

The Times

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briefs

Cumberland, Daniel Boone toll booths to be torn down

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is sending a \$7.7 million message to tourists and business travelers driving through eastern and southern Kentucky with the elimination of the Daniel Boone and Cumberland Parkway toll-booths.

According to Selena Curry, public information officer, Congressman Hal Rogers' securing of \$13 million in federal funding in February enabled the state to pay off bonds, which declared the road "paid for". The money will also finance the elimination of the booths and the reconstruction of exits.

Saturday, just before midnight, saw the last toll collected from the booths along the Louie B. Nunn and Daniel Boone

Parkways. A celebration of free Kentucky travel is scheduled for Monday, June 9, at 10 a.m., when U.S. Congressman Harold Rogers and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary James C. Codell III, along with other officials, will gather at the London Toll Plaza on the Daniel Boone Parkway. Rogers will man a bulldozer and knock down one of the tollbooths himself.

(See **BOOTHS**, page three)

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today
 Mostly sunny
High: 69 • Low: 41

Tomorrow
 Partly cloudy
High: 74 • Low: 53

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

Alleged dangerous driver charged

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

McDOWELL — A McDowell man faces an array of charges in relation to an incident allegedly occurring on May 24, in which he is accused of hitting a man with his car, as well as dragging a juvenile.

According to court documents, Michael J. Tackett, 23, is charged with two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment pursuant to a criminal complaint filed by Mary Williamson, of McDowell. Williamson alleges Tackett attempted to hit her minor son with a car and dragged her minor daughter with the car. He is also accused of fourth-degree assault for pulling the hair of the minor daughter.

In a separate case, Tackett is charged with second-degree assault for allegedly hitting Roger Hall, of McDowell, with his car at Doty Branch.

Tackett is scheduled to be arraigned on June 4.



Work has begun on a collaborative effort to construct an educational recreation park at Turkey Creek. Construction of a shelter began Friday.

Work begins on new park

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

TURKEY CREEK — Some of the first work toward completion of an educational recreation park located on Turkey Creek just off Route 680 at Minnie got underway Friday afternoon.

Members of the Floyd

County LINKS program, the Floyd Service Program, the Soil Conservation District and representatives from McDowell Elementary gathered Friday to begin construction on a drop zone for future use by school-age children.

"What we started building up there today is kind of

like a picnic shelter, but that's not what it'll be used for," said LINKS director Eddie Patton. "It'll be used as a drop spot where children who are coming up here for field trips can stand for pick-up in case it's raining and that sort of thing."

(See **PARK**, page three)

Drug suspects plead not guilty

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Three of the five men arrested in March and charged with individual counts of first-degree trafficking in cocaine after being accused of being high-level dealers pleaded not guilty at their arraignments in Floyd Circuit Court Thursday.

Vernon Slone and brothers Rodney and Harold Thornsberry entered not guilty pleas in circuit court Thursday to the counts brought against them during separate indictments in mid-May.

Vernon Slone's brother, David Slone, has already pleaded not guilty after attempting to have his \$250,000 cash bond lowered earlier this month.

All five were arrested following an investigation by Kentucky State Police

(See **SUSPECTS**, page three)

Clerk ranks high in Trust for Life

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Floyd County's Circuit Court Clerk's office has earned third place out of Kentucky's 120 counties for the month of May for its contributions to the Trust for Life organ donor program.

Created by the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerk's Association in 1992, the Trust for Life program affords every person obtaining a Kentucky dri-

(See **CLERK**, page three)

Husband charged in stabbing

by LORETTA BLACKBURN
STAFF WRITER

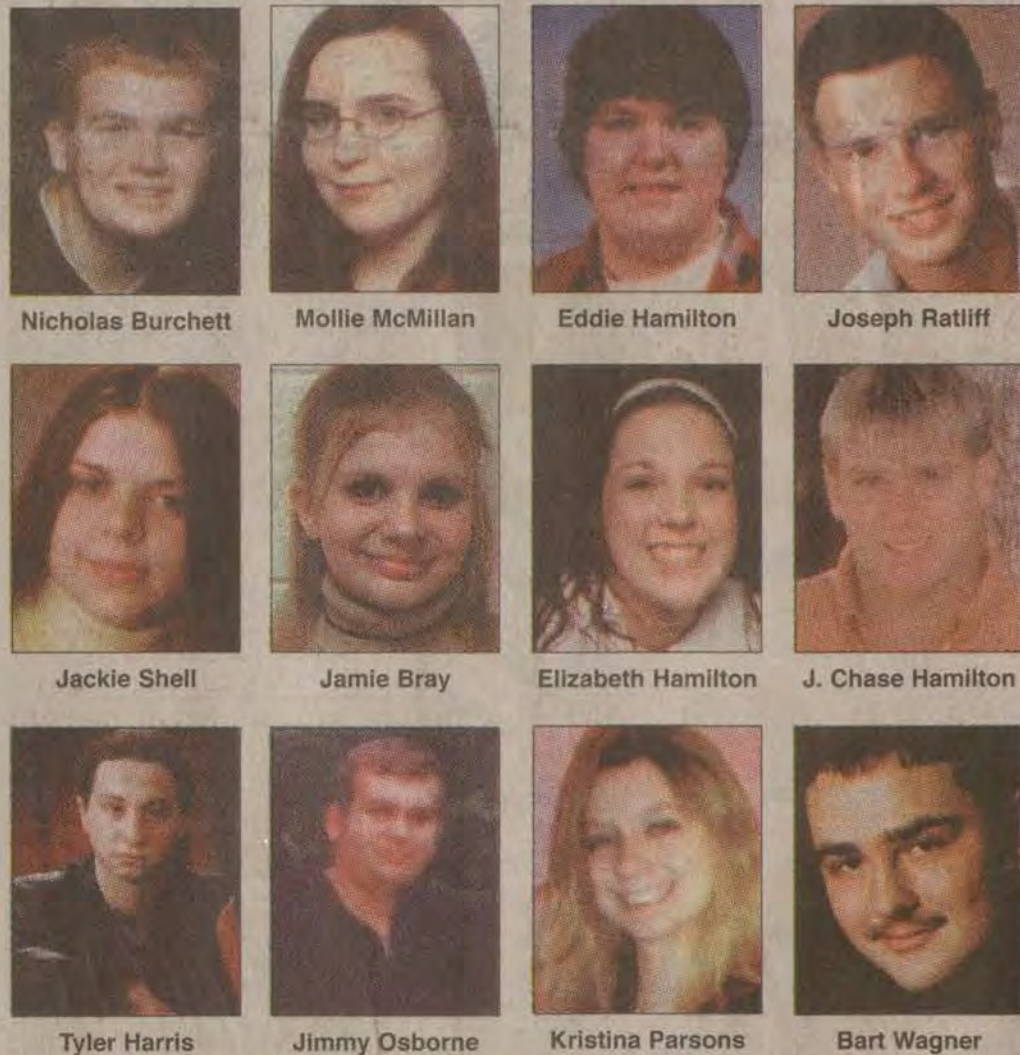
PRESTONSBURG — In regard to an alleged domestic violence incident in Prestonsburg on May 27, a Prestonsburg man is accused of stabbing his wife three times.

Court documents show that Tpr. Chris Collins arrived at the home of Gloria Music on May 27, at which time she informed him of the events that led to the two puncture wounds in her chest and the one in her arm.

She said she was arguing with her husband, John D. Music, 58, when he allegedly became angry and pushed her against a wall, at

(See **STABBING**, page three)

Betsy Layne High School



BLHS, PHS name top grads

Times Staff Report

With graduation season underway, Floyd County high schools are announcing their lists of top 10 graduating seniors.

Betsy Layne

Betsy Layne High School announced a list of top 12 students, due to ties. Those students include:

- Nicholas Burchett, valedictorian, son of Gary and Diane Burchett.
- Mollie McMillan, salutatorian, daughter of Kevin and Juliann McMillan.
- Eddie Randall

Hamilton, son of Randy Hamilton and the late Lizzie Hamilton.

■ Joseph Ratliff, son of Tony and Vicky Ratliff.

■ Jackie Shell, son of Jack and Joycie Shell.

■ Jamie Bray, daughter of Patty and James Bray.

■ Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of Thomas and Linda Hamilton.

■ Jared Chase Hamilton, son of Terry and Lucie Hamilton.

■ Tyler Harris, son of Mike and Lorna Harris.

■ Jimmy Osborne, son of Jimmy and Linda Osborne.

■ Kristina Parsons,

daughter of Monteville and Shirley Parsons.

■ Bart Wagner, son of Mike and Kathy Wagner.

Prestonsburg

Top 10 students at Prestonsburg High School include:

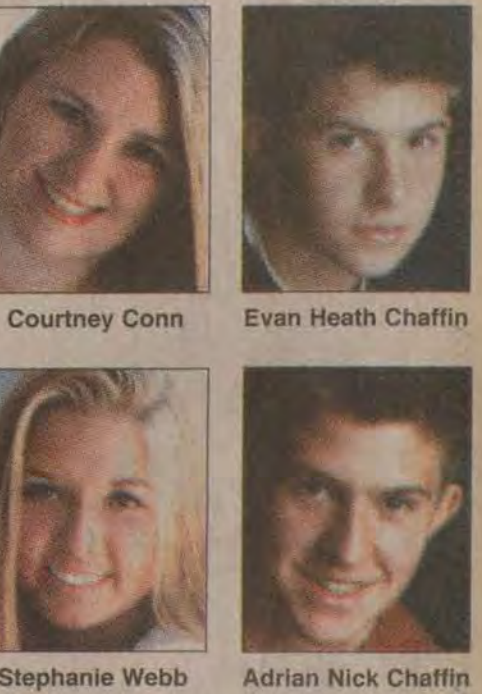
■ Andrew Burchett, valedictorian, son of Blake and Rebecca Burchett, of Arnold Avenue.

■ Heather Leslie, valedictorian, daughter of Dr. Keith and Teresa Leslie, of Arnold Avenue.

■ Jenna D. Humphrey,

(See **STUDENTS**, page three)

P'burg High School



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Odds and Ends

The Associated Press

■ CHARLESTON, W.Va.

The nation's second-most overweight state may ask residents to go easy on the super-sized sodas.

The proposed campaign does not plan to ask people to quit soft drinks, but would promote smaller portions, said Nidia Henderson, wellness manager at the Public Employees Insurance Agency.

Henderson's agency said that the state Medicaid program and the agency together spent more than \$200 million treating obesity-related diseases in the 2000-2001 budget year.

"We're doing it because obesity is an epidemic in our state and among our members," Henderson said, adding that Americans have lost sight of what normal portion sizes are for food and beverages.

Henderson noted that a 6-ounce bottle was the standard serving size when soft drinks first became popular in the United States. Now fast-food restaurants and convenience stores offer 64-ounce soft drinks containing about 800 calories.

West Virginia is ranked second among the 50 states and four territories for obesity and general poor health, according to the 2001 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The proposed advertising campaign will be similar to an earlier campaign: "Biggie Fries Biggie Thighs," which encouraged West Virginians to avoid super-sized fast food meals.

■ CINNAMINSON, N.J.

An armored car company guard admitted he stole some \$400,000 from his employer when suspicious officials questioned him after he drove to work in an expensive new sports car.

Perry Vedder, 32, of Philadelphia, was charged with

theft in the May 10 robbery at Dunbar Armored's office in Cinnaminson, where he had worked for seven years. He was arrested shortly after and released after posting \$20,000 bail.

Authorities said Vedder was seen on video entering and leaving the vault around the time of the theft, but the robbery itself was not captured on tape because office security cameras were briefly disabled.

Dunbar officials confronted Vedder when he drove to work a few days after the theft in a 2000 Chevrolet Corvette valued at \$53,000.

Police confirmed that \$340,000 had been recovered from the home of Vedder's girlfriend. He had used \$25,000 for a down payment on the car and \$36,000 was still missing.

Neither the girlfriend nor two other guards on duty at the time of the theft have been implicated.

■ SOUTH BEND, Ind. — It was anything but "Hakuna Matata" — Swahili for "no worries" — when an anesthetized African warthog at the Potawatomi Zoo took off in a van.

Zoo visitors had to seek shelter inside zoo buildings briefly Wednesday when Mando the warthog woke up unexpectedly

(See **ODDS**, page three)

Appalachian town becomes punk haven

by **ROGER ALFORD**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHITESBURG — Growing up in Appalachia wasn't easy for Lacy Hale.

She was, after all, the only kid at Whitesburg High School who dyed her hair purple. Her baggy, ripped jeans and oversized T-shirts didn't help. Some of her more conservatively clad classmates called her Hippy Chick. Others knew her as Punk Girl. They weren't terms of endearment.

"To be this different in an area like this, you really have to be a strong person," Hale said. "It is looked upon as something terrible. But I wanted to make an identity for myself. I wanted to be me."

Nearly every small town in the mountain region has at least one person like her, someone who dares to be different in a world where teens are pressured to conform. For many, like Hale, the teen years were lonely.

But that was before youths sporting the bright pink Mohawks and mural-sized tattoos turned Whitesburg into a haven for punk rockers. The flamboyant teens come here from across Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia for the music and the camaraderie.

"I was so thrilled when I got the chance to meet other people like me," Hale said. "It really gave me hope to find that I wasn't the only one different or off the wall. It helped my self-esteem more than you could realize."

A Whitesburg group, Youth Bored, found a ready audience

fighting. They call you gay. People mumble, so you can't hear what they're calling you."

Will Dodson, a staffer with a community development group called Letcher County Action Team, advises the teens and young adults who govern Youth Bored.

He said most of those who attend the concerts are not pot-smoking, beer-drinking delinquents. In fact, drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited at Youth Bored events.

"A lot of these kids come here because they just can't find much else to do," Dodson said. "But they do care about each other, and it's a wonderful thing to see them

(See **PUNK**, page six)

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, June 1, the 152nd day of 2003. There are 213 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 1, 1813, the commander of the U.S. frigate Chesapeake, Captain James Lawrence, said, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with a British frigate.

On this date:

■ In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state of the union.

■ In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state.

■ In 1801, Mormon leader Brigham Young was born in Whitingham, Vt.

■ In 1868, James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, died near Lancaster, Pa.

■ In 1926, actress Marilyn Monroe was born in Los Angeles.

■ In 1943, a civilian flight from Lisbon to London was shot down by the Germans during World War II, killing all aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.

■ In 1958, Charles de Gaulle became premier of France.

■ In 1967, the Beatles released their album, "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

■ In 1977, the Soviet Union formally charged Jewish human rights activist Anatoly Shcharansky with treason. Shcharansky was imprisoned, then released in 1986.

■ In 1980, Cable News Network made its debut.

Ten years ago:

A mortar attack on a holiday soccer game in a suburb of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, killed at least 15 people and wounded more than 80. The Supreme Court ruled that a criminal conviction must be overturned if the jury was given a constitutionally flawed definition of "beyond reasonable doubt."

Five years ago:

President Clinton abruptly abandoned his claim of executive privilege in the Monica Lewinsky investigation, reducing the prospect of a quick Supreme Court review of a dispute over the testimony of presidential aides. Thousands of refugees from Serbia's Kosovo province streamed into neighboring Albania to escape deadly



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The Floyd County Times

Happy Birthday Daddy!



John Melvin Hall Jr.

June 1, 1940 - Nov. 19, 2002

In our memories always stay,
Our Daddy is not far away.
We'll see him everywhere we go,
We hear his voice and always know.
His gentleness we'll always see,
The one who gave so endlessly.
For, in our hearts, his spirit's there,
We look to sky with special prayer.

Today his glow is, oh, so bright,
We know that he has found God's light.
So gentle, strong, and filled with love,
His treasury our meaning of.

His shadow, tall throughout the years,
Remembering love that was sincere.
Within this life we'll see his smile,
His tenderness was so worthwhile.

Forever he will be a part,
Each of his works of art.
The canvass if his life's glory,
The perfect part of his journey.

The laughter that we always hear,
The truth that he is always near.
These, the treasures we revere,
So proud for us, that he was here.

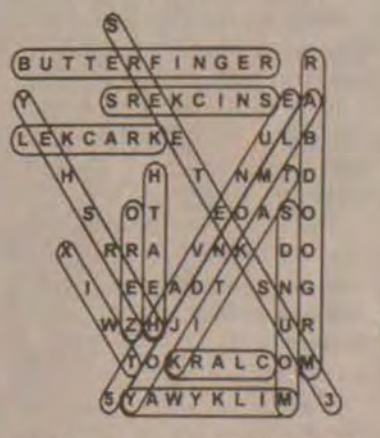
No matter what we do in life,
Our champion smiles with such delight.
Looking down with so much grace,
His love we always will embrace.

Thank you, Dad, for all you've done,
Together we are always one.
With strength and love you'll always be,
The heart that beats on constantly.

Sadly missed by your children:
Debbie, Kay, and Johnny Boy

Thought for Today:

"Peace without justice is tyranny." — William Allen White, American writer and newspaper editor (1868-1944).



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

Patton missed a few details

The Governor of Kentucky is, famously, a detail man.

Staffers marveled at the late-night cram sessions in which he mastered the detail of public issues. He arrived at his office early with endless pages of handwritten plans for action on issues he considered important.

Obviously, the Kennedy Bridge painting scandal wasn't one of them.

The state is paying \$12 million to get rid of this problem, but the Governor says he isn't familiar with the details.

Odd. Everybody else in Kentucky knows what happened.

At least one state bridge inspector solicited bribes from contractors. They surprised him by saying no, then reported the attempted squeeze to the FBI.

They also wouldn't abide the state's faulty specifications for painting the bridge.

The \$12 million settlement is a lost public resource. So is the \$480,000 paid to settle a related suit by former state engineer Ron Gardner, who said he was punished for reporting to his supervisors that cabinet employees had solicited bribes, padded time sheets, falsified payroll records and carried firearms.

All this has been in the newspaper. Was the Governor too busy to read?

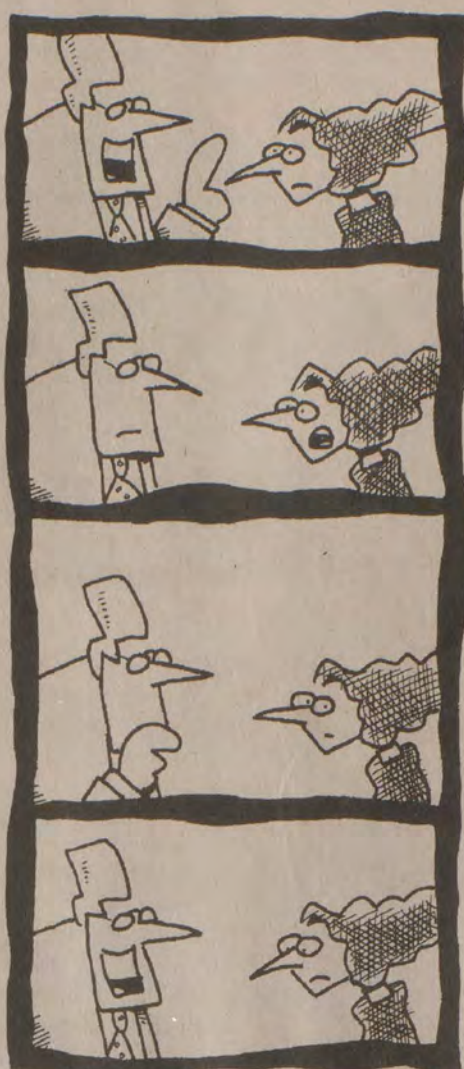
Maybe he didn't ask Cabinet Secretary James Codell III for a full report, or for regular updates, as the scandal unfolded. But if he didn't, it was because he didn't want to know, lest a detailed knowledge make him culpable.

In the final analysis, Gov. Paul Patton is the person most responsible for what has happened.

He encouraged road builders to finance his political campaigns. He preserved the system that gives them access and influence in the Transportation Cabinet. He reached into that culture for his Transportation secretary. And when things went terribly wrong, he stubbornly protected Codell rather than the public's confidence in government.

Patton knows all this. But like the hapless woman in Sinclair Lewis' "Babbitt," he exhibits "a thoroughness of mind that reveres details, and never quite understands them."

— The Courier-Journal, Louisville



— Jim Davidson

A caring educator who found her calling

It has been said that a school is "Where parents send their very best efforts." In the past several years the American school system has been harshly criticized because we lag behind most of the industrialized world in student performance.

While scoring high on math and science tests is certainly to be desired, it is not the final criteria for a student's success later in life. I find it difficult to criticize our schools when the United States of America is the envy of the rest of the world.

That said, all of us need to be supportive of our nation's schools, and especially in our own community, because they are entrusted with our greatest resource; our children.

What prompted these thoughts was a letter I received from a resource person in the Cookeville, Tenn., Public School System. Incidentally, I have it on good authority that this school system does an excellent job of educating its students.

This person is Joy Wallace and she tells me that she has found her calling. I

wish all teachers, teacher's aides and resource people felt the same way. Let me share her letter with you, because her positive attitude is infectious.

She begins, "After reading your column in our local paper, the Herald-Citizen, I was compelled to write. I, too, have found my calling!"

"I recently moved to Tennessee from Florida, where I lived most of my life. I love it here and know that I have been sent here to do what I do best.

"I am an in-school suspension person making barely above minimum wage. I am not in it for the money. Instead I touch the lives of students in the fifth and sixth grades. I help them to think about why they did what they did to get in trouble. I help them to find themselves during their time with me. I do not believe that they should just be punished, but also be held accountable for their actions that they chose to take and to make better choices next time.

"One student recently asked me why I do what I do. My reply was easy, 'I was once one of you.' I said, 'I am here because if there had been someone like me around when I was your age, I would have made better choices.'

"Then I told him I was there to also

help him become a success at whatever he chose to do in life. Needless to say, he realized that I cared and that many other teachers and adults really do care about their students. He has not been back to my room except to say hello since that day."

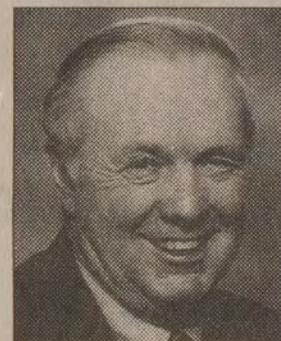
She concludes by saying, "Yes, I know I have found my calling! If I can successfully help one child to choose the right path, then that makes me successful. Not the dollar amount in my paycheck. Thank you for your time."

Thank you, Joy. I was moved by your letter because I know it came from your heart. I appreciate your taking time to write and I hope your words prove to be a real inspiration to countless other teachers and resource people across the country.

Later, as I thought about her letter I was reminded again of just how important good teachers really are. As in any profession or career, some do a better job than others, but one of the most important qualities any teacher can have is to really care about his or her students.

While it may be trite, it is nevertheless true. They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. They will remember that long after

(See DAVIDSON, page five)



— beyond the beltway

Have I got an anonymous source for you!

by DONALD KAUL

"The New York Times," home of "All the News That's Fit to Print," finds itself in a terribly embarrassing situation. It's been printing news that isn't fit.

It seems that one of its reporters, a young man who's been with the paper four years, has been making things up, stealing material from other publications and getting things wrong by accident as well as on purpose. Furthermore, he's pretended to have gone to places he hasn't been, said he talked to people who, it turns out, never heard of him and filed wildly imaginative expense account reports.

The "Times" regretted the error — errors — in a long, long story that documented the many lapses of the young man, Jayson Blair, who has since resigned. Good for the "Times," I say. But not good enough.

It's not enough, for example, for "Times" publisher Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., to say: "The person who did this is Jayson Blair. Let's not begin to demonize our executives — either the desk editors or the executive editor, or dare I say, the publisher."

That's OK for the publisher of the "East Overshoe Daily Trumpet" to say, but not the leader of "The New York

Times." The "Times" is, by most reckoning, the finest newspaper in the United States, the exemplar to which all other papers look. To see its credibility, and by inference the credibility of the entire profession, diminished in this way and then to be told it's the fault of a single 27-year-old reporter is simply not acceptable.

It's been said that because Mr. Blair was black, he benefited from an affirmative action bias that led editors to overlook his transgressions. While there may be some truth to that, I don't see it as the controlling factor.

What the "Times" suffered was nothing less than a systemic editing failure of cataclysmic proportions and we shall all pay for its sins. On the other hand, maybe we should.

It seems to me that papers are edited more loosely than they used to be. Editors used to come equipped with what was inelegantly called "a B.S. detector," a built-in skepticism that informed their work and served the public well.

A colleague of mine used to quote frequently an editor he knew who would scan a flashy story of a certain kind and say: "Interesting ... if true." It's that attitude I find largely missing in today's journalism.

I blame Bob Woodward. Yes, the Woodward-and-Bernstein-Watergate Bob Woodward of the "Washington Post." It is he, more than any other single figure, who has roman-

tized the use of the unnamed source in American journalism. He didn't invent it; reporters have always resorted to anonymous quotation when necessary to protect a vulnerable source, but it was a fairly rare technique, to be used only when absolutely vital to the story.

Woodward took that method and raised it to an art form. Moving on from his (and Bernstein's) use of an anonymous White House source (whom they named "Deep Throat") in the Watergate scandal, he has progressed to writing entire books with hardly a visible means of support. He puts you in meetings that he did not attend and produces long strings of dialogue, complete with gestures and facial expressions, all without telling us who told him. He's given us the inside scoop on the CIA, the Supreme Court and the

Federal Reserve, all institutions of more than normal secrecy, without leaving fingerprints.

Inevitably, he's been copied. All over the nation Woodward wannabes are larding their stories with unnamed sources to make the information seem privileged, and their editors are letting them get away with it. The technique makes for good reading but it offers a tremendous temptation to the reporter to fabricate or embellish or simply fudge. It's a bad idea.

Attribution — the words "he said" — is a genuflection to the idea that the truth is ultimately unknowable and the best we can hope for is to relay accu-

(See BELTWAY, page five)

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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment: It's a wonder he even speaks to me

by REV. TOM BIDDLE
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES

With the warm summer months fast approaching, I am often reminded of my childhood and the days I spent fishing, camping and playing in the backyard. One person who was

around for a lot of that was my older brother.

Growing up, we had a special bond, since my father had passed away when I was only 2 years old. I really looked up to him and respected him. He taught me several things in life that still remain with me even today. Yet, as I look back, it is a wonder that he even still speaks

to me.

On one of those occasions as I was playing in the backyard my brother was doing some final touches on his car that he had just painted. I was having fun playing with my bow and arrow when I got the big idea to shoot an arrow in the air. Where it landed was not what I had in mind. With a resounding thud,

it hit right on top of my brother's car. It made a noticeable dent and nearly pierced the roof entirely. Needless to say, my brother did not think it was funny.

A few years later my brother decided it was time for me to learn how to drive. I was only 15 at the time, but was already counting the days until my 16th

birthday. As he picked me up from church about a mile from our home, he pulled over and let me get behind the wheel.

I probably didn't get above 30 miles an hour the whole way home, as I gripped the wheel with all my strength. However, just as we were pulling into the driveway, I panicked because there was a car behind me and stepped on the gas instead of the brake. All I remember seeing were pieces of shrubbery flying over the car and then the sudden impact as I struck a tree in our front yard. Thank God for the tree, because it saved the house.

I immediately jumped out of the car and ran into the house screaming, "I'll never drive again." I have to tell you I set a new world record for the 100-yard dash that day. The amazing thing was my brother never yelled at me. He even taught me how to drive a few months later, although he should have learned a lesson the day I ran a tractor into a wagon on my uncle's farm.

Then there was the time we were on a fishing trip and had to cross a stream. I was terribly afraid of water, so my brother decided to carry me on his shoulders. We were doing fine until he hit a hole and fell down. I hit the water thrashing my arms about and yelling for

someone to save me. My brother just looked at me and said two words, "Stand up." The water didn't even come to my waist. My fear was gone and I was able to wade the rest of the way on my own.

I reflect on all of that and it gives me a wonderful description of the characteristics of God. Countless times I have damaged His property with careless actions. I have at times messed up and made a wreck of things with my sin. Yet not once has He displayed His anger to me. What He did was to forgive me by sending His son, Jesus Christ, to save me. And in those most desperate times when I have yelled for someone to help me, Jesus has been there for me, telling me to simply, "Stand up."

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 103:8, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." I often wonder with all that I have done, why the Lord would still want to speak to me, and yet I know He does because He is merciful.

Perhaps in your life you feel the same way. I encourage you to find a church near you where you can find out that God is a God of second, third, fourth and even more chances. He loves you and wants to be your brother to lift you up.

God's phone number in 'Bruce Almighty' annoys like the devil

by MITCH STACY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. — A lot of mortals who happen to share God's telephone number — or at least the one He uses in the new movie "Bruce Almighty" — have spent days now taking calls from curious dialers, snickering cranks and desperate souls.

In the hit movie, a TV newsman played by Jim Carrey is endowed by God with divine powers, allowing him to perform such feats as parting a bowl of tomato soup like the Red Sea. God's phone number is repeatedly displayed on the newsman's pager whenever the Lord tries to summon him.

Usually, movies and TV shows use the telephone exchange 555, which is not used for homes and businesses. But "Bruce Almighty" used a seven-digit number valid in many parts of the country.

Many moviegoers have remembered the number and put it to work in their own area codes.

A woman in Pinellas Park, Fla., has threatened to sue the movie studio because of the 20 calls per hour clogging her cell phone. A Denver radio network was getting dozens a day Wednesday, five days after the movie hit theaters, and is planning to build a contest around the phenomenon.

In Sanford, N.C., the listing belongs to a church whose minister is actually named Bruce. And he is not amused.

"It's a movie that mocks God and makes a mockery of religion," said the Rev. Bruce MacInnes, pastor of Turner's Chapel Church. "I'm not too thrilled with it at all. But the Lord God is one that could use something that's meant for evil and turn it around for good. So this may very well be the reason that that number showed up."

Universal Pictures, which produced the film, said in a statement Wednesday that the phone number was chosen because it does not exist in the Buffalo, N.Y., area, where the movie is set. The studio offered no further

comment.

A database search turned up more than 30 listings nationwide for the number in the movie.

In Cornelia, Ga., the number belongs to the Rev. Patrick Collington, an evangelist who runs Souls for Christ Ministries. His wife, Tracy, said they have gotten about 100 calls since Friday — mostly people asking for God and hanging up — but they are not bothered.

The family went to see the movie Tuesday night and loved it.

"It was funny, and knowing God's phone number was our number was really something to be excited about," she said.

Donna Augustin of Parrish, Fla., said her family has gotten about 200 God calls since Friday. Her three children think it is hilarious. A new message on their answering machine informs callers that they have reached "God's messenger" and should "call Jim Carrey" instead.

Some callers of the Augustin home leave messages ranging from sweet to obscene. Most try

to come up with something funny. One guy wanted to know when God would answer his prayers and make him a porn star.

In Denver, the Colorado Radio Network's nine lines started lighting up Monday with God callers, a good number of whom actually seemed to think they found a direct line to the Lord, according to Ron Nickel, the network's senior vice president.

"God, I really need to talk to you," one woman said in a message. "I need to repent because I've cheated on my husband five times, but I guess all of us people who are prostitutes eventually cheat on our husbands."

Nickel said the network of five stations plans to turn the whole thing into a contest. Listeners will be asked what they would say to God if they could call Him. The host of the stations' only religious show will pick the winner.

"This just dropped right out of the sky into our lap," Nickel said. "We would have to be stupid to get angry."

Christian programming ventures into reality TV with missionary travels, youth in LA

by AIMEE MAUDE SIMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two drifters wend their way through villages from Pakistan to Papua New Guinea, carrying hand-held digital cameras with them. The pair are recording as they get lost in the jungles of Laos, have a nasty encounter with some leeches and nearly become lion chow.

It's all grist for a reality television program, but this isn't a race around the world and no

Davidson

Continued from p4

the A's and B's are forgotten.

I ran across a wonderful little quotation by the American poet Robert Frost that, for me, pretty well sums it up. He said there are two kinds of teachers. "The kind that fill you with so much quail shot that you can't move, and the kind that just give you a little prod and you jump to the skies."

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

Beltway

Continued from p4

rately the words of someone who is willing to be known by them.

The more you move away from that, the closer you get to the mess the "Times" (and American journalism) is in now.

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: donaldkaul2@verizon.net.

one gets voted off the island.

The two wayfarers are Christian missionaries. Their goal is to connect with local people who are likely never to have heard of Jesus Christ.

Taking a cue from its secular competitors, Trinity Broadcasting Network — a Santa Ana, Calif.-based television ministry — has started airing its first reality show, "Travel the Road." The 12-part series began earlier this month and will run through Aug. 16.

The program follows evangelical Christians Tim Scott and William Decker over a year and a half as they preach in 16 countries.

Along the way, the two share stories of conversions, events they consider miraculous and some plain old adventures. They travel in and out of war-torn countries like Burundi, where they sleep in tents as shots whiz around them.

The show is a big step for TBN, which airs on various cable systems and affiliates, reaching about 70 million viewers nationwide. The network's programming generally consists of televangelists such as T.D. Jakes and Benny Hinn, along with a smattering of health and talk shows.

Nonetheless, Roger Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University, said it was "absolutely inevitable" that reality TV would be adopted by Christian networks.

Its dawn, he said, was only delayed by an aversion to the lowbrow antics of some of the reality pioneers on secular TV.

Thompson cites Christian soap operas, rock 'n' roll and talk shows such as "The 700 Club" as examples of other genres that Christian media have successfully emulated.

Scott, 24, was on track to become a stock broker when he

sold all his possessions to go overseas in 1998. As they set off on their third mission trip — traveling independently, without the backing of a particular denomination — he and the 28-year-old Decker intended to create a travel-log Web site that would encourage youth to try mission-work.

But as the footage from their cameras multiplied, and the stories became more compelling, the two realized they might have the genesis of a television show.

"We really wanted to just document, just show the power of God working ... churches forming ... whole villages coming to the Lord. It's the testimony of the people back there," Scott said.

They approached the Discovery Channel, Travel Channel and National Geographic Channel, among others, about airing the series. Responses were positive, they said, but there was concern about finding sponsors for a show with such a strong Christian message.

Paul Crouch Jr., vice president of administration at TBN, welcomed the show. TBN is supported primarily through donations, and its audience is typically Christians aged 40-55, he said.

"Travel the Road," could give the network, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, a vehicle to reach the all-important youth market.

"TBN is a huge ship," Crouch said. "You don't turn it on a dime, but we've been gradually trying to increase our audience through the use of more contemporary shows than preaching."

Other Christian broadcasters have also been experimenting with reality TV.

"TruthQuest: California," the brainchild of Todd Starnes,

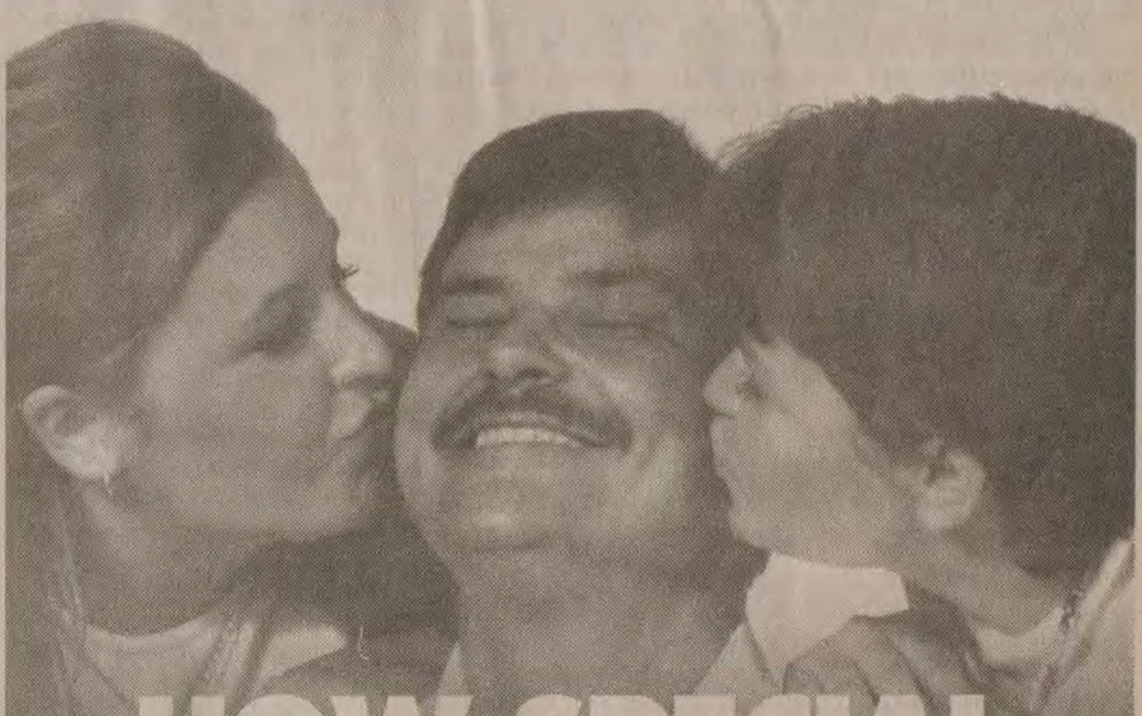
(See TV, page six)



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BASEBALL

Cincinnati announces tryout camp

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — The Reds are coming to Eastern Kentucky. The Cincinnati Reds will make a return to Paintsville and Johnson Central High School for a tryout camp on Wednesday, July 2. The camp will be held at Johnson Central's Paul G. Fyffe Field. The Cincinnati organization once held camps at Johnson Central on a yearly basis, but in recent years have made less frequent trips.

Players must be between the ages of 16 and 22. The tryout camp will begin at 10 a.m. In order to workout, all foreign legion players must bring with them written permission from their post commander or legion coach. Any player under 21 must have a written release from a parent or legal guardian accepting full liability. The release must be a release, not a permission slip.

Many players have been signed at tryouts like the one scheduled for Johnson Central.

Reds activate Haynes, sent Olmedo back to minors

ATLANTA — The Cincinnati Reds activated right-handed pitcher Jimmy Haynes on Monday and sent infielder Rainer Olmedo to Double-A Chattanooga.

Haynes was scheduled to start Tuesday night's game against the Atlanta Braves. He's been on the disabled list since April 17 with a bulging disc. He's 0-4 with a 12.74 ERA this season.

(See REDS, page two)

H.S. BASKETBALL

P'burg native named new Bracken County coach

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BROOKSVILLE — Prestonsburg native Robert Hammonds, a former assistant at Bourbon County and Clark County, is the new boys' basketball coach at Bracken County. Hammonds replaces Gary McKinney who coached the Polar Bears to a 4-16 record last season. Bracken County went 3-11 against regional competition and was winless (0-6) in district play. Bracken County plays in the 10th Region, the same region as defending state champion Mason County. Bracken County ranked second

(See P'BURG, page two)

Off-season a busy time for Betsy Layne girls

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BETSY LAYNE — Coach Cassandra Akers and the defending 15th Region Champion Betsy Layne Ladycats won't rest on their regional championship this spring and summer. Instead, they'll keep busy in preparation for next season and what lies ahead in a region which is taking shape with coaching changes galore.

According to Akers, Betsy Layne plans to attend one team camp in the month of June and two more in July.

(See GIRLS, page two)



Floyd County U14 Warriors

YOUTH SOCCER

U14 team ends season with win

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG — On Thursday, May 22, the U14 Pike County United traveled to the Prestonsburg soccer field to take on the U14 Floyd County Warriors. The Pike

County United had given the Warriors their only loss of the season earlier this spring. The teams were very evenly matched and it was a hard-fought physical match up for the entire 80 minutes of play. The game ended 4-2 in favor

of the Warriors.

During the first half of play, the Warriors took an early 2-0 lead. Justin Murray had the Warriors' first goal from an indirect kick and

(See SEASON, page two)

- High School Baseball -



photo by Steve LeMaster

Allen Central players celebrated following Neil Allen's two-run home run in Wednesday's 58th District championship game against Betsy Layne. Allen's home run helped Allen Central to the district title.

Regional baseball tournaments on deck

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

It's official, the 14th Region Baseball Tournament has been moved from Perry County Central High School to Knott County Central High School. School officials at Knott Central are happy to host the tournament.

KCCHS has hosted the tourna-

ment on many occasions. The decision to move the tournament was made public this week. The 14th Region event will get underway on Monday night at Bailey-Johnson Stadium. The tournament draw was scheduled for this weekend, but the tourney pairings were not available at press time.

The draw for the 15th Region

Tournament will be held today at 2 p.m. at Johnson Central High School. Tournament host Johnson Central is the number two seed in the 57th District behind tourney favorite Sheldon Clark. For the first time in a long time, 1990 state champ Paintsville, Johnson Central's crosstown rival, is not in

(See REGIONAL, page two)

H.S. BASKETBALL

Regional basketball tournament format changed

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PIKEVILLE — Change is coming to both the boys' and girls' basketball tournaments. After three years of playing

the boys' and girls' 15th Region tournaments at the same site, the plan has been changed. Fifteenth Region

officials met earlier this spring in Pikeville and voted to return to the old format of the boys' and girls' tournaments

being played at two locations one week apart.

This past season, the policy committee voted to keep the

two tournaments at the same site but have the first round games played on the district winner's home floor, much to the advantage and liking of the

(See FORMAT, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

Paintsville High School sophomore Josh LeMaster and the rest of the Tigers will be absent from this year's 15th Region Baseball Tournament following an opening round loss to Sheldon Clark.

ON TAP

Johnson Central to present Summer Slam

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE — The Johnson Central Summer Slam will be held this week, beginning on Tuesday. The event will run June 3-5. Eight teams will play in the event with games being held in three gyms.

Joining host Johnson Central will be Sheldon Clark, Tug Valley, Rose Hill, East Ridge, Pike Central, Pikeville and Fairview. Games will be played at Johnson Central High School, Johnson County Middle School and Highlands Elementary, like in years past.

(See SUMMER, page two)

KENTUCKY



Grady Stumbo

Stumbo must leave UK board

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEXINGTON — Dr. Grady Stumbo, Hindman, will have to give up his seat on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees because his daughter, a graduate of the UK Medical School, will be a resident there. UK policy won't allow a

(See STUMBO, page two)

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