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briefs

Man dies in wreck at Virgie

Times Staff Report

PENNY ROAD — A Pike County man was killed late Thursday night when the vehicle in which he was passenger was struck while attempting to leave U.S. 23 onto Route 1449 at Penny Road, just outside Virgie.

According to police, Brandon Newsome, 26, of Raccoon, was killed in the crash that occurred at 10:30 p.m. Thursday night when the 1992 Bonneville he was a passenger in was struck by a 2001 Ford Explorer traveling south along U.S. 23.

The driver of the vehicle in which Newsome was a passenger and the occupants of the 2001 Ford Explorer were not identified in police reports, although Kentucky State Police Post 9 Sgt. John McMahan said that all were treated and released for injuries at Pikeville Methodist Hospital.

Newsome was pronounced dead at the scene by Pike County Coroner Russell Roberts.

State police are currently investigating the accident.

Drugs cases settled for little or no jail time

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

— Evidence lacking in six cases, prosecutor says —

PRESTONSBURG — Defendants in six drug-related criminal cases received or are to receive probated sentences after they entered guilty pleas Friday

morning in Floyd Circuit Court, all of which came as a result of plea offers recommended by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office following pretrial confer-

ences in November.

Two Floyd County residents who pleaded guilty to drug trafficking are slated to receive probated sentences next year after

problems arose with the evidence in their cases.

Justin Stone, 25, of Garrett, indicted April 8, on first- and second-degree trafficking charges

for allegedly selling Ecstasy and Ritalin in December 2002, accepted a plea agreement with the commonwealth in November.

In return for his guilty plea, the commonwealth offered Stone

(See PROBATION, page three)



photo by Sheldon Compton

City police said Friday afternoon that Dr. Gary D. Williams was killed when he lost control of his truck crossing a mountain along U.S. 23 outside of Prestonsburg. Police and firefighters worked Friday morning and most of the afternoon separating Williams' entangled truck from the grill of this 2004 model tractor-trailer.

Doctor killed on U.S. 23

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Paintsville doctor was killed Friday morning when he lost control of his vehicle along an icy stretch of U.S. 23 outside Prestonsburg and crashed head-on into a tractor-trailer.

Dr. Gary D. Williams, a 36-year-old Martin resident who served as medical director of the emergency room at Paul B. Hall Medical Center in Paintsville, was traveling south along the highway when he lost control of his 2002 Chevy King Cab truck while topping a hill and began a downhill

slide, Prestonsburg police officers said Friday afternoon.

Investigating officer George Tussey said Williams lost traction along the ice- and snow-covered roadway and crossed over into the northbound lane, where he collided at approximately 8 a.m. with a 2004 Freight Liner commercial truck driven by 53-year-old Charles H. Campbell, of Byesville, Ohio.

Williams died instantly in the crash and was later pronounced dead by Floyd County Coroner Roger Nelson, while Campbell sustained no injuries in the acci-

(See WRECK, page three)

Woman drowns in wreck at Hi Hat

Times Staff Report

Icy roads led to the drowning death of a Hi Hat resident Friday, after the car she was driving overturned in a creek near her home.

According to a statement issued by Trooper Rick Conn, KSP Accident Reconstructionist,

(See DROWNING, page three)

Dempsey gets five years for burglary

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Garrett resident was sentenced to five years in prison Friday for a variety of charges stemming from a burglary which occurred earlier this year in Floyd County.

Michael Paul Dempsey, 20, was indicted in June on one count of first-degree burglary, two counts of second-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, and one count of third-degree criminal mischief.

He faced sentencing

Friday afternoon in Judge Danny Caudill's courtroom, where he received first years on the first three counts of his indictment and 30 days on the criminal mischief charge, all to run concurrently.

According to Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner, who prosecuted the case, Dempsey collaborated with two juveniles on Feb. 25 in the burglary of a Printer residence belonging to Doug and Alice Osborne.

Turner said Friday that Dempsey had visited the residence earlier that day, during

(See BURGLARY, page three)

Paintsville doctor gets 41 months in prison for drug conviction

The Associated Press

LONDON — An Eastern Kentucky physician was sentenced to 41 months in prison after being convicted of illegally prescribing hundreds of thousands of pills.

Dr. Yakov Drabovskiy of Paintsville filed a motion to toss out his conviction before sentencing, but U.S. District Judge Karen Caldwell denied the request.

Caldwell said she was puzzled by how Drabovskiy was able to get a medical license in Kentucky.

"You were an unemployed physician of questionable medical competency who stumbled on a gold mine of addiction in Eastern Kentucky," Caldwell said Thursday during the sentencing in federal court in

(See SENTENCE, page three)

Attorneys gather to raise money for food pantries

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Charity was the main focus of the Floyd County Bar Association's meeting Friday morning.

With the Christmas season closing in, Circuit Judges John David Caudill and Danny P. Caudill oversaw a charity auction and accepted other donations to 15 local food pantries, at times displaying tongue-in-cheek firmness when seeking bar member charity.

"Now there's nobody threatening here, but I will see you again down the road," Judge John David Caudill goaded the courtroom full of lawyers.

But the casual soon became the heartfelt

and serious when both judges reminded everyone of true purpose behind the auction.

"This is very important," said Judge Danny P. Caudill. "There's parents out there right now who are crying because school was called off because now their children won't have a breakfast and a lunch."

Such reality prompted more-than-generous bids on two sets of University of Kentucky Wildcats basketball tickets provided for auction by Supreme Court Justice Janet Stumbo and her husband, Prestonsburg attorney Ned Pillersdorf.

The tickets, for games against Georgia

(See BAR, page three)



photo by Sheldon Compton

Floyd Circuit Judges John David Caudill and Danny P. Caudill oversaw a charity auction of two sets of UK basketball tickets during the Floyd County Bar Association's meeting Friday morning. The Bar donated nearly \$5,000 to 15 food pantries across the county, including a \$500 donation through the purchase of tickets to an upcoming Kentucky versus Tennessee basketball game.

Inside

Local News

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 46 • Low: 29

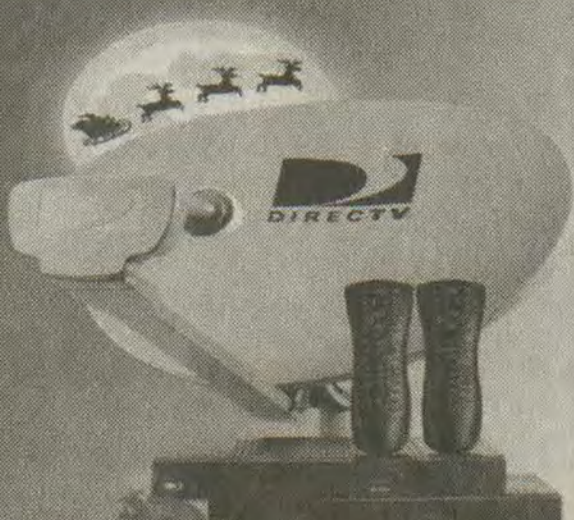
Tomorrow



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Odds and Ends

■ **NAPLES, Fla.** — A suspect in jewelry heist got caught after he tried to get away — in the sheriff's car.

The two men dressed in black jumped into a car they apparently thought was a getaway car, only to bolt again when they noticed the driver wore a badge. They were fleeing as a sheriff's helicopter and K-9 units searched for burglary suspects shortly after a break-in.

Combing a gated community for men who had stolen jewelry from a home, Collier County Sheriff's Sgt. Robert Maxfield saw two men run out of the bushes and toward his unmarked car.

The men's backs were turned as they got into the car, and they didn't notice his sheriff's jacket until they were inside.

Maxfield said he yelled "sheriff's office, freeze!" But the men scrambled out of the car and started running.

Maxfield caught up with Dale McClain, 45, who was later charged with grand theft and burglary.

The other man escaped and the jewelry has not been found, Maxfield said.

"For me to be in that place, at that time, in that car, every-

thing must have been in alignment," Maxfield said.

McClain was jailed on \$105,000 bail.

■ **SANTA MONICA, Calif.** — Longtime peace activist Jerry Rubin belatedly celebrated his 60th birthday by registering to vote with his new name: Jerry Peace Activist Rubin.

Superior Court Judge Alan B. Haber on Thursday granted Rubin's request to legally change his name to the monicker which has long appeared in the telephone directory to avoid confusion with the late "Chicago Seven" defendant Jerry Rubin who lived in the same area.

The bearded activist, who went to the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge the city's refusal to print "peace activist" as his occupation on the ballot, pleaded before Haber on his birthday Dec. 11 to grant the name change.

"I even put on long pants for court. Anything for peace," Rubin said.

But Haber wanted to think about it, and a dejected Rubin left the courtroom.

"I'm very pleased," said a jubilant Rubin, whose crusade for peace began in June 1969. "It's a good thing for peace and

a good thing for activism."

Rubin conceded the name change won't have a dramatic day-to-day impact.

"Most people just call me 'Hey you!' You can still call me Jerry. But I'll sign everything Jerry Peace Activist Rubin."

The city refused to print the "peace activist" designation after Rubin's name when he unsuccessfully ran for a City Council seat in 2000. City election officials contended the phrase violated state rules that ban misleading occupational descriptions.

Rubin sued in federal court and lost. He appealed and lost. He then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined earlier this year to hear the case.

■ **BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** — A 140-pound rapist met his match in an angry, 275-pound prostitute, police said.

Adrian Castillo Ramirez allegedly tried to sexually assault a 24-year-old Bakersfield prostitute who was nearly twice his weight.

But she took his knife, stripped him naked and paraded him in front of other prostitutes, after asking how many of them had ever been forced into sex at knife-point. Then she tried to take him — still naked — to the

police station, reports said.

Castillo was charged with failing to register as a sex offender, and with committing forcible sex acts on the 24-year-old and on a 37-year-old woman in a previous incident. He was convicted of four counts of rape in 1988.

Castillo pleaded innocent Wednesday, and is being held on \$250,000 bail, police said.

■ **WESTON, Fla.** — A mother of three got a lot more than breakfast at a McDonald's drive-thru.

Janice Meissner says she ordered a bagel and a Diet Coke last week, but when she got her

bag it seemed "super heavy."

That was because it had hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in a sealed plastic bag — money that turned out to be the restaurant's bank deposit.

McDonald's officials, who wouldn't say how much money was in the bag, said the deposit was placed in a food bag as a security procedure to make it less conspicuous before it was taken to the bank. They said it was accidentally left too close to the drive-thru window.

"Someone didn't check twice before sending it out the window, obviously," said spokeswoman Beth Plotkin.

Meissner, who had just dropped off her 5-year-old daughter at preschool, paused for a moment before backing up her minivan to the pickup window and returning the money to the employee who handed her the bag.

"I said, 'Do you want to know what was in this bag?'" Meissner recalled. "She turned white as a ghost. She didn't realize the money was missing yet. She thanked me. And that was that."

McDonald's officials said Thursday they are going to send Meissner a thank-you letter and \$50 in gift certificates.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2003. There are 10 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

On this date:

■ In 1898, scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discovered the radioactive element radium.

■ In 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published, in the New York World.

■ In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.

■ In 1948, the state of Eire (formerly the Irish Free State) declared its independence.

■ In 1958, Charles de Gaulle was elected to a seven-year term as the first president of the Fifth Republic of France.

■ In 1968, Apollo Eight was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

■ In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary-General.

■ In 1976, the Liberian-registered tanker Argo Merchant ran aground near Nantucket Island, spilling millions of gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.

■ In 1978, police in Des Plaines, Ill., arrested John W. Gacy Jr. and began unearthing the remains of 33 men and boys that Gacy was later convicted of murdering.

■ In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

Ten years ago:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in an interview with The Associated Press, said her husband, President Clinton, had solicited her advice on major issues; but, she added, her powers were limited.

Five years ago:

Israel's parliament voted overwhelmingly for early elections, signaling the demise of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ailing hard-line government. A Chinese court sentenced two dissidents (Xu Wenli, Wang Youcai) to long prison terms for trying to organize an opposition party. (Xu was released in December 2002; Wang is still imprisoned.)

One year ago:

A military helicopter crash in Afghanistan killed seven German peacekeepers who were on board and two children on the ground; a U.S. soldier was killed in combat. President Bush received a smallpox vaccination, fulfilling a promise he'd made when he ordered inoculations for about a-half million U.S. troops.

Today's Birthdays:

Former Austrian president and former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim is 85. Ventriloquist Paul Winchell is 81. Country singer Freddie Hart is 77. Actor Ed Nelson is 75. Talk show host Phil Donahue is

68. Movie director John Avildsen is 68. Actress Jane Fonda is 66. Actor Larry Bryggman is 65. Singer Carla Thomas is 61. Musician Albert Lee is 60. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 59. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 55. Singer Betty Wright is 50. Tennis star Chris Evert is 49. Actress Jane Kaczmarek is 48. Country singer Lee Roy Parnell is 47. Entertainer Jim Rose is 47. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 46. Country singer Christy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 41. Actor-comedian Andy Dick is 38. Rock musician Gabrielle Glaser is 38. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 37. Actress Karri Turner ("JAG") is 37. Actress Chrystyne Haje is 35. Country singer Brad Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 35. Actress Julie Delpy is 34. Singer-musician Brett Scallions (Fuel) is 32.

Thought for Today:

"It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them." — Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, French author and dramatist (1732-1799).

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Death penalty given in Grayson killing

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — For a second time, a Carter County man was sentenced to death Friday afternoon in Floyd Circuit Court for the 1993 murder of a physically disabled elderly woman.

Circuit Judge John David Caudill adhered to the recommendation of the jury, which requested the death sentence on Oct. 3 for Samuel Steven Fields,

32. Additionally, Fields received a 20-year sentence for a first-degree burglary charge.

Reportedly, Fields entered the residence of Bess S. Horton, 84, of Grayson, on August 19, 1993, where he burglarized the residence and murdered Horton.

Although his attorney, Public Advocate Rebecca Lytle, of Frankfort, told The Floyd County Times last week that Fields has "steadfastly" maintained his innocence of the murder throughout the ongoing saga

of the trial, a supplementary uniform offense report, submitted by Detective M. G. Stevens on the day of the murder, noted that Fields confessed to the murder after being read his Miranda rights by officers at the Horton home.

In the report, Stevens notes that officers investigating the murder found Fields in Horton's "ransacked" bedroom "going through drawers."

Horton was lying in her bed, he reported, with a wooden handled knife protruding from her right temple area. She suffered incisions on her upper and lower lips, as well as a five-inch slash on her neck — the wound which ultimately caused her death. The

fingers on Horton's left hand were stuck inside the slash on her throat, Stevens reported.

Lytle and her co-counsel, Mark Baker, a public advocate from Frankfort, filed a motion "for judgment notwithstanding the verdict or in alternative motion for a new trial," in Floyd Circuit Court on Oct. 17. The motion, which stipulated that the court erred in Fields' "substantial prejudice" for various reasons, was denied by Judge Caudill prior to sentencing.

The death sentence invoked Friday is the second death sentence recommended to Fields for the Horton murder. A Rowan County jury recommended a death sentence in 2001 after finding him guilty of the capital murder and first-degree burglary charges.

That ruling was reversed by the state Supreme Court at the request of Fields' attorneys, who argued that the commonwealth played a videotape of the crime scene too many times during the trial and forgot to mention the possibility of a manslaughter charge in the jurors' instructions.

"Two separate juries found

him guilty on the same charges and it was ultimately the right decision," Assistant Attorney General Thom Marshall, lead prosecutor in the case, said Friday.

As with all death penalty cases, Fields' case will now proceed through an automatic appeals process, where he will have the chance to appeal Friday's decision.

"I think most the appropriate

thing to say about this case is what I heard one of the victim's family say, 'May God have mercy on Sam Field's soul,'" said Judge Caudill following the hearing Friday.

Fields was taken to the Floyd county Detention Center, where he waits to be transported to the Kentucky State penitentiary in Eddyville, the only Kentucky facility with the ability to carry out a death sentence.

Burglary

Continued from p1

which time he requested to use the restroom, where he unlocked a bathroom window, which he later used to gain entry into the home.

The Osbornes told Dempsey they were going to a ball game at South Floyd High School, Turner said.

Investigating officer Robert Caudill with the Floyd County Sheriff's Department reported to the scene on the night of the burglary after neighbors called to report a burglary in progress.

According to Turner, neighbors witnessed Dempsey and two juveniles going "back and forth" between the Osborne home and a neighboring home owned by Ernie Jones, where Dempsey was later arrested.

Kentucky State Police troopers chased and apprehended the two juveniles who fled, said Turner. They were later cited in juvenile court.

Items stolen from the Osborne home that were found at the Jones' residence included a pistol, that was hidden under a chair with a bottle of prescription pills, and a shotgun, which was lodged in a chimney.

According to Turner, several items such as jewelry and gold coins were not recovered following the burglary.

"We have a lot of burglaries in the county right now and a lot of people believe it's due to the drug problem," said Turner. "And on a lot of those cases it's hard to get convictions you need because you very rarely have evidence to support a conviction."

"Officer Robert Caudill did outstanding job on his investigation. He didn't just go look into it and give up. He went back and kept questioning the residents. The fact that he did such a good job helped us get the resolution that we got. We've consulted with the victims and they're pleased with outcome as well."

Dempsey was credited with 232 days for time already served toward his sentence.

Caudill wished him "good luck" following the hearing on Friday.

No charges were filed against the people staying at the Jones residence, according to Turner, who noted they were helpful to the investigation.

Drowning

Continued from p1

Donna S. Mullins, 25, was traveling northbound on Bryant Branch Road in Hi Hat around 12 p.m., when her 1987 GMC Jimmy skidded on the icy roadway and went over an embankment.

The car ultimately overturned in Beaver Creek, Conn reported.

Mullins was removed by residents at the scene and transported to McDowell ARH hospital by the Left Beaver Ambulance Service.

She was later pronounced dead by Deputy Coroner Glenn Frazier, who ruled the cause of death as drowning.

Wreck

Continued from p1

Both men were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, according to police reports.

Two hours after the crash occurred, police and fire department officials continued to wave traffic around the 18-wheeler, which was stretched across the northbound lane of U.S. 23. Officials said Williams' vehicle was "enmeshed" in the Freight Liner's expansive grill and that a great deal of time was spent trying to pry loose the two vehicles.

Originally from Perry County, Williams had been associated with Paul B. Hall Medical Center for four years.

"Our entire staff is shocked and stunned by Dr. Williams' tragic death," the medical center's administrator and CEO Deborah Trimble said in a statement Friday evening. "He was a truly caring and compassionate physician and one of the most dedicated that it has been my honor to know. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with Dr. Williams' family as we share their grievous loss."

The accident remains under investigation by Officer George Tussey.

Other agencies which assisted at the scene Friday morning were the Prestonsburg Fire Department, the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, members of Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement and the Kentucky State Police.

Probation

Continued from p1

a two-year sentence for second-degree trafficking and dismissed charges against him for allegedly selling Ecstasy.

The commonwealth amended Slone's original indictment on Nov. 10, dismissing the latter charge, after an analysis by the Kentucky State Police lab confirmed that the substance confiscated during the investigation was not Ecstasy or any other controlled substance, as previously believed.

Slone's sentence is to be probated after the service of 30 days, and he is to remain under supervised probation for two years. In light of the holiday season, Circuit Judge John David Caudill set Slone's formal sentencing date for Jan. 23.

Additionally, Charles Newsome, 26, of Prestonsburg, indicted April 8 on second-degree trafficking charges for allegedly selling Lorcet, also is slated to receive probated sentence following formal sentencing next year due to problems with evidence in his case.

According to documents filed in circuit court, the commonwealth offered Newsome a probated sentence because the audiotape used in the case was completely inaudible. Additionally, Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner noted in the plea agreement that Newsome had no prior criminal record and has a family to support.

In addition to these two cases, four other drug-related cases received probated sentences during motion hour Friday.

Larry Ratliff, 31, of Pikeville, indicted on July 8 for first-degree trafficking of Oxycontin and for possession of drug paraphernalia, accepted the commonwealth's offer for a guilty plea following a Nov. 18 pretrial conference.

In return for a guilty plea, the commonwealth stipulated that the trafficking charge against Ratliff be amended to possession of a controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor.

Additionally, Ratliff received a sentence of 12 months on both charges against him to run concurrently. His sentence was probated 24 months.

According to Turner, the charges against Ratliff were issued after his girlfriend called police during an argument. Police found cash and pills in Ratliff's possession when they came to investigate the call, which made the police believe he had an intent to sell those drugs.

Phillis Goodwin, an Ohio resident who was "just passing through" the county when she was charged with drug trafficking, also received a probated sentence after pleading guilty Friday.

Goodwin, originally charged with two counts of drug trafficking and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia, received three 12-month sentences, all of which were suspended for 24 months in court on Friday.

In their plea agreement, the commonwealth offered to amend both trafficking charges to the class A misdemeanor of possession of a controlled substance, an act which Turner says resulted

Bar

Continued from p1

and Tennessee, sold well, with the highest bid offered at \$475 from one of many persistent attorneys present Friday. Judge John David Caudill capped the successful bid by tossing in \$25 in addition to his donation earlier in the morning to bring the price to an even \$500.

When the morning meeting was finished, the local Bar had assisted the 15 food pantry representatives present to the tune of \$4,750, a figure with which Bar treasurer John Rosenberg said all

members were pleased.

"I think we might be the only Bar association that does this," Rosenberg said after the meeting. "It was a pretty respectable total for a drive and it's a good thing for the Bar to do."

Donations Friday ranged from \$25 to \$1,000, Rosenberg said.

"We really need it and everybody really appreciates it," he said. "We know it's all going to be spent well right here in Floyd County where people really need it."

Elkhorn City mayor's DUI trial postponed again

The Associated Press

PIKEVILLE — The drunken-driving trial of Elkhorn City Mayor Richard "Hank" Salyer has been postponed for a seventh time.

Special prosecutor Harold D. Bolling asked for the postponement to give him time to prepare for trial.

"There appears to be significant legal issues raised in this matter which will require study and research in order to participate in the proceedings," Bolling said.

Bolling, the Letcher County attorney, was appointed to replace Pike County Attorney Howard Keith Hall. Pike County District Judge Kelsey E. Friend Jr. granted a motion by Salyer's defense attorney, Steve Owens of Pikeville, for a special prosecutor on the case.

Owens said Pike County Attorney Howard Keith Hall's office has a conflict of interest

because the mayor has to work closely with Hall's office to collect delinquent property taxes and to receive legal advice.

The case now has a tentative trial date of Feb. 24.

Owens said breath tests administered to his client were skewed. He said one breath test administered to his client showed a deficient sample, and a second showed a blood-alcohol level of .124. The legal limit in Kentucky is .08.

Owens argued that the arresting officer should have obtained a blood or urine test to determine the blood-alcohol level after the breath test was flagged as deficient.

Owens said he expects the case to ultimately make its way to the Kentucky Supreme Court.

Salyer refused to accept a plea bargain that would require him to pay a \$500 fine, attend traffic school, and have his license suspended for 90 days.



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Jerome Greathouse, president of The Dream Factory, a non-profit organization dedicated to making the dreams of chronically ill children come true, accepted a generous donation of \$2,000 Friday morning from Rudd Equipment Company. Rudd has been a continuing supporter of the organization and this most recent donation has been the local chapter's largest monetary donation from any source to date, according to Greathouse. "We just believe in the wonderful work the Dream Factory does and are happy to support their endeavors," said Randy Griffith, company parts manager. Shown presenting the check to Greathouse is Linda Caudill, sales coordinator. To the rear are Griffith and Teresa Ramey, parts secretary.

Sentence

Continued from p1

London.

Drabovskiy worked for Dr. Frederick Cohn at a pain clinic Cohn opened in Paintsville in August 2000. Cohn hired Drabovskiy, a Russian national, through what was essentially a temporary service for doctors.

The clinic quickly gained a reputation as a "pill mill" where it was easy to get drugs.

Testimony at Drabovskiy's

trial showed that he and Cohn wrote thousands of prescriptions for painkillers, muscle relaxers and antidepressants, often with little or no physical examination.

Investigators said people flocked to the office — among them drug addicts and dealers. There were 10,000 patient files on hand when the state police and FBI shut down the office Aug. 2, 2001.

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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

Look for answers to dropout problem

Action must be taken to boost Kentucky's sagging high school dropout rate.

It was discouraging to see recent statistics ranking Kentucky 49th in the nation in graduates.

What can be done to change these figures?

It was interesting to see that northeastern states had a much higher graduation level.

So the question is this: What are they doing that we are not? Some cite better household incomes and more job opportunities.

Under the Kentucky Education Reform Act, Kentucky has taken steps to lower the dropout rate, which is good.

Some of these steps include being enrolled in school in order to obtain a drivers license, parental consent to drop out if a student is under 18 and developing Individual Graduation Plans for each student.

But some high school students feel that they can drop out, especially in rural areas, and survive.

This type of mind-set is one reason why we are rated 49th in the country in dropout rates.

"I think it's just the fact that people have been able to drop out of schools and survive economically," said John Settle, superintendent of Bowling Green Independent Schools.

It used to be that students could drop out and find work fairly easy, but that isn't the case anymore.

Still, there are signs of hope.

Secondary academies, such as the county district's Lighthouse Academy, are graduating students who would otherwise drop out of school.

Another promising phenomenon is the practice of elementary schools submitting a list of at-risk students to the central office after each semester. Identifying them and providing extra help should be beneficial.

Also, jobs are difficult to find, and students are realizing that they will have a harder time finding work without a diploma.

Maybe with this knowledge, students will stay the course and make Kentucky a model for other states to follow.

— Daily News, Bowling Green



— Jim Davidson

Wilda would give her last lump of coal

In the year 1909, William Howard Taft was president of the United States of America and James S. Sherman was vice president. The year's top news stories, Robert E. Perry's Expedition is first to reach the North Pole and U.S. troops withdraw from Cuba. The U.S. population was 90,490,000. A three bedroom brick home had an average cost of \$2,575. The annual average income was \$518; a new Ford automobile cost \$950, a dozen eggs 32 cents, 1-pound loaf of bread, 5 cents and milk was 32 cents a gallon. The 1909 World Series, Pittsburgh over Detroit. Music heard at the time: "By the Light of the Silvery Moon", "I Wonder Who Is Kissing Her Now" and "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet".

On Saturday, April 10, that same year, Wilda Scott Witt made her entrance into the world at Parrottsville, Tenn., in Cocke County. When both of her parents passed away in 1913, Wilda

was placed in the Holston Home located in Greenville, Tenn., where she grew up. Life was not easy for Wilda and she went through many trials and tribulations, but in 1995 when the orphanage was having a 100-year anniversary, they contacted her about coming and giving a speech about the home. The governor of Tennessee was supposed to be the main speaker, so she accepted. Of course the local television station and other members of the media were to be there.

At the last minute they found out the governor couldn't be there, and Wilda found herself in the center of the spotlight. Without notes, she knocked their socks off and they gave her a standing ovation.

This is a little background about my friend Wilda Witt, who now lives in Bluefield, W.Va. Soon after my column began to run in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, she wrote me a letter and we have corresponded a number of times since then. I can tell you this for sure; Wilda makes some wonderful apple butter. The reason I have decided to tell you about this dear lady is because she is past 90 years of age and she is still interested in people and is sharp as a

tack. One of her daughters, Cecile Barrett, was once mayor of Bluefield and now takes care of Wilda in her home.

Back on July 20, 2002, the family was planning a big reunion and they asked Wilda to write down some words that would give the younger members some ideas about what had happened to

family members over the years. Much of the information I have shared with you can be found in this small book titled, "Wilda's Words", but I was really impressed by the introduction that was written by one of her grandsons, whose name is Jack. He begins, "Wilda, Mom Maw as we know her, has been my grandmother for more than 53 years. She has never been afraid to try something new or

to learn something new. Later I learned to appreciate the joy of giving that she holds so dear. I have never known anyone who would so willingly give her last dollar or her last lump of coal."

To be sure, people who live in this coal mining area of our country can appreciate what I am saying. On those cold winter days when the snow and biting wind made life miserable, and the coal pile was low, to have someone who cares about you so much they would

(See DAVIDSON, page five)



— beyond the beltway

Medicare for dummies

by DONALD KAUL

The president signed his Medicare bill into law the other day, amid much self-congratulatory celebration. Ringed by grinning Republicans, he said that the bill, which ostensibly will pay part of seniors' drug bills beginning in 2006, was a promise kept.

But he didn't say to whom he promised what.

The truth is the new bill is one of bewildering complexity that even people who have mastered the formula for choosing the nation's best college football team have not been able to figure out. No one really knows whom this new bill will benefit, how much it will cost or who will pay for it.

Sponsors say the bill will offer a low-cost insurance that will pay most of a senior's prescription drug cost, provided the costs are high. It should also extend Medicare coverage of routine physical examinations and offer tax-free "health savings accounts" to meet medical expenses not covered by insurance. Further it purports to give "more health care choices" to elderly people who wish to get the government off their backs by dropping out of Medicare and

going with a federally subsidized private company.

However, the exceptions are so many and so subtle that a hospital accountant would have a hard time choosing what to do.

"Seniors are fully capable of making health care choices and this bill allows them to do just that," said Mr. Bush.

Hah! I'm a senior and I have trouble remembering where I left my car keys. The president expects me to understand Medicare?

It seems to me that AARP, the retired persons' lobbying group, has a special responsibility to explain this bill to its members and give them expert guidance in choosing a plan that will benefit them. It was AARP, after all, that put the bill over the top by throwing its support behind it at the last minute.

Now the question is, was AARP acting primarily as a seniors lobby or as a highly profitable insurance company? And will the advice it gives be that of a seniors' advocate or an insurance company?

So many questions; so few answers.

There are a few things the new legislation definitely will do, however. It will restrict the importation of drugs from Canada, where they are less expensive.

It will prohibit beneficiaries from buying supplemental insurance to meet the cost of drugs not covered under Medicare. It will prevent the government from negotiating drug prices with manufacturers. It will reduce coverage for some poor people whose drug costs are now paid by Medicaid.

The more I look at the bill, the more convinced I am that the real beneficiaries of the thing will be the insurance and drug companies, which is only logical since they wrote it.

Why, you might ask, would Congress, that organ of the people, allow insurance and drug companies, whose conflict of interest in the matter is manifest, to write a bill so important to so many people?

How could it be otherwise? We live in a virtual democracy, where politicians do not respond to voters' needs so much as to the needs of the people who give them money so that they can fool the voters into reelecting them.

Thus, you don't really need an actual drug benefit, so long as you have a virtual one. And you don't have to have actual weapons of mass destruction in the hands of your enemy to go to war; virtual ones are just as good.

And do we the People care we're being flimflammed? We don't even notice. We are otherwise occupied,

(See BELTWAY, page five)



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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment:

What gift have you given to Christ?

by REV. BOB DAMRON
St. Martha Catholic Church

It was another cold, snowy Christmas Eve. Tom, Sue and the children had been visiting friends and family all day. They had been delivering many gifts and spending short moments sharing cookies and eggnog. While traveling from family to friend, they had noticed the joy of the Christmas lights, the laughter and friendliness of the people and the beauty of the fresh-fallen snow.

Now, as Tom, Sue and the children gathered around their Christmas tree, decorated with tinsel and lights, it was time to open their gifts. Little Mary read the names written on the gifts and the boxes covered with bright-colored paper began to be torn apart to reveal the gifts

within. As they were opening their gifts, Uncle Charlie on the other side of town also opened his gift delivered that day — a new tie. Aunt Martha received a new apron. The paper boy, a gift certificate from McDonald's. Old Granny down the street, a fruit basket. All were enjoying their gifts of love from family and friends.

At Christmas, God is giving to each of us His most precious gift — the gift of Himself, the gift of His Son wrapped not in bright-colored paper, but in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

get a gift for someone very special."

In a flash, Tom and Sue went over their gift list in their minds, trying to find the name of that someone they had forgotten. But no matter how many times they went over that list, that "someone" never came up.

Finally, little Susie ever so gently said, "We forgot to get a gift for baby Jesus. We forgot to give Jesus a gift this Christmas." Have you given Jesus a gift

this Christmas? "But," you ask, "what gift can I give to the Son of God?"

Our gift to the Christ-Child cannot be put into a box and covered with bright-colored paper. Our gift to Jesus is the gift of ourselves, the gift of my life. The gift not only of our days, but also our dreams at night. The gift of our smiles and our tears. The gift of our hopes and our frustrations. The gift of my life wrapped not in bright-

colored paper, but wrapped with compassion, love and forgiveness towards others. That is the gift we can give to the Christ-Child this Christmas.

At Christmas, God is giving to each of us His most precious gift — the gift of Himself, the gift of His Son wrapped not in bright-colored paper, but in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings are home, the work of Christmas begins for us, the work to find the lost, to heal the

broken, to feed the hungry, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers and sisters and to make music in the heart.

The hold day of Christmas — God gives Himself to us in a baby, shivering in the cold. At Christmas, God gives to you and me a gift — the gift of His Son, the Christ-Child. And little Susie looked lovingly up at Mom and Dad and said, "Mom, Dad, we forgot to get a gift for the baby Jesus."

God as given to us a gift — the gift of His Son. What gift have we given to the Christ-Child, to Jesus, this Christmas?

'Tis' the season: Hanukkah gains significance by proximity to Christmas

by RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

Only one other Jewish family lives in Wendy Grosser's Minneapolis neighborhood, where the Christmas season arrived in twinkling lights and Nativity scenes on front lawns.

Her son and two daughters, all under age 8, know their friends will soon gather with their families, ripping red-and-green ribbon from piles of gifts. But Grosser, a Conservative Jew, won't compete by giving a bundle of toys to her own children as Hanukkah begins this weekend.

Like many American Jews, she is resisting the pull of the holidays' close timing — an annual occurrence that has spread a misperception about Hanukkah, that it has near equivalent religious significance as Christmas.

"We are trying to emphasize its unimportance," Grosser said, of the Jewish holiday, also known as the "Festival of Lights." "I didn't want to do a big party because it glorifies it too much."

Hanukkah is the third-most observed Jewish holiday in the United States behind Passover and Yom Kippur, according to surveys, but it is less significant under Jewish law than those two holidays and four others, including the weekly Sabbath and Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year.

Hanukkah commemorates how Jews reclaimed the defiled Jerusalem Temple from a Syrian despot in 165 B.C., and how one-day's worth of ritual oil that the Jews found miraculously burned for eight days.

The holiday is celebrated by lighting a menorah, or candelabra, for eight nights. Gift-giving is traditionally part of Hanukkah, too, but the custom is for children to receive coins — real or chocolate — called gelt.

That changed in the United States when Jewish immigrants, eager to adapt to American culture, took notice of secular Christmas traditions and began incorporating them into their own celebrations.

Terri Bernsohn, a religious school administrator, remembered being told as a child that Hanukkah gifts were from a Santa equivalent called "Hanukkah Herman." Her parents even put up a small, white Christmas tree with blue ornaments. (Blue is a color associated with Jewish observance.)

"I don't remember it being called a Hanukkah bush, but many families had them," said Bernsohn, of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Ill.

Americans of other faiths have also played a role in the holiday hype, promoting Hanukkah in an effort to honor religious diversity, said Samuel Heilman, a sociologist at the City University of New York and an expert on American Judaism.

"There was a recognition that December might not just be the Christmas season," Heilman said. (Determined by a lunar calendar, the Jewish festival usually falls between late November and December.)

Advertisers took note and began promoting the holiday, and Hanukkah started looking a bit more like a visit from St. Nick.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, a scholar and author, said that his father once worked for a company that produced Hanukkah toys

and candles, and the closer the two holidays fell, the more business the company did.

"It's become part of the American economy," said Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, executive vice president of the Orthodox Union, which represents more than 1,000 North American synagogues.

Weinreb said "tasteful" gift giving does not violate the religious message of the holiday, but decried the "crassness" and "commercialism" that characterized some celebrations.

Certainly, exchanging presents other than chocolate coins has become the norm at Hanukkah, mimicking Christmas gift giving.

The Wordsworth bookstore in Cambridge, Mass., has steadily increased its stock of Hanukkah items in the past several years. Their products range from plastic dreidels — the four-sided tops that are used to play Hanukkah

(See SEASON, page six)

AARP tax aid volunteers needed

The AARP Tax Aid Program needs volunteers to assist elderly, handicapped and low-income individuals in preparing their 2003 federal and state income taxes. This program is sponsored by the AARP in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. Volunteers are requested to work at least four (4) hours per week. Each volunteer will receive training at the Floyd County Public Library, located on Arnold Avenue, in Prestonsburg, on January 12-14, 2004. Volunteers need not be

members of the AARP and can be of any age. The organization is currently running short of volunteers and is in desperate need of assistance from individuals who have experience in filing individual income tax reports. If you wish to volunteer, or desire additional information, please contact: Burieta Gearheart, local coordinator, at 886-2272, or Charlie Bryant at 2115 West Ross Ct., Ashland, Ky., 41102. You may also telephone Bryant at (606) 928-9319.

Davidson

Continued from p4

give their last lump of coal, well, that expressed more than words could say. She's a treasure and, as I said earlier, she is sharp as a tack. Here are some proverbs she sent me in the mail a few days ago.

"Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open." John Barrymore.

"Love is a fruit in season at all times and is within the reach of every hand. Mother Teresa.

"The most solid stone in the

structure is the lowest in the foundation." Kahlil Gibran.

"An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day." Henry David Thoreau.

"When luck enters, give him a seat." Jewish Proverb.

"Laziness may appear attractive, but work gives satisfaction." Anne Frank.

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul." Emily Dickinson.

"Stupidity won't kill you, but it can make you sweat." English Proverb.

"Time is not so short but there is always time for courtesy." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

As I think about Wilda Witt and the life she has lived, I see someone who has gone through tough times and who came out on the other side with grace, dignity and charm, a person whose values place others above herself, a person who will leave this world a little better than she found it.

I thank God that we still have lots of people in this great nation with these kinds of values. This is what has made America the greatest nation on earth. Wilda Witt has touched my life and I am grateful. Hope you have been blessed as well.

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

Beltway

Continued from p4

arguing over which football team is best, which beauty the handsome chap on TV is going to choose for a wife, whether some recently-married pop diva is pregnant, whether Michael Jackson is guilty of something other than really horrible taste in plastic surgeons or wondering if the basketball player du jour is a nice guy or a rapist.

Bread and circuses, the Romans called it. We call it sex and football. Same deal.

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.


His e-mail is: donald.kaul2@verizon.net.

Merry Christmas

Tommy

We love you.
Mom and Sissy

Geraldine and Eddie Burchett



Through the years, your love has grown, and I am so grateful for all the lessons you have taught, and for all the love and kindness you have shown.

Happy 35th Anniversary
Mom and Dad

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Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Ressie Adams, 84, a native of Wheelwright, died, at home in Grand Blanc, Mi., on December 15. A memorial service was held at the Wheelwright Freewill Baptist Church, Saturday, December 20, with burial at Buckingham Cemetery, in Beavinsville, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Molly Allen Banks, 90, of Hueysville, died Saturday, December 13, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Mabel Frasure Barton, 79, of Prestonsburg, died Saturday, December 13, at Highlands Regional Medical Center at Prestonsburg, following an extended illness. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 16, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Dorothy Dixon Brown, 57, of Louisa, died Monday, December 15, in Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. She is survived by her husband, Lloyd Brown. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, September 18, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Clyde Burke, 72, of Weeksbury, died Wednesday, December 10, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Greta Wells Branham, 67, of Auxier, died Monday, December 8. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 11, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Viola Crum, 75, of Wayland, died Sunday, December 14, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Alta Woods Fields, 83, of Allen, died Tuesday, December 16, at the Riverview Manor in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Osie (Shepherd) Foley, 71, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 17, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg, following a brief illness. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Lottie P. Hall, 93, of Somerset, formerly of Allen, died Monday, December 15, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Lake Cumberland Funeral Home, Somerset.

Audrey Hall, 80, of Buckingham, died Friday, December 12, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Robert Eugene Harris, 76, of Allen, died Friday, December 12, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital, following an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy E. Burchett Harris. Memorial services were held Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Rev. Raymond Hatfield, 70, of Jackson, Ohio, a native of Floyd County, died Saturday, December 13, at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Eileen "Ree" (White) Hatfield. Funeral services were under the direction of Mayhew Funeral Home, Jackson, Ohio.

Sylvan Johnson, 83, of Melvin, died Tuesday, December 16, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Reona Hall Johnson. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Davane Collins Jones, 72, of Willard, Ohio, formerly of Wayland, died Friday, December 12, at the Willard Healthcare Center. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Mary A. Harvey Marshall, 77, of Harold, died Friday, December 12, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Elmer Slone, 75, of Salyersville, formerly of David, died Friday, December 12, at his home, following an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Sawyer Slone. Funeral services were held Monday, December 15, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Hattie Wilson, 78, of Tram, died Saturday, December 13, at the Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Everett Crislip, 91, a native of Johnson County, died Monday, November 24, at Frankfort Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, November 26, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Alicia Vonne Davis, 21, a native of Johnson County, died Monday, December 8. Funeral services were conducted

Thursday, December 11, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Phyllis Lee Ward Goble, 51, a native of Johnson County, died at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 10, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Dr. Robert S. Kesler, 86, of Wittenville, died Saturday, December 13, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, Paintsville. He is survived by his wife, Delores Greene Kesler. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Terri Lynn Greene Click, 47, of Leander, died Wednesday, December 10, at Hospice Care Center, Lexington. She is survived by her husband, Lonnie Click. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 13, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Pike County

Donald B. Norman, 78, of Louisville, formerly of Phelps, died Wednesday, December 10, at the VA Medical Center, Louisville. He is survived by his wife, Mary Norman. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 13, under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home.

Leona Stella Sims, 64, of Elkhorn City, died Thursday, December 11 in Powell County Clinic, Stanton. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Maggie Thacker Slone 76, of Lower Pompey Road, died Thursday, December 11, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 13, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Everett Branham, 79, of Akron, Ohio, formerly of Pikeville, died Tuesday, December 9, in Akron. He is survived by his wife, Marett Branham. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, in the Victory Baptist Church, Akron. Information, courtesy of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Joe Bernard Brewer, 79, of Akron, Ohio, formerly of Pikeville, died Thursday, December 11, at Hospice Care Center, Akron. He is survived by his wife, Emma Gray Brewer. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Eula Grubb, 71, of Willow Wood, Ohio, formerly of Shelby Gap, died Thursday, December 4, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 6, under the direction of Evans Funeral Home, Raceland.

Howard Eugene "Gene" Hurley, 42, of Phelps, died Friday, December 12, at Stopover, the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Myrtle L. Ingram, 63, of Turkey Creek, died Friday, December 12, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Edward Tucker Ingram. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Audrey Irick Jenkins, 81, of Pikeville, died Thursday, December 11, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, John B. Jenkins. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Lester Mullins, 86, of Beehide, died Saturday, December 13, at Norton Community Hospital, Norton, Virginia. He is survived by his

wife, Carma Jean Tackett Mullins. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Terri Lynn Greene Click, 47, of Leander, died Wednesday, December 10, at Hospice Care Center, Lexington. She is survived by her husband, Lonnie Click. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 13, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Phyllis Lee Ward Goble, 51, of Paintsville, died Saturday, December 6, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 10, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Alicia Vonne Davis, 21, of Paintsville, died Monday, December 8, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 11, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Zena L. Blackburn, 92, of Columbus, Ohio, formerly of Stone and Sidney, died Monday, December 15, at Doctors Hospital, Columbus. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Nancy Daugherty, 81, of Jamboree, died Tuesday, December 16, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home.

Terry Frazier, 44, of Shelbyville, died Monday, December 15, at Parkview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Fannie Bartley Hall, 75, of Penny Bottom, died Monday, December 15, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Pat Hall. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 19, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

George Hinkle, 73, of Turkey Creek, died Sunday, December 14, in the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital Skilled Nursing Unit. He is survived by his wife, Dathel I. Smith Hinkle. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Clifford Holbrook, 68, of Varney, died Saturday, December 13, at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. He is survived by his wife, Alice Holbrook. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 16, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Chad Jones, 27, of Lexington, died Monday, December 15. He is survived by his wife, Heather Jones. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 18, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Knott County

Phyllis Rae Amburgey Thomsberry, 64, of Kite, died Saturday, December 13, at Hazard Appalachian Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Martin County

Joann Howell, 60, of Tomahawk, died Sunday, December 14, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Josephine Bennett, 63, died at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 12, under the direction of Phelps & Son Funeral Home.

Donald Mullins, 61, died Saturday, December 6, at Riverside Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 9, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Ernest Maynard, 81, of Williamson, West Virginia, a native of Martin County, died Monday, December 8, at Williamson Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Maynard. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 11, under the direction of Weaver Mortuary.

Gerald F. "Jerry" Goss, 53, of Milltown, Indiana, formerly of Inez, died Thursday, December 11, at Bloomington Hospital of Orange County, Paoli, Indiana. He is survived by his wife, Evanelle Goss. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Brown-Newkirk Funeral Home.

Nancy C. Vernon, 69, of Pilgrim, died Monday, December 8, at her residence. Graveside services were conducted Wednesday, December 10, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Josephine Bennett, 63, of Little Blacklog, Inez, died Monday, December 8, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 12, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Dorothy Dixon Brown, 57, of Louisa, died Monday, December 15, in Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. She is survived by her husband, Lloyd Brown. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, September 18, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Okey Burchett, 84, of Morgans Creek, died Sunday, December 14, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Erica Leigh Hackney, 32, of Catlettsburg, died Thursday, December 11. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Young Funeral Home.

W. R. "Ray" Riffe, Jr., 73, of Webbville, died Sunday, December 14, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Sparks Funeral Home.

William C. Sullivan, 86, of Louisa, died Sunday, December 14, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa.

Magoffin County

Lulie Howard Salyer, 78, of Salyersville, died Friday, December 12, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center, Paintsville. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 14, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Kelmon Wilson, 87, of Knoxville, Tennessee, formerly of Magoffin County, died Friday, December 12, at the University of Tennessee Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Salyersville Funeral Home.

Elmer Slone, 75, of Salyersville, formerly of David, died Friday, December 12, after an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Sawyer Slone. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 15, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Birch Patrick, 86, of Salyersville, died Monday, December 15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Magoffin County Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Billie Bert Kidd

Billie Bert Kidd, 72, of Lorain, Ohio, formerly of Floyd County, died Tuesday, December 16, 2003, at the E.M.H. Memorial Hospital in Elyria, Ohio.

Born August 4, 1931, in Dana, he was the son of the late Green B. and Hulda Mulkey Kidd. He was a factory worker for Ford Motor Company, and a member of the New Salem Old Regular Baptist Church, at Harold.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy Gilliam Kidd.

Other survivors include one son and his wife, Pernell Monty and Tina Kidd of Inez; two brothers: C. Edd Kidd and Denise Kidd, both of Dana; four sisters: Oma Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan; Bertha Ann Boyd and Lydia Lovean Kidd, both of Dana; and Maudie Alice Peterson of Salem, Oregon; and one granddaughter, Paige Marie Kidd.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by six brothers: Dallas Kidd, Shirley Kidd, Billy K. Kidd, Banner F. Kidd, John S. Kidd and Charlie Kidd; and one sister, Verlie Jarrell.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 20, at 11 a.m., at the Little Salem Old Regular Baptist Church, at Dana, with Regular Baptist ministers officiating.

Burial was in the Green B. Kidd Cemetery, at Dana, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Visitation was at the church.

(Paid obituary)

Osie (Shepherd) Foley

Osie (Shepherd) Foley, age 71, of Prestonsburg, passed away, Wednesday, December 17, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg, following a brief illness.

She was born May 29, 1932, in Magoffin County, the daughter of the late Bee and Mary (Patton) Shepherd.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lemuel Foley.

She is survived by two sons: James Foley of Prestonsburg, and Randall Foley of Winder, Georgia; five daughters: Wilma Foley, Brenda Harris and Glenda Foley, all of Prestonsburg, Mary Picklesimer of Winder, Georgia, and Judy Blair of Atlanta, Georgia; five step-children: Dorothy Crum, Lula Jane Burkett, Wila Dean Goings, Phyllis Crider and Rose Bies; three brothers: Green Shepherd of Morehead, Elmer Shepherd of Blue River, and Bee Shepherd Jr., of Greenwich, Ohio; three sisters: Susie Shepherd of Ocala, Florida, Joyce Bradford of Morehead, and Leatha Shepherd of Salyersville; and two grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, and parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Opal Shepherd; and two step-children.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 20, at 11 a.m., at the Burke Funeral Home Chapel, in Prestonsburg, with Roger Rowe officiating.

Burial was in the Shepherd Family Cemetery, at Brushy Fork, in Magoffin County, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Season

Continued from p5

games — to menorahs styled like choo-choo trains.

"We're finding there's more of a demand for it," said Colby Cedar Smith, a store spokeswoman.

Items inspired by Christmas decorations are among the traditional silver menorahs and chocolate coins for sale on jewshsource.com, said Rabbi Herschel Strauss, who founded the mail-order business 32 years ago.

One example is a Hanukkah banner similar to "Merry Christmas" banners people post in windows. One of his best-selling items years ago was a Star of David decoration with "Christmas-like lights," he said.

While Strauss occasionally hears complaints about these products from some of his more religious customers, he sees no danger in Jews buying the decorations.

"They want the spirit, the fun and the joy of it," said Strauss,

who is Orthodox. "Jews have always, historically, from my perspective, taken and adapted from local cultures — and vice versa."

Bernsohn, a mother of three teenagers, said her family tries to avoid playing up the holiday by limiting the number of gifts they exchange and incorporating charity into the celebration, either by donating money or bringing her children to work in a soup kitchen.

Deborah Freeman, who is Jewish and married to a Roman Catholic, celebrates both holidays with their 17-year-old daughter, but gives only small gifts each night of the Jewish festival in keeping with tradition.

"I try to keep Hanukkah low key because, when I was a kid, it was very low key. All I got was chocolate," said Freeman, of Brooklyn, N.Y. "Just because it happens to fall in December, doesn't give it more significance than it deserves."

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Regional
SPORTS

Sunday, December 21, 2003

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

BETSY LAYNE 75, PRESTONSBURG 63

Bobcats break 58th District ice

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE — Betsy Layne turned a corner in the young 2003-04 season Thursday night. The Bobcats came into Thursday night's game with Prestonsburg 0-1 in the 58th District following a loss to

Allen Central. The Bobcats got their act together Thursday night and turned away the visiting Prestonsburg Blackcats 75-63.

Betsy Layne opened the game with a 6-0 run, forcing Prestonsburg head coach Jackie Day Crisp to call for an early timeout. Out of the timeout, Prestonsburg played better, but only for a short time.

The Blackcats only trailed 15-10 at the end of the first period. Betsy Layne, which ultimately won the rebounding battle, led 33-20 at halftime.

A variety of players stepped up and lead the Bobcats to the all-important first district victory of the campaign.

(See **BREAK**, page two)

photo by Jamie Howell
Betsy Layne sophomore
Brandon Kidd (22) blocked a Nick Jamerson shot in the second half of Thursday's game.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

David team will likely learn from close loss

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG — The David School Falcons came within two baskets of getting their first win in the school's history on Wednesday night, losing in a close game with Prestonsburg's junior varsity 40-36. The Falcons briefly led 30-29 in the 4th quarter in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the Prestonsburg gym.

"We just let it slip through our fingers," said Falcons head coach Ned Pillersdorf. "We played really hard all night, but we just let the game get away from us in the final seconds."

The Falcons had some difficulty with their shooting throughout the entire game. Missing several easy inside shots and hitting a meager four-

(See **DAVID**, page two)

H.S. BASKETBALL

Pairings announced for Coca-Cola tourney

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BUCKLEYS CREEK — Pairings for the sixth annual Coca-Cola Hoops Classic Basketball Tournament have been announced.

Teams from four different regions will take part in the sixth annual tournament. The latest tournament will begin on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004 with the opening game slated for a 2:30 p.m. start. A champion will be crowned on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004.

South Floyd, the defending tournament champ, will not return to defend its crown.

The tournament field includes host Pike County Central, Jenkins, Pikeville, Cumberland, Magoffin County, Cawood, Ryle and Betsy Layne.

Four games will be played each day of the tournament.

(See **TOURNEY**, page two)

58TH DISTRICT GIRLS

photo by Jamie Howell
Prestonsburg forward Chanel Music prepared to put up a shot in front of Betsy Layne senior Whitney Lykens.



Lady Bobcats pull away from Prestonsburg

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — Anytime you are the top dog, everyone else wants to be in your shoes. Thursday night the defending 15th Region

Champion Betsy Layne Lady Bobcats took on the Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats in a 58th District matchup.

Prestonsburg played step for step with Betsy Layne throughout the first half, but in the third quarter the

Lady Bobcats started to pick it up a notch and began to pull away from Prestonsburg, eventually winning 66-48.

Kristal Daniels and Kim Clark

(See **PULL**, page two)

DIRT TRACK

Henderson to be featured In Discovery Channel special

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUDON, Tenn. — The 2004 OSAS Rookie Of The Year contender and East Tennessee front-runner Matt Henderson will be part of a special documentary, presented by the Discovery Channel about dirt late model racing around the country. The

documentary that takes an in-depth look at the fanfare with the popular sport of dirt late model racing will be aired on the Discovery Channel January 9 at 8 p.m. Henderson, just 16 years old, was followed throughout part of the summer of 2003, by film crews, to get a look at some of the happenings around a normal weekend

at the local dirt track. "I'm really looking forward to seeing the final production of the show and hopefully it will progress my career along some," Henderson said of the special. As an invite to this past year's Future Dirt Track World Championship in

(See **DISCOVERY**, page two)

201 Speedway banquet set

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SITKA — Following its 19th year of successful dirt track racing action in Eastern Ky., the historic 201 Speedway will recognize the 2003 track champions during an awards banquet to be held in the Holiday Inn in Prestonsburg on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m.

Plans for the 2004 racing season are already in the works with one of the fastest rising dirt late model racing series planning two trips to the red

(See **201**, page two)

photo by Steve LeMaster
Senior Mike Walters, one of the region's top players, leads Johnson Central.



TIGER HOOPS CLASSIC

Paintsville, Johnson Central give HOOPS Classic local flavor

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — Neither Paintsville nor Johnson Central will have to go far to find basketball after Christmas. The morning after Christmas Morning, basketballs will

hit the court at Paintsville High School. Johnson Central and host Paintsville are two of the 16 teams in the inaugural Tiger Hoops Classic. Johnson Central, coached by Les Trimble, will enter the Paintsville

(See **CLASSIC**, page two)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Kentucky signs five junior college players

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Five junior college football players have signed NCAA letters of intent to play for Kentucky, coach Rich Brooks said Thursday.

Signing with Kentucky are Jamir Davis, a 6-3, 250-pound tight end out of City College of San Francisco; Cedric Koger, a 6-4, 253-pound linebacker out of Dodge City (Kan.) Community College; Scott Mitchell, a 6-3, 210-pound wide receiver out of Mount San Antonio (Calif.) College; B. Jay Parsons, a 6-5, 245-pound defensive end out of Saddleback (Calif.) College and Ernie Pelayo, a 6-6, 290-pound offensive lineman out of Southwestern (Calif.) College.

Davis was a third-team JUCO All-America selection by JC Gridwire

(See **JUNIOR**, page two)

FOOTBALL

Sizemore commits to EKU

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HAZARD — A Hazard Bulldog is headed to Richmond and Eastern Kentucky University.

One of the top high school quarterbacks in the state has verbally committed to play football at Eastern Kentucky University as Steven Sizemore has made his college intention known.

As a senior, Sizemore set records and threw for more than 3,000 yards last season and was one of the most highly-recruited players in Kentucky, picking Eastern over other schools, including Western Kentucky.

Sizemore ranked as one of the top play-

(See **EKU**, page two)

Fitch providing more offense for No. 2 Cats

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — For a player who's leading the nation's second-ranked basketball team in scoring, Gerald Fitch has kept a

surprisingly low profile. But those days may be nearing an end.

The 6-3 senior guard from Macon, Ga., has answered a question many observers had before the season: Who would

fill the scoring void left by the departure of three key players, including third-team All-America selection Keith Bogans?

Fitch, the Southeastern Conference player of week, was fifth in the league in scoring average at 20.4 points per game, heading into Kentucky's game with Indiana on Saturday in Indianapolis. The other four Kentucky starters each have a double-figure scoring average, but all say that Fitch has emerged as the Wildcats' go-to

guy. That's a sentiment shared by Kentucky coach Tubby Smith.

"If I were scouting us, I'd put a star by his name, because he can score in a lot of ways," Smith said. "Gerald's got a complete game right now. He's going to be the focal point, but not by a wide margin."

Fitch has started all but 14 of his 103 games with the Wildcats, but on the offensive end, he's served until this season as a self-described "role player" behind past Kentucky standouts

like Bogans and Tayshaun Prince.

"I'm finally able to be one of the main guys," Fitch said. "It's been worth the wait and it's a lot of fun."

Fitch averaged 12.3 points per game last season, but has scored 20 or more points three times this season for the 5-0 Wildcats, including a career-high 36 points in a 108-81 win over Tennessee Tech.

Fitch scored 25 points, hit 4 of 6 3-point attempts and made 3 of 4 free throws in the final seconds last Saturday in a 79-74 win over Michigan State. That performance came on the heels of one of his worst shooting outings ever, a 1-for-11 effort in a 52-50 win over UCLA in which he scored only five points.

"He really bounced back the right way," Smith said.

Fitch is fourth in the SEC in 3-point percentage (44.1) and has respectable shooting percentages from the field (49.3) and free-throw line (73.1). He's also averaging only one turnover per game, tops among Kentucky starters.

Smith said Fitch's shooting successes — and failures — can easily be explained.

"Gerald has been a good shooter ever since he's been here," Smith said. "I have said all along, when he takes good shots, he is as good of a shooter as there is. When he takes bad shots, he is as bad of a shooter as there is. As long as he understands and takes good shots, we're going to do what we can to see that he gets opportunities."

Fitch has done a good job this season of what point guard

Cliff Hawkins calls "picking and choosing his spots," something Hawkins said comes with experience.

"As long as he gets an open

(See CATS, page three)



photo by Steve LeMaster

Allen Central senior guard Tab Caudill is one of many area high school basketball players that has settled into a new role as a starter.

David

Continued from p1

for-16 from the foul line, the David School's shaky offensive performance kept them from ever taking a commanding lead.

"Our shooting is something we need to improve upon," said Pillersdorf. "But the close score shows you that our guys hustled until the final buzzer."

The Falcons were led in scoring by forward Adam Meade who tossed in 16 points, including two baskets late in the final minutes. Sophomore forward Justin Bohr scored eight points while junior guard Nathan Ousley added six. Jason Whitaker, Brandon Caudill, and Josh Nelson all added a basket each.

The David School fell to 0-3 with the loss. The basketball program is in its second season of existence and is still looking

for its first win. However, Pillersdorf said that the game provided a moral victory for the team.

"The scores get closer and closer with each game we play," Pillersdorf said. "I think our next game will produce a different result."

Assistant coach Ryan Allison observed that the team and fans should be very proud of what the Falcons have done thus far in the season," said Allison. "You know, Prestonsburg has almost as many players in their basketball program as The David School has enrolled in its entire student body. And considering that we lost to this same team by nearly 30 points two weeks ago, tonight's performance was pretty impressive."

The coaching staff is not the only ones proud of the play of the Falcons. The David School founder Danny Greene also expressed his praise at the end of the game.

"The inspired play of these young men reflect not only on themselves, but on the entire David School as well. We're really proud of these young men."

The Falcons travel to East Ridge on Monday for their last game before the holiday break.

Tourney

Continued from p1

Pike Central, coached by David Rowe, is paired with Jenkins in the first game of the tournament. Other first-round pairings include Pikeville-Cumberland; Magoffin County-Cawood; Betsy Layne-Ryle.

Teams that played in the tournament last season and return for another run at a title are Pike Central and Magoffin County.

201

Continued from p1

clay of 201.

The Battle of the Bluegrass Late Model series will race the high banks of 201 on two dates for the 2004 season, first on May 1, and again for a Fourth of July Late Model event on July 3.

The Battle of the Bluegrass will also run a series for open wheel modifieds, with the 201 Speedway being one of the 1st tracks in Kentucky to be offered a date to be announced for the open wheel modifieds.

Over the next several weeks, champions in each division will be highlighted in this paper. All the staff of the 201 Speedway wish to sincerely extend their appreciation to all the drivers, fans, sponsors and everyone who has helped to keep the green flag waving at the 201 Speedway with their support, and as the track complete its second decade of dirt track racing.

The 2003 track champions include Late Models — David Powers of Salyersville for the second straight year, driver of the No. 97, J.M.C Motorsports, Stinger Grand Prix, powered by a Cropper racing engine from Flemingsburg and sponsored by Green's Lawnmower Sales and Service, Fannin's Sawmill of West Liberty, CD's Family Buffet, also of West Liberty, Danny Meenach, C.P.A. Quality Chiropractic in Morehead, Dr. Rob Flusky, J4 Trucking of Salyersville, Robo's Market in Sandy Hook, Power's Garage in Salyersville, and Howard's Performance, also in Salyersville. Super

Bombers — Glenn Patton, driver of the No. 7A High Tech Motors powered 2003 Chevy Monte Carlo and a Draughn Racing Chassis, sponsored by Daniel Boone Moter Inns, located in Pikeville and Hazard, Bud Rife Construction, Justice Land Surveying and Engineering, Harold Autobody and Frame Shop, and P & H Hardware. Bombers — Bannie Blair, driver of the No. B4, 1976 Camaro of Howard and Blair Motorsports, sponsored by Auto Glass of America, Sandy Valley Fasteners, Dad's Paylake, Last Lap Racing, Trophies and Monograming, and J.C. Fyffe's Septic Service. Open Wheel Modifieds — Clint Shutts of Prestonsburg, driver of the No. 135, 2001 Lightning Chassis powered by a L & T Racing Engine, and sponsored by Clintrac Interprises of Prestonsburg, Champman Printing, Gary Smith & Son's Construction, Ratliff Body Shop, W.B.C.I Fraternity, and Homescent Candles. Roadhogs — Rick Baker of Busy in Perry County, driver of the No. 66 1985 Chevy Caprice, and sponsored by Mike's Construction of Busy, Craig's Heating and Cooling in Viper, P & C Radiator Shop and Steam Cleaning in Busy. Claiming his fourth track championship in the Four-Cylinder division was West Van Lear's Jack Clevenger, driver of the No. -3 Toyota Celica, sponsored by Fast Change Oil & Lube in Prestonsburg, Colorama of Prestonsburg, and Car Creations, also of Prestonsburg.

H.S. BASKETBALL

Snow, threat of bad weather postpones games

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Old Man Winter made an early appearance throughout Eastern Kentucky Thursday and made his presence known by forcing the postponement of some high school basketball games.

In girls' basketball, Sheldon Clark was scheduled to play on the road at Phelps Thursday. That game was postponed.

Magoffin County was to host Sheldon Clark Thursday night, but that game didn't happen either. The Lady Hornets were in action this weekend in the Lady Eagle Holiday Classic at Johnson Central High School. South Floyd was playing in the Lady Pirate Christmas Invitational at Berea College.

Here's a look at some of the area games that were played.

Ashland 64, Russell 56: Senior guard Pam Farrow had 19 points, six assists and six rebounds to lead Ashland to a win over Russell in 16th Region girls' basketball action.

The Kittens (3-3) hit their free throws down the stretch to post the win.

Tasha Henry added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Ashland.

Kala Faulkner paced Russell (6-1) with a game-high 25 points.

Pike County Central 67, Shelby Valley 39; Shelby Valley dropped to 1-4 on the season with the loss to Pike Central. The Lady Hawks, coached by Tammy Tussey, improved to 4-1.

Pike Central led 16-8 at the end of the first period and maintained the lead throughout the game.

EKU

Continued from p1

ers in Eastern Kentucky each of the past three seasons.

Hazard coach Mark Dixon says Sizemore had some talks with Western, but Eastern was pushing him hard. Dixon adds that the University of Kentucky talked to Sizemore almost every week.

Sizemore ended his high school career with more than 7,000 total passing yards and 71 touchdowns. The senior was a four-year starter, leading the Bulldogs to a 35-13 record and four-straight trips to the second round of the Class A play-

offs. This past season, Sizemore led the Bulldogs to a Class A, Region Four, District Eight title.

He is currently continuing another marvelous career as a member of the Hazard High boys' basketball team.

Sizemore currently plays basketball at Hazard for Floyd County native Kevin Spurlock, the Bulldog boys' basketball head coach.

Charlotte Sizemore, the signal-caller's sister, attended ECU where she starred on the Lady Colonel women's basketball team.

Pull

Continued from p1

led the way for Cassandra Akers's team as both tossed in 23 points each. Betsy Layne led 17-12 after one quarter and 24-20 at the half.

Betsy Layne had three players finish in double figures as Clark and Daniels finished with 23 points and Breann Akers added 10.

Whitney Lykens and Tabatha Witt each finished with five points for the winning team. Betsy Layne would go on a 19-8 third quarter run and turn a 24-20 game into a 43-28 lead after three quarters of play.

Prestonsburg was led in scoring by Molly Burchett with 16 points and Heather White tossed in 12 for the Lady Blackcats. Prestonsburg got the lead down to 10 in the fourth quarter on the

strength of four three-point baskets, but the Lady Bobcats connected on seven of eight free throws in the final period to push the lead back to 18 points at the final buzzer.

Darcey Hicks finished with 10 points for Prestonsburg.

Meaghan Slone added six points on two three pointers in the fourth quarter and Chanel Music rounded out the Prestonsburg scoring with four markers. Prestonsburg finished the game three of six from the free-throw line and Betsy Layne went nine of 13 from the stripe.

Scoring was as follows: Betsy Layne — Clark 23, Daniels 23, Akers 10, Lykens 5, Witt 5. Prestonsburg — Burchett 16, White 12, Hicks 10, Slone 6, Music 4.

the floor. However, Betsy Layne took control of the game and pulled away by staying afloat at the free-throw line and hitting some high-percentage shots.

Brent Newsome scored nine points for the Bobcats and Preston Simon added eight. Ryan Bryant and Brentton Akers, both who came in off the Betsy Layne bench, rounded out the Bobcat scoring with five and two points, respectively.

The Blackcat scoring was also spread out.

Senior Nick Jamerson led Prestonsburg with a game-high 18 points. Jesse Chaffin scored 12 points and Trevor Compton flipped in 11. Sean Leslie, playing out of a starting role, scored eight. Kyle Ousley and Michael Stephens, both key reserves for Prestonsburg, netted seven and five points. Michael Morrison rounded out the Blackcat scoring with two points.

Nathan Lafferty and Joe Blackburn both played for Prestonsburg but did not score.

Betsy Layne will be back in action Monday night when it travels to Phelps to take on the Hornets. Paintsville will return to the hardwood Friday at Paintsville against Morgan County, a regional title contender out of the 16th Region, in the first annual Tiger Hoops Classic.

Classic

Continued from p1

tournament following a stint in the Towne Square Holiday Classic at Boyd County High School. The host Tigers will enter their own holiday tournament after playing in the Smoky Mountain Classic at Gatlinburg-Pittman High School in Tennessee.

The inaugural Tiger Hoops Classic will be possible due to the help of some quality people and fine sponsors.

"We would like to thank the HOOPS committee, volunteers and sponsors for their support of the 1st Paintsville Tiger HOOPS classic", said Bob Lyons, Event Manager. The sponsors include Paintsville Tourism, Redd Brown & Williams Real Estate, Action Mart, Citizens National Bank, Appalachian Wireless, Elm Street Resources, Pepsi, Giovanni's Pizza, Ramada Inn, Paintsville JR Pro, NetBurner, McDonald's, Family Bank, Bocoek Engineering, WKLW, PBC-8, PHS Media Class, Paintsville High School, Castle's Jewelry and HOOP-SUSA.com.

15TH REGION GIRLS' BASKETBALL RANKINGS

Pike County Central	4-1
South Floyd	4-1
Belfry	4-2
Betsy Layne	3-1
Pikeville	3-2
Sheldon Clark	3-2
Prestonsburg	3-3
East Ridge	3-4
Paintsville	2-2
Allen Central	2-4
Phelps	1-2
Magoffin County	1-3
Johnson Central	1-5
Piarist School	0-3
Shelby Valley	0-4

15TH REGION BOYS' BASKETBALL RANKINGS

East Ridge	5-0
South Floyd	5-1
Sheldon Clark	4-2
Shelby Valley	4-0
Prestonsburg	3-1
Allen Central	3-1
Pike County Central	3-2
Johnson Central	2-3
Pikeville	2-3
Betsy Layne	1-2
Belfry	1-2
Paintsville	1-3
Piarist School	0-3
Magoffin County	0-3
Phelps	0-5

Junior

Continued from p1

after helping City College of San Francisco to a 12-0 record. JC Gridwire picked the team as national champion.

Parsons comes from the same junior college as former Kentucky wide receiver Chris Bernard, who completed his eligibility this season.

All five players will enroll in January and will have two years of eligibility remaining.

Kentucky finished 4-8 this past season.

Discovery

Continued from p1

Kentucky, Henderson has already ran against many of the top drivers of the future and present.

For more information concerning the special make sure and stop by the Discovery Channels website at www.discovery.com. Visit the Henderson team race site at www.matthenderson17.com, for all the up to date news and information on Matt Henderson and his PMC racing team.

Rivals Paintsville and Johnson Central are two very different teams. Johnson Central is led by senior Mike Walters, one of the top players in the 15th Region. Paintsville is led by a senior too, Peyton Conley, another one of the region's top performers. However, the supporting casts for the two teams are very different.

Paintsville fields a team that relies heavily on the play of two eighth-graders — Blake Bundy and J.D. VanHoose — and one freshman — point guard Daniel Pugh. Junior Aaron Penix and sophomore Kevin Williams are two other key players for the Tigers.

A strong junior class helps fuel the Johnson Central attack. Juniors Tony Hatfield, Josh Stapleton and Nick Music each play valuable roles.

Another player who'll see plenty of action for the Eagles is Kyle Rice.

Play in the Tiger Hoops Classic will begin Friday morning at the Paintsville High gym.

Eagles, Patriots lead conferences, but not Pro Bowl voting

by DAVE GOLDBERG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

This season's Pro Bowl voting demonstrates why football is a team game.

The New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles, leaders in the AFC and NFC, each had only two players voted into the league's all-star game, which will be played Feb. 8 in Honolulu.

"You are a little deflated for a few minutes, but then you move on," John Harbaugh, the Eagles special teams coach, said Thursday. "We have bigger and more important things to be concerned with."

The Eagles and Patriots aren't the first winning teams to be snubbed in the voting by fans, players and coaches.

Last season, Tennessee had no Pro Bowlers and used the snub as motivation and made it all the way to the AFC title game. This season, the Titans got four, led by quarterback Steve McNair.

The Patriots and Eagles seem to be doing the same as they point to those "bigger and more important things" — the playoffs.

"It is kind of bittersweet, because even though we have one of the best records in the league, we only had two guys get selected," said cornerback Ty Law of the Patriots, whose only other Pro Bowler is defensive lineman Richard Seymour.

"It's sort of a shame, and it just goes to show you how we still have so little respect across the league."

Quarterback Donovan McNabb and cornerback Troy Vincent were the only Eagles on the NFC squad.

One player clearly overlooked was LaDainian Tomlinson of 3-11 San Diego, who leads the NFL in combined yardage. But he finished behind Jamal Lewis of Baltimore, Clinton Portis of Denver and Priest Holmes of Kansas City for running back spots on the AFC team.

"I'm not surprised at all. I expected it," Tomlinson said, adding when he was asked why: "3-11."

"You can say it's unfair or whatever it may be; life is unfair," Tomlinson said. "I'm certainly disappointed. But that just shows you what kind of respect we have around the

NFL, which is none."

Several players who have not had strong years made the game, most notably Dallas' Larry Allen, troubled all year by injury and inconsistency. He was chosen because seniority is a huge factor in offensive line voting — if you make it once, you're liable to make it forever, and this is Allen's eighth Pro Bowl.

Others chosen most likely won't play because of injury. Jeremy Shockey of the New York Giants, who leads NFC tight ends with 48 receptions, hasn't played since injuring a knee on Nov. 9.

Baltimore and Kansas City

had the most Pro Bowlers, eight each. The Chiefs' large contingent made coach Dick Vermeil nervous.

"Now we've got to win, because we have good football players," said Vermeil, whose team is 12-2, a tiebreaker behind the Patriots in the AFC.

"I have no place to hide. If we don't win, it's poor coaching."

Four teams, all in the AFC, had no one chosen: San Diego, Cleveland, Houston and defending conference champion Oakland. It was the first time

(See VOTING, page four)



photo by Jamie Howell
Prestonsburg's Heather White passed off while being defended by Betsy Layne's Kim Clark (4).



photo by Jamie Allison
Josh Nelson drove to the basket for The David School in Wednesday's game against Prestonsburg.

Cats

Continued from p2

look at the basket, it's going to go in for him," Hawkins said. "He's polished his game and he's a complete player."

Fitch said that is important for a player that aspires to "go-to" status.

"You just have to make adjustments and find different ways to hurt the other team, because you know they're going to be prepared for my normal techniques," he said. "That's why you have offensive rebounding, defensive plays and things like that that can hurt them as well."

Fitch's outing against Michigan State gave him 1,023 career points, making him the 50th Kentucky player to pass the 1,000-point mark. If he maintains his current average, he would move into the top 15 in career scoring at Kentucky by the end of the season. But Fitch said he's not worried about numbers or raising his profile.

"It really doesn't matter," he said. "We're trying to win a championship. If we do that, we'll have enough national publicity for everybody."

OUTDOORS

The perfect stocking stuffer

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

FRANKFORT — Each Christmas, the hustle and bustle of finding the right gift, getting them wrapped, delivering them to the right people or hiding them from prying eyes amplifies. One of the Christmas time tasks is to find a small, affordable and useful gift for a stocking stuffer.

A hunting or fishing license is easily purchased and fits perfectly into a stocking for a family member who likes to hunt or fish.

Unlike a tie, socks, gloves or a scarf, this is something they would purchase for themselves.

These licenses provide a tremendous bang for the buck. A fishing license is good for 365 days a year and a hunting license may be used during any open hunting season. The price

per day for a fishing license is just under a nickel and a combination hunting and fishing license costs just over six cents a day. For those over 65, the daily cost for all fishing and hunting opportunities is barely over a penny per day.

There are many different options for buying a license. Those on your shopping list who turkey hunt, deer hunt, waterfowl hunt, fish, dove hunt and rabbit hunt may be best served by the sportsman's license. This license includes all licenses and permits, except the federal waterfowl stamp, bonus deer and WMA user permits for hunting and fishing in Kentucky.

A combination hunting and fishing license saves considerable money, more than \$35, opposed to being purchased separately.

Licenses are available at

most county clerk offices throughout Kentucky. Stores that specialize in sporting goods or a department store that has a sporting goods section can sell licenses. Tackle and bait shops usually sell licenses.

You can also buy licenses without ever leaving your home.

You may log on to fw.ky.gov and purchase all your licenses on-line with a credit card. Or, you may pick up the phone and call 877/598-2401 and use your credit card to buy Kentucky licenses through Bass Pro Shops.

While thinking of all of those gift licenses to buy for Christmas, don't forget to buy one for yourself. The license year runs from March 1 through February 28 and the spring fishing season will be here before you know it.

by JOHN ZENOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOBILE, Ala. — Ben Roethlisberger shed defenders, threw perfect strikes on the run and then made his next big move — to the NFL.

The Miami of Ohio junior who became a high-profile star for a typically low-profile program capped his college career with a 49-28 victory over Louisville in the GMAC Bowl on Thursday night.

Then, he bid farewell to the team he directed to 13 consecutive wins, a No. 14 ranking and a Mid-American Conference championship.

Flanked by friends and family, Roethlisberger said after the game that he was leaving school early for the NFL.

"The unbelievable team success of this season has fulfilled so many of my collegiate football goals," Roethlisberger said after passing for 376 yards and four first-half touchdowns.

Now he'll join former Marshall quarterbacks Chad Pennington and Byron Leftwich in going from the MAC to the NFL.

"This is a special season, it's a special team, led by a special man in Coach (Terry) Hoepfner," Roethlisberger said.

Roethlisberger, a third-team AP All-American is a likely top 10 pick in April's NFL draft and showed why against the Cardinals, completing 21 of 33 passes and making a handful of head-turning plays when it appeared he would be sacked.

The RedHawks (13-1) extended major college football's longest winning streak after racing to a 35-7 second-quarter lead. Miami scored two more touchdowns in the fourth to stymie a rally by Louisville (9-4), which has lost five bowl games in the past six years.

Roethlisberger led the RedHawks to their first bowl appearance since 1986 and their first postseason win in 28 years, punctuating the team's only 13-win season. After a season-opening loss at Iowa when Roethlisberger was picked off four times, Miami rebounded to match its longest winning streak, set from 1972-74.

Roethlisberger told the team before the game the Miami season was like a novel. The Iowa game was the only bad chapter.

"I said, 'This is becoming a bestseller. People are starting to really buy this book,'" Roethlisberger said. "I said, 'How do you want to end the book? Do you want it to be a sad ending or do you want it to be pretty happy?' We made it a happy story."

Especially for Roethlisberger, who was 16-of-20 for 291 yards before half-time. In the first two quarters,

the Steelers. The Bengals are so close, they can taste it.

"Our goal was to win the division and I felt that was something that we could do," coach Marvin Lewis said. "Guys thought I was crazy, but you do things the right way in the NFL then you have an opportunity to win."

The Bengals need one victory for their first winning season since 1990, the longest current streak of futility in the NFL. And Lewis is trying to become the first head coach in franchise history to produce a playoff berth in his first season.

More incentive.

"This year we expected to

win," quarterback Jon Kitna said. "You have guys trying to make plays this year, whereas last year I really felt like guys were trying to hide so they wouldn't be the reason we lose."

Don't think for a minute, though, that the Rams (11-3) will be in a relaxed mood. They're still chasing a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, and they want to enter the postseason on a roll.

So coach Mike Martz said he doesn't fear a letdown.

"No, no, absolutely not," Martz said. "I don't believe that, not with this team. Maybe some other team, but not with this team."

"I'd be shocked and extremely disappointed to observe any letdown by this football team. It's just not in their personality."

Plus, the Rams have a chance to finish the season unbeaten at home for the second time in three seasons. They've won 13 straight regular-season games to tie a franchise record in the Edward Jones Dome, dominating in a noisy venue that has wreaked havoc with the opposition's play-calling.

"You're not sure if after a game like that and doing what we've done and clinching, if you're going to get a sigh, if they're just kind of relieved that part is over," running back Marshall Faulk said. "We'll have a good week of practice and they'll see that the intensity is still there through the veterans and it's something that they can't do, they can't let up."

A win also would keep the heat on the Eagles (11-3), who have the tiebreaker for home-field advantage over the Rams on a better record against NFC opponents.

"It's important for anyone, not just us," quarterback Marc Bulger said. "You ask Philly, they would say the same thing."

The Bengals lead the AFC North more because of a high-powered offense than a defense than can stop anyone, a big change for Lewis. They allowed 502 yards and 31 first downs last week in a 41-38 victory over the 49ers — the first time in franchise history the team won while giving up that many points.

The week before that, they yielded 227 yards rushing in a 31-13 loss to the Ravens.

To hold their tiebreaker advantage over the Ravens this week, they'll have to outscore one of the NFL's highest-scoring teams. The Rams are averaging 28.6 points per game and Bulger is back on his game after struggling a bit with his mechanics and negative publicity surrounding his 19 interceptions.

Isaac Bruce, 19 yards shy of his fifth consecutive 1,000-yard receiving season, could be part of the package opposite Torry Holt. The wide receiver has a mild high ankle sprain, but returned to practice on Thursday.

"Obviously, if he feels remotely good to play, he'll probably play," said Dane Looker, the Rams' No. 3 wide receiver.

(See BENGALS, page four)

BENGALS VS. RAMS

Bengals closing in on rare playoff spot, but Rams in the way

by R.B. FALLSTROM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — Two games away from their first playoff berth in 13 seasons, the Cincinnati Bengals are trying not to look too far ahead.

They obviously need Sunday's game a lot more than the St. Louis Rams, who clinched the NFC West last week. The Bengals (8-6) are tied with the Ravens for first place in the AFC North and own the tiebreaker advantage.

The Bengals finish at home against the Browns, while the Ravens play at Cleveland this week and finish at home against

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No. 14 Miami (Ohio) 49, Louisville 28

the RedHawks had 16 plays that gained 10 yards or more.

"He is all that they talked about," Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said. "He is a great player. We couldn't tackle him, and he made some great throws."

The RedHawks outgained Louisville 597-492 in a matchup of high-powered offenses and their defense scored on Matt Puserati's 35-yard interception return in the fourth quarter.

Louisville quarterback Stefan LeFors was 17-of-26 for 224 yards but was intercepted three times.

It's the first time a MAC team has produced a 4,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard receiver (Martin Nance) and a 1,000-yard rusher (Cal Murray) in a season.

But the key was always Roethlisberger, a former high school receiver. Hoepfner said Roethlisberger and his parents came to his house a couple of weeks ago to discuss the decision.

They informed the other players on the eve of the game, not wanting them to find out when everybody else did.

"Ben wanted to do the right thing for the team," Hoepfner said. "The thing that was always most important to him was to protect the team. He didn't want his teammates to find out after the game."

Roethlisberger joined Leftwich and Pennington as the only MAC quarterbacks to reach 11,000 career yards in total offense. He finished up with 19 touchdowns and one interception in his last five games, then gave a typically humble assessment of his first-half performance in giving most of the credit to his teammates and coaches.

"Humble is definitely a good word for it," Nance said. "That should be the title in front his name. He's making all the plays. It's just a matter of us finishing them. Obviously, he's a great quarterback."

(See BENGALS, page four)

'Dad, what team are you going to play for next year?'

by JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

After taking big salary hits by signing All-Star closer Billy Wagner and starter Eric Milton, the Philadelphia Phillies weren't expected to be throwing around money at the just-ended winter meetings.

It must have been sobering to those agents who made the trip last weekend to New Orleans, maybe the best restaurant town in America, to learn that Phillies general manager Ed Wade was eating at Wendy's.

The spending habits at baseball's annual offseason carnival usually provide some indicator of what to expect in the season ahead. Not this year, despite a flurry of activity that produced 11 trades, eight free-agent signings and another half-dozen deals agreed to but not immediately

announced.

Some of those moves could be called significant — Dodgers starter Kevin Brown to the Yankees, A's shortstop and former MVP Miguel Tejada to the Orioles. Considering the number of stars still shopping for new addresses, it's hard to pin down a trend. Just like Wade dropping into a fast-food joint, there's no way to know yet whether the clubs were just topping off their appetites or swearing off expensive meals altogether.

One reason is that the mother of all blockbusters still hovers over the game, a deal that involves three of the biggest, priciest names in the game. According to various scenarios, Alex Rodriguez could move from Texas to Boston, after which the Red Sox would ship out Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra, most like-

ly to Texas and Los Angeles, respectively. Since those three are scheduled to make about \$53 million next season — more than the payrolls of 11 teams at the start of last season — some fans doubt baseball will ever go on a diet.

Publicly, the players' agents haven't done much grumbling, but the C-word — collusion — is getting thrown around behind the scenes. While the Yankees are still spending like the Yankees, and the new owners of the Red Sox are spending like the Yankees, too, most clubs are studying the menu like never before.

Most years, free agents such as Montreal's Vladimir Guerrero, Florida's World Series MVP Ivan Rodriguez, Atlanta's Javy Lopez and Greg Maddux and Philadelphia's Kevin Millwood would be sifting through a handful of offers by now.

The Orioles reportedly are talking to every one of those players except Millwood. Few other teams have been lured into a bidding war for the difference-makers, let alone the midlevel talent. And so few players were offered arbitration by their clubs that not long after he took a pay cut to remain in Chicago, Cubs infielder Mark Grudzielanek suggested the owners "are

flooding the market."

"There are going to be a lot of free agents out there," he predicted last week, "trying to find jobs."

It's too early to suggest any concerted action by the owners, especially while George Steinbrenner keeps reaching for his checkbook, and Red Sox boss-in-training John Henry keeps beating him to the punch. There have been a few other big deals by other clubs — Japanese star Kazuo Matsui got \$20.1 million from the Mets, thanks to a bidding war — but they've been few and far between.

More common have been the two-year, \$6-million contracts that plug gaps. When the Cardinals sent J.D. Drew to the Braves, they risked losing a potential superstar, but didn't have to pay much to replace him. Reggie Sanders left Pittsburgh to do just that for St. Louis, joining his seventh team in seven seasons.

"My kids are like, 'Dad, what team are you going to play for next year?'" Sanders said. "They're used to it."

Fans might have to get used to it.

Whether the owners learned any lessons from the excesses of the last decade, or from the collusion mess they made of the decade before, remains to

be seen. The World Series victories by the Angels and Marlins the last two years have been cited by some as proof that paying for an All-Star at every position is a waste of money.

Maybe that's why few clubs are making long-term offers to anyone. There's still enough time and talent left on the market for the kind of highlight spending that in previous years would have made for an

entertaining "Owners Gone Wild" video. But don't count on it.

With salaries slipping and bidders drying up, it could be another decade before the deals that made A-Rod and Ramirez instant zillionaires come around again.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org

UPDATE

NFL fines Bengals QB Jon Kitna for wearing cap marked with cross

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Bengals quarterback Jon Kitna says the NFL has fined him \$5,000 for wearing a baseball-style cap marked with a cross.

In wearing the cap at his post-game news conferences, Kitna apparently violated an NFL rule that prohibits the wearing of non-NFL apparel immediately after a game. Television footage of Kitna, an avid reader of the Bible, has shown him wearing the red cap marked with white cross at the news conferences.

"That's what happens when you don't follow the rules," Kitna told the Bengals' Web site on Thursday. "I won't wear it any more. The Bible says submit to the authorities placed above you. The authorities say that's the rule."

Kitna said, however, he plans to appeal the fine because he thought the NFL rule just applied to competitors' products.

The NFL has often levied similar fines against other players for what the league has judged to be uniform violations.

BRIEFS

Charges come after Yanks-Sox brawl

BASEBALL

BOSTON — Yankees Jeff Nelson and Karim Garcia and a Fenway Park groundskeeper were charged with assault and battery for brawling in New York's bullpen after the groundskeeper cheered for Boston during a playoff game.

Clerk Magistrate Michael Neighbors called the case against Nelson and Garcia "weak," because no eyewitnesses or police officers who were at the game testified during a probable cause hearing last week. But he said the police report contained enough evidence to charge the players.

NEW YORK — Center fielder Mike Cameron and the Mets finalized their \$19.5 million, three-year contract, giving New York another key component in its defensive overhaul.

BASKETBALL

TRENTON, N.J. — Less than a month after retiring from the NBA with a kidney disease, former New Jersey Nets center Alonzo Mourning will undergo kidney transplant surgery in New York, his agent said.

Mourning will receive the kidney from an unidentified family member, agent Jeff Wechsler said.

FOOTBALL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Veteran quarterback Neil O'Donnell rejoined the Tennessee Titans after the NFL approved a deal that the team squeezed under the salary cap.

NEW YORK — Notre Dame renewed its television contract with NBC, agreeing to a five-year deal worth about \$9 million a year. — The Associated Press

PRO BOWL

Anderson, Johnson make first Pro Bowl

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Right tackle Willie Anderson, the most long-suffering player on the Cincinnati Bengals, and receiver Chad Johnson made their first Pro Bowl on Thursday.

Anderson and Johnson have been cornerstones of the Bengals' turnaround under first-year coach Marvin Lewis. The Bengals (8-6) can win the AFC North by winning their last two games.

Anderson has been through more losses than any other current member of the team, which hasn't had a winning season since 1990. A first-round draft pick in 1996, Anderson was an alternate for the Pro Bowl each of the last two seasons.

"I'm thankful it came this way instead of going 2-14 and going," Anderson said. "Everybody wants to say that I should have made it (before), but I'm thankful that it came this way and that we're in the hunt to be playing in the playoffs. I'll be much more satisfied to be playing in January than to be worried about playing in February."

When close friend Takeo Spikes chose to leave the Bengals for Buffalo in the off-season so he could play for a winning team, Anderson stayed

and enjoyed the team's resurgence. Spikes also made his first Pro Bowl on Thursday, but the Bills are out of playoff contention.

Anderson has started 62 consecutive games and played in 124 overall with the Bengals, the most by anyone on the roster. He's the third Cincinnati offensive lineman to make the Pro Bowl, joining Anthony Munoz and Max Montoya.

Johnson has emerged as one of the NFL's most dangerous and most flashy receivers in his third season. He leads the AFC in receiving with 1,211 yards, and is fifth with 79 catches.

Johnson is 63 yards shy of the single-season franchise record, set by Eddie Brown in 1988.

The chatty receiver also has been singled out by the league for his scripted celebrations. He was fined \$10,000 for holding up a sign after a touchdown last Sunday against San Francisco. He also got two \$5,000 fines for touchdown celebrations earlier in the season.

"The Pro Bowl is nice and I worked hard to get here, but I didn't get here by myself," Johnson said, acknowledging his teammates' and coaches' help. "I hate that this is an individual thing."

Quarterback Jon Kitna and kick returner Peter Warrick were second alternates for the team.

Bengals

Continued from p3

Lewis bused his team to an indoor soccer facility for practices on Wednesday and Thursday, the first time he's done that. The Bengals do not have an indoor practice facility.

The Bengals will try to keep up with the Rams with an offense led by Kitna, who has 20 touchdowns and one interception in the team's eight victories. Kitna has minimized mistakes, with one interception in his last 162 passes, a potentially big statistic given the fact the Rams lead the NFL with 41 takeaways.

"First and foremost, their speed is just something you don't see week after week," Kitna said. "It's a lot like playing Tampa Bay: you know where they're going to be, but they know their scheme so well that you have to try to out-execute them."

Voting

Continued from p3

since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970 that the Raiders (4-10), did not have a Pro Bowler.

Oakland punter Shane Lechler led in fan voting, which makes up one-third of the balloting. But Tennessee's Craig Hentrich became the AFC punter after the coach and player votes were added.

The only rookie on the Pro Bowl rosters is Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin, whose 86 catches rank third in the NFC.

"I guess if I don't make it to the Pro Bowls the rest of my career it will be a disappointing season," Boldin said.

McNair is joined at quarterback on the AFC squad by Peyton Manning of Indianapolis and Trent Green of Kansas City. Brett Favre of Green Bay and Daunte Culpepper of Minnesota are the other QBs for the NFC.

For the second straight year, starters were not designated. They will be announced later.

BASEBALL

Reds release exhibition schedule

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

CINCINNATI — Tickets for the Reds' home exhibition schedule in Sarasota, Fla., which includes one game against the American League champion New York Yankees and visits from 2003 playoff teams Atlanta, Boston and Minnesota, will go on sale Saturday, Jan. 24.

Starting that date, tickets can be purchased online at www.cincinnati.com, or at the third-base ticket window at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota. Tickets also will be available for purchase through Tickets.com at 800/955-5566. Mail orders, plus a \$7 service charge per order, should be sent to 1090 N. Euclid Ave., Sarasota, Fla., 34237. Holiday gift certificates can be purchased now at the stadium's administration building in right field or by calling 941/954-4464.

The New York Yankees' two-game regular-season series against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in Japan has forced the Reds to alter their Spring Training exhibition schedule.

The Reds will host the Pittsburgh Pirates in Sarasota on March 29 and will travel to Bradenton to play the Pirates on April 1.

Originally, Cincinnati was slated to play the Yankees on those dates. But the New York-Tampa season-opening series on March 30-31 eliminated that possibility.

As a result, the Reds and

Pirates, who train in neighboring cities, will play each other eight times during the Grapefruit League season.

Ticket prices for Reds spring training games remain the same as last season: \$14 for box seats, \$12 for reserved seats and \$5 for general admission. The Reds' 35-game Major League exhibition schedule begins March 4 against Pittsburgh at Bradenton and includes 17 home games at Ed Smith Stadium. Following the final Florida exhibition against Toronto at Dunedin on April 2, the Reds will face the Baltimore Orioles at Chattanooga's Bell South Park on April 3. Cincinnati opens the regular season against the Chicago Cubs on April 5 at Great American Ball Park.

Pitchers and catchers report to the City of Sarasota Sports Complex on Feb. 17 and will engage in their first workout on Feb. 19 after a day of physical examinations. Position players report on Feb. 23, followed by the first full-squad workout either on the afternoon of Feb. 24 or the morning of Feb. 25.

The Reds' Grapefruit League home opener will be a split-squad game against Toronto on March 5. Other highlights of the home schedule include visits by Atlanta (March 13), Boston (March 16), Cleveland (March 27), the Yankees (March 23) and Minnesota (March 7 and 30).

In the spring, catch the Reds on WMDJ 100.1 FM of Martin.



photo by Jamie Howell
Betsy Layne senior Brent Newsome defended against Prestonsburg junior Joe Blackburn.



photo by Jamie Howell
Betsy Layne's Jordan Kidd (23) and Brent Newsome (30) eyed a rebound along with Prestonsburg's Michael Stephens (5) and Nick Jamerson and Derek Case, another Bobcat.

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

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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

130-Cars

1992 CHEVY CORSI-CA for sale. If interested call 889-0872 or 226-0062.

160-Motorcycles

1998 YAMAHA YZ80 New tires, pro-circuit pipe. \$1600. Call 452-9599 for more info.

FOR SALE: 1999 Black Fat boy, bike includes smokey windshield, leather saddlebags and lots of chrome accessories. 15,000 miles. Interested inquiries call at 886-2030.

FOR SALE: 1996 Ultra Classic, low mileage 14,000 mls, black/green motorcycle with lots of accessories. Interested inquiries call at 886-2030.

170-Parts

FOR SALE: 1980 Ford Pick up, good only for parts. Call 358-0393 or 358-2001.

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 Oppt

FOR SALE: Laundrymat located in Salyersville. Business & equipment only you assume lease on building. Only one in town, great location. Price \$30,000. Phone 606-886-1915 after 5 p.m.

210-Job Listings

SEASONAL RECEPTIONIST POSITION available. If interested call 886-3685.

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Earn your own money. \$10.00 sign up fee. Free gift. Call Jancy at 886-2082.

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Warehouse workers needed for day shift. Apply in person. Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Sandy Wholesale, Harold, Ky.

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TAXI CAB DRIVERS WANTED: Must pass drug, criminal & driving test. \$6.00 per hour, over 40 hours \$9.00 per hour. Alternate nights & week ends. Paid weekly. 285-3140 Appalachian Transportation, Inc.

EARN HOLIDAY INCOME!

\$200-\$500 weekly assembling sing-a-long greeting cards. For more information send a self addressed stamp envelope to **Holiday Greeting Cards, P.O. Box 612290, Miami FL., 33261.**

WANTED: Full-time teacher

for grades K-5, 5-8, or K-8, for a small private school located in Prestonsburg, Ky. Please call Dr. Khattab at 606-789-5541 or fax 606-789-9445 for details.

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FOR SALE: PIONEER HOME STEREO Includes CD player, cassette player & recorder, 2 large speakers, turntable and stand. reduced to \$250 but will negotiate. 874-4604 after 5:30 p.m.

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ALMAR FURNITURE
 Big selection of living room, bedroom, dining room, refrigerators, stove, washers and much more.
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FOR SALE: 3/4 karat diamond ring, Asking \$500. Call 874-4981 or 791-2167.

FOR SALE: Paintball gun. 2003 Core Sharc. semi-automatic, black and chrome, 12" barrel. \$130 (OBO) Call 886-8506 and ask for Kathy (day). 789-8380 evening.

FOR SALE: Give that special someone a "golden" gift that will last all year 'round! For sale now: Tanning bed-brand new bulbs. \$600. Call 874-0467.

FOR SALE: Kimball piano. Call 285-9696 or 377-2393 after 8 p.m.

FOR SALE: 8 ft' refrigerated deli case, \$1000, small pizza oven, \$400, small juice cooler, \$150, washer & dryer, \$150 pair. Call 886-2367.

FOR SALE: 8 ft' deli cooler, \$950 and Gas convection oven, \$450. Call 886-2367.

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HOUSE FOR SALE 109 Main Street, Dwaile. 3 BR, large kitchen & bath. Asking \$38,500 Call 734-483-3665 or 606-874-2446.

550-Land/Lots

LARGE LEVEL LOT convient to Martin or Prestonsburg. Call 859-749-4286 days or 859-901-1636 evenings.

FOR SALE: Almost 1 acre near Long Bow Boat docks at Cave Run Lake. Asking \$6500. Call 606-886-3836.

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570-Mobile Homes

FOR SALE 12X60 Mobile Home. Underpinning & steps included, needs repairs, excellent for parts or storage, \$1000 OBO. Call after 5:30 874-4604.

590-Sale or Lease

FOR SALE OR LEASE: 16000 sq. ft. building, more or less w/apt. attached. 2 BR, 1 BA. Separate metal bldg. 40x50 & 2 + 1/2 acres of land. Large road frontage. Between Allen & Martin. close to WMDJ Call 859-512-6812.

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RENTALS

610-Apartments

1 BR APARTMENT FOR RENT \$250 + electric. Located in Martin area. Call 285-9976.

2 BR DUPLEX FOR RENT central h/a, on US 23, 1 mile N. of Prestonsburg. Call 886-9007 or 889-9747.

2 BR BACHELOR APARTMENT near Prestonsburg and J.W. Lake. A/C, private, clean. Not suitable for more than 2 people. Call 606-886-3941.

FOR RENT: 1 room furnished efficiency apartment. Utilities paid, tv & w/d provided, suitable for single adult. No pets. \$325 mo. \$150 dep. Call Winchester Apartments 874-5577.

Move into your new home by Christmas Prestonsburg-Part Place Apartments. Immediate occupancy for qualified applicants. 1 Br/\$305 mo. 2 Br/\$325 mo. Call 886-0039

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1 EFFICIENCY APARTMENT, \$300 mo. + \$250 dep. Lease and references required. Utilities paid. 886-3154.

GREETINGS FROM LIGHTHOUSE MANOR, Terry & Sharon Smith. We have apartments for rent that are efficiency apartments, all utilities paid. For more info call 606-886-2797.

FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS:

Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$350 month, + \$300 deposit. Located near HRMC. 889-9717.*

630-Houses

2 BR HOUSE, equipped kitchen, near schools, Prestonsburg area. References required. Call 886-0825 before 5 p.m.

RENOVATED 2 BR HOUSE FOR RENT located in residential section of Martin. \$375 mo. Call 285-3025 or 285-9812 for appointment.

HOUSE FOR RENT: Left Fork of Little Paint Creek. 3 BR, 2 BA, about 25 minutes from Federal Prison. If interested call 874-0307.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

General Assignment Reporter

The Floyd County Times is currently accepting applications for general assignment reporters, either full-time or part-time. The ideal candidate will possess strong writing skills, dedication to the principles of journalism, strong people skills and a go-getter attitude. Experience is preferred, but applicants with the right mix of education and ability, will be considered. The ability to work flexible hours is a must. Benefits include a competitive salary, health insurance, vacation, 401k and mileage, for full-time employees.

If you would like to advance or continue your career in the field of journalism, you may submit your resumé and writing samples to

Managing Editor **Ralph B. Davis**
 The Floyd County Times
 P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 or
 via email to web@floydcountytimes.com

PREMIER ELKHORN COAL COMPANY

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Mining engineering firm seeks computer drafting technician, proficient in Autocad & Survcadd. Experience with EXCEL, WP & MS Word helpful. 40-50 hrs/wk., BC-BS Health Ins., Delta Dental, Pd. Vac., Pd. holidays. Work would include all maps for mining permits. Pay based upon qualifications, opportunity for advancement. Walturn Eng. office, located at Hueysville, near Garrett. Call 606-358-4481 or 9127, for more information.

Enterprise Mining Company, LLC

Employment Opportunities

Enterprise Mining Company, LLC, will be accepting applications for all underground positions (labor, equipment operator, foreman, electrician).

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Interested and qualified individuals may apply at the Enterprise office in Whitesburg, KY, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., on Monday, December 29, 2003.

(Applicants unable to apply on December 29, 2003, will be required to apply at the Whitesburg Employment Service).

Enterprise Mining provides a competitive wage/benefit package in a safety oriented work environment.

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670-Commercial Property
FOR RENT: MODERN SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT Approx. 900 sq. ft. Furnished kitchen. Will also consider renting apartnet for office space. Located 1 mile south of Martin on Rte 122 across from the Floyd County Technology Center at Garth. \$500 per mo. plus utilities. Call 285-3625 or 285-9112.

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT: Just outside city limits, suitable for 2 people. Call 886-2474.

2 BR HOUSE FOR RENT Furnished kitchen. In Prestonsburg, \$350 mo. \$300 deposit, references & lease required. Call 886-3154.

650-Mobile Homes
FOR RENT: 1 BR mobile home. Call 874-9790.

FOR RENT: 2 BR mobile home, completely furnished. \$300 mo., \$125 deposit & utilities. Call 886-8961.

FOR RENT: 2 BR mobile home located on Meade Branch, Abbott road. Call 606-886-2858.

FOR RENT: 2 BR mobile home, nice, central h/a, minutes from Prestonsburg. \$400 mo., \$200 dep. Call 874-9488.

FOR RENT: 14X70 2 BR mobile home. Call 886-3541 Cell 791-3727.

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