rate applicants; being a member of one of the listed minorities gets you 20 points out of a possible 150.)

Opponents of the plan argue that the plan discriminates against white and Asian-American applicants, allowing less-qualified individuals to take their places at the highly selective, prestigious university. It is, they say, racial discrimination pure and simple and it is wrong.

Supporters of the plan say that because of the racial discrimination that

has existed and still exists in society, affirmative action is necessary as a counter-balance. It is not fair to expect even a bright youngster from an inadequate school, for example, to score as well as a person of similar intelligence who has had the benefit of an excellent high school education. To do away affirmative action, they say, is to relegate minorities — who are disproportionately sentenced to terrible public schools — to token status at the nation's best colleges, where our future leaders are formed.

I find both arguments compelling. I don't scoff at the sense of injustice felt by a student, no matter how white he or she is, who is rejected by the college of his or her dreams while someone of perhaps lesser accomplishments is given what he or she sees as a free pass.

I do snicker a little, though. African-Americans have gone through 300 years of chattel slavery, nearly 100 years of legalized segregation and 50 more of segregation by custom and NOW white people are saying that we should have a "color-blind" society? NOW they want a "level playing field?" Gimme a break.

It was not entirely clear from the way

the arguments went, which way the Court is going to decide this. Briefs supporting Michigan's position were presented by 24 states and territories, about 70 Fortune 500 companies, virtually all of the nation's 3,900 accredited colleges and universities as well as a group of retired high-ranking military officers, some of them former superintendents of our military academies.

The Bush administration argued against it, pretty much confirming my belief that supporting it was the right thing to do.

I always expect the worst from the Supreme Court and usually get it. Maybe this time it'll surprise me.

The business of government has gone on, as usual, during the war. Despite a finding by federal regulators

that California electricity and natural gas prices were driven higher by illegal market manipulation by energy companies during the state's 2000-2001 energy crisis, President Bush's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission signaled that it would not overturn the artificially inflated long-term power contracts the state was forced to sign at the time. That should teach the state not to vote for people like Al Gore.



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P.O. BOX 869,
HAZARD, KY. 41702
Phone: (606) 436-5771
Toll-free: (800) 880-4107
Fax: (606) 436-3140
hazardherald@setel.com

263 SOUTH CENTRAL AVE.
PRESTONSBURG, KY. 41653
Phone: (606) 886-8506
Toll-free: (888) 450-6397
Fax: (606) 886-3603
web@floydcountytimes.com

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Rod Collins, Publisher
publisher@floydcountytimes.com

Editorial

web@floydcountytimes.com

Ralph B. Davis, Managing Editor
Steve LeMaster, Sports Editor
Kathy Prater, Features Editor

Advertising

advertising@floydcountytimes.com

Kim Frasure, Advertising Manager
Rita Brock, Edu. and Special Sections

Composing

composing@floydcountytimes.com

Heath Wiley, Composing Director

Classifieds

Tammy Conn, Classified Manager

Accounting

David Bowyer, Business Manager

Faith Extra

Leading scientist defends the Exodus account

by RICHARD N. OSTLING
AP RELIGION WRITER

A British scientist is making two claims about Jewish history this Passover season that could surely spark discussion over the Seder meal.

Colin J. Humphreys of Cambridge University has concluded that science backs traditional beliefs that the Israelites' exodus from Egypt was led by Moses pretty much the way the Bible and the Haggadah ritual tell it.

He also says that Mount

Sinai, where Scripture says Moses received God's Law, is located in Saudi Arabia, not Egypt's Sinai Peninsula — moving a key site for Judaism into the nation where Islam was founded.

Humphreys' theories come at a time when his close, literal reading of the Book of Exodus is far out of fashion among Conservative and Reform Jews, though it may be welcomed by Orthodox Jews and conservative Christians.

He details his ideas in a readable new book, "The Miracles

of Exodus: A Scientist's Discovery of the Extraordinary Natural Causes of the Biblical Stories" (HarperSanFrancisco).

The 61-year-old academic brings a solid intellectual reputation in his own fields of physics and materials science to the table, though admittedly amateur status in archaeology and Bible scholarship.

Humphreys doesn't feel his lack of expertise is a problem: He believes it gives him an open mind. "I am not preconditioned to accept standard interpretations," he says.

Other scholars have proposed that Sinai was in Arabia.

But Humphreys' claim is distinct because he reckons the holy mount must have been an active volcano, since it shook and emitted fire and smoke (Exodus 19:18). And he has carefully examined records ancient and modern to fix the site.

His candidate: Present-day Mount Bedr in northwestern Saudi Arabia, since there were no ancient volcanoes in what was later named the Sinai Peninsula.

Humphreys also thinks that near Mount Bedr, Moses experienced God's call at the "burning bush." He suggests the mysterious phenomenon was caused by flammable natural gas or volcanic gas escaping from a small vent in the ground.

Such conclusions are typical of Humphreys' effort to read the Book of Exodus as literally as possible and search for scientific explanations of what's recorded there.

The approach is out of step with Reform and Conservative Bible commentaries. And Jewish archaeologists such as William Dever, from the University of Arizona, and Israel Finkelstein, at Tel Aviv University, treat the exodus story as inspiring national fiction rather than history.

Dever's new "Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did they Come From?" (Eerdman's) says that, while the Exodus story "may rest on some historical foundations, however minimal," the Israelites didn't develop — at least not primarily — from a people fleeing Egypt.

One reason for Dever's doubts is that there's no hard evidence for the 40 years of wandering in the Sinai wilderness. But if Humphreys is right,

archaeologists have looked in the wrong nation. Others offer circumstantial arguments, saying the odds are slim for finding 3,000-year-old remains from vagabonds.

A churchgoing Baptist, Humphreys insists he was fully prepared to find biblical mistakes and signs that the exodus story was written many centuries after the events, as scholars like Dever believe.

The Book of Exodus obviously underwent later editing, Humphreys concluded, but the evidence strongly suggests eyewitness material that might well come from Moses himself. The book is "amazingly accurate and coherent," he asserts, and all those mind-boggling events happened as the Bible reports.

Some say Exodus was fiction because the arid wilderness couldn't have provided food and

water for 603,550 men (the usual translation of Numbers 1:46), or some 2 million people counting women and children.

Humphreys responds that the Hebrew word often translated "thousand" also means "clan" or "troop," which could reduce the fleeing Israelites to a more manageable 20,000.

Further redrawing the conventional Exodus map, Humphreys believes the Israelites rushed from Egypt on a standard ancient trade route — straight across the Sinai Peninsula to the northern tip of the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba, near present-day Eilat.

That's where the climactic crossing of the Red Sea occurred, Humphreys figures.

Nearly trapped by Pharaoh's

(See ACCOUNT, page six)

Charges dropped against man who converted sex shop to Bible bookstore

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUTNEY — Some of the same churchgoing neighbors who tried to run Michael Braithwaite and his adult novelty shop out of town later rallied to his aid, prompting a judge to drop obscenity charges against him.

Why the change of heart? A religious conversion that Braithwaite insists — and townspeople believe — is real.

"The Bible says the Lord will make a way where there seems to be no way," said Braithwaite after Judge Phillip Hamm dropped the charges against him earlier this month. If convicted, Braithwaite could have faced jail time.

But after charges were filed against him last year, he decided to burn all the leather gear, magazines and sex toys in his shop and convert his business into a Bible bookstore.

Prosecutor Mike Pace said his office was besieged by calls from friends, family, even preachers, who wanted the charges dismissed.

Harlan County Sheriff Steve Duff, who charged Braithwaite with distributing obscene material after neighbors complained about his store, said he's happy about how things turned out.

"I've known him all his life," he said. "If something hadn't changed his life, he would have fought those charges as far and as long as he could. He's strong-headed."

Defense attorney Scott Lisenbee said this tiny eastern Kentucky community is standing behind Braithwaite, despite previous concerns that he may have feigned religion to avoid prosecution.

"Everyone seems convinced that's not the case," Lisenbee said.

Braithwaite, 42, said an automobile accident served as a spir-

itual wake-up call. He said he was fortunate to come away with scrapes, bruises, torn ligaments and four ruptured discs in a crash so severe that he could have been killed.

Had that happened, Braithwaite asked himself, "Where would I spend eternity?"

Braithwaite said he wrestled with the question for the next two months, then headed to services at a little country church.

"They were kind of surprised when I walked in," he said, chuckling at the memory. "A lot of them were happy to see me there. A lot of others wondered what in the world I was doing there."

After his baptism, Braithwaite dropped his business' old name, Love World, and now calls his store Mike's Place. He covered the formerly red outer walls with a fresh coat of white paint and the words "Jesus Saves." Inside, shelves of Bibles and other Christian books are displayed where pornographic magazines and other merchandise used to be.

Rosie Madden, who attends services with Braithwaite at the Dizney Pentecostal Church, attributes his new lifestyle to the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

"He wants to be in church all the time," Madden said. "You can tell when someone is sincere. You can feel it."

Russell Alred, an attorney who represented residents in their fight to close the sex shop, said everyone is confident that Braithwaite doesn't intend to reopen Love World. The community "wanted time to see that he really had changed before the charges were dropped," Alred said.

Some of his former customers have been shocked to find Bibles in the store. Braithwaite explains that he is now serving the Lord, and encourages them to do likewise.

"At the time I operated that business, I felt like I was just making a living for my family," he said. "Now, I understand it

(See STORE, page six)

Beltway

Continued from p4

The U.S. Senate, led by most Democrats and a few brave Republicans, voted to cut Mr. Bush's ridiculous \$736-billion rich-man's tax cut to a merely silly \$350-billion rich-man's tax cut, but House Republican leaders are threatening a fight. "Nothing is more important in the face of war than cutting taxes," said the House Republicans' capo al tutti capi Tom (The Exterminator) DeLay. Patriotism like that gives you a kind of lump in the throat, doesn't it?

And, finally, the Republican-led House Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would give gun manufacturers and dealers immunity from suits brought by

shooting victims and municipalities for failure to add safety features to the weapons and for distribution practices that make it easy for criminals to buy guns. The National Rifle Association did NOT support Al Gore, by the way.

It's good to see that we're not letting the war disrupt the work of the nation.

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the "Des Moines Register." He has covered the foolishness in our nation's capital for 29 years, winning a number of modestly coveted awards along the way. For more information, email vze1wc4z@verizon.net.

Clergy say billboard of vegetarian Jesus is sacrilegious

The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Christian and Jewish clergy say a billboard that promotes vegetarianism by claiming "Jesus was the prince of peas" is historically inaccurate and sacrilegious.

The billboard includes a picture of Jesus with an orange slice in place of a halo and was erected by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, to coincide with Passover and Easter.

PETA's Bruce Friedrich said

the campaign is meant to provoke the thought that if people are eating meat, they are promoting cruelty to animals.

"The way that animals are treated on factory farms and slaughterhouses is egregiously cruel and mocks God," Friedrich said.

But Rabbi David Ostrich of Temple Beth-el, said historical evidence indicates that Jesus, like other Jews of the time, was a meat eater. He said a ritual part of the Passover meal was a lamb slaughtered in the Temple in Jerusalem.

IT'S BACK

'THE TIMES' will reprint a pictorial history of our area entitled
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Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Timothy (Jason) Hall, 20, of Galveston, died Friday, April 11, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Pauline Caudill Hall, 75, of Virgie, died Tuesday, April 15, at the U.K. Medical Center in Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ragina Ellen "Jean" Hickman, 73, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, April 16, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Arnold Hicks, 80, of David, died Friday, April 11, in the Paul B. Hall Medical Center, Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Nadine Hale Hicks. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 14, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Virginia Holbrook, 79, of Wheelwright, died Wednesday, April 9, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Fannie Newman, 78, of Lexington, formerly of Floyd County, died Sunday, April 13, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 16, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Darleen Rowe, 79, of Garrett, died Wednesday, April 16, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Mary Ellen Searl, 63, of Willard, Ohio, a native of Eastern, died Thursday, April 10, at Mercy Hospital, Willard, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ray Slone, 63, of Wayland, died Thursday, April 10, at

McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Maudie Stevens, 87, of Prestonsburg, formerly of Mt. Sterling, died Tuesday, April 8, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 11, under the direction of Salyersville Funeral Home.

Richard L. Tackett, 76, of David, died Saturday, April 12, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Margie Shepherd Tackett. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 15, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

James David Walker, 21, of Weeksville, a native of Martin, died Tuesday, April 8, in an automobile accident. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Martin County

Winfred Harless Jr., 38, a native of Martin County, died Thursday, April 10, at Three Rivers Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Julie Stacy Harless. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

Ray Maynard, 59, of Inez, died Wednesday, April 9, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 11, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Charles David Ward, 61, of Auxier, native of Martin County, died Monday, April 7, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 10, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Morris L. "Tony" Arms, 69, a Johnson County native, died Tuesday, April 8, at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services

were conducted Friday, April 11, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Franklin Pierce Blair, 75, of Paintsville, died Sunday, April 13, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center, Paintsville. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 15, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

David Hassell Blanton, 83, of Staffordsville, died Wednesday, April 9, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Nadine Auxier Blanton. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Movine VanHoose Fyffe, 80, of Paintsville, died Wednesday, April 16, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 18, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Roger Jennings, 57, a native of Van Lear, died Saturday, April 12. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Jennings. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 15, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Larry K. Lewis, 58, of Columbia, Maryland, died Friday, April 4, at University Specialty Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. Graveside funeral services were conducted Friday, April 11, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Neva Mae Cantrell Lyons, 64, of Thealka, died Monday, April 7, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Howard "Ping" Gene Lyons. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 10, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Garland Truman Tackett, 81, of Paintsville, died Friday, April 11, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Barbara Tramel, 52, of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, formerly of Paintsville, died March 31, at Carteret General Hospital. Arrangements were under the direction of Munden Funeral Home of Morehead City.

Magnolia Tuttle, 76, of Kite, died Sunday, April 13, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Lizzie Young, 88, of Staffordsville, died Wednesday, April 9, at Mt. Manor Nursing Home, Paintsville. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Georgia Lee Cumutte, 94, of Louisa, died Tuesday, April 15, at J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 18, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

William H. "Junior" Davis, 71, of Louisa, died Wednesday, April 9, at Three Rivers Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 11, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

Winfred Harless Jr., 38, of Louisa, died Thursday, April 10, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. He is survived by his wife, Julie Stacy Harless. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Henry Garland Howell, 82, of Ashland, a native of Louisa, died Friday, April 11, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Edith Waller Ward Howell. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 14, under the direction of Lazear Funeral Home.

Daniel Boone Prince, 73, of Selmer, Tennessee, a native of Lawrence County, died Saturday, April 12, at McHairy Regional Hospital, Selmer, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Laura Jane Preece Prince. Funeral ser-

vice were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Norman "Gene" Spriggs, 50, of Myra, died Thursday, April 10, at Three Rivers Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Anna Thornsby Spriggs. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Magoffin County

David Hassel Blanton, 83, a native of Magoffin County, died Wednesday, April 9. He is survived by his wife, Nadine Auxier Blanton. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Chapel.

Andrew Howard Jr., of Buckeye Lake, Ohio, formerly of Magoffin County, died Thursday, April 10. He is survived by his wife, Donna Ray "Kay" Conley Howard. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

June Carter Meade, 77, died Friday, April 11, at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital in Russell. Funeral services were conducted Monday, April 14, under the direction of Wright's Funeral Home, with burial in the Gardner Cemetery, Salyersville.

Micheal Patrick, 56, of Daytona Beach, Florida, formerly of Magoffin County, died Monday, April 14, at Holly Hill, Florida. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Danny Prater, 57, native of Magoffin County, died Wednesday, April 2. He is survived by his wife, Joan Prater. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 4, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

James "Tip" Williams, 56, of Ceresco, Michigan, formerly of Magoffin County, died Sunday, April 6, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Lillie Elam Williams. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 10, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Knott County

Magnolia Tuttle, 76, of Kite, died Sunday, April 13, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, April 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Pike County

John H. Barnes, 86, of Barbourville, formerly of Kimper, died Tuesday, April 15, in Corbin. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 18, under the direction of Hopper Funeral Home.

Betty Jean Charles Baxter, 70, of Chino Hills, California, formerly of Phelps, died Sunday, March 30, at USC Medical Center, Los Angeles. She is survived by her husband, Paul Lawrence Baxter. Burial was April 7, in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California.

Freeman Case, 65, of Dorton, died Thursday, April 10, at his

home. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, April 13, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Helena Rubestine Clark Hall, 76, of Lexington, formerly of Pikeville, died Saturday, April 12, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 15, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Billy Davis Jr., 82, of Rising Sun, Maryland, a native of Van Lear, died Tuesday, April 8, at Christiana Hospital, Newark, Delaware. He is survived by his wife, Emma Lee Davis. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of R.T. Foard Funeral Home.

Daryl Gunnels, 61, of Columbus, Ohio, formerly of Hellier, died Tuesday, April 15, at Mount Carmel Hospital West, Columbus. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lee Baker Gunnels. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 18, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Bonnie Lois Hall, 74, of Pikeville, died Thursday, April 17. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Helena Rubestine Clark Hall, 76, of Lexington, formerly of Pikeville, died Saturday, April 12, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 15, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Pauline Caudill Hall, 75, of Virgie, died Tuesday, April 15, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Ethel Allen Wyatt

Ethel Allen Wyatt, age 88, passed away Thursday, April 17, 2003, at the Highland Regional Medical Center at Prestonsburg, after an extended illness.

She was born January 21, 1915, at Carter County, a daughter of the late Charlie and Ottie (Booth) Berry. She was a member of the First Church of God, of Prestonsburg.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Judy Rorrer of Prestonsburg; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, April 21, at 1 p.m., from The Burke Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Steve Williams officiating.

Burial will be in the Davidson Memorial Gardens at Ivel.

Arrangements are under the direction of Burke Funeral Home. (Paid obituary)

Thomas "George" Kilgore, 51, of Meathouse Fork, Canada, died Sunday, April 13, at his home. Funeral services were private. Arrangements were under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

Jackie Morrison, 45, of Ransom, died Wednesday, April 16, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital Intensive Care Unit. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Foster Burns Ratliff, 89, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, April 15, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 17, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Myrtle J. Ray, 87, of Dorton, died Saturday, April 12, at the home of her daughter, Emma Tackett. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, April 5, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Kathie Darlene Johnson Thacker, 44, of Virgie, died Tuesday, April 8, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 12, under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Georgia Lee Cumutte, 94, of Louisa, died Tuesday, April 15, at J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 18, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

Daniel Boone Prince, 73, of Selmer, Tennessee, a native of Lawrence County, died Saturday, April 12, at McHairy Regional Hospital, Selmer, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Laura Jane Preece Prince. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 19, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Luther Eugene Miller

Luther Eugene Miller, 69, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, April 17, 2003, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

Born July 1, 1933, in Floyd County, he was the son of the late Raymond and Clara England Miller. He was a retired supervisor for Ford Motor Company in Louisville, a U.S. Army veteran, and a member of the Benedict Baptist Church, in Prestonsburg.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Goble Miller.

Other survivors include six sons, Raymond Eugene Miller of Prestonsburg, Randy Miller, of Claypool, Indiana, Tim Miller, Nathaniel Miller, and Luther Miller Jr., all of Warsaw, Indiana, and Frank Miller of Kansas; three daughters, Marsha Cleveland and Julie Miller, both of Warsaw, Indiana, and Carol Vick of Russell; a step-son, William H. Goble of Prestonsburg; a step-daughter, Darlene Mullins of Prestonsburg; a brother, Morris Ray Miller of Prestonsburg; 20 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; a host of step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, William (Bill) Miller, Larry Miller, John B. Miller, and Jack Lee Miller; and five sisters, Kate Elizabeth Conn, Sadie Miller, Esther Miller, Martha Miller, and Mary Miller.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, April 20, at 1 p.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Brother Doug Lewis and Brother Gordon Fitch officiating.

Burial will be in the George Goble Cemetery, at Cow Creek, in Prestonsburg.

Visitation is at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Hillfolk Arts Guild to award scholarship

The Hillfolk Art Guild will provide a college scholarship for a prospective art student for the 2003-2004 academic year. Consideration will be given to high school seniors who are accepted in a college arts program and are planning to pursue a career in the Arts. The

scholarship will be awarded to one student who meets the criteria and completes an application packet. All applications should be postmarked on or before April 23, 2003. For more information, contact Larry Parke or Judy Johnson at (606) 785-4114.

Account

Continued from p5

forces, the Israelites escaped along the shoreline thanks to a powerful "wind tide" or "wind setdown," a natural phenomenon like a super-low tide that would allow people to hurry across the sea floor. Then the sea water returned through a "wind setup" and drowned the Egyptians.

Humphreys also offers other "naturalistic" scientific explanations for wondrous events, along lines pursued by past writers.

For instance, he thinks that escalating natural disasters explain each of the 10 "plagues" that forced Pharaoh to let the

Israelite slaves depart: The Nile "turned to blood" meant that toxic red algae killed fish; the dead fish forced frogs ashore; gnats and flies were drawn to the dead fish and frogs; the insects transmitted a virus that killed livestock. And so forth.

Some might argue that such scientific explanations undercut miracles, but Humphreys disagrees. He believes nature produced the occurrences with just the right timing, and Israel, reasonably enough, regarded this as miraculous.

Natural explanations only serve to bolster the exodus story, he says.

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Plan

granted "fair" consideration during the drawing up of the final plan proposal. McGuire said that many of the constituents of district 1 felt that they were being "punished" for their public outcry against the proposed plan.

"It's almost retaliatory in nature," McGuire said. "This plan takes money from no other school but Prestonsburg Elementary."

This, primarily because of the LPC committee's decision to categorize the school as "transitional," putting the school in the position of not being able to be bonded for improvements, thereby effectively slated it for closure, McGuire said.

McGuire also voiced complaints in regard to the plan's proposal to consolidate three of the county's high schools and one technical school. Citing information from an article that originally appeared in the Lexington Herald-Leader, McGuire said that the Lexington area had consolidated several of its smaller high schools into larger schools holding as many as 800 students and had since realized that the consolidations "had not really worked" for the city's school system.

In a telephone interview the following day, McGuire said the Lexington area is now looking at ways to once again form smaller, community schools.

"One of the problems with consolidating schools is that many students, as a result, are not

allowed the opportunity to participate in programs like football, for instance," he said. "Only a limited number of students can participate on the team, so you're looking at as many as 15 students that have come from the smaller schools to the one larger one, that won't get to compete as a result of consolidation. It isn't always better," he said.

McGuire also informed Dundon that "several" public forums had been held in the Prestonsburg area that had been attended by a great number of citizens who spoke out against the plan but that "after seeing that their suggestions and comments were not really taken seriously" had "ultimately decided to stop attending."

McGuire also said that it appeared that the LPC had "set up its own regime" by removing some members and replacing them with others. "It is inappropriate for the LPC to be involved in political decisions," he said.

Dr. Varia, next to speak, spoke of her dissatisfaction with numerous "changes" in board packet materials. "I get a packet, I read it, I attend the meeting, go home and then come back and something is changed. I don't understand it," she said.

Joe Jones, board architect, cleared up some of Dr. Varia's confusion by explaining a few budgetary items and by also explaining that "KDE doesn't

allow auditoriums to be built in high schools." He also informed that some of the current proposal's "expansion plans" will "require the purchase of additional lands by this board, especially for the high school consolidation plan."

Carol Stumbo, last to speak, informed Dundon that the LPC had held meetings "all over the county," and that this had contributed to what appeared to be "low turnout." She voiced her opinion that if the current plan was not approved immediately that "all the hard work of the LPC" would be "expunged."

After taking a head count of those 17 people present and ensuring that no others were slated to speak, Dundon adjourned the meeting and Supt. Fanning informed those in attendance that the special-called board meeting would commence after a short break.

In a brief interview during the break, Fanning said that Dundon had been sent by the KDE to attend the meeting and to "report back" his findings.

"Basically, we appealed because of a concern that holding more public forums would create such an extended time frame that we would have been pushed back into the winter again before getting anything done," Fanning said.

Once the special-called board meeting was called to order, board chair Carol Stumbo said that she felt that the LPC, of which she is also chair, "had followed proper procedures" along the way of formulating its plan and of replacing members.

"Three or four people had not attended an LPC meeting for over a year," Stumbo said. "Rather than let those positions sit vacant, we followed proper procedures and replaced the positions."

Stumbo added that the LPC had always made a "great effort" to "follow the law."

"I believe in this board. I think we are on the verge of change, and by gosh, we are going to have change," she continued. Stumbo also said that she felt that "every LPC member would have been here tonight if they had believed that it was important to attend."

Following, McGuire made a

motion to amend the current proposal by moving Prestonsburg Elementary to a "Category 1" school, thereby ensuring that the district would not "feel left out" and also opening the school up to receive needed funding.

In an unprecedented move, Dundon rose from the audience, asking to make comments that would remain "off the record" and instructing the videotaping of the meeting to be halted. He then informed board members that if the LPC plan was not approved by KDE "by June 5," then the Floyd County district was in jeopardy of "losing \$62 million in unmet need funds."

"The plan can be approved (by KDE) on June 5, and changes can begin to be made on June 6," he said. Dundon effectively urged the board to move forward with plan approval to ensure that the "unmet need" funding be secured.

In the ensuing vote, McGuire

again voted "no" on plan approval, Carol Stumbo, Jeff Stumbo and Glenna Stone each voted "yes," and after considerable vacillation, Varia also cast a "yes" vote.

"I'm not particularly for consolidation, but our high schools can't offer the courses needed separately due to our declining enrollment, so I vote to approve the plan," Slone said.

Again, board member Jeff Stumbo said, as he had in an earlier meeting, that he believed that the LPC plan represented many hours of "hard work" and also that it had "addressed many issues."

"No plan is perfect," he said, "we can't make everyone happy."

McGuire said that he was "ashamed for the children of Prestonsburg" and that he felt that because of "time constraints" the money budgeted for Prestonsburg Elementary would now "be lost because of their category place-

ment."

In Friday's telephone interview with McGuire, he said that had his motion to amend the school to a different category been approved, that "we could have moved ahead to begin site selection this summer (using funds approved by recent state legislation.)"

"We have no timetable now," he said, "and we're looking at trying to maintain a school with a basement water problem for another three or four years, when we could have started correcting the problem right now."

"Now the \$13 million that we were fortunate to receive from the hard work of [state Rep.] Greg Stumbo and Sen. [Johnny Ray] Turner will be in limbo. We knew we had the money, but now it's not assured. Because of the lackadaisical attitude of the LPC, the Prestonsburg district was shown no courtesy and no respect," he said.

Fear

where she was nursing a broken hip that kept her at Highlands Regional Medical Center for 13 days. Having been home only a little over a week, Hamilton was confined to her bed most of the time.

Hamilton said the intruder must have known of her dire circumstances, as he came directly into her bedroom and demanded that she give him her money. The intruder, who is still unknown, ordered her out of the bed and "tore her room apart", pulling the pillow cases off of the pillows and dumping the contents of her drawers in the

floor.

"I'm lucky to be alive," said Hamilton, after telling of the threats the man made against her and her poodle.

She said that the man held the small dog up in front of her face, telling her that he would cut the dog's head off, as well as her fingers "one-by-one".

"I begged him not to kill me," said Hamilton.

After the intruder, who Hamilton said was a hefty man wearing a fishing hat pulled down over his face and a pair of red sweat pants with a white stripe, had searched the house

for money, he made her sit in a chair and informed her that he had cut the phone lines and if she went to the door and yelled, he would kill her with the knife he claimed to have. She said that he was staggering as he searched her belongings.

She sat in the hard chair with a broken hip from about 11 p.m. until just after daybreak at approximately 7 a.m. before she could bring herself to seek help. The time in between was spent in fear that every noise meant he had returned.

"I was afraid that he had took the money, bought some dope, and was coming back to kill me," said Hamilton.

At first light, Hamilton made her way to the door and yelled as loud as she could. She recounted that her landlord saw her porch light on and commented to his wife that "this was unusual for May" and came to investigate.

Hamilton said a friend, Thelma Burchett, has been staying with her since the incident, which is still under investigation by Det. Greg Roberts, KSP. She voiced concern that the Allen police officer James Burke only patrols at night.

After searching her house, the robber took a total of \$74, as that was all Hamilton had. She said that the man looked at her medication but didn't take any of it.

"I didn't have any pain pills," she said.

Wilson, two others named to tourism board

Times Staff Report

FRANKFORT — A Prestonsburg bank president was one of three new members appointed Friday to the state's Tourism Development Finance Authority.

Greg Wilson, president and CEO of First Commonwealth Bank in Prestonsburg, was appointed the tourism authority. Wilson, whose term will expire in 2007, currently serves as a board member of the Floyd County

Chamber of Commerce, Highlands Regional Medical Center and Consolidated Health Systems.

Robert M. Coots, of Taylorsville, and Christa Bunnell, of Hardyville, were the other two new members appointed Friday.

The single member reappointed to the authority for another four-year term ending in 2007 was Victoria Weber, of Louisville. She was designated by Gov. Patton as the the committee chair.

Jail

"I couldn't even get them to vote on that," Thompson said later.

The increasingly visible money problems at the detention center reached a pitch earlier in the month when Thompson and Webb met privately to generate ideas about how to approach what has proven to be a frustrating paradox for all involved.

During that one-on-one meeting, Thompson and Webb managed to gain some ground by cutting expenses and seriously considering a \$20 booking fee for county inmates, but Thompson says the cuts and proposed booking fee can only be viewed as small steps.

"I will propose a \$20 dollar booking fee at the next fiscal court meeting," Thompson said. "If someone is housed at the jail, regardless of what they're there for, they will pay as part of their bond. That's not a whole lot, but everything helps."

Thompson said the booking fee should generate about \$45,000 or \$50,000 in jail rev-

enue, leaving expenses as the next logical problem area to concentrate on.

"I would encourage you to hold down expenditures as much as possible," Thompson told Webb at Friday's meeting, adding that increased communication between the jail and the fiscal court would also benefit in finding solutions.

During his appeal to the court and attending citizens Friday afternoon, Webb again pointed out the jail's county-to-state inmate ratio, arguably the single most debilitating aspect of the jail's current hardship.

According to overview of the jail's inmate population as of Friday, there are 41 state inmates at the facility and 110 county inmates, for a total of 151 inmates housed.

The jail had been receiving \$27.51 a day for each state inmate housed, but Webb said earlier in the month that he had been notified that the amount will soon be lowered to \$26.51. The facility currently receives

no money for housing county prisoners.

Webb's ratio of county versus state inmates alone seems to present problems beyond the obvious financial woes.

Webb explained to the court that the detention center's 102-bed maximum was, at this point, highly compromised. He said considering the overlap from 151 housed inmates and 102 available beds that he was struggling to contend with the influx brought about most recently by the surge of inmates following Monday's drug roundup of 36 suspected drug dealers and had, in some cases, resorted to providing new inmates with sleeping mats.

"I welcome you to come over there and work," Webb told the room Friday, "and see what it takes to operate that jail."

Failing to receive a second on a motion to approve the budget for a second time, Thompson told those in attendance that a special meeting concerning the matter would be scheduled for April 28.

"At that point," said Thompson, "we're going to have to act."

Continued from p1

Diabetic Support Group

A Diabetic Support Group will meet on Tuesday, April 22, at the McDowell ARH Hospital, from 4:30-6 p.m. The support group is a collaborative education effort between the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Program, AHEC Hazard, McDowell ARH, and UMWA Health and Retirement Funds. Please attend and learn how to enjoy life while managing your diabetes through healthy choices. Nourishing refreshments will be served. For more information or to register to attend, contact Theresa Scott, County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences at 886-2668.

Maintain

Continued from p3

First mention of taking timber from the land to generate revenue for the county was brought up earlier in the year when court officials were already beginning a search for answers to budget problems.

Pine Mountain timber company was awarded the job, offering a high bid of \$177,000 on the timber. The second highest bid came in at \$90,000.

Thompson said Pine Mountain became the obvious choice, adding that revenue from the timber sale would be quick to return to the county.

"There is a time limit on this and when they get ready to timber it, they'll be writing a check for the full amount," Thompson said.

The removal of timber to help a struggling general fund is one more step toward curing growing financial problems which have trickled from a statewide level to the county level since the beginning of the year.

The Floyd County Times

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget hearing regarding proposed use of County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds

A public hearing will be held by Floyd County, in the Courtroom of the Floyd County Courthouse, on April 28, 2003, at 11:00 a.m., for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. All interested persons in Floyd County are invited to the hearing to submit oral or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing, but wish to submit comments, should call the Office of the County Judge/Executive at (606) 886-9193, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

LEGAL NOTICE OF CONTINUED ROAD CLOSURE HEARING

Notice is hereby given that certain landowners residing in the vicinity of the following road have requested that an abandoned portion of road be discontinued by the Floyd County Fiscal Court: Abandoned portion of the Old County Road, located between the entrance to the present Maggie Mountain Road and the Spradlin Branch Loop Road, and lying adjacent to the right-of-way of Kentucky Route 321. Pursuant to KRS 178.070 and KRS 178.050, it is, therefore, necessary that notice be given, and a public hearing on the request be scheduled for April 28, 2003 (rescheduled from February 21, 2003), to take place following the Floyd County Fiscal Court's Special Meeting on that date.

Notice is now given by the Floyd County Fiscal Court, pursuant to KRS 178.070 and KRS 178.050, of the following actions: (1) The proposed discontinuance of the portion of roadway known as the Old County Road, located between the entrance to the present Maggie Mountain Road and the Spradlin Branch Loop Road, and lying adjacent to the right-of-way of Kentucky Route 321; (2) That the County Judge/Executive has been previously authorized to advertise the proposed discontinuance of the section of roadway in question, and to appoint two (2) viewers for the affected section of roadway, in addition to the County Road Supervisor, for the purposes of preparing a report regarding the discontinuance of the portion of road in question; and (3) That a continued final hearing regarding discontinuance of the portion of the road in question be scheduled to take place following the Court's Special Meeting at 11:00 a.m., on Monday, April 28, 2003, in the County Courtroom, located on the second floor of the old Floyd County Courthouse, 149 South Central Avenue, Prestonsburg, Kentucky. The Report of the County Road Supervisor and Viewers is available for review by the public, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the office of the Floyd County Judge/Executive, located on the second floor of the old Floyd County Courthouse, 149 South Central Avenue, Suite 9, Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**FINAL RIGHT OF WAY PLAN SHOWING
KY 979 MINNIE-HAROLD CONNECTOR
FD04 036 6376501 D
ITEM NO. 12-301.10**

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Department of Highways, has scheduled a Public Information Meeting for the proposed project in Floyd County, Kentucky. The meeting will be held:

Thursday, May 1, 2003, at The Old Regular Baptist Church Luncheon, located along KY 122, near Minnie, Kentucky, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

This public meeting has been scheduled to afford all interested persons the opportunity to review the final right of way plans and obtain information, and exchange ideas on this project.

The project is the proposed construction from KY 122 at Minnie, to Little Mud Creek Road (Section 1).

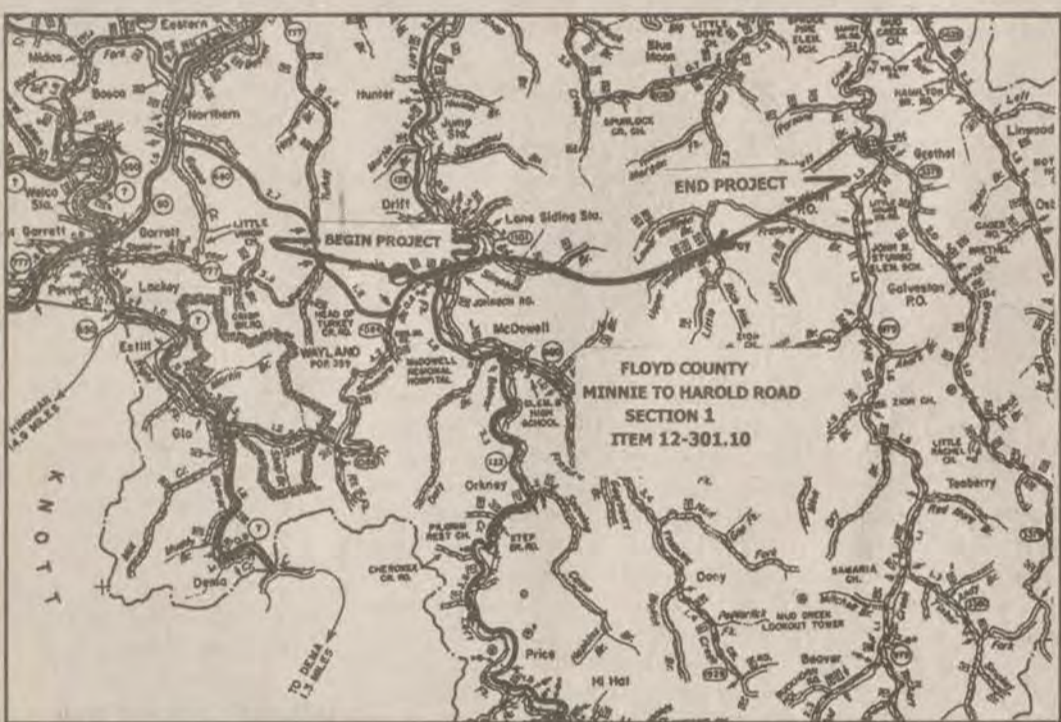
The public is invited and encouraged to attend this public meeting, which will be conducted in an "Open House" format. Attendees are welcome to review the proposed project and express their views concerning the social, economic, historic and environmental effects the project, as proposed, will have upon individuals, business, cultural resources and other organizations in the area. Representatives of the Transportation Cabinet, and Consultants involved in the details of the project will be present to answer questions, address comments and assist the public with any information made available.

For convenience, a comment sheet will be provided for soliciting written comments and a recorder will be made available for those who desire to make oral statements. Statements will be accepted at the meetings, and from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., prevailing local time, Monday through Friday, at the District Office listed below, up to fifteen (15) days after the Public Meetings.

Once compiled, the transcript from this meeting, and/or supporting meeting documentation will be made available for review and copying, only after an Open Records Request has been received and approved. All Open Records Requests must be submitted to the Transportation Cabinet, Department of Administration Service, State Office Building, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622.

In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act," if anyone has a disability for which the Transportation Cabinet needs to provide accommodations, please notify Mary Westfall-Holbrook or Berita Castle, at 606-433-7791, of the necessary requirements, two days before the meeting. Your request may also be mailed to:

Dan'l Hall
Chief District Engineer
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
109 Loraine Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41502
606-433-7791



Local economic development specialist takes part in JobSight-sponsored seminar

by MICHAEL CORNETT
EKCEP Inc.

Steve Carter of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development participated in a seminar in Bell County last week that informed small business owners about government incentive programs and loans that could help them launch new ventures and make them thrive.

The seminar was a part of the ongoing "Soup and Sandwich Series" of free luncheon workshops developed and sponsored by the Bell County JobSight, the Small Business Development Center at Southeast Community College, and the Bell County Chamber of Commerce.

Carter was part of a panel of economic development experts that steered the seminar. The panel also featured representatives from organizations within the Appalachian Development Alliance—a community development financial institution. Carter is director of the East Regional Office of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development in Prestonsburg.

Carter and the other panelists explained the myriad of options available to local businesspeople to help them start a small business and keep it growing. The options included tax credits through the Kentucky Rural Economic Development Act (KREDA), Local Government Economic Development Funds (LGEDF), and assorted direct loan programs.

The goal of the seminar was to show local entrepreneurs there are plenty of ways to aid them in establishing successful businesses in their area, said Tom Jones of Hazard's East Kentucky Corporation, who helped organize the panel that led the workshop. Jones is executive director of East Kentucky Corporation, an economic development agency that serves 45 counties, and a member of the Eastern Kentucky C.E.P., Inc. (EKCEP) Workforce Investment Board, which oversees workforce development programs in 23 counties.



Steve Carter, director of the East Regional Office of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development in Prestonsburg, standing, took part in a panel discussion on government incentive programs and small business loans as part of the "Soup and Sandwich Series" of free luncheon workshops in Middlesboro. The series is sponsored by the Bell County JobSight, the Small Business Development Center at Southeast Community College, and the Bell County Chamber of Commerce.

Once those businesses are established, their individual successes strengthen eastern Kentucky's overall economic picture, Jones said.

"We want to support companies and people who bring fresh new money into our economy," he added.

Other panelists who took part in the seminar included: Paul Pratt, president of the Pine Mountain Community Development Corporation; Debbie Reardon, business development loan officer for the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Inc.; John Myers of the Appalachian Development Alliance and the Eastern Kentucky Entrepreneurs Association; and Stephen Taylor, development director of the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation.

Topics to be covered in future Soup and Sandwich Series seminars include: "Put a College in Your Business Toolbox," presented by the Southeast Community College/Kentucky Community and Technical College System Office of Community and

Business Development; "Seeing Southeastern Kentucky in a Whole New Light," presented by Ron Crouch of the Kentucky State Data Center; "Health Care Options for Employers and Small Businesses," and "Local Companies as Players in the Global Economy," presented by Carmen Lancho of the International Trade Division of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

Corrections

■ A scheduling error resulted in an advertisement for The Great Easter Egg Hunt appearing on the front page of Friday's Floyd County Times. The contest ended Monday, after the egg was found. The Times apologizes for any confusion caused by the error.

■ Katherine Isaac, who has filed an age discrimination suit against Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, was mistakenly reported in Friday's Times as living in Martin County. She actually lives in Martin, in Floyd County.

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COMMENTARY

Back in the saddle: Cooksey's remarkable career

by **BILLY REED**
TIMES COLUMNIST

LEXINGTON — On the day after she broke both her legs in a horrific spill at Keeneland, jockey Patti Cooksey lay in her bed at the University of Kentucky Hospital and said, "God has really blessed me."

Her husband, John Neal, and daughter, Chelsea Ann, were sitting together in a chair near her bed. Her mom was fussing around, as moms tend to do. And Patti, one of the bravest and kindest people ever

to set foot on a race track, looked surprisingly radiant.

She wore no makeup, but she didn't need to. Her beauty is in her smile, her heart, and her indomitable spirit. She jammed a Blue Grass Stakes baseball cap onto her head and said, "Yeah, this is what I need."

Less than 24 hours earlier, she was engaged in the work that always has enchanted her, disappointed her, tested her, and defined her. She was riding a thoroughbred at Keeneland in the first race of the Blue Grass Stakes Day card.

It was lovely at Keeneland on Saturday, and when it's lovely at Keeneland there is no more beautiful place on God's green earth. If there is a heaven, and the deeply religious Cooksey

(See REED, page three)

P'burg team gets in final preparations

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG — The Prestonsburg Blackcats 12-year-old AAU team is making final preparations for the state AAU tournament by playing some very tough competition. On Thursday night, the team traveled to Knott County for back to back games versus Knott County and Perry County.

Jody Tackett led the way in the first game as the Prestonsburg 12s defeated Knott County AAU 12s by a score of 53-43. Chase Richardson and Josh Prater each finished with 13 points. Seth Setser contributed three points, while Kyle Hall and Allen Craynon rounded out the scoring with two points each. The team improved their record to 15-5 with the win over Knott County.

(See FINAL, page two)



file photo

All reports have Kris Bentley transferring to Shelby Valley.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Bentley to enroll at Shelby Valley

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

ROBINSON CREEK — One of the top long-range shooters in the 15th Region will join the defending region champion. Sophomore Kris Bentley, according to a couple of different reports circulating late this past week, will begin classes early in the upcoming week at Shelby Valley High School. Bentley helped lead

Prestonsburg to a runner-up finish in the 58th District during the 2002-03 season. He was Prestonsburg's leading three-point shooter and one of the top overall shooters in Eastern Kentucky. At the end of the 2002-03 regular season, Bentley ranked fourth in the state in three-point field-goal percentage.

As a sophomore, the sharp-shooting Bentley started for the Blackcats and many times out led

his team in scoring. He has family who live in the Shelby Valley school district.

Bentley showed great signs of excellent three-point shooting as early as his middle school playing days at Adams Middle School.

Upon enrolling at Shelby Valley, Bentley will join juniors-to-be Seth Kiser and Kelsey Friend, giving the Wildcat basket-

(See BENTLEY, page two)



The Prestonsburg High School football team presented Children's Miracle Network with a \$600 check. Pictured presenting the check to Cindy Hackworth of Wal-Mart is Prestonsburg High assistant principal/athletic director and assistant football coach Jerry Butcher. Prestonsburg coaches also pictured in the front in no particular order are head coach John DeRossett and assistants Kenny Caldwell, Don Compton and James DeRossett. John DeRossett's oldest daughter, Alexis, is also pictured.

GIVING BACK

PRESTONSBURG TEAM HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR CMN

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — More than just a football team. More than just a group of coaches and players.

The Prestonsburg High football team, in John DeRossett's time at the top of the program, has gone above and beyond in the way of giving something back to the community. The Prestonsburg grid team recently

raised \$600 for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). The top four players to raise the donations were Jordan Caldwell, Chad Allen, Chayse Martin and Tyler Hamilton. DeRossett, fellow coaches, Prestonsburg High educators, and team, were also very pivotal in this year's Area 3 Special Olympics Track & Field Competition. The Prestonsburg coach and his staff invite everyone to take time out to donate and support Children's Miracle Network.

About CMN....

Children's Miracle Network-the alliance of premier hospitals for children-is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids by raising funds for 170 children's hospitals across North America. Each year these non-profit hospitals provide the finest care, research and commu-

(See GIVING, page two)

DIRT TRACK

Thunder Ridge moves opener back to April 26

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — JD Racing Incorporated will have its opening night of races at Thunder Ridge Raceway on Saturday, April 26. The wet weather which hit Floyd County and Eastern Kentucky last week forced the decision to move the opening date to April 26.

The 2003 dirt track racing schedule is

packed full of special events for the upcoming season. Ten races will pay at least \$3,000 to win for the Dirt Late Model, and four different racing series will grace the 3/8th mile track during the 2003 season.

Thunder Ridge will play host to the season opener of the Mid-Atlantic Championship Dirt Racing Series. This will be the first ever visit to Eastern Kentucky

(See RIDGE, page two)



■ Sharee Hopkins

Hopkins accepted into Governor's Scholar Program

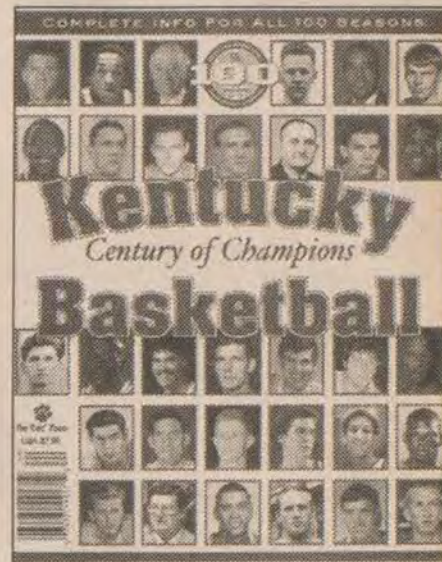
by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

MARTIN — Allen Central junior Sharee Hopkins, a student-athlete who recently made the switch to her new school from South Floyd, received a letter Wednesday notifying her that she had been accepted into the Governor's Scholar Program. Hopkins, who was All-Conference and All-District

during the 2002-03 basketball season, hopes to make the most of an opportunity a selected few high school seniors-to-be from throughout the state get the chance to take on.

The Governor's Scholars Program is held on three college campuses for five weeks each summer. The campuses for 2003 will be Centre

(See HOPKINS, page two)



Betsy Layne man has memory included in new UK book

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON — A new book — Kentucky Basketball: Century of Champions — celebrating 100 seasons of Wildcat basketball, including the sensational 32-4 campaign of 2003, is now available for pre-ordering. A Betsy Layne fan, Thomas Hardwick, has a Kentucky Basketball memory included in the new book. His printed memory:

Thomas Hardwick, Betsy Layne, Ky.: In 1967, Kentucky came to Ann Arbor, Mich., to dedicate the opening of Crisler Arena. This was in the days when TV was just starting and for the thousands of Kentucky fans living in southern Michigan, it was a chance to

(See MEMORY, page two)

BASEBALL

P'burg Little League opening day rained out

by **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — Scheduled opening day ceremonies for Prestonsburg Little League were rained out yesterday. The league will open its season with play on Monday, April 28.

Rick Hughes returns as P'burg league president this season.

Little League Baseball is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with nearly 2.8 million boys and girls ages 5-18 participating in every U.S. state and 103 other countries.

Reed

Continued from p1

would argue there is, it will look very much like Keeneland on a warm and sunny day in the spring, a day brimming with promise and hope and, yes, romance.

So on this splendid day three weeks before the Kentucky Derby down the road at Churchill Downs, here was Patti Cooksey, a 45-year-old mother, riding a Thoroughbred named Ide Rather Not. Here was Patti

Cooksey, who only last year made a courageous comeback from breast cancer, trying to figure a way to win.

At this point we will pause to pay homage to jockeys, the most underrated and underappreciated athletes in the sporting world. Think about what it must take, in terms of strength and courage and timing and co-ordination and discipline, to be able to ride a 1,000-pound animal traveling

around 35 mph in tight quarters with other horses.

But as we admire the poem that's a jockey and horse working in tandem, trying to win, we should never forget there's a reason why jockeys are the only athletes who have an ambulance follow them as they do their work.

So here was Patti Cooksey on a lovely spring day, looking to win another race, not even an important one. She was the only female rider in the race.

In the program, when it listed her weight, it didn't include all the baggage a female must carry as she strives to succeed in a male-dominated business.

Yet the baggage is always there, looming in the background of any important victory. The gender issue always comes up, as it should. But all the woman wants to do, really, is be judged only on her ability to compete.

So now Patti's back in the saddle again, her horse moving powerfully beneath her. Maybe she has a shot, maybe she doesn't. But because she's Patti Cooksey, she's going to get whatever the horse has to give.

Suddenly here's the rail jutting out on her left. She has nowhere to go, nowhere to hide. No options. Nothing except the bleak certainty that something painful is about to happen.

Her mount hits the rail and goes down, starting a chain reaction that causes two trailing horses to stumble and falter. Blessedly, all three horses and

both the other jockeys escaped serious injury. But Cooksey was a crumpled heap, lying in the dust on this marvelous day and writhing in pain.

The crowd, so full of joy and hope at the race's start, falls silent.

As emergency medical technicians tend to Cooksey, one of the horses involved in the incident, the riderless Classikas, comes pounding down the stretch a second time, heading for Cooksey's shattered body and her medical attendants.

It was an unspeakable disaster in the making.

But, blessedly, the horse jumped over Cooksey and continued on his frenzied way until finally being apprehended.

"I tried to divert him," EMS technician Will Lockridge told Dave Koerner of The Courier-Journal. "Then I realized he wasn't going to change his course."

As Patti said yesterday, wearing her Blue Grass Stakes cap and smiling from her hospital bed, "It could have been a lot worse."

In the stories about Patti's latest misfortune, you will read about her victories and records and milestones. She and Julie Krone are the two most successful female jockeys ever to grace a sport heavily tilted in favor of males. But the stories won't tell you about how beautiful she looked yesterday.

Her left femur and right tibia were fractured. The pain had to be far more than she was willing

to admit, even considering her medication. Yet Patti Cooksey was able to work up a smile and say, "I wonder when I can ride again?"

The mere fact that she even thought about it, less than 24 hours after being in peril of losing her life, is testimony to her courage, her spirit, and her love for her work. But it also says something, difficult though it is to express, about the special love that some people have for horses and

America's oldest professional sport.

At this point, it doesn't really make any difference if Patti ever gets to ride again. Her place in racing history is secure. But having dodged breast cancer and escaped near-crippling injuries, she will be forced to make the most difficult decision of her life.

"I don't like to think I'll go out like this," she said.

Many of her fans and loved ones probably hope she'll finally hang it up. Yet there's also something appealing about seeing Patti Cooksey in the saddle one more time, win or lose.

She is no Arcaro or Shoemaker, the icons whose talent always earned them the best horses. But, in a way, the numbers and statistics aside, she's just as important. She came along when female jockeys were abused by their peers and the public. She set the standards for female riders that Julie Krone surpassed.

And now here she was, lying

there in her hospital bed and wondering if she might have a last hurrah, a signature moment, an emphatic punctuation mark to the end of her remarkable career.

Sunlight drifted through the windows of her hospital room. She eagerly took a program from the day's races at Keeneland to check the fields and see who was riding what horses.

Her only Derby mount, So Vague in 1984, finished 11th to Swale. Female jockeys and trainers get very few opportunities to be involved with the wealthiest owners and the best-bred stock. Yet they still harbor the same dreams as their male rivals.

So Patti Cooksey smiled. She knows, as all racetrackers do, that eventually the vagaries of racing luck and the inevitabilities of life will get the better of her. But isn't a tribute to her, and to the human spirit, that she could lie there in bed, her legs shattered, and talk about how blessed she has been?

But that's Patti Cooksey, a racetracker to the bone. She's all the explanation that anyone will ever need when asked why they love racing. It's that eternal optimism, in the face of certain failure, that makes racing an affair of the heart instead of a sport or a business.

Or, as Patti said from her hospital bed, "Do you think I'll be able to make the Derby?"

To contact Billy Reed send e-mails to BReed11@aol.com

H.S. FOOTBALL

Knott Central team hosts lifting meet

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HINDMAN - Five teams took part in the annual King of the Mountain Powerlifting Meet held inside the Knott County Central Gymnasium on Saturday, April 12. Host Knott County Central won the meet. Hazard finished second, Magoffin County third, Whitesburg fourth, and Clay County fifth.

Knott Central head coach J.J. Everage and staff were pleased with the entire meet.

Individual results in all weight classes for the meet follow.

Individual Results: 125-pound weight class:

1 - Jed Murtaugh (Whitesburg); 2 - Lyle Napier (Knott Central); 3 - Josh Brown (Knott Central); 4 - David Watts (Knott Central);

5 - Tommy Manns (Magoffin County).

135-pound weight class: 1 - Jerome Blanton (Hazard); 2 - Dan Russell (Magoffin County); 3 - Kenny Watts (Knott Central).

145-pound class: 1 - A.J. Huff (Knott Central); 2 - Calvin Ritchie (Hazard)

3 - Tyler Holbrook (Magoffin County); 4 - Taylor Salyers (Magoffin County)

5 - Dustin Madden (Knott Central).

155-pound weight class: 1 - Mike Martin (Clay County); 2 - Aaron Hall (Hazard)

3 - Josh Huff (Knott Central); 4 - James Patterson (Clay County); 5 - Jordan Owens (Knott Central).

165-pound weight class: 1 - Michael Chaffins (Whitesburg); 2 - Jacob Allen (Magoffin County); 3 - Devin Rice

(Magoffin County).

175-pound weight class: 1 - Josh Murtaugh (Whitesburg); 2 - Josh Seals (Knott Central); 3 - John wagers (Clay County); 4 - Brandon Perkins (Knott Central)

5 - Patrick Philpot (Clay County).

185-pound weight class: 1 - Kyle Smith (Whitesburg); 2 - Sam Whitehead (Hazard); 3 - Adam Dials (Knott Central); 4 - Cory Vance (Knott Central).

195-pound weight class:

1 - Paul Durham (Clay County); 2 - Trey Yinger (Whitesburg); 3 - Dustin Allen (Magoffin County); 4 - Chris Melton (Hazard); 5 - Travis Gayheart (Knott Central).

205-pound weight class: 1 - Blake Sparkman (Knott Central);

2 - Gary Seals (Knott Central); 3 - Cruz Thornsberry (Knott Central).

220-pound weight class: 1 - Lee Madden (Hazard); 2 - Bruiser Martin (Clay County); 3 - Barret Smith (Hazard); 4 - Shane Massey (Hazard); 5 - Chase Short (Hazard).

235-pound: 1 - Jesse Moreno (Magoffin County); 2 - Jimmy Miller (Hazard);

3 - Keith Craft (Magoffin County); 4 - Justin Howell (Knott Central);

5 - Jack Whitehead (Hazard).

Heavyweight Class: 1 - Diamont Caudill (Knott); 2 - Wes Cook (Knott);

3 - Barret Barnett (Clay County); 4 - Calvin Jones (Clay); 5 - Brandon McCarty (Magoffin County).

The Outstanding Lifter for the 125-185-pound class was Whitesburg's Jed Murtaugh. The Outstanding Lifter for the 195-HWT class was Blake Sparkman of Knott Central.

Hopkins

Continued from p1

College in Danville, Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, and Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights. Scholars must sign a contract agreeing to stay for the full term of five weeks, including weekends, without interruption and to attend classes daily and to participate in the life of the community.

Governor's Scholars live in college dormitories with separate quarters for men and women. They balance a busy academic schedule in the sciences, mathematics, humanities and the arts with a variety of co-

curricular activities and a rich residential life. The choose from 20 subjects, ranging from engineering to cultural anthropology. All subjects are taught in a non-traditional, interdisciplinary mode. There are no grades or college credits given. Noted scientist, writers, thinkers, and business, government and educational leaders visit, speak, and serve as role models. Student productions, publications, research, experiments and field trips enhance the curriculum.

All applications for the program are read blindly and are given a "journal number" to insure fairness. Applications are scored in four sections: Academic Achievement, Student Profile, Essay, and Teacher Recommendations. Each section is read by three selection committee members. An average of these scores is then tallied for that section and the four sections are totaled. The selection committee consists of college admission personnel, college faculty members, and educational leaders from different areas of the state.

Ridge

Continued from p1

for the series and this will bring in several new drivers to the area that many of the race fans have not had the chance to see compete before. The MACS Series will be at Thunder Ridge on May 10th for a \$5,000 to win show.

Sitka's 201 Speedway was scheduled to hold its first set of feature races last night.

Final

Continued from p1

In the second game, a tired Blackcat team played hard, but fell a bit short in losing to a strong Perry County team by a score of 55-46. Richardson scored 15 to lead the team, Prater pitched in 14 and Tackett netted 12. Michael Burchett scored three points and Seth Setser rounded out the scoring with 2 markers.

Bentley

Continued from p1

ball program a talented trio for two more seasons to come.

Shelby Valley is the two-time defending 15th Region Champion. Coach Rodney Rowe guided the Wildcats to a second consecutive regional title this past March, holding on against Paintsville in the championship game.

Before playing his first game at Shelby Valley, Bentley will have to be ruled eligible by the KHSAA.

Giving

Continued from p1

nity outreach to help millions of children with diseases and injuries of every kind.

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, Children's Miracle Network has grown dramatically since its founding in 1983, from a televised fund raiser in a small studio to one of the world's leading children's charities working to save and improve the lives of millions of children each year.

The 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals are there 24 hours a day to help kids of every age and background overcome every imaginable disease and injury-from asthma and broken bones to cancer, sickle cell anemia, pediatric AIDS, muscular dystrophy and serious injuries.

Thousands of special events and fundraisers are conducted year-round through a coalition of premier children's hospitals, media partners and corporate volunteers working together to ensure healthy kids in their communities. In addition to the "Children's Miracle Network

Memory

Continued from p1

see the Wildcats in action. I wondered how many fans would be there and I swear that the UK fans outnumbered the Wolverine fans. It was a sea of blue everywhere you looked and the loudest yells were for the Cats. With Mike Casey and Dan Issel, Kentucky won 96-79. I will never forget the roar of the fans when Kentucky came on the floor and all of us who had lived in Michigan and spent most of the time listening to Cawood finally got to see the Cats live in person.

Included in the new book are

Celebration," an annual televised fund raiser, corporate sponsors sell paper Miracle Balloons, radio stations broadcast Radiothons, and college students hold Dance Marathons-just a few of the programs generating millions of dollars each year to provide the life-saving care and crucial outreach programs kids need.

And the need is truly great. This year alone Children's Miracle Network hospitals will provide charity care worth billions, yet these non-profit children's hospitals depend on community support to help fund their vital services.

Through its year-round efforts to help hospitalized kids, Children's Miracle Network has raised more than \$2.2 billion to date, most of which is donated a dollar or two at a time by caring individuals across North America.

To donate or to learn more, go to www.cmn.org. Your donations benefit your Children's Miracle Network hospital.

OUTDOORS

Turkey hunters focused on comeback birds

by STEVE VANTRESE
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PADUCAH - The wary birds that turkey hunters presently seek across Kentucky represent a dramatic conservation revival.

Turkey hunting as it's now known - the ongoing season is April 15-May 5 - is a relatively recent development that sportsmen might not have expected just a few decades ago. Turkeys that were once abundant statewide almost slipped into history.

Habitat destruction and unregulated exploitation once vastly reduced the entire continental turkey population. At the midpoint of the last century,

there were only about 30,000 turkeys nationwide, and in Kentucky, the only surviving turkeys were found in the far western part of the state in the area that was to become Land Between the Lakes.

At the lowest point, in 1908, one Shelley Nickell discovered a flock of eight turkeys on his family farm "between the rivers" near Grand Rivers and became the state's last-ditch turkey custodian, said Jim Williams, a district director for six National Wild Turkey Federation chapters in Kentucky.

"He had eight turkeys left on his place, and records indicate that that was all that was left in all of Kentucky," Williams said. "Mr. Shelley nurtured those

birds and worked as a volunteer conservation officer to watch out for them. He patrolled to catch poachers.

One of Williams' NWF groups is the Shelly Nickell Chapter, which operates in the region around the northern end of the LBL. The chapter's name honors the early turkey conservationist.

Nickell's protected birds were the seeds that helped rebuild the turkey population in the area and later contributed to stocking efforts elsewhere in Kentucky. A modern restoration program began in 1978, with

turkeys from seven other states being obtained for stocking by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

While some birds were imported, a large part of the program in time was live-trapping Kentucky turkeys in flock-size numbers in areas where they were plentiful and releasing them in areas of good Kentucky habitat where turkeys were absent. The relocation program soon provided new booming clusters of birds to which wildlife managers could turn for yet more turkey transfers.

(See HUNTERS, page three)

H.S. BASEBALL



photo by Steve LeMaster

Allen Central senior Neil Allen is pictured at the plate in a game earlier in the week against rival South Floyd.

Sheldon Clark tops Allen Central

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

EASTERN - The Sheldon Clark baseball team ran its record on the season to a perfect 6-0 with an 11-6 win Wednesday at Allen Central.

For the host Rebels, it was a second loss in as many times out.

The visiting Cardinals scored 11 runs on 12 hits. Travis Carter, Steven Howell, Anthony Potter and Robert Howell all hit home runs for Sheldon Clark in the victory.

Robert Howell went the distance on the mound for the Cards to post his third win of the season, allowing six runs and six hits, while striking out five and walking two. Howell also hit three batters.

Sheldon Clark scored four runs in the opening inning to the jump ahead of Allen Central.

The Rebels didn't muster a score until the bottom of the third inning.

Ryan Hammonds singled and scored on a single by brother Dustin "Dusty" Hammonds to trim the Cardinal lead to 6-1.

Senior Neil Allen got two more Allen Central runs across on a two-run single later in the game. John Hall drove a two-run home run over the center field fence in the bottom of the seventh, but it was too little, too late in the loss.

The Cardinals' 11 runs came on 12 hits.

The Rebels' six runs came on six hits. Dustin Hammonds led the Allen Central players with a double and a single in four trips to the plate. Hall clubbed a two-run blast as Alex Patton, Allen and Hammonds added a single each.

Allen took the loss on the mound for the Rebels.

AUTO RACING

With priorities in order, H. Sadler back to race

by HANK KURZ JR.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was back in 1992 when Hermie Sadler first climbed behind the wheel of a NASCAR Busch Grand National car, the oldest of two racing brothers from Emporia, Va., with designs on stock car racing stardom.

Hermie Sadler More than a decade later, Sadler has only a couple wins — but he also has a better understanding of what matters most in his world and a seasoned appreciation of how lucky he is to have a chance to restart his career.

"I feel like I'm a rookie all over again," the 32-year-old driver for team owner Rick Goodwin's Toys "R" Us Busch car said in an interview.

Rookies don't often come with Sadler's kind of perspective.

In February 2000, his then-

2-year-old daughter, Halie Dru, was diagnosed with autism. Sadler and his wife began learning about the disorder, working with the Autism Society of America to raise money and awareness, and trying to ensure the best care possible for Halie Dru.

They eventually enrolled her in the Faison School for Autism in Richmond, Va., where she receives specialized attention. Halie Dru, now 4, is in her second year there, hoping to begin kindergarten next year.

"She's doing great, making wonderful progress," Sadler said. "Her vocabulary's growing every day and she's doing much better socially. We can literally see progress from week-to-week, sometimes day-to-day."

Halie Dru's improvement allowed Sadler to get back into racing full time, trying to reenergize a career that started impressively with Busch victories in 1993 and 1994, his first two full seasons as a driver.

Sadler's reason for being away made him an easy hire for Goodwin.

"What he did for his daugh-

ter showed the man in Hermie," Goodwin said. "Hermie's awesome. He's a very talented driver and a great human being."

The team is a work in progress. It had just one car when it went to Daytona for the season-opening race, is slowly building up an inventory and using the first half of the season to get ready for a big finish.

"We're still right now running 2002 cars, but the goal is by midseason to have most of our new stuff done and ready to challenge for top-fives and top-10s," Sadler said. "Right now, we just don't have the equipment."

It's the kind of situation many established drivers would loathe, but one Sadler's life experiences — and failures — have prepared him for.

And as Goodwin is quick to point out, the team hasn't exactly been floundering in the early part of the season, despite its disadvantages.

At Bristol Motor Speedway last month, Sadler had one of the fastest cars in practice before the engine blew, forcing him to start 43rd in the race. There, he'd worked his

way up to fourth when his car hit some debris on the track, causing his oil line to drag and eventually rupture.

He inevitably spun out in his own oil, finishing 29th. Overall, his team is 23rd in the points race after eight of 34 races and coming off a season-best 19th-place run Saturday at Nashville Superspeedway.

"We should be finishing a lot better than we've been finishing," Goodwin said this week. "Lady luck often plays a big role in the game."

Sadler once was the most accomplished racer in the family, handing down his go-karts and other cars to his brother, Elliott. Now, Elliott drives for Robert Yates Racing, one of the highest profile rides in NASCAR.

Hermie Sadler, though, is happy just to be back in the chase, and said perspective helps minimize the pressure to make good on his opportunity.

"When you look at the big picture, the struggles that I've had on the racetrack don't amount to a hill of beans," he said.

"I've experienced too much stuff" to let this be nerve-racking. "It's more excitement and anticipation and wanting to get out there and do it."

"I've been through everything there is to go through."

And he's gotten lots of motivation from the less-sensitive set.

"People would say, 'Haven't you had enough of this?' he said.

"But that's part of the terri-

tory being in a business that's high profile. If I was just working at a car dealership, nobody would care if I had a good day or bad day."

Right now, they are all good days. With his daughter doing well and a team that is coming together, Sadler's last chance is starting strong.

And that's a good thing, he said, for reasons obvious and otherwise.

"Quite frankly, I don't think I'm ready, willing or able to go through all that again to get back to this point," he said of starting over.

"I need to do well, and if I do well, it will all be worthwhile and if I don't do so well, maybe it wasn't meant to be. We'll see what happens."

UPDATE

Gordon, Montoya to swap racers for Indy test

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials announced that four-time NASCAR Winston Cup Series champion Jeff Gordon and 2000 Indianapolis 500 winner and Formula One superstar Juan Pablo Montoya will participate in speed demonstration laps in their cars on June 11 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Gordon and Montoya will trade places at the Speedway when they take turns driving laps around the 2.606-mile road course in Gordon's DuPont Chevrolet Monte Carlo and

Montoya's BMW WilliamsF1 BMW FW25 car. This will be the first time that Gordon and Montoya will be behind the wheel of a Formula One car and NASCAR Winston Cup car, respectively.

"The Indianapolis Motor Speedway staff is excited to play host to such an event," said Joie Chitwood, senior V.P. of IMS Business Affairs. "Jeff and Juan are race car drivers who love to drive cars — fast. So it's going to be fun to watch them experiment in different cars on the road course."

Gordon will attempt to win his fourth Brickyard 400 on Sunday, Aug. 3 at the

Speedway. He has competed in 12 events on the Speedway oval: nine NASCAR Winston Cup races and three IROC events. The demonstration laps will be his first laps on the IMS road course.

"There are a lot of things to coordinate to make this happen," said Gordon. "I'm just excited about this opportunity. It's something I've dreamed of, just getting behind the wheel of an F1 car and seeing what it was like. I don't plan on going F1 racing, but I would love to just get that experience."

Montoya, who won the 2000 Indianapolis 500, will attempt to become the first driver in Speedway history to win on both the famed 2.5-mile oval and road course when he competes in the fourth United States Grand Prix on Sept. 28. He is in his third season with BMW WilliamsF1 and has one career win, ten career poles and is sixth in the 2003 FIA Driver's Championship.

"The experience will be very interesting, and driving a big, heavy NASCAR car will certainly be different," said Montoya. "I don't think Jeff should be concerned that I will take away his job, but I will enjoy the opportunity of driving his Chevrolet and letting him take my BMW WilliamsF1 Team car for a drive on Indy's road course."

In addition to the demonstration laps, Montoya and Gordon will participate in a media luncheon and press conference. Fans will have free access to IMS' South Terrace grandstands for viewing.

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

Estill enters draft

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Marquis Estill will not return to Kentucky basketball next season. The senior announced Thursday that he has entered the National Basketball Association's June draft.

Estill had entered Kentucky as a partial qualifier and according to NCAA rules, sat out his freshman season. He played three years at Kentucky and could have returned a fourth year of eligibility had he graduated by next fall.

"I just decided that this would be in the best interest for me and my family," Estill said. "It was a tough decision because it has been very special for me to wear that Kentucky uniform and represent this university and our great fans each and every game."

The 6-foot-9 center started all 36 games this season and finished as the team's third leading scorer, averaging 11.6 points and six rebounds per game. He helped the Cats to a sweep of the Southeastern Conference for the first time since 1952, a 32-4 Elite Eight finish and a final No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press poll.

"As I had said earlier, it was Marquis' plan to test the NBA

waters. I have talked to several of my contacts in the NBA, and after his performance down the stretch, many feel confident that he'll likely be drafted," coach Tubby Smith said in a statement Thursday. "He really wants to concentrate on that goal of playing at the next level, and to do so will not allow him to earn his degree in time to return next season."

Estill finished his three-year career as the school's all-time record holder in field goal percentage, shooting 60.1 percent. He averaged 9.4 points and 4.8 rebounds for his career.

The NBA draft is June 26 in New York.

HONORS

Paintsville boosters announce banquet

PAINTSVILLE — The Paintsville Varsity Sports Boosters invite all athletes, coaches and fans to its second All Sports Banquet honoring the PHS 2002-2003 varsity athletes.

The banquet will be Sunday, May 4, at the Ramada Inn. Luncheon begins at 1 p.m. with guest speakers following. Lunch will be provided for all athletes and coaches. Cost for guests is \$10 per person.

Call 789-1766 or 297-1469 to purchase a ticket. Any Paintsville High varsity athlete who has not received a personal invitation through the mail should also call one of the listed numbers.



photo courtesy of TCP

H.S. FOOTBALL

Mark Dixon named to Hazard football post

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HAZARD — A new, old face is now in charge of the football program at Hazard High School.

Coaching lines in Eastern Kentucky do run deep in certain communities and Thursday the familiar family tradition continued for the Dixon family of

Perry County. Hazard High School named 26-year-old Mark Dixon as its new head football coach. Dixon, who is originally from Hazard, becomes the fourth coach with-

in the family. Another thing Dixon is no stranger to is the Bulldog gridiron tradition. Over the years he has seen the blue and gold put up some huge offensive numbers. It is now his top priority keep things much that same way. Dixon spent last season as an assistant coach at Madison Central High School, another school which is tradition-rich on the gridiron.

■ The head coaching job at Fleming-Neon High School reportedly still remains open after Stephen Holbrook's departure after one season at the helm.

■ Jenkins also hasn't hired a new coach. Todd Neace resigned from Jenkins earlier this season. The Cavaliers will enter district play in the fall against the likes of Pikeville, Paintsville and all others in Class A, District Eight.

■ Contrary to recent rumors, Bill Tom Ross is still in charge as the head coach at Johnson Central High School.

■ Paintsville High School went through spring practice with mostly linemen, but reported a good spring session.

■ South Floyd head coach Donnie Daniels mentioned earlier in the spring that he would like to open up his team's offense more this fall.

■ Continued from p2

Hunters

"In good habitat, if everything was OK, a newly stocked area would have enough of a turkey population in five years that it would be ready to hunt," Williams said. "The numbers really took off."

Williams credits the state agency and, in particular, George Wright, the biologist who headed Kentucky's wild turkey restoration program from 1978 until he retired in 2002. "George was Mr. Turkey to us," Williams said.

The current head of the KDFWR turkey program, biologist Jim Lane, said the Kentucky turkey population as hunters were going into the present season was more than 200,000 birds spread over all 120 counties in the state — a long way from the eight turkeys that were

once the remnant survivors. Lane said about 70,000 hunters last year had about a 41 percent success rate, taking more than 31,000 turkeys, 28,733 of them during the past spring season.

Lane said data from the 20-year restoration program that largely was concluded in 1997 was responsible for the release of 6,773 turkeys. The far greater number now in the overall population is the result of natural reproduction from turkeys released into and protected in suitable habitats, he said.

ATTENTION READERS: Times readers are invited to share their hunting accomplishments. Let all of Eastern Kentucky in our your successes.

H.S. SOFTBALL

Lady Cards knock off Tug Valley, 11-9

TIMES STAFF REPORT

INEZ — Sheldon Clark used an unprecedented triple play in the top of the fifth inning and added a run in the sixth frame to help its way to an 11-9 win over Tug Valley earlier this past week.

Sheldon Clark's Tiffany Meade, a junior, went the distance for Sheldon Clark, allowing four hits, striking out four

batters and walking six.

Sheldon Clark only mustered three hits in the win as Robinson had two singles while Meade finished with a double.

Stacy Staley worked four innings in a losing cause. Melissa Curry and Clevinger each worked in relief.

Savannah Hall led the TV bats with a double and three RBI. Shelly Rose, Ooten and Varney each had singles.

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

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 24 HOURS

100 - AUTOMOTIVE

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- 115 - ATV's
- 120 - Boats
- 130 - Cars
- 140 - 4x4's
- 150 - Miscellaneous
- 160 - Motorcycles
- 170 - Parts
- 175 - SUV's
- 180 - Trucks
- 190 - Vans

200 - EMPLOYMENT

- 210 - Job Listings
- 220 - Help Wanted
- 230 - Information
- 250 - Miscellaneous
- 260 - Part Time
- 270 - Sales
- 280 - Services
- 290 - Work Wanted

310 - Business Opportunity

- 330 - For Sale
- 350 - Miscellaneous
- 360 - Money To Lend
- 380 - Services

400 - MERCHANDISE

- 410 - Animals
- 420 - Appliances
- 440 - Electronics

- 445 - Furniture
- 450 - Lawn & Garden
- 460 - Yard Sale
- 470 - Health & Beauty
- 475 - Household
- 480 - Miscellaneous
- 490 - Recreation
- 495 - Wanted To Buy

500 - REAL ESTATE

- 505 - Business

- 510 - Commercial Property
- 530 - Homes
- 550 - Land/Lots
- 570 - Mobile Homes
- 580 - Miscellaneous
- 590 - Sale or Lease

600 - RENTALS

- 610 - Apartments
- 620 - Storage/

- Office Space
- 630 - Houses
- 640 - Land/Lots
- 650 - Mobile Homes
- 660 - Miscellaneous
- 670 - Commercial Property
- 690 - Wanted To Rent

700 - SERVICES

- 705 - Construction

- 710 - Educational
- 713 - Child Care
- 715 - Electrician
- 720 - Health & Beauty
- 730 - Lawn & Garden
- 735 - Legal
- 740 - Masonry
- 745 - Miscellaneous
- 750 - Mobile Home Movers
- 755 - Office
- 760 - Plumbing

- 765 - Professionals
- 770 - Repair/Service
- 780 - Timber
- 790 - Travel

800 - NOTICES

- 805 - Announcements
- 810 - Auctions
- 815 - Lost & Found
- 830 - Miscellaneous
- 850 - Personals
- 870 - Services

The FLOYD COUNTY TIMES does not knowingly accept false or misleading advertisements. Ads which request or require advance payment of fees for services or products should be scrutinized carefully.

AUTOMOTIVE

110-Agricultural

2 GRAVELY TRACTORS, 1 with plow, 1 with bush hog. 606-358-3416.*

130-Cars

1986 SUBARU XT TURBO COUPE 81,000 actual miles, blue exterior, power windows, power locks, sunroof, digital dash. Asking \$1800. Call 874-0467 after 5 p.m. or leave message.

99 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Black loaded. Asking pay off. 606-478-1378.

140-4x4s

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FOR SALE OR TRADE 1984 Jeep CJ 7, V6, auto, ps, pb, Good condition. \$3500 874-2930.

150-Miscellaneous

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160-Motorcycles

FOR SALE 2001 XR 400 Honda dirt bike. Good condition. Asking 2800. 285-3625 or 285-0788

180-Trucks

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EMPLOYMENT

When responding to Employment ads that have reference numbers, please indicate that entire reference number on the outside of your envelope. Reference numbers are used to help us direct your letter to the correct individual.

205-Business Opport.

FOR SALE: Candle & Gift Shop with 10 minute tanning bed. \$20,000 Call 349-4328 for more info.

210-Job Listings

TURNKEY HOME BASED BUSINESS Experiencing explosive growth. Call or visit (888) 237-3622/www.enjoylifeforever.com. Order your personal FREE informational booklet.

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Local business seeking individual to manage parts department. Computer knowledge and organizational skills a must, experience in parts purchasing a plus, competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send resume to: P.O. Box 1103, Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653 (4/18 all)

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for the Lexington Herald Leader in Auxier & Van Lear area. Profit potential \$1200 mo. For more info call 606-432-1034 or 1-800-274-7355, Ext. 3439.

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AVON

Make your own money, sign up for \$10, for limited time. Call Jancy at 886-2082.

220-Help Wanted

MOUNTAIN MANOR OF PAINTSVILLE is now taking applications for LPN. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Ky. Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

LAWN SERVICE NEEDED: Contact Martin City Hall at 285-9335 or stop by.

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440-Electronics

FOR SALE: PIONEER HOME STEREO Includes CD player, cassette player & recorder, 2 large speakers, turntable and stand \$400 but will negotiate. 874-4604 after 5:30 p.m.

445-Furniture

ALLEN FURNITURE ALLEN, KY Furniture, used appliances, living / bedroom suits, bunkbeds, and lots more! Call 874-9790.

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480-Miscellaneous

FOR SALE: 20 H.P. MERCURY OUTBOARD ENGINE. excellent condition. 2 aux. tanks, manual start. \$350. Will trade for guns. 606-886-2275. No calls after 9 p.m. Ask for Bill.

ROYAL BRAND COMMERCIAL VACUUM CLEANER, excellent condition, used very few times. Call 874-0467 after 5 or leave message.

For Sale: 3 Horse slant horse trailer goose neck, also 3 show horses 886-3313 or 886-3314.

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REAL ESTATE

510-Comm. Property

FOR SALE: 2 office trailers. 886-3467.

530-Homes

HOUSE FOR SALE: Maytown, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, sun room, basement on 4 lots. Needs TLC. 358-4261

550-Land/Lots

60 ACRES older farmhouse, above ground pool with deck, new barn. Copperas Lick of Abbott. Call evenings at 606-478-2799.

For Sale: 3 year-old Doublewide,

in excellent condition, blocked, on over one half acre lot with nice yard, septic & city water in Prestonsburg near Allen. 606-874-1684. *

FOR SALE: 2 LOTS ON STONECREST GOLF COURSE,

also lots near StoneCrest for Sale. 886-3313 or 886-3314.

FOR SALE: 2 NICE 12X65 MOBILE HOMES

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FOR SALE 1978 model mobile home.

In need of repairs but could be used for storage or parts includes underpinning, steps, central ac unit. 874-4604 after 5:30 p.m.

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RENTALS

610-Apartments

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630-Houses

FOR RENT: Large 4 BR home 5 miles west of Prestonsburg on Mtn. Parkway. Call 606-789-5242 or 502-803-1159

3 Bedroom House For Rent:

(rent negotiable) and 2 Bedroom Apartment \$275 month. Located at Auxiers Heights off Route 3. 886-3552.*

FOR RENT 1995 Fleetwood 16x72 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Located at Betsy Layne. \$400 dep., \$650 a mo. All utilities included 424-0677.

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at Hueysville, city water. Call after 4:00, 358-3392. HUD approved.

B.R. 1 BA. Mobile Home,

located at Ruff & Tuff. Appliances included. \$350 rent, \$350 dep. Also Two, 2 B.R. 1 BA. Mobile Homes, \$350 rent, \$350 dep. 606-478-5173.

640-Land/Lots

Lots at W. Prestonsburg.

Public utilities available. Also lots at Jenny's Creek and Abbott Creek. Call 606-478-5173.*

650-Mobile Homes

2 BR MOBILE HOME for rent at Dwale. Call 874-9790

3 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME

for rent. Nice location in Emma. Call 874-6762 or 874-3377. *

FOR RENT: Nice, 2 bedroom trailer for rent near Prestonsburg. Also, have 2 bedroom trailer for sale. Call 874-0011.*

RENT: Very nice 2 BR 2 BA, 16 x 72

No pets, couples only. 886-2288

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, mobile home

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at Harold. 606-478-4597

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770-Comm.Property

FOR RENT OR LEASE: 2000 sq. ft. office space across from new Social Security Office Ky. Rt. 321. Will remodel to suit tenant. \$9.00 sq. ft. plus utilities. Call 886-1416 or 886-3680.*

770-Repair/Services

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ALL TYPES:

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812-Free

FREE PALLETS:

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850-Personals

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Neltner, Gearhart win Mr., Miss Basketball awards

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — All the hype, all the hopes, and all the is over.

Ross Neltner of Ft. Thomas Highlands and Megan Gearhart of West Carter were named Kentucky's Mr. and Miss Basketball on Friday at Lexington Catholic High School.

Neltner, a 6-8 center, averaged 20.2 points and 10.6 rebounds per contest this season, leading the Bluebirds to a 27-3 record. He becomes the first ninth region boy to win the award since Holmes star Doug Schloemer was honored in 1978.

"I'm truly honored to be accepting this award," Neltner said. "During my early high school years, Mr. Basketball was just a dream."

Neltner has signed to play college basketball for John Brady at Louisiana State University (LSU).

Gearhart, a 5-6 point guard, has been a star on the basketball scene since she was an eighth grader. As a freshman, she was among the leaders on the Lady Comets' state championship team.

As a senior, Gearhart and West Carter (26-7 this season) missed the state tournament for the first time since she was in

sixth grade (1997). However, she did lead the team in scoring, pouring in 21.4 points per game, while dishing out 4.3 assists per contest. She is the first girl from the 16th Region to win the award.

"My dream has become a reality," said Gearhart. "This is a big deal for the 16th Region as well. It's a great honor."

Gearhart's coach, John "Hop" Brown, who retired at the end of the season, knows what Gearhart has meant to his program.

"I'm extremely proud of her," Brown said. "She played on five regional championship teams, and it would've been six if we had won this year."

Gearhart, who has signed to play at Morehead State, finished as the school's all-time leading scorer with more than 2,700 points.

Brown, who is retiring after this school year, decided to go out at the same time as arguably

his best player.

"Losing 'Penny' Gearhart has broken my heart, so I'm going with her," he said.

Both players automatically earn spots on the Kentucky all-star teams that will battle the Indiana all-stars this summer.

Neltner and Gearhart will each wear jersey number one, symbolizing them as Mr. and Miss Basketball.

Tryouts for the teams concluded yesterday evening. Team rosters will appear in Wednesday's edition.

Smith agrees to eight-year, \$20.25 million deal

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky men's basketball coach Tubby Smith signed an eight-year, \$20.25 million contract extension Friday.

UK officials hope the contract, approved by the UK Athletics Association Board, will keep Smith at the helm of the Wildcats through the 2010-11 season.

"We wanted to stay in the forefront and stay ahead in college basketball," Smith said. "We have a No. 1 program in college basketball and we want to keep it that way."

The contract does not include a buyout clause, said UK Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart.

Smith's base salary would be \$200,000 a year and would include several incentives, including bonus pay for team academics and conference and NCAA tournament appearances.

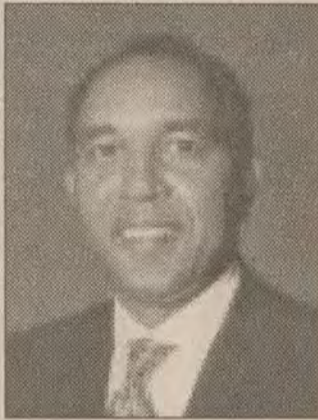
Smith, who will turn 52 on June 30, is 164-47 in six years at Kentucky. Adolph Rupp and Rick Pitino had higher winning percentages, but Smith reached 100 victories faster than any Kentucky coach in history.

Smith swept every annual coaching honor last season after leading the Wildcats to a 32-4 record which included a 26-game winning streak. Kentucky didn't lose a game in the Southeastern Conference regular season or tournament, going an unprecedented 19-0.

But as the Wildcats gained momentum after a humbling loss at Louisville in late December, speculation swirled that Smith was considering leaving Kentucky and its demanding fans for the NBA or one of the high-profile college jobs that opened recently.

Smith never publicly said he was going anywhere. He told the Associated Press in an interview in late March that he planned on coaching Kentucky next season and added there wasn't a better job out there.

■ Tubby Smith



2003 NASCAR Winston Cup Schedule

The 2003 NASCAR Winston Cup schedule and standings, with winners in parentheses:

February

- Feb. 16 — Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Michael Waltrip)
- Feb. 23 — Subway 400, Rockingham, N.C. (Dale Jarrett)

March

- March 2 — UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400, Las Vegas. (Matt Kenseth)
- March 9 — Atlanta 500, Hampton, Ga. (Bobby Labonte)
- March 16 — Carolina Dodge Dealers 400, Darlington, S.C. (Ricky Craven)
- March 23 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Kurt Busch)

- March 30 — Samsung/RadioShack 500, Fort Worth, Texas. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)

April

- April 6 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)
- April 13 — Virginia 500, Martinsville (Jeff Gordon)
- April 27 — Auto Club 500, Fontana, Calif.

May

- May 3 — Pontiac Excitement 400, Richmond, Va.
- May 25 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.

June

- June 1 — MBNA America 400, Dover, Del.
- June 8 — Pocono 500, Long Pond, Pa.
- June 15 — Sirius Satellite Radio 400, Brooklyn, Mich.
- June 22 — Dodge/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.

July

- July 5 — Pepsi 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
- July 13 — Tropicana 400, Joliet, Ill.
- July 20 — New England 300, Loudon, N.H.
- July 27 — Pennsylvania 500, Long Pond.

August

- Aug. 3 — Brickyard 400, Indianapolis.
- Aug. 10 — Sirius at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.
- Aug. 17 — Michigan 400, Brooklyn.
- Aug. 23 — Sharpie 500, Bristol, Tenn.
- Aug. 31 — Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.

September

- Sept. 6 — Chevrolet Monte Carlo 400, Richmond, Va.
- Sept. 14 — New Hampshire 300, Loudon.
- Sept. 21 — Dover 400, Dover, Del.
- Sept. 28 — EA Sports 500, Talladega, Ala.

October

- Oct. 5 — Kansas 400, Kansas City.
- Oct. 11 — UAW-GM Quality 500, Concord, N.C.
- Oct. 19 — Old Dominion 500, Martinsville, Va.
- Oct. 26 — Georgia 500, Hampton.

November

- Nov. 2 — Checker Auto Parts 500, Avondale, Ariz.
- Nov. 9 — Pop Secret Microwave Popcorn 400, Rockingham, N.C.
- Nov. 16 — Ford 400, Homestead, Fla.

Driver Standings

1. Matt Kenseth, 1,330.
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 1,279.
3. Jeff Gordon, 1,191.
4. Jimmie Johnson, 1,151.
5. Kurt Busch, 1,125.
6. Kevin Harvick, 1,097.
7. Tony Stewart, 1,092.
8. Michael Waltrip, 1,088.
9. Ricky Craven, 1,082.
10. Elliott Sadler, 1,055.
11. Bobby Labonte, 1,026.
12. Sterling Marlin, 1,001.
13. Dale Jarrett, 987.
14. Robby Gordon, 971.
15. Mark Martin, 970.
16. Rusty Wallace, 970.
17. Joe Nemecek, 959.
18. Jeff Burton, 958.
19. Ricky Rudd, 947.
20. Ryan Newman, 943.

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Pro football: A look ahead

2003 Schedules

CINCINNATI BENGALS
 Sept. 7 DENVER 1 p.m.
 Sept. 14 at Oakland 4:15 p.m.
 Sept. 21 PITT 1 p.m.
 Sept. 28 at Cleveland 1 p.m.
 Oct. 5 at Buffalo 1 p.m.
 Oct. 19 BALT 1 p.m.
 Oct. 26 SEATTLE 1 p.m.
 Nov. 2 at Arizona 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 9 HOUSTON 1 p.m.
 Nov. 16 KC 1 p.m.
 Nov. 23 at SD 4:15 p.m.
 Nov. 30 at Pitt 1 p.m.
 Dec. 7 at Baltimore 1 p.m.
 Dec. 14 SAN FRANCISCO 1 p.m.
 Dec. 21 at St. Louis 1 p.m.
 Dec. 28 CLEVELAND 1 p.m.

Oct. 26 at NE 1 p.m.
 Nov. 9 at KC 1 p.m.
 Nov. 16 ARIZONA 1 p.m.
 Nov. 23 PITT 1 p.m.
 Nov. 30 at Seattle 4:15 p.m.
 Dec. 8 ST. LOUIS 9 p.m.
 Dec. 14 at Denver 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 21 BALTIMORE 1 p.m.
 Dec. 28 at Cincinnati 1 p.m.



Floyd County UK fan Erica Meade had the opportunity to meet and greet former UK Wildcat Jules Camara at John Gray Monday evening.

KENTUCKY SPEEDWAY

Kentucky testing day washed away by showers

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

SPARTA — Persistent showers washed out a second day of Kentucky Speedway testing for 10 NASCAR Winston Cup Pontiac and Dodge teams hoping to fine-tune their race machines during a rare break in the 2003 schedule.

Among the racecars scheduled to see action on the speedway's 1.5-mile tri-oval were the No. 32 Tide Pontiac of Ricky Craven, the No. 7 Sirius Dodge of Jimmy Spencer, the No. 4 Kodak Pontiac of Mike Skinner, the No. 45 Georgia Pacific/Sprint Dodge of Kyle Petty, the No. 10 Valvoline Pontiac of Johnny Benson and the No. 9 Dodge Dealers Dodge of Bill Elliott.

Elliott summarized the work

many teams were performing in the garage area.

"We try to work on different combinations to see if something works better," Elliott said. "This race track is similar to Chicago and Kansas City, and it might help you for California, Michigan and Pocono. You just work on aero and motor combinations and try different things to see what works best."

Fans can watch all Kentucky Speedway test sessions free of charge from the area outside Turn 3 adjacent to the Kentucky Speedway Fan Center and Gift Shop. Fan Center hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Fan Center is located at Kentucky Speedway Entrance 2 off Ky. Ste. Route 35.

Eastern Kentucky AAU wins Cougar Classic

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Eastern Kentucky Stars' AAU basketball team played some marathon ball last weekend.

The Stars played six games in a 25-hour period, including four in eight hours last Sunday, to win the 14-under division of the Cougar Classic.

The Stars defeated West Central, Ohio, 54-49 in the championship.

There were 28 teams in the division including teams from Illinois and Pittsburgh.

The Stars were 7-0 in the tournament with wins over the Columbus Kings (69-28), the DaFunk (76-35), EA Sports (63-52), Columbus Bearcats

(54-30), the Ohio Stars (52-49), and the AAYA Saints (63-52).

Team members are Kasey Clark, Billy Blanton, Drew McDavid, Luke Bonner, Robby Wilcox, Michael Hollingsworth and Alex Barker. The head coach is Bryan LeMaster. Joe Barker is an assistant.

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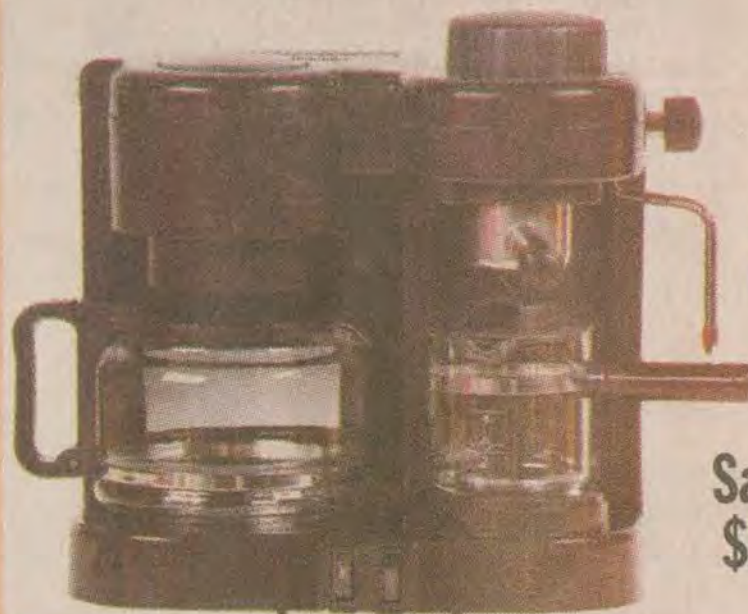
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