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15TH REGION PREVIEW

— section S

briefs

Free firewood available

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Paintsville Lake has free firewood to give away on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The firewood is in the form of parts of recently fallen oak trees located near the Corps Office/Visitor Center above Paintsville Dam. These fallen trees can be easily accessed by using a pickup truck.

Those interested in cutting the trees up for firewood are only required to obtain a firewood permit at no charge from the Resource Manager's office, which is located in the Corps Office/Visitor Center.

For additional information, write the Resource Manager, Paintsville Lake, 807 Ky Rt 2275, Staffordsville, KY 41256, or call 606-297-6312, Monday — Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

3 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 55 • Low: 41

Thursday



High: 56 • Low: 46

Friday



High: 55 • Low: 34

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

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Tracy Dean Yates inspected evidence during a break in his trial on Monday.

photo by Tom Doty

Yates found guilty of manslaughter

by TOM DOTY STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County jury found Tracy Dean Yates, 48, of Little Mud, guilty of manslaughter and other charges stemming from a 2002 hit-and-run car accident.

The jury only needed 30 minutes to come to their decision after two days of testimony. Yates was found guilty of second-degree manslaugh-

ter for the death of 2-year-old Stacia Collins, three counts of fourth-degree assault for the injuries that he caused to other Collins family members, one count of fleeing the scene of an accident and one count of driving on a suspended license.

The jury also got to hear more evidence before recommending a sentence for Yates. They heard that he had other been convicted of DUI and also learned that he was involved in an armed robbery in

Pikeville that saw him serving five years in prison.

The jury returned with a recommendation of the maximum sentence of 10 years for the manslaughter charge, with concurrent sentences of 12 months on the other charges.

"Certainly we're pleased with the verdict," said Commonwealth's Attorney Brent Turner. "The family of the victim is also happy and this

(See GUILTY, page three)

Two arrested for passing bogus bills

by TOM DOTY STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Secret Service will be making a trip to Floyd County shortly to investigate a counterfeiting operation after two arrests by the Floyd County Sheriff's Department resulted in the seizure of \$3,060 in funny money.

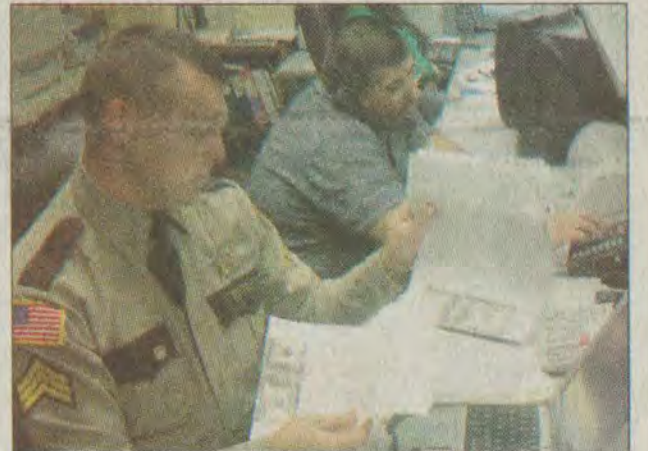
The story began on Sunday night when Jackie Hall Grant, 32, of Garrett, bought a soda and a bag of chips at the Family Inn Restaurant, in Garrett, allegedly using a phony \$20 bill. Emboldened by his success, he allegedly tried to make change for a bogus \$100 bill but the staff said they didn't have enough change.

Grant left the restaurant and allegedly sent his girl-

friend back with a new plan. Cassandra Ramey entered the restaurant next and ordered a pizza. She tried to pay with a \$100 bill as well, but was told they couldn't make change. She produced a \$20 bill which was handed over to the manager, who saw that it was fake and of poor quality to boot. The manager then told his staff to let the customer wait in her car until the pizza was ready. He immediately called the police while the couple waited for their pizza in the parking lot.

Sgt. Steve Little and Deputy Bryan Prater showed up a short time later and arrested the pair. They conducted a search of the couple's vehicle and found Oxycontin and

(See BILLS, page ten)



Sgt. Steve Little inspected counterfeit money, collected during an arrest Sunday night, before logging it into evidence.

photo by Tom Doty

State finishes cleanup of one of largest coal waste sites

by ROGER ALFORD ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDOWELL — For years, coal waste blackened a mountainside in the tiny community of Spewing Camp, polluting nearby streams and causing an eyesore for local residents.

No more. A \$3.6 million cleanup over

two years has erased all signs of what had been one of Kentucky's largest heaps of abandoned mining refuse — some 10 million tons deposited over a 20-year period.

The mountainside is now green. The nearby creek bed still has an orange hue from the iron and sulfur that drained from the refuse, but resident Steve Howell

said it no longer runs black after heavy rains.

"It was one of the worst remaining sites we had in eastern Kentucky," said Steve Hohmann, director of the Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands. "It was just left there as raw refuse to erode. It was contributing large amounts of sediment and iron into Spewing Camp Branch. It

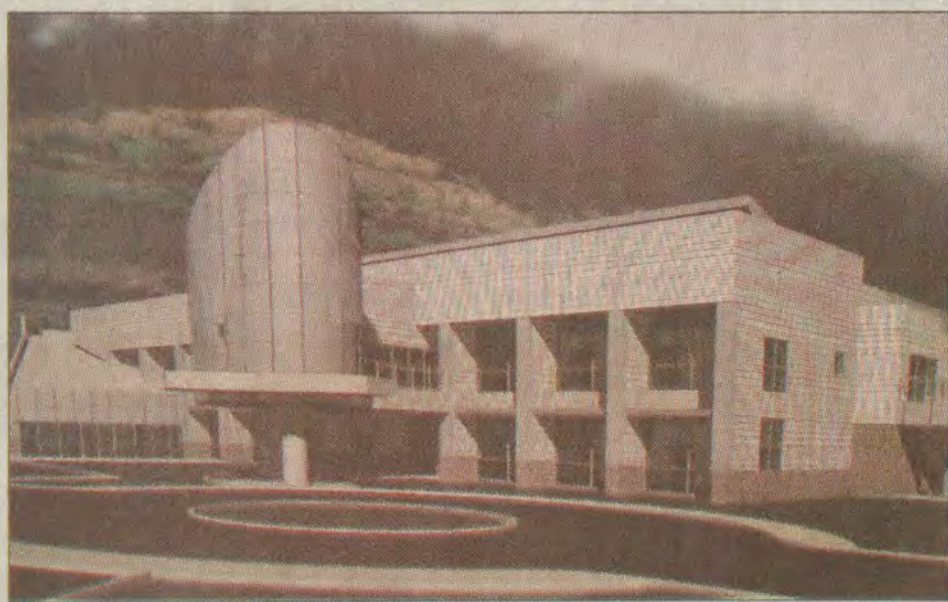
was clogging the creek channel." Kentucky officials used federal and state funding to turn 68 acres of barren moonscape back into a lush, green mountainside.

The site is only one of many abandoned mine lands that need to be reclaimed, said Tom FitzGerald, head of the environmental advocacy group Kentucky Resources Council.

"There are still numerous sites in this state that continue to pose a threat to the environment and in some cases a threat to public safety," FitzGerald said.

FitzGerald said it's critical that Congress continue appropriating funds to reclaim the abandoned sites.

(See CLEANUP, page fourteen)



Artist's rendering of Appalachian Wireless' planned headquarters.

Appalachian Wireless breaks ground on new headquarters

Times Staff Report

IVEL — Appalachian Wireless broke ground Tuesday for a new 26,000 square-foot facility that will serve as the company's headquarters.

The new facility will be located at the Ivel industrial park on U.S. 23, across from R/S Godwin Truck Body. The site currently houses the company's technical center.

Constructed is expected to begin in early 2005 and to be complete a year later. "Our new headquarters will ... mean an

increase in jobs," said Laura M. Phipps, president of Appalachian Wireless. "We have nearly doubled our workforce since 2001, and we plan on adding 20-to-25 new jobs in the very near future. At a time when our competitor announced it is cutting 7,000 jobs nationwide, we are thrilled to add jobs and positively impact the economy of Eastern Kentucky."

During the announcement, Phipps was joined by other Appalachian Wireless offi-

(See GROUNDBREAKING, page eleven)

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(3) Country Gravy



Odds & Ends

■ **INDIANAPOLIS** — A cane that belonged to a 6-year-old boy's grandfather soon will have a new home — and, Collin Anderson hopes, so will his grandfather's ghost.

GoldenPalace.com will add the "ghost cane" to a collection that already includes a grilled cheese sandwich said to bear the image of the Virgin Mary. The Antigua-based casino paid \$28,000 last month for the sandwich, which it bought — like the cane — on eBay.

"It's just the new Americana thing," said Monty Kerr, a spokesman for the online casino that on Monday offered Mary Anderson \$65,000 for her father's metal walking cane.

Kerr said the cane — which Anderson auctioned to ease her son Collin's fears that his grandfather's ghost was haunting their home in Hobart — likely will go on tour like the famous sandwich.

The cane — and the story behind it — attracted 132 bids, dozens of imitators and landed the Andersons on NBC's "Today" show Monday.

"It becomes a pop culture phenomenon," said Hani Durzy, an eBay spokesman. "It may be just a few days or whatever, but it's all everybody is talking about."

San Jose, Calif.-based eBay Inc. does not allow sellers to offer intangible items such as

spirits or souls where delivery cannot be confirmed, said Durzy. He said Anderson's auction made it clear that she was selling her late father's metal walking cane as a ploy to ease her son's fears.

Anderson made one request of the winning bidder: "I would like to ask you to write a letter after you've received the cane (and the ghost) to my son letting him know that he's there with you and you're getting along great."

Kerr said the company would do so.

■ **NANAIMO, British Columbia** — A bus passenger checking an unattended purse

for identification found a human skull inside, Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

A woman spotted the purse on a bench at a bus stop a few blocks from the downtown area in this Vancouver Island town and immediately brought it to police, shaken by the discovery, Constable Jack Eubank said Monday.

"She was headed to the ferry, just carrying on normal business, and then found this thing," Eubank said.

After the woman brought it to police Nov. 30, the skull was sent to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby for analysis by a forensic anthropologist. Another couple of weeks of testing is needed to answer such questions as gender and approximate time of death, Eubank said.

The skull is not a new specimen and could have been found and kept by someone, he added.

"In my experience on the West Coast, there's a number of ancient aboriginal burial sites around, and every now and then they get disturbed," he said. "I've seen it many times."

Eubank described the handbag as dark brown with wavy black horizontal lines, somewhat like a tiger skin pattern.

"We want to see if it jogs anybody's memory, or if somebody had a valid reason to be carrying this around and then inadvertently left it," he said. "We don't know."

■ **CALEDONIA, Wis.** — After four days on the lam, a spotted steer that had been waylaid on front yards and near a golf course found its way back to its own barn and avoided a possible death penalty.

Police had standing orders to shoot the 700-pound animal because of the danger it could pose if it strayed into traffic on nearby state Highway 38.

Kelly Welter and her children joined the search with her 17-year-old nephew, who owns the

animal and plans to show it at the Racine County Fair next year, after the steer broke through an electric fence and a stock gate last Wednesday.

Welter said something, possibly a coyote, spooked the animal.

The family members organized an intensified search early Sunday, but when Welter drove up to her sister-in-law's farm, she got a surprise.

"He was right in the barn," she said. "I just about died, I didn't know what to do."

She worried her truck would scare the steer away, but it didn't budge as she drove into position to block the barn door.

"I opened the gate (to the pasture) and he ran right in," she said.

The steer had lost 30-50 pounds but was otherwise was fine, she said.

"We're just so happy he didn't hurt anybody," Welter said. "Nobody got hurt. There was no accident. We're happy he didn't have to be destroyed."

■ **MELBOURNE, Fla.** — All over one suburban subdivision, wild pigs have left their mark.

There was a dead cat, Ruth Strahosky's lawn was shredded when she was on vacation. Trespassing swine have been spotted along Wright Avenue and Corbusier Drive, congregating in rummaging hordes of up to 20 animals.

The animals come from the adjacent, unfenced land owned by the Melbourne Airport Authority.

After a rash of complaints from the Fountainhead Homeowners Association, the airport authority agreed to a one-year contract with two licensed trappers to try to thwart the hog onslaught.

Since mid-November, James Dean and Chad Penright have caged and bow-shot 23 feral pigs, including a 380-pound

brute.

Resident Jim Hood surprised a 200-pound hog in his side yard after midnight last month. The burrowing beast scooted past him about 15 feet away.

"I was glad I was on the inside of the fence and it was outside the fence, because I know how dangerous they are," Hood said.

■ **HALSEY, Ore.** — Some workers seem to live at the office, but the principal of Central Linn High School really does.

Michael Bremont, 31, routinely spends 80 hours a week on the job, arriving well before school starts each morning and leaving long after the final bell.

Frustrated by how little he was seeing his family, Bremont approached his district superintendent last year with an unusual request. He wanted to live in an unused building on campus.

District officials loved the idea, and spent \$2,000 renovating the place. Bremont pays \$500 a month in rent, plus electricity costs, so the district has made back what it spent.

And Bremont is becoming more involved father. One recent evening, when his after-school duties included supervising the year's first girls and boys home basketball game, Bremont took a break to walk across the parking lot and join his family for a tuna casserole.

Once the game started, Bremont was able to sit with them.

"It's been really wonderful," he said.

■ **EAGLE PASS, Texas** —

(See ODDS, page thirteen)

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 343rd day of 2004. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date:

■ In 1854, 150 years ago, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Roman Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

■ In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for the reconstruction of the South.

■ In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

■ In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

■ In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

■ In 1978, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir died in Jerusalem at age 80.

■ In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

■ In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

■ In 1987, the "intifadah" (Arabic for uprising) by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories began.

■ In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed into U.S. law the North American Free Trade Agreement, which went into effect at the start of 1994.

Ten years ago: Bosnian Serbs released dozens of hostage peacekeepers, but continued to detain about 300 others. In Los Angeles, 12 alternate jurors were chosen for the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

Five years ago: A jury in Memphis, Tenn., hearing a lawsuit filed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family found that the civil rights leader had been the victim of a vast murder conspiracy, not a lone assassin. A Russian diplomat was ordered to leave the U.S. after he was allegedly caught gathering information from the State Department with an eavesdropping device.

One year ago: President Bush signed a \$400 billion Medicare overhaul bill that included a prescription drug plan for the elderly. Congress approved legislation to stem the flood of unwanted junk e-mail known as "spam." U.S. Rep. Bill Janklow, R-S.D., resigned after being convicted in the traffic death of a motorcyclist, Randy Scott. A Greek anti-terrorism court convicted 15 members of the November 17 terrorist cell for their roles in a nearly 30-year killing campaign.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Richard Fleischer is 88. Actor-director

Maximilian Schell is 74. Actor David Carradine is 68. Actor James MacArthur is 67. Flutist James Galway is 65. Singer Jerry Butler is 65. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 62. Actor John Rubinstein is 58. Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 57. Actress Kim Basinger is 51. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 48. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 47. Country singer Marty Raybon is 45. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 42. Actor Malcolm Gets is 41. Actor Wendell Pierce is 41. Actress Teri Hatcher is 40. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 38. Singer Sinead O'Connor is 38. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 38. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 32. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 28. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 26.

Thought for Today: "So long as governments set the example of killing their enemies, private individuals will occasionally kill theirs." — Elbert Hubbard, American author (1856-1915).

JOHN K. BLACKBURN, SHERIFF
FLOYD COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
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Face Amount	01/1-31/05	21% Penalty	Thereafter
5% Penalty	02/1-28/05		
21% Penalty	Thereafter		

Please be sure to bring or mail your tax bill when making payment. The tax bill is needed to give you faster service. When paying by mail, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, if you want a receipt.

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Guilty

Continued from p1

will help mark the anniversary of Stacia's passing next week."

Yates' trial got underway on Monday, nearly two years after the Dec. 12, 2002, incident which saw him charged with manslaughter and fleeing the scene of an accident.

In the accident, a gray Buick driven by Yates collided head-on with a white Dodge Neon that contained the Collins family, which included father Stacy, mother Denise, and their two young children. One child had been crying and was being comforted by the mother when the collision occurred only one mile from their home.

Opening statements began the trial, with Turner going first and outlining the case for the jury. Turner told the jury up front that the case would be upsetting.

"We're here today because a child is dead," Turner said. "She wasn't around long enough to accomplish very much. Her life was important. She was precious to those who knew and loved her."

Turner briefly addressed Yates when he said, "He had no business driving that night. He has refused to take responsibility for this."

Turner went on to outline the case and state what the evidence was going to prove. He said that the jury would hear that Yates was under the influence of prescription drugs on the night of the accident and that he was agitated after having to retrieve his Buick from the Betsy Layne Dollar General Store after his wife got arrested for shoplifting there. Turner went on to note that the jury would hear from Yates' daughter, who would testify that Yates had been on drugs that night and had come home that evening and told her that he's had a wreck, but to tell anyone who asked that he was home all night.

The Commonwealth also stated that a witness would come

forward who recognized the car that Yates drove leaving the scene of the accident on Route 2030. That would be followed by evidence from the state trooper who went to Yates' house to discover that the Buick had a tarp over its front end, obscuring damage from an accident. That trooper was told by Yates that friends borrowed the car, wrecked it, and then returned it to his home.

Defense attorney Jack Faust kept his comments brief. He said that indeed an accident happened and a tragic one at that. He also asked the jury to not judge Yates for the approach that Faust would take with the parents who, he said, "didn't follow the law" by taking their daughter out of her child seat.

The first witnesses called were Stacy and Denise Collins. Each testified to being in the correct lane when the accident occurred. Each said firmly that they always kept the children in their car seats and only made the one exception that proved tragic. Both said that they didn't get a look at the car that hit them, as they were blinded by the headlights and their vision was also obscured when their air bags deployed sometime around impact.

Denise Collins was hurt by the crash and suffered broken bones and teeth on the left side of her face. Stacy Collins only recalled gathering up his baby and being comforted by a neighbor while he held her knowing but maybe not fully accepting that she was gone.

A neighborhood boy testified next and said that he saw the gray Buick leave the scene and recognized the car as being Yates' vehicle. He helped Denise

Collins get out of the vehicle and to a neighbor's home. He recalled the moment saying, "He [Stacy] was screaming, 'Please help me,' and there was blood all over the place." He couldn't tell the extent of Denise Collins' injuries, saying, "You couldn't see much for the blood."

Neighbor Brad Hunter testified next. He saw Yates' wife getting arrested for shoplifting earlier in the day. He was with a friend, Tate Boyd, who was driving and they stopped at Yates' home to tell him that Bronis Yates had been arrested. Boyd agreed to drive Tracy Yates to the store to get his car.

Boyd testified to the same events and noted that while Yates was following them on the way back, his driving was erratic and he taigated them on several occasions.

Ernest Hunter, neighbor and father of Brad, testified that Yates used their phone on occasion and did so that night as well as borrowing \$9 to bail out his wife.

Faust cross-examined Ernest Hunter, trying to get Hunter to say that Yates was there at the time the accident happened (between 8 and 8:30 pm), but Hunter could not commit to a time, saying, "I never looked at the time. I was watching the wrestling."

Ernest Hunter's other son, Michael, also testified that Yates used their phone that night and that he never mentioned someone borrowing and wrecking his car. He also noted that Yates came back hours later to use the phone again and was driving his second car, a blue Thunderbird which wasn't normally driven since its tags had expired.

State Trooper Johnny Slone

testified next. He was originally called in to investigate a hit-and-run and began to do so. Later, Det. Byron Hanson would be brought in when the daughter was pronounced dead by the Pike County coroner.

Slone said he heard from a witness who recognized Yates' car leaving the scene so he proceeded to Yates' home. There he found a gray Buick with a blue tarp draped over its front end. He removed the tarp and saw that the front was damaged. He also noted that the hood was warm, indicating it had been driven recently. He asked Yates about it and Yates told him that two men had borrowed the car. They came and covered up the damage but then came into his house and told him that there was damage to the vehicle. Slone asked why would they cover it up and then confess, but Yates had no response.

Tuesday kicked off with testimony by Hanson, who recounted his interviews with Yates as well as followup interviews with witnesses which eventually led to charging Yates with the crimes.

The most moving testimony came from Yates' daughter. The adolescent testified to being home when Yates returned from the accident and slammed his car into their house. He told the teen and her friend, who was at the residence, that he had been in a wreck and someone may be hurt. He further told them that if anyone came by that they should be told that he was home all night. The girl further said that Yates then turned off all of the lights and asked them to remain quiet.

The girl also testified that Yates had been on prescription drugs since 1997 and often would go through a month's pre-

scription of Xanax, Valium or Lortab in 3-to-5 days. It was further noted that he behaved differently under the influence and that on the night of the accident it was apparent to the witness that he was under the influence.

The testimony also included a harrowing account of what happened later that night when the mother was bailed out of jail and returned home. She listened to the story and sat down with her child, saying that they would all have to stick to the story and then proceeded to threaten the child with death if there was any deviation from the plan.

Three months later, with both parents in jail, the teen told the true account to Det. Hanson. Now the children are living with relatives in Pike County.

The last witnesses were brief but gave compelling testimony. The former Pike County coroner related that the child was dead on arrival to the hospital and was most likely killed by the airbag deploying. He noted that the windshield of the car was not a factor and that it had no blood or cracks after the wreck.

A Value Med pharmacy technician also testified and stated that Tracy Yates had bought a one-month prescription for Valium on the morning of Dec. 12.

An officer from the department of transportation was the last witness called and she stated that Yates had lost his license prior to the accident for a DUI offense.

The Commonwealth rested after calling 14 witnesses. The defense chose not to call any witnesses.

Closing remarks began with the defense going first. Faust dropped a shocking admission early in his argument when he said that Yates had been in the car. This meant that most counts of the indictment were true, including fleeing the scene and driving without a valid license. But he went on to say that there was no proof that Yates had been on drugs. He went on to accuse Kentucky State Police of not doing its job by never having Yates tested.

Turner spoke last and could not resist reminding the jurors that Faust had admitted his client drove the vehicle. Turner pointed out that this statement overturned arguments from Faust's opening remarks. He asked the jury to recall when Faust said that the accident happened while Yates was at the home of the Hunters.

Formal sentencing for Yates will take place on Jan. 21.

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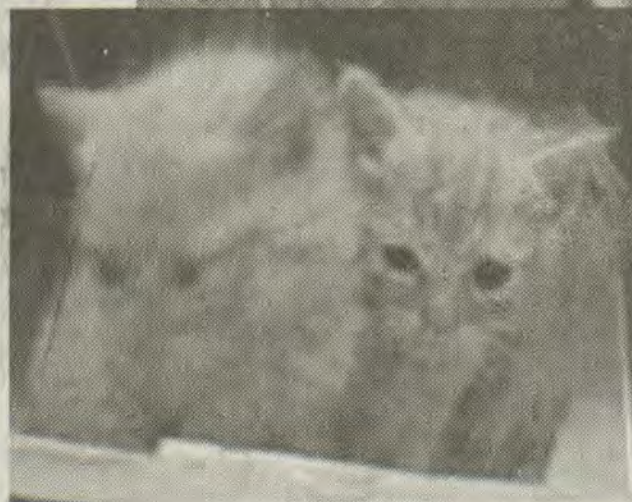
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Pet Adoption Corner

Whether you're looking for a playful puppy or an indoor cat, the Floyd County Animal Shelter is sure to have just the pet for you! If any of the animals pictured here catch your eye, please drop by the shelter to meet them, and if they've already been adopted, to meet their friends!

In the upper right photo is a black eight-year-old chihuahua, a housebroken female who is extremely friendly, despite suffering from fleas at the moment. The lower left picture is of two of a litter of six-week-old kittens, who are now eating soft food on their own.



The Floyd County Animal Shelter is located at Sally Stephens Branch in west Prestonsburg. The shelter is open from 10:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 10:00 to 3:00 Saturdays, and can be reached by phone at (606) 886-3189.

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 <p>2003 Volkswagen Jetta GLS pkg., automatic, pwr. sunroof, low miles, loaded. Save!</p>	 <p>1999 Mercury Mountaineer 4x4, leather, pwr. sunroof, chrome wheels, CD/Cass. player. Loaded!</p>	 <p>1996 Toyota Landcruiser 4x4 3rd row seat, alloy wheels, pwr. sunroof, auto., CD/Cass. player. Sharp!</p>
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 <p>2004 Chevy Colorado 4x4, Z71 Pkg. 4-door Crew Cab, automatic, alloy wheels, CD player. Nice!</p>	 <p>2004 Chevrolet Silverado Z71 LS pkg., alloy wheels, automatic, 4-door. Loaded!</p>	 <p>2004 Pontiac Grand Prix GT pkg., auto., alloy wheels, CD player, loaded. Under Factory Warranty!</p>

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Viewpoint

Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Worth Repeating ...

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."

—Woodrow Wilson

Guest View

New logo a winner

For a few years now, Kentucky has been "that friendly." Trouble is, few folks recognized the commonwealth for its welcoming nature. And the slogan, while certainly neighborly enough, lacked the pizzazz to entice visitors or to become synonymous with the state.

That problem may very have been solved with the adoption of the state's new slogan and branding logo, "Kentucky: Unbridled Spirit."

The logo and symbol were winners in a contest conducted by the state in the search for a new identity that would sell Kentucky to the nation and the world. The new design is a winner in many ways.

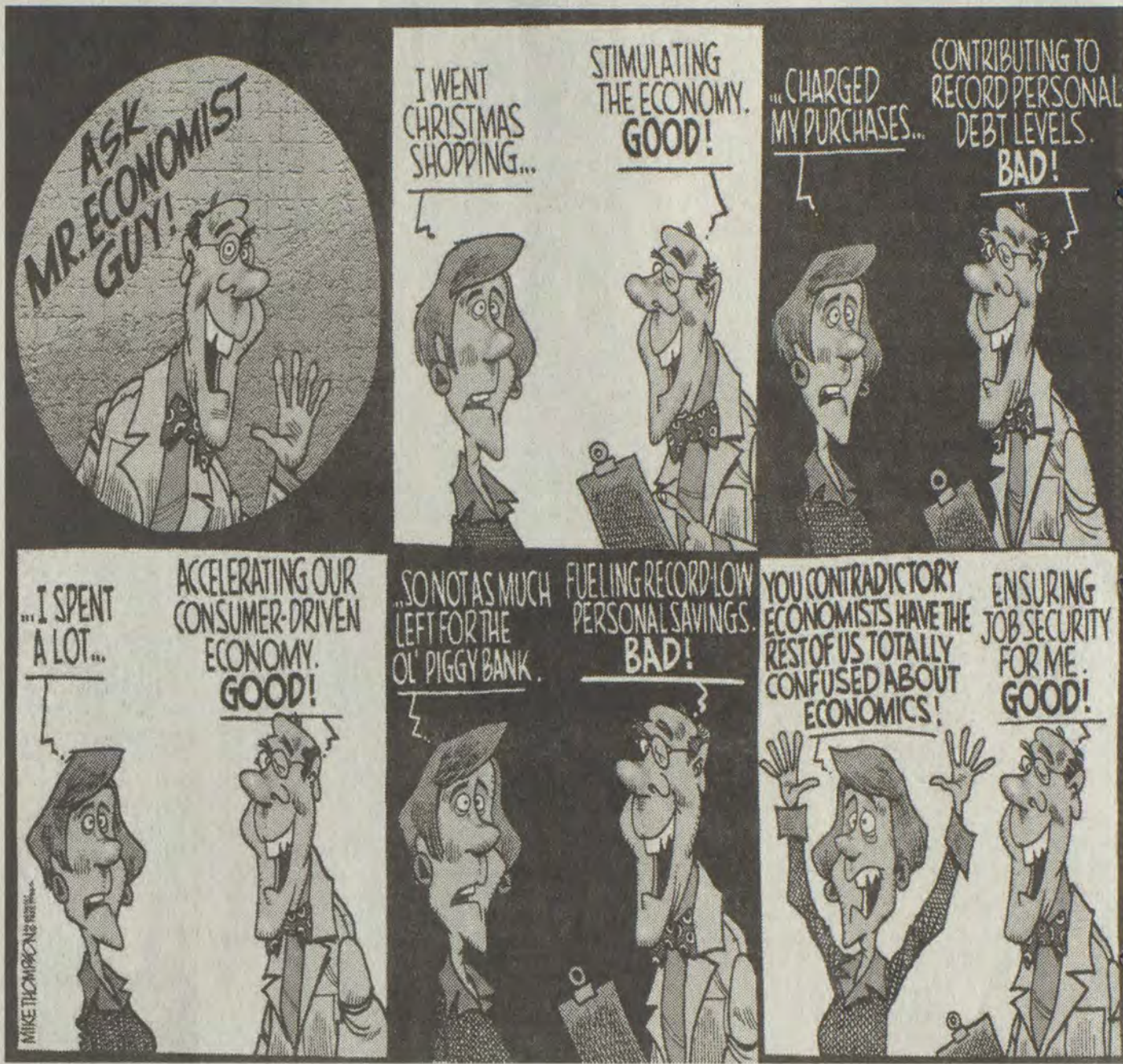
The phrase immediately brings to mind the thing for which our great commonwealth is already famous — horses. The graphic design of a sleek horse featured on the logo is a vast improvement over any of the state's previous ones. And the slogan hints of the spirit, vision and enthusiasm of the people who call Kentucky home.

The state will begin using the new logo and slogan on signs, stationery and tourism campaigns immediately, replacing the hodgepodge of ones now in use. In the future, finances permitting, the slogan and logo could even make it onto Kentucky vehicle license plates. Banishing the sappy smiley-face plates now in use, we have to admit, would be the icing on the cake.

Hats off to Gov. Ernie Fletcher and his administration for realizing the state's image needed an overhaul and for acting on it in an innovative way, by inviting the public to select the best slogan and logo.

Now, if the governor and the General Assembly could only agree on a budget through an equally innovative way, we'd really have something to shout about.

—The Ledger-Independent, Maysville



Guest Column

Report questions state's planned secondary GED program

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's plan to allow some struggling students to get their General Education Development certificates while still in high school dilutes their value, a report released last week claimed.

State education officials, among other things, are using a state law passed last year to "create a second-tier high school credential based on passing the GED test," according to a report by Richard Innes, of the Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions.

The plan also undermines the Kentucky Education Reform Act, Innes wrote.

"This new certificate program ... reduces education standards and diminishes the future opportunities of its recipients," Innes wrote.

Last month, the Kentucky Board

of Education approved the plan that allows struggling high school students who are age 16 or above to take the GED test. Those who qualify for the program would be provided counseling and tutoring to pass the test.

There was a public hearing last week on the new regulation that would implement the change.

The Department of Education "disagrees with many" of Innes' conclusions in the report, said Lisa Gross, a department spokeswoman.

"We've heard all of these criticisms before on this program," Gross said. "Our goal is to make sure that we implement legislation as we are required to do by the General Assembly, and that's what this regulation will do."

Still, in his paper, Innes warns the new program could end up being a detriment to students having trouble with school. It could also encourage students to drop

out. The value of a GED could also be diluted for adults who get their certificates later in life, Innes wrote.

"Business owners and college admissions officers are going to consider secondary GED recipients as students who take the easy way out and are poor decision makers," Innes wrote. "Adult GED recipients, on the other hand, demonstrate important positive attitude shifts that prove they are serious about reviving their education."

State education officials disagree, Gross said.

"We don't think so at all. There was a lot of thought put into this, and it's not a dilution at all," Gross said. "It is an option for students who don't have another option."

Joe Biesk is a statehouse reporter for The Associated Press.

Letters

Likes antibacterial wipes

I would like to make a suggestion. I

recently visited the Food City Supermarket in Prestonsburg, the one across from Wal-Mart. I was very impressed by the fact that they had antibacterial wipes at the front door for the shopping carts. This is really a good idea, because what better way to spread the flu than germs on the shopping

carts. I hope that the other retailers in the area, especially the larger ones, will take the hint from Food City and try to help stop or at least hinder the spread of the flu this season. Julia Bornes Langley

'Rails to Trails' a good idea

This letter is in response to the article about the proposed "Rails to Trails" for

Magoffin and other counties. I hope the fine people in Magoffin County will consider the Rails to Trails program to be a real plus for the area. The argument that drug runners would use the trail is like saying, "Don't build that four-lane road because people will probably just speed."

I hope that you folks would consider investigating other "Rails to Trails" and what they have done for the local econo-

my. One such place is Abingdon, Va. They have a wonderful Rail Trail and it brings in thousands of money-spending bike riders and horse people.

To the people of Magoffin County, "Don't let this opportunity slip by." This could be the most positive thing that could happen to this area in a long time.

Darrell Patton
Prestonsburg

Letter Guidelines

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In accordance with our editorial page policy, all letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author.

The Times reserves the right to reject or edit any letter deemed slanderous, libelous or otherwise objectionable.

Letters should be no longer than two type-written pages, and may be edited for length or clarity.

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Health Extra

A trend toward television shows designed to get preschoolers up and moving

by DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK — TV's hot new characters for preschoolers are designed to get the little couch potatoes up and moving.

PBS' "Boohbah," Nickelodeon's "LazyTown" and the Disney Channel's "JoJo's Circus" are all examples of an industrywide search for programming that responds to the increase in childhood obesity — for which all the time spent in front of the tube gets some blame. Networks are eager for parents to see them as being part of the solution instead of just the problem.

There's a simpler idea — tell the kids to turn off the TV and go play — but that's not exactly good for business.

"There is a certain irony in it, creating TV shows to get kids to stop watching the TV and be more active," said Amy Jordan, an expert on children's television at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. "But this is a problem that has to be addressed on several fronts. We need to get parents to understand how much children watch television."

Some experts have found that children expend less energy watching television than they do while sitting quietly and reading a book, she said.

The success of such programs as "Dora the Explorer" and "Blues Clues" proved many children enjoy using television interactively, to help on-screen characters solve a problem or to follow cues in learning how to read, said David Campbell, executive producer of "JoJo's Circus."

The idea now is to apply the same techniques toward physical activity.

With songs and games, "JoJo's

Circus" viewers are invited to walk, run, dance, jump, climb and move with the characters.

Nick's "LazyTown" has been the top-rated show on commercial television among preschoolers since starting in August. Its creator and star is Icelandic aerobic champion Magnus Scheving.

Eight-year-old Stephanie and her friends live in a village where they are caught between a health-conscious superhero named Sportacus (played by Scheving) and Robbie Rotten, who spends his time lying around and eating junk food.

Another new Nick show, "The Backyardigans," is an animated feature about five neighbors who take musical adventures. Each show features original songs and choreographed dance steps in genres like funk, swing and reggae.

Nick has lumped its preschool programming in one block, with a get-up-and-go host named Piper O'Possum and a new tagline: "Love to play!"

"There are shows that engage kids and shows that are very passive," said Brown Johnson, Nick's executive vice president. "Nick Jr. has always had the point of view that kids watch with an active mind."

"Boohbah" came from British producer Anne Woods, the same fanciful mind behind "Teletubbies." The five odd objects that are the show's "stars" encourage young viewers to do things like the "lobster dance," or to solve puzzles. The "Boohbah" characters went on a national fitness tour this fall.

"I think PBS may be the only network that actually thinks it's a good thing when the child turns off the television and picks up a book or goes out to play," said John Wilson, the network's pro-

gramming director.

Public broadcasting also has the luxury of not depending on ratings to set advertising prices. That's unlike Nickelodeon, which actually went off the air for three hours one Saturday this fall to encourage children to go play. Business realities dictate that's not going to be a regular part of the schedule.

PBS encourages producers of all its children's programming to make characters that behave the way kids should behave, and that includes being active, Wilson said.

The network is always on the lookout for other programs that encourage exercise, but it's no easy task.

Campbell and his partner, Jim Jinkins, said it was a conundrum for them when first approached by Nick executives who wanted a physically active show.

"The real key is you want to get them up and moving but you don't want them to turn their heads from the TV," Jinkins said. "You want to engage them in the story. It's a tricky thing."

Commercials for junk food are also part of the equation, Jordan said. Johnson said Nick has had extensive meetings with advertisers to try to meet objectives for more healthy living.

"I don't know if we always have to be cynical about what the networks are doing," Jordan said. "Maybe they actually do have the children's health under consideration. They also have to consider that parents are being more careful of what their children are watching."

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When miners lose health care coverage, what does contract mean?

by SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

COULTERVILLE, Ill. (AP) — Wally Cooper never missed a day in the coal mines, breathing in gritty black dust, straining to carry 150-pound oak timbers through cramped tunnels until his aching body was drenched in sweat down to his socks.

It was part of the bargain he made each day he descended into the darkness. Hard work for now, security for later — with good benefits spelled out in black and white in his union contract. Or so he thought.

Seven months after Cooper suffered a massive heart attack, the mine was closed, the bankrupt company that owned it was sold and as part of the deal, his health insurance was terminated. Now, at age 53, he's wondering how he'll pay doctor bills or buy the drugs — an astounding 62 pills a day — that keep him alive.

"If I have to quit taking something, I will," says Cooper, a burly man whose ruddy face is framed by thick silver sideburns. "I have to pay bills and

put food on the table. I'm not going to take anything away from my family. ... Maybe my time is going to be a bit shorter."

Cooper says he is not worried, but many miners who worked for Ashland-based Horizon Natural Resources Co. — which was sold this fall — are scared and angry. The health insurance they thought was a sure thing vanished when a bankruptcy judge recently released the company from having to pay the benefits for 3,800 active miners and retirees along with their families.

"I feel let down and cheated," says Kenny Kondoudis, president of the United Mine Workers of America local at the Zeigler No. 11 mine here that recently closed. "We were productive for these people. We lived with what we signed. They should have to. But these lawyers, these corporations, they see the loopholes and they can take our benefits."

The Horizon miners are not alone. Hundreds of thousands of steel, airline and technology workers — many of them retirees — have seen long-

promised benefits disappear or be slashed or threatened in recent years.

In the steel industry, 244,000 retirees have lost health care benefits in the last three years, according to union officials. Many also have seen drastic cuts in pensions. Much of that is related to 44 bankruptcies of domestic steel companies since 1998.

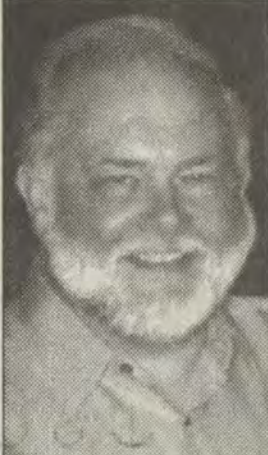
The Horizon workers, though relatively few, have generated sympathy far beyond the coal fields and union halls, with calls for reform (a New York Times editorial urged "humane revision" of bankruptcy law) and pledges of help from Capitol Hill.

Legislation was recently introduced in Congress to provide Horizon workers medical coverage — it would be financed from two abandoned mine land funds — and prevent the courts from changing or ending any coal company's health care obligations.

What happened to the Horizon miners is a "true injus-

(See COVERAGE, page twelve)

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The medical problems from an accident often go unnoticed for months or even years. Neglecting to see a Doctor of Chiropractic immediately after an accident can allow a physical ailment to worsen with time. Further, injuries from a whiplash can later lead to post-traumatic osteoarthritis. This can cause the discs in your spine to degenerate, which creates scar tissue leading to chronic stiffness and reduced movement.

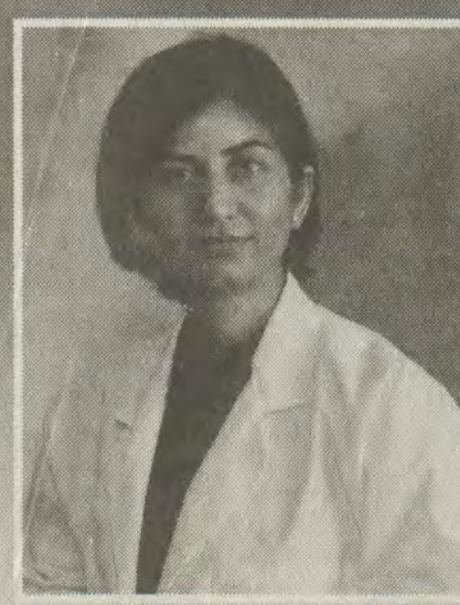
Medical considerations are another reason for getting a complete physical after an accident. Sometimes individuals settle with the automobile insurance company without realizing that their body was injured. When health problems arise much later, it is too late to get the added compensation. Your chiropractor will provide a thorough examination, so there are no surprises now or in the future.

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Governor says education improvements linked to economy

More residents may qualify for PRIDE septic system grants

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Gov. Ernie Fletcher says Kentucky needs an overhauled tax code and a better economy to make the investments he would like in early childhood education, technology and teachers.

Fletcher told school superintendents Monday that the state needs to do a better job of attracting businesses and offering incentives to entrepreneurs who do research in such areas as medicine and engineering.

"We've got to grow this economy," Fletcher said during a meeting of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Louisville.

"Without that we'll never be able to grow the kind of support system ... that provides you with the tools that you need to ensure that every child has an opportunity to be all that they can be."

Fletcher, a Republican, also said the state needs a budget. It has been operating without one since July 1. He said he does not plan on leaving the next legislative session, which begins next month, without a budget or changes in the tax code.

He also said the administration is evaluating where it can find more immediate money for schools. He likely will ask the General Assembly to consider raising cigarette taxes, he said.

Fletcher said the state needs to

increase teacher pay and create a system that financially rewards teachers for making academic progress and for receiving additional training.

Oldham County Superintendent Blake Haselton, who attended the speech, said that he was encouraged that Fletcher met with the superintendents, and that he recognizes the benefits and need to expand early childhood programs.

"I'm impressed that he understands the big picture — that elementary and secondary education is just vital to the economy," Haselton said. "I think the \$64,000 question is that the revenue is going to have to be identified, and it's going to have to be serious revenue."

SOMERSET — The eligibility requirements for the PRIDE Homeowner Septic System Grant Program have changed. The limit on household income has been raised from 50 percent to 55 percent of the poverty level in the applicant's county. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development sets the poverty level for every county annually.

"The PRIDE Executive Committee raised the income limit so more people will be eligible for the grant program," said Richard Thomas, executive director of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE. "This grant program is intended to direct our limited federal funds to those folks who can least afford to pay for a septic system. That's why the income limit was set at 50 per-

cent of the poverty level when the grant program began in August 2002. After about two years, the committee felt that PRIDE could afford to serve homeowners with slightly higher incomes."

"To give an idea of what this change means, in most counties, the income limit for a two-

(See GRANTS, page twelve)

Kentucky enjoys upsurge in market for specialty coal

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARBOURVILLE — Growth in the international market of silicon metals will mean more jobs for southeastern Kentucky coal miners.

Lexington mine engineer J. Steven Gardner said a company he represents plans to open five new coal mines over the next two years in the mountains surrounding Barbourville and Williamsburg. That area is the location of a rare deposit of coal used in the refining of silicon, which is used in computer technology.

"Kentucky is fortunate to have this type of coal," Gardner said Friday. "It is very unique."

The coal, known locally as blue gem, is high in carbon and low in ash, and found only along a small swath of the Cumberland Mountains on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

"We're absolutely ecstatic that the coal industry is returning," Knox County Judge-Executive Bruce Murphy said Friday.

Blue Gem Mining Co., a subsidiary of Carbon Partners of Norway, purchased TECO Coal blue gem operations in Whitley and Knox counties last year to meet what Gardner said is a growing foreign demand for blue gem.

"We need about 100 miners,

including mechanics, electricians, foremans, engineers, surveyors," Gardner said. "We're having trouble finding enough of them. It's not so much the conditions, but that we really have lost a whole generation of coal miners in that area. The mining industry has been down so long, the miners have moved elsewhere to take jobs."

Coal mining jobs have waned in the area over the last decade due to market conditions.

Burley Wright, vice president of specialty coal processing, said the company is having to hire inexperienced miners and train them to work in the mines. Wright said the average pay is about \$15 per hour.

The coal is being used domestically as well as being exported to several countries, including Canada, Egypt, India and Norway.

Gardner, chairman and chief executive officer of Specialty Coal Processing in Lexington, is helping to manage the southeastern Kentucky operations, which currently have annual sales of about \$20 million.

"There are only six blue gem

mines in operation right now," Gardner said.

Mining blue gem coal is specialty work because it done is the most confining of underground mines, which range from about 19 to 24 inches high.

The coal is generally extracted the old-fashioned way, by drilling holes, packing them with explosives and blasting it loose. Men, crawling around on all fours like groundhogs in a burrow, still use shovels in this form of mining to toss the coal to the center of the tunnels to be scooped up by a specially built buggy and hauled outside.

Bill Marcum, vice president of the Kentucky Coal Association, said blue gem is difficult to mine because it is so thin. He said it also fetches a higher price — about \$50 per ton more than most other coal mined in the region — because it is of such premium quality.

"At the same time, it costs more to mine because it is so labor intensive," he said.

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Natural gas prices seeing double-digit increases

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON — December prices for natural gas from Kentucky's five major distributors are up an average of 13 percent, the state Public Service Commission said.

Added to last year's steeper increase, costs are 35 percent to 45 percent more than they were two years ago.

The December increase means a typical residential customer using 10,000 cubic feet of gas a month will be paying an average of \$9.75 more a month compared with last December.

"Because the wholesale price is unregulated, we're sort

of at the mercy of the national market, and the national market is at the mercy of a number of things, most significantly the weather," PSC spokesman Andrew Melnykovich said.

What can you do? The PSC and Columbia Gas of Kentucky offered these tips:

- Turn down the thermostat.
- If you have an old furnace or ill-fitting windows, consider replacing them.

- Check out the wide array of cheaper weatherizing solutions, such as weather stripping, caulk or a blanket designed to fit your water heater.

"Those things are not very expensive, but they make a big difference," said Lisa Smith,

spokeswoman for Columbia Gas.

Customers might also go to the company's Web site to explore the Choice program, which allows customers to buy gas from other suppliers while still getting billed from Columbia Gas, Smith said.

The future of that pilot program is uncertain, but it will last at least through March, she said.

Another option is the company's monthly budget billing plan. Although the program won't save money, it does allow customers to spread out high winter costs across other times of the year.

The PSC noted that wholesale natural gas prices are not

regulated under federal law. Kentucky law allows gas companies to recover wholesale costs from customers on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The companies make a profit from charges relating to delivery of the gas.

Gas prices are up because production has not kept pace with increasing demand, and because more natural gas is being used to generate electricity in summer months when air conditioners are running, the commission said.

Many utilities also offer weatherization assistance in conjunction with local social service agencies. For more information call (502) 564-7536, Ext. 4235.

State urges thinking before drinking

FRANKFORT — The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is encouraging Kentuckians to "think before they drink" this holiday season.

The holiday season is a wonderful time to gather as families, renew old friendships, catch up on the latest news, attend gatherings and celebrate.

"Our wish for all of you is that your holiday is happy and safe. In addition to fun activities, the holiday season also can be a time of tragic highway accidents, injuries and fatalities and many of these incidents begin with an innocent partaking of the spirits of the season," said Steve Shannon, Director of the state's Division for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

The roadways can be dangerous anytime, but particularly during holidays. For example, there were 10 fatalities on Kentucky highways this Thanksgiving according to the Kentucky State Police. There have been 862 fatalities on Kentucky highways so far during 2004. That is an increase in total fatalities for each of the past four years. The ages of drivers in fatal collisions for 2003 ranged from 13 to

75+, making no portion of our population immune to these terrible tragedies.

According to the National Safety Council, in Kentucky during 2003, there were 7,842 collisions which involved drugs or alcohol, 229 of them fatal with a total fatality count of 254 persons. In addition to the loss of lives, the estimated economic impact of Kentucky traffic collisions in 2003 was \$2.1-6 billion.

Substance use and abuse is an issue which knows no demographic boundaries and can cause tragedy, pain, and grief in families of all races, ethnic groups, economic standing, educational level and age. Driving under the influence (DUI) is just one manifestation of the impact that substance use can have. Kentucky law states that a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 indicates illegal intoxication, although it is possible to be arrested for DUI with a lower BAC.

"Consequently, those few innocent drinks consumed at the office party, the company holiday celebration, the family gathering, or other holiday celebrations may be enough to negatively impact the holidays in a major manner," said Shannon.

Young drivers are no exception to the heartbreak which often results from drinking and driving. In 2002, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for people ages 15-20 based on data provided by the National Center for Health Statistics. In 2003, 3,657 drivers in this age group were involved in fatal crashes and 31 percent of the drivers killed had been drinking with 25 percent of them registering a BAC of .08 or higher.

Driving a car, for most of us, becomes as commonplace and second nature as activities like tying our shoes. After we learn how to do it, we often don't give it much thought. We engage in activities which often compete for our attention while behind the wheel of a vehicle such as eating, putting on make-up, drinking coffee, talking on the phone, adjusting our stereo, mediating an argument between the kids and carrying on a conversation with other passengers. All of these activities are enough to disrupt our concentration and decrease our ability to react to emergency situations. Add to that mix, the effects of alcohol — impaired judgment, decreased peripheral vision, inability to multi-

task, and slowed reactions — and it's a recipe for potential disaster.

"So, as we enjoy the holiday season for 2004, take a look at alternative activities such as non-alcoholic drinks and alcohol-free celebrating. Plan a party around board games, card games, movies, and encourage those attending to refrain from drinking before driving," said Shannon. "If your activity does include alcohol, ensure that you have made alternative arrangements for the trip home — a designated driver, a taxi, or even an overnight stay which doesn't require leaving the celebration site. We want everyone to have a happy holiday season — so please think before you drink."

For more information on alcohol and drug usage as well as highway statistics visit www.dui.com, www.nhtsa.dot.gov, www.nida.nih.gov, or call the Division for Mental Health and Substance Abuse at (502) 564-2880.

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Cinema Two • PG HELD OVER  THE INCREDIBLES Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:00; Fri. (4:00), 6:45-9:00; Sat.-Sun. (1:45-4:00), 6:45-9:00	Cinema Seven • PG HELD OVER  CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS Mon.-Sun. 7:15, 9:25; Fri. (4:25), 7:15-9:25; Sat.-Sun. (2:15-4:25), 7:15, 9:25
Cinema Three • G HELD OVER  POLAR EXPRESS Mon.-Sun. 7:00-9:20; Fri. (4:20), 7:00-9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:00-4:20), 7:00-9:20	Cinema Eight • PG-13 OPENS FRI. 12/10  OCEANS 12 Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:10; Fri. (4:10), 6:45-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:10), 6:45-9:10
Cinema Four OPENS FRI. 12/10 HELD OVER  I AM DAVID PG-Mon.-Sun. 7:15; Fri.-Sat.-Sun. (4:25), 7:15	Cinema Nine • PG HELD OVER  NATIONAL TREASURE Mon.-Sun. 6:45-9:10; Fri. (4:10), 6:45-9:10; Sat.-Sun. (1:30-4:10), 6:45-9:10
Cinema Five HELD OVER  BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY R-Mon.-Sun. 9:20; Sat.-Sun. (2:10), 9:20	Cinema Ten • R HELD OVER  ALEXANDER Mon.-Sun. 8:00 only; Fri. (4:30), 8:00; Sat.-Sun. (1:15-4:30), 8:00
Cinema Six HELD OVER  SEED OF CHUCKIE R Mon.-Sun. 9:25 only; Sat.-Sun. (2:15), 9:25	Cinema Seven HELD OVER  SPONGE BOB PG Mon.-Sun. 7:15; Fri.-Sat.-Sun. (4:25), 7:15

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Community Calendar

Calendar items will be printed as space permits

Editor's note: To announce your community event, you may hand-deliver your item to The Floyd County Times office, located at 263 S. Central Avenue, Prestonsburg; or mail to: The Floyd County Times, P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653; or fax to 606-886-3603; or email to: features@floyd-countytimes.com. Information will not be taken over the telephone. All items will be placed on a first-come, first-serve basis as space permits

Prestonsburg Woman's Club

The GFWC/KFWC Prestonsburg Woman's Club, the city of Prestonsburg and Archer Park will host Christmas in the Park on December 16, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas in the Park will be held at Archer Park Skating Rink. There will be activities for the children such as face painting, ornament making and a chance to visit with Santa Claus.

Prestonsburg High School Class of 1994 reunion

Prestonsburg High School Class of 1994 reunion being planned for February. Please contact Patricia Garrison at 606-874-6004, Cory Reitz at 859-338-6956 or John Stout at 859-433-3610.

Open House

Sunday, December 12, 6-7 p.m., at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Wittensville (6 mi. north of Paintsville, on Rt. 1559, across from Tom's Creek FWB Church). Featured speaker: Lisle Brown, Patriarch, Huntington, WV stake. Topic: "Eternal Families." Special music, refreshments. Community cordially invited to attend. For more info: Bonnie Howell, 297-6668, Mary Jo

Kirk, 298-3180, or Sheila Burden, 789-8657.

D.A.V. Chap. 18

The Big Sandy Chapter 18, Disabled American Veterans, of Auxier, is looking for honorably discharged veterans to join the Chapter, which meets at the Auxier Fire Dept., on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, at 6 p.m. Those interested may bring their DD214 and join the Chapter and receive a D.A.V. ball cap.

Floyd County Democratic Women's Club

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m., at Brenda's Restaurant, in McDowell. All invited to attend.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Van Lear Coal Miner's Museum. Pancakes and sausage. Call 789-8540 for more information.

Holiday Memorial Service

To be held Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, in Paintsville. Hosted by Hospice of Big Sandy, Inc. for all those who like to remember a loved one at this special holiday time. Candle lighting & refreshments.

Prater Creek Baptist

"The Greens" in concert, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Free Admission. More info., call Pastor J.B. Hall at 874-3222.

FCCD Meeting

The Floyd County Conservation District will hold a meeting on Dec. 14, at 10 a.m., at the District office. Office located 1/2 mile from Lancer-Watergap intersection, traveling toward Jenny Wiley State Park. Open meeting - public invited. For more info., call 889-9800 or email to: conserve@mikrotec.com.

HRMC Community Calendar

•Dec. 16 - Laryngectomy

Support Group, 5-7 p.m., Medical Office Bldg., Meeting Rooms A & B.

•Dec. 18 - Child Birth classes, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical Office Bldg., Meeting Place A & B.

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center

•GED classes - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Later times may be arranged - call office to make arrangements.

•Craft/Sewing Club - Mondays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

•Creative Sewing - Mondays, 6-8 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information about these activities and class fees, call 886-0709.

Free Body Recall classes

Free Body Recall Exercise Classes will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 9:30, at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 11 a.m. at the old R & S Building. Classes are offered by the Floyd County Health Department. Call the health department, 886-2788, for more information.

'Earn While You Learn'

The Big Sandy Area C.A.P. office is taking applications for its "Senior Training Program." You must be 55 or older to apply. In Floyd, call 886-2929; Johnson, call 789-6515; Magoffin, call 349-2217; Pike, call 432-2775; and in Lawrence, call 638-4067.

PARENTS!

Are you in need of child care services? If so, contact the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc. The office is partnering with Eastern Kentucky Child Care Coalition. For more information on how we can help you, call Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or toll

free at 888-872-7227.

Also, if your child is currently enrolled in a child care program, find out if your provider is a member of the STARS for KIDS NOW voluntary program for exceeding licensing standards.

And, learn about how you can stay home with your own children and still earn an income by caring for other children. Find out more by calling Cheryl Endicott at 886-1280, or 888-872-7227 (toll free).

Floyd County Extension Homemaker Club Meetings

****Jan. 5 - Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild** will meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Extension office. Lesson will include a slide show and hands-on demonstration on Color Coordination. Please bring: small swatches of varying colors of solid fabric, paper and fabric scissors, and a glue stick. Any interested quilters are invited to join. For more information, contact Theresa Scott at 886-2668.

Allen: 1st Monday, 11 a.m., at Christ United Methodist Church.

Cliffside/Prestonsburg: 3rd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., at Cliffside Community Room.

David: 1st Wednesday, 1 p.m., at St. Vincent's Mission.

Martin: 1st Thursday, 6 p.m., Martin Church of Christ.

Newbee (Beginner) Quilt Group: 4th Thursday, 6 p.m., Extension Office, Prestonsburg.

Maytown: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., Maytown First Baptist Church.

Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild: 1st/3rd Wednesdays, 10

a.m., Extension Office, Prestonsburg.

Prestonsburg: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Extension Office.

South Prestonsburg: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Home of members (call 886-2668 for info.)

"Looking For a Support Group?"

•**Alzheimer's Association Care-giver Support Group** - Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church (near Jerry's Restaurant), at 7 p.m. For more info., call Dana Caudill at 886-0265.

•**Alzheimer's Association, East-ern KY Regional Office** - 24-hour Helpline, call 1-800-272-3900 for emotional support, local resources, and other information.

•**MS Support Group** - Meets third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Seton Complex, Martin. Offers group support for MS patients and their caregivers.

•**Overeater's Anonymous (O.A.)** - Meets each Monday, at 3:30 p.m., at the St. Martha Catholic Church, Water Gap Road. For more info., call 886-2513.

•**US TOO! Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group** - For all men with prostate cancer and their families. Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, Paintsville.

•**Community Weight Loss Support Group** - Meets Thursday's at 6:30 p.m., at the Martin Community Center. For more info., call 377-6658. Those who have had gastric bypass surgery most especially welcome to attend. Meetings being offered as support to any-

one needing extra support in dealing with weight loss.

•**Domestic Violence Hotline** - 24-hour Crisis Line manned by Certified Domestic Violence counselors. Call 886-6025, or 1-800-649-6605. Remember, "Love Doesn't Have to Hurt."

•**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** - Free, confidential assistance for unplanned pregnancy concerns. Talk with someone who cares about you and your baby. Call 1-800-928-5242.

•**Disabled?** - You may be eligible for grant money to assist in your daily living. For an application or more information, call 886-4326.

•**A.S.K. (Adoption Support for Kentucky)** - Support group for all adoptive parents (public, private, international, and kinship care), foster parents and all others interested in adoption. To meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, at Pizza Hut, in Prestonsburg. For more information, contact Nelva Skaggs, adoptive parent liaison, at Blueboy@foothills.net.

•**East Kentucky S.T.A.R.S. Homeschoolers** - Will hold monthly meetings at the Paintsville Recreation Center. For more information, call Trudy at 889-9333, or 297-5147. Everyone welcome.

•**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - Each Wednesday, from 7-8 p.m., in the Atrium Conference Room, 2nd floor, May Tower, Pikeville Methodist Hospital. For more info., contact Chris Cook at 606-433-1119 or christophercook@hotmail.com

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J & J Liquors Betsy Layne • 478-2477	
<small>SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide.</small>	

In Loving Memory

Ora (Duck) Meadows
Born, January 29, 1922,
Died, January 4, 1990.

James Allen (Killer) Meadows
Born, December 14, 1959,
Died, February 11, 1999.

Virginia Renee Meadows Clark
Born, August 20, 1974,
Died, August 1, 2004.

By: Family and friends

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CTB 55± Club Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 14th
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Obituaries

Russell Burke

Russell Burke, 79, of Bevinville, died Monday, December 6, 2004, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, in Martin.

Born June 1, 1925, in Halo, he was the son of the late King David (Dave) Burke and Sophia Isaac Burke. He was a disabled carpenter, and Athletic Associate Vice-President. He was a graduate of the Danville, Kentucky, School for the Deaf.

He is survived by his wife, Aillene Spears Burke.

Other survivors include seven sons: Randall J. Burke of Kentucky, Addison G. Hall of Melvin, Gay Hall of Bevinville, Shannon Hall of Weeksbury, Carmel Hall Jr., of Weeksbury, Rocky D. Hall of Allen, and Chris J. Burke of Bevinville; 10 daughters: Emma R. Hall of Westbrook, Michigan, Dorothy Rogers of Grethel, Diana S. Burke of Williston, Florida, Janice A. Burke of Prestonsburg, Gallie Hatfield of Weeksbury, Beverly K. Atcher of Danville, Michelle Girodot of Flat Gap, Donna M. Foster of Somerset, Keva L. Noble of Bulan, and Pamela J. Burke of Prestonsburg; one brother, Walter Burke of Bevinville; one sister, Liza Johnson of Bevinville; 33 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Russell Burke Jr.; two brothers: Garfield Burke and Daniel Burke; four sisters: Julia Breeding, Dwella Hall, Maggie D. Burke, and Annie Mae Burke.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, December 8, at 1 p.m., at the Little Rock Old Regular Baptist Church, at Bevinville, with ministers of the Old Regular Baptist Church officiating.

Burial will be in the Burke Cemetery, Frozen Creek, at Bevinville, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Martin.

Visitation is at the church.

(Paid obituary)

Deborah Dianne Benton



Deborah Dianne Benton, of Prestonsburg, left this world to join her God in Heaven, on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, at 8:30 p.m. She was born on August 21, 1957, at Cheverly, Maryland.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Jeff Benton; her loving son, Jonathan Blake Clatworthy; her stepson, Billy J. Benton; her parents, Katherine and Edsel Moore of Frankfort, her sisters, Donna Lynn Moore of Alphoretta, Georgia; and Darlene Kaye Moore Bussell of Lawrenceburg; and her grandmother, Woodsie Ellen Akers of Lexington; she is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was the first grandchild borne to the Moore and Akers families, that includes 34 grandchildren.

Also surviving are husband Jeff's parents, Billy Alvin Benton, and Hattie Lois Benton, and sister, Deborah Spradlin.

Dianne was a very loving, devoted, and dedicated mother and wife. She was very talented and also well organized, and on top of every issue or challenge with which she dealt.

She graduated from Franklin County High School in Frankfort, and later received an associate

degree in Business Administration. She also studied at Prestonsburg Community College while working for the Cabinet for Human Resources, and later the Department of Surface Mining Cabinet of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, where in 1995, she was recognized as the employee of the year.

She was also recognized for her service to other organizations. She was a member and served on the Administration Board of the First United Methodist Church of Prestonsburg, and played in the handbell choir. She also played several musical instruments that included the flute and piano. She was most proud of receiving her private pilot's license on May 15, 1986. She logged many hours of flying over eastern Kentucky.

Dianne was a past president of the Women's Club of Prestonsburg. She had great social skills, and those who knew her came to love and respect her.

She will be greatly missed by all her family, relatives and many friends.

Funeral services for Deborah Dianne Benton were conducted Saturday, December 4, 2004, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, Martin, Ky., with Clergymen Harold Dorsey and Mark Walz officiating.

Burial was in the Moore Farm Family Cemetery, in Prestonsburg, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Visitation was from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hospice of Big Sandy, P.O. Box 277, Hager Hill, Ky. 41222.

Pallbearers: Sonny Vance, Kevin Howard, Michael Akers, Ryan Akers, Allen Akers, James Hobbs, Charlie Dankins, Roger Derossett, Greg Akers and Matt Akers.

Honorary: Danny Conley, Richard D. Marks, Kelly Moore, Irv Pope and John Barnes

(Paid obituary)

Ann R. Hackworth

Ann R. Hackworth, 63, of South Whitley, Indiana, died Friday, December 3, 2004, at the Kosciusko Community Hospital, Warsaw, Indiana.

Born on May 8, 1941, in Prestonsburg, she was the daughter of the late James Meadows and Lucy (McGuier) Meadows. She was a homemaker and member of the Free Will Baptist faith. She loved to read Stephen King novels, enjoyed fishing and playing games with her grandchildren. She loved to quilt and liked canning vegetables from her garden. She celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary on December 2, 2004.

She was married to Willard Hackworth on December 2, 1954. He survives.

Other survivors include two sons: David (Sheila) Hackworth of Silver Lake, Indiana, Jerry (Kathy) Hackworth of Mentone, Indiana; two daughters: Mrs. Wayne (Luci) Staton of North Manchester, Indiana and Mrs. Rick (Christine) Manns of Akron, Indiana; one brother, Walter Meadows of Blue River; and 11 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one brother and one sister.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 7, at 11 a.m., at the DeLaughter-McKee Mortuary, North Manchester Chapel, with Pastor Chad Burkhardt officiating.

Burial was in the South Whitley Cemetery, South Whitley, Indiana.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

(Paid obituary)

Freddie Castle Jr.

Freddie Castle Jr., 68, of Alvaton, formerly of Floyd County, died Sunday, December 5, 2004, at the V.A. Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

Born April 25, 1936, in Lawrence County, he was the son of the late Fred and Gladys Meade Castle. He was a retired factory worker for Fitzpatrick Co.

He is survived by his wife, Edith Morgan Castle.

Other survivors include his sons: Michael Collett, and Gregory Collett, both of Leslie County; daughters: Shannon Castle Lopez of Chicago, Illinois, and Marcella Blankenship of Bowling Green; brothers: Eugene Cassell of Oak Hill, West Virginia, James Castle of Hopkinsville, Roger Castle of Bowling Green, and Jackie Castle of Hopewell, Virginia; a sister, Wanda Castle Salyer of Price; 12 grandchildren: Greg Jr., Micheal Linn, Timothy Ray, David Allen, Denzil Shane, Freddie Matthew, Curtis William, Amanda Michelle, Micheal Ryan, Katelyn Marie, Monica Lessett, and Melisa Renee; and four great-grandchildren: Emiliana, Shane, Zariah and Emily.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, December 9, at noon, at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Rev. Nathan Oakes officiating.

Burial will be in the Buckingham Cemetery, at Bevinville, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation is after 3 p.m., Wednesday, at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Paul E. Little

Paul E. Little, age 74, of Salem Twp., Michigan, beloved husband of Lorraine for 50 years, died Monday, December 6, 2004.

He was the loving father of Kimberly (Dave) Marlowe and Paula (Mark) Cesarz; adored grandfather of Jennifer and Kevin Marlowe, and Cody and Chad Cesarz; dear brother of Carlos Little, Junior (Delores) Little, Jack (Peggy) Little, Aileen Luxmore, Rosemary Reid, Helen (Bill) Turner, and Myrtle Dorton.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, December 9, at 11 a.m., at Casterline Funeral Home Inc., 59255 Ten Mile Rd., South Lyon, Michigan.

Visitation is Wednesday, from 5-9 p.m.

Memorials would be appreciated to the American Lung Association, 25900 Greenfield Road, Ste. 401, Oak Park, Michigan 48237.

(Paid obituary)

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If anyone needs a ride for any of the services, please call St. Martha's Catholic Church
 Pastor: Rev. Bob Damron
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Card of Thanks

The family of Hershel R. Collins would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all those friends, neighbors, and loved ones who helped to comfort us during our time of sorrow. Thanks to all those who sent flowers, food, or just spoke a kind word. We would like to send a special thanks to Clergyman Dennis Kidd for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home for their caring and professional service. All your thoughts and prayers will never be forgotten.

THE FAMILY OF HERSEL R. COLLINS

Card of Thanks

The family of Goldie Bailey would like to express our appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the loss of our loved one. We thank you for the flowers, food, and all the kindness expressed. A special thanks to the Rev. Ryan Fullerton for his comforting words, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and to the Hall Funeral Home for their kind and professional service. All your acts of kindness were a great comfort to our family.

THE FAMILY OF GOLDIE BAILEY

Card of Thanks

The family of Raymond Hall would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who helped in any way during the loss of our loved one. We appreciate all the food, flowers, prayers, and all the acts of kindness shown to our family. A special thanks to the Regular Baptist ministers for their comforting words, the Providence Regular Baptist Church, the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in traffic control, and the Hall Funeral Home of Martin, Ky., for their kind, professional, and courteous service.

THE FAMILY OF RAYMOND HALL

Card of Thanks

We'd like to express sincere thanks to the many friends, relatives, and professional people who helped us in any way during the loss of our loved one, Sylvia Hall. Especially do we thank the doctors, nurses, and staff of Pikeville Medical Center for their outstanding care and compassion. We appreciate ministers Arnold Turner and Doug Lewis for their guidance, comfort and consolation; the friends and relatives who provided flowers, food, and beautiful music; the sheriff's department for escort and traffic control, and lastly, the staff and management of Hall Funeral Home for their kind and caring service.

KAREN, HOLLY, AND ALL THE FAMILY OF SYLVIA HALL

Ervin Collins

4-17-41 - 12-05-03



"Meet You There"

Now you're gone
 I wonder why you left me here
 I think about it on and on again
 I know you're never coming back
 But I hope that you can hear me
 I'm waiting to hear from you
 Until I do

You're gone away
 I'm left alone
 A part of me is gone
 And I'm not moving on
 So wait for me
 I know the day will come

I'll meet you there
 No matter where life takes me to
 I'll meet you there
 And even if I need you here
 I'll meet you there

I wish I could have told you
 The words I kept inside
 But now I guess it's just too late
 So many things remind me of you
 I hope that you can hear me

I miss you
 This is goodbye
 One last time
 And where I go
 you'll be there with me

Forever you'll be right here with me

I'll meet you there
 No matter where life takes me
 I'll meet you there
 And even if I need you
 I'll meet you there.

Your wife, children, stepchildren, and grandchildren,
 and grandchildren.
 We love and miss you!

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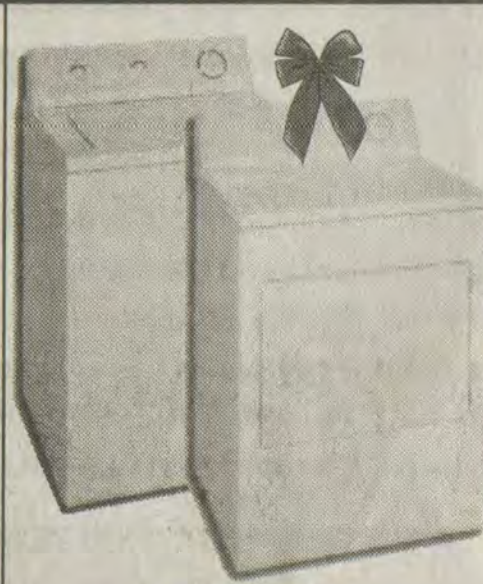
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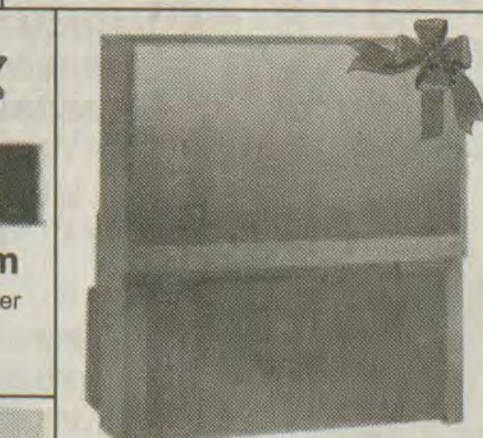


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UK suggests holiday health tips for kids

LEXINGTON — With the holidays just around the corner, many children are faced with the temptation of sweets and foods that don't always represent the best nutritional choices.

But University of Kentucky experts in nutrition say making the right nutritional and fitness choices should still be a priority, particularly during the holiday season.

Childhood obesity is reaching epidemic proportions in America, according to Maria G. Boosalis, associate professor of clinical nutrition, UK College of Health Sciences. Parents can play a vital role in helping children make healthy selections.

"As a parent, it's important to model healthy eating behaviors," Boosalis says. "For example, if the parent never eats fruits and vegetables, it will be very difficult to encourage and/or expect their child to do so."

Experts suggest these simple guidelines for a family's healthy eating habits:

- Plan family meals together and use the Food Guide Pyramid as your guide to healthy eating behaviors.

- Educate children as to where foods fit into the Food Guide Pyramid, what constitutes a "serving," and the appropriate number of serv-

ings they should eat from each food group.

- Incorporate children into meal preparation; make it fun for them.

- Sit down and eat together.

- Increase use of whole grain products such as 100 percent whole wheat bread, whole wheat pastas, and 100 percent brown rice.

- Choose lean protein sources, such as chicken, turkey and fish and select low-fat dairy products, including milk and yogurt.

"Encourage your kids to eat a 'rainbow of different colors,' especially fruits and vegetables," Boosalis says. "Make foods into fun sizes and shapes and let kids help with simple preparation. Think of kids incorporating calcium into their diets as putting 'money in the bank.' They are putting calcium into their bone bank for future use as well as for their current bone health."

Another key element is exercise. Children should be physically active 20 to 30 minutes a day, five days a week. "One of the best ways to get a child to make a healthy choice is by setting a good example," says Dr. Joan Griffith, assistant professor of pediatrics, UK College of Medicine.

Experts suggest implementing an exercise program that will:

- Encourage social devel-

opment and parent/child interaction by exercising with a family member or friend and promote a sense of accomplishment, boosting self-esteem.

- Decrease risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, and sleep apnea.

- Reduce or maintain body weight, while helping build healthy muscles, bones and joints.

- Reduce depression and anxiety.

If a child has not been active, start out slowly. That will help in sticking with the routine that will last. It also is important to pick something children like to do and incorporate that into the exercise. For instance, try raking leaves with the child. Then make a pile and jump into them. Another consideration when starting an exercise program with children is variation. One day it could be fun to go for a family walk, and the next day encourage riding a bike.

Safety also is an important factor. Encourage your child to warm up and do some stretching exercises together. For example, take a time out if your child looks nauseated, dizzy, faint, or short of breath.

For more information about holiday nutrition or exercise, visit www.cdc.gov/nccddp/dnpa/.

Bills

Xanax in the glove compartment. They also found \$3,020 in counterfeit \$100s and \$20s.

Grant and Ramey were arrested and charged with two counts of drug possession and possession of a forged instrument, a class C felony, for the fake money.

Sgt. Little noted that there have been six cases opened on

counterfeiters of late. Small businesses are usually the targets and include gas stations, flea markets and grocery stores.

Though the money being produced tends to be of poor quality, Little pointed out that the people who pass it can be clever. They often use markers to check off the bills so

they appear to have already passed a counterfeit test. They also crumple the bills so they appear worn.

Continued from p1

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- Carhartt Traditional Fit Jean—B18. \$25.99
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- Carhartt Carpenter Jean—B13\$29.99



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Holiday season doesn't have to be a bummer

FRANKFORT — Each year as the holiday season approaches we are reminded of the holiday events of years past — good or bad. We may also be dealing with the adjustments in our lives from the preceding year such as job changes; the birth, illness or death of loved ones; moving away from family or friends; the stress of having a family member in military service overseas or a myriad of other possibilities that lead to stress, anxiety, and depression.

For some people these changes have a more intense impact during the holiday season. This may manifest itself in self-examination, consideration of the unknown future for the coming year or even in bouts of depression.

If you are experiencing a high level of anxiety or emotional stress, consider making small changes in order to make the season more manageable — emotionally and physically. To avoid being "bummed out" and to have a more enjoyable time during the holidays this year consider:

■ **Traditions** — Some families have traditions which have been in place for years. Others may be very new. Either way, these traditions may be changed or put on hold if they are difficult to maintain this year. There is no rule book that requires a family to do the same thing each year so feel free to change if that will work best for you and your family. On the other hand, if traditions are soothing and com-

forting, by all means continue them. Yet remain sensitive to their impact upon you and your family and be open to changes needed by each of you. Be open to trying something new.

■ **Expectations** — Keep your expectations realistic. Make a list of things to be done. Are there tasks which are unnecessary or that you could have others help to complete? Then complete the remaining tasks as time and finances allow.

■ **Time for yourself** — Spending time with others who are special and supportive is very important during the holidays. Yet is also vital that you spend time taking care of yourself. Care for yourself by eating well, exercising, getting adequate sleep and taking time to do something nice just for you. And most importantly breathe and take the time to relax.

■ **The good news** — The stress and intensity of holidays is generally short-term and subsides as daily routines are resumed. And remember to seek the listening ear of a family member, friend, physician, clergy, or professional counselor when additional support is needed.

In the event that you or a loved one is overwhelmed to the point of depression due to the fact that a loved one is not present due to death, extreme illness or military service, here are some coping tips.

■ **Acknowledge** their absence and the feelings you have. Grief is possible in the

case of death or absence. It is important to recognize grief as a normal and natural process. Avoiding the fact that someone or something is missing will not eliminate the feelings.

■ **Find a way to include the memory.** Plan some activity that will honor the absent person. This could be as simple as a moment of silence or displaying a picture.

■ **Choose good holiday companionship.** It is important to plan ahead and avoid isolation during the holidays. Choose people with whom you feel safe and comfortable to spend time with during the holidays.

■ **Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.** Alcohol and drugs are used as a way of trying to avoid. However, they only increase the negative feelings.

If you or someone you know is coping with feelings of grief, helplessness, hopelessness, or isolation, help is available from anywhere in the state by calling your local community mental health center (visit http://mhmr.ky.gov/files/CMH_C_Crisis.pdf or dialing 911. For further information on mental health, visit <http://mhmr.ky.gov/MH/>.

Groundbreaking

cers and board members and public officials in lauding the company for its continued growth and technological progress.

"Wireless communication has become an important part of connecting people to their families, friends and businesses," Phipps said. "As part of our ongoing commitment to the communities we serve, we will open our doors to provide continual education concerning how wireless telecommunications can improve people's lives and businesses. We will also use our new facility to continue to our strong local tradition of investing in our local communities by supporting community events, local sponsorships, scholarships and aid during emergency situations."

Ken Mitchell, acting director of the Division of Relationship and Service Management in the Commonwealth Office of Technology, represented Gov. Ernie Fletcher at the groundbreaking, reading a proclamation signed by the governor hon-

oring Appalachian Wireless.

The groundbreaking also served as a chance for the company to lift the wraps on its latest technological offering — "push-to-talk" service. Push-to-talk service will allow Appalachian Wireless to offer additional voice services, including instant availability, instant calling, instant conferencing and real-time updates of personal and group contacts, directly from a handset, and will be available in early 2005.

The push-to-talk announcement comes on the heels of

other technological advances made by Appalachian Wireless. Earlier this year, the company upgraded its network to utilize CDMA digital technology, which improves clarity and allows enhanced services such as picture messaging and internet connectivity. In 2002, the company upgraded its paging system to a satellite-based network.

"You have as good a coverage as Chicago, as New York City, right here in Eastern Kentucky," Phipps said of the company's technology.

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Medium Pizza Unlimited Toppings
\$7.99 pick-up
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Now, that's a deal that would make the Grinch get in the spirit! Also, don't forget about our Party Special for those large get-togethers. Buy five or more large one-topping pizzas (no garlic butter or peppers) for \$6.00 ea. (pick-up or delivery).

Oh, yea, one more thing to make the holiday a little more entertaining. On December 31, the Prestonsburg location will be giving away a 20-in. Flat Screen TV & DVD Combo. Deadline to enter is December 30. So, stop by and let us make lunch or dinner, or if you've had a hard day shopping, give us a call and we will bring it to you.

Thanks so much for your business for the past five years, and have the happiest of holidays.

X-tra Large 3 Topping \$12⁹⁹

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Complete and return to Prestonsburg location.

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Entry deadline Dec. 30. Must be 18 or older to enter.

Now You Can See Dr. Rick McClure
Close to Home... in Paintsville

UK Gill Heart Institute is pleased to announce that Rick McClure, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I., will be holding an adult cardiovascular clinic on Wednesdays beginning December 15, 2004. The clinic will be held at the Paul B. Hall Hospital Clinic, located at 625 Trimble Blvd., in Paintsville. For appointments or referrals, please call (859) 257-1000 or (800) 333-8874.

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Coverage

Continued from p5

... but it isn't the judge's fault, says Christopher Frost, a law professor at the University of Kentucky. In bankruptcy cases, he says, most workers' claims fall near the bottom of the list.

"Union members are not getting what they were promised," he says. "They probably should come first. That's a problem — not with what the judge did ... but with the way the law was structured."

Horizon had been one of the largest coal companies in the United States, with mines in Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. But its debts mounted, and it filed for Chapter 11 protection from its creditors in 2002.

The company argued in bankruptcy court this year that it should be allowed to shed its union contracts because the burden of paying retiree health coverage would make it unappealing to prospective buyers. The costs were estimated at \$576 million, according to union officials.

Hundreds of miners protested during federal bankruptcy court hearings in Kentucky, and several were arrested. In the end, Judge William Howard agreed with Horizon, saying there was "unrefuted evidence" the company wouldn't be able to sell with its union obligations.

"The court is aware of the hardships worked on the employees of these companies ...," the judge wrote in his opinion. But Howard also said he had to weigh the rights of creditors — some of them small businesses — and the reality that non-union jobs could be preserved if the mines

stayed open with new owners. Under bankruptcy law, a judge has the authority to void a contract, according to Frost.

Horizon — which had about two dozen union and non-union mines — was sold for \$786 million to International Coal Group, led by financier Wilbur Ross, also known for buying bankrupt steel companies and turning them around.

Ross' group immediately sold two former Horizon union mines to Massey Energy Co. (There are plans to reopen both as non-union operations next year, according to a Massey spokesman.)

The union is appealing the judge's decision, saying the 1992 Coal Act, which requires coal companies to fund medical care for retirees, supercedes bankruptcy law.

The 1992 act covers about 1,000 Horizon retirees but doesn't help about 2,800 active miners and retirees who will have to seek benefits from smaller union funds that will probably be out of money by next year, according to Mike Buckner, the union's research director.

"They're already spending more than they're taking in," he says. "At some point, even without the Horizon people, we've got a financial crunch coming."

One problem the miners face is there is no federal protection for health care benefits as there is for private pensions that are insured by a government agency.

"The simple fact is companies are not required by law to put aside

money today to cover retiree health care promises that won't kick in until later," says Daniel Keating, a law professor and bankruptcy and labor expert at Washington University in St. Louis.

When the coal and steel industries were at their peak, he says, the companies had a lot more younger than older workers but weren't always flush with cash so they sweetened their contract offers by including the retiree benefits.

"When those promises were made a long time ago, I don't think anybody could have predicted the rate at which health care costs would increase," Keating says. "The workers didn't realize the promise was only as good as the strength of the party making it."

That's just more bleak news in this stretch of southern Illinois that echoes with mining history: This was once a land where coal was king, the union was feared and a fire-breathing organizer known as Mary Harris "Mother" Jones chose to be laid to rest. Her grave is about an hour away.

This also was the land where miners grew up listening to tales from their fathers and grandfathers of bloody union struggles and deadly explosions and cave-ins that forever scarred the soil.

Even so, the younger generations continued the family tradition, lured by wages and benefits that offered the promise of a middle-class life.

The fate of the Zeigler No. 11 mine is unclear. Company officials didn't return repeated calls for com-

ment. Buckner, the union man, expects it will reopen at some point, though that doesn't mean the former workers, whose average age is 52, will return.

"They have no employment rights at that mine," he says. "It's one thing to extinguish a contract, another thing to extinguish 20 or 30 years of service. But that's the state of the law."

That's especially galling for miners who point to a provision in their contract that says: "Any pensioner ... with at least 20 years of credited service ... is entitled to receive health benefits until death."

Many miners say they put up with decades of the dangers of coal dust, diesel fumes and falling rock, believing that was an ironclad guarantee.

"I've done my job. I've put in my years. Then they turn around and tell me 'no insurance,'" says Cecil Eubanks, a Horizon retiree who spent 25 of his 63 years in the mines.

Eubanks — who says he'd rather give up his pension than his health insurance — is among many retirees scrambling to deal with a family crisis. His wife, Patsy, is battling hip cancer and her treatment costs more than \$4,500 a month.

For now, they are leaning on six months of insurance the miners union provided as a stopgap. But Eubanks, who is too young for Medicare, is thinking beyond that. "We're going to use my savings, my 401K, then after that," he says, his voice trailing off. "I don't know."

Gary Franklin, a fourth-genera-

tion miner, has his own worries. He decided to call it quits last year at age 55 when he started coughing up specks of coal dust every morning and was diagnosed with the early signs of black lung disease.

"I've seen people hurt badly ... their heads gashed, broken hands, broken feet," he says. "After 33 years, you think sooner or later your number is going to come up."

"I worry about my health," he adds. "Sometimes I have a hard time sleeping. I wonder what's going to happen."

His first priority now is his wife, Marjorie, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002 and had surgery last year.

They had medical coverage then. Soon they won't.

Marjorie Franklin, a small red-haired woman wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with an American flag shaped like a heart, tells her story with a single piece of wrinkled paper that she plucks out of her purse. Flattening it on the table at the smoky VFW hall, she recites her monthly drug costs.

There's \$206 for a pill to treat cancer, \$140 for arthritis medicine, \$90 for sleeping pills.

Her husband knows tough times are ahead. "I can't afford \$700 or \$800 to pay for these pills," he says. "It makes me so mad. I'd like to hit somebody. But who do you hit?"

Many miners have focused their

fury on the judge, but Frost says the bankruptcy code says a court can modify retiree benefits if it finds all parties are treated equitably and there is no other way for the company to reorganize.

"We don't have any choice today in the Horizon case because the money is not there," he says. "All the bankruptcy process does is realize that."

If the judge hadn't approved the sale, Frost says, the miners would have still lost out because the company would have been liquidated and there wouldn't be money for them.

The answer, he says, is reforming the health care benefits and pensions system.

But that will be too late for David Heard, a 49-year-old Horizon miner who has an immediate quandary: He is battling lymphoma (he lost 50 pounds) and needs costly treatment.

"My doctor told me he wasn't going to just abandon me," he says. "But this is the kind of thing that no one can pay for out of their pocket. It's hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Had he known this was going to happen, Heard says, he would have saved for health insurance during his 26 years in the mines.

Now, he says, he worries about what's next.

"I don't know what to do," he says. "Really, I don't."

Grants

son household is now \$17,650," Thomas said. "That's 55 percent of the 2004 poverty level in most counties served by PRIDE. In the past, the income limit for that same two-person household would have been \$16,050, which was 50 percent of the poverty level."

"Of course, homeowners must meet the other two eligibility requirements to qualify for a grant," Thomas said. To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must hold the deed to the property, the household income must be below 55 percent of the poverty level, and the residence must be an existing, occupied home.

The PRIDE grant program pays 100 percent of the cost for low-income homeowners to connect to a sewer line, if available, or to install a septic system that has been approved by the local health department. As of November 30, 2004, PRIDE has invested \$18,095,982 to install 5,977 septic systems across the

region. About half of those funds were awarded through the grant program, and the remainder was awarded through a low-interest loan program that operated from 1999 to August 2002.

Anyone who needs a septic system or sewer connection and who meets the eligibility requirements is encouraged to apply. Applicants will be required to provide proof of income, a copy of their recent electric bill and a deed for the property, as well as other documents if needed.

Applications can be

picked up at the local health department. Applications also are available at the Big Sandy Area Development District office (800-737-2723). The PRIDE office will mail applications if requested by calling 888-577-4339.

Eastern Kentucky PRIDE — Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment — is cleaning the waterways, removing illegal dumps and promoting environmental education in 38 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky. PRIDE was created in 1997 by

Continued from p6

Congressman Hal Rogers and the late General James Bickford, former Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. PRIDE is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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* Rates subject to change without notice. \$2,000 Minimum deposit to open and to obtain stated annual percentage yield. Penalty for early withdrawal may be imposed.

Odds

Continued from p2

life-size fiberglass statue of Jesus that was found in the Rio Grande has ended up in a police department's evidence room, but law officers say it can't stay there much longer.

Border Patrol agents found the statue on a sandbar in the river Aug. 31. When agents first saw it from the air, they thought it was a body and launched a rescue attempt.

Police have kept it for 90 days, waiting for an owner to come forward. They say it now must be disposed of as unclaimed property.

"We see every day a steady flow of people coming in and paying homage to it," Police Chief Juan A. Castaneda said. "We've had them come from different parts of the country."

City Manager Jesus M. Olivares says the city has decided to donate the statue to someone who could share it with the public. He placed the issue on the City Council's agenda for

Tuesday.

PITTSBURGH — Officers Matt Turko and Tom Weger are on Pittsburgh's bladder beat.

Since November 2003, Turko and Weger have patrolled the city's South Side, one of the country's oldest Victorian-era shopping districts in the country by day — but one of the city's best places to drink at night. They bust bladder-heavy revelers looking for relief in alleys, the sides of houses and in dark corners.

"It's a target-rich environment," Weger said.

Turko and Weger have handed out more than 220 citations for public indecency. Emptying your bladder in the wrong place can also empty your wallet. Each ticket comes with a \$300 fine.

Pittsburgh police Cmdr. Bill Joyce, whose zone covers the South Side, started the Pub Patrol last year amid

complaints by neighborhood residents and business owners tired of people using their bushes, trees and buildings for last-minute latrines.

"How would they feel if someone walked into their neighborhood and began urinating on their own homes?" Joyce said.

TRENTON, N.J. — Lawyers and federal judges in New Jersey are preparing to argue over new rules that would largely outlaw ... arguing.

The rules would apply to civil cases, where some judges of the U.S. District Court of New Jersey think the verbal exchanges are a waste of time.

If the changes are adopt-

ed, judges would not schedule argument days to debate motions, and the word "argument" could even be deleted from the rules. Instead, lawyers would be required to have a hearing request accepted by a judge.

Lawyers say it would set a perilous precedent.

"It is very hard to just

understand the issues from written papers," said Joseph Hayden, an officer of the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey.

Hayden's group approved a resolution last week urging judges to regularly schedule oral arguments on serious or complex motions.

Some judges say the rule

changes would formalize what is already standard courthouse practice. Many don't grant oral arguments unless there is a question left unanswered in legal filings.

All district judges will vote on the rules changes, with a majority needed for ratification. A vote has not yet been scheduled.

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Kentucky to join Medicaid purchasing pool Cleanup

Continued from p1

FRANKFORT — Gov. Ernie Fletcher announced today plans for Kentucky to join a multi-state drug purchasing pool to negotiate better discounts and lower the cost for the Medicaid program.

The governor also announced that beginning Saturday, Dec. 4, the Kentucky Medicaid program will start offering better safety features to protect patients who are getting medications through its new pharmacy benefits administrator, First Health Services.

Kentucky is facing a \$526 million shortfall for the 2004-2005 fiscal year in its Medicaid program, a joint state-federal health care program for low-income families and people with disabilities. The Fletcher Administration and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services have been working on a Medicaid Modernization plan to improve the quality of care and to bring about cost savings.

Fletcher said Kentucky would be joining eight other states (Michigan, Vermont, New

Hampshire, Nevada, Maine, Hawaii, Arkansas, and Montana) in the National Medicaid Pooling Initiative, the nation's only Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-approved pool of its kind. Kentucky expects to save \$42.2 million annually by participating.

"This will help Kentucky hold down the rising cost of pharmaceuticals by increasing the states supplemental rebates," Fletcher said. "It will also help Kentucky avoid doing what other states have had to do — which is remove vulnerable and needy persons from the Medicaid rolls and reduce services."

Kentucky filed plans today to seek approval from the federal government to participate in the pool, which began in April and currently has a combined purchasing power of \$2 billion. Once approved, Kentucky will authorize First Health Services, the state's pharmacy benefits administrator, to pool drug purchases with the other states. Kentucky's Medicaid program

spent approximately \$750 million for drugs last year.

Other regulatory changes have been filed to increase efficiency and allow First Health to administer pharmacy claims. Combined with the purchasing pool, these initiatives are estimated to save \$69.2 million a year.

First Health Services is also administering a new pharmacy claims system that will go into effect Dec. 4. It will provide patients and providers more tools to warn for dangerous drug interactions or dangerously high doses for Medicaid recipients.

"These are some of Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens and we want to ensure they are receiving quality care when they go to the drug store to get their medications," Fletcher said. "This system will ensure that we're taking the best care of our people."

The Kentucky Medicaid program retains control over the pharmacy program while First Health Services provides the technology and expertise to

improve quality. Some 33,000 Medicaid members receive eight or more prescriptions a month. Some could be taking dangerous combinations of drugs that could lead to hospitalization. A recent review of Medicaid members taking medications for mental illnesses found that hundreds are taking dosages that far exceed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recommended levels.

Health and Family Services Secretary James W. Holsinger Jr., M.D., has been explaining some of the Medicaid Modernization initiatives to legislative committees, provider groups and groups representing Medicaid members. The plan includes benefit management, disease management and technology improvements in the \$4.3 billion Medicaid program.

"This is the first phase of our Medicaid Modernization project," Dr. Holsinger said. "We have many other initiatives in the works to improve the quality of care for our Medicaid members."

"We are nowhere near completing the task of reclaiming abandoned mine sites in the Appalachian region as well as in other areas of the country," he said.

Hohmann said refuse — largely slate, chunks of coal and coal dust — was dumped on the Floyd County site by Island Creek Coal Co. beginning in 1952. Two companies had proposed cleaning up the site by reprocessing the refuse into fuel. Neither effort worked out.

The now-defunct Enerpro Inc. of Red Bank, N.J., had recovered some burnable coal from the refuse beginning in 1989 but shut down the operation after about two years. A Lexington company, EnviroPower, had looked into shipping the material to a proposed power plant in Knott County where it could be burned, but transporting the material proved unfeasible.

That left the cleanup as the only viable alternative. Construction crews left the refuse in place, reshaped the pile to prevent erosion, covered it with dirt, then planted an assortment of grasses that not only hold the dirt in place but also provide forage for animals.

"I'm pleased with it," Howell said. "I've seen deer grazing up there. It looks real nice."

Hohmann said Island Creek Coal couldn't be held responsible for the cost of the cleanup because the damage was done before 1977 when state laws were enacted to require companies to reclaim mined land.

The coal company dumped refuse from a coal-washing plant on the site until the early 1970s.

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FLOYD COUNTY Sports

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Knott Central wins Tip-Off Classic

Visiting Knott County Central upended homestanding Pike County Central Saturday in the championship game of the Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic, beating the host team 69-59 in the title game. University of Kentucky signee Kasi Galloway scored a game-high 26 points to lead Knott Central (3-0). Haley Ratliff had 20 points for the Lady Hawks (2-1).

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Lady Blackcats power past East Ridge

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PRESTONSBURG – Any thoughts of the Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats having a rough season seemed to be premature after Monday evening. Prestonsburg opened the home season with a convincing 61-45 win over a good East Ridge team.

After struggling through the opening game of the season, the Lady Blackcats have since dropped a three point decision to 15th Region power Belfry. But the Lady Blackcats followed that game up with a win over Allen Central and Monday night's win over East Ridge to improve to 2-2 on the season.

Molly Burchett led the Prestonsburg attack against East

Ridge, tossing in a game-high 22 points, while also dishing out six assists. East Ridge led 15-14 after one quarter, but a 16-6 run in the second stanza gave the Lady Blackcats a 30-21 lead at the half.

Meaghan Slone continued to play well by scoring 14 points on the night and Amber Whitaker pitched in with nine points in the win.

Senior Chanel Music added eight

points and Kelly Key contributed four points for the winning team.

Elizabeth Chaffin and Darcey Hicks rounded out the scoring for Prestonsburg, finishing with two points each. East Ridge cut the P'burg lead to 41-35 after three quarters, but the Lady Cats outscored East Ridge 20-14 in the final quarter to come away with the 61-45 win.

(See POWER, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg Lady Blackcat Amber Whitaker helped her team to recent wins over both Allen Central and East Ridge.

Johnson Central outlasts Raiders in 2 extra sessions

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE – Many expected Friday night's South Floyd-Johnson Central game to be close, but not too many people called for a double-overtime game. In the first game of the season for both teams, a winner couldn't be decided in even just one overtime. Host Johnson Central, which had the luxury of clinging to some sort of lead for most of the regulation, finally outlasted South Floyd in a second overtime period, winning 81-79.

Following the win, players, coaches and fans were drained. The game had the feel of a regional tournament contest with the atmosphere screaming that the high school basketball season, had, indeed, arrived.

"It was a great win for us," said Johnson Central Coach Les Trimble. "What a first game! Our kids played hard and so did theirs."

Three different Johnson Central players scored over 20 points in the victory. Senior Josh Stapleton led Johnson Central in scoring with 24 points, Tony Hatfield and Jamie McCarty, only a sophomore, each had 22 points.

McCarty, no doubt one of the 15th Region's top players, got Johnson Central going in the first half when he threw down a dunk.

Junior guard Ryan Johnson led South Floyd in scoring with 25 points.

Johnson Central's lead went up and down throughout the first half and much of the second half as visiting South Floyd answered with various rallies, cutting Johnson Central's momentum down each time.

The Golden Eagles led 22-16 at the end of the first period and took a 39-32 lead into halftime. South Floyd trailed by five points at the end of the third quarter before outscoring Johnson Central 19-14 in the final quarter of regulation.

South Floyd junior Mason Hall hit a thrilling three-point shot that helped to extend the game for the Raiders.

The game ended regulation deadlocked at 63. Each team scored seven points in the first overtime.

(See RAIDERS, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

South Floyd senior Steven Stanley defended against Johnson Central senior Tony Hatfield (10).

Rebels drop opener

TIMES STAFF REPORT

EASTERN – The opening game of the 2004-05 season saw the homestanding Allen Central Rebels come up short. Allen Central hosted Knott County Central Friday night. Visiting Knott Central outscored Allen Central 15-9 in the fourth quarter on its way to a 61-55 win.

Adam Dials drained a three-pointer in the game's final two minutes to help lift the Patriots.

First-year Knott Central coach Neal Feltner, following the win over the Allen Central, owned a 2-0 record on the young season entering this week.

Dials scored 15 points and grabbed six rebounds in the win.

Seven different Knott Central players scored.

Ryan Hammonds and Tim Griffith each scored 15 points for Allen Central. David Kilburn scored nine points, Ryan Collins fired in eight and Nick Music chipped in six. Josh Martin added two points.

Game against Australians postponed: Allen Central's game scheduled tonight against an Australian team has been postponed. A make-up date will be announced in the coming weeks.

East Ridge 75, Twin Valley, Va. 60: Senior guard Aaron Branham came ready to play. Branham had a triple-double with 29 points, 10 rebounds and 10 steals in helping the host Warriors turn away the visiting Virginia team.

Eric Slone added 21 points and eight steals for East Ridge.

Ashland Blazer 82, Sheldon Clark 48: Visiting Sheldon Clark was no match for the host Tomcats. Drew McDavid scored 17 points and Robby Wilcox chipped in 18 to lead host Ashland.

Lady Panthers edge Allen Central

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BUCKLEYS CREEK – Cindy Halbert met up with her old team again Friday night and the end result was a 61-59 win for her team, Pikeville. The Lady Panthers edged Allen Central 61-59 in the Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic at Pike County Central High School.

Emily Colvin scored 15 points and three other Pikeville players scored 14 each to lead the Lady Panthers to the win.

Only four players scored for Allen Central, but all four got into double figures. Senior center Becky Thomas led the way for Allen Central with a game-high 19 points. Alanna Cline scored 18 points and Yumekia Hunter added 12. Mara Biliter netted 10, rounding out the Lady Rebel scoring.

(See PANTHERS, page two)

Ladycats come out victorious in opener

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PAINTSVILLE – A brand, spanking new basketball season got underway in Paintsville Monday night. The Betsy Layne Ladycats traveled to 15th Region foe Paintsville's home gym and come out on the winning end of a physical game.

Betsy Layne, after leading at the end of each of the first two periods, beat Paintsville 54-48.

The game was knotted at 34 at the end of three quarters. Host Paintsville pushed Betsy Layne, the three-time defending 15th Region All "A" champ.

"It was a very physical game, but we survived," noted Betsy Layne Coach Cassandra Akers.

Kristal Daniels got off to a successful start for Betsy Layne. The senior had a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. She also had four steals, three assists and seven blocks. Paintsville players who drew the assignment of going against Daniels on either offense or defense, faced an uphill battle.

"Kristal had a great night for us," Akers added.

Senior guard Kim Clark scored 15

(See OPENER, page two)



Betsy Layne pulled out a win on the road Monday night, beating host Paintsville. Betsy Layne's Candice Meade is pictured going up for a shot over Paintsville defender Chelsea Jarrell.

Bobcats hang tough, fall to Greenup

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

GREENUP – Visiting Betsy Layne held its own against host Greenup County for much of Saturday night, but ultimately, couldn't outlast the home team. Greenup County, a legitimate 16th Region contender, turned away the visiting Bobcats, winning 92-77.

Greenup County exited the first period with a 27-22 lead and led 44-35 at halftime. The host Musketeers outscored Betsy Layne 22-14 in a pivotal third period.

Zach Gillum, the 16th Region's top player, paced Greenup County with a game-high 25 points. His brother, Cody, added 14.

Greenup County is expected to be a leading contender for the 16th Region title

(See HANG, page two)

Raiders

South Floyd and Johnson played twice during the 2003-04 season with each team winning once on the other squad's home hardwood.

Johnson Central senior guard Nick Music went out early on in Friday's game, but not before he scored five points. An update on Music's injury was unavailable at press time.

time. Tyler Whitaker added five points for Johnson Central, while Ryan Fannin and Justin Blanton added two apiece.

During the latest meeting between the two 15th Region teams, who have become rivals, South Floyd seniors Steven Stanley and Burnett Little, the big men inside for

the Raiders, scored 11 and 10 points, respectively. Ethan Johnson also had 11 points. Wes Hall chipped in nine points and Ryan Little flipped in four.

Johnson Central was back in action last night, playing on the road at Betsy Layne. South Floyd was on the road at Neon. Results from both games were unavailable at press time.

Continued from p1

Opener

points and Breann Akers netted 14. Both players grabbed six rebounds. Kristen Smith contributed eight points, six assists and four steals.

Paintsville struggled mightily at the free throw line, hitting just five of 20 charity attempts. Betsy Layne was 13-of-27 from the stripe.

The Ladycats led 14-10 at the end of the first quarter and 23-17 at halftime.

Ashley Hall and Chelsea Jarrell each had 11 points for Paintsville. Kendra Carroll and Jesikah Russell scored eight each. Laura Carroll and Jessica Grim rounded out the Paintsville scoring with five

points apiece.

Betsy Layne (1-0) will be back in action Friday, jumping into 58th District/Floyd County Conference play on the road at Allen Central in a girls and boys' basketball doubleheader.

Tip-off for the Betsy Layne-Allen Central game is 6 p.m.

Continued from p1

Hang

along with defending champ Morgan County and Ashland.

Derek Case had the best game of his career for Betsy Layne, scoring 23 points. Ryan Bryant scored 13 and Brandon

Thacker added 10. Preston Simon netted nine and Brandon Kidd chipped in eight. Nathan Lafferty scored six and Pat Stapleton added five. Trai Witt scored two points and Colbert

Craft added a free throw.

Betsy Layne was back in action last night, playing at home against Johnson Central. Results were unavailable at press time.

Continued from p1

Panthers

Pikeville (1-1) led 15-13 at the end of the first period and 28-25 at halftime. Then, Allen Central (0-2) rallied, outscoring Pikeville 22-11 in the third quarter. Then, Pikeville came back alive. The Lady Panthers outscored the Lady Rebs 22-12 in the last quarter to go on to the win.

PIKEVILLE (61) – Colvin 15, Shockey 14, Francisco 14, Davis 14, Martell 2, Cross 1, Hobbs 1.
ALLEN CENTRAL (55) – Thomas 19, Cline 18, Hunter 12, Biliter 10.

Pikeville.....15 13 11 22-61
Allen Cent.....13 12 22 12-59
Records-Pikeville 1-1, Allen Central 0-2.

Pike Central 82, Breathitt County 63: Sophomore stand-out Haley Ratliff scored a game-high 28 points and Paige Lowe netted 17 to lead Pike Central to the win. Breathitt County led 22-13 at the end of the opening period, but Pike Central quickly bounced back, outscoring Breathitt 25-8 in the second period and 25-12 in the third quarter.

BREATHITT CO. (63) – Lutes 23, Br. Moore 11, Johnson 7, Cole 7, Mitchell 6, Turner 5.

Noble 2, Be. Moore 2.

PIKE CENTRAL (82) – Ratliff 38, P. Lowe 17, Brown 11, K. Lowe 6, Weddington 5, Birchfield 5.

Breathitt Co...22 8 12 21-63
Pike Cent.....13 25 25 19-82

Continued from p1

Power

Prestonsburg 56, Allen Central 55

BUCKLEYS CREEK – The Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats and Allen Central Lady Rebels have battled through some very close games in the past two seasons and Saturday evening in the Pike Central Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic proved to be another close finish. Prestonsburg built a lead of as many as 15 points early in the third quarter before the Lady Rebs battled back to make a game of it.

Meaghan Slone led Prestonsburg with 10 points

followed closely by Molly Burchett with 19.

Allen Central trailed 27-14 at the half before senior Becky Thomas brought the Lady Rebs back, finishing with a game-high 24 points. Mara Biliter tossed in 13 points in the loss for Allen Central.

Prestonsburg got seven points from Amber Whitaker and four points from senior Kelly Key. Allen Central cut the lead to three after three quarters but Prestonsburg hung on for the one-point win. Scoring was as follows: Prestonsburg – Burchett 19, Slone 20, Whitaker 7, Key 4, Hicks 3 and Music 2. Allen Central – Thomas 24, Biliter 13, Cline 8, Mills 7 and Frasure 3.

Continued from p1

Garrett Christian improves to 9-0

TIMES STAFF REPORT

GARRETT – The Garrett Christian boys' basketball team improved to 9-0 earlier in the week, beating Lighthouse Christian 112-45. The Garrett Christian-Lighthouse Christian game was played in Bristol, Tenn. Prior to beating Lighthouse Christian, Garrett Christian beat Nelson County, 91-36.

In the win over Lighthouse Christian, Shane Feltner scored 26 points and Ryan Slone added 23 points to pace the visiting Garrett Christian Warriors. Five different Garrett player scored in double figures in the win. Robbie Vanderpool scored 12 points and David Franklin flipped in 11. Tyler Slone added 10 points.

Matthew Potter just missed double figures as he scored nine points. Center Brian Vanderpool, Adam

Milam and Peter Youmans each had six points. Simeon Brace rounded out the Garrett scoring with three points.

Chase Vicker scored 15 points and Philip Jennings chipped in 14 for Lighthouse Christian.

In the win over Nelson County, six different Garrett players scored in double figures, led by Potter, who pushed in a team-high 14 points. David Franklin scored 13 points. Milam and Ryan Slone each had 12 points. Brian Vanderpool flipped in 11 and Feltner added 10. Robbie Vanderpool scored eight points, Tyler Slone netted five and Brace scored four. Youmans rounded out the scoring with three points.

Garrett led its opponent at the end of each quarter in both games.

Shelby Valley handles David

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ROBINSON CREEK – The David School recently began its first season as a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) by playing a road game against Shelby Valley this past Thursday night.

The David School, which is in its third year of existence and is in its first year as a member of the KHSAA, will primarily be playing games against freshmen teams. The Falcons tangled with the Shelby Valley Wildcats in a game that was closer than the final score. Shelby Valley prevailed by a score of 56-23 in a hard-fought defensive contest. Vincent Bryant led Shelby Valley in scoring with 16 points. The David School was led in scoring by Josh Nelson, who had 10 points. Patrick Henderson added eight points and nine rebounds.

David School Coach Ned Pillersdorf said he was disappointed in the margin of victory, but noted that the score did not reflect the tightness of the contest.

"We had a lot of open shots and played fairly well offensively, but our shots just didn't seem to come down," said Pillersdorf. "Given that we don't play any home games, we are always at somewhat

of a disadvantage in that our players are always not used to shooting at various gyms we play in."

The game also featured an interesting reunion of the Prestonsburg Little League All-Stars.

Present at the game and running the clock was current Shelby Valley boys' varsity basketball player Kris Bentley. Bentley had previously been a star player for the Prestonsburg Little League Mets and the Prestonsburg Little League All-Stars. Playing point guard for Prestonsburg was Nathan Robinson, who was also a Prestonsburg Little League Met and Prestonsburg All-Star. Pillersdorf coached both Robinson and Bentley. Pillersdorf thought it was an interesting reunion for the former Prestonsburg Little League All-Stars.

Allen Central downs David, 44-37

TIMES STAFF REPORT

EASTERN – On Monday, the Allen Central High School Rebel freshmen team defeated the David School Falcons 44-37 in a close hoops match-up. The game never

saw a lead of more than five points for either team until the final two minutes game when Allen Central pulled away after hitting six of their final seven free-throws.

Several costly turnovers for David prevented the Falcons from retaking the lead in the final minutes of the game.

"I was proud of how our kids played during every second of the game," Falcon head coach Ned Pillersdorf said. "But in the end it was our passing that cost us the win."

David committed 14 turnovers in the contest, half of them coming in the fourth quarter as they tried to mount a comeback.

Jan Hicks led Allen Central in scoring with 13 points, while Clinton Turner contributed eight. Robbie Cole had all seven of his points in the fourth quarter.

For David, Patrick Henderson led the Falcons with 15 points and six rebounds. Senior Josh Nelson had 11 points and seven rebounds. Freshman Nathan Robinson and Junior Brandon Brown chipped in six points and four points, respectively. Brandon Caudill and Joe Tiller each had a point.

With the loss, David falls to 0-3 on the season. The Falcons are scheduled to travel to Betsy Lane this Thursday. Tip-off is set for 7 pm.

Jack Daniels will sponsor race car

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE – The company that makes Jack Daniel's said the whiskey will be the primary sponsor of a car in the NASCAR Nextel Cup series beginning in 2005.

The Tennessee whiskey shares its Bourbon Belt past with stock-car racing, said Mike Keyes, global general manager for the brand. "Fifty-five percent of our volume is

in markets where NASCAR races."

Louisville-based Brown-Forman Corp., which makes Jack Daniels, said on Friday that racing team owner Richard Childress switched one of his cars from No. 30 to No. 07. The black Chevrolet Monte Carlo will carry the Jack Daniel's name and the Old No. 7 logo on the hood and the brand name on the rear quarter panels, deck and spoiler.

The growing popularity of NASCAR racing mirrors the growth of Jack Daniel's as a national brand, Keyes said. With NASCAR eyeing international expansion, Keyes said the brand's overseas popularity will be a good fit, too.

NASCAR lifted its ban on hard liquor sponsors last month.

Information from: The Courier-Journal, <http://www.courier-journal.com>

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Osborne edges McDowell

TIMES STAFF REPORT

McDOWELL — On Homecoming night Monday, McDowell hosted Osborne. Host McDowell played tough, but in the end, couldn't hold on, falling to visiting Osborne. Paul Younce scored 18 points and Andrew Vance added 12 to

lead Osborne to a 40-36 win over McDowell. Kyle Bailey added four points for the visiting Eagles. Tyler Moore, Dylan Hall and Chase Thornsberry all had two points each.

Brandon Marson led McDowell with 19 points. Zach Howell scored 12 points and McKay Tackett added four.

Austin Cook scored on a free throw.

McDowell led 10-8 at the end of the first period, but was outscored 13-4 in the second period. McDowell outscored Osborne 12-6 in the third quarter. Osborne closed out the contest on a winning note, outscoring McDowell 13-9 in the final period.



Chelsie Leigh Tuttle was crowned McDowell Elementary Homecoming Queen on Monday night. She was escorted by Zach Howell.

UVA-Wise women win third straight

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WISE, Va. — Sophomore point guard Chelsea Lee (Pound, Va./Pound High) scored a season-high 20 points and dished out 10 assists in helping UVA-Wise gain its third consecutive win, a 90-63 Appalachian Athletic Conference victory over Alice Lloyd College Saturday in Greear Gymnasium.

Lee hit on five-of-nine

shooting from the field and made nine of 10 free throws. Before the lone missed attempt, Lee had made 49 consecutive free throws dating back to last season. She had made 31 consecutive from the stripe this season. The NAIA record for most consecutive free throws made in a season belongs to Becky Fly, who hit 55 straight for Missouri Southern during the 1982-'83 season.

Two other Lady Cavs hit for double figures in scoring in Saturday's win. Twin sisters Sarah and Rachel Helton (Wise, Va./J.J. Kelly High) had 19 and 16 points, respectively.

Belicia Mullins led Alice Lloyd with 19 points.

The Lady Cavaliers improved to 4-1 in the conference with the victory and climbed to within one game of the .500 mark at 4-5 overall.

Bears 9-1 after sweep in Jim Reid Classic

TIMES STAFF REPORT

GEORGETOWN — No. 22 Pikeville College ran its win streak to three with a pair of wins in the Jim Reid Classic last weekend.

The Bears knocked off Walsh (Ohio) University 74-67 on Friday and upended Strayer (D.C.) University 86-83 on Saturday.

The Bears are now 9-1 on the season and are idle until this weekend when they entertain Barber Scotia (N.C.) College. The Sabers were quarterfinalists in last year's NAIA tournament in Kansas City. They surprised No. 13 Union (Tenn.) University 61-53 in overtime before knocking off fourth-ranked Robert Morris (Ill.) 74-61.

They then fell to fifth-seeded Georgetown College 64-60 in the round of eight.

The teams will meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. Please note the change in Saturday's game time; the teams will now play at 2:30.

Pikeville 74, Walsh 67: Four starters reached double figures and center Chris Carroll posted big numbers in his first start of the season.

Carroll, a 6-8 junior from Williamson, W.Va., scored 16 points and pulled down seven rebounds in the win. He hit 7-of-11 from the floor and both free throws on the night.

Seniors Jarell Jones and Daniel Price led the way with 17 points apiece. Jones hit five three pointers in 10 tries and led the team with four assists, while Price was 6-of-9 from the field.

Senior Walter Harries scored 11 points and had eight rebounds. The Bears got solid production from junior Martin Gerlero off the bench, as he stepped in with eight points and a team-high nine rebounds as the Bears controlled the glass 39-32.

Walsh (4-1) was paced by Robert Whalay and Randy

Sistruck with 19 points apiece. Sistruck added nine rebounds as well.

Adam Lesch followed with 11 points and eight boards.

Pikeville 86, Strayer 83: Price again stepped up big as the Bears knocked off the Tigers for the second time in a week.

The senior from Jackson, Miss., posted his first double-double of the season, scoring 23 points and grabbing 10 rebounds, with six coming off the offensive glass. He hit 11-of-14 from the line and made half his 12 field goals.

Harris poured in 17 and had eight rebounds, while senior guard Laneare Anderson scored 12.

Warren Jefferson led Strayer with 23 points. Anthony Gunthrope followed with 18, while Deverine Minor added 15.

Both Jefferson and Minor pulled down 11 rebounds, while Jefferson added eight assists and three steals.

Phillips hired as Kentucky's offensive coordinator

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Kentucky receivers coach and recruiting coordinator Joker Phillips was promoted to offensive coordinator on Sunday.

Phillips replaces Ron Hudson, who resigned under pressure on Nov. 22.

The Wildcats ranked 115th in total offense (275 yards per game) and 114th in scoring offense (15 points per game) this season, and finished 2-9.

Phillips helped design the offensive game plan for Kentucky's season-ending 37-31 loss at Tennessee. The Wildcats put up their second highest point total of the season despite losing to the Vols for

the 15th straight time.

"I thought the whole offensive staff did a very good job the week of the Tennessee game," said Kentucky coach Rich Brooks. "The offense went pretty well and obviously that gave me more confidence in making this decision."

Phillips joined Kentucky's staff shortly after Brooks was hired in 2003. He played for Kentucky from 1981-84, then was a Kentucky assistant from 1988-96. Phillips had brief coaching stints at Cincinnati, Minnesota, Notre Dame and South Carolina before

rejoining the Wildcats' staff.

"I'm very happy about this opportunity," Phillips said. "Everyone in this business has ideas they'd like to implement. I'm excited about bringing some ideas to our program I think can work."

Brooks said Phillips will continue to coach Kentucky's receivers, but will relinquish his duties as recruiting coordinator. Brooks said he would name a new recruiting coordinator in February, at the end of the current recruiting season.



Joker Phillips

South Floyd hammers Riverside Christian

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT — Following a loss to 15th Region rival Shelby Valley the night before, South Floyd shook off a season-opening defeat and put win number one of the young season in the books Saturday, beating visiting Riverside Christian convincingly, 64-28.

South Floyd senior forward Tab Trammell scored a game-high 25 points to lead the Lady Raiders. Ten different Lady Raiders scored in the winning effort.

The host Lady Raiders got out to an early lead, leading 22-10 at the end of the first period.

South Floyd led at the end of every period en route to the win. The Lady Raiders led 38-18 at halftime and 49-22 at the end of the third quarter.

Trammell was the only South Floyd player to score in double figures. Candice Hall scored seven points, while Miranda Gregory and Courtney Blocker scored six. Lindsay Dye scored five points and Stephanie Slone chipped in four. Kayla Hall also had four.

Sophomore starting forward Heather Dean, Faith Little and Danielle Tackett all had two points apiece.

South Floyd (1-1) outscored visiting Riverside Christian in every quarter.

FRESHMEN: South Floyd 41, Pikeville 17

HI HAT — Pikeville visited South Floyd Monday night for a freshman girls' basketball game. The South Floyd Lady Raider freshman team defended its homefloor, beating Pikeville 41-17.

Lindsay Dye led South Floyd in scoring with a game-high 10 points. Kayla Hall and Danielle Tackett each had nine points. Trista Damron scored eight points and Andrea Conn pushed in three. Breonna Jackson rounded out the South Floyd scoring with two points.

Six different players scored for Pikeville.



photos by Jamie Howell

South Floyd senior Tab Trammell worked against the Shelby Valley defense. Shelby Valley pulled away in Friday night's game, beating South Floyd 82-47.



South Floyd's Courtney Blocker (21) and Heather Dean (41) looked on at a shot.

Lady Bears at .500 after weekend sweep

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COLONIAL WILLIAMS-BURG — Balanced scoring and forcing turnovers got the Lady Bears of Pikeville College two wins this weekend in the Huddle House Classic at Cumberland College.

The Lady Bears knocked off No. 25 Brescia University 60-58 on Friday night before posting a 61-55 win over Martin Methodist College on Saturday.

The wins sent the Lady Bears home for Finals Week 5-5 on the young season. Pikeville returns to the floor on Sunday afternoon when they visit Morehead State University.

Pikeville 60, Brescia 58: Three Lady Bears reached double figures yet none scored more than 11 in a two-point win.

Freshman center Kellie Jo

Moore came off the bench to score 11 and pull down six rebounds with four of them coming off the offensive glass. Senior Amelia Cody hit for 10 with seven boards, tying classmate Selena Williams for high honors as Pikeville won that battle 45-37.

Junior Julie Yates added 10 points and dished out three assists, tying sophomore Jessica Lovell.

Pikeville shot only 39 percent for the game but held the Lady Bears to 34.4 percent and forced 20 turnovers in posting the win.

Brescia, ranked 25th in the preseason NAIA Div. I poll, was led by Christina Dacy's 15 points and nine rebounds. Charity Croger followed with 13 markers.

Pikeville 61, Martin

Methodist 55: Pikeville had similar numbers on Saturday afternoon as Friday, putting three players in low double-figures and winning the rebounding battle.

Williams, a senior from Paintsville, led the way with 12 points. She also pulled down six rebounds and handed out three assists. Lovell added 11 points and a team-high five assists, while sophomore Ashley Wireman hit for 11.

Sophomore Heather Dillon led the Lady Bears with eight rebounds as Pikeville had 41 boards to 34 for the Red Hawks.

Jennifer Moss led all scorers with 19 thanks to 4-of-7 shooting from the arc. Jessica Ezell had 10 points, while Wyeshia Edwards had nine points and led all players with 10 rebounds.

Louisville 66, Kentucky 49

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Angel Bradley had 12 points, 12 rebounds and three assists as Louisville defeated Kentucky 66-49 at Freedom Hall on Sunday.

Missy Taylor scored 15 and Jazz Covington added 13 for the Cardinals (3-3), who snapped a

two-game losing streak while beating the Wildcats for the second time in three years.

Jennifer Humphrey had 14 points and 13 rebounds to lead Kentucky (4-3).

The Cardinals trailed 26-22 at halftime, then found their shooting touch to take control. Louisville went 19-of-32 after the break (59 percent) after

going 9-for-31 from the field (29 percent) in the opening half.

The Cardinals generated 19 points off 15 Kentucky turnovers.

Kentucky shot 37.5 percent for the game (21 of 56) and went only 3-of-14 from 3-point range (21 percent).

Kentucky leads the all-time series with Louisville 28-12.

No. 9 North Carolina 91, No. 8 Kentucky 78

by KEITH PARSONS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Jawad Williams found himself in the right place at the right time, with a stern message from assistant coach Steve Robinson fresh in his mind.

"Coach Robinson cussed me out for not playing hard," Williams said with a smile. "He gave me a little extra motivation."

Soon after the tongue-lashing, Williams tipped in a miss to thwart a second-half rally by Kentucky, helping No. 9 North Carolina beat the No. 8 Wildcats 91-78 Saturday in a game between the two winningest programs in college basketball history.

Rashad McCants had 20 of his 28 points in the first half and Sean May scored 11 of his 14 in the first eight minutes of the second, but Williams' basket was equally clutch. The Wildcats had trimmed what was a 17-point deficit to seven on a 3-pointer by Bobby Perry with about 4 minutes left.

Raymond Felton missed a 3 for the Tar Heels, and Williams timed his leap perfectly to give North Carolina (6-1) an 81-72 lead. May made a free throw and McCants added two, and Kentucky never got closer than eight the rest of the way.

Williams scored 19 points and May had 19 rebounds for the Tar Heels, who outrebound-

ed Kentucky 51-30.

"I can't say enough about Sean May," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "You know, he had nine rebounds in the first half, just dominating on the boards, and then he turned around in the second half and got 10."

Kelenna Azubuike had 24 points for the Wildcats (4-1), and Joe Crawford finished with 11. Leading scorer Chuck Hayes, saddled with foul trouble, didn't score until the second half and had only four points.

"They dominated us in every phase," Hayes said. "They played great, and we didn't."

These two powers have played since 1923-24 —

Kentucky leads the career victory list 1,880-1,833 — and the recent history has belonged to the Wildcats. They have won four straight since the series was revived in 2000, including a 61-56 decision last season in Lexington.

The game was fast-paced from the beginning, with North Carolina scoring the first eight points in less than 2 minutes to force a timeout by Kentucky coach Tubby Smith. The Tar Heels' lead reached 24-6 and 36-19 before the Wildcats recovered, but North Carolina still had a 15-point margin at the break.

"Our goal was to get the ball out and get running again," May said. "That's what we wanted to

do to them."

Azubuike led a 9-0 run to start the second half, but May then took over. His spurt included three dunks, two layups and a free throw to complete a three-point play, giving the Tar Heels a 65-51 lead. A 3-pointer by McCants made it 71-54 with about 9 minutes left.

"I liked the way that our guys didn't lose their poise," Roy Williams said. "We kept attacking."

With two freshmen starters and two more freshmen who feature prominently in the rotation, Kentucky got back in the game from long range. Crawford made a 3-pointer, then Ravi Moss and Perry added two

more on consecutive possessions to get Kentucky within 79-72.

It could have gotten even closer after the Wildcats forced a shot clock violation, but Perry shot an air ball on a leaner from the baseline and Williams responded with his putback to seal it.

Kentucky won its first four games against mostly over-matched opponents by an average of nearly 25 points, and Smith knew his team would face its first real challenge.

"I talked about being tested and we failed this test," he said. "A lot of it has to do with UNC. We allowed them to control the tempo from the start. North Carolina was ready."



photo by Steve LeMaster

South Floyd junior guard Ryan Johnson scored 25 points in Friday night's loss to Johnson Central.



photo by Jamie Howell

Brittany Collins split a pair of East Ridge defenders during Monday night's JV game.



photos by Jamie Howell

Allen Central senior David Kilburn contested a Knott County Central offensive offering.



Allen Central's Runnin' Rebel Nick Music made his way toward his team's goal for a lay-in.

No. 17 Louisville 98, Lafayette 57

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Louisville made quick work of Lafayette on Saturday, giving coach Rick Pitino an opportunity to tinker with lineups and work on the Cardinals' weaknesses.

Francisco Garcia scored 25 points and Ellis Myles grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the No. 17 Cardinals to a 98-57 rout of the Leopards.

Freshman Juan Palacios scored 16 and Larry O'Bannon added 13 for the Cardinals (4-1), playing for the first time since finishing fifth in the Maui Invitational. Garcia also had five assists and seven rebounds.

"It was good for us," Pitino said. "We got to work against a 1-3-1 (zone defense), we got to work on our zone offense, which was very effective. We over-matched them, but it was still good to get some different combinations out there."

Paul Cummins scored 13 to lead Lafayette (1-4), which shot 28 per-

cent and committed 19 turnovers.

Pitino said his team still needs to improve its defense.

"We have a long way to go defensively," Pitino said. "(Lafayette) had a lot of open looks at the basket. Good defense doesn't allow those open looks."

The faster, more talented Cardinals seized control immediately, opening with a 17-1 run. The Leopards fueled the spurt by missing their first nine shots and committing three turnovers.

"We were ready to play right away," Garcia said.

Garcia got two quick fouls and Pitino benched him. It didn't matter.

After Matt Betley sank a 3-pointer for Lafayette with 14:07 left in the half, the Cardinals ran off 13 straight points to build a 30-4 lead.

For much of the rest of the half, Pitino used a unit of small, scrappy reserves, a group Pitino has dubbed the "kamikazes." The group maintained Louisville's comfortable lead with swarming full-court pressure and crisp offense.

"We came off playing a lot of difficult games and to get the kamikazes in there playing together over a period of time was good. We haven't had that opportunity," Pitino said.

The Cardinals led 54-19 at the half, going 19-of-33 from the field (58 percent) and generating 18 points off 11 Lafayette turnovers in the first 20 minutes.

"I was really happy with our guys' focus," Pitino said.

Garcia scored 20 points after returning early in the second half.

"I was feeling well," Garcia said. "When I'm open, I've got to shoot the ball. When I don't, that hurts my team."

Louisville's lead never dipped below 35 after the break.

The Cardinals finished with 11 3-pointers, shot 51 percent overall and outrebounded the Leopards 49-35.

"We've been watching them on film and saw that they were good," Lafayette coach Fran O'Hanlon said. "They are really great in person."

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Section S

Continued from Section S p8

Lady Pirates back following 20-win season

The Belfry High School girls' basketball program will have to replace Anna Bevins, Emma Smith, Lyndsey Mahon and Vicki Hall, all seniors on last season's team who were lost to graduation. Last season, Belfry, behind the play of the aforementioned seniors, won 20 games, posting a 20-10 record. The

Lady Pirates, facing stiff competition by way of 60th District and 15th Region rival Pike County Central, finished runner-up to the Lady Hawks twice, both in the district and region.

Last season, Bevins ranked as one of the 15th Region's top players.

Belfry has one of the 15th

Region's most successful girls' basketball programs. The Lady Pirates nearly won a state championship in the early 80s and have made a habit of contending for a 15th Region title and a trip to the State Tournament.

Belfry was one of just three 15th Region teams to win 20 games last season. The only

other two were 15th Region champ Pike County Central and then-defending 15th Region champ Betsy Layne.

Mark Gannon is now in his fifth season as head coach of the Lady Pirates. When Cindy Halbert left her alma mater to become the head coach at Allen Central some five years ago,

Gannon, previously an assistant to Halbert, took over and the Lady Pirates didn't miss a beat. The Lady Pirates have adjusted well to the coaching of Gannon.

One of the top returnees for Gannon is freshman Shae Deskins. Other top returnees include Brittany Chapman, Natasha Combs, Fallon Thacker


and D.J. Church.

The Lady Pirates, during the 2004-05 season, will again host the Lady Pirate Invitational.


Although not led by any one player that has established herself above the rest in the 15th Region, Belfry does return a nice nucleus of young players to build a program around.

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Good Luck To All Teams!



Phelps plays to improve on 6-19 record

Former Alice Lloyd College head coach Denise Campbell is set to begin her second season at the helm of the Phelps High School girls' varsity basketball program. Campbell came to the Phelps girls' basketball program from East Ridge High School where she was that school's first girls' basketball coach.

Phelps is Campbell's high

school alma mater. She has returned to the Pike County high school and has already gotten the Phelps girls' basketball unit moving in the right direction.

Two players gone via graduation are guard Sherri Plymale and power forward Nikki Smith.

Phelps will field one of the 15th Region's youngest girls' basketball teams.

Sasha Fields is one of the top returning players for the Lady Hornets. Last season, Fields played several minutes per game for the Phelps girls' basketball team.

She proved last season that she could take on more of the offensive burden and score points when called upon. When teammates were out with various respective injuries, she had to

take on even more of the load.

Ashley Rife and Tiffany Abbott also return.

Eighth-grader Adrienne Slone, freshman guard Taylor Keene and Jasmine Hall, another freshman, all scored varsity minutes last season as junior high players.

Phelps was hit by injuries last season, but bounced back nicely. The Lady Hornets finished

the 2003-04 season 6-19. Opponents outscored the Lady Hornets 1366-1094.

As in previous seasons, Phelps, a Class A school, will enter a new season and in addition for playing for district and regional titles will play for a 15th Region All "A" title.

The Lady Hornets will again play opponents from both

Kentucky and West Virginia. Phelps will have an opportunity to play some unfamiliar competition early on during the 2004-05 season, taking part in the Smoky Mountain Holiday Tournament in Gatlinburg, Tenn.


Before taking on much of the 15th Region, Phelps has to face Pike County Central and Belfry within the 60th District.

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Best Wishes for a Safe Season To All Teams!



Lady Hawks begin defense of regional title

It's title defense time for the Pike County Central Lady Hawks.

Led by then-freshman Haley Ratliff, who during the 2003-04 season scored her 1,000th high school basketball point, Pike County Central upended Betsy Layne last season and then beat rival Belfry in the 15th Region Tournament championship game to regain the top regional spot.

The Lady Hawks fell to East Carter in the first round of the Girls' Sweet 16 State Tournament.

Pike County Central girls' basketball fans have buzzed throughout the preseason, looking forward to seeing the Lady Hawks defend their title. Veteran coach Tammy Tussey returns one of the region's top players in Ratliff and one of the region's most well-rounded teams in her group of Lady Hawks.

Ratliff is just one of several talented returnees back for the Lady Hawks. Pike Central is again the favorite to win the 60th District. More importantly, Pike Central is the team to beat in the 15th Region.

The Lady Hawk senior class includes Mishay Weddington (5-

5), Elizabeth Birchfield (5-8) and Taylor Brown (6-0).

Pike Central's roster is solid from top to bottom and some of the top talent resides in the underclasses.

Junior Kim Coleman returns along with freshmen Paige Lowe and Kayla Lowe.

Ratliff and Weddington each averaged double-doubles last season. The Pike Central regional championship run ended with the opening round loss to East Carter

in the State Tournament. The Lady Hawks finished the 2003-04 season with a 21-11 record, second best in the 15th Region.

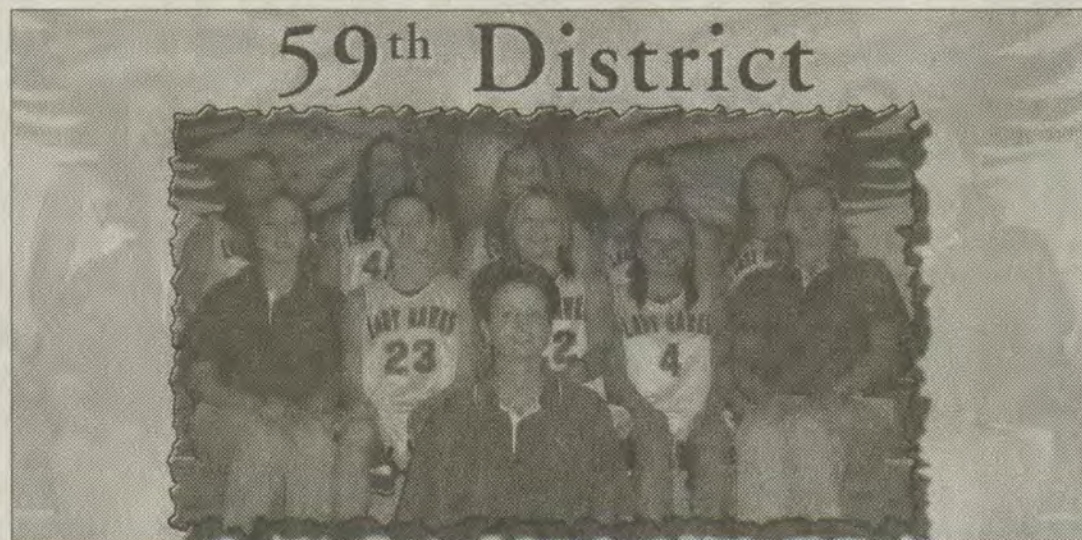
The 2003-04 season included a 19-4 record against regional competition. The Lady Hawks beat Belfry for the 60th District championship.

As in previous seasons, the 2004-05 edition of the Pike County Central Lady Hawks will participate in various tournaments.

Last season, Pike Central shook off a three-game losing streak late in the season and went on a six-game losing streak that ended with the loss to East Carter in the State Tournament.

The Lady Hawks only suffered one district loss during the 2003-04 season.

A return trip Bowling Green, E.A. Diddle Arena and the Girls' Sweet 16 State Tournament ranks at the top of the Lady Hawks' list



PIKE COUNTY CENTRAL LADY HAWKS	
COACH: TAMMY TUSSEY	
Nov. 29- Dec. 4	Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic
Dec. 6	Fleming-Neon, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Tates Creek, 3:30 p.m. Defender Classic (at Bryan Station, Defender Classic)
Dec. 13	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Rockcastle County, 9:15 p.m. (Lexington Catholic-Gym 2) (Fifth Third Bank Classic)
Dec. 27	TBA, 7 p.m. (at Boyd County, Summit Sporting Goods Challenge)
Jan. 8	TBA, 1 p.m. (at Ashland Kitten Shootout)
Jan. 10	Rose Hill Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	at East Carter, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Pikeville, 6 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Whitesburg, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

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One form per child.
Please include a self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your photograph returned after publication.



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December 2004



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HEY, KIDS!

It's time to start writing those Letters to Santa.

We need your letters by noon on Friday, Dec. 17, so get busy and let Santa know how nice you've been this year, and what your Christmas wishes are this Christmas.

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Letters will be published in the Wednesday, Dec. 22 issue

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POISON OAK

And I still have both ears

In Sunday's Parade magazine, there was an article by Michael Crichton titled "Let's Stop Scaring Ourselves." In it he discussed fears he had as a young man; fears that were magnified because they were publicized in various media to the point that they were looked upon as nearly certain to come about. Or course, none of them did.

Global cooling, then global warming; world famine; a world population explosion; and even cancer from power lines were among his concerns. Then there were the theories regarding danger from killer bees, saccharin, swine flu, and even Y2K.

He says he got over them, and although his fears were viewed from the perspective of a young adult, it reminded me of much earlier times and the things I looked upon with dread when I was a kid growing up in a coal camp. Like, for instance, the neighbor who enjoyed teasing all the younger boys by threatening to cut off our ears. I guess he was looked upon by others in the community as being just an ordinary, hard-working coal miner, but I just flat didn't trust him. Although I knew he was kidding us and didn't believe for an instant he'd harm any of us in any way, just to play it safe, I can't ever recall being

(See OAK, page four)



Clyde Pack

KIM'S KORNER

Guilty as charged

Last week was a "humdinger" and a half! And being glad it's over is one major understatement. Talk about an emotional roller coaster of ups and downs, good heavens to Betsy, was it ever!



Kim Frasure

It began by celebrating Ashleigh's birthday on Monday, and Baby Kevin Blake Shannon VanHoose's arrival on Tuesday.

Yes, most exciting!

Jamie, little Blake's Momma, is a member of our Sales Staff here at the paper. Many of us were just a tad bit nervous she would go into labor on the road with her persistence to work right up until the last minute. Thank God that didn't happen, and Baby Blake arrived after 5PM on Tuesday.

And, he is adorable! Weighing in at 6lbs., 3oz., and 19 inches long, I'm happy to report that both Momma and baby are doing just fine.

The remainder of the week, however, was not so nice, what with its whirlwind of a million different things taking place. You know, the kind where you feel like you're caught up in the middle of a tornado and it's literally taking you sky high one minute, and dropping you rock bottom the next.

It's funny how, when you're going through these moments of life, the comments that come about this space and it's content probably aren't, yet "seem to be," more frequent.

And, even more odd, is the comment that comes leaving you unsure if it was really a compliment or not!

For instance, last week's comment of confusion came in the fol-

(See KORNER, page three)

Poinsettias for the holidays

by RAY TACKETT

FLOYD COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Traditional red and green colors are well represented in the flowers available for the holidays. Poinsettias, the most popular and spectacular holiday flowers, can combine both these

colors.

The poinsettia was named for Joel Robert Poinsett, an amateur botanist and the first United States ambassador to Mexico. He became fascinated with these native plants and sent poinsettias home to Greenville, S. C. in 1825. Although Poinsett later was war

secretary under President Martin Van Buren, he is better known for the plant named after him.

The Aztecs cultivated poinsettias for medicinal purposes and as a dye. Missionaries to Mexico used the brightly colored plants in nativity processions, possibly beginning the holi-

day connection that continues today.

Poinsettias are the most popular potted plant grown in the United States, with annual sales exceeding 70 million plants. In Kentucky, some tobacco greenhouse operators have learned how to grow poinsettias.

(See POINSETTIAS, page three)



The women who make up the Prestonsburg Bridge Club meet throughout the year in one another's homes, but manage to get together once a year at the May Lodge for a special Christmas get-together. They all agree that a love of the game, plus a fondness for each other, keep the club together.

photos by Kathy J. Prater

Love of game, and each other, keep Prestonsburg Bridge Club alive

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

It may have first developed centuries ago in Britain, but it is alive and well in Eastern Kentucky, as evidenced by this very reporter just last Thursday at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. I'm talking about the game of Bridge, kept alive and well by formal clubs and societies the world over.

The card game, first known historically as Whist, is said by some historians to have gotten its name from British soldiers serving in the Crimean War in the mid-18th century. Reportedly, soldiers stationed in Istanbul soon made a habit of crossing the Galata Bridge, connecting the old and new parts of European Istanbul, to visit a local coffehouse where they met regularly to play cards.

Other authorities claim the name

was derived from the Russian, sibirskii ieralash, which meant, in English, "Siberian mixture." Loosely translated, the English may have pronounced the words "biritch," which eventually led to the word "bridge."

Whatever its beginnings, the card game has remained a popular pastime throughout the years. The members of the Prestonsburg Bridge Club report that the club's two original members, Eileen Burchett and Mable Brown, have been meeting for regular games since 1968.

The club now boasts two second generation players, Barbara Burke and Mary Lynn Mahan, whose mothers, Dorothy Burke and Jess Mahan, were regular players who passed their love of the game to their daughters as they were growing up.

(See BRIDGE CLUB, page three)



These members of the Prestonsburg Bridge Club enjoyed a holiday gathering at May Lodge last Thursday afternoon. Pictured are, back row, from left to right: Mary Lynn Mahan, Ann Latta, Pat Preston, Doris Ann Hyden, Ruthie Goble, Mable Brown, Wonnell Godsey, Nancy Martin, Barbara Burke, Eileen Burchett, and Linda Francis. Front row, left to right: Ditty Tackett, Jann Garland, Bobby Sadler, Billie Marie Mason, and Barbara Rice. Missing from photo is member Dee Fanning.

CRITTER CORNER

No Christmas pets!

by Dr. Carol Combs-Morris, DVM

We see them throughout this season, but how realistic are the ads that feature a cute puppy or kitten wearing a red bow, perched among the Christmas morning paper and ribbons? Probably about as much as those that show the happy family gathered around the table for Christmas dinner. You and I know that in the real world, there's a different story: half the kids are arguing over a broken toy, the other half won't leave the video game in the living room, there's been a grease fire in the kitchen, and Mom has just discovered the unbaked sweet potato casserole in the refrigerator behind the mayonnaise jar. The picture-perfect family Christmas is gradually melting down into the chaos of real life.

Is this any place for a confused and frightened new puppy or kitten? Lots of folks seem to think so, but in reality, Christmas is the worst possible time to introduce a new pet, for several reasons.



"Angel." Angel is a registered white and creme-colored chihuahua that lives with Jennifer Newman, of Grethel. Angel is shy, but friendly to everyone. She loves to bury herself under a covering when she is resting.

(See CRITTER, page four)

School Calendar

Adams Middle School Youth Services Center

**Anyone interested in helping with the school's annual "Adopt-A-Child" Christmas program, please contact the school at 886-1297.

■ If you would be interested in volunteering at AMS, contact the Youth Services Center to schedule a time for Volunteer Orientation.

■ Adams Middle School Youth Services Center is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center offers services to all families regardless of income. For more information about any of the activities or services of the center, please contact the center at 886-1297. Center Coordinator - Michelle Keathley.

Allen Central Middle School

**Turn in Food City receipts and General Mills box tops to home room teachers!*

■ Dec. 9-10 - Scoliosis screening for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

■ Dec. 11 - WMMT-TV "Connect with Kids" program. Topic: "Gateway to Drugs." 7:00 p.m.

■ Dec. 12-14 - KYA trip to Frankfort.

■ Dec. 17 - Snowflake Ball.

**Science Olympiad practice every Tuesday and Thursday, until 4:30 p.m., throughout

December.

■ The ACMS Youth Service Center is open each day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or later by appointment. For more information about the center, call LaDonna Patton, coordinator, or Marilyn Bailey, assistant, at 358-0134.

Allen Elementary and Family Resource Youth Service Center

■ Call Allen Elementary Youth Service Center at 874-0621 to schedule your child's Hepatitis B vaccination, immunizations, and WIC appointments.

Betsy Layne Elementary

■ The Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource Youth Service Center is located in the 500 building of the campus. The goal of the FRYSC is to meet the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood by the school in which the center is located. For further information, please contact the center at 478-5550 or 478-9751, ext. 310.

■ Brian H. Akers, Center Coordinator; Charlotte Rogers, Program Assistant II; Debra Hayes, School Nurse.

Clark Elementary

■ A nurse from the Floyd County Health Dept. is in the

center weekly and sees WIC patients, does well-child exams (birth-18 years), and gives immunizations. Currently scheduling exams for students who will be in the 6th grade in the next school year. Call for an appointment - 886-0815.

■ The Clark Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the Clark Elementary School building and can be reached by calling 886-0815.

Duff Elementary

School is collecting Food City receipts again this year! Receipts must be dated Sept. 12, 2004 - March 12, 2005.

■ Family Resource Center is looking for people who would like to sponsor a child for Christmas through the "Christmas for a Needy Child" program. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call the center at 358-9878 and ask to speak with Judy Handshoe or Ruby Bailey.

■ Floyd County Health Dept. is at the school each Tuesday. Services include 6th grade school entry physical; kindergarten, Head Start and well-child physicals (age birth to 18 years); T.B. skin test; T.D. boosters; and WIC services. Please call 358-9878 for appointment if you are in need of any of these services.

■ The J.A. Duff Elementary Family Resource Center provides services for all families regardless of income. We are located in the tan metal building at the rear of the school. Contact persons are Judy Handshoe, coordinator, and Ruby Bailey, assistant.

May Valley Elementary

■ Parent Lending Library is available to parents for video check-outs. A variety of topics are available.

■ Floyd County Health Dept. nurse at school every Wednesday. Services include Head Start physicals, kindergarten physicals, 6th grade physicals, well-child physicals, immunizations, TB skin test, WIC program, blood pressure checks, and more. Must call the FRC at 285-0321 for an appointment.

McDowell Elementary and Family Resource Center

■ Dec. 13 - Parent Support Group meeting, 1 p.m., in FRC library. Topic: "Cultural Divide." Examine some of the issues that kids, and their parents, grapple with as they move beyond their "comfort zones" to embrace those who are different.

■ Floyd County Health Department Nurse Joy Moore, is at the center each Monday to administer immunizations, T.B. skin tests, well-child exams,

WIC, prenatal and post-partum services, and school physicals. Call 377-2678 for an appointment.

Prestonsburg Elementary and Family Resource Center

■ Please collect Food City receipts! School goal is \$500,000 in receipts. Anyone in the community may mail receipts, in care of PES, to 236 North Lake Drive, or drop them off at the school office.

■ The Family Resource Center is open weekdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and later by appointment. Office provides services for all families, regardless of income.

■ After School Child Care, 3-6 p.m., school days.

■ Call 886-7088 for additional information regarding the Prestonsburg Elementary Family Resource Center or its programs.

South Floyd Youth Services Center

■ Walking track open to public.

■ The center has a one-stop career station satellite that is available to the community as well as students.

■ Anyone interested in Adult Ed may contact the center for information.

■ All new students and visitors, stop by the Center, located on the South Floyd campus,

Room 232, and see Mable Hall.

■ For more information call 452-9600 or 9607 and ask for Mable Hall, ext. 243, or Keith Smallwood, ext. 242.

Stumbo Elementary/Mud Creek Family Resource Center

■ FRC monthly Advisory Council meetings will be held the first Wednesday of each month, at 4 p.m. Call for more info.

■ Lost & Found located in Family Resource Center.

■ Resource Center hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents and community members are welcome to visit. For questions, call 587-2233 - ask for Tristan Parsons, Center Coordinator, or Anita Tackett, Assistant.

W.D. Osborne "Rainbow Junction" Family Resource Center

■ "Lost & Found" is located in the FRC. If items not picked up within 2 weeks, they become the property of the resource center.

■ Rainbow Junction Family Resource Center is located in the W. D. Osborne Elementary School. Hours of operation - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or later by appointment. Call 452-4553 and ask for Cissy

(See SCHOOL, page four)

YESTERDAYS

(Items taken from
The Floyd County
Times,
10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and
60 years ago.)

Ten Years Ago

December 7 and 9, 1994

Jimmy Stumbo, former deputy county judge, apparently used money skimmed from a county park and a padded expense account, to partially finance a drug addiction that led, Monday, to his arrest, and charges against seven others...The Floyd County Chamber of Commerce board of directors approved a one-year contract, Monday, with a company owned by former Prestonsburg Mayor Ann Latta, which has Latta stepping down from her role as Chamber president, in exchange for the job as executive director for the organization... "This is the hardest thing I ever had to do, and the best thing I've ever done," Virginia S. Goble said, Sunday, at the Wilkinson/Stumbo Convention Center, about a memorial garden that had been built to honor the 26 children and a school bus driver, who died when Floyd County School Bus No. 27 plunged into the Big Sandy River in 1958...Members of the Mountain Area Drug Task-Force netted a large haul, Monday, of drugs and weapons in a hastily put together raid. Task force members had to push the planned raid by a day because of a news story set to be published, Tuesday, in the Lexington Herald-Leader concerning Floyd County's deputy judge executive Jimmy Stumbo's alleged involvement in drug trafficking...The lack of an office for public defenders in Floyd County is creating problems with equal representation in the county justice system according to a consensus of attorneys and judges at a meeting, Monday, of the Gubernatorial Task Force on the Delivery & Funding of Quality Public Defender Services...Floyd County Commonwealth, Attorney John Earl Hunt has declined to present wanton endangerment charges against District Court Clerk Sue DeRossett to a grand jury for review. In a November 29 letter to Kentucky State Police Captain Robert Forsythe. Hunt informed the agency that he will ask the attorney general's office to handle the matter. Hunt's letter said that he felt it would place his office in a "difficult working relationship" with the circuit court clerk's office...Former Floyd County deputy judge-executive Jimmy Stumbo was indicted, Thursday, for allegedly stealing county and drug task force funds and for alleged drug trafficking. Stumbo, 24, is charged with two counts of theft involving money taken from the fiscal court. He is accused of

submitting travel expenses that were fraudulent and taking funds from the John M. Stumbo Park, from February through October...Kentucky Opry officials are wondering if the Grinch was at the Opry's Christmas concert at Prestonsburg High School, last Friday night. A box set up to receive donations and pledges to the construction fund for the Mountain Arts Center, which will be the Opry's permanent home, was missing after the concert, along with its contents...The Floyd County Health Department will present gifts, including a \$50 gift certificate from the Paintsville Wal-Mart, to women, age 45 and over, when they come in for cancer screenings...This semester, students at Mountain Christian Academy are making use of an unusual lending library. Instead of offering books, this library gives students in kindergarten through eighth grade, the opportunity to take home small animals for weekends and holidays...Mike Napier, 36, a London, Kentucky, man was arrested, Wednesday, after he allegedly attempted to sell marijuana to an unidentified woman in front of the Floyd County courthouse...Prestonsburg attorney James R. Allen has been nominated to fill the Floyd County District Judge vacancy. The appointment could come at any time, it was said...There died: James Fraley, 59, of Prestonsburg, was dead on arrival at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Sunday, December 4; Orland "Joe Goose" Little, 73, of Weeksbury, Thursday, December 1, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Hannah Garnett Tackett, 84, of Hilliard, Ohio, Monday, November 28, at Riverside Hospital; C. Delie Thacker, 62, of Albion, Michigan, Saturday, December 3, at Albion Community Hospital; Charles Henry Goble, 52, of Navarre, Florida, Thursday, November 24, at Gulf Breeze Hospital in Pensacola, Florida; Amy Lou Daley, co-owner of the Troublesome Creek Times in Knott County, Saturday, December 3; Josephine Greene, 54, of Prestonsburg, Friday, December 2, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Russell Patton, 87, of Hueysville, Friday, December 2, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin; Octavia Ann Stratton Cooley, 57, of Stanville, Monday, December 5, at her residence; Russell Patton, 87, of Hueysville, Friday, December 7, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital; Octavia Ann Stratton Cooley, 57, of Stanville, Monday, December 5, at her residence; William Kilburn Jr., 62, of Martin, Thursday, December 1, at the Veterans Hospital

in Huntington, West Virginia; Eugene Boyd, 58, of Pavo, Georgia, formerly of Dana, Wednesday, November 30, at his residence; Rev. Boyd Franklin Reynolds, 62, of Boonville, Indiana, Monday, December 5, at his home; Howard E. Allen, 79, of Grayson, formerly of Floyd County, Wednesday, December 7, at the King's Daughters Hospital in Ashland; Pollie Prater, 77, of Rochester, Indiana, native of Prestonsburg, Tuesday, December 6, at Woodlawn Hospital in Rochester.

Twenty Years Ago

December 12, 1984

Equipment stood idle, last week, on the Pikeville site of a planned Piggly Wiggly Store on the Williamson road where toxic wastes have been discovered...Members of the Order of the Eastern Star were angered by the approved liquor license of the Eastern Star Lounge. Members of the Eastern Star said they did not want their name linked with liquor sales...Floyd teachers thinking of retiring this year got a little nudge, last week, from the board of education, which voted to pay them for 30 percent of any unused sick days if they choose to step down...There died: Artie Tackett, 60, of Harold, Friday, in a Lexington hospital; Mabel Spurlock Fannin, 86, of Prestonsburg, Friday, at Riverview Manor Nursing Home; America Frasure, 76, of Endicott, Tuesday, December 4, at Riverview Manor Nursing Home; Jesse Wallen, 71, of Water Gap, last Wednesday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Leven Burchett, 78, of Prestonsburg, Monday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; Patsy Sue Boggs Williams, 45, of East Point, last Thursday, at Highlands Regional Medical Center; James Oliver Webb Sr., of Prestonsburg, December 5, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital; Russell "Shine" Hall, 78, of Prestonsburg, November 27, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center in Paintsville; Hazel Hunter, 58, of McDowell, December 5, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Ballard Fulton Lewis, 78, of Betsy Layne, Sunday, at his home; Charles Taylor Howell, 56, of Grethel, Monday, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital; John David Fraley, 36, of Drift, Thursday, at McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Vina Stambaugh Prater, 74, of Hueysville, Monday, at her home; Ollie "Jug" Hamilton, 72, of Allen, Monday, December 3, at Salyersville Health Care Center; William Sherman Cool, 71, of McDowell, Sunday,

at his home.

Thirty Years Ago (December 11, 1974)

The coal business is so good that the Floyd County Board of Education, sitting almost in the middle of one of the nation's busiest coal fields, can't get a bid on stoker coal for the heating of some of its larger schools...The strikebound Kentucky West Virginia Gas Company was hit last weekend by four explosions in 24 hours...The Bank Josephine was designated as depository of county funds at last Thursday's meeting of the fiscal court in an unheralded action by three of the four magistrates...Fire destroyed the home of Rita Campbell on Abbott Creek, Tuesday morning...Rail service was restored, Sunday night, on the C.&O. Railway's tracks after the derailment of a loaded coal train, here, Saturday morning, tied up train traffic for some 30 hours...Dr. Gabriel R. Wallace, of Huntsville, Alabama, formerly of Prestonsburg, has been honored for the part he has played in the success of the U.S. Sky Lab Program...Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pettrey, will observe their Golden Wedding anniversary with open house, Sunday, December 15...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Prater on Nov. 27, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, their first child, a daughter, Melissa Ann...There died: Otis Knox, 39, formerly of Garrett, of a bullet wound, Friday, at the UK Medical Center, Lexington; Chester Hicks, 77, of Welch, W.Va., formerly of Garrett, last Thursday; Earl Goodman, 62, of Garrett, at his home, Sunday; Mrs. Lillie May Atkins, 76, of Ashtabula, O., formerly of McDowell, last Friday, at her home; Robie C. Marcum, 46, formerly of Prestonsburg, December 7, in Virginia Beach, Va.; Stanley Ray Shepherd, two-year-old son of Tramble and Imogene Shepherd, of Hueysville, Wednesday; Elmer Gordon Fields, 48, of Allen, Friday, at the VA Hospital in Lexington; Mrs. Willie H. Waddell, 73, of Dana, last Thursday, at a nursing home, here; Kindie Frasure, 72, of Garrett, Sunday, at the McDowell Hospital; Benjamin H. Terry, 85, of Martin, Tuesday, Dec. 3, at a Martin hospital.

Forty Years Ago

(December 17, 1964)

Sixty-seven year-old A.B. Hobson, and his wife, Lula, 62, of Harold, were shot to death, and their daughter, Mrs. Ruth May, was wounded, Tuesday, at the Hobsons'

(See YESTERDAYS, page four)

Poinsettias

Continued from p1

More than 60 varieties are produced and sold in Kentucky. Approximately 500,000 plants are grown here annually.

The three to six bloom red poinsettia is the most frequently used, but several other sizes, shapes and colors are available. Colors range from creamy white to yellow through shades of pink to the traditional red. The colorful plant parts often referred to as "flowers" actually are modified leaves called "bracts." The yellow centers are really the "flowers." Some poinsettias have marbled pink and white bracts; others may have pink flecks on red. Poinsettia bracts are very long lasting, providing a nice decorative plant for the holiday season.

Consumers can buy miniatures as well as poinsettia trees and hanging baskets.

The poinsettia is not poisonous to people or pets, but is classified as a non-edible plant material.

Extensive university research and laboratory testing have proven that poinsettias are not poisonous. One scientific study concluded that no toxicity occurred at ingestion levels much higher than those likely to take place in a home. The main information resource for most poison control centers states that a 50-pound child would have to ingest more than 500 poinsettia leaves to surpass an experimental dose.

Some people have skin sensitivity to the white milky sap produced when a part of the plant is broken or injured. Ingesting a plant part may cause some discomfort. Active young children, who are apt to put just about anything in their

mouths, and curious cats might choke on fibrous poinsettia foliage. Therefore it is a good practice to put poinsettias and all other non-edible plants out of children's and pets' reach.

Poinsettias will remain beautiful far beyond the holiday season when cared for properly. Keep these tips in mind.

Choose a plant with small, tightly clustered yellow buds in the center and crisp, bright, undamaged foliage.

At home, put the poinsettia in a room with bright, natural light. Ideally, plant foliage should be exposed to direct sunlight one or more hours daily.

Avoid locations where there are drafts and close heat sources.

Do not put the plant on top of a television set or near a radiator.

Water the plant when the soil becomes dry; drooping leaves may indicate it needs watering. Be sure to discard excess water in the drip saucer.

If you want to keep a poinsettia after the holiday season, fertilize it with ordinary houseplant fertilizer a few weeks after buying it.

Source: Bob Anderson

For more information, contact Ray Tackett, County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources at the Floyd County Cooperative Extension Service at 886-2668.

Educational programs of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Korner

Continued from p1

lowing form: "I hope this doesn't hurt your feelings, BUT (oh, the knots in my stomach were horrible). And then the rest came: "Why are your columns so 'churchie' now?"

My reaction: "Deer in the headlights look" - and momentarily speechless.

"Churchie," I asked. "Not sure I'm following you," I commented.

The speaker continued, "It's just I have read your columns for years and they used to be so funny and now they just seem to be so 'churchie.' Not that it's a bad thing, just 'churchie,' really." Then, the clincher: "Oh, man, you'll write about this, won't you?"

"Yep, more than likely, I most definitely will," I replied with a smile.

The person with whom I was speaking just kept insisting that she didn't "mean anything bad" with her comments, only just wondering why this space had gotten so in her words - "churchie."

After reading some of my columns of the past, (last weeks content) God, and prayer, were included in them even as far back as 1989. Granted, not to the extent as the writings I've submitted over the past few years, but then I wasn't "Born Again" until March of 1997.

I've replayed that "churchie" comment over and over in my mind since I received it last week. For "churchie" is something I've honestly never considered myself to be.

Christian, yes! One who loves Jesus Christ and wants to share any little, and everything possible that's come into my life since being reborn, yes!

So, I suppose God, His Son, the Holy Ghost and those of us who wish to strive to serve Him can be easily related to as "Churchie"!

And, taking that as a compliment, you better believe I will, with open arms and a warm heart, and for you, my dear reader, the next time I see you, a big hug!

In ending this week, I'd

like to once again share this little piece written, author unknown, yet sharing exactly how I feel.

Hope you like it. And may your holidays be full of blessings!

Til Next Week....

Christian by (Well, hopefully by you!)

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I'm clean livin'."

I'm whispering, "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and that I need Christ to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and that I need His strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting that I have failed and that I need God to clean up my mess.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect.

For my flaws are far too visible, but God still believes I am worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou.

I am just a simple sinner, who received God's good grace..somehow.

(Shared in His love, by a soul saved by grace - it does not matter who I am, it matters only that I have a right relationship with the Great "I Am.")

Bridge Club

Continued from p1

The Prestonsburg club also has now grown to include three members from Paintsville, and one each from Jackson and Louisville.

Throughout the year, players meet in one another's homes for friendly games and refreshments, but make it a point to meet once each year for an annual Christmas celebration. "We usually always meet here at the Lodge," said Barbara Burke, "or at least for the past 15 years or so. We like it quite well here and the staff

is always pleasant and helpful."

When asked if they are drawn to the meetings more for the game itself or simply for the company of their fellow members, the members said that it was the combined mix of the two, but had to agree that it was, primarily, the love of the game that kept them coming.

"Yes, it's the game, it's the game," remarked member Ruthie Goble, while playing companion Nancy Martin said, "We enjoy each other's compa-

ny, the camaraderie and the game of bridge."

"It's the mental stimulation of the game," Martin continued. "Plus, we are all very supportive of one another and

that's quite important."

Serving as hostesses for this year's holiday get-together were club members Linda Francis, Nancy Martin, and Mary Lynn Mahan.

Elegant Lemon Cookies start with a Muffin Mix

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Simple and stylish is the popular philosophy for today's busy holiday host. "Any recipe that seems homemade, looks fabulous, tastes great and is easy to make is a definite keeper," said Linda Carman, Martha White Southern Baking Expert. Lemon Poppy Seed Crisps fill the above criteria hands down and no one will ever suspect they're made with a pouch of convenient muffin mix. For more great recipes from the Martha White Kitchen visit the web site at www.marthawhite.com.

White® Lemon Poppy Seed Muffin Mix
Sugar

Heat oven to 350°F. In medium bowl, combine butter, sugar and milk; blend well. Add muffin mix; mix until well blended. Shape dough into 3/4-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten with bottom of glass dipped in sugar.

Bake at 350°F. for 9 to 14 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheets. Cool completely.

Lemon Poppy Seed Crisps
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1 (7.6-oz.) pkg. Martha

Glaze: In small bowl, combine 3/4 cup powdered sugar and 2 to 3 teaspoons milk for desired drizzling consistency; blend until smooth. Drizzle over cooled cookies. 20 cookies

**Young Writer's Corner
A Unicorn Legend**

By Kayanna Mullins

Once there was a fairy who had a white horse. She said, "I'm bored." So she made a potion to change the horse's color.

The fairy: "I've made a mess."

The horse: "I know."

The fairy: "You talk?"

The horse: "Yes, I do."

So the fairy ran away yelling, "Mad horse, mad horse!"

The horse ran after her. A horn grew on the horse's head. The color went to the horse's horn. And that's how the unicorn got its horn.

Organizations

Prestonsburg Woman's Club

The GFWC/KFWC Prestonsburg Woman's Club, the city of Prestonsburg and Archer Park will host Christmas in the Park on December 16, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas in the Park will be held at Archer Park Skating Rink. There will be activities for the children such as face painting, ornament making and a chance to visit with Santa Claus.

Weddings

Onkst-Williams to wed

To be held December 11, 2004, at 5:30 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, in Prestonsburg. The gracious custom of an open wedding will be observed.

New Arrivals

Highlands Regional Medical Center

Nov. 17, 2004 A son, Mason Nicholas Dean Ousley, to Misti and Jeffery Ousley

Nov. 18, 2004 A son, Brandon Allen Meek, to Anglea Hitchcock

Nov. 18, 2004 A daughter, Kirsten Patience Bush, to Jennifer and Michael Bush

Nov. 18, 2004 A daughter, Angela Renee Puckett, to Ruby and Lonnie Puckett

Nov. 18, 2004 A son, Longan Michael Loper, to Penny Sue Rose

Nov. 19, 2004 A daughter, Haley Leeann Butcher, to Angela Butcher

Nov. 19, 2004 A son, Kayleb Xavier Kross Grone, to Amanda Louise and Christopher John

Grone

Nov. 22, 2004 A daughter, Lauren Elizabeth Hunley, to Pamela and Joe Hunley

Nov. 23, 2004 A daughter, Mattie Nicole Collins, to April and Crawford Collins

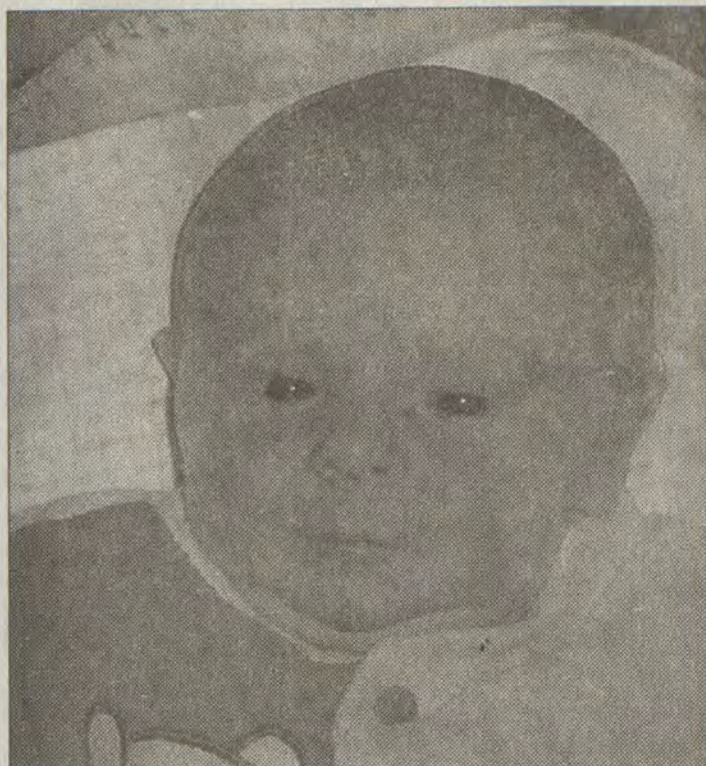
Nov. 23, 2004 A daughter, McKinnley Alexis Brooke Martin, to Annette and Rodney Martin

Nov. 23, 2004 A son, Blake Riley James Skaggs, to Erin Warden

Nov. 24, 2004 A son, Madison Lee Arnett, to Ashley Lynn and Jackie Lee Arnett

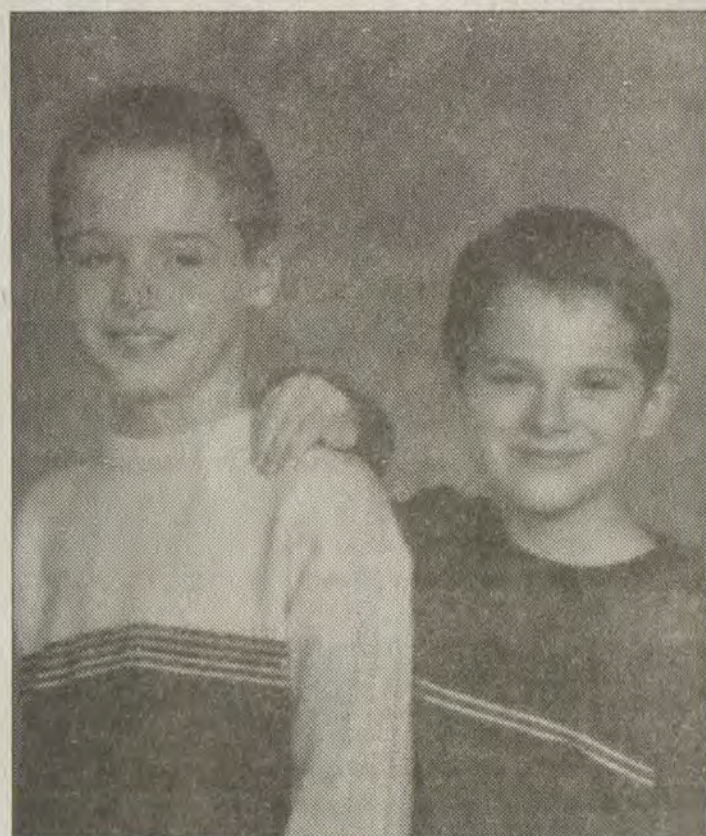
Nov. 29, 2004 A daughter, Martha Cheyanne Lawson, to Rebecca Ann Day

Births/Birthdays



It's a Boy!!

Kevin Blake Shannon VanHoose was born Tuesday, November 30, 2004, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, to proud parents Jamie Price VanHoose and Elliott VanHoose. He is the maternal grandson of Diana Price, of Drift, and the late Roland Price. His paternal grandparents are Robin Barker, of Tutor Key, and the late Kevin VanHoose. His maternal great-grandparents are the late Eddie and Nellie Shelton, and the late Vernie and Russell Price. His paternal great-grandparents are Avonell VanHoose and the late Clyde VanHoose, and Helen Barker and the late Earl Barker.



Brothers celebrate birthdays at Archer Park

Christian Anthony and Brandon Scott Goble recently celebrated their birthdays with a "Yu-Gi-Oh" theme party, held at Archer Park Skating Rink. Christian turned nine years old on November 5, 2004, and Brandon turned eight years old on October 31, 2004. The boys are the sons of Tony and Jolean Hackworth Goble, of Abbott Creek. They are the maternal grandsons of Edward Wallen, of David, and the late Annie Lue Wallen, and the late Earl Hackworth. Their paternal grandparents are Earl and Wanda McGuire Duncan, of Abbott Creek, and Billy Goble, of Prestonsburg. Chris and Brandon have two younger siblings, Cameron Jacob and Caitlyn Leighann Goble.



Happy 52nd, James!

James Sexton, of Wayland, will celebrate his 52nd birthday this coming weekend. James is married to Patricia Sexton, with whom he has three children and five grandchildren. His wife and family wish him the happiest of birthdays and many more to come!

Yesterdays

Continued from p2

home at Harold...Election of James Conley, of Price, to succeed Sam Hale as chairman of the Floyd County Democratic Executive Committee was effected, Saturday afternoon...Congressman Carl D. Perkins announced, Tuesday, that the Public Housing Administration has approved an \$8,400 loan to the Prestonsburg Housing Commission for the preliminary planning of an additional 42 low-rent public housing units here...Born: to Mr. and Mrs. Wilven Bascom Harris, a son, Wilven Carlos, at a Lima, O. hospital. There died: John Stephens, 69, of Cliff, Monday, at the Paintsville Hospital; Johnnie Adams, 53, of Galveston, Saturday, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital; Oral K. Wallace, 51, of Garrett, Tuesday, at the McDowell Regional Hospital; Mrs. Hattie Cox, 71, formerly of Lackey, last Thursday, in a Cincinnati, O. hospital; Schuyler C. Allen, 70, last Wednesday, at his home at East McDowell.

Fifty Years Ago

December 16, 1954

Coal purchases next year, from electric utilities will increase 20,000,000 tons to represent the largest annual increase in the history of the utility-fuel purchases, it was predicted last week by the Keystone Coal Buyers Manual...Officers from the sheriff's office here raided a moonshine whiskey making scene on Little Mud Creek, Sunday morning, and destroyed

180 gallons of mash, a quantity of corn malt and a still "worm"...The belief that a rabid wild animal may have caused the exposure of six Grethel children to rabies was expressed here last week by Montain Clark, Floyd County Health Department administrator...Home of John Anderson, at Dwale, burned to the ground, Sunday midnight, only a few days before the date he had planned to return to it from Detroit...Ground was broken for the new Assembly of God Church in West Prestonsburg, December 6...The gymless Prestonsburg Blackcats successfully opened their 1954-55 cage season at Auxier, last Wednesday night, by coming from behind in the last half to down the Hornets, 68-56...There died: Walter Scott Harkins, III, 37, last surviving member of the widely-known Harkins law firm here, Sunday, at Prestonsburg General Hospital; Mrs. Myrtle Weddington, 81, Tuesday, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital; Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, 82, last Saturday, at her home at Wheelwright; Susan Baldrige, 77, of Little Paint, Tuesday, at the Prestonsburg General Hospital.

Sixty Years Ago

December 14, 1944

The casualty reports within the week include two killed, two missing, and seven wounded. Killed in action were Pfc. Jimmie N. Hall, of Banner, November 24, in France, and Pfc. Kermit Click, of Martin, November 23, in Luxembourg.

Missing are Pfc. Joe Meade, of Printer, and Robert E. Steele, of Boldman. The wounded: Pfc. Elba Case, of Honaker, November 27, in Germany; T-5 Joe B. Vance, of Martin, November 22, in Germany; Pvt. Curtis Jarvis, of Estill, November 27, in Germany; Pfc. Kelles T. Perry, of Garrett, November 27, in France; Pvt. Paul Stilton, of Ivel, November 15; Pfc. Homer Mullins, of Drift; Pfc. Billie M. Foster, of Drift, November 27, in France...Body of Charlie Stone, Blue River postmaster-merchant, was found, Tuesday morning, near his home. He is believed to have frozen to death...Lark Huff, 16, succumbed last Thursday, to wreck injuries suffered two days earlier on the Maytown hill. Miss Molly Slone was seriously hurt in the same wreck, but is recovering...Mrs. Rosannah Skeans Harris, 85, widow of Civil War Veteran John W. Harris, burned to death last week in her home on Brandy Keg...Alex L. Davidson, of Presetonsburg, was elected Democratic county chairman, Saturday...Mayor E. P. Arnold purchased the Auxier Hotel property here, Monday, from B.F. and A.B. Combs, for a reported \$30,000. O.P. Powers will remain as manager of the hotel. The Baptist Church, last week, bought the Marrs property on First Avenue...There died: Henderson Richardson, 70, former member of the Floyd County Board of Education, Sunday, at his home on Middle Creek; Miss Gladys Hughes, 23, Monday, at Garrett; John Blackburn, 30, Monday, at Orkney; Frank Sherman, 70,

Floyd native, Friday, at Ashland; Mrs. Den D. Fairchild, 69, Monday, at her home at Allen; Miss Mary Holt, 33, Saturday, at Ligon.

Seventy Years Ago

December 14, 1934

Kermit Sexton, 21, who was shot through his arm at Garrett a few weeks ago, died, Tuesday night, of pneumonia, at a Martin hospital...Traffic tie-ups and numerous wrecks, none of which have resulted in a fatality, have been produced by continuing snowfall and icy roads. Among those injured in wrecks are Mrs. Edgar R. May, of Langley, at Mt. Sterling, and Albert Marshall, near Allen...The Prestonsburg Kiwanis Club, last Friday, elected C. D. Milby president to succeed S. L. Isbell for the coming year. William Dingus was elected vice-president, and Virgil Proctor, secretary...Efforts of the Woman's Club here to save the county's dogwoods from the sawmill has been lauded by Mrs. Frederick A. Walls of Paris, a leader in the move to save the state's natural scenery...There died: Mrs. Mary Allen Stumbo, 75, widow of W. M. (Bill Buck) Stumbo, a former Floyd sheriff, and mother of M. T. Stumbo, the county's present sheriff, Monday, at Minnie; Jean Moore Evans, 11, of Martin, Friday, at a Huntington hospital of a spinal injury suffered in a fall at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Evans.

Oak

Continued from p1

within 20 feet of him.

Then there was World War II. I had no clue about how far Japan and Germany were from Muddy Branch. To me, a mere kid of four or five, Flat Gap or Blaine were as close, or as far away, as Tokyo or Berlin.

Therefore, when Gabriel Heatter read the news on the radio about bombs being dropped on foreign cities, I feared a stray one just might fall on my house while I slept at night. I can't recall ever discussing that particular fear with anybody, but I do remember checking with Mom whenever a plane flew over

to ascertain whether or not it was one of ours. She'd listen for a second and confirm that it was not the enemy and I'd return to my play and she'd continue to hang out her wash.

And finally, the thing of which I was most afraid, was lock jaw. One was destined to an agonizing death if he took lock jaw, and I was very cognizant of the two ways you could get it. The first was stepping on a rusty nail, which I did on a regular basis in the summer time. The antidote was to have Mom pour the wound full of turpentine, then wrap it with an old sock for

a day or two, with me checking it regularly for red streaks.

The other way you got lock jaw was to go swimming with a cut, or even a chigger bite, during dog days. Since I had some sort of wound on my body most of the time, I didn't swim much during dog days.

Fortunately, as time marched on, not only did I survive all those dreadful fears, I think, at least to some extent, I even conquered them. Anyway, I still have both my ears, no stray bomb ever fell on my house, and I never got lock jaw.

Ask the CIS

Q: What are the treatment choices for prostate cancer that has not spread?

A: There are three primary ways to treat prostate cancer that has not spread to other organs. These are:

Surgery. The doctor may remove all or part of the prostate gland and some lymph nodes (part of the body's system for fighting infections and diseases) to check them for cancer. Side effects may include leakage of urine or stool or difficulty having an erection. In some cases, the doctor can use a new technique known as nerve-sparing surgery to save the

nerves that control erection.

Radiation Therapy. This treatment involves high-energy x-rays that kill cancer cells. There are two types of radiation therapy. In external beam therapy, a machine outside the body beams x-rays into the tumor. In internal radiation, tiny radioactive seeds (pellets) are implanted in or near the tumor.

Radiation may cause diarrhea, fatigue and inflammation of the rectum or bladder.

Watchful waiting. This means having no active treatment unless symptoms appear. Watchful waiting is based on the idea that the

cancer may advance so slowly that it is unlikely to cause problems in the man's lifetime.

Ask your doctor for complete information about each treatment choice, including possible side effects, benefits and risks. Before recommending a treatment, your doctor will consider how fast your cancer is likely to grow and spread, your age and overall health, and your own preferences.

For more information, call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER and ask for a free copy of "Understanding Treatment Choices for Prostate Cancer."

Q: Can antiperspirants or deodorants cause breast cancer?

A: Articles in the press and on the Internet have warned that underarm antiperspirants/deodorants may cause breast cancer. The reports suggest that harmful substances in these products can be absorbed through the skin or enter the body through nicks caused by shaving with a blade razor.

However, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are not aware of any clear evidence linking the use of underarm antiperspirants/deodorants with the development of breast cancer.

Two recent studies on this

topic had different results. One study showed no increased risk of breast cancer among women who used underarm antiperspirants/deodorants. The study included women who used a blade razor.

The second study involved breast cancer survivors. The researchers found that women who used underarm antiperspirants/deodorants and shaved their underarms often were diagnosed with cancer at younger ages. In addition, women who began these habits before age 16 developed cancer at an earlier age than those who began the habits later.

The results of the second study suggest that use of antiperspirants/deodorants and underarm shaving may be related to breast cancer. But it stops short of show-

ing a clear link. Researchers say more studies are needed.

To learn more about your personal breast cancer risk, talk with your doctor. For general information on breast cancer risk and prevention, call the NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER.

The National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service (CIS) is one of the country's most trusted resources. "Ask the CIS" is distributed by the Mid South CIS, which serves Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Call the CIS toll-free at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Critter

Continued from p1

First off, you want your new family member to get the hang of the household routine as quickly as possible—feeding schedules, potty times, etc. If your holiday schedule is as hectic as most, any pretense of routine has been flung to the four winds until after New Year. This is not going to do anything for your attempt to housebreak a puppy, or teach a kitten where the litter box is.

Next, everyone knows you need to do some puppy-or kitten-proofing to prevent accidents. At what other time of year are there as many opportunities to encounter broken glass, open flames, extension cords, and frequently opened doors? There is ready access to lots of potentially dangerous things to chew, from small decorations and doo-dads to toxic plants and forbidden foods. Adults are notoriously distracted by other responsibilities this time of year, and otherwise well-behaved children may resemble Tasmanian Devils on speed. Christmas can be a perilous time for an established family pet, and it is an accident looking for a place to happen for a curious kitten or pup. (When I was growing up, my mother always tied the Christmas tree to the wall to keep the cat from knocking it over—I honestly thought that everybody did that before they started decorating!)

One final caution. During the first few weeks of life, puppies and kittens go through various "sensitive periods" where they form their lifelong opinions and reactions to people and situations. Being exposed to the commotion of the holiday season during one

of these periods—especially if they are in a fearful stage—can adversely affect the animal for the rest of its life.

Children need to see that the family takes a pet as a serious and long-term responsibility, not just another gift that they can put away and forget when they tire of it. Many animals that enter the nation's shelters each year are the previous season's Christmas gifts that grew up into unwanted baggage. Many shelters suspend adoptions during the Christmas season, and most truly responsible breeders refuse to sell animals at this time of year. Of course there are always exceptions, but animals that are bought and sold as a commodity are more likely to be treated like a commodity instead of a living being.

The only thing worse that I can think of is when someone is given an animal as a "surprise". Even if it is someone who dearly loves animals, the lack of planning can cause major problems. I can remember once thinking that we should get some sort of bird, maybe a parakeet or cockatiel, for my grandmother (this was in my younger and more foolish days). She dearly loved the wild birds that hung around her porch and made nests in her potted plants and under her awnings, and her house was filled with pictures of birds. Fortunately, she got wind of my scheme and nipped it in the bud. Yes, she loved birds. Yes, she did appreciate the beauty of birds. And yes, she would enjoy the company of a pet bird. She made it clear, however, that she would not enjoy vacuuming seeds and other debris out of

the carpet every day, and that she far preferred the wrens, cardinals and jays that she could watch going about their business outdoors. Had 'Mother not been quite so outspoken, and had I gone ahead with my plan I have not doubt that she would have taken excellent care of her pet, but I am equally sure that it would have been an extra burden on her that she neither needed nor wanted.

My point here is not that you should never get a pet for someone else, but that it should be done only when you know the animal is wanted and preparations have been made to care for it properly. If you were considering a puppy or kitten as a gift this year, especially for a child, here are some suggestions for making the transition into a new home easier for everyone. You can still surprise the recipient with a bundle of gift wrapped pet supplies, a book on pet care and selection, or even a gift certificate for a future visit to the groomer, trainer or vet. Take a picture or video of the pet you have selected, so the new owner can have some time to think about how to make it comfortable in its new home, and to think of a name. You could also tour the local shelter to look at all the sizes, shapes and colors of animals available (no falling in love on the spot allowed until after Christmas!)

As much fun as seeing your child's eyes light up over a new pet on Christmas morning might be, it could be even more fun to look forward to that really special gift after the excitement of the holidays is over when it can be properly appreciated!

School

Continued from p2

or Karen. Parents/community members free to visit any time.

Wesley Christian School

Wesley Christian Daycare and Infant/Toddler Care accepts infants and toddlers up to 2 years and Preschool age 2-4. Daycare hours: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For additional information, call 874-8328. Summer office hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Floyd County Adult Ed Class Schedule

BSCTC, Prestonsburg campus: Mon., Wed., Fri. - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tue., Thur. - 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contact: Jason Cassell - 886-3863, ext. 67219. Room m207 (second floor, Library).

Auxier Lifetime Learning Center: Tue., Thur. - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact: Lucille Fuchs - 886-0709.

Martin Extended Education Service Center: Tue., Thur. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Vanessa Tackett - 285-5111.

Wayland EESC: Mon., Wed. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Vanessa Tackett - 358-3400.

Wheelwright: Mon., Wed. - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Penny Fell - 452-4324.

McDowell: Tue., 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

For more information about Adult Education class schedules, contact the David School at 886-8374. All classes and materials free of charge.

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BUSINESS / PROFESSIONS

Natural gas prices remaining high, PSC says

Consumers urged to conserve energy

FRANKFORT - Forecasts of double-digit increases in the price of natural gas this winter are proving accurate, the Kentucky Public Service Commission said today.

"Many consumers are seeing increases of 10 to 15 percent above last year," PSC Chairman Mark David Goss said. "Unfortunately, we have no assurance that the situation will

improve as we move into the peak heating season."

The latest gas cost adjustments filed by Kentucky's five major natural gas distribution companies are 13 percent higher on average than at this time last year. The adjustments reflect the wholesale price of natural gas purchased by the companies - a cost passed on to consumers on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

A typical residential customer using 10,000 cubic feet of gas per month will be paying an average of \$9.75 (10 percent) more per month when compared with last December.

Goss noted that prices through the rest of the heating season will be determined largely by the weather and its effect on the demand for natural

gas. But there are steps consumers can take to cope with higher natural gas costs, he said.

"Contact your utility about budget billing plans that give you a predictable heating bill every month," Goss said. "Do everything you can to weatherize your home, and, if you haven't already done so, turn the thermostat down to 68 degrees."

Natural gas prices have risen sharply in recent years. Prices last winter were 20 percent to 40 percent higher than during the 2002-2003 heating season.

By federal law, natural gas prices are not regulated at the wholesale level and fluctuate with supply and demand. Under Kentucky statute, gas companies are entitled to recover the wholesale cost of gas they

deliver to customers. Adjustments are reviewed by the PSC to make sure they accurately reflect wholesale costs.

Several factors are contributing to higher gas prices:

Natural gas production in North America has not kept pace with increasing demand. Imported gas, other than from Canada, fulfills a small portion of domestic demand.

More natural gas is being used to generate electricity, particularly in the summer, when air conditioner usage creates peaks in the need for electric power.

About half the natural gas used for winter heating is put into storage in the summer. In the past, this gas was less expensive and helped offset higher gas prices in the winter.

With increased summer demand, that is no longer the case.

Storage is one of several tools that companies use to reduce volatility in the natural gas prices passed on to consumers. Others include long-term purchase agreements that provide gas at predictable prices.

The five major natural gas distribution companies in Kentucky are Atmos Energy, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc., Louisville Gas and Electric Co., and The Union Light, Heat, and Power Co. Together, the five companies serve over 750,000 customers in Kentucky and deliver 176 billion cubic feet of gas annually.

Goss noted that there are

ample quantities of gas stored for winter use, and that has helped keep prices in check. But consumers should not become complacent, he said.

"We don't know what the weather will be like this winter, so we can't predict its effect on the demand for natural gas and what effect that might have on prices," Goss said. "But we do know that it is wise for consumers to do all they can to manage their home heating costs."

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.



Left to right: Lindsey Hall, Barbara Ferrell, and Frank Stumbo, of East Kentucky Physical Therapy and Sports Clinic.

Floyd County Chamber welcomes East Kentucky Physical Therapy & Sports Clinic

by MANDY STUMBO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

East Kentucky Physical Therapy & Sports Clinic recently became new members of the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce. East Kentucky Physical Therapy & Sports Clinic is committed to serving both its patients and the community at large. A key factor of East Kentucky Physical Therapy is

that the therapists are local owners that are licensed graduates of accredited physical therapy programs. Franklin Stumbo, a McDowell High School graduate, and Philip Bentley of Whitesburg are owners of the clinics six locations, Whitesburg, Salyersville, Jenkins, Hindman, Leatherwood, and Betsy Layne. They offer vestibular rehabilitation, cardiac rehab, work rehab,

stroke rehab, hand & upper extremity care, sports medicine, and a wellness program. They also provide the sports medicine services for Alice Lloyd College athletes. For more information on East Kentucky Physical Therapy & Sports Clinic, visit their website at www.eastkpt.com or call their Betsy Layne location at (606) 478-1111.

Coping with high natural gas prices

Information for consumers

Kentucky consumers can take a number of steps to reduce their natural gas usage or to soften the impact of higher gas costs. They include:

Budget billing: This option allows customers to pay the same amount each month, based on average monthly usage during the year. Customers should contact their utility for more information.

Energy conservation measures: Simple steps such as turning down thermostats on furnaces (most people are comfortable at 68 degrees) and water heaters (120 degrees is hot enough for nearly all uses) can be big energy savers.

Energy audits: Many local utilities offer "home energy" audits at little or no cost to consumers. These audits can identify energy-wasting trouble spots and provide information on how to correct the problems.

Weatherization: Consumers can do a number of things to reduce inflows of cold air and leakage of warm air, particularly around windows and doors. Some basic weatherization steps include:

Use caulk or weatherstripping to seal cracks around windows, doors, pipes and other points where cold air can enter the home. This alone can reduce heating costs by 10 percent or more.

Add insulation in attics, crawl spaces and walls.

Cover windows, especially those with single-pane glass, with storm windows or plastic sheeting before the onset of cold weather.

Clean or replace furnace filters monthly to improve airflow and efficiency.

Advice on conserving energy, including links to a wide range of information, also is available from the

Kentucky Division of Energy, on the Web at: <http://www.energy.ky.gov/>

Weatherization assistance for low-income families is available in Kentucky. Many utilities offer weatherization assistance in conjunction with local social service agencies.

Local social service agencies also offer assistance through a state program administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. For information on weatherization assistance, call 502-564-7536, Extension 4235, or go to: <http://cfc.state.ky.us/help/weatherization.asp>

For general information about cutting heating costs, utility issues or for assistance with resolving consumer disputes with utilities, contact the PSC by calling 800-772-4636 or go to the PSC Web site at: <http://psc.ky.gov>

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210-Job Listings

SEARS HOME IMPROVEMENT PRODUCTS
Come to work for Sears in the Home Improvement Business. There are nine (9) immediate sales openings. \$48k avg. income with potential to \$100k. Benefits include health/dental, bonuses, 401k, paid training, and advancement opportunities. Call Steve Ward at 800-282-6370 or fax resume to 407-551-0448, M/F/D/V. EOE We utilize drug testing and criminal background checks as a condition of employment

CDL Training in only 16 days start making \$700 to \$900 weekly, flexible lodging provided call today 866-686-6482

Our facility is currently recruiting Registered Nurses in the following areas: Medical/Pediatric Critical Care Unit Obstetric Department Surgical Floor We are also recruiting Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nurses Aides for the Medical / Pediatric Department. We offer an excellent benefit package. We are an EOE and We Drug Test. If interested in an exciting new career, call or forward resume to: Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center Human Resources Department 625 James S. Trimble Blvd. Paintsville, KY 41240 (606) 789-3511 Ext 1229

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

Get paid to Shop MysteryShoppers needed to pose as customers in local establishments. Valid email required PT/FT available (800) 290-7955

220-Help Wanted

290-7955 Medical Position
On call RN full time and part time Prorated benefits covering Johnson, Floyd, and Martin counties call 606-789-3841 Hospice of Bid Sandy, Inc 1520 KY, Hwy 1428 Hager Hill, KY 41222

Need a battery repair man and part time truck driver with

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POSITION OPTICAL/HEALTH FIELD, PERSONAL, OFFICE SKILLS A PLUS. WILL TRAIN. SEND RESUME : DR'S OFFICE, BOX 1473, MARTIN, KY 41649

Mountain Manor of Paintsville is taking applications for part-time and full time LPN positions. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Ky, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY.

OUR FACILITY IS currently recruiting Registered Nurses in the following Areas: Medical / Pediatric Critical Care Unit Obstetric Department Surgical Floor We are also recruiting Licensed Practical Nurses Aides for the Medical / Pediatric Department We offer an excellent benefit package. We are an EOE and We drug Test. If interested in an exciting new career, call or forward resume to Paul.B Hall Regional Medical Center Human Resources Department 625 James s. Trimble Blvd Paintsville, KY 41240 (606) 789-3511 Ext 1229

A coke/water route Electronic machines Indoor/outdoor sites, best prices/services LTD. 800-679-9124

Immediate Opening: Local Certified Public Accounting Office has an immediate opening for an entry level Receptionist. Personality, computer and organizational skills a must. Bookkeeping experience preferred but not required. Applicants will be trained on Company software. Excel and Word experience also preferred. If interested call 886-8040 or send resume to Michael R. Spears, CPA, P.O. Box 1270 Prestonsburg, KY 41653 for a confidential interview

POSITION AVAILABLE: LICENSED (P.T.A.) PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT, FULL TIME. COMPETITIVE SALARY. BENEFITS, ECT. PRIVATE PRACTICE, OUTPATIENT CLINIC. NEW GRADS WELCOME TO APPLY. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO PTA POSITION P.O. BOX 68, BETSY LAYNE, K.Y. 41605. QUESTIONS

Need someone to work and be dependable for more information call 606-886-1783

CALL 606-478-1111 OR 606-785-0629

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Help Wanted in Management Needed experienced Manager for Dollar Store must have Retail Management experience send resume to Dollar Mart 270 Dug Patch Center, London, Ky. 40741 c/o Atten Bruce

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e-Bay Opportunity! \$11- \$33 /hr. Possible. Training Provided. No Experience Required. For More Information Call 866-621-2384 Ext. 1998

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****ANNOUNCEMENT****
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INJURED? LAW-SUIT DRAGGING? Need Cash Now? We can help! Low rates, fast processing and no credit check! www.lawcapital.net or 800-568-8321.

Office Space for Lease
in the heart of downtown Prestonsburg. Entire first floor of the historic Harkins Law Office building, located on corner of W. Court Street & S. Arnold Avenue. Approximately 2,000 sq. ft.: 5 offices, including 1 with a private entrance, 1 reception/lobby, 1 walk-in safe, 1 storage room, and 2 baths. Contact: **Robert R. Allen (606) 886-6460.**

Manpower is seeking individuals interested in a variety of office and industrial assignments in Floyd and surrounding counties. Office applicants are required to have at least 1 year of office experience. Applications are taken Mon.-Fri. at our office, or you can send resumé to:
Manpower
311 North Arnold Ave. Ste. 503
Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Champion Support & Services, Inc.
126 Sycamore St., Harold, Ky. 41635
Phone: 606-478-4848 Fax: 606-478-4838

A successful human services company is seeking applicants interested in the following roles/disciplines:
Direct Care Provider in the Garrett area of Floyd County. Direct Care Providers assist individuals who have Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disabilities with bathing, grooming, hygiene, meal preparation, eating, etc. This is part-time work only. Typically, the needed hours are from 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Must be available to work every other weekend for a few hours, as well. Starting pay is determined by experience and other credentials (ranges from \$6.50-\$7.00/hour).

Direct Care Provider in the upper Mud Creek/Hi Hat area of Floyd County. See description of Direct Care Provider above and pay. This is part-time work only. Typically, the hours needed are from 7 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Monday thru Friday. Must also be willing to work one evening per week for approximately 4-8 hours, and every other weekend.

Direct Care Providers to work PRN (AS NEEDED) hours in the Harold, Mud Creek, and Prestonsburg areas. Have day and evening hours available.
Also seeking applicants for the full-time role of an LPN to work Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Starting pay negotiable. Work location is Harold. On-call one week per month.
If interested in any of the above positions, please contact Robin Cridler at 478-4848, Monday-Friday. Home Health & Nursing Home Experience is a plus!!!
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Furniture, used appliances, living / bedroom suits, bunk beds, and lots more! Call 606-874-9790.

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New & Used Furniture & Appliances @ unbelievable prices. Come in today for incredible savings. Shop At The Little Furniture Store & Savell Route. #122, McDowell. Call 606-377-0143.

475-Household

\$7.99! Stereo Speakers Seized property TV, Computers & More! from \$10.00! for more information call 800-366-0307 ext. P620

480-Miscellaneous

Antiques For Sale furniture and dishes also like new leather recliner. 1997-2004 Mustang gt - new tires and wheels 606-434-5551

Vintage Floyd County school annuals for sale 30's, 40's, 50's 60's and 70's 358-2873

For sale Electric power wheelchair excellent condition only used twice. call 874-1398 after 6

For sale modern hospital bed also a VCR call 358-2891 for more information

For Sale: 8 ft' deli cooler, \$950 and Gas convection oven, \$450. Call 606-886-2367.

Kay's Wallpaper 205 Depot Road Paintsville, Ky Hundreds of Patterns of Wallpaper & Borders

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To place your ad call 886-85061

REAL ESTATE

530-Homes

2 Story House for rent 5 bed room 1 bath with kitchen and dining room utility room on left Beaver at Hunter for more information call 606-285-0229

For Sale in Prestonsburg 2 BR Move in condition on Central Ave, 81,000.00 788-1461

550-Land & Lots

Land for Sale Located at Eastern Ky next to ACHS football field 3 Lots Estate of the late Jack and May Ratliff 606-422-9034 ask for Becky

LAND FOR SALE LOCATED AT WAYLAND, KY KNOWN AS GLOW HILL. ESTATE OF THE LATE JACK AND MAY RATLIFF. SOME FLAT AND SOME HILLSIDE PROPERTY. APPROX. 14 ACRES PLUS 606-422-9034 ASK FOR BECKY. SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY

For Sale 9 acres more or less on Samson fork at Dana, Ky. call 440-967-4088

For Sale Single Family residential lot, city amenities and restrictions asking \$25,000 call 606-237-4758

Clayton House

570-Mobile Homes

Trailer 14x80 with 2 1/2 car garage with approximately 1/4 acre land RT 680 McDowell call 502-905-4095 for more information

For Sale 3 bed room 2 full bath, Double wide, 3 years old for more information call 606-889-0937 or 606-889-9654 Small furnished

RENTALS

610-Apartments

Apt for rent just off Mt Parkway on old 114 886-8724

Two bedroom duplex with garage 550.00 per month 500.00 deposit 1 year lease required located at Lancer KY call 886-8781 between 6pm and 9pm

2 Bed room Apt. with central heat and air on U.S 23 1 mile west of Prestonsburg. No pets call 606-886-9747 or 606-886-9007

1 Bedroom Apt newly remodeled, very clean, furnished on Lake Rd in Prestonsburg 250.00 per month plus 250.00 deposit available immediately 704-824-2034

First Month's Rent FREE with Pd. Security Deposit through 12/25/04 Park Place Apartments in Prestonsburg. Disabled, Elderly, Handicapped & Available for immediate occupancy. Rent 1 bed room/\$309; 2 bed room/\$345 call 606-886-0039

Spacious 1 BR Apt, Newly Decorated in town. Paved off street parking, private. \$375.00 per month Dep Req. Cable and water furnished. Walking distance from downtown P-Burg. Ref. Req 886-2444 9am-6pm

For Rent Studio Apt furnished, clean, nice suitable for 1 person Deposit Required \$25.00 per month utilities extra 886-6208

For Rent 2 bed room town house Apt. Stove, Refrigerator W/D hook-up, \$450.00 a month plus utilities. \$250.00 deposit 1 year lease. No Pets, call 606-237-4758

Small Bachelor furnished Apt. for rent off Mountain Parkway on old 114, call 606-886-8724

1 bed room furnished Apt. for rent in down town Prestonsburg area, all utilities paid \$500.00 per month with 4250.00 deposit call 606-886-0010

For rent 2-bed room Apt located near Pike/Floyd Line 4500.00 per month call 606-478-8711 or 606-836-1501

House for rent 239 Francis Ct, Prestonsburg 1,400 sq. feet 2 bed rooms, 2 baths suitable for office, small business or residential not suitable for children or pets \$500 per month plus utilities, minimum 2 year lease, call 606-886-6362

For rent or lease Town House 2 bed room 2 1/2 bath Kitchen appliances furnished, washer/dryer furnished nice deck \$500.00 per month plus utilities located at Timberline Estates call 606-886-1997

Townhouse Apt for rent 2 bed room, stove refrigerator with W/D Hook-up in city limits on U.S. 23 and 80 \$450 per month plus utilities, no pets 1 year lease call 606-237-4758

2 bed room 1 1/2 bath Townhouse also 1 bed room furnished or unfurnished located in Prestonsburg, NO PETS call 606-886-8991

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 bed room Apt. Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$375. month, + \$300. deposit water included. Located near HRMC. 606-889-9717.

620-Office Space

For Lease Finished Office Space for lease in prime location near BSCTC, (PCC) and the new Food City -- 2100 -- sq. ft. Ground floor location with up to five private offices, conference room, kitchen, bath, parking lot call Today 606-424-2690 or 226-2266

630-Houses

Furnishes House. Nice and clean near Prestonsburg. Couple preferred Central Heat and air 606-886-2474

2 BR House for rent 583 Central Ave Prestonsburg 886-1416 or 788-1461 550.00 plus utilities

3 Bedroom House for rent, newly remodeled located on Mt. Parkway References required 886-8366

For rent 2 Bedroom house on Riverside Drive. No HUD or pets, 550.00 per month plus deposit 886-0124

Adult Education Teacher Opening
Job Description: Teach (part-time) students age 16 and up basic education, reading, math, GED prep, college prep, parenting, job skills etc., at various locations throughout Floyd County. Requirements: 4-year College Degree, Teacher Certification and experience preferred. Send cover letter, resume and references to **The David School, P.O. Box 1, David, KY 41616**. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews. The David School is an equal opportunity employer.

LAW OFFICE FOR LEASE
Former location of Wilson, Polites & McQueen. Located in Prestonsburg between the Strand Theatre and Community Trust Bank. **886-1312**

Employment Opportunity
Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center
Offers a rewarding opportunity for an **Information Technology Instructor**
Responsible for providing guidance/monitoring students ages 16-24 while teaching IT fundamentals. 2 yr. degree in computer science. Proficient in MS Office & Internet. Strong work ethic. Competitive salary & benefit package.
Qualified applicants may submit resumes and salary history to: scott.mabeline@jobcorps.org.
Or mail to:
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Carl D. Perkins Job Corps
475 Meadows Branch
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653
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Equal Opportunity Employer.

Country Cottage 2 BR 11/2 bath LG LR eat in Kit and dining room. W and D hookup. 1 1/2 miles from Clark School. Lease only 475.00 per month. 886-6219 or 886-8459

For rent 2 BR House at Garrett central heat and air, city water 450:00 per month plus utilities 358-2873

For rent 2 bed room house quiet neighborhood central heat and air, located in Martin, Ky. furnished, excellent condition for appointment call 606-285 -3025 or 606-285-9812

\$0 DOWN NO CREDIT OK! GOVT & BANK REPOS. \$0 TO LOW DOWN. FOR LISTINGS. 800-501-1777 EXT. 7372

NO RENT!!!! \$0 DOWN HOMES! GOVT & BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN. FOR LISTINGS, CALL 800-501-1777 EXT. 9821

Fire Your Landlord! \$\$\$ 0 DOWN HOMES! No Rent! Tax Reps & Bankruptcies! No Credit OK! \$0 to low down! For Listings 800-501-1777 Ext. 8351

640-Land & Lots

For Rent : newly constructed Mobile Home Lots in new Allen, reference required call 606-874-2212

Trailer lot for rent on old U.S. 23 between Prestonsburg and Paintsville call 606-886-9007 or 889-9747

650-Mobile Homes

For sale or rent a 1996 16x80 Norris mobile home. All appliances included Located between Paintsville and Prestonsburg. Will sale for \$17,000 or rent for 450.00 a month. For more info call 606-886-9729

720-Health/Beauty

FAMILY HEALTH CARE w/ Prescription Plan! \$69.95/mo: Best network, excellent coverage. No limitations! Includes Dental, Cond. OK! Call: WCS 800-288-9214 ext. 2328

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812 - Free

FREE PALLETS: can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

Classified ads Work!

850-Personals

When responding to Personal 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.

START DATING TONIGHT! Have fun meeting eligible singles in your area. Toll Free. 800-Romance ext. 9735

Secret Encounters 800-442-Meet 69 p/m Ladies Free!! 800-201-Talk visit - singles.com

A Women Wants To Meet You! Enter Free code 1910 Call 800-210-1010

735-Legal

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Floyd County Board of Education will receive sealed bids for Prestonsburg High School Energy Management System. Bids will be received by Greg Adams, Director of Facilities, 23 Martin Street, Allen, KY 41601, until 1 p.m., local time, December 16, 2004. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

Bids must be mailed or delivered to Greg Adams, Director of Facilities, 23 Martin Street, Allen, KY 41601, so as to arrive prior to the time established for their opening. All risks involved with the proper and timely delivery of any Proposal shall be assumed by the Bidder. Any bid which is not received on a timely basis or in the proper form shall be rejected. Facsimile transmissions ("Faxes") will not be accepted.

Proposals must be properly filled out and submitted in duplicate. No qualifying letters or statements will be considered. No bidder may withdraw a bid submitted for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

In the event the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fails to execute a satisfactory contract and bond, he/she shall be eliminated and shall forfeit their certified check, cash or Bid Bond and shall be liable for the loss occasioned by the Owner by such failures.

The bid security is required as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, a Contract will be immediately entered into and the performance of it properly secured. The Contractor awarded a Contract for this project will be required to provide a 100% Performance and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the attached Project Manual.

The Owner reserves the right to accept any or to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality therein, all as it deems to be in its best interests. FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
1, 2, 3, 4 Bedrooms
available for extremely low-income people at Highland Heights Apts. in Goble-Roberts Addn., and Cliffside Apts. on Cliff Road, Prestonsburg. Computerized learning centers offer social/educational programs for children and adults. All utilities included at Highland Hgts. utility allowance at Cliffside. Call (606) 886-0608, 886-1927, or 886-1819. TDD: 1-800-648-6056. Highland Heights and Cliffside Apartments do not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion and familial status.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 1-BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR PERSONS 55 AND OLDER
Located behind Wendy's and Pizza Hut in Prestonsburg. All utilities are included and the rent is based upon gross monthly income. Several activities, such as line dancing, crafts, bingo, movies, hair salon and church services. The apartments are furnished with a refrigerator, stove, emergency alarm system, and air conditioner. For more information, please call Highland Terrace at 606-886-1925, or come by the office for an application. Highland Terrace does not discriminate in admission or employment in subsidized housing on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status or disability.

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\$1,380 WEEKLY STUFFING ENVELOPES No Exp. Necessary! \$50 Cash Hiring Bonus! Guaranteed in Writing!! Call Today! 1-877-894-4716	ARE U \$\$ MOTIVATED? Learn to earn \$10K+/month from any location! 800-318-9787 ext.3023	GOV'T JOBS! WILDLIFE/POSTAL \$16.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits, Paid Training. Call for App./Exam Information No Experience Necessary! 1-888-269-6090 ext. 20
REDWOOD DRUGS Order Your Prescription Drugs from Canada Call Now and Save up to 50% Toll Free (866) 211-3768	FREE CASH GRANTS! \$47 billion left unclaimed 2003! Private, Government Grants for Personal bills, School, Business, etc. Never Repay! Live Operators! 1-800-410-2613 xt.40	

For advertising rates and information on National Classified Advertising: Contact **Brett Wallace** 1-800-821-8139 ext 255

Jerry's RESTAURANT
Prestonsburg
HELP WANTED: Waitresses, dish-washers/busboys, cooks. Paid vacation, health insurance available. Uniforms furnished.
No phone calls, please! Apply in person.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Floyd County Board of Education will receive sealed bids for Prestonsburg Elementary School Drainage Improvements. Bids will be received by Greg Adams, Director of Facilities, 23 Martin Street, Allen, KY 41601, until 1 p.m., local time, December 16, 2004. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

Bids must be mailed or delivered to Greg Adams, Director of Facilities, 23 Martin Street, Allen, KY 41601, so as to arrive prior to the time established for their opening. All risks involved with the proper and timely delivery of any Proposal shall be assumed by the Bidder. Any bid which is not received on a timely basis or in the proper form shall be rejected. Facsimile transmissions ("Faxes") will not be accepted.

Copies of the plans and specifications may be obtained from Richardson Associates Architects, 107 Main Street, Whitesburg, KY 41858 (606) 633-2263. Plans and specifications may be examined at the Office of the Architect and the Office of the Owner.

Each Proposal shall be accompanied by a BID BOND, executed by the Bidder and Surety Company, IN THE SUM OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE AMOUNT OF THE BASE PROPOSAL. The bid security is required as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, a Contract will be immediately entered into and the performance of it properly secured. The Contractor awarded a Contract for this project will be required to provide a 100% Performance and Payment Bond on the forms provided in the attached Project Manual.

Proposal Forms must be properly filled out and submitted in duplicate. No qualifying letters or statements will be considered. No bidder may withdraw a bid submitted for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

In the event the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fails to execute a satisfactory contract and bond, he/she shall be eliminated and shall forfeit their certified check, cash or Bid Bond and shall be liable for the loss occasioned by the Owner by such failures.

Any bid which is not received on a timely basis or in the proper form shall be returned unopened.

The Owner reserves the right to accept any or to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality therein, all as it deems to be in its best interests.

FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

436 Daniels Creek Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41502, has applied for a permit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation, affecting 269.6 acres and will underlie an additional 186.9 acres, located 4.5 miles northwest of Hueysville, in Floyd County.

The proposed operation is approximately 1.8 mile northwest from Route 2029's junction with KY Route 7, and located in Plummer Branch and Raccoon Branch of Saltlick Creek.

The proposed operation is located on the David and Handshoe U.S.G.S. 7-1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The operation will use the contour strip, area mining, and high-wall/auger methods of mining. The surface area is owned by Ollie Jack Howell, et al., G.M.O. Forestry Fund 3, LP, Effie Crager, Kenneth Wallace, Patrick Brian Ousley, Lowell Dean Shepherd, Glen Shepherd, Clinton Handshoe, Sylvia Warrix, Billy Tussey, Annie Handshoe, Elsie Wright, Thelma and Lurie Hoover, and Knott Floyd Land Company Inc. The operation will underlie surface area owned by Ollie Jack Howard, et al., G.M.O. Forestry Fund 3, LP, Effie Crager, Kenneth Wallace, Lowell Dean Shepherd, Glen Shepherd, Clinton Handshoe, Sylvia Warrix, Annie Handshoe, Elsie Wright, Thelma and Lurie Hoover, and Knott Floyd Land Company Inc.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant to Application Number 836-0300 Amendment No. 1

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that Motts Branch Coal, Inc., P.O. Box 2765, 436 Daniels Creek Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41502, has applied for an amendment to an existing underground coal mining and reclamation operation, located 2.9 miles northeast of Hueysville, in Floyd County. The amendment will add an additional 240.7 acres of surface disturbance and add an additional 81.8 acres of underground acres, making the total area within the permit boundary, 847.22 acres.

The amendment area is approximately 1.5 mile northwest from Route 2029's junction with KY Route 7, and located in Salyers Branch and Raccoon Branch of Saltlick Creek, and Mudlick Branch and Shepherd Branch of Brush Creek.

The proposed amendment is located on the Martin and David U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The amendment will use the contour, area mining and auger methods of mining. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Knott Floyd Land Company, Inc., et al., Johnie Sparkman, et al., Nelson Prater, Winifred and Stella Hale-Heirs, Lawrence Patton, et al., Carl and Mary Hayes, Shelby Jean Sparkman, Tramble Shepherd, Rändell Shepherd, Arnold Prater, John Henry Hale, Adrian Ousley, Taylor Prater, Margie Watson, Lucy Castle, Jerry Banks, Ronnie Castle, and CONSOL of Kentucky, Inc. It will underlie lands owned by Knott Floyd Land Company, Inc. et al., Johnie Sparkman, et al., Nelson Prater, Winifred and Stella Hale-Heirs, Lawrence Patton, et al., Carl and Mary Hayes, Tramble Shepherd, Rändell Shepherd, John Henry Hale, Jerry Banks, and CONSOL of Kentucky, Inc. The operation will affect an area within 100 feet of public road, Mudlick Branch County Road. The operation will not involve relocation of the public road.

The amendment application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653.

The amendment application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant to Application Number 836-0300 Amendment No. 1

Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. THIS IS THE FINAL ADVERTISEMENT of this application; all comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be received within 30 days of this date.

NOTICE OF BOND SALE

The Floyd County (Kentucky) School District Finance Corporation, will until 11 a.m., E.S.T., on December 8, 2004, receive in the office of Dr. Robert E. Tarvin, Executive Director of the Kentucky School Facilities Construction Commission, 229 West Main Street, Suite 102, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1879, competitive bids for its \$2,500,000 School Building Revenue Bonds, Series of 2004, dated December 1, 2004; maturing December 1, 2005 through 2024.

Bids must be on Official Bid Form contained in the Preliminary Official Statement deemed near final under SEC Rule 15c2-12(b)(1) available from Ross, Sinclair & Associates, Inc., 400 Democrat Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, or electronically at www.rsamuni.com. Bids may be submitted manually, by facsimile or electronically via Parity.

The Bonds will utilize the DTC Book-Entry-Only-System. Sale on tax-exempt basis, subject to approving legal opinion of Henry M. Reed III, Bond Counsel. The Bonds are "bank eligible" and Term Bonds are permitted.

FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE CORPORATION
By/ Dr. Paul Fanning, Secretary

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE

Pursuant to Application Number 836-5455 Amendment #1

In accordance with KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that Consol of Kentucky, Inc., P.O. Box 130, Mousie, Kentucky 41839 has applied for an amendment to an existing underground coal mining operation located 2.7 miles northeast of Handshoe, Kentucky in Floyd, Knott and Magoffin Counties.

The amendment will add 1.4 acres of surface mining a total of 3,360.00 acres within the amended permit boundary.

The proposed amendment area is approximately 0.3 miles Northwest from KY 2029's junction KY 7 and located on Plummer Branch of Raccoon Branch. The latitude is 37°29'46"N. The longitude is 82°52'55"W.

The proposed amendment is located on the Handshoe, David and Martin U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute Quadrangle map. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Dallas Sparkman and Consol of Kentucky, Inc. The operation will affect an area within 100 feet of public road State Route 7. The operation will not involve relocation or closure of the public road.

The amendment application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Natural Resources Prestonsburg Regional Office, 3140 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

THIS IS THE FINAL ADVERTISEMENT of the application. All comments, objections, or request for a permit conference must be received within thirty (30) days of today's date.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE

Pursuant to Application Number 898-5937, Amendment #3

In accordance with KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that Premier Elkhorn Coal

Company, P.O. Box 130, Myra, Kentucky 41549, has applied for an amendment to an existing underground coal mining and reclamation operation, located 1.5 mile south of Beaver, and situated in both Pike and Floyd County. The amendment will add 6.35 acres of surface disturbance, and 391.46 acres of underground area, making a total area of 397.81 acres within the amended permit boundary.

The proposed amendment is located approximately 1.1 mile south from the intersection of KY 979 and Tackett Fork Road, and located on Tackett Fork Road of the Big Sandy River.

The proposed amendment is located on the McDowell and Wheelwright U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The surface area to be affected by the amendment is owned by ACIN LLC, Ellen K. Hall, Eva June Vance, Johnson Family Trust, Polly Howell, Jacqueline Harrison, Willie B. and Anna Lou Mitchell, Anthony

Cerullo, and Russell C. Walker. The permit will underlie land owned by Ellen K. Hall, Eva June Vance, Johnson Family Trust, Jacqueline Harrison, Willie B. and Anna Lou Mitchell, Polly Howell, Nicky W. Taylor, Donald E. and Betty Brown, Gracie Brown, Trenia Brown Cecil, Russell C. Walker, Geneva Henson, Anthony Cerullo, Fred Henson Estate, Edith Henson, Marvin E. Flannery, Millie Tackett Estate, Amanda and Mildred Osborne, Oley Hall

Lulu M. Newsome, Robert Amanda Everage, Brad Newsome, Denny Newsome, Lonnie and Effie Bentley, Amos and Francis Little, ACIN LLC, Clark Heirs, Doris Newsome, Johnny and Dinah Bentley, and Leon Short.

The operation will affect an area within 100 feet a public road, Robinson Creek Road. The operation will not involve relocation or closure of the public road. The amendment proposes to add

treatment facility areas.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Pikeville Regional Office, 121 Mays Branch Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41501. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.



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If this sounds like it would be you, apply in person, only, at The Floyd County Times, 263 South Central Avenue, Prestonsburg, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 to 4:30.

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E.O.E.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE

Pursuant to Application Number 836-0308 In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Motts Branch Coal Inc., P.O. Box 2765,

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Tyrannosaurus rex

How did Sue find this fossil?
 "I was pretty lucky," remembers Sue. "But it does take more than just luck," she admits. Sue Hendrickson also knew the right kind of rock to explore.

Fossil Hunters Know Rocks

Different layers of rocks were formed at different times in the earth's history. This chart, called a **stratigraphic column**, can help you discover in which kinds of rocks T. rex fossils could be found.

Time	Rock Layer	Description
Paleocene 65 million years ago		Mudstone – flood plain deposit, contains mammal fossils
Cretaceous 144 million years ago		Sandstone – river deposit
Jurassic 206 million years ago		Shale – deep ocean deposit, contains ammonites, mosasaurs and plesiosaurs
Triassic 250 million years ago		Chalk – ocean deposit, contains marine reptiles
Paleozoic 540 million years ago		Limestone – shallow ocean deposit, contains shells

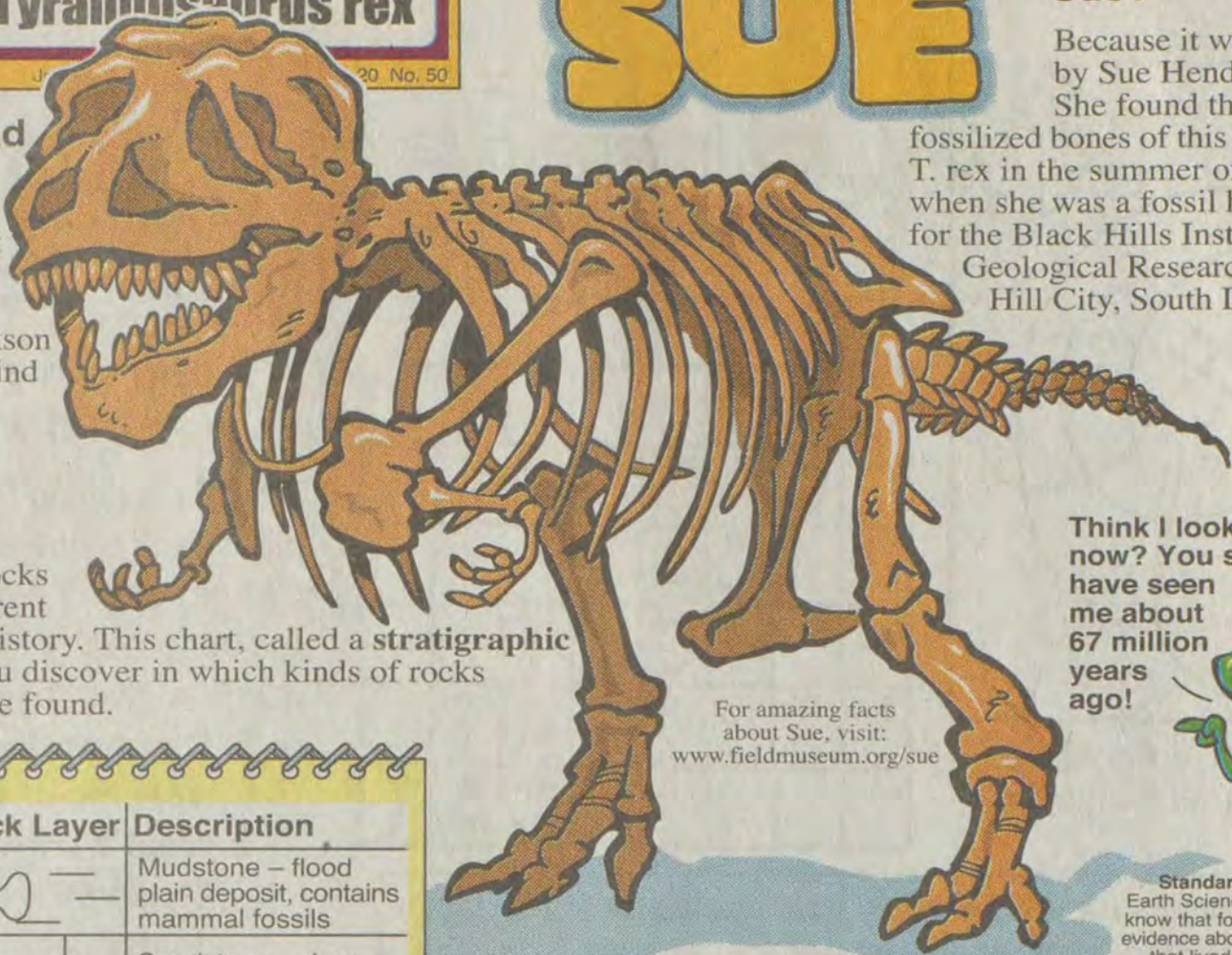
- Color layers that could include T. rex fossils blue.
- Color layers that are too young to contain T. rex fossils green.
- Color layers that do not contain T. rex fossils because they were deposited under an ocean yellow.



Tyrannosaurus rex lived in North America and Asia between 65-67 million years ago. They did not have wings to fly or fins to swim.

Stratigraphic Map & Geologic Map © The Field Museum, Chicago

A Dinosaur Named SUE



Below is a drawing of Sue – the largest, most complete and best preserved fossil of a Tyrannosaurus rex ever found.

Why is this T. rex named Sue?

Because it was found by Sue Hendrickson. She found the fossilized bones of this amazing T. rex in the summer of 1990 when she was a fossil hunter for the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in Hill City, South Dakota.

Think I look good now? You should have seen me about 67 million years ago!

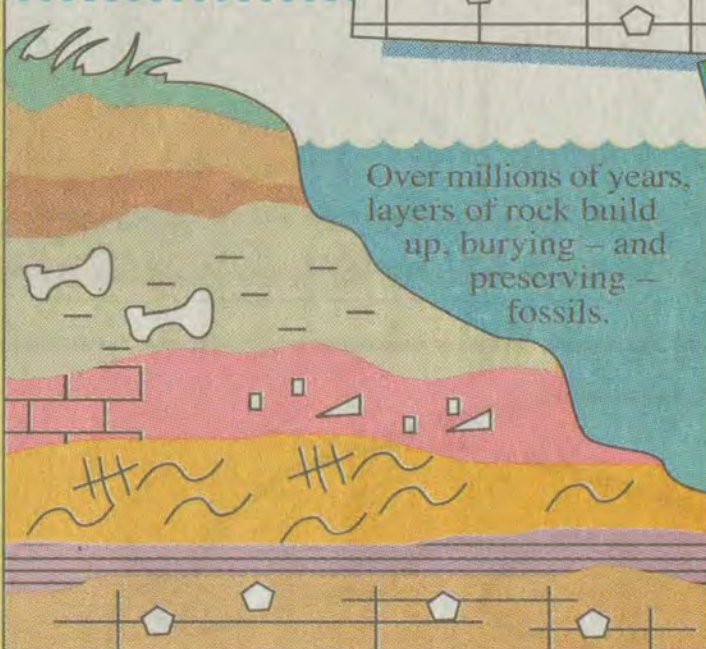
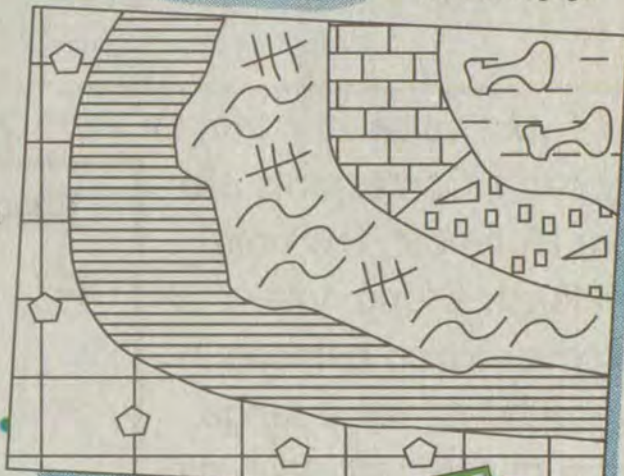


For amazing facts about Sue, visit: www.fieldmuseum.org/sue

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know that fossils provide evidence about the animal that lived long ago.

Where would you look?

Apply what you learned from the stratigraphic column to figure out where in this map you would look for dinosaur fossils.



Extra! Extra!

Adjective ABCs

Look through the newspaper and find 5 or more adjectives that would describe the T. rex called Sue. Put the adjectives in ABC order.

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetic order.

The Importance of Sue

The first T. rex specimen was found in 1900. Since then, only a handful of _____ that are more than half complete have been discovered. Sue's skeleton is 90 percent complete. Sue is the largest, most _____, and best preserved T. rex ever found.

Most of Sue's bones are in excellent condition and have a high _____ of surface detail. Sixty-seven million years after her death, it is still possible to see fine _____ showing where tendons and other soft tissues rested against, or attached to, the bone.

degree

Sue swiped some words out of this story. Can you figure out where each one belongs?

complete

details

skeletons

muscles



Copyright © The Field Museum

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know some kinds of organisms that once lived on Earth have completely disappeared.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

- GEOLOGICAL
- COLUMN
- MILLION
- PRESERVED
- SWIM
- SPECIMENS
- SURFACE
- ROCKS
- WINGS
- FOSSILS
- SOFT
- BONES
- HIGH
- BLUE
- SUE

E	U	L	B	H	N	C	F	D	T
L	A	C	I	G	O	L	O	E	G
S	W	G	X	L	I	M	S	V	E
E	H	E	U	S	L	A	S	R	C
N	R	M	K	W	L	R	I	E	A
O	N	C	I	X	I	I	L	S	F
B	O	N	M	W	M	N	S	E	R
R	G	T	F	O	S	E	F	R	U
S	S	N	E	M	I	C	E	P	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Wishing

Imagine you were a homeless child. What would you wish for?

- 1) A giant refrigerator with food and vegetables.
- 2) A home, clothing, and a shower or, else I would stink.
- 3) Some old games– I would make my own game out of wood to save money.
- 4) Medicine in case I get sick.
- 5) A bed.
- 6) Friends.

Erika

I would wish for what I have now; a warm cozy house, my own bedroom, and a nice backyard. Then, I'd wish for a nice school without any bullies and a wonderful teacher.

Gianna,
4th Grade

I would wish that I was rich, so I could give it to the people and my friends.

Yatzeni,
3rd Grade

If I was a homeless child, I would wish to have a home, family to love me, a school to go to, and clothes and shoes to wear. Thank God I have all this because it's important to grow up with all these things.

Veronica,
4th Grade

If I were a homeless child, I would wish for a horse, a dog that was about to have puppies, and a lot of other animals. I would wish for good food to eat and nice clothes to wear. Most of all, I would wish for a nice family.

Gracie,
3rd Grade

If I was a poor kid and I had one wish, I would wish for a hug from God.

Julia,
3rd Grade

I would wish for stuff that really helps, like a little house! It doesn't really matter if you don't have a big house, because at least you have something to sleep in!

Lizbeth,
4th Grade

If I was homeless, I would wish for caring parents.

Bryan,
3rd Grade

I would wish for a job for my grandma and my mom. My mom would probably be an electrician and my grandma would be working for peace in the world.

Andrea,
4th Grade

Write On!

Wishing

Deadline: Jan. 2, 2005
Published: Week of Jan. 30, 2005
 Send your story to:
 Wishing
 P.O. Box 390
 Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653

Please include your school and grade.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

News of Discovery

Look through the newspaper for an article that tells about a new discovery. Read the article and then identify **who, what, when, where, why** and **how**.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify main idea and supporting details in a newspaper article.

What do you get when you mix a dinosaur with a lemon?



ANSWER: A dino-sour.

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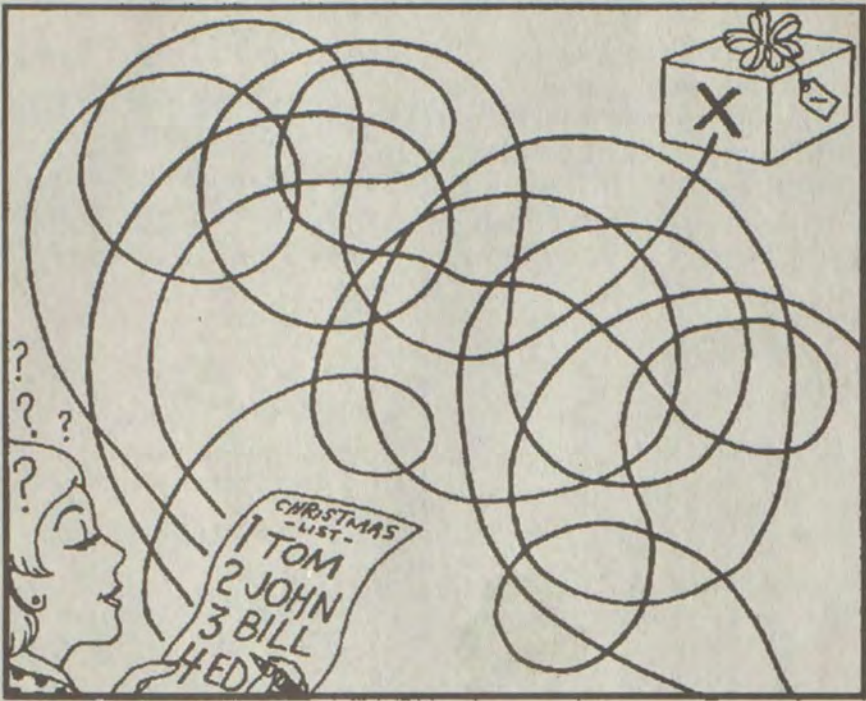


Mayor Fannin
 and
 City Council

COLORING PAGE

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



GIFT WRAP! Which person—Tom, John, Bill or Ed—gets the gift above? Pick name, then trace line to see if correct.

1	C	A	T				
2		C	A	T			
3			C	A	T		
4				C	A	T	
5					C	A	T
6						C	A

SUM TRICK! Pick a number between 1 and 9. Multiply your choice by 11. Multiply result by 9091. Alakazam, your original number will appear fore and aft in the final product.

SING ZING! A test to see if your voice is in trim for the holiday season makes amusing fare for a holiday party. Contestants are judged on ability to reach a high note, low note, loud note, and last but not least, a long note.

It is interesting to discover which persons in a given group possess the greatest voice range, lung power, etc. A prize is suggested for each category.

Winners themselves often may not be aware of their musical prowess. Why not give it a try?



CAT OUT OF BAG WORD-WISE?

INSERT missing letters to complete each of the six stepped-off CAT words in the diagram at left. A clue to each of the eight-letter words is given below.

1. Class or division in a scheme of things.
2. What a crowd does when it leaves a concert, for instance.
3. R&R period; freedom from the grind.
4. Instructor; person eminent in the teaching field.
5. Move to another city, perhaps.
6. Homeless feline (two words).

See how quickly you can find the answers.

1. Category. 2. Scatters. 3. Vacation. 4. Educator. 5. Relocate. 6. Alley cat.

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Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

My Kid Scoop™

Vol. 3 No. 50

© 2004 by Vicki Whiting, Editor

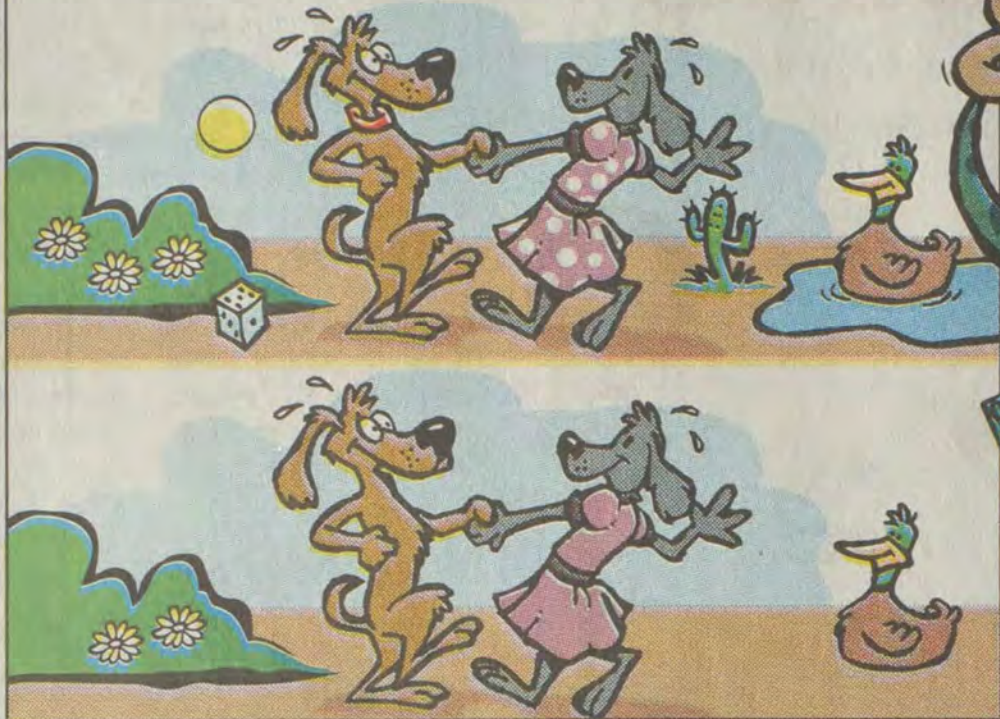
Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name: _____

Learning Buddies: Spell your child's first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

What's Missing?

Look at both pictures. Do they look the same? Not quite! There are 7 things in the top picture that are missing from the picture on the bottom.



My Rhyme Time

Hey Diddle Diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

My Letters

D is for Dinosaur
d is for dinosaur



Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter D. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound that the letter D makes in the word dinosaur?

My Numbers

How many ?

How many ?

How many ?



Learning Buddies: Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.



Dinosaurs are _____



Sunday

Letter Identification
With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that start with the same sound as the letter D in dinosaur.

Monday

Math Play
Point to the number 7 in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Shape Search
Look through the newspaper for these shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle and diamond. Trace and color the shapes that can be found.

Wednesday

Sorting
Cut out pictures of animals, people and things from the newspaper. Have your child sort these into the three groups.

Thursday

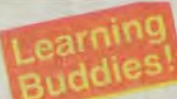
Eight Eyes
Find and cut out four pairs of eyes, so that you have 8 eyes. Show your child how pairs can be counted by 2s.

Friday

Lost and Found
Read an advertisement to your child about a lost pet. Ask your child to pretend to be that animal and tell how you got lost. Ask how it feels to be lost. Talk about how you can prevent becoming lost.

Saturday

How Big Was It?
Look in a book or on the Web for information on the size of different dinosaurs. Cut strips of newspaper, measure them and lay them out to show how tall or long an apatosaurus or a tyrannosaurus or any other dinosaur was.



My Kid Scoop comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill.

Step by Step Success 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

Wishing Well®

7	4	7	5	7	8	4	3	6	4	2	8	2
Y	B	O	A	U	Y	E	S	B	R	A	O	N
7	6	7	2	4	5	8	2	3	8	6	7	8
A	E	R	A	E	S	U	L	P	A	D	E	R
5	8	2	7	8	3	5	7	8	5	7	5	8
S	E	Y	O	C	R	I	N	A	S	C	T	L
5	8	7	4	8	4	5	6	5	4	2	8	4
O	L	O	A	E	S	T	E	H	O	Z	D	N
6	3	7	2	6	5	4	8	7	8	2	5	4
C	E	U	E	I	E	A	T	R	O	E	R	B
6	5	7	3	7	3	6	2	4	2	8	4	8
S	S	S	A	E	D	I	M	L	O	S	E	E
2	6	8	2	6	2	3	8	2	8	2	3	3
T	V	R	I	E	O	J	V	N	E	S	O	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Rational Numbers

by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.

1		2	3	4	
5	6		7		8
		9			
10				11	
		12			
13	14			15	16
		17			

- ACROSS**
- Thirty less than 9-Across
 - One-seventh of 11-Across
 - Four more than 12-Across
 - Digits of 17-Across reversed
 - Five more than 5-Across
 - Same digit repeated
 - 2-Across plus 6-Down
 - Sum of the digits is 10-Across
 - 10-Down minus 5-Across
 - Six more than 8-Down

- Three less than 13-Across
- Four more than 10-Across
- Thirty more than 10-Down
- Seven times 1-Down
- Two times 16-Down
- 7-Across plus 8-Down
- The last digit is the sum of the other digits
- 5-Across plus 1-Down
- One more than 14-Down

Rational Numbers answers

4	3	6	2
1	1	5	0
3	9	2	8
1	6		7
0	4	9	8
6	5	5	9
2	9	3	3

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What is a laser?

The word laser stands for **light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation**.

Lasers **amplify** (make greater) their initial light so that a very bright and compact beam may be created.

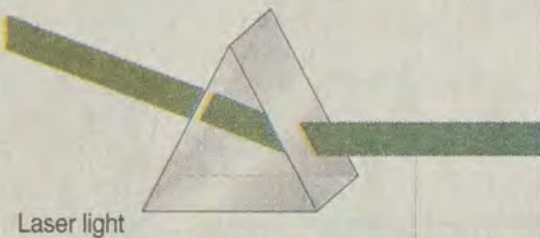
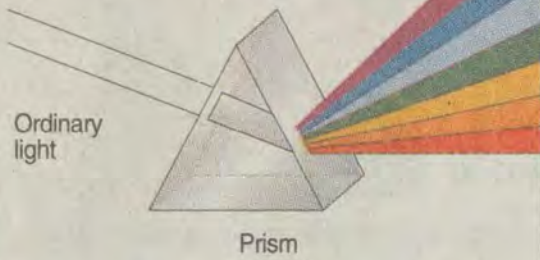
A laser may begin with just a few photons, but it creates many more. The photons are amplified by **stimulating** an atom to release more photons.

Emission is the giving off of photons. What we see as a laser beam is the **radiation** of the photons being emitted.

It makes a difference

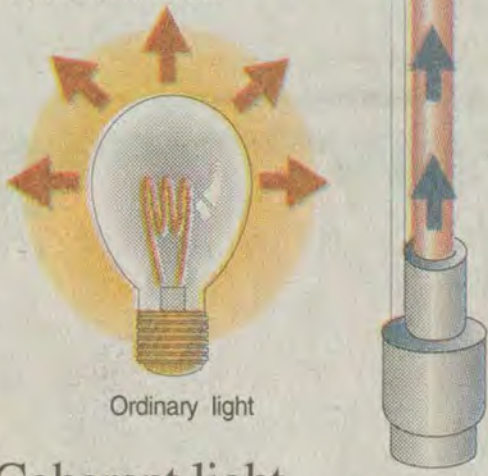
Laser light is different from ordinary light in four important ways:

- It is more intense
- It produces a very narrow beam
- The beam is made of one pure color
- Laser light is coherent



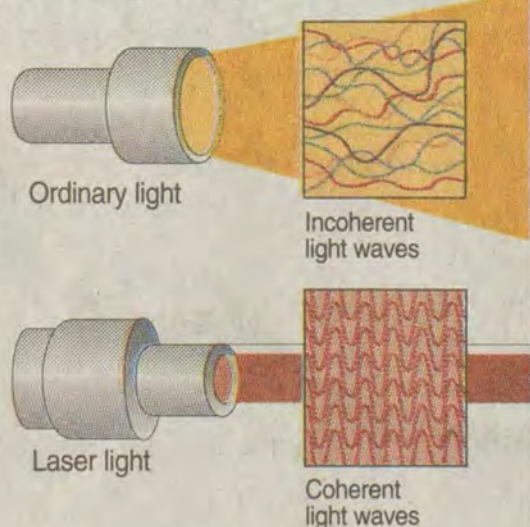
One difference between ordinary light and laser light can be demonstrated with a prism. When ordinary light passes through a prism it splits into a rainbow of separate colors. Laser light will not do this because it is **monochromatic** (made up of one color).

The diagram below illustrates how ordinary light spreads out and loses intensity, while laser light moves in a straight line that does not fade.



Coherent light

Light that has low divergence (spreading) and is monochromatic (a single color) is called **coherent** light. This kind of light is very organized. The waves or **photons** of laser light move together, traveling in one direction along a narrow path. This means that laser beams can travel long distances without losing intensity.



The diagram above illustrates the difference between incoherent and coherent light waves. Ordinary light is made up of a jumble of colorful light waves of different wavelengths. Laser light waves are all the same length and in step with each other.

World of Wonder

EXPLORING THE REALMS OF HISTORY, SCIENCE, NATURE & TECHNOLOGY

LASERS

Once the topic of science fiction, lasers are now used in so many ways that it would be hard to imagine life without them.

Imagine that

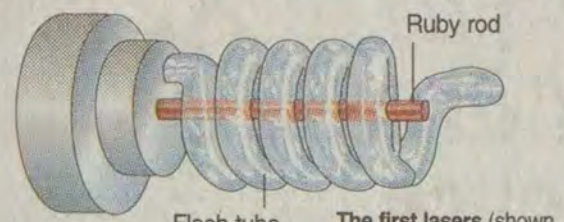
Albert Einstein described the process that makes lasers possible in 1917. In 1954, American scientist Charles H. Townes built a device that amplified microwaves. This paved the way for experiments dealing with the amplification of light, and many scientists worked on the basic design of lasers. In 1960, an American named Theodore H. Maiman created the first laser using a ruby rod as the active medium. The same year, Ali Javan built the first gas laser. In 1962, the first semiconductor laser was built. Dye lasers were developed in 1966.



Albert Einstein

Charles H. Townes

Ali Javan



Flash tube

Ruby rod

The first lasers (shown above) used a ruby rod as the active medium and a coiled flash tube as the energy source.

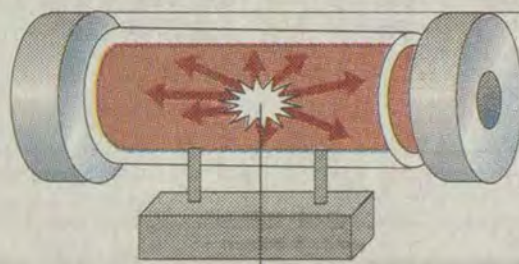
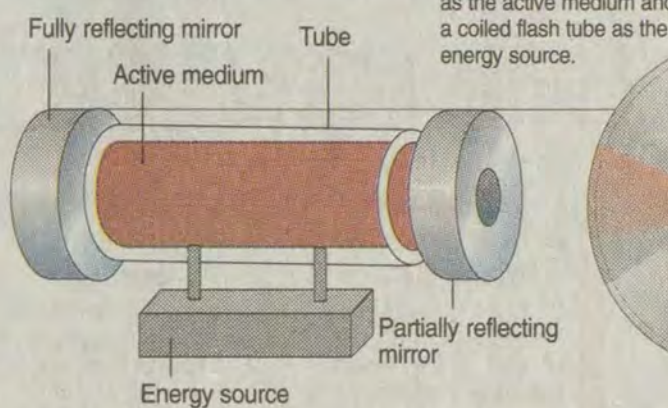
How it works

Lasers harness atoms to store and emit light. All lasers use an **active medium** (material that generates the laser beam). Depending on the type of laser, the medium can be a solid, liquid or gas. Each medium gives off its own characteristic color and wavelength.

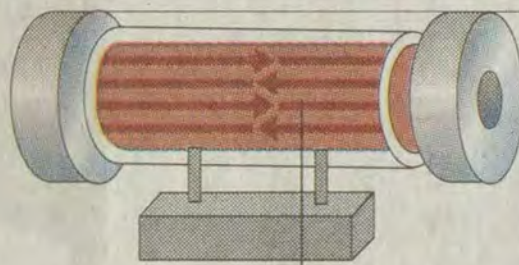
The active medium is encased in a tube (optical cavity) between two mirrors or reflective surfaces. One of the mirrors is less reflective, which allows the light to leave the tube when the desired intensity is achieved.

The power source is usually an electric current or a flash of light from another laser. When it is turned on, it feeds energy to the atoms in the active medium. The first burst of radiation is absorbed by atoms in the medium. As the atoms absorb the energy they become excited, producing more and more photons, or light waves.

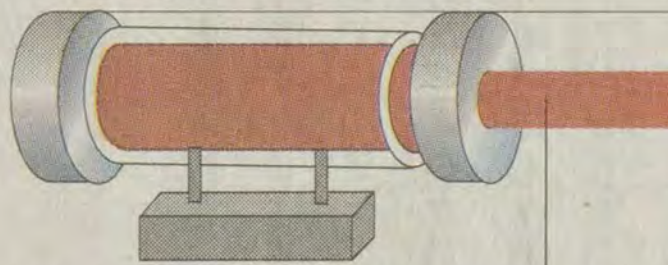
The photons bounce back and forth between the mirrors, creating more and more photons until they are strong enough to break through the partially reflecting mirror as a laser beam. The power of the laser beam depends on how much energy it can release in a given time.



A burst of light excites atoms, which give off photons



Laser light (photons) are reflected back and forth

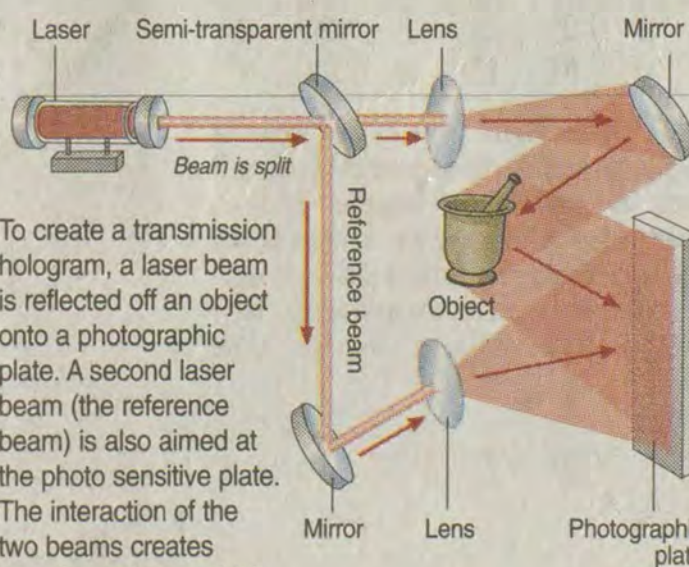


Laser beam escapes through the partially reflecting mirror

Holograms

Holograms use lasers and a light-sensitive plate to create a three-dimensional photographic image. Holograms can be viewed from all sides and could be thought of as a sculpture made of light. Holograms can be used to detect stress, flaws or vibrations/motions in objects like airplane wings or automobile tires.

To view or illuminate the hologram, another laser beam is aimed at the light sensitive plate. White light such as sunlight can also be used for illumination, but the result is less refined and produces a rainbow effect.



To create a transmission hologram, a laser beam is reflected off an object onto a photographic plate. A second laser beam (the reference beam) is also aimed at the photo sensitive plate. The interaction of the two beams creates complex patterns which re-create the image in three dimensions.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; The World Almanac for Kids, World Almanac Books; The Inside Story: Lasers, Gloucester Press; Lasers in Action, The Bookwright Press

Types of lasers

There are four main kinds of lasers: solid-state, semiconductor, gas and dye.

Solid-state lasers use a rod of solid material (such as glass or crystal) as the active medium. These extremely powerful lasers usually generate pulsed lasers that create short bursts of light.

Semiconductor lasers (also called diode lasers) are very compact and efficient. Some are as small as a grain of sand. Fiber-optic communications, CD and DVD players use semiconductor lasers.

Gas lasers use gas as the active medium. The gas is generally trapped inside a glass of quartz tube. Gas lasers are used at rock concerts, and for eye surgery, holography, printing and scanning.

Dye lasers use a dye as the active medium. Dye lasers have the advantage of being tunable (or can be "tuned" to emit laser light over a continuous range of wavelengths or frequencies), which makes them an excellent research tool.

What they can do

- Lasers are used to record and play music, computer data and other information on CDs and DVDs.
 - Fiber-optics convert electrical signals of telephone calls, television or computer data into bursts of light. Very fine strands of glass or plastic conduct the light.
 - Lasers are used for computer printing and scanning. Price scanners in grocery stores use lasers to read bar codes. Post offices, banks and libraries all use laser scanners and bar codes to keep track of mail, checks and books. Holograms (three-dimensional images created by lasers) are sometimes put on credit cards to prevent counterfeiting.
 - Lasers are used in the world of entertainment for light shows and for special effects at concerts or other shows.
 - The manufacturing industry uses lasers to cut, drill, weld and engrave.
- This is just a short list of laser uses. You can probably think of many more.

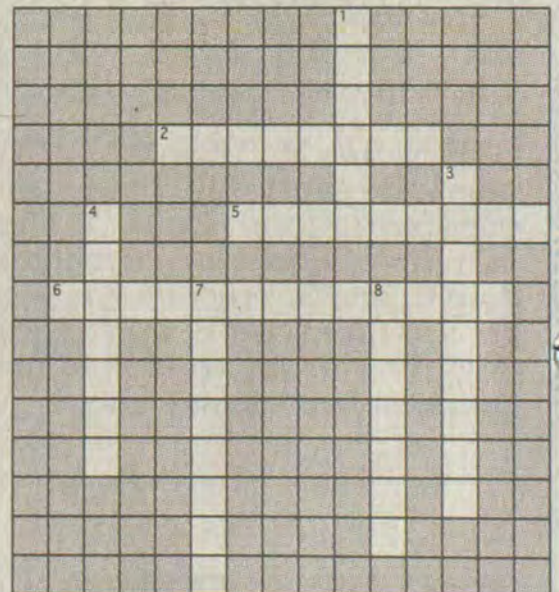
Crossword

ACROSS

- The radiation off of photons
- This is done to an atom to release more photons.
- Made up of one color

DOWN

- Name for a material that generates a laser beam
- When photons are emitted, this is what we see as a laser beam.
- Light waves
- Light that does not spread and is made of one color.
- To make greater or larger



- ANSWERS
ACROSS
2 EMISSION
5 STIMULATE
6 MONOCHROMATIC
DOWN
1 MEDIUM
3 RADIATION
4 PHOTONS
7 COHERENT
8 AMPLIFY

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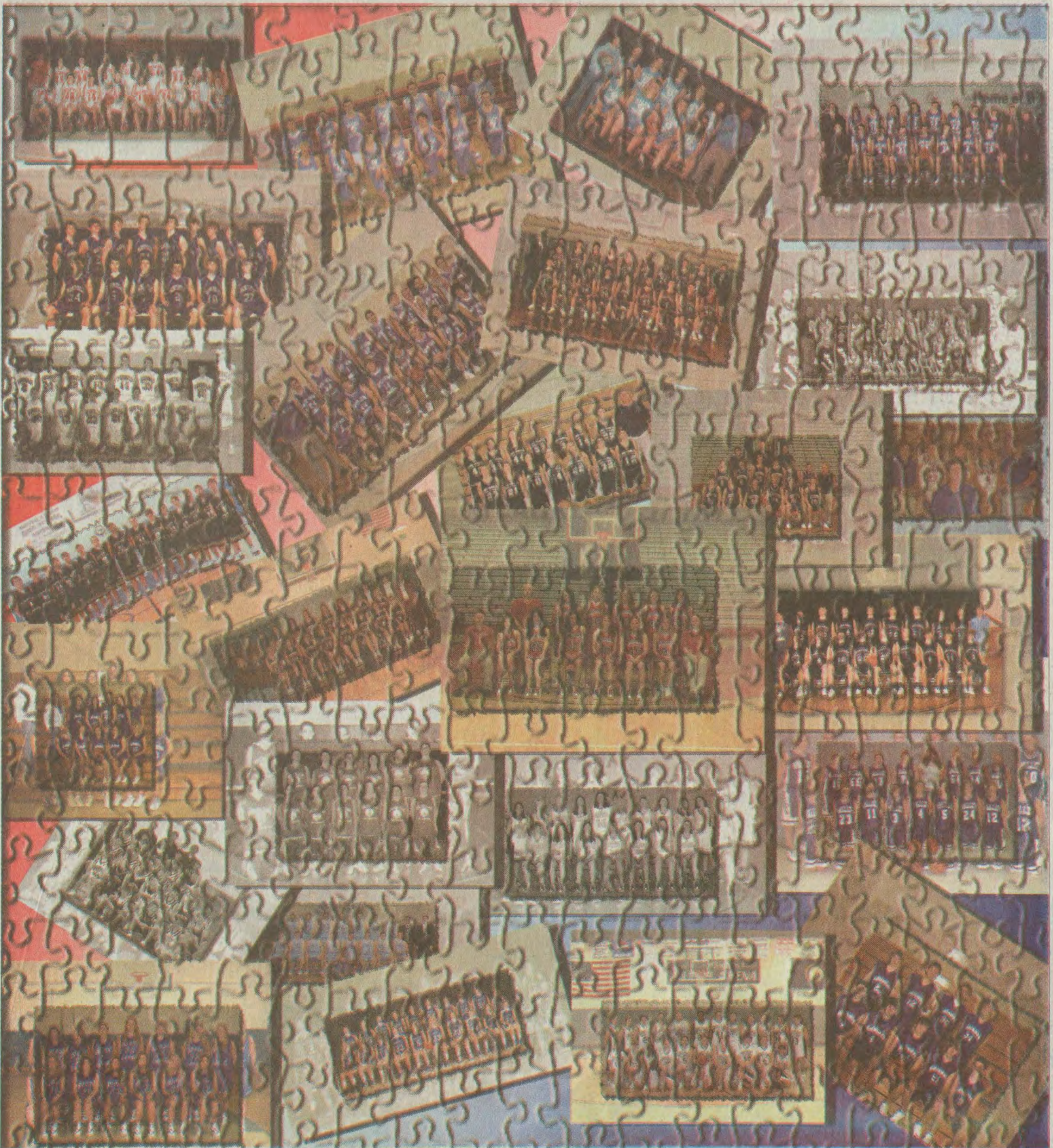
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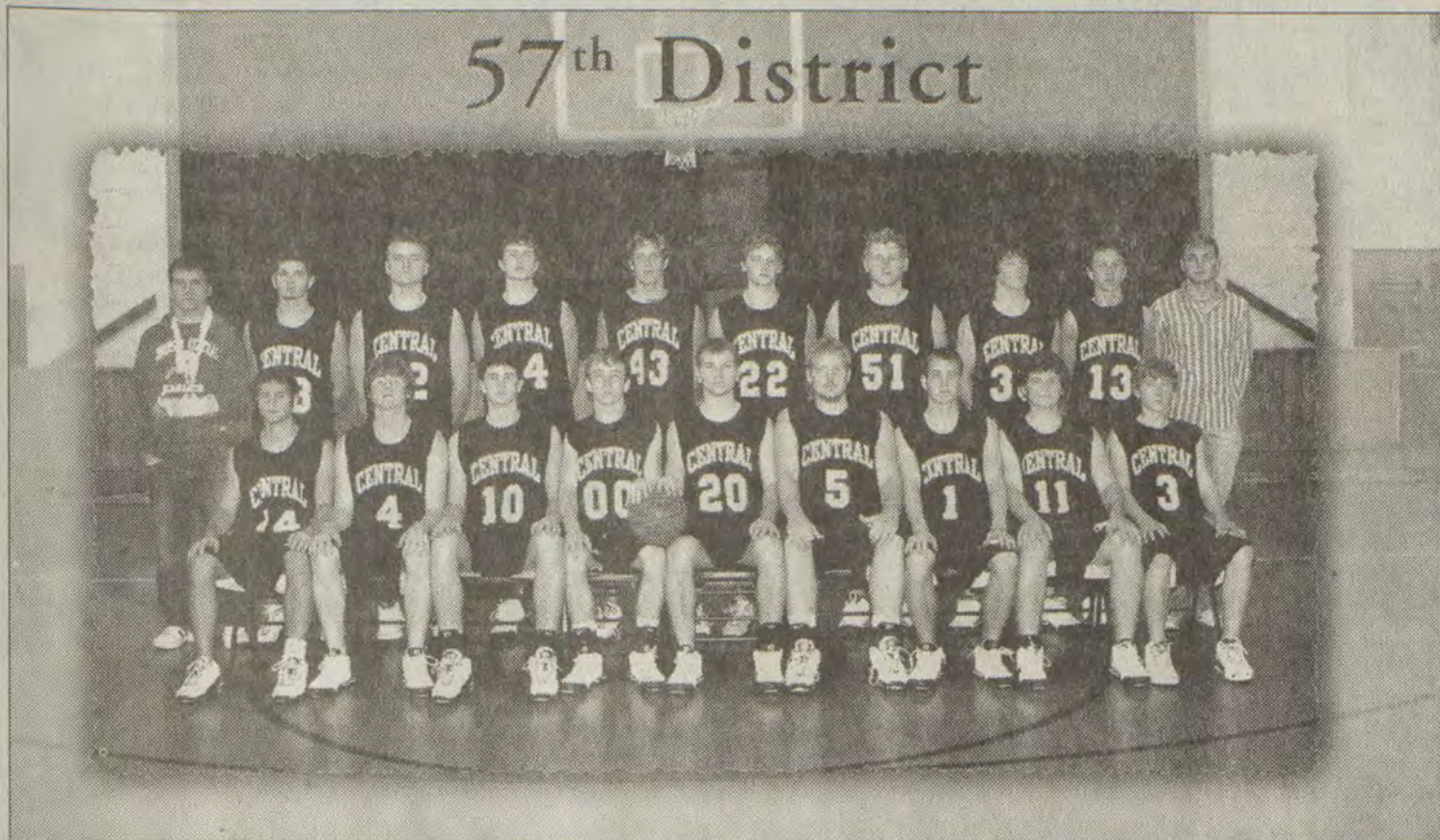
SECTION

S

15th Region High School Basketball 2004/05



57th District



JOHNSON CENTRAL GOLDEN EAGLES

COACH: LES TRIMBLE

Dec. 3	South Floyd
Dec. 7	at Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Sheldon Clark, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Portsmouth, Ohio, 2 p.m. (at Greenup County, Pepsi Shootout)
Dec. 20	Beth Haven, 8 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 21	Franklin County, 8 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 22	Rowan County, 9 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 23	Lee County, 6 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 28	Muhlenberg South, 2 p.m. (at Adair County Invitational)
Dec. 29-30	at Adair County Invitational
Jan. 4	at Boyd County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	Magoffin County, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Paintsville, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Sheldon Clark, 8 p.m.
Jan. 25	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	Lawrence County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Magoffin County, 8 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Paintsville, 8 p.m.
Feb. 22	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.

Four talented starters return for Golden Eagles

Johnson Central (14-13) again appears to have one of the most talented 15th Region boys' basketball teams. The Golden Eagles finished last season just one game over the .500 mark at 14-13, but the season had its bright spots, even though the Golden Eagles bowed out in the first opening round of the 57th District Tournament, losing to tourney host Magoffin County, thus not making it into the 15th Region Tournament. After losing three valuable starters, including point guard Chris Hurt, at

the end of the 2003 season, Johnson Central, under the guidance of Coach Les Trimble, sent a somewhat young team into battle during the 2003-04 season. Only one starter, three-point threat Mikey Walters, doesn't return from last season's team. With that, four starters return for the Golden Eagles.

Coming in highly touted each of the past two seasons, Johnson Central is again considered among the top contenders for the 15th Region crown.

The Golden Eagles boys' basketball program is now four years-plus removed from a 15th Region title captured under Johnny Ray Turner.

One of the top returnees for Johnson Central is senior guard Nick Music (6-2, 170), a player who during the preseason, nursed an ankle sprain. Senior guard/forward Tony Hatfield (6-3, 170) and senior forward/center Josh Stapleton (6-4, 210) also return for a Johnson Central team that packs a punch.

Cory Caudill, a star for the Golden

Eagle football team during the 2004 football season is another senior on the Johnson Central roster. Caudill will get his minutes from a reserve role.

Hatfield is a player that can play and excel both inside and out. Hatfield will rank as one of Johnson Central's top scorers.

Juniors Tyler Whitaker (6-0, 160, G/F), Sean Music (6-0, 175, G) and Kyle Rice (6-2, 165, F/C) are other experienced returnees along with sophomores Jamie McCarty (6-2, 185,

G/F) and Justin Blanton (5-10, 160, G).

The Johnson Central coaching staff expects McCarty, now a starter as a sophomore, to ultimately provide a bulk of the scoring for a team that has a nice mix of veteran and talented young players.

Sean Music and Rice were each strong contributors for the Golden Eagles last season. Blanton saw some varsity playing time and is expected to take on an even bigger role during the season ahead.

Others expected to contribute for

the Golden Eagles include juniors Shawn Johnson and Ryan Fannin, sophomores Tyler Crum, Jesse Meek and Tommy Taylor, and freshman Justin Murray.

Johnson Central will host a tournament prior to Christmas. The Golden Eagle boys have experienced three straight winning seasons under Trimble and his staff. Johnson Central is 47-35 over the past three seasons.

An obvious preseason goal for Johnson Central is a return trip to the 15th Region Tournament.

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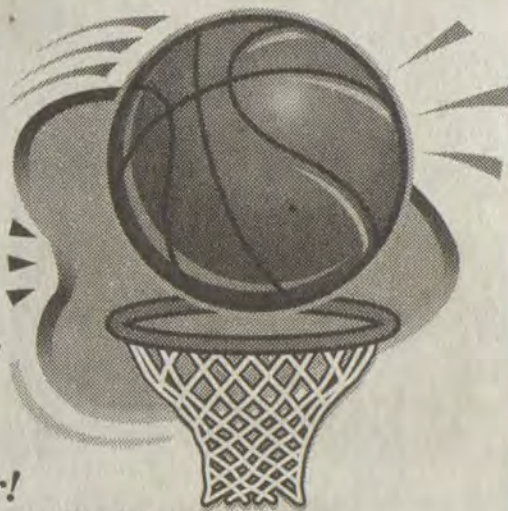
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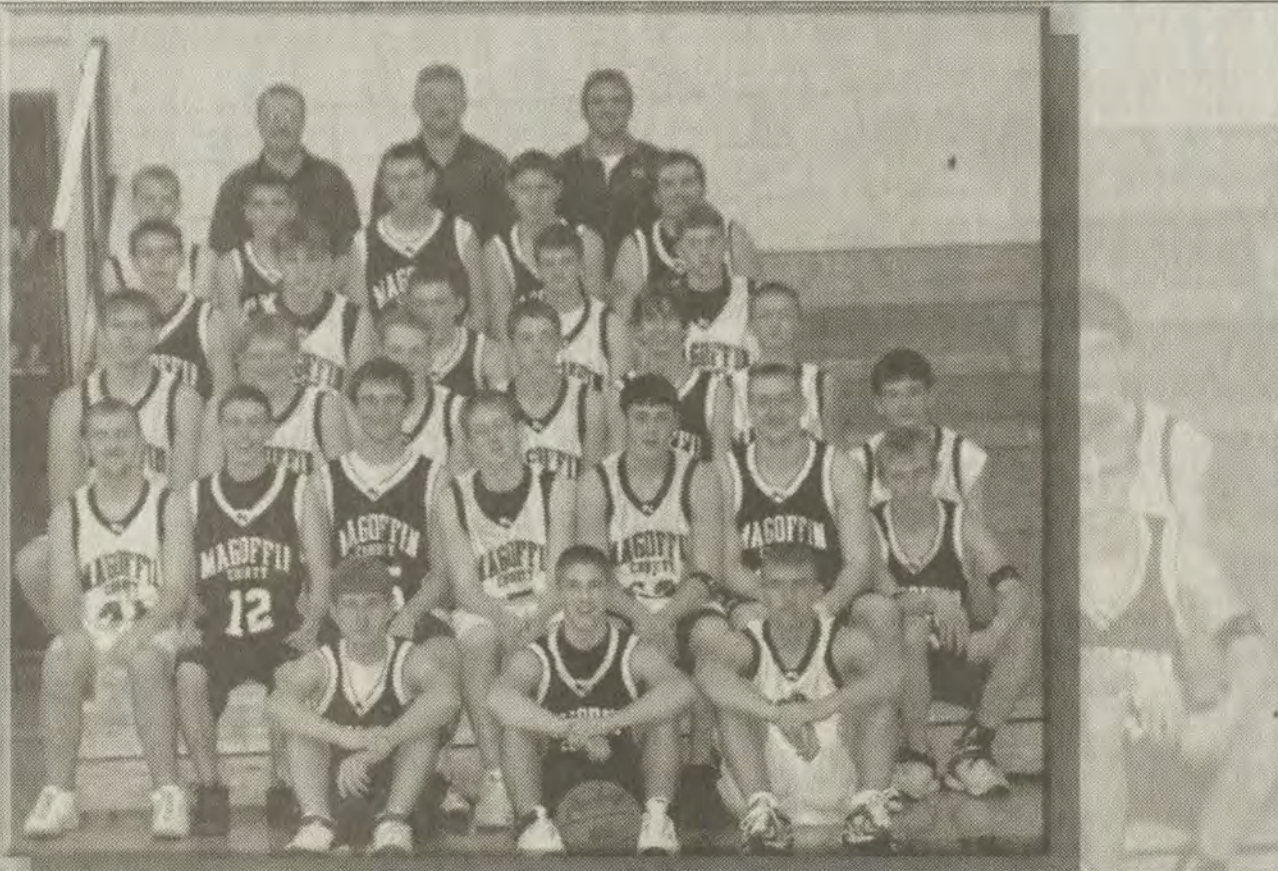
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57th District



MAGOFFIN COUNTY HORNETS

COACH: NEIL WEST

Nov. 30	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Jenkins, 7:30 p.m. (Jenkins Holiday Classic)
Dec. 18	Letcher, 5:30 PM (Jenkins Holiday Classic)
Jan. 7	at Johnson Central, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Breathitt County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Breathitt County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Estill County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Knott County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Lee County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Johnson Central, 8 p.m.
Feb. 12	Fairview, 7:30 PM
Feb. 15	Pikeville, 7:30 PM
Feb. 18	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Powell County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	at Pike County Central, 6 p.m.

Schedule subject to change

Hornets have new hope under new coach

Kentucky high school boys' basketball coaching legend Danny Adams has left the Hornet sidelines. Adams, who coached the Magoffin County High School boys' basketball program 20-plus seasons, announced his retirement from the roundball sport this past spring. Adams, who starred in the college basketball ranks at nearby Pikeville College, made a name for himself as a boys' basketball coach and left an indelible mark

on the lives of the many players that passed through his basketball program. He had several 20-win seasons, but never won a 15th Region title, instead finishing runner-up on a couple of different occasions. But that shouldn't take away from his coaching career. Now, Adams has passed the coaching torch to Neil "Nehi" West. No stranger to the roundball sport, West comes to the Magoffin County High boys' basketball

program from the Lady Hornet girls' basketball program, a program he made a winner and led to the top of the 57th District last season, while pushing all other 15th Region teams.

While coaching the MCHS girls' basketball program, West played an up-tempo style of basketball. His Lady Hornet teams never shied away from pushing the basketball up and down the floor or stopping and pulling for

the three-pointer or jump shot. If it was a good shot, West wanted his players to take it, regardless.

West got the MCHS boys' basketball team busy during the summer. After back-to-back losing campaigns, he's hoping to turn the MCHS boys' program back into a winner.

Seniors returning for the Hornets include Clifton Barker (5-10, G) Courtney Conley (5-10, G) and Brad Ison (5-10, G/F). The talented senior trio will be looked

to in the way of both scoring and leadership, not to mention strong, take charge defensive play.

Juniors Wesley Helton (6-1, F) and Brandon Shepherd (5-9, G) and sophomore Eric Arnett also return. Despite winning just three games last season, Magoffin County managed to make it into the 15th Region Tournament. The Hornets, playing on their home hardwood, upset Johnson Central and sent the Golden Eagles home

early and out of the postseason. Much of the talent from last season's team will look to build on the strong play displayed at the end of last season. Magoffin County last made a strong run at a 15th Region title during the 2002-03 season. The Hornet boys' basketball program always has a rather large fan base that follows it wherever it goes.

These Hornets are down, but far from out.

PEPSI

Good Luck to All Teams!!!

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57th District



PAINTSVILLE TIGERS	
COACH: BILL MIKE RUNYON	
Nov. 30	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	Lee County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Riverside Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Magoffin County, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Harlan, 11 a.m. (at East Ridge, Warrior Classic)
Dec. 14	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Jackson City, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Hilton Head, SC, 4 p.m. (Seahawk Holiday Classic)
Dec. 27	Tiger HOOPS Classic at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Johnson Central, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	15th Region All "A"
Jan. 25	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Jackson City, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Riverside Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Johnson Central, 8 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Tug Valley, W.Va., 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change

These Tigers are young, but they can play

Veteran high school boys' basketball coach Bill Mike Runyon has plenty of young talent to shape and mold. Runyon has a Paintsville High boys' basketball team that could quite possibly on several nights out this high school basketball season start five freshmen. Yes, five freshmen, boys ages 14 or 15, starting on a high school basketball team.

But these freshmen Tigers are highly touted and very talented.

The Tigers suffered through a losing season during the 2003-04 campaign, just the third in Runyon's 22

seasons at the helm of the program.

Sophomore Daniel Pugh, a three-sport star expected to help make things happen for the Tigers during the 2004-05 season, will not be back in the Paintsville backcourt. Pugh, who also plays and stands out in the sports of football and baseball, chose not to make a return to the Tiger hardwood. As a freshman, he made quite an impact in the 15th Region and led Paintsville in scoring on many nights.

A quarterback in football and a versatile baseball player who can play various positions on the diamond, Pugh

has decided to take a season off from the basketball court and devote more of his time to offseason training in the sports of football and baseball.

Two of the Paintsville freshmen started last season as eighth-graders. Every player on the Paintsville roster, could, at some point during the upcoming season, contribute.

Perennial 15th Region power Paintsville (6-16) is at a loss for senior talent, but the Tigers make up for final-year players with a seasoned group of younger players.

Paintsville's junior class includes

forward/center Kevin Williams (6-4, 200) and guard Aaron Penix (5-9, 150). Both athletes are coming off first seasons of high school football. Both earned starting positions on the gridiron, sticking out the most on the defensive side from end positions.

The Tiger hoops coaching staff looks for the play of Williams to be one of the team's main keys to success.

J.D. VanHoose (6-1, 170) and Blake Bundy (6-0, 160) both started as eighth-graders and return as freshmen. VanHoose and Bundy each gained a wealth of experience during

the 2003-04 season.

Freshman guard Shane Grimm and freshman guard/forward Landon Slone will both enter the Paintsville varsity basketball program and play right away. Grimm is a lifelong Tiger, while Slone, along with another freshman, Jeremy Pack, enter the Tiger roundball program from Floyd County, via Martin's Mountain Christian Academy.

Slone set the middle school ranks on fire last season, leading MCA to a second straight Floyd County middle school crown. He's playing high

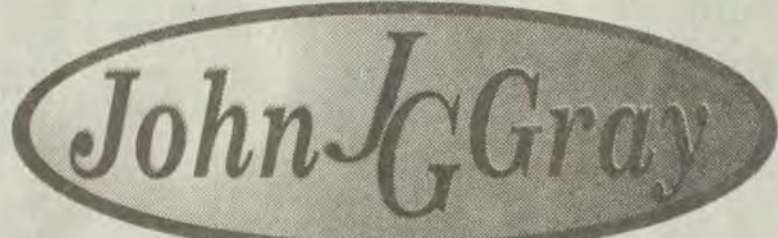
school ball now and he'll be looked to as a contributor early on.

Seniors Peyton Conley and Shane Simpkins are gone from last season's Paintsville team.

The Paintsville sophomore class includes Jarrod Keaton, Justin Meek and Justin Ross.

Jon Borders, Travis Ison and Chris Caldwell are other talented freshmen.

Paintsville will host its second annual Tiger HOOPS Classic in late December. Before that, the Tigers will hit the beach, traveling to Hilton Head, S.C. to play in the Seahawk Classic



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Good Luck
To All
Teams!



SHELDON CLARK CARDINALS	
COACH: J.R. HAMMONDS	
Nov. 30	at Fairview, 7:30 p.m. DEcc. 3Dec. SCO
Dec. 3	at Ashland Blazer, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Johnson Central, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Martinsburg, W.Va., 6:30 p.m. (at Logan (W.Va.) Invitational)
Dec. 27	Lexington Christian (at Berea Invitational)
Jan. 7	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Prestonsburg 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Williamson, W.Va., TBA (Kentucky/West Virginia Shootout)
Jan. 21	Johnson Central, 8 p.m.
Jan. 27	15th Region All "A" Classic
Feb. 1	Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Pike County Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Morgan County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Phelps, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Cards return core of region semifinalist team

J.R. Hammonds has breathed life into the Sheldon Clark boys' basketball program. Sheldon Clark High School has never won a 15th Region boys' basketball championship. But if you run into a Sheldon Clark fan, they'll no doubt let you know that this season's team again has the talent to vie for a regional title and a trip to Rupp Arena and the State Tournament.

Last season's Sheldon Clark

boys' basketball team broke through and won the 57th District title, beating tournament host Magoffin County. After winning the 57th District, Sheldon Clark went on into the 15th Region and made some noise, beating Belfry in the first round of the regional tournament and then dropping a close game in the region semifinals.

Hammonds got the Cardinal basketball program going on the right path shortly after taking

over. No doubt, Hammonds' best season at the helm came during the 2003-04 campaign when Sheldon Clark fans celebrated a district championship triumph and won a game in the 15th Region Tournament. A steady flow of promising hoopsters has kept the Sheldon Clark boys' basketball program in the 15th Region mix. This season's Cardinal team will look to build on last season's 19-10 record.

These Cardinals have a great amount of confidence and we'll see how far it gets them during the upcoming season. In a region where parity is prevalent, Sheldon Clark will look to break through and make some noise far beyond the 57th District.

After a strong run in last season's 15th Region

Tournament, Sheldon Clark now plays for a repeat at a 57th District title and a first-ever 15th

Region championship.

Seniors Jason Hammond (6-0, G) and Steven Howell (6-4, F) and junior Brandon May (6-3, F) return for Sheldon Clark. May ranks as one of the top all-around players in Eastern Kentucky. He has been hailed by some as one of the state's top junior basketball players. He'll be a lethal scorer for the Cardinals and play a couple of different positions.

Players gone from last season's team are Daniel Cornette,

Nathan Moore and Asher Maynard, all of whom made strong contributions last season.

Other players back for the Cardinals include senior Jeremy Preece and sophomore Matt Hayes.

Sheldon Clark will face usual rivals Johnson Central, Paintsville and Magoffin County inside the 57th District. The Cardinals also carry fearsome rivalries against Pike County foes, 16th Region teams and West Virginia squads.



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Area Teams!



58th District



ALLEN CENTRAL REBELS

COACH: JOHN MARTIN

Dec. 3	Knott County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Betsy Layne, 8 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Prestonsburg, 8 p.m.
Dec. 16	at South Floyd, 8 p.m.
Dec. 17	Leslie County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	University Heights, 7:30 p.m. (at Paintsville, Tiger HOOPS Classic)
Jan. 4	TBA (Coca-Cola Classic at Pike Central)
Jan. 11	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Jan. 15	TBA (Kentucky/West Virginia Shootout at Williamson, W.Va.)
Jan. 18	Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	15th Region All "A" Classic
Feb. 1	East Ridge, 6 p.m.
Feb. 8	Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Feb. 11	South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Feb. 12	Piarist School, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Hazard, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Rebels fresh off region tourney appearance

The Allen Central Runnin' Rebels would like nothing better than to make a return trip, a second straight trip to the 15th Region Tournament. Well, veteran head coach Johnny Martin and his team would probably prefer to enter the 15th Region Tournament as the 58th District Champion and when they begin play in the regional tournament, a championship at the end of the run would be even better. But Martin is never one to put the cart in front of the horse.

The Rebel boys' basketball program will have to replace three talented seniors gone via graduation - Rossi Samons, Austin Francis and Justin Hall - all of whom enjoyed time in starting roles last season and were no doubt go-to guys in the Allen Central offense. Hall ranked as one of the region's top three-point shooters, while Samons was one of Eastern Kentucky's most talented point guards and Francis, both one of the region most ath-

letic and underrated players.

Allen Central played its way to a 13-14 record last season and will look to rise above the .500 mark during the season ahead. As in previous seasons, Martin won't dodge any opponents while putting his team up against some of the top teams out of both the 15th and 14th regions. The Rebels will even play an international opponent as a team from Australia will visit Eastern and the home of the Rebels for a game on a date

that has yet to be determined. The date for Allen Central's game against the Australian opponent will most likely be set for late-December.

By making it into last season's 15th Region Tournament, Allen Central broke a two-year drought that consisted of not making it into the regional tourney.

Allen Central, with Martin calling the shots, is a team that can never be counted out of post-season contention. The Rebels, now

entering one season following a slim-loss to eventually 15th Region champ East Ridge near the end of last season, returns three players who started last season. The trio is led by Ryan Hammonds (6-2, G/F), a player who can both inside and outside for the Rebels. The 2003-04 season was Hammonds' first campaign of varsity high school basketball. And the three-point star didn't disappoint.

Bigmen Tim Griffith (6-3) and

David Kilburn return inside for the Rebels.

Sophomore guard Ryan Collins (6-0) earned varsity playing time on the varsity level last season and makes his way back for the Rebels, now playing out of an even bigger role.

Josh Martin will also figure to play a key role for the Rebels.

Nick Music and Charles Robinson are two other players who'll see varsity playing time for Allen Central.

Good Luck to All Teams!



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58th District



PIARIST SCHOOL KNIGHTS

COACH: GREG FRIEND

Nov. 29	June Buchanan (Three Rivers Tournament)
Nov. 30	at Oneida Baptist Institute
Dec. 3	Riverside Christian (at Buckhorn, Three Rivers Tournament)
Dec. 7	at Cordia, 6 p.m.
Dec. 20	TBA (at Wolfe County, Whitaker Bank Classic)
Jan. 4	at Oneida Baptist Institute, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	June Buchanan, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Lynn Camp, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Riverside Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Jenkins, 6 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	Shelby Valley, 7 p.m. (15th Region All "A")
Jan. 31	at Red Bird, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Jenkins, 6 p.m.
Feb. 7	Buckhorn, 6 p.m.
Feb. 8	Lynn Camp, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at June Buchanan, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Buckhorn, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Riverside Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	Jackson City

Schedule subject to change.

Friend takes over Piarist boys' basketball

The Piarist School boys' basketball team has a new head coach. Greg Friend is the new head coach of the Piarist boys' basketball program. Friend will join Andrea Preston, who coaches the Piarist School girls' basketball team. Friend will enter his first season at the helm of the Piarist boys' basketball program. He is the third Piarist boys' basketball coach

in as many seasons. The Piarist School boys' basketball team returns seven players from last season's squad. Three freshmen also enter the Knight basketball program. The Piarist School boys' basketball program doesn't feature any senior players and only two juniors. The sophomore class

includes Matt Doyle, Jake Moak, Ryan McKinney, T.J. Hollyfield and Josh Ousley. The Knights will again play in the Three Rivers Conference, playing against the likes of Riverside Christian, June Buchanan, Jackson City, Red Bird and Cordia. Juniors back for the Knights are Travis Tressler and Skylar McNish.

Incoming freshman Piarist School boys' basketball players are Caleb Hoskins, Zack Parsons and Tyler McNish. The Knights, winless for much of last season, got into the win column on February 28, beating Riverside Christian 54-50. The Knights finished the season 1-14. The Piarist School - located in Martin - has an enrollment

of under 60 students. The Knights will again play in the Three Rivers Conference Tournament and the 15th Region All "A" Classic. The Piarist School is the smallest 15th Region school. The Piarist School boys' basketball program would ultimately like to work its way back into the 58th District and make a significant impact in

the district. At a school with such a small enrollment, basketball players typically number few. The academic standard at the Piarist School is high and the student-athletes who do take to the hardwood can handle their own in the classroom. All students who attend the school put classroom work first.



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Seton Family Health Center, 285-3690 or 285-1442
Wheelwright Family Health Center, 452-2300

58th District



BETSY LAYNE BOBCATS	
COACH: BRENT ROSE	
Nov. 30	at Magoffin County
Dec. 4	at Greenup County
Dec. 7	Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Allen Central, 8:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	Cawood, 12:45 p.m. (at East Ridge, Warrior Classic)
Dec. 21	Knott County Central, 7 p.m. (at Belfry, Appalachian Wireless Mountain Schoolboy Classic)
Dec. 22-23	TBA, Mountain Schoolboy Classic
Dec. 27	Breathitt County, 4:30 p.m. (Jenny Wiley Invitational, Prestonsburg)
Dec. 28-29	TBA (Jenny Wiley Invitational, Prestonsburg)
Jan. 11	South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Jan. 18	at Prestonsburg, 7:45 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Jackson City, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Pikeville, 8 p.m. (15th Region All "A")
Feb. 1	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	at South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Greenup County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	June Buchanan, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.

Bobcats look to return to regional tourney

Betsy Layne and Coach Brent Rose nearly knocked off 58th District Tournament host Allen Central in the opening round of the post-season last season. The Bobcats perennially contend and are looking to take the next step and get back into the 15th Region Tournament.

A talented trio of seniors – Jordan Kidd, Brandon Hall and Brent Newsome – have depart-

ed. But Betsy Layne has gained a transfer in the person of guard Nathan Lafferty. A transfer from Prestonsburg who began his high school basketball career at Allen Central, Lafferty gained eligibility in the preseason and will automatically take a role in helping to lead the Bobcats.

Kidd ran the Betsy Layne offense last season. Hall was a force inside, both rebounding and scoring, and Newsome also

aided the Betsy Layne attack. All three were starters one season ago.

Betsy Layne is now two seasons removed from a runner-up finish in the 15th Region Boys' All "A" Classic. The Bobcats will again have the opportunity to play in the All "A" field during the 2004-05 season.

Some experienced players do make their way back for the Bobcats.

Experienced players back for the Bobcats (11-15) include senior sharpshooters Preston Simon (6-3) and Ryan Bryant (5-10), junior forwards Brandon Kidd (6-3) and Derek Case (6-3) and guard Brandon Thacker (5-10).

Brandon Kidd is another returning starter. Bryant ranked as one of the 15th Region's top three-pointer shooters last season while Case and Thacker each

came in and provided quality minutes for Rose and his staff.

Simon went down with an injury last season and was forced to miss much of the second half of the campaign. But he's back and now resumes a large role in the Bobcat attack. Guard Pat Stapleton is ready to become a varsity high school boys' basketball contributor, while Jordan Case, Trai Witt, and Colbert Craft will also con-

tribute.

On any given night, Rose expects his team to be led by one of several players.

"I think it is important for us not to be led by any one player," said Rose. "We can't rely on any one player."

The Betsy Layne High boys' basketball program has won five regional championships, the first coming in 1929 and the last in 1980.

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PRESTONSBURG BLACKCATS	
COACH: JACKIE DAY CRISP	
Nov. 30	Boyd County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Allen Central, 8 p.m.
Dec. 17	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Greenup County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 28	Betsy Layne, 4 p.m. (Jenny Wiley Invitational)
Jan. 4	at Perry County Central, 6 p.m. (WYMT Classic)
Jan. 11	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Betsy Layne, 7:45 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Pike County Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 4	South Floyd, 7:30 PM
Feb. 8	at Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Breathitt County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	East Ridge, 6 p.m.
Feb. 19	Bracken County, TBA (at Campbell County, Desert Classic)
Feb. 22	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Blackcats looking to seniors as new season gets in full swing

As a new season of high school hoops gets underway, the 2004-05 edition of the Prestonsburg Blackcats seem to have the look of a contender for the 15th Region title. Coach Jackie Day Crisp and Company are staring at some high expectations as four of five seniors from last year's 15th Regional Semifinalist team return for senior seasons.

It seems to be an annual occurrence for the Cats to start slow, but finish fast. The 2003-04 campaign was a season that witnessed the Blackcats go winless in regular-season district play, only to make a

complete turnaround and capture the 58th District Tournament crown.

Prestonsburg will look to seniors Trevor Compton, Jesse Chaffin, John Mark Stephens, Kyle Ousley and Joe Blackburn to lead. Prestonsburg stunned the entire 15th Region last season by knocking off region favorite Shelby Valley in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament and advancing into the semifinals of the tournament after posting only 10 wins during the regular-season.

Junior Michael Stephens will run the Prestonsburg team from the

point guard slot. The quick guard can dish out the assists as well as shoot the basketball from behind the three-point line.

Compton will be asked to play the shooting guard position as well as run the team when Michael Stephens is not on the floor. During the recently-completed football season, Compton was one of the state's top signal-callers as quarterback of the Blackcat football team. He opened the season as the leading scorer and assist man in a 57-53 win over Boyd County last week.

John Mark Stephens is another

senior who will be relied on to control play in the paint. The 6-3 senior will be looked to for rebounding help as well as defensive pressure. Chaffin comes into his senior year as one of the state's top two-sport athletes. Last season, Chaffin ranked as one of the 15th Region's top rebounders.

Joe Blackburn and Kyle Ousley are two senior Blackcats who define the term "athlete" as both can get up and down the floor and shoot the basketball. Both were also big contributors to the Blackcat football team.

Sean Leslie, one of the 15th Region's top shooters, returns, along with teammate Lewis Barnette, who has shown much promise in the pre-season.

Prestonsburg has several players that will come in off the bench and give quality minutes, including Nick McGuire, Michael Morrison and Brooks Herrick.

Junior Brandon Peters is a Blackcat who has turned in the football equipment and picked up the basketball and is expected to see action.

The Blackcat schedule is one of

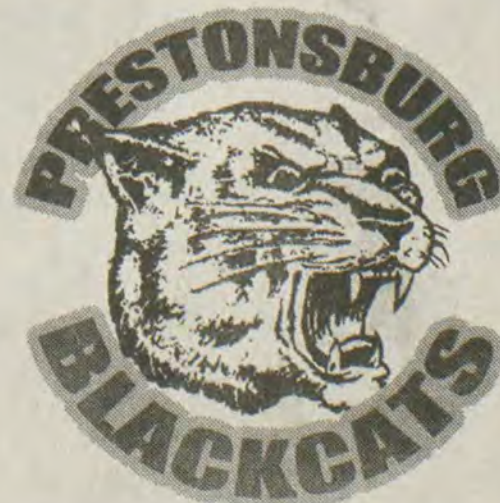
the toughest schedules in recent memory and expectations are higher than they have been in some time, but with the athletic team that Prestonsburg will put on the floor, this could be a Blackcat basketball season to remember. Prestonsburg will host the annual Jenny Wiley Invitational in late-December and the field will consist of some quality teams. Floyd County/58th District Basketball seems to be very evenly matched this season, which could lead to some entertaining winter nights in Eastern Kentucky.

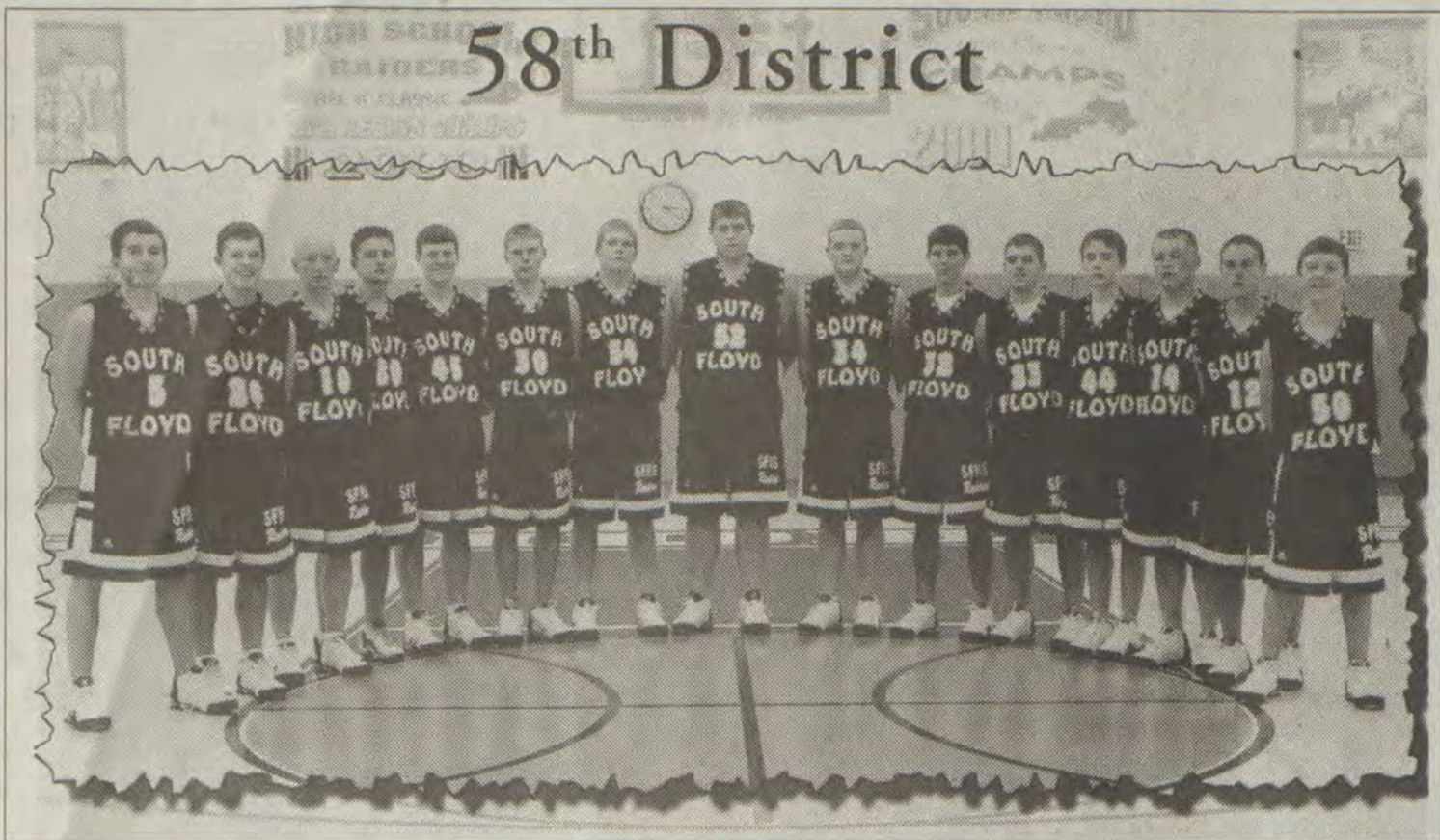
Good Luck, Blackcats!



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SOUTH FLOYD RAIDERS	
COACH: BARRY HALL	
Dec. 3	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Fleming-Neon, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Knott County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Oak Hill Academy, Va., 2:30 p.m. (at East Ridge, Warrior Classic)
Dec. 16	Allen Central, 8 p.m.
Dec. 17	John Hardin, 8 p.m. (at Bryan Station Holiday Classic)
Dec. 27	Greenup County, 6 p.m. (at Prestonsburg, Jenny Wiley Invitational)
Jan. 5	Clay County, 6:30 p.m. (WYMT Classic at Perry County Central)
Jan. 11	at Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	Phelps, 6:30 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Feb. 4	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Fleming-Neon, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

South Floyd shooting for another district crown

When South Floyd lost head coach Henry Webb to an administrative position with the Floyd County Board of Education, one could see the disappointment of the South Floyd faithful from miles away. Webb built the South Floyd Raider basketball program into a region power during his stint as head coach and with his departure, some thought the basketball team may suffer as well.

Enter one Barry Hall and things are again looking up for Raider Basketball as Hall returns for a second

run as coach. He inherits a group that most are expecting to contend for another district, and another region title. Adam Tackett and Jack Slone were lost to graduation last season, but several key players return as the Raiders look to regain control of the 58th District title.

Leading the way for South Floyd will be the twin towers – Steven Stanley and Burnett Little – both of whom controlled the glass last season for the Raiders. Little was one of the leading rebounders in Kentucky last

season and Stanley has a soft touch in the paint which makes the two players tough to handle in middle.

Ryan Johnson will run the point guard slot for South Floyd and sharpshooting Mason Hall will be looked upon to score from the outside. Guard play from South Floyd has always been one of the bright spots and with Johnson and Hall running the backcourt this season should be no different.

Wes Hall will start for South Floyd and the two-sport star should

show his athletic talent not only on the football field, but the hardwood as well. Ethan Johnson and Ryan Little will both add depth to the Raider lineup as each can score and play defense.

In past seasons, most expected South Floyd to shoot the three-pointer, but this season may see more of an inside game for the Raiders. Burnett Little and Stanley each stand over 6-3 and both can control the game in the paint. South Floyd will at times go nine to 10 players deep on the bench as the talent pool in Hi Hat is abundant.

The schedule includes a date against the Oak Hill Academy Red Team, a stint in the Bryan Station Holiday Tournament, a stint in the WYMT Tournament, and several key matchups against key 15th Region contenders.

In an early-season opener for both teams, South Floyd opened the season with an 81-79 double-overtime loss to host Johnson Central. The Raiders showed signs of many good things to come as Ryan Johnson led the way with 25 points. The Raiders were hampered by foul trouble throughout the night.

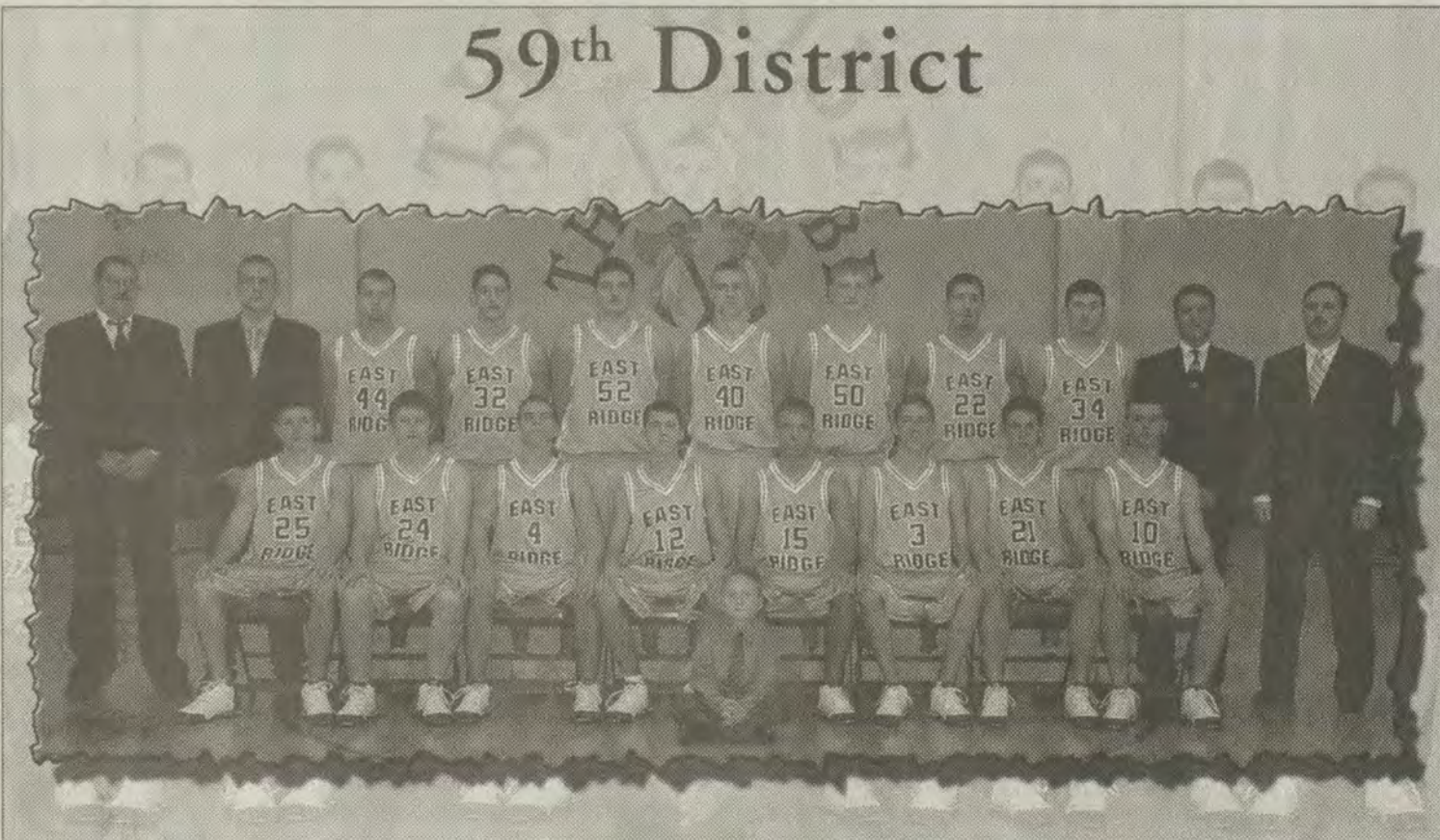
Mason Hall knocked down a long three-pointer to send the game into a second overtime before Central pulled away.

The 58th District could be one of the most competitive basketball districts in all of Kentucky and if the South Floyd Raiders have anything to say in the matter, the 58th District title will return for another stay in Hi Hat. Several Raiders will see action off the bench during the 2004-05 season, including Justin Slone and Jordan Johnson.



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Good Luck, Raiders!



EAST RIDGE WARRIORS	
COACH: JAMES HURLEY	
Dec. 3	Twin Valley, Va., 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Fleming-Neon, 7:30 PM
Dec. 9	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	George Rogers Clark, 6:45 p.m. (Warrior Classic)
Dec. 14	Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	at WYMT Classic
Jan. 11	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Whitesburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	Mt. Mission, Va., 6 p.m.
Jan. 29	Haysi, Va., 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 4	Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Phelps, 6 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Lexington Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Feb. 22	Fleming-Neon, 6 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Warriors now begin repeat bid

The time has come for a new 15th Region boys' basketball champion to begin defense of its title.

In just its second year of play, East Ridge rose to the occasion in a big way last March, winning the 15th Region championship. Three starters are gone from last season's East Ridge team. Two starting guards return for the Warriors.

East Ridge must replace two all-region performers in Robbie Spears and Brandon Ratliff, both of whom signed to play at the next level at

nearby Pikeville College. The Warriors must find someone inside to replace Spears, a top-five rebounder in the state the past two seasons. As in each of the two previous seasons, East Ridge will encounter Shelby Valley, the favorite to win the 15th Region in close proximity, within the 59th District.

"We had a great summer and some kids really stepped up, especially inside," said East Ridge Coach James Hurley, now in third

season at the helm of the Warrior boys' basketball program. "Our kids work extremely hard each day to get better and we play well together. Our guys are hungry to repeat and are not satisfied with an opening round loss in the state tournament. This group still feels like they have something to prove and understands they will be tested each night. Guard play should be our strength and depth off the bench will be in our favor."

Don't look for the Warriors to

move away change from their pressing style and up-tempo offense anytime soon. Hurley has vowed not to go away from that style of play.

"The 15th Region Tournament will be another tight race again," Hurley added. "I feel like there are a number of teams that could win the crown in March."

Here's a look at the 15th Region districts and teams.

Returning starters for defending region champ East Ridge (24-8) include senior point guard Aaron

Branham (14 ppg, 7.8 apg) and senior guard Eric Slone (10 ppg, 4.7 spg).

Paul Deese (12.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg), a third starting guard from last season's team, will not return. Earlier this school year, Deese moved to Alabama where he now leaves with his father. His parents are divorced and a court decision forced the returning starter to move out of state.

Top reserve players from last season returning for the Warriors include senior forward Derek SESCO, senior center Jordan

Coleman, senior guard Mike Bennett and junior forward Kyle Fletcher.

Heading into its third season of existence, the East Ridge boys' basketball program, in two seasons, has a record of 43-18.

Hurley has guided the Warriors to back-to-back 59th District titles. None of the 43 wins were bigger than last season's 15th Region Tournament title game victory, captured last season on the home floor of Prestonsburg Blackcats.

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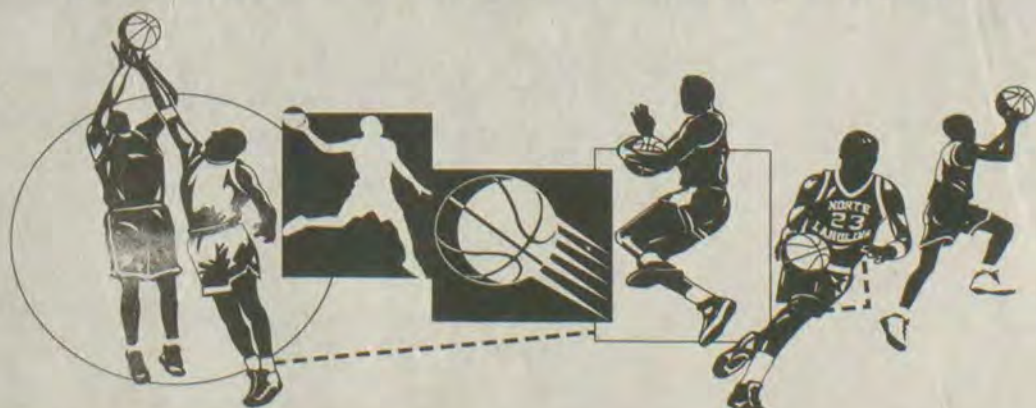
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Good Luck to All Area Teams!



59th District



PIKEVILLE PANTHERS

COACH: DAVE THOMAS

Dec. 7	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	June Buchanan, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Louisville Collegiate, 5:30 p.m. (at St. Francis Invitational)
Dec. 28	Letcher, 6:30 p.m. (Pikeville Invitational Tournament)
Jan. 5	TBA, 6:30 p.m. (Coca Cola Classic at Pike Central Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.)
Jan. 11	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Betsy Layne, 8 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Feb. 4	at East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Breathitt County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Ashland Blazer, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Panthers looks to push Shelby Valley, East Ridge

At this point, the Pikeville High boys' basketball program sure could look to have some of the success of the Pikeville High football program rub off on it. The Panther football team has played for a regional championship each of the last three seasons, as of this writing, beating Williamsburg for a regional title just a few weeks ago. But the Pikeville boys' basketball program has had previous success.

The Panthers last won the regional championship in 1999. Pikeville has been shut out of the regional tournament each of the past two seasons, but Coach Dave Thomas and his staff are looking to re-enter the regional picture. Many of the same Pikeville High football players who played to another gridiron regional title for a school this past November will now turnaround and resume playing basketball.

Pikeville struggled to a 6-20 record last season and for a second straight season, couldn't beat out Shelby Valley nor East Ridge for a regional tournament spot. With the talent returning for the Pikeville boys' varsity basketball team, the latest Panther roundball squad is bound to find quick success and post a double-digit amount of wins. Forwards Jesse Parrish (6-2), Brett Gibson (6-3) and Robert

Shurtleff (6-2) return for Pikeville. Parrish had a strong showing over the summer, being voted the Most Valuable Player of the East Kentucky All-Star Game. Other key returnees for the Panthers include Chase Huffman, Matt Sexton and Weston Robinson. Due to an injury suffered in football, Robinson will miss at least the first half of the 2004-05 high school hoops season.

Shurtleff and Gibson are two of the 15th Region's most underrated players. If last season is any indication, Thomas and his staff could play various lineups looking for the right, winning combination. Tyler Shockey, a bigman who thrived on the inside for Pikeville last season, was one of the players who was lost to graduation. No doubt, Pikeville still has

one of the most successful boys' basketball programs in all of the 15th Region. Pikeville has 14 15th Region titles to its credit. The Panthers are 13-14 overall in the State Tournament. Pikeville won its first regional title in 1921. Pikeville will also vie for the 15th Region All "A" title. The Panthers will host this year's 15th Region All "A" Classic tournament.

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59th District



SHELBY VALLEY WILDCATS

COACH: JASON BOOHERE

Dec. 7	Hazard, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Rockcastle County, 5 p.m. (at East Ridge, Warrior Classic)
Dec. 14	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Perry County Central (at Greenup County, Pepsi Shootout)
Dec. 27	at Paintsville Tiger Hoops Classic
Jan. 4	TBA (at Pike Central, Coca Cola Classic)
Jan. 11	Haysi, Va., 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Middlesboro, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Parkersburg South, W.Va. (at Williamson, W.Va., Kentucky/West Virginia Shootout)
Jan. 18	Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	Piarist School, 7 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Feb. 1	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	at East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Lexington Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Mountain Mission, Va. 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

New coach, same role as favorite for Shelby Valley boys

A new season and a new head coach won't do much in the way of knocking the Shelby Valley High boys' basketball team out of the role as the 15th Region favorite. The Wildcats have carried the role of 15th Region favorite into several seasons and the upcoming campaign will again begin with Shelby Valley wearing the target as the 15th Region favorite. Last spring, shortly after the 15th Region Tournament was completed and basketballs for the most part were put away in

Robinson Creek, longtime Shelby Valley head coach Rodney Rowe announced that he would be stepping down as head coach of the Wildcat boys' basketball program. For a second straight season last March, Shelby Valley finished 59th District runner-up to East Ridge's Warriors, new kids on the block. Valley made it to the State Tournament at the end of the 2003 season and made it into the All "A" Classic state tournament in 2004, but couldn't pull off the Sweet 16 State Tournament repeat bid,

falling to 15th Region Tournament host Prestonsburg in the first round last March. Jason Booher has made the move over from the Belfry High School boys' basketball program and replaces Rowe. Last season, Booher coached the Pirates into the 15th Region Tournament. Now, he'll look to take his new team to the back to the regional tournament and make a move to next level, which would be the State Tournament. Shelby Valley will get some of

its stiffest competition from within the 59th District, facing defending region champ East Ridge as well as rival Pikeville. Not just a county rich in football talent, Pike County also boasts some capable basketball players and teams. Shelby Valley is one of those teams. The Wildcats will again be back in the 15th Region All "A" mix and will look to make a repeat run at a 15th Region All "A" championship. Seth Kiser is playing basket-

ball. The senior back is back to lead the Wildcats. Kiser is one of four starters back for Shelby Valley (20-8). He is one of four returning starters - all of whom started last season as juniors - that have enjoyed stellar prep basketball careers. Kelsey Friend, a player who along with Kiser has played and contributed in four varsity seasons now, returns, along with Patrick Tackett, quite possibly the most underrated player in all of Eastern Kentucky.

Then there's Kris Bentley. A native of Floyd County, Bentley made the transfer to Shelby Valley from Prestonsburg during the spring of his sophomore year. He got into the swing of things last season for Shelby Valley and became a Wildcat quickly, helping Shelby Valley to another 20-win season. The four seniors were Shelby Valley's top four scorers last season. During the summer, the Shelby Valley team reportedly adjusted well to new coach Booher.

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Pirate Basketball could build from gridiron success

Belfry is now the two-time defending Class 2A state football champion.

Could some of that success from the gridiron spill over onto the hardwood? Yes, it sure could.

Randy Casey is entering his first season as head coach of the Belfry High boys' basketball program. A longtime assistant coach, Casey previously served as the head coach of

the Belfry baseball team. He took over the job as head coach of the Pirate basketball program following the departure of head coach Jason Booher, who left to take over the Shelby Valley boys' basketball program. Casey is looking forward to his first season at the helm of the Pirate basketball team.

Casey has two of the state's top football players in David Jones and Doug Howard. This duo can also play

some basketball and should help to lift Belfry during the 2004-05 season.

It's no secret, Casey inherits a Belfry boys' basketball team that is in a rebuilding mode of sorts. But the Pirates should again vie for top honors in the 60th District, along with rival Pike County Central.

Belfry beat Phelps in the first round of last season's 60th District Tournament, thus earning a trip to the 15th Region Tournament. The Pirates

finished runner-up in the 60th District, ending the season behind Pike Central.

Jones and Howard are two of four returning starters for the Pirates. Adam Wicker and Matt Maynard are two other starters back. Senior Adam Warren and sophomore Jamie Case will also aid the Pirate attack.

Casey is definitely no stranger to the Belfry boys' basketball program. He began coaching at Belfry back in

1989.

Belfry finished 11-17 last season and won just four games played against 15th Region opponents. The Pirates posted a 3-2 record against 60th District squads. Belfry's 2003-04 season ended with an overtime loss to Sheldon Clark in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament. Pike Central ended Belfry's 2003-04 campaign by beating the Pirates 57-47.

Belfry's four returning starters are the most of any 60th District team.

Like last season, shaking off a long football season may take time for the Belfry boys. Belfry played football the first Friday of December and will need most of the month to collect itself and focus on basketball.

Warren, a player who'll be look to as a strong contributor, returns to the hardwood after a season under center on the gridiron.

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Good Luck to All Area Teams!

In three-team district, Phelps eyes region tourney berth

Phelps improved its record last season, finishing 5-21 overall. But the Hornets continued to struggle against 15th Region and 60th District competition, winning just one 15th Region game.

Opponents outscored the Hornets 1560-1356 last season. The season before, the 2003-03 campaign, Phelps played its way into the 15th Region Tournament. Making a trip back to the 15th Region Tournament

is again a goal for the Hornets.

Phelps, coached by Clay Campbell, got off to a rocky start during the 2003-04 season, losing its first nine games. The Hornets went winless in the Jenny Wiley Invitational in early-January and didn't post their first win of the season until Jan. 12. The Hornets, in a regular-season rally of sorts, won three straight games in the second half of the season. Phelps

ended the 2003-04 season on an eight-game losing skid.

But a new season has arrived for the Phelps Hornets and the rest of the 15th Region.

Phelps still looks to be in a rebuilding process and Campbell looks to be making progress in the way of guiding the program, a program that once strived with the play of Mr. Basketball Ervin Stepp leading the charge.

Three players who enjoyed

successful campaigns last season return for the Hornets. Charlie Hunt, Robert Gannon and Chris Hardin return for Phelps. Melvin McCoy Jr., the team's leading scorer from last season, does not return for the Hornets. McCoy Jr., who averaged 20.2 points per game last season, graduated.

Campbell and his coaching staff return several players who saw varsity playing time last season. The Hornets boast a young squad.

Seniors Chris Robinette and Derick Daniels return. A strong sophomore contingent includes Mike Dotson, Ryan Doston, Jason Taylor and Kolby Page.

Campbell is now in his second season at the helm of the Phelps boys' basketball program. He feels the program is headed in the right direction. He is hoping to put a potent sting back in the Phelps boys' basketball program, a program that has

been down for a while now.

Phelps has several players making their way over from the football and cross country programs. Campbell got the football players in during the first full week of November as the Phelps High football team just missed out on a trip to the State Playoffs.

Phelps plays in the 60th District along with rivals Pike County Central and Belfry.

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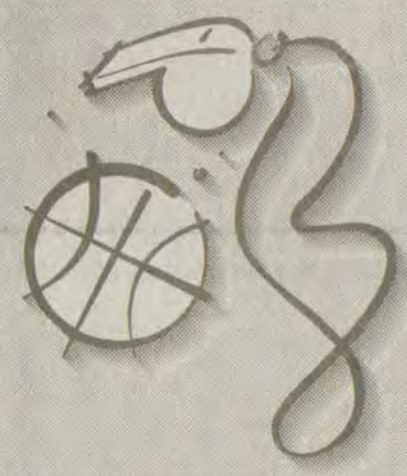
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Hawks hit hard by graduation, look to rebuild after runner-up finish

Losing to East Ridge in the 15th Region Tournament Finals was a tough pill for the Pike County Central boys' basketball faithful to swallow. On a last second shot made under the goal, East Ridge vaulted to a win over Pike Central, again shutting the Hawks out of a trip to Rupp Arena and the Boys' Sweet 16. Coach David Rowe returns a strong senior nucleus that played and made an impact

last season.

Four starters are gone to graduation. Two players who enjoyed starting time last season — Brad Lowe and Anthony Gibson — return for Pike Central.

Gibson was a steady player last season. Lowe progressed throughout the season and quite possibly made his most significant impact near the end of the campaign.

A big loss for the Hawks was the departure of Chase Lyons. During his prep career as a Hawk, Lyons scored over 1,000 points and left his mark on the Pike Central boys' basketball program.

Adam Prater, Channing Thacker and John Williamson were among the other Hawks lost to graduation.

Now, seniors Chase Snodgrass, Brandon Charles,

Gordan Varney and David Hess return for the Hawks.

Pike Central has dominated the 60th District each of the last two seasons. Rowe has seen the good side of several Hawk boys' basketball teams. The Hawks beat rival Belfry for last season's 60th District title.

The Hawks perennially make a run at the end of the post-season and on occasion have carried the role of 15th Region favorite.

Pike Central previously played out of the 59th District.

Like many other area boys' basketball teams, Pike Central had to wait on some football players to finish their season and begin in another hoops season. Many of the top Pike Central boys' basketball players also star on the gridiron.

The Hawks finished 18-14 last season, good enough for the fourth best overall record in the

15th Region, behind East Ridge, Shelby Valley, Sheldon Clark and South Floyd.

Pike Central's path to last season's 15th Region Tournament championship game included wins over Magoffin County and tourney host Prestonsburg.

With the regional tournament back in Pike County, Pike Central will look to claim its first-ever 15th Region title.

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David School now in third season

The David School boys' basketball is now in its third season. The team recently joined the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) and will primarily be playing against freshmen competition, according to Coach Ned Pillersdorf, who is in his third year of coaching the team.

Returning to play for the David Falcons are guards Brandon Brown, Joe Tiller and Josh Nelson. David assistant coach Ryan Allison says he expects that Nelson will continue to be the high scorer on the team, but is counting on Brown and Tiller to add scoring punch to take some of the pressure off of Nelson.

Brandon Caudill will return as the team's center along with Paul Mullins. New players for the David School include Nathan Robinson, who is expected to start at point guard, and Patrick Henderson, an all-around player. The Falcons are also looking forward to the play of James Stevens, who recently moved back to the area and is currently

scheduled to share point guard duties with newcomer Robinson.

The David School team had been practicing at the old Maytown Gym and once again will be playing all road games. The team has scheduled several varsity games, including a game against the Piarist School on Dec. 16, as well as a home game

against Buckhorn on Dec. 17. The David School has recently been realigned with four Pike County schools. Construction is currently underway at the David School for the team to have its own home gym.

The David School first broke through to the winning side last season. Pillersdorf, his staff and

all of the Falcon boys' basketball team are looking to build on last season's breakthrough.

While it has been placed in a Pike County district with district play in the KHSAA to begin with the 2005-06 season, the David School will more than likely play its share of opposing Floyd County teams.

57th District



JOHNSON CENTRAL	
COACH: PHILLIP WIREMAN	
Dec. 2	at East Ridge
Dec. 4	at Boyd County
Dec. 10	Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Beth Haven, 6 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 21	Belfry, 6 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 22	Prestonsburg, 7 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 23	Lawrence County, 4 p.m. (Co. Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 27	TBA (at Boyle County Lady Rebels Christmas Tournament)
Jan. 6	Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Jan. 7	Magoffin County, 8 p.m.
Jan. 14	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Jan. 28	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Ashland Blazer, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Phelps, 8 p.m.
Feb. 7	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Wolfe County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Paintsville, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Greenup County, 7:30 p.m.

Lady Eagles look to shake losing season

Losing seasons are very few and very far between for the Johnson Central High School girls' basketball program. Accustomed to winning and posting 20-plus win seasons, Johnson Central suffered during an uncharacteristic losing season one year ago. The Lady Eagles posted a 6-21 record last season. Coach Phillip Wireman, now in his 14th season at the helm of the JCHS girls' basketball program, expects much brighter days

ahead for his team. The Lady Eagles feature a talented young squad. Senior guard Alice Daniel (5-8) and senior forward Jayme Dials (5-10) provide leadership for the Lady Eagles. The duo has been through the varsity basketball wars. Both players can score. Daniels is a talented shooter and a threat to score. Dials is one of the team's top rebounders. Both players have contributed

since their respective freshman seasons. And each player knows what will be expected of her. Many younger players played and contributed last season for Johnson Central. Eighth-grader Chelsey Salyers started at point guard. As a seventh-grader, Salyers grew and learned the way of varsity high school girls' basketball. Juniors Chessie Griffith and Courtney McKenzie both played last season and return looking forward to entering into starting roles. Two other eighth-graders Emily Wireman (6-1) and Celena Conley (5-11) will also see a significant amount of playing time for the Lady Eagles. Hayley Meek and Breanna Salyer are two other eighth-graders that'll figure into the mix. The eighth-graders have already played a lot of basketball this year, fresh off a 27-0 record and two state titles. Sophomores Kendra Jude and

Brianna Ritz also return following seasons played one year ago. Ritz could possible play more out of a starting role than anything else. Sophomore Christine Castle and freshmen Christine Burton and Erica Williams also return for the Lady Eagles. The Johnson Central girls, in conjunction with the Johnson Central boys, will host a tournament in late December. The Country Music Highway

Tournament is scheduled to run Dec. 20-23. The 57th District girls' basketball race isn't what it once was. Its even tighter now. The 57th District girls' field now features an upstart Magoffin County girls' team and a Paintsville girls' team that looks to contend year-in and year-out. Perennial powers Johnson Central and Sheldon Clark help to make for an interesting field.

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57th District



MAGOFFIN COUNTY LADY HORNETS	
COACH: STEVE MILLER	
Dec. 1-4	Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic (at Pike Central)
Dec. 6	at Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	South Floyd 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	McCreary Central, 3 p.m.
Dec. 27	at Allen Co.-Scottsville (Lady Invitational of the South)
Jan. 7	at Johnson Central, 8 p.m.
Jan. 8	East Carter, 6 p.m.
Jan. 10	Perry County Central, 7:30 PM
Jan. 14	Sheldon Clark
Jan. 15	at Belfry, 6 p.m.
Jan. 17	at Morgan County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Paintsville, 6 p.m.
Jan. 22	at Shelby Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Betsy Layne, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Knott County Central, 6 p.m.
Jan. 31	at South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Shelby Valley, 4 p.m.
Feb. 11	Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Hornets fresh off first 57th District title

Neil "Nehi" West is out as head coach of the Magoffin County Lady Hornets and Steve "Pup" Miller is in. West left Miller a Magoffin County girls' basketball team that recorded a 17-12 record last season while winning the 57th District. Before, the Lady Hornets had only been able to claim a district runner-up finish. The 57th District title was the first-ever for the Magoffin County girls.

A longtime assistant on the Magoffin County girls' basketball staff. Miller inherits a Lady Hornet team loaded with talent. Magoffin County girls' basketball teams of the past like to get up and down the floor and shoot the basketball. An assistant under West, Miller will likely allow his team to play the same type of up-and-down basketball. Chances are, if the Magoffin

County girls score a basket, a Lady Hornet with the last name of Howard can be credited with the goal. The Howard rule when it comes to Magoffin County girls' basketball. A talented cast of Howards is back to lead the Lady Hornets. Forward/center Calloray Howard (5-8), Ashley J. Hoard (5-4) and Michaela Howard (5-4), Ashley D. Howard (5-5) all

return for the Lady Hornets. Brittany Manns (Not a Howard) is another leading returnee back for the Lady Hornets. Magoffin County's 17-12 record was fourth best in the 15th Region last season. The 2003-04 season ended for Magoffin County with a loss to Belfry in the second round of the 15th Region Tournament. The Lady Hornets beat Allen

Central in the opening round of the regional tourney. Last season, Magoffin County outscored opponents 1880-1760. The Lady Hornets beat rival Paintsville to claim the 57th District title. This is Miller's first stint as a high school head coach. The former assistant coach is looking to now build upon the Magoffin County girls' program's winning ways. In recent seasons, the

Magoffin County girls have won more games than the Magoffin County boys.

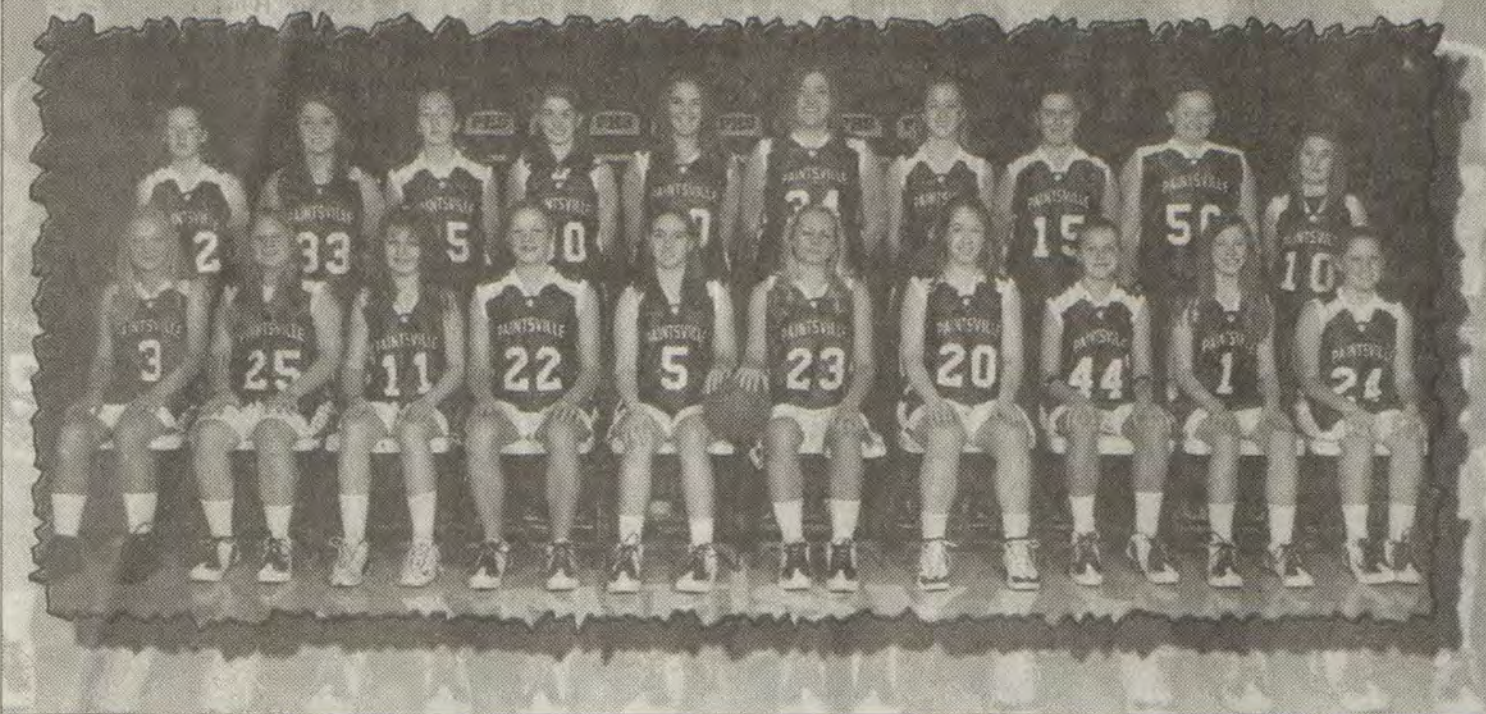


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57th District



PAINTSVILLE LADY TIGERS

COACH: MARK BALDWIN

Dec. 6	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	at Morgan County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-22	at Seahawk Holiday Classic (Hilton Head, S.C.)
Dec. 27-29	at Villa Madonna Christmas Classic
Jan. 6	South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Allen Central, 6:30 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 21	Magoffin County, 6 p.m.
Jan. 27	Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Lawrence County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Johnson Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21	East Carter, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Tigers now a contender

The Paintsville High School girls' basketball program has had its ups and downs. In recent years more downs than ups. But these Lady Tigers can play basketball.

Paintsville, coached by Mark Baldwin, made a run into last season's 15th Region Tournament after finishing runner-up to Magoffin County in the 57th District.

Four-year starter Ashley Hall returns to lead the Lady Tigers.

She ranks as one of the 15th Region's top scorers. Hall is the only senior returnee back for the Lady Tigers.

Three seniors return for the Lady Tigers, leaving Paintsville girls' basketball faithful very excited.

Hall averaged 14 points per game last season.

Other returning starters for the Lady Tigers include junior center

Chelsea Jarrell and sophomore Kendra Carroll.

A player who has played a role for the Lady Tigers the last couple of seasons, Jarrell averaged eight points and eight rebounds per game as a sophomore.

A player lost via graduation is five-year starter Desiree Haney. Haney played point guard for the Lady Tigers and will no doubt, be hard to replace.

Whitney Reynolds, Savannah Moore and Jennifer Chafin were also lost to graduation.

Laura Carroll, the younger sister of Kendra, will move into the Lady Tiger backcourt.

Sophomores Jessica Grim and Candy Blair also return.

Five players - Jesikah Russell, Cassidy Osborne, transfer Kendra Lyons, Lauren Trimble and Beth Taylor make up

a talented freshmen group.

Junior Anna Leckie, sophomores Logan VanHoose and Kendra Sammons, and eighth-grader Katie Adams are other varsity Lady Tigers.

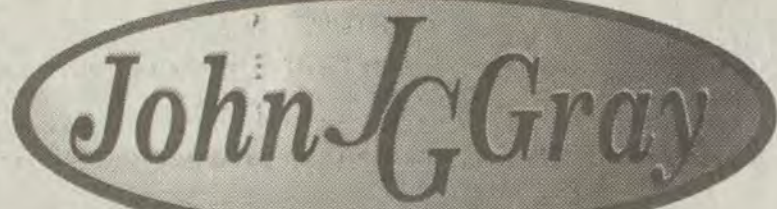
Like the Paintsville boys' team, the Paintsville girls' team also features some promising younger players.

Seventh-graders on the Paintsville roster include Emily

Castle, Cara Richardson, Amanda Jarrell, Jordyn Combs and Latasha Auxier.

Paintsville posted a 12-16 record last season. Baldwin is 53-79 in five seasons at the helm of the Lady Tiger program.

The Paintsville girls' roster features only one senior and two juniors. There are five five sophomore Lady Tigers and five freshmen Lady Tigers.



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SHELDON CLARK LADY CARDINALS

COACH: ROBIN HARMON-NEWSOME

Dec. 2-4	Queen of the Mountains (at Perry County Central)
Dec. 6	Phelps, 8 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	at Berea Holiday Classic
Jan. 3	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Magoffin County
Jan. 15	TBA
Jan. 19	Betsy Layne, 8:15 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 21	Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Phelps, 8 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Raceland, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	at East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	North Laurel, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Lawrence County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	at North Laurel, 3 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Cards busy building back

Veteran Sheldon Clark Coach Robin Harmon-Newsome returns to guide a young, but still promising Lady Cardinal girls' basketball team.

Yes, it's a time of rebuilding for the Sheldon Clark Lady Cardinals. It's time to rebuild in a 15th Region that offers no room for mistakes or miscues. This 15th Region can be very unforgiving.

Former standout Kelli Jo Moore has long since graduated. After a brief stop at Marshall University, Moore now plays for the Pikeville College Lady Bears and Coach Bill Watson. During her time at Sheldon Clark, Moore was a dominating player and one has to wonder when the next Kelli Jo Moore will come out of Martin County and the Sheldon Clark

High boys' basketball program. A few years back, Newsome fought off illness and battled her way back, making a full recovery. She's kept on patrolling the Lady Cardinal sidelines and she's looking for her next winning team to rise above in both the 57th District and the 15th Region. Unfortunately for Lady Cardinal faithful, Sheldon Clark girls' bas-

ketball has been down each of the past two seasons.

The Lady Cardinals, while finishing 11-12 last season, 8-14 against 15th Region teams and 3-4 against 57th District squads, scored notable wins, including a pair of victories over 16th Region opponents. Sheldon Clark did manage to outscore opponents during a season that featured more

downs than ups.

Sheldon Clark lost to Magoffin County in the opening round of the 57th District Tournament last season. The loss ended the 2003-04 season for the Lady Cards.

Names to listen for from Sheldon Clark in the upcoming season include Allen, Moore, Johnson, Adkins, Sumpter, Comette, Preece, Hammonds and Stanley.

Sheldon Clark is looking to again make it back into the 15th Region Tournament and in the process break a four-year regional tourney drought. Fifty-seventh District rivals include Johnson Central, Paintsville and Magoffin County. The Lady Cards will get an early in mid-December when they take part in the always-competitive Berea Holiday Classic.



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ALLEN CENTRAL LADY REBELS

COACH: MARK MARTIN

Nov. 29-	at Pike County Cent. (Lady Hawk Tip-off Classic)
Dec. 4	
Dec. 7	at Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Dec. 16	at South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Dec. 20	Breathitt County, 6 p.m.
Jan. 6	at Johnson Central, 6 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Betsy Layne, 8 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Boyd County, 7:45 p.m. (Summitt Sporting Goods Challenge)
Jan. 19	Paintsville, 6:30 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 24	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Perry County Central, 3 p.m.
Feb. 3	At Belfry, 7:30 PM
Feb. 8	Prestonsburg, 8 p.m.
Feb. 11	South Floyd, 8 p.m.
Feb. 12	Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 PM
Feb. 19	at Breathitt County, 5:30 PM
Feb. 21	Pike County Central, 7:30 PM

Schedule subject to change.

Mark Martin begins second season at helm of AC girls' basketball program

A new Coach Martin entered the Allen Central High School basketball landscape last year when Mark Martin returned to his high school alma mater to accept the job as head coach of the girls' basketball team. Martin inherited a talented Allen Central team and coached the Lady Rebels to a 17-13 record and a runner-up finish in the 57th District.

Allen Central fell to upstart Magoffin County in the opening round of the 15th Region

Tournament.

Senior center Becky Thomas averaged 19 points, 12 rebounds and 3.8 steals per game last season. Following the departure of seniors Terri Mullins, Jessica Isaac and Tab Caudill, Allen Central now has three new starters on a team that'll look to win as it goes.

Mullins was a floorleader who'll be hard to replace. She earned a starting position on the Allen Central High girls' varsity team during her fresh-

man seasons. Isaac turned into a team leader last season, making a name for herself as one of the team's top shooters.

Caudill also held her own and put forth a strong effort.

The three likely new starting contributors are senior Lyndsey Frasure and underclassmen Mara Billiter and Alanna Cline.

Another starter back for the Lady Rebels is Yumekia Hunter.

Amanda Mills, a member of

the Allen Central backcourt who now has a couple seasons of experience, also returns.

Late in the preseason, Martin was pleased with his team's progress.

"We are pretty much like everyone else at this point," Martin said, folloing his team's first preseason scrimmage.

"We're trying to get everyone to move and react at the same time on both ends of the floor. The group is working

hard and with time, we will be able to hold our own."

The Allen Central girls played their best basketball near the end of last season, winning seven straight games during the month of February. Allen Central rolled into the 58th District Tournament title game on the seven-game winning streak. The Lady Rebels, district champs during the 2002-03 season, dropped last season's district title affair to Betsy Layne.



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To all Teams!



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PIARIST SCHOOL LADY KNIGHTS

COACH: ANDREA PRESTON

Dec. 7	Cordia, 7:30 p.m. (at Buckhorn, Three Rivers Conference Tournament)
Dec. 9	Red Bird, 6 p.m. (at Buckhorn, Three Rivers Conference Tournament)
Jan. 3	at Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Jan. 4	at Oneida Baptist Institute, 6 p.m.
Jan. 6	June Buchanan, 5 PM
Jan. 7	at Lynn Camp, 6 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Riverside Christian, 6 p.m.
Jan. 13	at South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Jan. 17	Phelps, 7:30 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 18	TBA (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 24	at Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Jan. 28	Letcher, 6 p.m.
Jan. 31	at Red Bird, 6 p.m.
Feb. 1	South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Feb. 3	Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Feb. 7	Buckhorn, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Lynn Camp, 6 p.m.
Feb. 10	Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 18	at June Buchanan, 5 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Buckhorn, 6 p.m.
Feb. 25	Riverside Christian, 6 p.m.
Feb. 26	Jackson City, 3:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Knights return experienced team

Playing in the 58th District, 15th Region and the Three Rivers Conference, the Piarist School Lady Knights won three games during the 2003-04 season. The Lady Knights beat Jackson City in two separate meetings, once in December and another time in late-February, near the end of the season. Another win came over Buckhorn in the

middle of January.

The Lady Knights finished last season 3-21 under head coach Andrea Preston. Preston enjoyed a somewhat successful first season at the helm of the Piarist girls' basketball program.

Several players who logged minutes in games last season for the Lady Knights, return, leaving much opti-

mism in regards to the 2004-05 season.

Last season, the Lady Knights scored 712 points in 24 games and in the 2004-05 season will look to produce more offense.

The Piarist School girls lost to South Floyd in the opening round of last season's 58th District Tournament. No senior girls

play basketball for the Piarist School.

Juniors returning for the Piarist School include Ronnee Reynolds, Beth Tackett, Marie Denison and Stephanie Williams. Sophomores back include Chasity Conn, Alyssa Reed and Hannah Blackburn.

Two other juniors include Hannah Blackburn and Sarah Carty.

Freshman Hannah Fitzpatrick is the only newcomer to the Piarist girls' basketball program.

Last season's three-win showing was a sizable turnaround for the Piarist girls' basketball program.

Playing in the Three Rivers Conference gives the Piarist girls another title to play for.



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Wheelwright Family Health Center, 452-2300

58th District



BETSY LAYNE LADYCATS

COACH: CASSANDRA AKERS SCORE

Dec. 6	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Dec. 16	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Clinton Co. (At Lexington Catholic-Gym 2) 6 p.m. (Fifth Third Bank Classic)
Dec. 21	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 28	Highlands, 2:30 p.m. (at East Carter, Queen of the Bluegrass)
Jan. 6	at Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Jan. 14	Allen Central, 8 p.m.
Jan. 19	Sheldon Clark, 8:15 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 24	Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Magoffin County, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	at South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Feb. 14	Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Pike County Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Jenkins, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Betsy Layne girls three-time defending 15th Region All "A" champs

Betsy Layne has made a habit of winning the 15th Region All "A" Classic. The Ladycats have captured the 15th Region All "A" title each of the past three seasons. Every year the Betsy Layne girls' basketball team has played in the 15th Region All "A" Classic, the tournament appearance has ended with a championship win.

Betsy Layne captured the 15th Region title in 2003. Last season, the Ladycats, looking repeat as region champs, fell to

15th Region Tournament host Pike County Central.

Coach Cassandra Akers and her staff return three starters from last season's team.

Gone is Whitney Lykens, the school's all-time leading scorer. Lykens, during her career as a Betsy Layne Ladycat, scored over 2,000 points. Tabetha Witt, a solid varsity player each of the last three seasons, also graduated.

The top returnee back for Betsy Layne is guard Kim

Clark, who has already scored over 1,000 points in her prep career.

Center Kristal Daniels is back for the Ladycats, along with guard Kristen Smith and forward Breann Akers. Clark, as a junior, averaged 16.7 points per game and 4.8 rebounds per outing.

Smith averaged 6.3 points per game and 4.5 assists per game.

Daniels averaged 11.3 points per game and 8.2 rebounds per game.

Another player, who'll play a key role for the Betsy Layne girls is Candice Meade.

With starters gone from last season's team, some new talent will have to be relied on to step in and help provide a spark.

In the preseason, the entire Betsy Layne team looked forward to beginning play.

"We're anxious to get started," said Akers. "We need to work on things that only game experience can help us with, so we're looking forward to getting started."

The Ladycats are scheduled to take part in the Fifth Third Bank Classic and the Queen of the Bluegrass tournament, two of the state's top high school girls' basketball events."

Betsy Layne finished last season with a 25-7 record, the best record in the entire 15th Region.

Last season, Betsy Layne outscored opponents 1,963-1,543. The Ladycats went two games deep in last season's All "A" Classic, falling to eventual state champ Clinton County in

the second round. Returning to the top of the 15th Region is again a top goal for the Ladycats.



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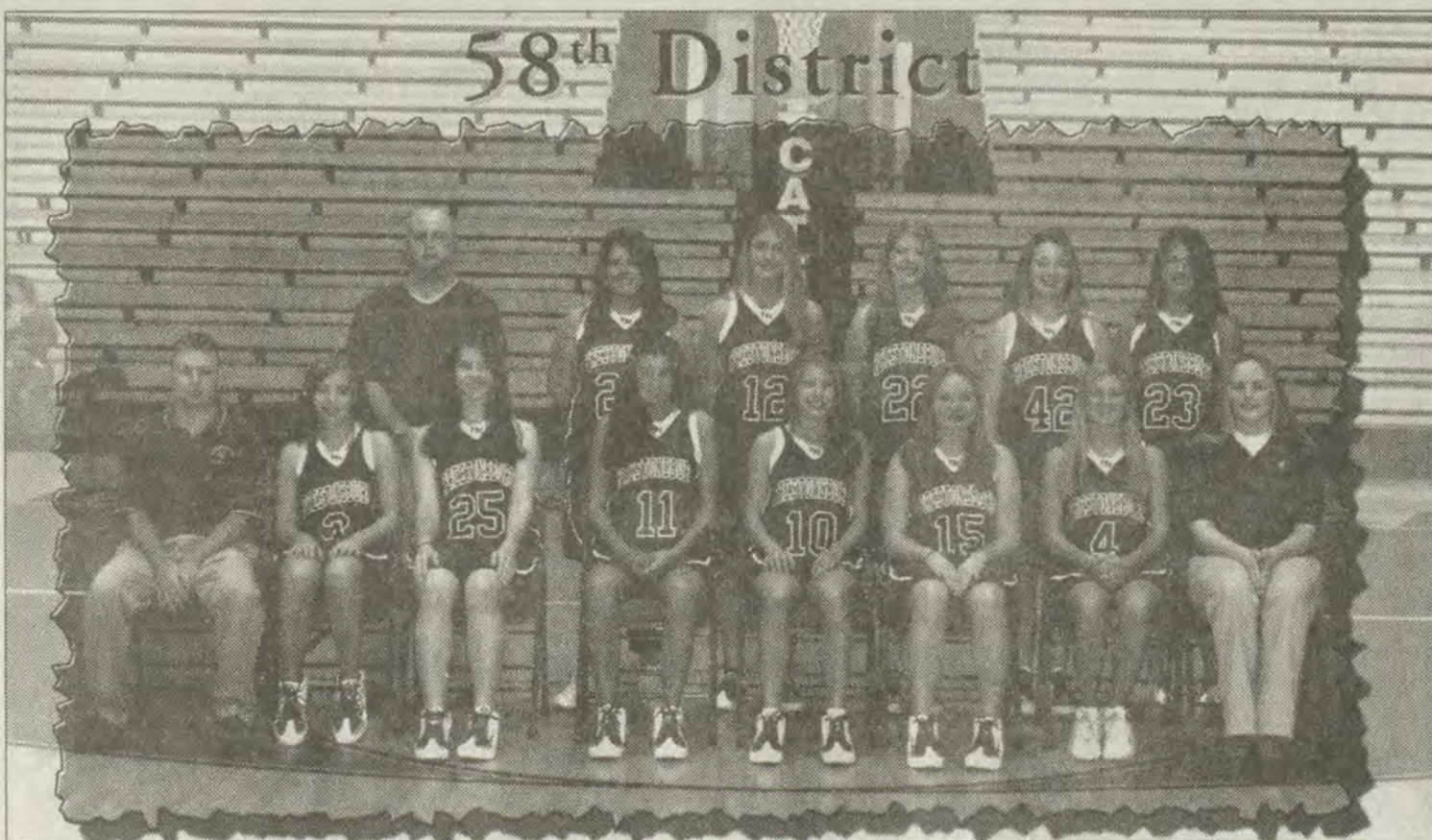
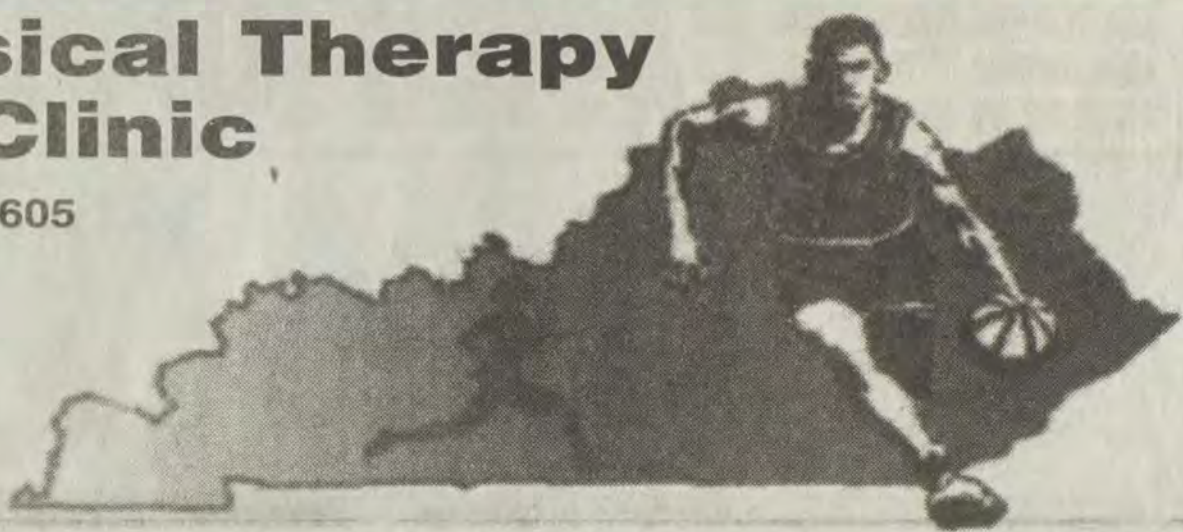
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PRESTONSBURG LADY BLACKCATS

COACH: JACK PACK

Dec 1-4	Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic
Dec. 6	East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Wolfe County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Dec. 21	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 22	at Johnson Central, 7 p.m. (Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Dec. 23	Belfry, noon (at Johnson Central, Country Music Highway Holiday Classic)
Jan. 3	Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Jan. 8	at Wolfe County, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	at East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Jan. 15	Pikeville, 6 p.m.
Jan. 22	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Johnson Central, 6 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Knott County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Feb. 4	South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Allen Central, 8 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Feb. 19	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Knott County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Blackcats hope experience pays off in 2004-05

After struggling through two rough seasons on the hardwood, Prestonsburg Lady Blackcat Coach Jack Pack hopes this season will be one to remember.

Heather White was the only senior last season and with the return of four starters from last season, expectations are high for Prestonsburg.

Senior Molly Burchett returns at the point guard position. Her back-court mate, sophomore Meagan Stone, will be looked to as a scoring threat.

Kelly Key is another player

back for the P'burg girls that has the ability to score from anywhere on the floor. Chanel Music returns at a forward slot for Prestonsburg and Amber Whitaker will play the center position for the Lady Blackcats. The ability to run up and down the floor will also benefit the P'burg girls' team this season with a fast-paced style of play seemingly suited for Prestonsburg.

If early-season strength of schedule is important to a team down the stretch, then the Lady Blackcats should benefit in post-

season play. Prestonsburg opened the 2004-05 season by taking part in the Pike Central Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic. Magoffin County, Belfry and Allen Central were the opponents that Prestonsburg was paired against in the tournament with all three being among the 15th Region's top teams.

Prestonsburg is picked by most to be in a battle with Betsy Layne for the 58th District regular-season title, but the Lady Blackcats are hoping to not only be in the hunt for a district title, but also make a run

into the regional tournament.

Darcey Hicks is another returning player from last season's squad. The P'burg guard can shoot the outside jumper as well as take the ball inside.

Prestonsburg has already tangled with 58th District opponent Allen Central with the Lady Blackcats coming away with a hard-fought one-point win.

Pack was happy with his team's effort, but also noted that the first half was much more to his liking than the second, saying, "we played

well in the first half, but the second half was a different story."

Prestonsburg is scheduled to take part in the Johnson Central Country Music Highway tournament over the holiday break and prepare for the important part schedule in district play, which they hope will ultimately end in a district title.

Prestonsburg will look to speed and quickness for success this season. With the tallest player standing only 5-8, the Lady Blackcats will need to use that quickness to offset some of the height advantage that

other teams may have. Pack is excited about the season at hand and states that his team has some goals set they hope to accomplish.

"We would like to win the district and I feel that with the exception of just two or three teams, we are pretty evenly matched with most of the other teams in our region," said Pack.

Prestonsburg will be shooting for a district title this season and with a few good bounces they could be in position to win that title at season's end.

Good Luck, Lady Cats!



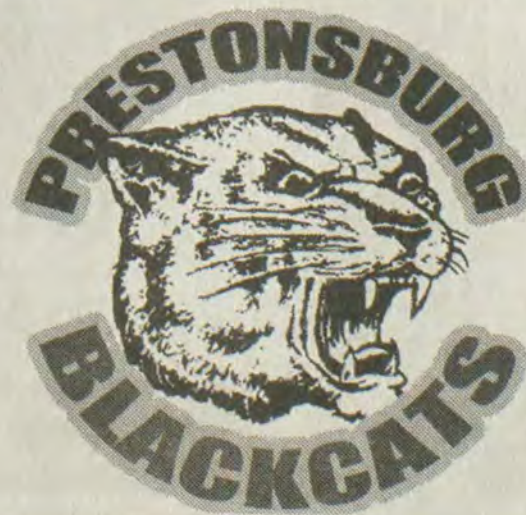
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58th District



SOUTH FLOYD LADY RAIDERS

COACH: TONY ISAAC

Dec. 3	Shelby Valley
Dec. 4	Riverside Christian
Dec. 11	Jackson City, 3 p.m.
Dec. 13	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Allen Central, 6 p.m.
Jan. 6	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	at Jackson City, 3 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Jan. 13	Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Jan. 14	Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Jan. 20	Pikeville, 6:30 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 22	at Riverside Christian, 2 p.m.
Jan. 24	June Buchanan, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Cordia, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Piarist School, 6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Letcher, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Feb. 8	Betsy Layne, 6 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Allen Central, 8 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Cordia, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Shelby Valley, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21	Fleming-Neon, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	at Letcher, 6:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

South Floyd plays minus school's top-three girls' basketball players

What do you do when the top-three girls' basketball players in school history graduate? You have to find a way to move on.

In his second year as head coach of the South Floyd Lady Raiders, Tony Isaac is faced with that challenge. He has to somehow get his team together following the graduation of Megan Ousley, Ashley Johnson and Brandy Anderson — the top-three scorers in school history.

All three graduated in the spring, leaving a void in the Lady Raider basketball program. But the cupboard isn't bare. South Floyd has some talent returning. The Lady Raiders will rebuild, but can at the same time do some reloading with some veteran talent returning.

The top returnee for the Lady Raiders is senior forward Tab Trammell (5-10). Senior center Courtney Blocker (5-11) is another player back for the Lady

Raiders. Another senior, Tab Tackett, opted not to return to the hardwood and is not playing basketball this season.

South Floyd's starting lineup to begin the 2004-05 season includes four seniors as guards Miranda Gregory and Candace Hall enter into starting roles.

A fifth starter for the Lady Raiders is sophomore forward Heather Dean. Two freshmen who'll come in off the bench for the Lady Raiders are freshmen

Stephanie Slone and Faith Little. Some seventh- and eighth-graders are also expected to contribute for South Floyd.

Before coming to the South Floyd girls' basketball program, Isaac was an assistant coach on the South Floyd Raider staff under then-head coach Henry Webb. He also put in a stint as the South Floyd Middle School boys' basketball head coach.

While for the most part young and inexperienced, South Floyd

could surprise some opposing teams along the way.

The Lady Raiders put up a 13-17 record last season, while going 10-14 against 15th Region teams.

A Class A school, South Floyd will again play for a 15th Region title. Back in 2001, the Lady Raiders finished runner-up in the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

The South Floyd High School girls' varsity basketball program, although not yet as

successful as the South Floyd High boys' basketball program, has had some bright moments, including 15th Region All "A" Classic runner-up finish.



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Good Luck, Lady Raiders!

59th District



EAST RIDGE LADY WARRIORS

COACH: JILL MORGAN

Nov. 29	Grundy Mt. Mission, Va.
Dec. 2	at Johnson Central
Dec. 6	at Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Twin Valley, Va., 7 p.m.
Dec. 13	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Twin Valley, Va., 7:30 p.m. (Twin Valley Holiday Tournament)
Dec. 18	at Shelby Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 30	at Whitesburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 3	at Jenkins, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Pikeville, 6 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Perry County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Fleming-Neon, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Haysi, Va., 6 p.m.
Jan. 31	Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	Pikeville, 6 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Johnson Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Mt. Mission, Va., 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Whitesburg, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Jenkins, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	Fleming-Neon, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Belfry, 7:15 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Warriors have fourth coach in three seasons

The East Ridge High girls' basketball program now has its fourth coach in three years as Jill Morgan, a former assistant coach is the new head coach. She takes over for Floyd County native Joe Marson. Marson, who was formerly the boys' basketball coach at Millard High School, accepted the job of head coach of the East Ridge girls' basketball program, but after taking a

position as an assistant principal at South Floyd High School, left the job vacant. Morgan was quickly promoted and named head coach following Marson's departure.

Marson originally replaced Geary Walton, who went 10-14 at the helm of the East Ridge girls' program. The assistant principal's position at South Floyd High was an opportunity Marson just couldn't pass up.

The Lady Warrior basketball program is just three years old. Denise Campbell, the current head girls' basketball coach at Phelps High School, was the first coach to guide the East Ridge High girls' basketball program.

Playing the likes of 59th District foes Pikeville and Shelby Valley, the Lady Warriors have very little room for error in a tough district

field.

The Lady Warrior players are quite familiar with Morgan and should make an early adjustment to her being head coach.

Many of the talented faces from last season's East Ridge girls' basketball season are gone, including Patience Hylton. Leading for the East Ridge girls' program returnees include Amy Shortridge and

Samantha Smith.

Some younger players will move into more prominent roles for East Ridge, following a graduation that took away a great deal of talent.

This is Morgan's first job as a high school head coach.

The East Ridge girls' basketball team will take on opposing teams' from both Kentucky and Virginia. In mid-December, the Lady Warriors

will play in a holiday tournament hosted by Twin Valley, Va.

East Ridge suffered a pair of overtime losses in last season's 59th District Tournament. The hardluck Lady Warriors fell in overtime to both Shelby Valley and Pikeville.

East Ridge High School consolidated Millard, Elkhorn City and Feds Creek high schools.

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59th District



PIKEVILLE LADY PANTHERS

COACH: CINDY STUART HALBERT

Nov. 29-	Lady Hawk Tip-Off Classic
Dec. 4	
Dec. 10	Tug Valley, W.Va. (at Belfry Lady Pirate Classic)
Dec. 11	Madison Southern, 7 p.m. (at Belfry Lady Pirate Classic)
Dec. 13	Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Shelby Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 27	Calloway Co., 9:15 p.m. (Owensboro Classic)
Dec. 28-30	TBA (at Owensboro Catholic)
Jan. 8	at Waggener, 9:30 a.m. (Blue Chip Shooting for the Cure)
Jan. 14	East Ridge, 6 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Prestonsburg, 6 p.m.
Jan. 20	South Floyd, 6:30 p.m. (15th Region All "A" Classic)
Jan. 22	Prestonsburg, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	at Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at East Ridge, 6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Shelby Valley, 6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Pike County Central, 6 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Magoffin County, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	June Buchanan, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.

Following sub-par season, Lady Panthers figure to contend

Cindy Halbert-coached girls' basketball teams annually contend for titles. Halbert, now in her second season at the helm of the Lady Panther girls' basketball program, returns one of her most talented teams in recent years. Halbert came to Pikeville from Allen Central, where she spent three seasons guiding the Lady Rebels.

Pikeville (13-14) appears to be the clearcut favorite in

the 59th District, ahead of Shelby Valley and East Ridge.

Halbert, who before coaching at Allen Central, coached at her high school alma mater, Belfry, put her team through a busy summer of basketball.

The Lady Panther program isn't short on talent as twin sisters Shawna and Samantha Howard, both senior guards, both return. Teammate Emily

Colvin is another starting guard back for the Lady Panthers.

All three players are among the top guards in the 15th Region. The Howard twins rank as two of the top overall 15th Region players.

Senior Evin Shockey (F/C) and senior Megan Harris (F), a transfer from Allen Central, also return for the Pikeville girls.

Harris will become eligible

to play for the Lady Panthers Dec. 18. The wait has no doubt been a long one, but Harris, who has spent her time away on the hardwood in private workouts away from her time while awaiting her eligibility, should adjust well.

Pikeville had one of the most successful summers of any 15th Region girls' basketball teams. The Lady Panthers played many different teams and even played

some out of state.

Pikeville last made noise on the state level four years ago after winning the 15th Region All "A" title.

Halbert is confident in her team and its chances during the 2004-05 season.

The 2003-04 season ended for Pikeville with a loss to Belfry in the opening round of the 15th Region Tournament. The Lady Panthers beat Shelby Valley

in the championship game of the 59th District Tournament and claimed the district title.

Halbert is in the third stop of her coaching career. The former Belfry Lady Pirate has found success at each of her previous head coaching stops.

While the Pikeville High boys' basketball program has several championships to its credit, the Lady Panther girls' basketball program has also held its own.

Have Yourself a Merry Christmas!!!

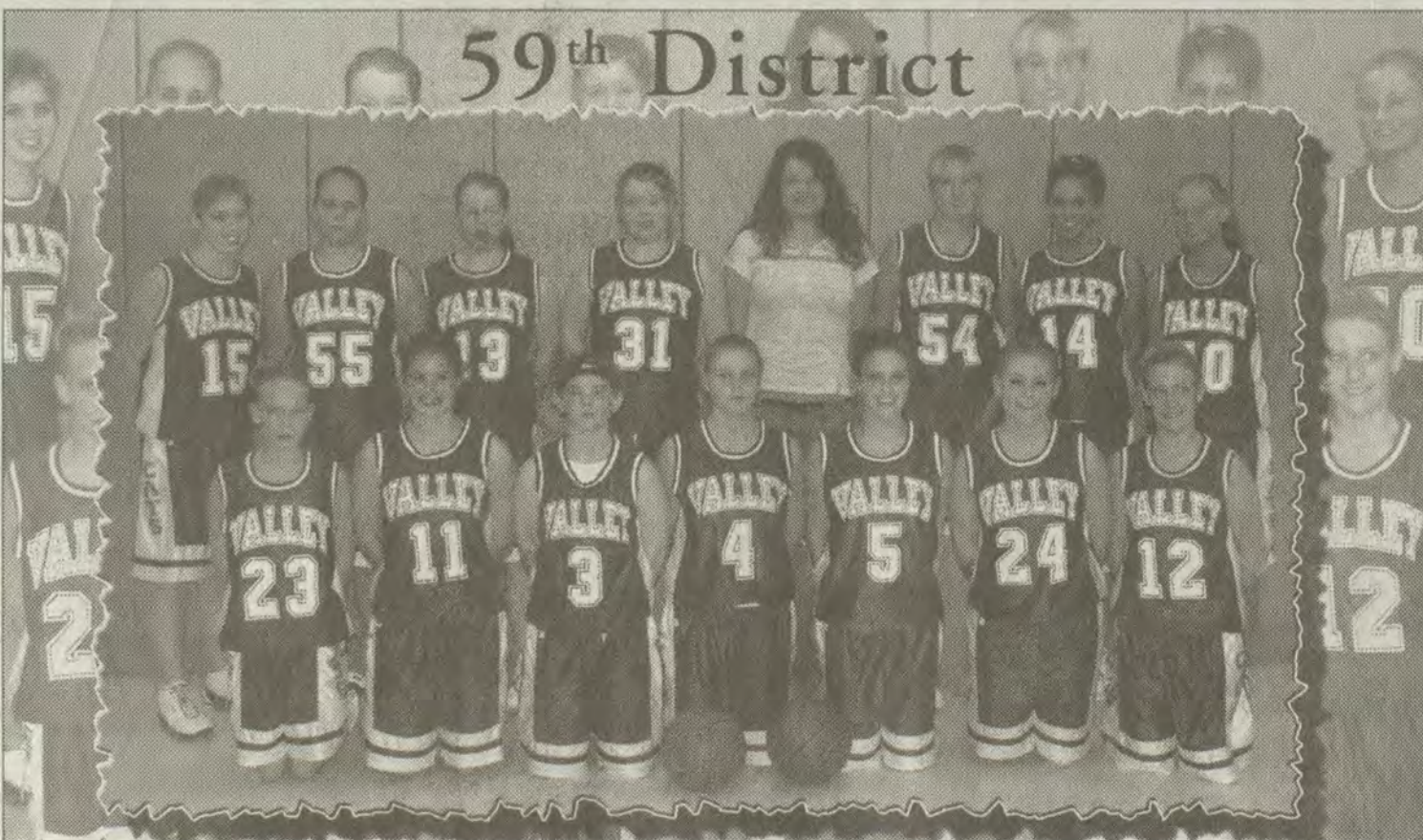
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SHELBY VALLEY LADY WILDCATS

COACH: BOBBY SPEARS

Dec. 3	at South Floyd, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	Grundy, Mt. Mission, Va., 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Rose Hill Christian, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	at Greenup County, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	East Ridge, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	at Pikeville, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 28	at Breathitt County, 4:45 p.m. (Breathitt Lady Cat Holiday Hoopfest)
Dec. 29	Clay County, 4 p.m. (Breathitt Lady Cat Holiday Hoopfest)
Dec. 29	Cordia, 7:15 p.m. (Breathitt Lady Cat Holiday Hoopfest)
Jan. 3	Sheldon Clark, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	Betsy Layne, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	at Phelps, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Magoffin County, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Allen Central, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	at East Ridge, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	Paintsville, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Pike County Central, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Magoffin County, 4 p.m.
Feb. 7	Pikeville, 6 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Belfry, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	South Floyd, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21	Phelps, 7:30 p.m.

Schedule subject to change.

Lady Wildcats expected to push Pikeville

The Shelby Valley High School girls' basketball program hasn't been without its share of success. Under veteran head coach Bobby Spears, Shelby Valley has flourished. Last season, Shelby Valley finished with a 9-15 record.

The Shelby Valley girls had a very successful run in the late-90s and as recently

as the 2000 and 2001 seasons put teams on the floor that were capable of beating any opposing 15th Region team on any given night.

Summer Jones, one of the most talented girls' basketball players to ever come out of the 15th Region, is a Shelby Valley High School graduate and a former Lady Wildcat.

Last season's 9-15 mark did include a 59th District title runner-up finish.

Sophomore Esther Fleming and junior Brittany Deskins (6-0) are the top returnees for the Lady Wildcats. Leandra Mullins, one of the team's top shooters, also returns.

The 2003-04 season didn't include more than three con-

secutive wins for the Shelby Valley girls' basketball team.

Spears is indeed a veteran coach who typically has his girls' basketball teams playing their best basketball at the end of the season.

Players graduated from last season's team include Jerrica Dye and Beth Hall.

A tough schedule for the Shelby Valley girls always

begins inside Pike County. But Spears isn't one to shy away from the tough competition.

When faced with a rebuilding process, the Shelby Valley girls' basketball program most often successfully reloads.

The Lady Wildcats won just one game during the month of December last sea-

son and will look to get off to a better start during the 2004-05 campaign.

For a second straight year, the Shelby Valley girls will play in the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Despite suffering through a losing season last year, Shelby Valley won eight games over 15th Region opponents.

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