

The Times

FLOYD COUNTY NEWS

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briefs

Low-income heating help available

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program has announced that the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program has been extended. Those who have not received assistance this heating season can visit their local Community Services Office at the following locations to apply.

- Floyd County, Courthouse annex, Prestonsburg, 886-2929
- Johnson County, 440 Main Street, Paintsville, 789-6515
- Magoffin County, 131 S. Church Street, Salyersville, 349-2217
- Martin County, Roy F. Collier Comm. Center, Inez, 298-3217
- Pike County, 478 Town Mountain Road, Pikeville, 432-2775

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

To be eligible for assistance, clients must meet the 110 percent poverty income guidelines, be responsible for home heating cost or pay heating costs as an undesignated portion of rent and not have in excess of \$1,500 in liquid resources (\$4,000 if the resources are being accessed for medical and living expenses due to a catastrophic illness).

The following information is needed to apply for assistance:

- Most recent heating bill or verification that heating expenses are included in the rent.
- Social Security numbers for all household members

(See HEAT, page three)

2 DAY FORECAST

Today



High: 33 • Low: 8

Tomorrow



High: 27 • Low: 18

Get up-to-the-minute weather forecasts at floydcountytimes.com

inside

- Opinion.....A4
- Obituaries.....A6
- Sports.....B1
- Lifestyles.....B5
- Classifieds.....B6



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13 agree to plead guilty to drug charges

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — The Commonwealth's Attorney's office met with lawyers for several defendants accused of drug trafficking charges and accepted pleas on each case which will add

up to 64 years of prison time for 13 drug dealers.

The cases included defendants from last July's Operation UNITE drug roundup, which included many cases developed by the Floyd County Drug Task Force, as well as a 2003 roundup in Wheelwright that was conducted by

Kentucky State Police. The KSP cases have already been handled in federal court and the sentences received at the federal level will run concurrently with the sentences that have been pursued by the Commonwealth.

The Wheelwright roundup brought in the heaviest sentences, with one dealer set

to serve 12 years on several counts of trafficking in cocaine. Those cases were the result of an ongoing investigation by the KSP which captured several drug buys on videotape throughout March 2003. Undercover informants and officers made

(See DRUGS, page three)



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Attorney Marty Osborne, of the Floyd County Bar Association, presented Crissy Derry, of the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, with a check for nearly \$7,000, raised Friday morning by the Bar in an effort to help fund Floyd County food pantries and feeding programs. Those present in the circuit courtroom for the presentation were, from left to right, attorney John Rosenberg; Charlie Schafer, of the Auxier Lifelong Learning Center; Osborne; Renee Thornsberry, of Martin First Baptist Church; Sister Kathleen Weigand, of St. Vincent's Mission; Joe Hornbaker, of the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry; Derry; Shirley Paige, of the Bread of Life Food Pantry; Karen Marcum, of The Town Branch Church; Charles Hackworth, of the Middle Creek Community Development Program and the Middle Creek Volunteer Fire Department; Judge Danny Caudill; Judge David Caudill; Judge Janet Stumbo; and members of the Floyd County Bar Association.

Bar association raises money for food pantries

by KATHY J. PRATER
FEATURES EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — For "at least the past 15 years," according to Prestonsburg attorney John Rosenberg, the Floyd County Bar Association has been donating money to help fund various projects that help to feed Floyd County families.

This past Friday morning, Rosenberg, Judge Danny Caudill and Judge David Caudill, met with the members of the association to hold a "mini-auction" of sorts, in an effort to raise money for several Floyd County food pantries.

Judge Danny Caudill got things underway by beginning the fundraising session with an auction of UK game tickets. Afterwards, members of the Bar voiced pledges, raising nearly \$7,000 for the food pantries at press time, with more pledges still coming in.

"I don't know of any other Bar association that

(See BAR, page three)



photo by Kathy J. Prater

Judges Danny, left, and David, right, Caudill enjoyed a few minutes of playing the role of auctioneer when the Floyd County Bar Association met early Friday morning to raise funds for local food pantries, something the group has been doing for the past 15 years. Nearly \$7,000 was raised in less than an hour for this year's donation.

Big Sandy ADD highlights offered services

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Big Sandy Area Development District held an open house on Friday that attracted area businesses, politicians and outreach volunteers, as well as community leaders who were looking for program enhancement.

It was a chance for the building, which houses several government funded programs, to show off its versatility and avail its services to interested parties.

All manner of needs can be met at the center, as was evidenced by the many diverse groups that attended. One school sent several program planners to hear more about traveling arts programs that will be made available to area schools by the Center for Rural Development.

President and CEO Lonnie Lawson was on hand to explain that the agency has engaged the services of former Mountain Arts Center director Pat Bradley. She will be touring Eastern Kentucky schools on behalf of the Center to invite schools to take part in programs like a children's theater group which performs plays that can be integrated into the current English curriculum of area schools.

Steve Allen, who was in Salyersville two weeks ago to interest residents in an alternative plan to "Rails for Trails," was on hand and meeting with Big Sandy ADD staff about getting grants to convert the Salyersville rail line into a "dinner train," which would bring capital into Magoffin

(See SERVICES, page three)

Paper's off-color jokes not funny to some

The Associated Press

LOUISA — A weekly newspaper in eastern Kentucky has apologized for printing off-color Christmas jokes that left some blushing readers as red as Santa's suit. The Lawrence County Storm also retrieved unsold copies of this week's edition from newsstands in and around Louisa where it is published.

Meanwhile, Louisa Mayor Teddy Preston said he began receiving phone calls

from constituents who were both angered and embarrassed by the jokes.

"It was very, very vulgar," Preston said. "It is something that shouldn't have been written in a local newspaper or anywhere else for that matter."

Some of the jokes put Santa in sexually explicit situations. Some made light of the religious side of Christmas.

Others were simply corny.

(See JOKES, page three)

Officials show off cleanup of old coal refuse dump

by SIDNEY JANE BAILEY
STAFF WRITER

McDOWELL — State and local officials gathered at the site of a reclaimed coal refuse site Friday to celebrate the cleanup of one of the state's largest coal dumps.

The Spewing Camp Branch Refuse AML Project has completed reclamation of a 60-acre coal refuse dump that had been abandoned since 1974, according to Susan Bush, commissioner of Natural Resources. The project began in May 2000.

Actual work on the project began in 2002 with the Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands beginning construction work on the site in late-2002 under a contract with Hawkeye Construction Co. of Robins.



Pictures of the Spewing Camp coal refuse dump before the cleanup, left, and afterwards highlight the transformation the area has seen.

(See CLEANUP, page three)

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Odds and Ends

■ **KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — The dead driving the dead.

At least that's how the government seemed to have it in the case of Frank Jansky, a 75-year-old Kansas City man who drives a hearse part-time. Even as he lived and breathed, the Social Security Administration seemed to think he was no longer alive.

Jansky was traveling in England in September and October. He returned home in November to find his checking account mysteriously depleted and a letter from Medicare denying payment for diabetes treatment.

"Our records show that the date of death was before the date of service," the letter said.

Social Security officials had taken back electronic deposits they made for Jansky in August and September and cut off payments for the succeeding two months.

Jansky appeared before a representative for the Social Security Administration in the flesh, carrying his passport and driver's license. He was told to expect to be resurrected — on paper at least — within two weeks.

Jansky returned two weeks later. Two more weeks, he was told.

John Garlinger, a spokesman for Social Security, said the mix-up appeared to lie in New York, where Jansky had lived for

decades before moving to Kansas City in 1990.

A funeral home or family member apparently mistakenly reported Jansky's death, Garlinger said. The error could have been as simple as a funeral home worker wrongly typing in a Social Security number.

Jansky's formal rebirth came Monday, when the money owed to him was deposited in his account. He said he could find some humor in the situation, but it was fading.

"It was funny," Jansky said. "But it's not funny."

■ **COBURG, Ore.** — Forget the red poinsettias. Now, you can deck the halls in purple, peach, or even tied-dyed.

Oregon's largest producer of poinsettias is offering the traditional Christmas plant in multiple colors.

The dye is permanent. It's a mixture of ethanol and special pigment that is actually beneficial to the plant, said Sherrie Lewis, who manages the annuals department of the Johnson Brothers Greenhouse.

The dyed plants cost about a dollar or two more than the nursery's selection of red, white and hybridized poinsettias, and so far sales have been pretty small.

"We must have sold at least 300 or so of the blue," Lewis said.

The dyed poinsettias have

been popular for years in Europe, but have been slow to catch on in the United States.

■ **NANAIMO, British Columbia** — It wasn't the Grinch that ruined the annual Christmas herring sale, it was the sea lions.

Herring were in abundance but couldn't be brought into the boats because of the danger from hundreds of voracious sea lions, said Bob Carpenter, 63, a member of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union.

The sale is used to raise money for charities in the Vancouver Island town.

"We had about 100 sea lions in the net as we tried to set the seiner nets," he said. "We've never seen that before. They were jumping into the net, biting and fighting with each other."

Stellar sea lions can weigh as much as 2,200 pounds.

"You get a hundred of those in your net and it's not safe to try to bring your net up," Carpenter said.

■ **MADISON, Wis.** — A hunter faces two charges after shooting a llama that he mistook for a deer.

John M. Burger was charged with trespassing and a misdemeanor count of mistreatment of animals after he killed a llama named Snicker Doodle Silk that was grazing

on land owned by Susan and Kevin Kovacs.

According to a criminal complaint, Burger was on land adjacent to the Kovacs' property when he shot the animal Nov. 9.

Burger told a Dane County sheriff's deputy he was in a tree stand when he spotted an animal grazing about 60 yards north.

Burger said he thought the animal was a deer, probably a doe, and he waited for it to raise its head. It did not and he shot at it. He then walked toward the animal and saw herds of llamas running around, realizing his mistake.

Burger reported the accidental shooting to the Kovacs family and apologized.

The trespassing charge carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and the other count carries a fine of up to \$10,000 and a nine-month jail term.

■ **CLIFTON, N.J.** — A Missouri family's pet snake, missing for a while, turned up alive and slithering in a box they had sent to New Jersey, about 1,000 miles away.

The box contained a DVD player that was being sent for repairs. The family believes Paco the Python crawled into the box before they sealed it and sent it to the factory via UPS.

Sheila Himmerick said her family had been looking for the snake when she received a call from the New Jersey repair shop, CVE Inc., wondering if the snake in the box belonged to her and whether it was her way of expressing customer dissatisfaction.

"My heart fell," said Himmerick, 38, of Jefferson City, Mo. "You just get that lump in your throat. It was just, 'Oh, my God! What

have I done?'"

Paco, a 3-foot, 4-pound ball python will be shipped back home to Missouri, this time in temperature-controlled comfort.

■ **NEZPERCE, Idaho** — A man picked the wrong location for an alleged drug deal. Telling an eyewitness to mind his own business also was not a good idea.

It was in front of the home of Lewis County's sheriff-elect, who was sitting on his front porch.

"They really picked the wrong house to be in front of," said Phil Steen, who will be sworn into office next month.

Steen had only lived in the home about three weeks when he decided to enjoy the Saturday evening air. But some suspicious activity on the street impaired his view.

Steen saw what he thought was a drug deal in the street. When those involved noticed him watching, they simply told him to "look away," Steen said.

Instead of looking elsewhere, Steen ran the suspects' license plates. It led to a search of two houses and a vehicle, then the arrest of James MacArthur, 46.

MacArthur is charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ **DORMONT, Pa.** — Forget all that stuff about a white Christmas. Jeweler Barry Landay's customers are hoping for a white New Year's Day.

That's because, for the fourth straight year, Landay's Style Jewelry in this Pittsburgh suburb is offering a full refund to anyone who buys jewelry between now and Christmas

Eve if at least six inches of snow fall at Pittsburgh International Airport on New Year's Day.

Landay hasn't had to pay up in past years. But he's not crazy — he's insured by a policy covering the promotion.

The sign in the window of Landay's store reads "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow" and features another big word: Free.

"I'll tell you this much, I know it stops them," Landay said of those who might otherwise walk past his store. "They'll stop in and ask. It's something to chat about."

■ **SINGAPORE** — Fragrances aimed at getting Singaporeans in the mood for love will soon be sold abroad, after being used in a government-backed campaign aimed at boosting the city-state's declining birth rate.

His and hers "Romance Singapore Eau de Parfum" will soon be exported to Asia, North America and Europe, said Jen Chan, marketing manager for the company that handles the scents, Cosmetics Asia Pte. Ltd.

The perfumes — a floral essence for her and a musky scent for him — were created by chemistry students from Singapore Polytechnic prep school to coincide with the island country's "Romancing Singapore" campaign in February this year.

The campaign was a government-backed effort to help citizens find love and boost the country's record-low birth rate. Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the falling birth rate was among the administration's top three priorities for 2004.

The perfumes will be sold in 50-milliliter bottles for \$29.70.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 19, the 354th day of 2004. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 19, 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

On this date:

■ In 1732, Benjamin Franklin began publishing "Poor Richard's Almanac."

■ In 1776, Thomas Paine published his first "American Crisis" essay.

■ In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Penn.

■ In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corporation began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

■ In 1957, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

■ In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings.

■ In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States.

■ In 1984, a fire at the Wilberg Mine near Orangeville, Utah, killed 27 people.

■ In 1984, Britain and China signed an accord returning

Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

■ In 1998, President Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was later acquitted by the Senate).

Ten years ago: Former President Jimmy Carter, on a peace mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina, met with Bosnian Serb leaders, who offered a four-month cease-fire. CNN publicly acknowledged it had wrongfully disobeyed a judge's order in broadcasting former Panamanian military ruler Manuel Noriega's jailhouse telephone conversations.

Five years ago: Space shuttle Discovery and seven astronauts roared into the night toward the crippled Hubble Space Telescope. Macau spent its last day under Portuguese control before being handed back to China, ending 442 years of colonial rule. Cleveland Browns offensive tackle Orlando Brown was ejected for pushing referee Jeff Triplette to the ground during a game against Jacksonville after accidentally being hit in the eye with Triplette's weighted penalty flag. Actor Desmond Llewelyn, who'd starred as the eccentric gadget expert Q in a string of James Bond films, was killed in a car crash in East Sussex, England; he was 85.

One year ago: Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi agreed to halt his nation's drive to develop nuclear and chemical weapons. Design plans were unveiled for the signature skyscraper — a 1,776-foot glass tower — at the site of the World Trade Center in New York City. Death claimed actress Hope Lange at age 70 and actor Les Tremayne at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Charlie Ryan is 89. Country singer Little Jimmy Dickens is 84. Actress Cicely Tyson is 71. R&B singer-musician Maurice White (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 63. Actor Tim Reid is 60. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 60. Rock singer Alvin Lee (Ten Years After) is 60. Actress Elaine Joyce is 59. Musician John McEuen is 59. Singer Janie Fricke is 57. Actor Mike Lookinland is 44. Actress Jennifer Beals is 41. Actor Robert McNaughton is 38. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 36. Actress Kristy Swanson is 35. Actress Amy Locane is 33. Actress Rosa Blasi is 32. Actress Alyssa Milano is 32. Actor Jake Gyllenhal is 24. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 24.

Thought for Today: "Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them." — Paul Valery, French poet and critic (1871-1945).

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Drugs

Continued from p1

several buys from each dealer for a period of several weeks. Each sale was videotaped and resulted in evidence so compelling that none of those involved have opted to have their cases tried.

The Operation UNITE arrests were conducted in July and, thus far, none of those arrested have opted for trials. The only defendants who saw their charges dismissed in either roundup were actually underage at the time of the sales.

"The buyers didn't ask to see the birth certificates of any of the dealers which, of course, would have been unusual," said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor.

Thus far, every roundup in the region has had at least one underage dealer involved, a fact Taylor said is "not unusual."

Currently there are over 40 traffickers scheduled for pre-trial hearings in March for their part in the latest roundup, conducted two weeks ago. Authorities are confident that at least 90 percent will enter guilty pleas.

So far, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has only had to prosecute two dealers from previous roundups, and each was convicted by a Floyd County jury and sentenced to the maximum sentence for their charges.

Bar

Continued from p1

County and keep the area from losing the historic tracks, which were at one time the only passage in and out of the county for coal.

The Center for Rural Development opened its doors as well and demonstrated the group's new conference calling technology which will hook up the staff of their offices across the state. The technology allows large groups to conference at one time with a picture-in-picture monitor which assures that both groups can monitor each other as well as how their image is being transmitted.

The office for Community and Economic Development is the room to visit for people with ideas for their community. The office has staff on hand who specialize in finding the funding necessary to develop concepts for improving community service. Their services are aimed at aiding cities, counties, nonprofit groups, civic groups and service providers.

Andrew Dinsmore, of the Floyd County Long-Term Recovery Group was also present and hoping to make a connection with the district office for possible grant sources to aid county residents who are still suffering ill effects from the Memorial Day weekend flood. He announced that the group has had its hands full raising funds to buy back basic service for area residents such as new septic tanks.

Cleanup

Continued from p1

Hawkeye completed the majority of reclamation within a year and the contract was closed in October 2004. The total cost of the project was \$3,517,367, which included the cost of two satellite projects.

Timothy Stamper, inspector for Abandoned Lands worked on the project for 14 months, said, "This project will stabilize the refuse fill, establish a vegetative cover, improve the stream quality, and lesson the possibilities of flooding with black coal refuse filling up the lower stream."

"This is a major improvement to the area," added Jeff Sands, of Hawkeye Construction.

The Spewing Camp refuse dump had long been one of the worst remaining abandoned mine sites in Eastern Kentucky. From 1952 to 1973, the site had received coal refuse generated by the Price coal preparation facility located on the opposite side of the mountain. Over 7 million cubic yards of refuse was placed in the pile from an aerial tram that transported the material from the coal washer, over the crest of the mountain, and dumped it. The pile is up to 165 feet deep in the middle.

The completion of the cleanup eliminated the hazards associated with one of

the worst remaining abandoned mine lands problems in the eastern coalfields. Citizens downstream from the project will no longer see coal waste eroding into the creek, causing periodic flooding.

Looking over the completed project Friday was state Sen. Johnny Ray Turner.

"This is a long-awaited project," Turner said. "I was here when it started during the groundbreaking and it was a lot of money to protect the environment and people. They've done an outstanding job of reclaiming the land. The kids around here can get their balls out of the creek."

State Rep. Chuck Meade spoke about local resident Roland Howell bragging to everyone about how the wildlife had begun to return and seeing the deer feeding upon the abandoned site.

Funding for the Spewing Camp Branch Refuse Project came from four sources. The primary source, contributing \$2.1 million, was the state's Federal Abandoned Mine Land Grant.

Also, \$723,297 in funding came from the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, made available by the federal Office of Surface Mining. DAML also contributed \$406,665 from the state supplemental reclamation fund to supplement the forfeited Enerpro reclamation bond.

Services

Continued from p1

does anything quite like this," Rosenberg said. "It's such a great help to the people running the food programs, who, by the way, do such a great job."

Sentiments echoed by Judge David Caudill, who said, "These folks who do this ... they don't do it for the money ... They take a little and do a lot with it and we want to thank them for what they do."

Shirley Paige, of the Bread of Life Food Pantry, said, "We really look forward to the donations we get at this time of year. Everyone wants to have Christmas, a good Christmas dinner, and this helps so much."

Joe Hornbaker, of the Fishes

and Loaves Food Pantry, informed Bar members that his group serves over 200 needy families each month.

Sister Kathleen Wiegand, of St. Vincent's Mission, said that in the past year, food supplies and housing repairs to area families served by the organization "altogether valued at around \$300,000."

These, along with other representatives in attendance, stressed the importance, and appreciation, of the yearly donations made by the Bar association.

"We do care about our folks in the county," said Judge Danny Caudill, "and we hope to show that."

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Heat

Continued from p1

Proof of all household income for the preceding month (BSCAP can no longer provide income verification for food stamp recipients.

Individuals must bring verification with them when they apply.

Applicants who are unable to apply for themselves must contact the local community services office to make other arrangements. The benefit amount will be based on the level of poverty and the type of fuel used for heating.

Jokes

Continued from p1

like the one that asked why you never hear much about Olive, the 10th reindeer. "Yeah, you know, Olive the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names."

The newspaper's publisher, Glen Cassidy, couldn't be reached for comment. Elva McCoy, a member of the newspaper staff, told WSAZ-TV in Huntington, W.Va., that the jokes were published by mistake.

McCoy told the TV station that someone on the staff had

been reading the jokes on the Internet and that they had inadvertently made their way into the newspaper.

Preston said if that is actually what happened, someone should have caught the mistake while proofreading the page.


"There have been cases before where people have typed a silly comment and somehow that got into the paper," said David Thompson, executive director of the Kentucky Press Association. "What it takes to do that is beyond me."

Thompson said most newspapers are careful to exclude vulgar language from their pages, though some have become more liberal over the past 10 to 20 years.

"As far as any real vulgarity, it is not widespread at all. Most newspapers make sure they police it."

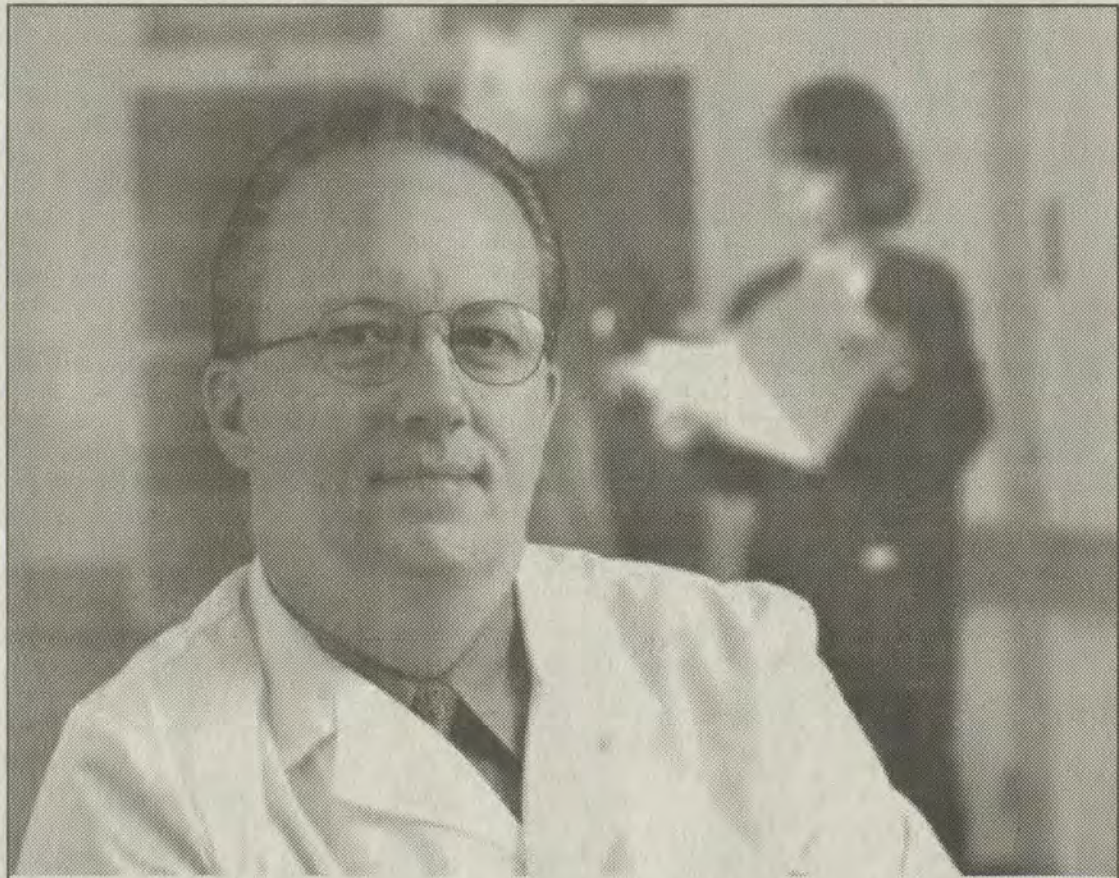
Preston praised the Louisa paper for trying to retrieve unsold copies of the newspaper.

"I wouldn't want my children to read that language," he said.



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expression

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

Guest view Worth the effort, worth review

The Kentucky Board of Education deserves a great deal of credit for how it has handled the debate over the future of portfolios — the state's controversial way of measuring a student's writing ability.

The board didn't cave to the intense pressure of critics, including an advisory group that recommended earlier this year that the writing portfolio portion of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System be abolished.

Instead, members rolled up their sleeves and committed to improving the process. It remains to be seen what changes will be made, but the board decided last week to review 17 recommendations for developing a better way to measure accountability in writing.

Some of the complaints about the portfolio system are valid. They do require a great deal of time, which cuts into other teaching and learning opportunities. But writing is every bit as, if not more, important as other subjects in the core content, and if giving it a little extra attention and time can help improve the state's poor literacy rate, then it's well worth the effort.

Another major concern — and perhaps the most legitimate — is that teachers become so involved in the editing process that the work is no longer that of the student. Writing isn't just about grammar or sentence structure — it's about creativity and being able to clearly express one's thoughts and ideas. If these are being stifled by a teacher's desire to shape the portfolios in a way they think will bring a high grade, then something is wrong with the process.

But such concerns should be easily addressed, and potential solutions are contained in the recommendations the state board is considering. The board will consider requiring more training for teachers on how to properly handle portfolios — and increase the types of pieces students will be allowed to write to include analytical and technical writing. The (Louisville) Courier-Journal reported last week.

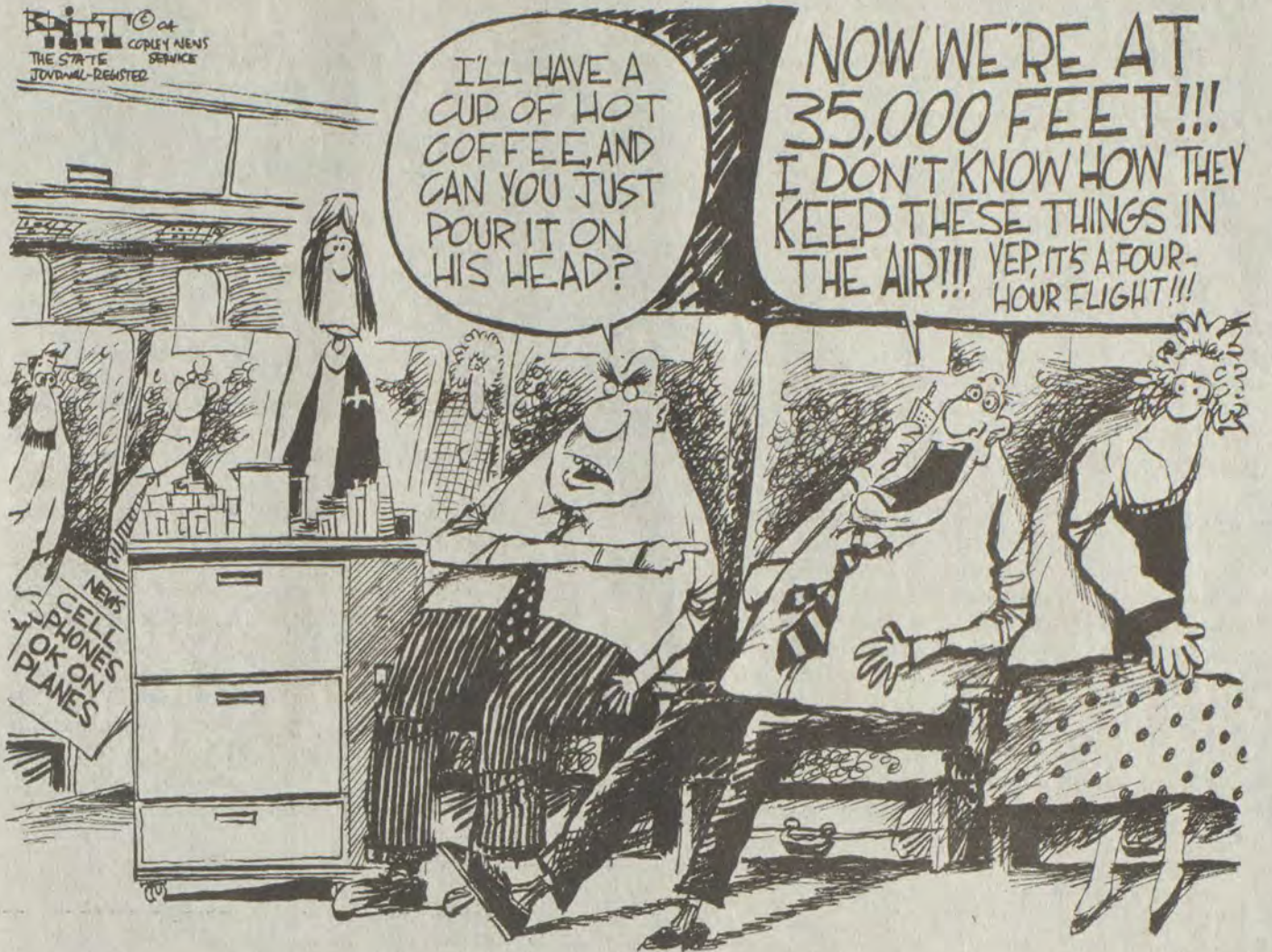
Maintaining and building upon the system is important, because, despite imperfections, portfolios are having a positive effect. Over the last five years, writing scores in Kentucky have improved by 16 points.

Critics counter that these scores aren't credible, that portfolios are often given higher scores by teachers than they would receive from an independent reviewer. It's a legitimate concern — and again one that the board is taking steps to address. One of the recommendations being considered is a series of regional scoring sites to provide more consistency in grading.

Writing portfolios require a lot of work from both teachers and students, and that causes some to question whether the results are worth the effort. But it's this type of effort that requires students to really show their ability to process knowledge and display their ability to write that makes CATS so much more effective than multiple choice testing. It's this type of effort that is needed to help cause economic progress in a state long burdened by its high illiteracy rates.

It's an effort the state Board of Education is right to want to preserve and improve.

— Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer



—Rich Lowry Column

Are blacks the new 'bigots'?

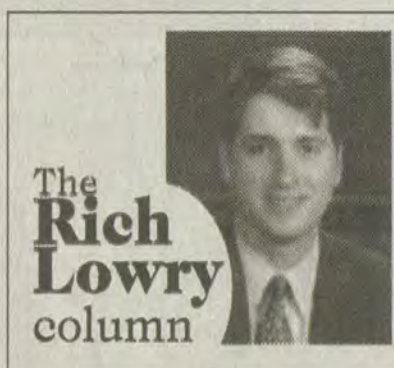
2004 might turn out to be the year when blacks began their journey in the liberal imagination from perpetual victims of bigotry to "bigots" themselves. The left has always forgiven the black community a lot — its religiosity, with which Jerry Falwell could feel comfortable; its retrograde views on abortion and school prayer; its hostility to gay rights. But now blacks just might have gone too far: They've started to vote Republican.

A pre-election survey by the well-respected Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies had President Bush's support among black voters going from 9 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2004. In that survey, Bush's support among black self-described evangelicals hit a stunning 36 percent.

"We haven't seen a number like 36

percent anywhere in the black community in a generation," says conservative activist Richard Nadler, who has made it his business to win blacks to the GOP through targeted advertising and outreach.

The numbers fell off on Election Day. According to the exit polls, Bush's support among blacks nationally inched up only slightly from 9 percent in 2000 to 11 percent in 2004. But the kind of dramatic



The Rich Lowry column

movement in the pre-election Joint Center survey showed up in the battleground states where the GOP invested the most resources to woo black voters. Bush went from 7 percent of the black

vote in Florida in 2000 to 13 percent in 2004. In all-important Ohio, Bush's support among blacks rose from 10 percent to 16 percent.

Pro-GOP groups, including Nadler's Americas PAC, spent \$3 million on advertising in minority markets, buying time for 75 different spots on every issue imaginable. The theory was simple: If blacks hear nothing but the Democratic message on the radio stations and other

media outlets they pay attention to, they will always vote Democratic. "If you think you are the party of hate crimes, racial profiling, etc., who the hell is going to vote for you?" Nadler asks.

Social issues were hit particularly hard. On abortion, the groups ran ads reminding blacks of the racist beliefs of the early promoters of abortion. One ad cited today's disproportionately high abortion rate in the black community and said, "Killing black babies is no way to fight poverty."

But it was gay marriage that had the most resonance. "It really played," Nadler says. "In the churches, there was a backlash against the notion of sexual proclivity being equated with civil rights." In the end, according to some estimates, 60 percent of black voters voted for the state-level referenda banning gay marriage.

For understandable historical reasons, blacks have long kept their social conservatism separate from politics, voting for liberal Democrats. If a significant number of blacks now join their fellow moral traditionalists in Red America in voting for the GOP, they will experience the sort of elite scorn heaped on all other opponents of social liberalism. Blacks will be the new "bigots." Their consolation will be having a seat at the table of the nation's new majority party.

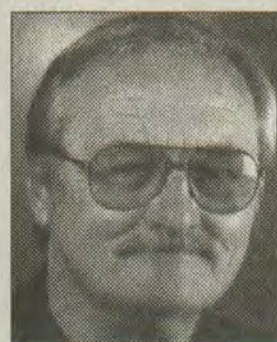
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.>O?

—beyond the beltway

Now even the troops badger Rumsfeld

by DONALD KAUL

It's not so much that we elected a dunderhead as president that pains me. We have elected dunderheads before and managed to survive them.



precisely the issues on which he has demonstrated utter incompetence.

Our superb military is bogged down in a savage urban guerrilla war for which it was ill prepared and the end of which stretches farther into the future each day. Moreover, it is undermanned for the task, largely because the "coalition of the willing" that President Bush mustered is, with the minor exception of Britain, a sham.

We have been lied to at every step of the way in this process and we have swallowed the lies whole — until now, at least. The other day brought evidence that our

troops, if no one else, are at long last gagging on those lies.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last week met with Iraqi-bound troops in Kuwait, most of them National Guardsmen. Manfully he opened the floor to questions and questions he got — not the sort that the pandering Washington press corps gives him, giggling at his witticisms, but real questions involving life and death.

"A lot of us are getting ready to move north relatively soon," said a soldier from Tennessee. "Our vehicles are not armored. We're digging pieces of rusted scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass that's already been shot up ... picking the best out of this scrap to put on our vehicles to take into combat ... We do not have proper ... vehicles to carry with us north."

I suppose the buried question there is: "What the hell's going on?" In any case, the remark brought applause and cheers from the troops.

Rumsfeld answered: "You go to war with the Army you have ... not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time," then added, "If you think about it, you can have all the armor in the world on a tank and a tank can be blown up."

This is what is known as the Butch Cassidy defense, so named for a famous scene in the film, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

In it, you'll remember, the two outlaws are trapped on a ledge high above a tumultuous river with the cops closing in. Butch decides that their only escape is to jump off the ledge and take their chances in the river, hundreds of feet below. Sundance

refuses, saying: "I can't swim."

Butch bursts into laughter and says, "Swim? Hell, the fall alone will probably kill us." He pulls him comrade to his feet; they jump together and, miraculously, escape.

It works better in the movies. Which can be said of most of the things the Bush administration does. There is an air of unreality about it, a relentless refusal to face hard facts and deal with them, whether it be global warming, the terrorist threat or the need for more troops in Iraq.

The reason for our lack of troops in Iraq, other than a lack of contributing allies, is that we want it that way. Mr. Rumsfeld has a theory that the new, modern army should be a relatively small, highly equipped force that can overwhelm an enemy suddenly.

Which is fine if that's all you want to do, overwhelm an enemy quickly. We did that. What we can't do is occupy a large country indefinitely and fight a determined insurgency while rebuilding that country, which is what we're trying now.

Our attempt to make the Iraqi army a force that can take responsibility for the security of its nation is, at this point, a tragic joke.

The war has been reduced to a succession of Groundhog Days, repeating themselves with minor variations, endlessly.

And we elected this guy to make us safe? That's like electing Nero fire chief.

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the "Des Moines Register." He has covered the foolishness in our nation's capital for 29 years, winning a number of modestly coveted awards along the way. Email him at donald.kaul2@verizon.net.

The Times

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Faith Extra

Church's ad raises question: Christ in Christmas, or everyone else out?

by MARGARET LILLARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — A pastor's newspaper ad urging Christians to spend their money at retailers who wish them a "Merry Christmas" — and not the more generic "Happy Holidays" — has meant a little less good will this Christmas season.

"People have called me intolerant and exclusionary, despite the fact that what is being excluded is Christmas," said Patrick Wooden Sr., who heads Raleigh's Upper Room Church of God in Christ. The church is a conservative, 3,000-member black congregation known for its outspoken opposition to homosexuality.

While plenty of preachers give sermons urging congregants to "put Christ back in Christmas," Wooden decided to speak to a wider audience — and in characteristically brazen fashion.

"Attention Christians!" read the full-page ad that ran Nov. 24 in the News & Observer.

"Have you noticed you don't hear Silent Night? Where has Noel Gone? ... Had It Not Been for Christ ... There Would Be No Christmas!"

The ad went on to urge "all Christians to spend their hard-earned dollars with merchants who include the greeting 'Merry Christmas' in their holiday advertising promotions this Christmas."

Since it ran, the ad has inspired a chain of back-and-forth letters to the newspaper's editor and untold numbers of discussions around office water coolers and kitchen breakfast tables.

"You're hard-pressed now to go in any department store anywhere in America and see the word Christmas," Wooden said in an interview this week. "Christmas is a significant Christocentric term because it signifies or brings to attention that this particular holiday is about Jesus Christ. So I think it's important that 'Merry Christmas' be displayed or included or used in some manner, in some way."

The part of the ad that seems to have stirred the most consternation is an almost parenthetical bit of data halfway down the page.

"Did you know? 96% of American consumers celebrate Christmas," the ad advises in

bold type.

Then, in letters about half as large, it adds, "5% celebrate Hanukkah, & 2% celebrate Kwanzaa."

That sentence, attributed to a Fox News report, drew a strong rebuke from the Rev. Jim Melnyk, associate rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

"Why not simply require stores owned by Jews to put a gold star in their ads and on their storefronts?" Melnyk wrote in a letter to the editor published the following day. "Wooden and his church have put away their anti-homosexual rhetoric for the holidays so they can focus their discrimination on non-Christians. Who will be next?"

Upper Room started its own private school a few years ago after Wooden, its pastor for 17 years, became concerned about the tolerance of gays and lesbians in public schools.

In June, 75 church members crowded into the office of state Senate leader Marc Basnight to lobby for an amendment to the state constitution banning gay marriage.

"As a preacher of the Gospel, I firmly believe that my calling from God is to speak the truth as I see it, according to the Scripture," Wooden said. "I'm not responsible for people's reactions to it."

In an interview, Melnyk said he agrees with Wooden that the main focus of Christmas should be on its religious meaning. But he said he was alarmed by the way the ad made its point.

"I reacted to ... the implicit approval of boycotting people who are different. I don't think that's what they intended, but I think that's the message some people could take," Melnyk said.

"There was a move in pre-World War II Germany to not support Jewish merchants and Jewish businesses. That was the beginning of how Jews were separated out and it later became something much more heinous."

Wooden said he isn't advocating boycotts or discrimination against non-Christians. He said he wants businesses to acknowl-

edge that a Christian holiday is responsible for the end-of-year surge in spending that they court and benefit from.

"They want the gold, frankincense and myrrh from the Christian consumer without recognizing the babe who is the reason most Christians are out purchasing at this time, anyway," he said.

A Roman Catholic pastor said Upper Room could have made the point without naming non-Christian celebrations.

The reference to Kwanzaa and Hanukkah "was sort of the turning point, saying 'Why are they bringing that up?'" said Father Mark G. Reamer, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, a Roman Catholic Church. "I think that smacks of a kind of supremacy, a closing-in rather than an expansion."

Reamer was saddened that subsequent debate about the Upper Room ad has been more about taking sides than discussing the meaning of Christmas.

"Too bad it couldn't have been starting off from 'How do we help each other celebrating our traditions?'" he said.

A former Navy reservist, Reamer served as a chaplain in Iraq from January to June of 2003, and said his military service made him a firm believer in the importance of tolerance.

"That experience, just the horrors that I saw there — of blessing the bodies of young men — all the more makes me want to be a voice for peace and people of goodwill of differing religions to come together," he said. "I think it is possible for us to live together on this earth with different faith traditions."

Wooden said he hopes enough consumers who support his campaign will demonstrate their buying power to merchants this year that next year's holiday advertising will reflect greater awareness of "the 96 percent."

"We're not going to quit. It's not a flash in the pan," he said. "Eventually the merchants will get it. And if they get it, they will get a windfall from it."

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WORDS CONTAINING "LATIN"

Minister's Moment

'The play, the preparation'

by PASTOR STEVE
PESCOSOLIDO
COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

The play that I am referring to is "Standing at the Gates". This play presents the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ and the bad news of the condemnation of the sinner. As people have been seeing the reality of what happens after we die, they have been getting the message that there are only two eternal destinations: heaven and hell. The play is not original with Community United Methodist. It has actually been presented around the country since the early 1980s. But God's timing and blessing for the play has been profound here.

Little did the congregation anticipate the responses that persons would make to God's invitation. To date 187 persons have given their hearts to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord! Another 124 persons have rededicated themselves to following Christ. (The next and perhaps the closing presentation of the play will be Monday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.)

This is an awesome work that the Holy Spirit is doing! Another great part of this revival is that most of the new converts are high school and middle school students. They are finding real meaning and genuine love from Jesus Christ!

What is Floyd County going to do with all these new Christians? How are we going to disciple this many people? A local church can only properly receive 10-to-20 percent of

its attendance in new members in a year. By properly receive, I mean to truly get to know the new folks and to provide classes for them. We don't want these new believers to grow up fast and then wither because their roots are shallow.

Thankfully, there are many churches in Floyd County who are baptizing and shepherding these new converts. (Please let me know if your church has baptized persons from the play: 886-8087.)

That is about the "play". Now about the preparation. God is leading me to see that He is using this play to further connect the churches of Floyd County. Does Community Church want praise and prominence? No. Let me repeat: NO. This is God's work. We are His servants and only following His instructions. If we disobeyed God we would be under judgment. It is on my heart that God has something bigger in mind for Floyd County. You might ask isn't 187 new Christians big enough? It's huge, it's awesome ... but it's only the beginning.

Now you might think that this preacher is out of his mind. What could be bigger than that? How many more lost people are

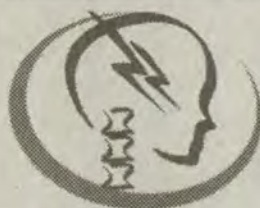
there in Floyd County and surrounding counties? How many problems do we have with abuse and addiction? How many souls are held captive to fear or hurt or loneliness? How many families have someone in their family in bondage to alcohol addiction, drug addiction, sexual addiction, or major depression? I believe that the Holy Spirit has set up a work at Community church to get the attention of Floyd County folks. (I hear that this play has literally been the talk of the town.)

This church play is only the beginning of what God has in mind for Floyd County and surrounding counties if we will work together and obey Him. Pastors, let us work together. Laity, let us work together. It is on my heart to share with my congregation and with you, that one way God is calling His Church to serve is by supporting the Floyd County UNITE Coalition. This group meets Thursday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m. at the May Valley School in Martin. There is a spiritual aspect to the troubles in Floyd County. I have been hearing what God is doing in Clay County. I am hearing He wants to do these things here.

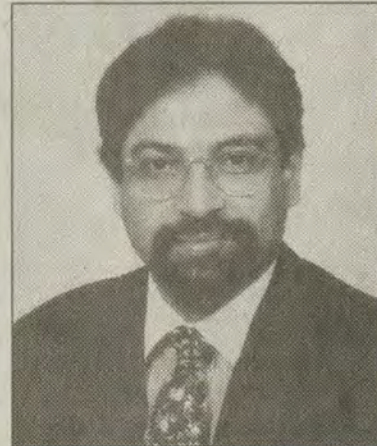
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Regional Obituaries

FLOYD COUNTY

Carrie (Edna) Rose, 80, of Garrett, died Tuesday, December 7, at Our Lady of the Way Hospital, in Martin. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Clyde Prater, 86, of Olivet, Michigan, a Floyd County native, died Saturday, December 11, at Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, December 15, under the direction of J. Kevin Tidd Funeral Home, Albion, Michigan.

Edna Hall Sizemore, 81, of McDowell, died Friday, December 10, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 12, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Waltust Reynolds Sr., 88, of Grethel, died Saturday, December 11, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Marie Tackett Reynolds. Funeral services were conducted

ed Tuesday, Decembr 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Paul Mulkey, 54, of Martin, died Monday, December 6, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 9, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Lucille Daniels Eden, 88, of Martin, died Sunday, December 12, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Willie Ray Eden. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 15, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Olin Andrew Elliott, 79, of Martin, died Monday, December 13. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 16, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

James R. "J.R." Key, 76, of Martin, died Wednesday, December 15, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 18, under the direction of Hall

FUNERAL HOME.

Jerry Wayne Robinette, 55, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, formerly of Floyd County, died Friday, September 24, at a local hospital. He is survived by his wife, Denise E. Ward Robinette. Funeral services were held Tuesday, September 28, under the direction of Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home.

Hilda Louise Keen, 54, of Teaberry, died Monday, December 13, at the Pikeville Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Estill Campbell. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 16, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Edward Cavelle Blankenship, infant son of Clement Edward Blankenship of Teaberry; and Angelina Marie Burchett of Betsy Layne, died Wednesday, December 15, at Pikeville. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Lloyd Brown, 68, of Louisa, died Monday, December 13, at Three Rivers Medical Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 16, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Dianne Kaye McCarty Ward, 45, of Ashland, a Johnson County native, died Thursday, November 4, at the U.K. Medical Center, Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 7, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Virgie Mollett, 71, of Boons

Camp, died Wednesday, December 8, at her residence. Funeral services were held Sunday, December 12, under the direction of the Preston Funeral Home.

MAGOFFIN COUNTY

Wilma Borders Meade, 65, of Mt. Sterling, a Magoffin County native, died Saturday, December 11, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Bob Meade. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 14, under the direction of Herald & Stewart Chapel, Mt. Sterling.

KNOTT COUNTY

Wilmer Slone, 62, of

Hindman, died Wednesday, December 15, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Lovella Thacker Slone. Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 19, at 1 p.m., under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

Wilma "Billie" Jean Collins, 66, of Fisty, died Thursday, December 16, at Mary Breckenridge Hospital, Hyden. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 18, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, Hindman.

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Obituaries

Rutherford (R.H.) James

Rutherford (R.H.) James, 86, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 15, 2004, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

Born May 30, 1918, in Endicott, he was the son of the late Tony and Sophia Morrison James. He was a retired well tender and meter reader for Columbia Gas Company for 30 years, deacon and a member of the Freewill Baptist Church for 52 years.

He is survived by his wife, Maxie Mae Hite James.

Other survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, William and Janice James, Russell and Jeanette James, and Bobby and Barbara James, all of Prestonsburg, and Dean and Sue James of Bagdad; a daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Arvil Bowling of Greenup; a half-sister, Joetta Ratliff Smith of Pikeville; four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Chester James; a half-sister, Zevie James; two half-brothers: Willy James and John Graham Ratliff; step-brothers: Ballard Ratliff, Edgar Ratliff, Sterlie Ratliff, Shirley Ratliff and Burley Ratliff; and step-sisters: Ova Ratliff, Lizzie Ratliff Blackburn, Byrd Ratliff Blackburn, Pauline Ratliff McCoy, and Zetta Ratliff Morrison.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 18, at 10 a.m., at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Clifford Austin officiating.

Burial was in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

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Six ink with MSU baseball program

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD - The Morehead State University baseball program signed six high school standouts during the November signing period. Five of the student-athletes hailed from Kentucky. The newest Eagles are:

■ Josh Barnes, a 6-1, 195-pound right handed pitcher from Winchester and George Rogers Clark High School. As a junior, Barnes was 7-2 with a 1.39 ERA and 61 strikeouts in 49 innings pitched for Coach Larry Allison.

■ Tyler Bess, a 6-1, 178-pound right handed pitcher/infielder from Brooksville and Bracken County High School. As a pitcher in 2004, Bess was 10-0 with a 2:30 ERA. Offensively, he hit .464 with six home runs, 18 doubles and 37 runs batted in playing for Coach Dennis Ollier.

■ Will Current, a 6-1, 175-pound middle infielder from Frankfort and Frankfort High School. As a junior, Current hit .485 with 12 doubles, three triples, 12 stolen bases and 21 runs batted in for Coach Joe Peach.

■ Tyler Lee, a 6-1, 190-pound left handed pitcher from Mt. Sterling and Montgomery County High School. In 2004, Lee was 7-3 with a 1.90 ERA and 82 strikeouts in 63 and a third innings pitched. Montgomery County is coached by Michael Johnson.

■ Clay Muntz, a 6-1, 165-pound right handed pitcher/infielder from Cynthiana and Harrison County High School. As a pitcher for Coach Mac Whitaker last season, Muntz was 5-1 with a 1.70 ERA and 65 strikeouts in 41 innings pitched. Offensively, he hit .396 with six doubles, five home runs and 46 runs batted in.

■ Brendan Smith, a 6-3, 195-pound right handed pitcher from New Haven, Ind., and Ft. Wayne Snider High School. Last summer, Smith was 5-1 with a 1.98 ERA. His high school coach is Andrew Owen.

MSU Athletics offers Three-Point Pack ticket package

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD - Morehead State University Athletics has put together a brand new basketball ticket package that's special for alumni and fans living within a couple hours drive of Morehead and priced to make an easy holiday gift. It's called the Three-Point Pack.

The Three-Point Pack includes reserved seats to three of the most popular games on the schedule:

- Thurs., Dec. 30 - Eagles vs. George Mason
- Sat., Jan. 29 - Lady Eagles & Eagles vs. Murray State
- Tues., Feb. 22 - Eagles vs. Eastern Kentucky

(See MSU, page two)

South Floyd holds off Allen Central



photos by Steve LeMaster

Above: South Floyd junior Ryan Little (54), pictured going in for two of his 17 points, gave South Floyd a big lift in the fourth quarter of Thursday night's 58th District/Floyd County Conference game. Right: Junior guard Ryan Johnson added 14 points for the Raiders.

Rebels get close, finish short of win

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT - South Floyd got out to a 19-0 lead Thursday night in a 58th District/Floyd County Conference home game against visiting Allen Central. But the lead did little to knock out the Rebels. Allen Central collected itself and gave the host Raiders a ball game. South Floyd was outscored in each of the game's final two quarters, but the Raiders held on, winning 89-85. South Floyd's win kept Allen Central winless on the season.

(See SOUTH FLOYD, page three)

Clark, UofL teammates in Midwest Rankings

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LOUISVILLE - University of Louisville men's tennis players Damar Johnson and Octavian Nicodim have earned Midwest Regional singles rankings while the doubles teams of Slavko Radman and Jeremy Clark and Mark Kennedy and Jhonny Berrido were rated in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Midwest Region's top 15.

Johnson, sophomore from Ocho Rios, Jamaica is ranked No. 13 in the region. He posted a 2-2 singles record in the fall and advanced to the round of 16 in the ITA Midwest Regional Championship. Johnson is currently No. 96 in the ITA national pre-season singles rankings.

Nicodim, a senior from Bucharest, Romania stands at No. 23 after posting a 4-2 singles record in the fall. He went 3-0 in the ITA Midwest Regional Championship pre-qualifying draw to advance to the main draw where he reached the round of 32.



Jeremy Clark

Clark, a junior from Stanville, and Radman, a sophomore from Split, Croatia, are ranked No. 12 in the Midwest region. The duo posted a 2-1 overall record in doubles to advance to the round of 16 in the ITA Midwest Regional doubles main draw. Clark and Radman are also No. 46 in the ITA national preseason doubles rankings.

Clark previously starred at Prestonsburg High School.

Berrido, a junior from LaVega, Dominican Republic and Kennedy, a senior from Glencoe, Ill., round out the top 15 doubles rankings. The tandem compiled a 2-1 fall record, reaching the round of 16 in the ITA Midwest Regional Championship main draw.

"This is a great compliment from the coaches who make up the regional ranking committee," said U of L head coach Rex Ecarma. "To have six players ranked in in singles and doubles shows that other coaches have respect for our talent and skill level. I believe our lineup will be very deep this year, and we'll need that depth in what is arguably the toughest schedule in U of L tennis history. With this many guys in the rankings, it gives me confidence that in a tight

(See CLARK, page three)

Pikeville native Butcher scores landmark win

TIMES STAFF REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG - With a 91-63 victory over Berea College on Tuesday, Dec. 7, Cumberland College head coach Don Butcher arrived at a milestone in his coaching career. In just his fifth season, Butcher amassed 100 total wins. The win over Berea was his 100th.



Don Butcher

Butcher's winning ways have been present ever since he took the lead spot at Cumberland. After taking the head coaching position midway through the 2000-2001 season, Butcher, a Pikeville native, won six out of his first seven games. This beginning sparked a tradition of excellence that has been present while under Coach Butcher's tenure. Subsequently, the Patriots have had four consecutive winning seasons.

"Coach Butcher has done a remarkable job as head basketball coach," said Cumberland

(See BUTCHER, page two)

Lady Rebs cruise past South Floyd

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT - Visiting Allen Central scored an all-important second 58th District victory Thursday night, beating South Floyd 57-41. The victory was Allen Central's second district win in three days. The Lady Rebels escaped Prestonsburg Tuesday night with a 53-50 win over the host Lady Blackcats.

In the win over South Floyd, Allen Central junior Alanna

Cline scored a career-high 19 points. She also had seven rebounds and six steals.

"Alanna played hard," said Allen Central Coach Mark Martin. "She was aggressive on the offensive boards and she drove the ball well to the basket. She's gaining more confidence each game and will play a big role for us down the stretch."

Allen Central led 11-7 at the end of the first quarter and main-

(See PAST, page three)



photo by Steve LeMaster
Allen Central junior Yumekia Hunter (32) got out in front of the South Floyd defense on several occasions Thursday night. Pictured for South Floyd is Miranda Gregory.

P'burg Junior Basketball Week 3

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PRESTONSBURG - Prestonsburg Junior Basketball last week held games as part of its third week of the 2004-05 regular season. Teams in all divisions got in games. A breakdown of the games follows.

PEE-WEE DIVISION - Gold 11, Blue 2: Mason Blair scored a game-high six points to lead the Gold team to a win over the Blue team. Dylan Slone and Jarrett Blair scored two points apiece for the Gold team. Allyson Crider added a free throw.

Bailey Slone had two points for the Blue team.

Orange 10, Red 0: Scott Stapleton scored

(See JUNIOR page two)

Junior

Continued from p1

a game-high six points and Nick Rowe added four points as the Orange team scored a shutout win over the Red team.

Black 11, Green 1: Jordan Blanton scored nine-points and Tate Green added two for the Black team in a 10-point win over the Green team. Dustin Blair scored a single point for the Green squad.

TRAINING LEAGUE GIRLS

Blue 21, Green 4: Kierra Shelton scored a game-high eight points, Bethany Scarberry added five points and the duo of Keeiona Craft and Elizabeth Campbell scored four apiece to lead the Blue team to a win over the Green team.

Shantel Collins and Chasity Sizemore each had two points for the Green team.

Black 25, Red 15: Samantha Hall paced the Black team with a game-high 14 points. Andrea Howard scored nine points and Jess Hall rounded out the Black team scoring with two points.

Haley Howell led the Red team with seven points. Allyson DeRossett scored four points while Bobbie Lynn Blair and April Crum flipped in two apiece.

Blue 13, Red 12: The Blue team edged the Red team behind five points from Grant Martin and four points from Robert Campbell. Josh Crider and Jordan Ray added two points apiece.

For the Red team, Madison Wright, Tyler Harman and Austin Bailey all had four points.

Green 18, Gold 3: Tray Stapleton and Derik Newsome scored six points apiece and Austin Sloan, Tate Goble and Steve Little each had two points to lead the Green team to the win.

Owen Caudill had all three points for the Gold team.

Black 26, Orange 4: Shane Hall and Seaton Hall both combined for 20 points, scor-

ing 11 and nine points respectively. The Hall duo led the Black team in scoring.

Bradley Hall added four points and Joey Adkins chipped in two.

For the Orange team, Aaron Foley and Corey Conley both had two points.

JV LEAGUE - Red 21, Blue 14: Shawn Burkett scored nine points and Tyler Sparkman flipped in six as the Red team pulled away for the victory. Adam Crisp netted four points and Catie Burchett added two.

Shane Hall scored six points for the Blue team and J.D. Adams tossed in three. Tyler Shelton and Brittany McKenzie added two apiece and Seaton Hall scored on a free throw.

Black 10, Green 2: In a defensive game, Wesley Robinson and Kain Collins scored four points apiece and Lucas Stewart added two, leading the Black team to the win. Kaleb Rodebaugh scored two points for the Green team.

Varsity - Blue 18, Black 17: In a tight game, Wes Hall tossed in 10 points to lead the Blue team over the Black squad. Also for the Red team, Alexis DeRossett scored three points, Josh Head and Matt Crum netted two apiece and Samantha Stevens scored on a free throw.

For the Black team, D.J. Ousley hit three three-point field goals and scored a game-high 12. Austin McKinney netted five points.

Red 33, Black 20: Austin Ward and Scotty Morgan each had 10 points apiece and Tommy Bray and Tasha Wallen scored four apiece as the Red team pulled away from the Black team. Kyle Gearheart added three points and Billy Robinson flipped in two.

Brad Stanley scored seven points for the Black team. Austin McKinney added five points and D.J. Ousley scored four. Cody McCoy and Felicia Keathley both had two points.

Butcher

Continued from p1

College Athletics Director Randy Vernon. "He is, in my opinion, one of the best coaches in the entire country. We are very lucky to have him on our staff, and I anticipate him having a long and successful career here at Cumberland College."

The Pike County product certainly has the Patriot men's basketball program headed in the right direction.

By obtaining a career record of 100 wins and 35 losses in just a little over four seasons, Butcher became the fastest coach in Cumberland College history to reach the century mark. With over half of the season still left, Butcher and the rest of the Patriots look to continue the winning tradition and add more victories to their totals.

MSU

Continued from p1

These will not only be special games on the court, but will feature special halftimes as well. Halftime of the George Mason game will feature the national routines of our defending national champion Co-Ed Cheerleading Squad, and the currently Number One ranked All-Girl Squad. The Murray State games will feature halftime and special post-game performances by the Kenya Safari

Acrobats. This group has appeared at NBA games, on the David Letterman Show and at the White House. Finally, the Eastern Kentucky game will feature another NBA and major college halftime performing group, K-9s in Flight.

A seat for all three games can be reserved for \$30.

For more information, call the MSU Athletics Department at 606/783-2386



photos by Steve LeMaster

Above: Allen Central senior Tim Griffith scored a game-high 25 points in a loss to South Floyd. Below: Allen Central guard Ryan Collins stopped and looked to pop in the fourth quarter.



photos by Steve LeMaster
Bottom: Allen Central guard Mara Biliter drove to the basket. Top: South Floyd's Candice Hall looked to move the ball against the Allen Central defense. Middle: Allen Central senior center Thomas dribbled against the Lady Raider defense.



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Clark

match, different people in different parts of the lineup will be able to clinch it for us, which was critical to our success last year."

Louisville will open the

2005 spring season on January 14 when the Cards play host to Wright State and Murray State in a doubleheader at the Bass-Rudd Tennis Center. The matches are slated to start at

noon and 6:00 p.m. respectively. U of L finished the 2003-04 season with a 19-9 record and an NCAA regional appearance and were No. 40 in the final ITA rankings.

Past

tained a lead at the end of every period thereafter. The Lady Rebels fought off every South Floyd comeback. Allen Central's early pressure got to the host Lady Raiders.

The Lady Rebs took control of the game, early on. However, Allen Central held a lead that was contested.

Allen Central came out and forced South Floyd into a number of turnovers early on but, could not convert the turnovers into points. The Lady Rebels shot a cold four-of-23 (17-percent) from the field. Allen Central's shooting would not get much better throughout the remainder of the game. The visiting Lady Rebels shot a total of 29-percent (23-of-78) for the game.

South Floyd senior Tabitha Trammell scored nine points in the second quarter as the Lady Raiders cut the Allen

Central lead to two (20-22) before the lady Rebs went on a 8-1 run to take a 30-23 into halftime.

"We just came out flat, and give credit to South Floyd," Martin added.

"They played hard all night. We were fortunate to be ahead at the half. Our kids just were a step slow all night long."

Allen Central's defense was able to get things going early on in the second half as senior Becky Thomas connected on four field goals and Heather Dean flipped in eight. Candice Hall and Danielle Tackett finished with five and two points, respectively.

Allen Central is scheduled to be back in action Monday night at home against 14th Region contender Breathitt County. Tip-off for the Breathitt County-Allen Central game is set for 7:30 p.m.

South Floyd

The Raider scoring attack was extremely balanced.

Senior center Steven Stanley led South Floyd in scoring with a team-high 19 points. Stanley was one of four Raiders to reach double figures. Junior Ryan Little came in off of the Raider bench and added 17 points - scoring 11 in the fourth quarter. Junior guard Mason Hall, who connected on five three-point field goals, scored 16 points. Ryan Johnson, another junior guard, added 14 points.

Burnett Little and Ethan Johnson each had eight points.

South Floyd (3-2), after leading 19-0, finished the first quarter out with a 21-5 lead.

Allen Central, which before coming into Thursday night's game against the host Raiders, previously had dropped games in the 2004-05 season to Knott Central, Pikeville

and Prestonsburg, played the Raiders even in the second-half.

South Floyd led 44-28 at halftime.

Veteran Allen Central head coach Johnny Martin saw his team come to life in the third quarter as the Rebels outscored the host Raiders 30-20. Allen Central senior Tim Griffith, on his way to a game-high 25 points, connected on a pair of third-quarter three-point field goals. Griffith had a total of four three-point connections.

South Floyd took a 64-58 lead into the fourth quarter. Allen Central was able to pull within a basket of South Floyd in the final period - but could get no closer.

Ryan Johnson hit five-of-six fourth-quarter free throws and Ryan Little added 11 points in the final stanza to help the Raiders end with a win.

ball well, from the field or foul line."

Thomas scored 14 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Juniors Mara Biliter, Yumekia Hunter and Amanda Mills chipped in seven, nine and eight points, respectively.

"The more balance scoring we get from our juniors will make us better in the long run," Martin added.

Trammell led South Floyd with 16 points. Courtney Blocker hit for 10 points and Heather Dean flipped in eight. Candice Hall and Danielle Tackett finished with five and two points, respectively.

Allen Central is scheduled to be back in action Monday night at home against 14th Region contender Breathitt County. Tip-off for the Breathitt County-Allen Central game is set for 7:30 p.m.

Continued from p1

Before South Floyd put the game away, Allen Central reserve Josh Prater came into the contest and kept the Rebels alive. Prater hit both a field goal and a three-point field goal late in the fourth quarter before the Rebels fell to defeat.

Justin Slone, who got a starting nod for the Raiders, finished with seven points.

Ryan Hammonds added 23 points for Allen Central. Ryan Collins scored 12 points and Wilfredo Dominguez added 11. Jason Paige and Prater finished with nine and five points, respectively.

At press time, South Floyd was in Lexington, playing in the Bryan Station Holiday Classic. Allen Central was on the road Friday night, taking on Leslie County in a game played at Perry County Central.

Continued from p1

nation's top recruiters. Many players Solich recruited to Nebraska went on to professional careers, including Rozier, Irving Fryar, Mike Croel and Tyrone Legette. As a head coach, four of his first five recruiting classes were ranked in the nation's top 20.

In Solich's 19 years as an assistant, the Huskers captured three national championships, all with Solich as assistant head coach. Nebraska also won 11 league championships.

Solich has enjoyed tremendous coaching success at all levels. He began his career in the Nebraska prep ranks, as head coach at Holy Name High School in Omaha in 1966 and 1967. His 1967 team was state runner-up. Solich then moved to Lincoln Southeast, one of the state's top high school programs. In 11 years at Southeast, he compiled a record of 66-33-5 while capturing back-to-back Class A state titles in 1976 and 1977.

A native of Cleveland, Solich prepped at Holy Name High School where he earned all-state, All-America and all-scholastic honors. He was a part of Bob Devaney's first recruiting class at Nebraska, and became a standout for the Huskers in the mid-1960's. An All-Big Eight fullback and co-captain of the Huskers' 1965 team, his playing career earned him induction into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 1992.

Solich is married to the former Pamela Wieck, of Beatrice, Neb., and they have two children, Cindy and Jeff. Cindy and her husband, Jon Dalton, have a daughter, Catherine, and two sons, Aaron and Jacob. Jeff and his wife Chara have a son, Cade.

HEROESPORTZ GIRLS' BASKETBALL RANKINGS AS OF DECEMBER 16

TOP 100

1. Lex. Cath. (4-0)
2. Sacred Heart (4-0)
3. Rockcastle Co. (3-0)
4. Scott Co. (4-1)
5. Lou. Christian (4-0)
6. Clinton Co. (4-0)
7. Tates Creek (4-1)
8. Henderson Co. (2-2)
9. Christian Co. (5-0)
10. Tilghman (5-0)
11. Woodford Co. (4-1)
12. South Laurel (3-1)
13. Cov. Holy Cross (5-0)
14. Russell (4-1)
15. Ballard (4-0)
16. Elizabethtown (3-0)
17. Perry Central (6-1)
18. Muhlenberg N. (4-0)
19. Whitesburg (4-1)
20. Paris (2-1)
21. Knott Central (5-1)
22. Pike Central (5-2)
23. Mercer Co. (3-0)
24. Assumption (3-0)
25. Shelby Co. (5-0)
26. Boone Co. (4-0)
27. Harrison Co. (4-0)
28. Wolfe Co. (6-1)
29. West Carter (5-1)
30. Apollo (3-1)
31. Bullitt East (4-1)
32. Wayne Co. (5-0)
33. Rowan Co. (0-3)
34. Ohio Co. (3-1)
35. Mason Co. (5-1)
36. Clay Co. (2-0)
37. Butler (3-2)
38. Franklin-Simpson (5-0)
39. Montgomery Co. (3-0)
40. Lafayette (4-2)
41. Newport Catholic (4-0)
42. Calloway Co. (3-1)
43. Union Co. (3-1)
44. East Carter (2-1)
45. Henry Clay (1-2)
46. Magoffin Co. (4-2)
47. Iroquois (4-1)
48. North Hardin (4-2)
49. Bryan Station (3-2)
50. Eastern (4-1)
51. Lexington Christ. (2-0)
52. Bell Co. (5-0)
53. Central Hardin (4-0)
54. Central (4-2)
55. Betsy Layne (3-0)
56. Russell Co. (3-1)
57. Belfry (4-1)
58. Mercy (0-3)
59. St. Mary (4-0)
60. Lone Oak (3-2)
61. Oldham Co. (4-0)
62. Caverna (6-0)
63. Greenwood (4-2)
64. Murray (3-1)
65. Paul Dunbar (0-4)
66. Holmes (1-2)
67. Graves Co. (4-2)
68. Clark Co. (2-3)
69. PRP (3-1)
70. Notre Dame (2-3)
71. Boyd Co. (3-1)
72. Prestonsburg (3-4)
73. Corbin (3-2)
74. Breathitt Co. (2-1)
75. North Laurel (3-1)
76. Madison Central (1-3)
77. Marshall Co. (3-4)
78. Johnson Central (3-0)
79. Manual (3-3)
80. Pikeville (4-2)
81. Daviess Co. (5-0)
82. Owsley Co. (4-2)
83. Heath (3-0)
84. Conner (3-1)
85. South Oldham (3-2)
86. Boyle County (4-0)
87. Webster Co. (4-1)
88. Carroll Co. (3-2)
89. Powell Co. (2-2)
90. Madison Southern (2-3)
91. Trimble Co. (3-3)
92. Moore (5-0)
93. Fairdale (3-2)
94. Somerset (2-1)
95. Hazard (2-3)
96. Paintsville (1-2)
97. Owensboro (1-3)

98. Whitley Co. (4-1)
99. Todd Central (3-2)
100. Monroe Co. (5-1)

REGION RANKINGS

1st Region

1. Tilghman (5-0)
2. Calloway Co. (3-1)
3. St. Mary (4-0)
4. Lone Oak (3-2)
5. Murray (3-1)
6. Graves Co. (4-2)
7. Marshall Co. (3-4)
8. Heath (3-0)
9. Mayfield (2-3)
10. Ballard Memorial (2-3)

2nd Region

1. Henderson Co. (2-2)
2. Christian Co. (5-0)
3. Union Co. (3-1)
4. Webster Co. (4-1)
5. Hopkins Central (2-4)
6. Madisonville (1-3)
7. Caldwell Co. (2-2)
8. Lyon Co. (4-2)
9. Trigg Co. (2-2)
10. Dawson Springs (2-2)

3rd Region

1. Muhlenberg North (4-0)
2. Apollo (3-1)
3. Ohio Co. (3-1)
4. Daviess Co. (5-0)
5. Owensboro (1-3)
6. Grayson Co. (3-2)
7. Breckinridge Co. (2-1)
8. Muhlenberg South (2-3)
9. Butler Co. (2-4)
10. Owensboro Cath. (0-3)

4th Region

1. Clinton Co. (4-0)
2. Franklin-Simpson (5-0)
3. Greenwood (4-2)
4. Todd Central (3-2)
5. Monroe Co. (5-1)
6. Warren East (4-1)
7. Barren Co. (2-2)
8. Allen Co. (3-2)
9. Bowling Green (1-3)
10. Warren Central (1-3)

5th Region

1. Elizabethtown (3-0)
2. North Hardin (4-2)
3. Central Hardin (4-0)
4. Caverna (6-0)
5. John Hardin (1-2)
6. Bethlehem (5-0)
7. Hart Co. (2-2)
8. Green Co. (2-4)
9. Adair Co. (3-2)
10. Nelson Co. (1-3)

6th Region

1. Butler (3-2)
2. Iroquois (4-1)
3. Central (4-2)
4. PRP (3-1)
5. Fairdale (3-2)
6. Louisville Holy Cross (3-2)
7. Doss (3-2)
8. Shawnee (1-4)
9. Beth Haven (3-4)
10. Presentation (3-3)

7th Region

1. Sacred Heart (4-0)
2. Lou. Christian Aca. (4-0)
3. Ballard (4-0)
4. Assumption (3-0)
5. Eastern (4-1)
6. Mercy (0-3)
7. Manual (3-3)
8. Moore (5-0)
9. Fern Creek (4-1)
10. Male (3-2)

8th Region

1. Scott Co. (4-1)
2. Shelby Co. (5-0)
3. Bullitt East (5-0)
4. Oldham Co. (4-0)
5. South Oldham (3-2)
6. Carroll Co. (3-2)
7. Trimble Co. (3-3)
8. Owen Co. (3-1)

9. Bullitt Central (2-2)
10. Anderson Co. (3-3)

9th Region

1. Cov. Holy Cross (5-0)
2. Boone Co. (4-0)
3. NCC (4-0)
4. Holmes (1-2)
5. Notre Dame (2-3)
6. Conner (3-1)
7. Simon Kenton (4-2)
8. Highlands (1-2)
9. Dixie Heights (2-3)
10. St. Henry (2-1)

10th Region

1. Paris (2-1)
2. Harrison Co. (4-0)
3. Mason Co. (5-1)
4. Montgomery Co. (3-0)
5. Clark Co. (2-3)
6. Bishop Brossart (3-2)
7. Bracken Co. (3-3)
8. Bourbon Co. (3-2)
9. Pendleton Co. (2-3)
10. Fleming Co. (2-2)

11th Region

1. Lex. Cath. (4-0)
2. Tates Creek (4-1)
3. Woodford Co. (4-1)
4. Lafayette (4-2)
5. Henry Clay (1-2)
6. Bryan Station (3-2)
7. Lex. Christian (2-0)
8. Paul Dunbar (0-4)
9. Madison Central (1-3)
10. Madison Southern (2-3)

12th Region

1. South Laurel (3-1)
2. Mercer Co. (3-0)
3. Wayne Co. (5-0)
4. Russell Co. (3-1)
5. North Laurel (3-1)
6. Boyle Co. (4-0)
7. Somerset (2-1)
8. Lincoln Co. (2-4)
9. Monticello (3-2)
10. Pulaski Co. (1-3)

13th Region

1. Rockcastle Co. (3-0)
2. Clay Co. (2-0)
3. Bell Co. (5-0)
4. Corbin (3-2)
5. Whitley Co. (4-1)
6. Harlan (4-2)
7. Cumberland (3-1)
8. Cawood (1-2)
9. Knox Central (2-1)
10. Jackson Co. (2-3)

14th Region

1. Perry Central (6-1)
2. Whitesburg (4-1)
3. Knott Central (5-1)
4. Wolfe Co. (6-1)
5. Breathitt Co. (2-2)
6. Owsley Co. (4-2)
7. Powell Co. (2-2)
8. Hazard (2-3)
9. Leslie Co. (3-4)
10. Lee Co. (1-3)

15th Region

1. Pike Central (5-2)
2. Magoffin Co. (4-2)
3. Betsy Layne (3-0)
4. Belfry (4-1)
5. Prestonsburg (3-4)
6. Johnson Central (3-0)
7. Pikeville (4-2)
8. Paintsville (1-2)
9. Allen Central (1-5)
10. Phelps (2-2)

16th Region

1. Russell (4-1)
2. West Carter (5-1)
3. Rowan Co. (0-3)
4. East Carter (2-1)
5. Boyd Co. (3-1)
6. Rose Hill (3-1)
7. Lawrence Co. (3-1)
8. Bath Co. (4-1)
9. Morgan Co. (3-4)
10. Fairview (1-1)

Solich named new Ohio football coach

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

ATHENS, Ohio - The search for Ohio University's 28th head football coach has culminated in the return of Frank Solich to his native state. The 60-year-old Cleveland native comes to Ohio with an impressive resume, including a .753 winning percentage during six seasons as head coach at Nebraska.



Frank Solich

Solich directed the Cornhusker program to six consecutive bowl games, including the national championship game in the 2002 Rose Bowl. Nebraska won at least nine games in five of those six seasons, and finished among the top 10 teams in the nation three times.

A highly-respected member of the college football coaching fraternity, Solich has signed a multi-year agreement to coach the Bobcats. His annual base salary is \$240,000.

"We are thrilled that Frank Solich will lead the Ohio football program into a new era and reclaim the winning tradition in Peden Stadium," said Ohio Director of Athletics Thomas Boeh. "For many years we have talked about the characteristics that we look for when recruiting and hiring a head coach and Frank, without question, embodies the 'whole package.' His 38-year track record relative to integrity, leadership, commitment to academic success, and winning football programs makes him the dream choice for Ohio."

Solich claimed Big 12 Conference Coach-of-the-Year honors in both 1999 and 2001, and was one of seven finalists for the Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach-of-the-Year Award in 2001.

Solich's teams have excelled on and off the field. Nebraska counted 11 All-Americans during Solich's six seasons as head coach and saw 30 players chosen in the NFL Draft. Twenty-six student-athletes earned first-team All-Big 12 honors; seven earned first-team Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-America honors; and 123 earned first-team academic all-conference honors.

"Ohio University athletics has a strong and proud tradition," said Ohio President Dr. Roderick McDavis. "When we build on that tradition, the entire university benefits. Elevating the stature of our football program and our student-athletes is just another demonstration of our commitment to excellence across the entire institution."

Prior to succeeding Tom Osborne as head coach, Solich spent 19 seasons as an assistant under Osborne. He was tabbed Athlon Magazine's Assistant Coach of the Year before the start of the 1993 season. Serving 15 seasons as running backs coach, Solich recruited and coached 1983 Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier and produced at least one all-conference running back in 13 of those 15 seasons.

Twenty-four years on the Husker staff have shown Solich to be one of the

Pitino: Farley will be reinstated

by MURRAY EVANS ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE - Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino said Friday that freshman center Terrance Farley will be reinstated to the team "somewhere down the road."

Pitino's announcement came a day after Farley's high school coach had sent a letter to several media outlets, criticizing the coach and university for Pitino's decision to dismiss Farley, a seldom-used player, from the team on Wednesday.

Farley's coach, Dale Mabrey of Pleasure Ridge Park High School in Louisville, apologized later Thursday for his comments. Through a uni-

versity spokesman, Farley also issued a statement of contrition.

"I made a big mistake, one I'm very sorry for committing," Farley said. "I'm glad that I have the opportunity to get back on this team if I do the right things. Coach Pitino is a great coach and I enjoy playing for him."

"I know I let my teammates down. I look forward to the opportunity to prove myself to them, our coaches, my family and the U of L fans."

On Thursday night, Pitino did not disclose the reason for Farley's dismissal, but said it happened on "multiple occasions." Pitino said it had nothing to do with alcohol or drugs.

Pitino said he understood Mabrey's passion about a former

player and appreciated Mabrey's loyalty to Farley.

Pitino said Friday that Farley had visited with him, which is "something I wish he would have done right away. But sometimes freshmen are a little nervous about certain situations."

Pitino said that the support of Farley's mother, Darlene Hammonds, played an important role in the coach's decision to reinstate Farley.

"He is going to pay the consequences for his mistakes," Pitino said.

"One of the things he's going to have to do is he's going to have a curfew for a couple of weeks. I wanted it to be 11 o'clock, and his mom said 10 o'clock."

Farley, a 6-10 center, had appeared in two games this season for the 13th-ranked Cardinals, playing a total of six minutes. He was averaging 2.0 points per game.



Rick Pitino

Notre Dame's image a little more tarnished these days

By NANCY ARMOUR
AP NATIONAL WRITER

SOUTH BEND, Ind. - The goals are as lofty as they were in Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy's day, the demand as unforgiving.

Winning is, and always will be, everything at Notre Dame. But the gulf has been flaking for years now, and the furor over Tyrone Willingham's firing only exposed the extent of the flaws. For all its rich history and tradition, Notre Dame's football program is now like so many others in need of a rehab.

"I think right now, when you're 6-5, you can't call yourself an elite program," athletic director Kevin White said. "I think historically we are, traditionally we are. But coming out of the 2004 season, we certainly are not. We have to find our way back to the pinnacle position, and that's what we're going to do."

But how? The harsh criticism and inside squabbling that accompanied Willingham's dismissal are only the latest problems for Notre Dame. In truth, the program has been in decline for nearly a decade.

"You are what you are, folks, and right now, you're a 6-5 football team," new coach Charlie Weis said. "And guess what? That's not good enough."

The Irish haven't won a national title since 1988, and it's been 11 years since they even contended for one. Their records have been mediocre at best, and any progress has been short-lived.

Lou Holtz lost 11 games in his last three seasons, two more than he'd lost in the previous six. Bob Davie was the first

coach in 34 years to lose four straight, and his two losing seasons in five years matched Gerry Faust. Willingham went 13-15 after winning his first eight games, losing five games by 31 points or more.

The Irish have been unranked for long stretches at a time and have been in a top-tier bowl game only once since 1995 - a 41-9 loss to Oregon State in the 2001 Fiesta Bowl. They've had one first-round draft pick in the last five years.

The off-the-field woes were equally galling. There have been scandals more suited for a football factory, including an age discrimination lawsuit and rape accusations against four former players. The school suffered its first major NCAA violation after a booster lavished more than a dozen players with gifts, trips and money - paid for with the \$1.4 million she'd embezzled from her employer.

Perhaps worst of all was the ever-so-brief tenure of George O'Leary, who resigned in December 2001 - five days after he was hired - after admitting he lied on his resume about his academic and athletic background.

O'Leary looked like the perfect person to revive the Irish. Already reeling from the Davie years, Notre Dame had been snubbed by Jon Gruden and Oregon coach Mike Bellotti. In came O'Leary, an Irish Catholic who had long dreamed of coaching at Notre Dame and promised to wake up the echoes, as the school's fight song says. Later, White would say O'Leary was like "something out of central casting."

But O'Leary wasn't quite what he seemed. He didn't have

the master's degree in education that he claimed, nor had he played college football for three years. O'Leary quickly resigned, but it was humiliating nonetheless for Notre Dame.

So when the Irish struggled under Willingham, a group of alumni sent a letter to the board of trustees, expressing concern about the direction of the football program.

"We weren't talking about two years of Tyrone Willingham, we were talking about 10 years," said Tim Kelley, a 1964 graduate and co-author of the letter, sent last January.

"Football is the emotional engine that drives Notre Dame. We absolutely believe that," Kelley said. "It was going down the drain and people weren't doing anything about it."

The alums got their wish - but at what price? In firing Willingham, the first black head coach at Notre Dame, the Irish essentially put a won-loss record ahead of integrity.

White didn't agree with the decision and had nothing but high praise for Willingham, but he wasn't prepared to "break ranks" with university leaders. The Rev. Edward Malloy, Notre Dame's president, was prepared, saying he was "embarrassed" by the firing and hadn't supported it.

It didn't end there.

Malloy's assistant shaved her head in protest, and T-shirts supporting Willingham were soon spotted around town. Dave Duerson, a former player and board of trustees member, said the school had badly mishandled the dismissal, causing a "major PR nightmare."

"Personnel decisions are

always difficult, transitions are always difficult, and this is no different," said the Rev. John Jenkins, the incoming president.

Getting snubbed by their coach of choice didn't help. Former Irish assistant Urban Meyer was expected to jump when Notre Dame beckoned with his dream job. But Meyer was already leaning toward Florida when Willingham was fired, and his meeting with Notre Dame officials turned out to be little more than a show of respect.

In another sign of how mortal the Irish have become, top candidates weren't lining up. One, Jeff Tedford, fell out of contention when he signed an extension at Cal - a school whose defining moment in football history is a touchdown run through the Stanford band.

"It's kind of funny that, for once, they fell flat on their face," said Matt Baumgartner, a lifelong South Bend resident and Notre Dame fan who bartends at The Linebacker, a popular gameday spot across the street from Notre Dame Stadium.

"Not that I'm against Notre Dame, but they should have thought this through. I just think they have some egg on their face."

All this has by no means left the Irish with a crisis of confidence.

"Look, the reason it's been tough is because Notre Dame has such a high profile," Jenkins said. "We welcome that scrutiny. We think we have it because we have high ideals for our program. We're going to keep those high ideals and we're going to attain them."

"I'm certain we'll be able to put it behind us, and I just look forward to the future."

Notre Dame has already begun patching up its internal fractures. Jenkins and Malloy have closed ranks, often using the same words to answer the toughest questions. Jenkins is taking full blame for calling the meeting to fire Willingham, saying there was no "undue influence" from the board of trustees.

He also plays down questions of dissension, saying the differing opinions simply reflect the passion people have for Notre Dame. As for the school's integrity, Jenkins and Malloy point to Notre Dame's high graduation rate - 99 percent overall for players who stay at least four years.

While Jenkins did apologize to the Faculty Board of Athletics on Wednesday, according to a copy of his speech obtained by the South Bend Tribune, he said the best way to move forward is to act as Notre Dame always has.

"Only in the sense of being what we are in the best way we can, that's the only repair work we have to do," Jenkins said. "That's what we need to do to get people believing in us. I think people will respond positively to that."

Former coach Ara Parseghian, one of the most successful at Notre Dame, noted that the Irish have hit rough patches before - and have endured.

Certainly, he said, the names Rockne, the Gipper and the Four Horsemen come to mind, as do 11 national championships.

But there were some pretty lean years under Gerry Faust and Joe Kuharich, too. When

Parseghian took over in 1964, the Irish hadn't had a winning season in five years and had gone 15 years without a national title.

"If you go back and read the newspapers ... you'll get exactly the same thing you're reading right now: It's too tough academically, the schedule is too tough, they can't get the good players," Parseghian said.

"I honestly believe they're due for an up cycle."

For his part, Weis has no interest in looking back.

He takes the job with no illusions, either. A 1978 graduate, he knows all too well the rigors of Notre Dame's academic standards. And after winning two of his three Super Bowl rings as the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, he doesn't care to discuss tough schedules.

"The people that complain about those things are looking for excuses," he said. "If I answered that any other way, what I would be doing is letting the players have a reason for or have an excuse for failure."

As bleak as things looked the past two weeks, almost all will be forgiven if Weis whips together a season or two of that old magic.

For some, though, Notre Dame will never be quite the same.

"If you're in the limelight, there are always going to be ups and downs because nobody's perfect," said the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, the school's president emeritus. "For that reason, you will have ups and downs in every human endeavor. But the important thing is to keep on trying, and to keep that goal up there high."

Expect plenty of points as bowl season begins

by RALPH D. RUSSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bowl season has arrived and college football fans can expect two things: Lots of games and lots of points.

Nineteen of the 28 bowl games will be played between Tuesday and New Year's Eve. Many of the matchups may seem mundane, even odd. Memphis against Bowling Green? Toledo vs. Connecticut?

But don't be fooled. Often the pre-New Year's Day games are some of the most entertaining.

Check out some of these scores from last year's second-tier bowl games: Hawaii 54, Houston 48; California 52, Virginia Tech 49; Miami (Ohio) 49, Louisville 28; Minnesota 31, Oregon 30.

There are a few potential shootouts this year, too - starting with Memphis vs. Bowling Green in GMAC Bowl.

The Falcons are one of a record five Mid-American Conference teams in the post-season and rank fourth in the nation in scoring at 43.6 points per game. Memphis, making its

second straight bowl appearance after a 32 year drought, averages over 35 points.

Bowling Green quarterback Omar Jacobs is one of the nation's least-publicized stars. He's the nation's fourth-rated passer (167.8), and has thrown for 3,637 yards and 36 touchdowns.

Memphis counters with maybe the most underrated running back in the country in DeAngelo Williams. The junior is third in rushing with 166.2 yards per game.

The Hawaii Bowl could also be a fun one with the hometown Warriors facing UAB.

Timmy Chang, the NCAA's career passing yards leader, and wide receiver Chad Owens, a second-team All-American, put up plenty of points and yards for Hawaii. And the Warriors defense usually allows the same.

UAB's Darrell Hackney, a quarterback in the mold of the Minnesota Vikings' Daunte Culpepper, and wideout Roddy White, a third-team All-American, should make a good impression on NFL scouts.

Toledo and UConn in the Motor City Bowl features two

more prolific passers in the Rockets' Bruce Gradkowski and the Huskies' Don Orlovsky. They have combined for 6,590 yards and 48 touchdown passes.

"We sure don't want a shootout," UConn coach Randy Edsall said. He might not have a choice.

Texas Tech's Air Raid will try to keep up with an surly and very good California team in the Holiday Bowl, but for pure entertainment the Liberty Bowl could blow them all away.

No. 7 Louisville is No. 1 in the nation, averaging 50.3 points per game. No. 10 Boise State is second in scoring at 49.7 points per game.

Liberty Bowl officials weren't thrilled with losing Utah to the Bowl Championship Series, but they got a great consolation prize in Boise State.

"It's such a unique matchup," Liberty Bowl executive director Steve Ehrhart said. "We're always having to battle the bowls that have beaches and fancy new stadiums. That's why, this time, we have a terrific opportunity to showcase Memphis."

Morehead State signs Florida high school standout Stan Januska

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD - Stan Januska, a 6-6, 200-pound guard-forward from Weston, Florida, and Cypress Bay High School, signed a national letter-of-intent to play basketball at Morehead State University during the November signing

period.

Anuska averaged 14 points and nine rebounds and hit 40 percent from three-point range as a junior. He is also an excellent student and a member of the National Honor Society.

"Stan comes from a high school program in its third year of existence," said MSU

Coach Kyle Macy. "Coach Jason Lookey has quickly turned Cypress Bay into one of the better teams in the state."

"Stan will be a great addition to our program. He has a good understanding of the game and is an outstanding outside shooter."

Goddard garners more honors

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. - Marshall defensive end Johnathan Goddard was named to the Associated Press All-America second team Monday.

Goddard led the nation in sacks (16) and tackles for a loss (28). His 16 sacks are a Mid-American Conference record.

Goddard was the Mid-American Conference Defensive Player of the Year and one of five finalists for the Bronko Nagurski Award, given to the nation's top defensive player.

Last week, Goddard was also named a second-team Walter Camp All-American and a first team FWAA All-America. He has also been named to collegefootballnews.com's first-team All-America squad.

Associated Press
All-America Team
First Team

OFFENSE

Quarterback: Matt Leinart, Southern California, junior.
Running backs: Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma, freshman; J.J. Arrington, California, senior.
Wide receivers: Braylon Edwards, Michigan, senior; Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue, senior.
Tight end: Heath Miller, Virginia, junior.
Center: David Baas, Michigan, senior.

Guards-Tackles: Jammal Brown, Oklahoma, senior; Alex Barron, Florida State, senior; Elton Brown, Virginia, senior; Michael Munoz, Tennessee, senior.
Kicker: Mike Nugent, Ohio State, senior.
All-purpose: Reggie Bush,

Southern California, sophomore.

DEFENSE

Linemen: Erasmus James, Wisconsin, senior; David Pollack, Georgia, senior; Shaun Cody, Southern California, senior; Marcus Spears, LSU, senior.

Linebacker: Derrick Johnson, Texas, senior; Matt Grootegoed, Southern California, senior; A.J. Hawk, Ohio State, senior.

Defensive backs: Carlos Rogers, Auburn, senior; Antrel Rolle, Miami, senior; Marlin Jackson, Michigan, senior; Ernest Shazor, Michigan, senior.

Punter: Brandon Fields, Michigan State, sophomore.

Second Team

OFFENSE

Quarterback: Alex Smith, Utah, junior.

Running backs: Cedric Benson, Texas, senior; Carnell Williams, Auburn, senior.

Wide receivers: Dante Ridgeway, Ball State, junior; Mark Clayton, Oklahoma, senior.

Tight end: Alex Smith, Stanford, senior.

Center: Marvin Philip, California, junior.

Guards-tackles: Chris Kemoeatu, Utah, senior; Marcus McNeil, Auburn, junior; Dan Buenning, Wisconsin, senior; Jonathan Scott, Texas, junior.

K: Tyler Jones, Boise State, senior.

All-purpose: Chad Owens, Hawaii, senior.

DEFENSE

Linemen: Jonathan Goddard, Marshall, senior; Dan Cody, Oklahoma, senior; Matt Roth, Iowa, senior; Ryan Riddle, California, senior.

Linebackers: Ahmad Brooks, Virginia, sophomore; Michael Boley, Southern Mississippi,

senior; Kevin Burnett, Tennessee, senior.

Defensive backs: Corey Webster, LSU, senior; Thomas Davis, Georgia, junior; Junior Rosegreen, Auburn, senior; Morgan Scalley, Utah, senior.

Punter: Matt Payne, BYU, senior.

Third Team

OFFENSE

Quarterback: Jason White, Oklahoma, senior.

Running backs: Jamario Thomas, North Texas, freshman; DeAngelo Williams, Memphis, junior.

Wide receivers: Mike Haas, Oregon State, junior; Roddy White, UAB, senior.

Tight ends: Trey Haverty, Texas Tech, senior.

Center: Ben Wilkerson, LSU, senior.

Guards-tackles: Rob Pettiti, Pittsburgh, senior; Sam Mayes, Oklahoma State, senior; Wesley Britt, Alabama, senior; Travis Lefew, Louisville, junior.

Kicker: Andrew Wellock, Eastern Michigan, sophomore.

All-purpose: Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State, freshman.

DEFENSE

Linemen: Mathias Kiwanuka, Boston College, junior; Mike Patterson, Southern California, senior; Travis Johnson, Florida State, senior; Jonathan Babineaux, Iowa, senior.

Linebackers: Barrett Ruud, Nebraska, senior; Lofa Tatupu, Southern California, junior; Leroy Hill, Clemson, senior.

Defensive backs: Mitch Meeuwse, Oregon State, senior; Jamaal Brimmer, UNLV, senior; Charles Gordon, Kansas, sophomore; Jason Allen, Tennessee, junior.

Punters: Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor, sophomore.

THE PICKS:

Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl

Georgia Tech (minus 4 1/2) vs. Syracuse
No shootout here with Tech's tough defense ... GEORGIA TECH 22-14.

Wednesday, Dec. 22
GMAC Bowl

Memphis (plus 4 1/2) vs. Bowling Green
Both teams looking for two straight bowl wins ... MEMPHIS 47-43.

Thursday, Dec. 23
Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl

Cincinnati (minus 1 1/2) vs. Marshall
Bears QB Gino Guidugli likely to return from injury ... CINCINNATI 33-28.
Las Vegas Bowl
Wyoming (plus 12) vs. UCLA
Cowboys st bowl since 1993 ... UCLA 41-17.

Friday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl

UAB (plus 3 1/2) vs. Hawaii
Warriors have scored 82 points in last two Hawaii Bowls ... UAB 45-38.

Monday, Dec. 27
MPC Computers Bowl

Fresno (plus 5 1/2) vs. No. 18 Virginia
Not what the Cavaliers were hoping for ... VIRGINIA 36-16.

Motor City Bowl

Toledo (minus 3 1/2) vs. Connecticut
Huskies go bowling for first time ... UCONN 38-37.

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl

Iowa (plus 3) vs. Miami (Ohio)
Cyclones are 1-6 in bowls ... MIAMI 29-23.

Insight Bowl

Oregon (minus 3 1/2) vs. Notre Dame
Irish try to snap six-bowl game losing skid ... NOTRE DAME 22-17.

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl

Texas-El Paso (plus 3) vs. Colorado
Miners coach Mike Price is 3-1 in bowl games ... COLORADO 31-21.

Alamo Bowl

No. 24 Ohio State (plus 1 1/2) vs. Oklahoma State
Last time Buckeyes played in a bowl before Jan. 1 was 1993 ... OHIO STATE 27-21.

Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl

No. 25 Boston College (plus 3) vs. North Carolina
BC gets taste of life in ACC ... NORTH CAROLINA 27-21.

Emerald Bowl

New Mexico (minus 2 1/2) vs. Navy
Middies' last bowl win was 1996 ...

NAVY 21-19.

Holiday Bowl

No. 4 California (minus 11 1/2) vs. Texas Tech
Beware angry Bears ... CAL 48-14.

Silicon Valley Classic

Troy (pick) vs. Northern Illinois
Troy's first bowl; Huskies' second ... NORTHERN ILLINOIS 30-17.

Friday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl

Alabama (minus 3 1/2) vs. Minnesota
Tide returns to postseason after two year absence ... ALABAMA 27-26.

Purdue (minus 7) vs. No. 21 Arizona State

Sun Devils QB Andrew Walter out with injury ... PURDUE 28-14.

Liberty Bowl

No. 10 Boise State (plus 14) vs. No. 7 Louisville
This should be more fun than Graceland ... LOUISVILLE 56-40.

Peach Bowl

No. 14 Miami (minus 2 1/2) vs. No. 20 Florida
So, who exactly is coaching the Gators? ... MIAMI 32-21.

Last week of regular season: 5-2 (straight); 4-9 (vs. points).

Season: 194-52 (straight); 125-114-5 (vs. points).

Kitna & Palmer close friends despite differences

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Jon Kitna's closest friend on the Bengals couldn't be more different.

Carson Palmer is younger, bigger and richer, blessed with a strong arm and California cool. He won the Heisman Trophy and was a No. 1 draft pick; Kitna entered the league as an undrafted practice squad quarterback, relying on savvy and gumption to gain a toehold in the NFL.

They play the same position, a potentially uncomfortable arrangement. For one to play, the other has to get hurt.

An odd pairing? Absolutely. And it has evolved into an uncommon friendship that came into focus in the past week when Palmer got hurt and Kitna got his job.

Kitna was visibly disappointed when Palmer sprained his left knee in a 35-28 loss to New England. Palmer was visibly happy that his mentor got to play again. They commiserated and encouraged.

That's what friends do.

"It's hard for me to have a lot of close friends because I'm at a different stage in life than most of the people I play with," said Kitna, 32. "But he's probably my best friend on the team, to be honest, somebody that I've spent a lot of time with and enjoy spending time with."

It's a relationship that neither anticipated.

The Bengals drafted Palmer out of Southern California with the No. 1 overall pick in 2003, a signal to Kitna that his days in Cincinnati were limited. Kitna responded with the best season of his career, winning the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year

award. He did it while tutoring the youngster who would soon replace him.

It was an uncommon display of unselfishness.

"It's just amazing," coach Marvin Lewis said. "He has great faith. I think that's a lot of his inner strength."

"Whether he plays another snap or another 10 years, he feels like he's been lucky. He enjoys every moment of it. I do think he stands alone as far as being at the top of that. He's a great role model."

His integrity was tested last March, when Lewis decided it was time for Palmer to take over. Kitna knew it was coming, but it was still tough to take. The Bengals offered to trade him to a team that would give him a chance to compete for a starting job, but Kitna chose to stay on as Palmer's backup and teacher.

"There's a lot of teams I think I could start for, but I don't think that would be the best thing," Kitna said. "I love it here, my family loves it here. We are entrenched in this community. To me, there's a lot more involved than just playing football. Being a starter somewhere may not always be the best thing for my family."

So he accepted the demotion, made sure his teammates accepted it, too, and went about training his replacement. Along the way, a friendship formed.

Kitna does a lot more than teach Palmer how to handle defenses. He acts as a go-between on the sideline, talking to receivers about a just-completed series so he can give the young quarterbacks some insight without overwhelming him.

"He helps impart that knowledge to Carson day-in and day-

out as they go through meetings and sit at their locker together," Lewis said. "I think that's been very, very helpful."

During their time together, they learned they had one important thing in common that drew them close.

"It's our competitiveness," said Palmer, who claims to be the best pool player on the team. "We play golf, we play pool, cards, whatever it may be. For some reason, we just get along."

"I've already swung at him or tried to pop him, and he'd do the same thing to me. When we both get going at whatever sport it may be, we just have something where we don't want to lose. We love beating each other and hate losing to each other. Of course, we have a lot of the same interests, playing the same position, but I think it's our competitiveness that makes us good friends."

Kitna is expected to start Sunday against the Buffalo Bills at Paul Brown Stadium, giving Palmer another week to let his knee heal. Palmer will be on the sideline, trying to help Kitna any way he can.

"He's been the guy that I've been looking up to," Palmer said. "And now that I have his job, I'm going to try to do it to the best of my ability, the way he did it when I was playing."

Kitna is excited about the chance to play, but looks forward to becoming the backup again once Palmer's knee heals. It's the role where he's most comfortable right now.

"This has been probably my most enjoyable year in nine years in the NFL, sitting back and watching Carson grow into the quarterback he's been at the end of the season," Kitna said.

He couldn't have done it alone

Spikes up for playing big game in Cincinnati

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — December has always been the cruelest month for Takeo Spikes.

For five dismal seasons, the exceptional linebacker threw his body around the field in yet another meaningless late-season game with the Cincinnati Bengals. He would shine even though it didn't matter, and pine for the playoffs.

On Sunday, he finally gets his wish. Spikes will play a December game in Cincinnati with major implications.

The Buffalo Bills (7-6) have barged into the field of playoff contenders by winning four straight and seven of their last nine games. In his second season with the Bills, Spikes is learning at long last how it feels to be somewhere other than last in the final month.

It's everything he imagined. "This is what I wanted to do, to be part of something special," Spikes said. "The emotions are going to run wild, man. The biggest reason is I've never been in the month of December, this late, and still had something to play for other than pride."

His old team is back on familiar ground.

The Bengals (6-7) essentially knocked themselves out of contention with a 35-28 loss at New England last Sunday, leaving five teams ahead of them for the AFC's two wild card berths. Plus, Carson Palmer got knocked out of the game with a sprained knee, prompting Jon Kitna's return to quarterback.

The Bills and Bengals are two of the NFL's hottest teams, pulling themselves out of slow starts with a flourish. Cincinnati faded last Sunday. Buffalo can't afford to do the same a week later.

"We're in a playoff situation right now," quarterback Drew Bledsoe said. "We're playing for our lives. Every game we go into we have to win or we're done. That's what it is."

To stay in contention, the Bills will have to do something they haven't done in a long time. They haven't won five in a row since 1998, but standing in their way is a team that looks an awful lot like them.

The Bills are on one of the best tears in franchise history. They've scored at least 37 points in each of their last four games, a team record. Their 154 points also is a record for a four-game stretch, better than Jim Kelly's prolific 1992 team.

Willis McGahee has six 100-yard games since he became the featured running

back, leading the Bills to a 7-1 mark when he starts. And Bledsoe has recovered from an abysmal start by cranking out solid, consistent performances.

In the last two months, they've evolved into a team that no one wants to play this time of year.

"I'm pretty sure we have a big target on our chests with the way we've been playing lately," offensive tackle Jonas Jennings said. "We're feeling good. We know exactly what we have to do."

So do the Bengals. They have to stay on their own roll, one that's just as impressive as Buffalo's.

The Bengals have topped 450 yards of offense in each of the last three games, a franchise first, and averaged 37 points per game, identical to the Bills. Most of it can be traced to Palmer, who had started to emerge in his first season running the offense.

Now, it looks like it will be up to Kitna — the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year last season — to keep it going. Palmer was on crutches all week and said he'd be shocked if he played against the Bills. Kitna led the offense in a 22-16 overtime loss at Buffalo last season.

"If you go back and watch last year's Buffalo game tape, we're running a lot of the same plays this year," Kitna said. "We added new wrinkles here or there, but we do what we do whether Carson's in there or I'm in there. So I don't think there's going to be a disruption to the flow of the offense or anything like that."

Kitna led the Bengals to an 8-8 mark last season, Cincinnati's 13th straight without a winning record. The Bengals need to win their last three games to break the league's longest current streak of futility.

"It's extremely important," said coach Marvin Lewis, in his second year trying to pull the franchise out of its rut. "Very important."

Standing in their way is Spikes, who was the first Bengal to abandon ship after Lewis took over. Spikes was convinced that he had to get out of Cincinnati to realize his dreams of making the playoffs and the Pro Bowl.

He made his first Pro Bowl last season, the only solace to a 6-10 finish. Now, he's looking to get the other half of the equation, in the city where his dreams never came true.

"It's where it all started, when I was young and greener than the turf," Spikes said. "This is where I first started being the player I was. If you're ever going to go out there, you want to put on a great performance."

McLeish leads Colonels to 87-62 win over Greenville

TIMES STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND — Eastern Kentucky University ran its record to 7-1 on the season with an 87-62 win Tuesday night in McBrayer Arena over Greenville (Ill.) College.

Junior guard Jason McLeish paced the Colonels' attack with a career-high 21 points, while junior guard Zach Ingles added 14 points and junior center Alonzo Hird poured in 13. EKV won the battle of the backboards, 46-27, as senior forward Michael Haney pulled down a game-high eight rebounds. Ingles led EKV from three-point range, hitting 4-7.

"We got a chance to play a

lot of guys tonight and see some different combinations. We didn't play as well as we could have, but I have to give credit to Greenville College. They played hard and really stuck with their game plan," said EKV head coach Travis Ford.

A 24-5 run late in the first half stretched a 27-18 Colonels advantage to its biggest first half lead at 51-23 with 1:32 left in the opening period.

Ingles led the Colonels at the break with 11 points, while McLeish added 10. EKV was highly proficient on offense in the opening stanza, canning 74.1 percent (20-27) of its shots from the field. Junior guard Matt Witt had five assists at the

break to pace the Colonels. EKV also had a decided advantage on the backboards in the first 20 minutes, having grabbed 19 of the contest's 31 missed shots in the first 20 minutes.

McLeish paced the Colonels in the first 12 minutes of the first half, scoring eight of Eastern's first 17 points as Eastern ran the margin out to 32 at 66-34 with 16:34 left in the game. Eastern cooled off in the last 12 minutes of the first half, hitting just 32.5 percent from the floor, while Greenville (3-7) hit 43.3 percent in the second half.

Junior forward Scott Foster paced the Panthers with 20 points.

EKV men to begin seven-game road trip

TIMES STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND — Coach Travis Ford's Eastern Kentucky University Colonels begin a seven-game road tour with games at Savannah State Monday and at Florida Wednesday. Both games are set for 7:00 p.m. EST tipoffs.

EKV comes into the Savannah State game with a 7-1 record and riding a two-game win streak with decisions over Robert Morris and Greenville College to its credit.

"We have been preparing for this stretch for a long time," said Ford. "We have three tough non-conference games coming up and then four straight OVC games on the road before we play a home game."

Eastern will be playing the SSU Tigers (0-12 with a game at Tulane Dec. 18) for the second time this year, having defeated Savannah State, 87-59, in Richmond, Dec. 2. However, coach Ford knows

that outcome will have no bearing on Monday's matchup.

"That first time we played them is irrelevant. It's a new game against a new team as they have added a quality player and have another available this time that wasn't able to play against us the first time we played them this year. We'll have our hands full," said Ford.

This is final exam week at EKV and Ford has seen the effect it has had on his team and its preparation.

"We don't get a whole lot done on the court during Finals week," said Ford. "It's tough to find a time when everybody is available to practice because of taking their tests and the players are concentrating on their classes, as they should be."

"When we get to Savannah Saturday, we'll get back in the basketball mode. We'll have two practices down there and a shoot-around on Monday before the game to get their

attention. This is an important game for us."

Junior guard Matt Witt is leading the Colonels in scoring with his 14.4 per game average and in assists with his 7.0 per game mark. Rounding out twin-figure scorers are senior forward Michael Haney (13.5), junior guard Jason McLeish (13.3), junior guard Zach Ingles (12.9) and junior center Alonzo Hird (10.8).

Haney is Eastern's top rebounder with his 8.4 per game average, while Hird is pulling down 8.1 boards per contest. Haney leads EKV and the OVC in field goal percentage (67.2) and is the Colonels' top free throw shooter (85.7).

Tickets to EKV's remaining home games are available by visiting the EKV Athletics Ticket Office in Room 126 of Alumni Coliseum or by phoning the ticket office at 859/662-2122. Tickets may also be ordered online by visiting the EKV Athletics website at www.ekusports.com.

EKV's Wright named TSN First-Team All-American

RICHMOND — Senior safety Pierre Wright became Eastern Kentucky's first First-Team All-American since Jeremiah Bell in 2001 with his selection to the Sports Network's annual listing of the nation's best I-AA players.

Wright had a monster year for the Colonels, leading the defensive unit to a third-place finish in the Ohio Valley Conference in scoring defense.

The Winter Garden, Fla., native finished second on the team with 102 tackles, a tally that ranked him in a tie for sixth in the league. He led Eastern Kentucky with six interceptions (tied for fourth in the OVC), and in sacks with four (tied for fourth in the OVC).

Wright also posted 8.5 tackles-for-loss on the year, forced two fumbles, and broke up three passes.

However, Wright's season was perhaps best defined by his play on special teams. Wright blocked five kicks on the season, giving the

Colonels one of the most feared rush units in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Wright, who was named First Team All-OVC earlier this year, and was selected OVC Defensive Player of the Week on one occasion during the season.

"I am very proud of Pierre. This award is a tribute to him, his coaches, and his teammates," said EKV head coach Danny Hope. "I thought he really exemplified the style of defense we played this year. He was a great example of the tempo and intensity we wanted everyone to play with."

Hope continued, "I am really happy for Pierre, but I'm not surprised he was named All-American. I would have been really disappointed if he hadn't been. Pierre also has his degree. He graduated in four years and will walk out of Eastern Kentucky University with his diploma and as an All-American. You can't do much more than that during your college career."

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East	West	L	Pct	PF	PA
New Eng.	12	1	923	365	217	
N.Y. Jets	9	4	692	260	192	
Buffalo	7	6	538	297	231	
Miami	2	11	154	213	289	

	South	West	L	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	3	769	454	277	
Jacksonville	7	6	538	220	228	
Houston	5	8	385	250	312	
Tennessee	4	9	308	269	343	

	North	West	L	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	12	1	923	290	190	
Baltimore	8	5	615	270	205	
Cincinnati	6	7	462	296	307	
Cleveland	3	10	231	247	345	

	West	L	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	10	3	769	370	262
Denver	8	5	615	294	229
Kansas City	5	8	385	390	364
Oakland	4	9	308	244	363

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East	L	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	12	1	923	357	195
N.Y. Giants	5	8	385	223	267
Dallas	5	8	385	249	355
Washington	4	9	308	183	218

	South	L	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	10	3	769	267	252
Carolina	6	7	462	269	264
Tampa Bay	5	8	385	257	234
New Orleans	5	8	385	280	357

	North	L	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	5	615	334	307
Minnesota	7	6	538	328	313
Detroit	5	8	385	231	285
Chicago	5	8	385	199	257

	West	L	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	7	6	538	305	289
St. Louis	6	7	462	260	325
Arizona	4	9	308	220	284
San Francisco	2	11	154	229	364

Saturday's Games

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants, 1:30 p.m.
Washington at San Francisco, 5 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Houston at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Seattle at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Tennessee at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

New England at Miami, 9 p.m.

Friday's Game

Green Bay at Minnesota, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 25

Oakland at Kansas City, 5 p.m.
Denver at Tennessee, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 26

Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Houston at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
New England at N.Y. Jets, 4:05 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 27

Philadelphia at St. Louis, 9 p.m.

Eagles at Ohio State

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD — The Morehead State University men's basketball team, now 5-2 on the season and idle for the past week due to final exams, will be in the Buckeye State today for a contest against host Ohio State. Tip-off for the Morehead State-Ohio State contest is 4 p.m.

The Buckeyes, in their first season under Head Coach Thad Matta, are 7-2 following a 77-71 win over Bob Knight's Texas Tech squad Thursday evening in Dallas.

Ohio State has won both prior meetings in the series, the latest being a 74-60 victory in the 2002-03 season.

FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



INSIDESTUFF

- Jim Davidson • page B7
- Weddings • page B7
- Bluegrass coming to Hazard • page B7

Click and Clack Talk Cars

see pg. B7

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This Town, That World

Editor's Note: For years, Floyd County Times founder and former publisher Norman Allen wrote a weekly column that looked at Floyd County through his eyes. His columns are being reprinted due to request.

IN SHORT, NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

With this edition The Floyd County Times makes its last appearance for the year.

Although The Times will not be published next week while the wear and tear on machinery and personnel is—we hope—being patched, the office will be open!

O u r next edition will—again, we hope—hit the streets on January 6, 196 - or, 6.



Norman Allen

GREETINGS AND APPRECIATION

May we wish for each of you who read this the most joyous Christmas ever. And may we, too, thank all who, all the year long, have made us feel like we're among friends. We can't ask for much more than that.

WE ALL WIN

Christmas is not only for the youngsters. It's for us all. The young ones look forward to it with such eagerness, and we oldsters look back to other Christmases when there was magic beyond compare, too. Nobody is the loser, not even the merchant.

BECAUSE HE CAME

Christmas is used, in a fashion, as an anniversary of the birth of Christ. It is called a season of goodwill, and that is fine. But it is not a time for goodwill because Jesus was born on that date. It is a season of goodwill, and every season should be so, simply because He was born.

Did you hear of the old mountaineer who at this time of year declared with some vehemence that he aimed "to have some peace and goodwill around here, even if I have to take a knotmaul to the whole bunch of ye?"

TRAFFIC NOTE:

Now for the sour note. The wreck I've been expecting for weeks now at the "blind" corner of Third and Graham took place today. Nobody killed, but not because any of the ingredients of the worst kind of tragedy

(See THIS TOWN, page seven)



Days spent in the Eastern Kentucky hills, at Grandma's house, were some of the author's best.

photo by Kathy J. Prater

Why Daddy sold Old Betsy

by Rev. Ralph Hall

Chapter 3: My little house and Grandma

Throughout my life, I've never kept a journal, so I am going back into my past to share some of my stories with you. I was born on a cold, rainy morning, at about 6:30 a.m., on April 30, 1936, the same year that the Social Security program began 68 years ago. My father's name was Harold Hall and my mother was Goldia Mae Johnson. I came from good background of hard working, honest people.

I was born in a two room house, its walls papered with copies of old newspapers. No doubt, some of those papers had to have been The Floyd County Times. Our house had wood floors with cracks in them, and when the wind blew, it came through the cracks. It was a cold house but the love of our family kept it warm. A house is a framed building, a home is a place found only in the heart.

My brother Mutt was born in 1939, the same year that Laura Ingles published her first "Little House" book. Life for Mutt and me wasn't much different from the days Laura Ingles lived in.

The second World War brought change to the way in which the people of Eastern Kentucky lived. The war sent our young men off to fight in lands far away. Our young women moved to cities to work in factories, building supplies to fight the war.

In the 1940's, while a war was going on overseas, Mutt and I were having a wonderful time sharing a life of being boys and brothers. Some people called us Mutt and Jeff, two characters right out of the funny papers. We didn't mind what they called us, we were having too good a time being alive.

I guess now when I look back on those days, we were poor people. But we never knew it, for Mutt and I thought that we were rich. How could boys be poor in a world where there were trees to climb, hills to roam, and a water hole for fishing and swimming? We could always go swimming to cool down on a hot summer day.

If we were poor, then every young person should be as poor as we were. Those were happy days of life - having a good time in that world called childhood, where play was the greatest thing ever invented in the life of a small child.

My grandmother, who I always called "Big Mommy," was the most beautiful woman in the world to me. She was an old lady who could take care of any task that came her way. There was nothing on the farm that she couldn't do. I thought that she could hang the moon, heal a broken heart, or fix a hole in the sky.

She lived up a hollow called "Henpen," about a mile and a half from my little house at Melvin. Henpen was, in those days, a valley that ran between hills of fielded corn and cow pastures.

In the days of summer, when school was out and I had no work to do, I would ask my mother if I could go to Grandma's house. I would run all the way there, because I couldn't wait to see that great big smile on Grandma's face and feel the tight hug she would give me. I couldn't wait to hear her say, "My boy's come

home." Home is a place of the heart and to be at Grandma's house was home.

Time spent at Grandma's house was quality time. None of it was wasted, it was spent having fun when there no work to do. I loved to work when I was a child. Work gives a boy a strong back and a clear mind - which is the secret to a happy life. So, Grandma could always find some kind of work for me to do.

Grandma was one of those old fashion cooks who had the ability to make food turn out just right. When she made a homemade apple pie, it was hard to decide if you wanted to eat it, or just look at it. For some reason, no one ever looked for very long. In the twinkle of an eye, those pies would be gone.

Grandma also made candy that would melt in your mouth. In the wintertime, on cold, snowy days, she would make what she called "snow cream." She would take the fresh, clean snow that God had placed upon the ground and make a wonderful, tasty delight. I always ate my fill of it, even though sometimes it would give me a sore throat.

Grandma was a great storyteller. Most of her stories were about her father, who she called "Pap." Days at her house were a part of this world that we will never see again. It was a time when the word "family" had meaning.

Holidays were a time for great feasting. Grandma had a big, long table with benches on each side. She needed a large table because she had a houseful of kids and grandkids. My grandfather was killed by a train in 1933, which left Grandma with children to feed and to care for. She did a wonderful job, too, as any of her children will tell you today.

(See BETSY, page seven)

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

'The Sentinel'

by TOM DOTY
STAFF WRITER

The devil was everywhere in 1976. The monster box office receipts from "The Exorcist" and "The Omen" insured a steady diet of satanic cinema for the mid-1970s drive-in crowd. Though this film is considered a lesser effort by most critics it, still offers enough oddball characters, militant priests and excessive gore to qualify as a decent timewaster.

This film hinges on the audience believing that Satan wants to enter our world and can only do it in Brooklyn. Anybody who suffered through television's "Welcome Back Kotter" shouldn't have a problem with that concept.



Tom Doty
Staff Writer

The plot breaks down like this: The Catholic Church has to find sentinels to keep an eye out for old scratch; there are certain rules that applicants for the job have to conform to - mainly, you have to be a lapsed Catholic who has attempted or contemplated a major sin. Said person gets a second chance and a clean slate if they become a sentinel. There are two items however that are contained in the small print. One, you have to spend the rest of your days looking out from a brownstone window at the Hudson River in case the devil is on his way (believe me, even Satan would have a tough time with that crossing). Two, to become a sentinel (or watcher) you must first be blinded (huh?). How losing one's sight helps them better spot the devil is one of the details here that is left open.

Whoops, almost forgot, the devil can use every trick in his sinister book to tempt you into avoiding this holy responsibility up until you take the job. The question becomes, does all of this add up to decent flick? You bet.

Turns out that the next sentinel-hopeful is a fashion model with a bit of an attitude. She's rich, her work is shamelessly simple, she's vastly overpaid, and she is shacking up with a high priced attorney who is also living large. She's also incredibly lucky and lands a Brooklyn Heights apartment for only \$400 a month. I can believe all of the other stuff so far, but this is a stretch.

Once she settles in to her apartment, all bets are off as the devil whips up some of the weirdest neighbors in the world to begin leading our heroine astray. These aren't your garden variety weirdoes, though. They turn out to be the spirits of convicted killers who were all put to death via the electric chair.

(See LAGOON, page seven)

Many times over

by NICK MONTAVON, 13

"CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL — CHRISTMAS
TREASURY FOR KIDS"

It was a cold day in early December. I was pretty bored just sitting around the house. There was nothing on TV, my friends weren't around, and I'd read every magazine I had on skateboarding, snowboarding and every other hobby of mine. I was about to go stir-crazy when my Aunt Mary, who had stopped by to visit, asked me if I'd like to go grocery shopping with her.

Perfect opportunity to get a new magazine, I thought. There was one problem, though. I'd run out of allowance money. So I decided to ask my mom, in the nicest, sweetest voice I could, if I could have \$5 from my upcoming allowance to buy a magazine that I had been wanting really

badly. To my relief, Mom agreed to the deal, and my aunt and I took off shopping.

As we were walking into the grocery store, a poor, homeless woman sat outside the doors asking customers for money donations. Wow, I thought. And I was having a bad day because I was bored. I checked on the \$5 in my pocket as I thought about the magazine that was waiting inside the store. My aunt went to do her shopping, and I headed for the magazine racks. As I flipped through the new magazines, looking for the one with the article my friend had told me about, I kept flashing on the woman sitting out in the cold without a home to keep her warm. Before I knew it, I had put the magazines back and was heading in the direction of the homeless woman. I realized that she needed the money a lot more than I needed a new magazine.

As I passed the produce section, I saw my aunt picking out vegetables, so I stopped to tell her that I'd meet her at the checkout counter. Before she could question me about where I was going, I was off and running toward the store entrance.

I stepped out into the cold air and looked to my right. Sure enough, the woman was still where she had been when we came in. I reached into my pocket, pulled out the \$5 and handed it to the woman. The look of appreciation on her face was worth more than \$5. She was so grateful that she stood up and gave me a big hug. "Thank you, young man," she said with a shaky voice. "I can't believe that you ran all

the way back here to give me your money."

"No problem," I assured her. "And, hey — merry Christmas," I said, as I smiled and turned to go find my aunt.

When I arrived back at my house, my mom said there was some mail for me. Much to my surprise, my uncle had sent me a Christmas card — with a \$20 bill inside!

I've heard it said that if you give from the heart, unselfishly and unconditionally, it will be returned to you many times over. On that cold December day, I realized how that isn't just a saying. Good deeds do come back to you.



Jim Davidson

The story behind the American's Creed

After 9-11-01, there were millions of people in the United States of America who became overtly patriotic that did not even know they were patriotic. There is nothing like a real threat to our nation's survival to galvanize our citizens into action.

I'm so proud to be an American and I bet you are, too. I pray each day for our troops who are in Afghanistan and Iraq that they will return safely. As I have told my Sunday School class many times, my heart hurts for families who receive the sad news that their loved one has been killed in the service of our country. I also think about the other wars we have been involved in over the past 200 years, where millions of

Americans have made the supreme sacrifice to win and preserve our freedom. May we never take it for granted.

When it comes to patriotism and being loyal to our country, my good friend George Sample, who lives in Corry, Pa., sent me something the other day that I thought was worth passing along. What he sent me was a copy of "The American's Creed" and the background behind the creed. As this article states, many Americans do not even know we have a creed, much less what it is or how it came to be.

As I share this, I hope you will think deeply about your own life and if this creed truly

applies to you. There are so many of our citizens today who are dishonest, unethical and immoral who want to live off a hog fattened by someone else, and never think about giving something back. Sadly, many of our political leaders are the worst offenders.

The American's Creed

"I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon the principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots have sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love

it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

Here is how The American's Creed came about:

"America's involvement in World War I was a difficult and divisive issue for our nation. President Woodrow Wilson struggled to maintain a position of American neutrality toward the European conflict. But when a German U-boat sank the unarmed British liner Lusitania, killing more than 1,000 people, including 128 Americans, on May 7, 1915, the president felt compelled to go before Congress to request a Declaration of War. Six out of 96 U.S. Senators and 50 Congressmen voted against the declaration, although after much heated debate, the resolution finally passed on April 6, 1917.

"Citizens protested America's involvement and thousands went to jail for interfering with the draft. Protesting

the war was en vogue long before Vietnam. It was in the midst of this domestic turmoil that New York State Commissioner of Education Henry Sterling Chapin hatched the idea of a national essay contest to develop an American's Creed. By contest deadline, more than 3,000 entries were received. William Tyler Page of Friendship Heights, Md., a descendent of President John Tyler and himself a congressional page, came up with the wording for the creed."

Well, that's the story of how The American's Creed came into being. Whether you agree with this creed or abide by it is up to you, along with all other free people in this country. That's the blessings of our system. We have the right to choose our own destiny.

But there is one thing we should never forget, and that is the fact that these blessings are only available so long as our nation is free. That's why 9-11-01 should have been a wake up

call for every freedom loving person in this country. But for some who don't want us to win or too quickly forget, we need to be constantly reminded of the scarred faces of the firemen, other rescue workers and countless victims who were pulled from the rubble on that very sad day.

God only knows what the future holds for our nation. For me personally, I will proudly say that I believe in The American's Creed and will do all that I can to be a responsible citizen, to support our leaders, and be a positive influence on as many people as I can, both now and in the future. In my heart, I believe this is also true for all of you who will read this column. We know that when things are at their worst, you'll find Americans at their best.

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



Weddings



Caudill-Keens

Jody Keens, of Dema, and Misty Caudill, of Hollybush, are pleased to announce their forthcoming wedding. The couple will begin their lives together on December 28, 2004, in a beautiful holiday ceremony that will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Both Jody and Misty are teachers employed by the Knott County School System.

Betsy

Continued from p1

Grandma had to become both mother and father to her children. The only way she could do this was to turn the hillside into a family farm. So, Grandma became a farm lady. She raised and sold corn, beans, eggs, milk and butter. Sometimes she would buy hundred pound bags of feed for her animals. It would come in large sacks with flowers printed on them. I wore many a shirt that my Grandma made from those sacks. I could go on forever telling stories about my grandma. Grandma was a never-ending story, a legend in her own time. Whatever challenges she met in life, she was determined to meet them and to not accept defeat.

Grandma left this world to go be with Jesus a few years ago. When she reported to that place called Heaven, if she found any work there to be done, no doubt she said to Jesus, "I will do it." While on earth, Grandma taught me how to work, as well as how to enjoy the world around me. She helped me to see what nature has to give, how to be a part of the world in which I live - how not to fight the world, but to learn how to flow in this wonderful stream we call life.

As long as I live, I will know that my grandma will never die, because I hold her so dear in the most secret place of my heart. A place that no key can open for I have her locked up there and I have thrown away the key. Grandma had a philosophy about life - "Those who don't work, don't eat." Grandma said that we must teach our children to work, "for what will happen to the future of the world, if we don't?" she would ask. Grandma taught me that we can reach the unreachable star if we are only willing to climb. She would say to me: "Reach for

the stars, son. There is no tree that you can't climb, and no mountain so high that you can't reach the top. So climb on forever until you reach the top of the world."

Grandma's House There was no place like Grandma's house.

For a small child like me. A place where a child could be happy.

As a child should always be.

A place where I could go and be myself.

Yes, it was Grandma, Who made me feel like no one else.

Grandma was a hardworking woman;

She worked hard in the fields,

She grew her own corn,

Which she had ground at the village mill,

Early to bed and always up by five,

I guess it must have been hard work,

That kept my grandma alive.

As I think back over the years,

And take a look at me,

It's Grandma in my life,

The grandest thing I see.

Grandma made good ginger bread,

And cooked the best dinners I ever ate.

Yes, Grandma, when I was a little boy,

I thought that you were great.

You had a smiling face,

And wise I thought you were.

Easy it was for me, To have you to love.

I remember asking Mother,

If I could go to your house.

And all the way I ran,

For you were what life was all about.

"I love you, Grandma!"

Red Hot 'N' Bluegrass is coming to Hazard

Enjoy the performance of dance, down-home style when "Red, Hot 'N' Bluegrass" hits the stage on Friday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m., at The Forum, Hal Rogers Center, in Hazard as part of the Greater Hazard Area Performing Arts Series.

The show is presented by The North Carolina Dance Theatre's (NCDT) which brings breathtaking beauty, boundless energy, and amazing athleticism. The shows have dazzled audiences the world over and brought critical acclaim in such cities as New York, London, Rome, Atlanta and Miami.

Critics and theatergoers alike have hailed this troupe as "...performers of stunning versatility and dramatic power." The repertory program consists of Alvin Ailey's inspiring choreography of "The River" set to an original score by Duke Ellington.

"The River" is filled with stunning tableaux. The sections, with titles like "Meander" and "Falls" evoke in sound and movement the water's course.

The second piece in the program is Nicolò Paganini's daring "Brave!" about emotional courage, and ends with jubilation in Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux's "Shindig" featuring live music provided by the bluegrass band,

The Greasy Beans from Asheville, NC. This particular piece intersperses square-dance ensemble patterns with playful flirtatious solos and duets grounded in rigorous classical ballet with the women on point.

While Greasy Beans is in the area, they will hold a workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 26 in Hindman at 6:30 p.m. in the Human Services Center. Hosted by the Pickers and Grinders, cost of the workshop is \$5 per person.

Admission is \$16 for adults, \$8 for students, ages 6 to 18 years, and age five and younger are admitted for free.

Series grand benefactors are: Citizens Bank and Trust Company in Jackson, Hazard Clinic/Jackson Clinic, Kiwanis Club of Hazard and Perry Distributors Inc.

Event sponsors are: First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Hazard Lions Club, and My Favorite Things. Partial funding has been provided by Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Southern Arts Federation.

For more information, call Tammy Duff 487-3067 or Sandy Campbell 487-3070 or 800-246-7521 exts. 73067 or 73070.

Lagoon

Continued from p6

It all leads up to a big dukeroo between some dedicated priests and Satan's minions that will have you reaching for the pause button to catch all of the spectacular set pieces on display. Not a lot of plot here, folks, but a whole mess of weird imagery and some great special effects combine so that you'll never be bored.

The best thing about this movie is that it sports a cast of disaster movie proportions. Hollywood veterans like Arthur Kennedy, Jose Ferrer and John Carradine

show up as priests, while Ava Gardner shows up briefly as a blasé real estate agent. Eli Wallach and Christopher Walken are on hand as cops and Jerry Orbach and Jeff Goldblum make brief appearances as fashion photographers. Keen eyed viewers will also spot Tom Berenger ("Platoon") and Nana Visitor ("Deep Space 9") as apartment hunters.

This is why they invented popcorn, folks. Enjoy.

Best line: "Blind? Then what does he look at?"

This Town

Continued from p6

were missing. If the city doesn't put in a traffic light at this spot, I may have to tie me a chicken in the middle of the intersection, so

that drivers may know of the approach of a car or truck by the direction the domineer tries to run or fly.

Click and Clack Talk Cars

What to do with an empty gas can

by TOM and RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray: I have a question that I just can't find the answer to, no matter how much I scour the Web. I need to know how to properly store an (empty) gas container. The most logical place, to me, would be in the trunk of my car; that way, if I ever run out of gas, I'll have it handy. However, I was told by someone that it would be dangerous to store it in my car. If I store it at home, can I store it outside in the heat? In a closet? Please help me, as I'm having visions of fumes igniting and burning down my apartment! — Heather

RAY: Well, if you have an empty, used gas can that you need to store, we'd recommend storing it outside, with the cap off. TOM: That lets any remaining gasoline evaporate and disappear, rather than build up vapor pressure inside the gas can. Then, once the inside of the can is truly dry, you can put the cap back on loosely, and it should be fine.

RAY: You're right, Heather. We don't recommend storing gas cans of any kind inside an apartment. Several of my brother's old landlords are still after him for his previous unintentional three-story neighborhood barbecues.

TOM: But I assume you want a gas can in case your car runs out of gas, Heather. For that purpose, we recommend something called Gas-O-Haul. It's a disposable, one-time-use, cardboard gas container that you can toss in the trunk of your car. It comes folded flat, and it's lined with some sort of foil that holds gasoline and doesn't allow it to leak. And it costs less than 10 bucks.

RAY: If you ever run out of gas and have to use it, you throw it out afterward and buy another one. Best of all, since it stores as a flat piece of cardboard, it takes up almost no space in the trunk, so you can have more room in there for your gas grill and its propane tanks!

Brake failure needs to be explained

Dear Tom and Ray: You guys really make me laugh. So now you know that one other person is out there laughing with you! I have a 2003 Windstar with about 16K miles. Last Saturday, my wife took my car to watch the Mummer's parade in North Wildwood, N.J. As she approached a stop sign, the brakes failed her. The pedal went to the floor. She was not going very fast and was able to bring the car to a stop without hitting anything. She immediately turned the car off, and the brakes returned (the pedal returned to its normal position and the brakes worked). The brakes have been working normally ever since. I checked under the hood, saw no leaks, and the master-cylinder reservoir was full. The brake pads look good. We took it to a Ford dealership (they kept it for a day), and the mechanic said that the brakes were

OK, that he made an adjustment in the hydraulics. Tom and Ray, now I have lost confidence in the brakes. Any suggestions? Should I expect failure again? Should I trade it in? Could it be a bad master cylinder or anti-lock brake system? How can I ever have confidence in the brakes again? — Gene

TOM: You can't, Gene. At least not until somebody gives you a credible explanation for why they failed. No one has done that yet.

RAY: There is no "adjustment" you can make to the hydraulics, so he was just trying to get rid of you with that one.

TOM: I can think of a few possible explanations for what happened. The most likely is that your wife accidentally drove all the way to the Mummer's parade with the parking brake applied — or, more likely, partially applied. That would mean that the brakes were being applied the whole time she was driving, even though her foot wasn't on the brake pedal. That overheated the brakes, which boiled the brake fluid, which led to the brake failure.

RAY: Then, when she shut off the engine and let things cool down, the brakes returned to normal. And we would assume that after that, she released the parking brake.

TOM: How do you prove that's what happened? I guess you have to put her under the

klieg lights and interrogate her.

RAY: Actually, you might do better just asking her whether it's possible. You said it was your car she was driving, and this is something any person can easily do in an unfamiliar vehicle. In fact, I recently drove halfway to Montreal with the parking brake partially applied in one of our brand-new test cars. I won't mention whose car it was, because I don't want Chrysler on our case again!

TOM: A related cause of intermittent brake failure is a faulty power-brake booster. That creates a situation similar to leaving the parking brake on. It fails to release the brakes entirely. So, it also causes brake failure by overheating the brake fluid. If that's the case, it could happen again.

RAY: If it's not either of those, then it's probably a bad master cylinder, which would need to be replaced.

TOM: So, unless your wife fesses up to perhaps having seen the red "parking brake" light on when she was driving that day, take the Windstar back to the dealer, talk to the manager of the service department and tell him that you need a more definitive explanation before you can confidently drive this van any more.

RAY: Ask him to keep it and drive it home for a few days. Tell him to take his family out in it and see if he can get the problem to recur. If you notice a sudden deer-in-the-headlights look when you make this suggestion, you'll know you've made your point. Good luck, Gene.

Keep your car on the road and out of the repair shop by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.50 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car-Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.



Sunday Comics

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



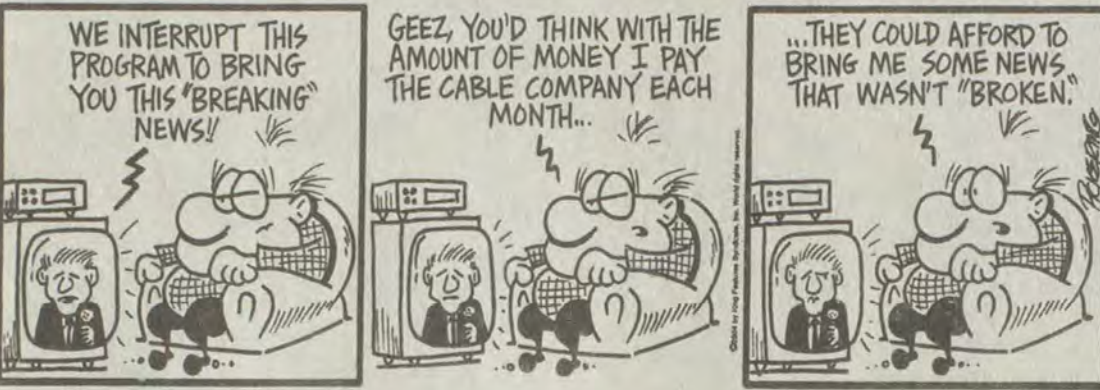
MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM JERRY CRAFT



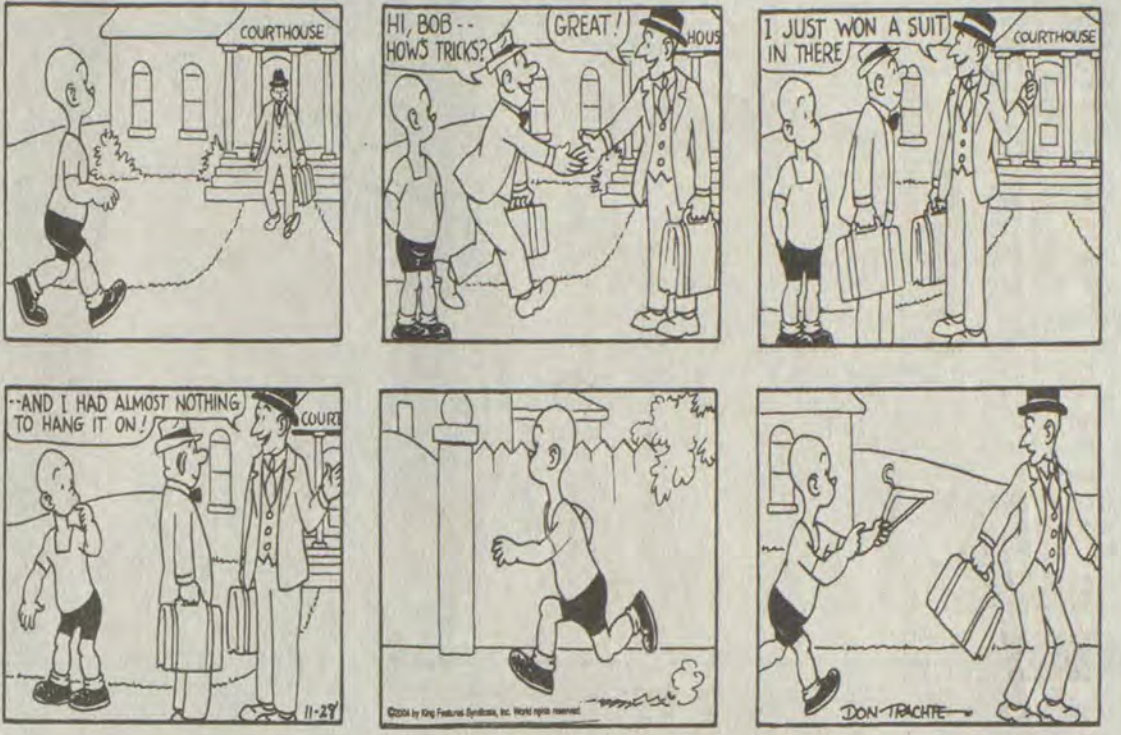
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Super Crossword GIFT RAP

- ACROSS**
- 1 Forum wear
 - 5 Wolf gang?
 - 9 Drive the getaway car
 - 13 Positive thinker
 - 18 Lipinski leap
 - 19 Deejay Freed
 - 20 Interoffice communique
 - 21 Hickman or Strawberry
 - 22 Canadian coin
 - 23 Ordinary author
 - 24 "Trinity" kind of paint
 - 26 Start of a remark by Don Marquis
 - 30 Narcs' org.
 - 31 "Agnus"
 - 32 Cinema sled
 - 36 Lineman's tool
 - 40 Seville shout
 - 42 Renown
 - 45 Debut recording
 - 46 Atmosphere
 - 47 Discontinue
 - 49 Sharpens a skill
 - 51 Choose, with "for"
 - 52 Part 2 of remark
 - 57 Cartoon canine
 - 58 Part 3 of remark
 - 59 Delany and Wynter
 - 60 Time of your life
 - 63 Head line?
 - 65 Susann or Shakespeare
 - 69 Entreaty
 - 70 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
 - 73 From date
 - 76 Gulliver's first name
 - 78 Portly partner
 - 79 Wattle's partner
 - 81 Speculation
 - 83 Conductor Klemperer
 - 84 Gold brick?
 - 86 Pageant prop
 - 89 Part 4 of remark
 - 90 Sixth sense
 - 93 Part 5 of remark
 - 99 Mellow
 - 101 Studio sign
 - 102 "— Breath You Take"
 - 103 Computer image
 - 104 Man the bar
 - 106 Belarusian city
 - 108 Cote cutie
 - 109 Bantered
 - 111 November 11th honoree
 - 113 Stirrup site
 - 115 Create a chemise
 - 116 End of remark
 - 125 Monastery bigwigs
 - 128 Tivoli's Villa d'—
 - 129 Neighbor of Can.
 - 130 Concept
 - 131 He had things done by Friday
 - 132 — breve
 - 133 Unusual
 - 134 It's nothing
 - 135 Off the plate
 - 136 Basketball's Willis
 - 137 Black
 - 138 Seth's son
 - 6 Maui greeting
 - 7 Poirot's concern
 - 8 Handle
 - 9 Tickle
 - 10 Wodehouse's Wooster
 - 11 Send out
 - 12 Peter of reggae
 - 13 Dieter's discomfort
 - 14 Cleared the slate
 - 15 Cardigan part
 - 16 Pipe cleaner?
 - 17 Building wing
 - 21 Signifies
 - 27 HST's predecessor
 - 28 Crusader kingdom
 - 29 Persian, presently
 - 33 Early epic
 - 34 Ref
 - 35 Speck
 - 36 Talk-show pioneer
 - 37 Mechanic's offering
 - 38 Pressing need
 - 39 — de Cologne
 - 40 Above, to Arnold
 - 41 Installed tile
 - 43 Unsullied
 - 44 — Gatos, CA
 - 47 Basilica
 - 48 Italian rumber
 - 50 Diffident
 - 53 Kind
 - 54 Use a toboggan
 - 55 Handle harshly
 - 56 "Alley —"
 - 61 Indian export
 - 62 Toque or topee
 - 64 Piggy
 - 66 Medical grp.
 - 67 Uproar
 - 68 Price twice
 - 70 Infamous Amin
 - 71 Singer
 - 72 Enhance
 - 74 Generator parts
 - 75 Stumble
 - 77 Isolated
 - 80 Tropical snake
 - 82 Connecticut campus
 - 85 Spinks stat
 - 87 Go back
 - 88 "— Good Men"
 - 90 Decorate glass
 - 91 Oxford, e.g.
 - 92 Await judgment
 - 94 As a group
 - 95 Canvas cover?
 - 96 Nuremberg numeral
 - 97 Cinnabar, for instance
 - 98 "— the season . . ."
 - 99 Wilderness trans.
 - 100 "Holy smoke!"
 - 105 Unseat
 - 107 Pot
 - 109 Dairy cow
 - 110 Be obligated
 - 112 Boca —, FL
 - 114 Winning
 - 115 Burning bit
 - 117 Have on
 - 118 Presque —, ME
 - 119 Mata —
 - 120 Dash
 - 121 — up (evaluate)
 - 122 Actress Barbara
 - 123 Sleuth Wolfe
 - 124 New Mexico resort
 - 125 Parker of football
 - 126 It may be padded
 - 127 Except

WORDS CONTAINING "LATIN" MAGIC MAZE

C B G N I T A L P G Y X G V
 T A N I T A L S R N P O N M G
 O S C I L L A T I N G I U G E
 M L K I T G E T G N T N D N L
 B A Z X W A A A I A I U I I A
 T T R Q O L L T L T N T L T T
 J I I G I L A U A A A F A A I
 D N C D A L G L C L T A Y L N
 X G W T F E P V A L T I S E R
 P O I E R N L P K J A I N R G
 F N D A N I T A L R A C S O E

- Calculating
- Deflating
- Dilating
- Gallatin
- Latinist
- Latino
- Oscillating
- Palatine
- Plating
- Platinum
- Regulating
- Relating
- Scarlatina
- Slatina
- Siating

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle and Magic Maze can be found on page A5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
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The Floyd County Times Classifieds

Classified Rates: for 20 words or less
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, only \$12.00
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Classified Manager: Tammy Conn, ext. #19

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 ► **Friday Paper and Shopper, Wed. 5 p.m.**
 ► **Sunday Paper, Thurs. 5 p.m.**

CONTACT US AT: (606) 886-8506



Send Us Your Ad
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100 - AUTOMOTIVE	210 - Job Listings 220 - Help Wanted 230 - Information 250 - Miscellaneous 260 - Part Time 270 - Sales 280 - Services 290 - Work Wanted	350 - Miscellaneous 360 - Money To Lend 380 - Services	480 - Miscellaneous 490 - Recreation 495 - Wanted To Buy	590 - Sale or Lease	690 - Wanted To Rent	750 - Mobile Home Movers 755 - Office 760 - Plumbing 765 - Professionals 770 - Repair/Service 780 - Timber 790 - Travel	830 - Miscellaneous 850 - Personals 870 - Services 890 - Legals
110 - Agriculture 115 - ATVs 120 - Boats 130 - Cars 140 - 4x4's 150 - Miscellaneous 160 - Motorcycles 170 - Parts 175 - SUV's 180 - Trucks 190 - Vans	300 - FINANCIAL 310 - Business Opportunity 330 - For Sale	400 - MERCHANDISE 410 - Animals 420 - Appliances 440 - Electronics 445 - Furniture 450 - Lawn & Garden 460 - Yard Sale 470 - Health & Beauty 475 - Household	500 - REAL ESTATE 505 - Business 510 - Commercial Property 530 - Homes 550 - Land/Lots 570 - Mobile Homes 580 - Miscellaneous	600 - RENTALS 610 - Apartments 620 - Storage/Office Space 630 - Houses 640 - Land/Lots 650 - Mobile Homes 660 - Miscellaneous 670 - Commercial Property	700 - SERVICES 705 - Construction 710 - Educational 713 - Child Care 715 - Electrician 720 - Health & Beauty 730 - Lawn & Garden 735 - Legal 740 - Masonry 745 - Miscellaneous	800 - NOTICES 805 - Announcements 810 - Auctions 815 - Lost & Found	
200 - EMPLOYMENT							

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

AUTOMOTIVE

130-Cars

FOR SALE: 1996 KY 500, New plastic, looks & runs good. \$1600. Call 874-0631

For Sale 1995 Grand Am automatic a/c Good condition 874-1398 after 6pm

For Sale 1993 Ford Crown Victoria. 138,000 miles. \$1200. call 606-874-0467

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404 DAVID ROAD
 01 Chevy Blazer LT 4 door 34,000 miles **REDUCED** \$9,500, 1998 Town and Country Chrysler, all wheel drive loaded \$6,000
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 1996 ED Explorier moon roof loaded, \$6,500 call Hicks Auto Sales at 606-886-2842 after hours 886-3451

2004 DODGE STRATUS R/T. Excellent condition. Black in color. Loaded with sunroof. Will sale for payoff. Call 606-452-2323 after 6 p.m. or 606-226-2881.

For sale 1991 Toyota Corolla needs work \$800 firm call 606-886-8339 after 5 pm

For Sale: 1995 Mustang Good Motor and Transmission \$1500 Call: (606) 452-4672

140-4X4s

FOR SALE: '03 Honda Foreman 450 4x4 ATV, electric shift, 26 inch mud lick tires, 481 miles, 5x8 dump trailer, has 30 month extended warranty. Asking \$4800. Call 285-9526

150-Miscellaneous

Will trade 4 wheel drive pick-up for a 4 wheel drive 4 wheeler call 606-874-2703

160-Motorcycles

For Sale 1988 Gold Wing Trike 1,500 Miles Maroon in color, loaded call 606-358-2000 asking \$19,995

1995 Honda CVR 900RR Cobra and Yoshi pipes-slip on with 2 matching helmets. Runs great call 606-226-1577 or 606-889-9283

For Sale 1998 YAMAHA YZ80 New tires, pro-circuit pipe. \$1600. Call 606-452-9599 for more info.

180-Trucks

For Sale 1 utility Truck with boom 1 record pick-up with lift on back, new brakes in excellent condition and 1 1998 Toyota Tacoma runs good and 1 1992 Ford F 150 loaded with extras call 606-874-9529

Wanted used full size pick-ups 1998 thru 2003, will pay cash call 800-789-5301

EMPLOYMENT

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

210-Job Listing

WELDING POSITIONS AVAILABLE Call for an application appointment between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 606-285-9358

Classified ads work! Call 886-8506

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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

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AVON

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

220-Help Wanted

INSURANCE INSPECTORS - PT Regional inspection co. seeks self motivated individuals to conduct property surveys on residential homes & commercial businesses in Prestonsburg & surrounding counties, identifying hazard & safety concerns. No selling involved. Dependable car and camera req. EOE Send resume to Midwest Technical Inspections, KY Mgr, P.O. Box 127, Bloomingdale, IL 60108; fax (630) 539-4526; eml: wtarmon@mtinspections.com

GET PAID TO SHOP!

Mystery Shoppers needed to pose as customers in local establishments. Valid email required. PT/FT AVAILABLE. (800) 290-7955.

P/T FIELD INSPECTOR,

will train. Internet access required. Digital camera needed. Fax name, number, city and state to 770-345-9287.

WANTED:

Kentucky Oil and Refining Company at Betsy Layne is seeking a truck driver. This person must have class A Tanker CDLs and be HAZMAT certified. Call 606-478-9501 and ask for Richard or stop by the office for an application.

CONTRACT HIGHWALL MINING,

LLC is accepting applications for employment. Electricians and Operators needed for a Superior Highwall Miner. Hiring day and night shift. For an application please call (606) 437-4603

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Help Wanted Retail in Management

Needed experienced Manager for Dollar Store must have Retail Management experience send resume to Dollar Mart 270 Dog Patch Center, London, Ky. 40741 c/o Atten Bruce

MERCHANDISE

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ALMAR FURNITURE
 Big Selection of Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Washers, Dryers and much more 606-874-0097

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New & Used Furniture & Appliances @ unbelievable prices. Come in today for incredible savings. Shop At The Little Furniture Store & Save!! 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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$70 per load. All Hardwood Split Call: (606) 358- 9616

FOR SALE: Timber, approximately 80 acres. Call 587-2619.

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Affordable Convenient Tan at home Payments from \$29 month FREE Color Catalog Call today 1-800-781-5173 www.np.etstan.com

FOR SALE:

3 beams, 45 ft. long, good for building bridges. 1980 Tab over MAC truc without the bed. Call 899-0897.

ANTIQUES FOR SALE:

Furniture and dishes also like new leather recliner. 1997-2004 Mustang gt - new tires and wheels 606-434-5551

FOR SALE: Electric power wheelchair excellent condition only used twice. call 874-1398 after 6

For Sale: 8 ft' refrigerated deli case, \$1000, small pizza oven, \$400, small juice cooler, \$150, washer & dryer, \$150 pair. Call 606-886-2367.

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. All under \$10.00. Open Tues - Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. 606-789-8584.

For Sale 9 acres more or less on Samson fork at Dana, Ky. call 440-967-4088

For Sale Single Family residential lot, city ammenties and restructions asking \$25,000 call 606-237-4758

1 BR APARTMENT, \$385 mo. includes utilities. Also 2 BR trailer, \$275 mo. 4 miles west of Prestonsburg on Mtn. Parkway. Call 886-6061 and after 5 886-3996.

REALESTATE

530-Houses

PROPERTY FOR SALE: ON CALF BRANCH 4 house seats priced to sell. City eminities. Call 226-1262.

HOUSE FOR SALE Approx. 6 acres on Left Beaver Creek on Rt 122 Good location, asking \$42,500. Call 859-744-3426.

A FORECLOSURE 2 BED 2 BATH only \$24,000! for listings call 800-391-5228 extension. B 183

550-Land/Lots

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 ammenties and restructions asking \$25,000 call 606-237-4758

1 BR APARTMENT, \$385 mo. includes utilities. Also 2 BR trailer, \$275 mo. 4 miles west of Prestonsburg on Mtn. Parkway. Call 886-6061 and after 5 886-3996.

570-Mobile Homes

Clayton House 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: 98 14X70 Fleetwood mobile home. Simulated stone underpinning, 2 porches. Located at Bear Hollow. Asking \$12,000 Call 889-0414

For Sale 3 bed room 2 full bath, Double wide, 3 years old for more information call 606-889-0937 or 606-889-9654

RENTALS

610-Apartments

FOR RENT: Two 2 BR apartments, \$406 per month each, garbage and water paid, 15 minutes from Prestonsburg. Call 606-946-2654

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 or 226-6460.

Occupational Therapist/ Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
 Salyersville Health Care Center, in Salyersville, KY, is seeking a full-time OT or COTA. Our 157-bed facility offers inpatient & outpatient services and we recently started providing Anodyne Therapy! IN-HOUSE position, Monday-Friday hours, caseload variety, excellent benefits, competitive wages & nation-wide growth opportunities. Contact Jennifer Weimer, 800-395-5000 x 8254, Fax: 414-908-8143 or Email: jweimer@extendicare.com EEOC.

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 or 1-800-686-4447

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480-Miscellaneous
FIREWOOD FOR SALE: \$70 per load. All Hardwood Split Call: (606) 358- 9616

FOR SALE: Timber, approximately 80 acres. Call 587-2619.

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Job Opportunity
 Citizens National Bank is now hiring for the following position for the Paintsville location:
Administrative Assistant
 Skills needed:
 Organizational, communications, problem solving and basic math. Must have experience in Microsoft Word and Excel. Preferred experience in Microsoft Access and PowerPoint.
 Job Duties: Acts in the capacity of assistant by supporting the job activities of the Executive Officer.
 Apply at any Citizens National Bank location.
 An Equal Opportunity Employer.

PREMIER ELKHORN COAL COMPANY, Myra, KY, is now accepting applications for the following position(s):
Electrician with 3 years plant electrical and repair experience. Must be able to cut and weld. PLC experience required. Requires State and Federal Electrical certifications. Also requires KY Surface Mine Certification.
Lab Sample Prep Person needed to collect & prepare coal samples. Must also perform float sinks, screens, and grinds. Coal lab experience required. Must have KY Surface Mine Certification.
 Applications will be accepted at:
 Kentucky Department for Employment Services
 138 College Street
 Pikeville, KY 41501
 Premier Elkhorn Coal Company is an EOE.

Come grow with us!!
HIGHLANDS REGIONAL
 The Medical Center of Eastern Kentucky - A Subsidiary of Consolidated Health Systems
 Highlands, a growing premier healthcare facility in Prestonsburg, is currently recruiting for the following position:
Medical Laboratory Technician (Full time)
 Medical Laboratory Technician is responsible for prompt, accurate performance and reporting of designated clinical laboratory tests using established procedures and independent judgment.
Requirements:
 High School diploma or G.E.D. equivalent. MLT must be a graduate of approved Medical Technology program, ASCP, AMT or equivalent work experience in hospital laboratory. Must be able to do heavy lifting, stand, and walk for long periods. Ability to work independently within general guidelines.
 Interested applicants may apply to the Human Resources Department
 Highlands Regional Medical Center
 5000 Kentucky Route 321
 Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 (606) 886-7530
 Fax: (606) 886-7534
 E-Mail: tclark@hrrmc.org
 Highlands is an equal opportunity employer.
 Please visit Highlands web site at www.hrrmc.org
"Think Healthy, Think Highlands!"

Big Sandy Health Care, Inc.
 seeks candidates for
Licensed Practical Nurse
 Exciting opportunity to become part of the team at Mud Creek Clinic, Grethel, KY. The primary care clinic operates Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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 Big Sandy Health Care, Inc.
 1709 KY Route 321, Suite 3
 Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 Fax: (606) 886-8548
 Email: Lhacker@bshc.org
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BRANHAM HEIGHTS APTS. of Wheelwright, Ky. is accepting applications for one and two bedroom apts. Rent is based on income. Apartments come equipped with central air and heat, carpet, refrigerator, stove and blinds. Garbage, maintenance, water and sewer are included with rent. Pleas contact Kathy at 452-4777. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicap Accessible.

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-Storage/Office

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

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

3 bedroom House for Rent, in Prestonsburg. \$500 per month. Call: (606) 886-0226

FOR RENT 3 BR 1 Bath house with large yard no pets 3 miles from Prestonsburg 889-9747 or 886-9007

Two-bedroom unfurnished Apartment for rent. Good neighborhood. Deposit and References Required. 1 year lease. Call: (606) 358-9123.

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. \$450 per month. Work 886-6219 or Home 886-8459

FOR RENT: 3 BR, 2 BA house on Mtn. Parkway. \$600 per month plus deposit & utilities. 606-478-2836

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 BR, carpet, paneled, central h/a, 2 car garage, no pets, \$500 per mo., \$400 dep., 60 S. Evergreen, Lancer Addition, Prestonsburg, Ky. 606-886-6358.

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

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

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

640-Land/Lots

For Rent Studio Apt furnished, clean, nice suitable for 1 person Deposit Required \$225.00 per month utilities extra 886-6208

FOR RENT : newly constructed Mobile Home Lots in new Allen, reference required call 606-874-2212

650-Mobile Homes

FOR RENT: Effency apt. near Martin. Call 285-9442.

FOR RENT: 2 BR trailer completely furnished w/TV. Ready to move in, everything hooked up. \$325.00 per month, plus utilities. \$150.00 dep. 886-8961 in Auxier.

FOR RENT: 2 BR APARTMENT. 1 BEDROOM UNFURNISHED OR FURNISHED. NO PETS. LOCATED IN PRESTONSBURG. 886-8991.

FOR RENT: Mobile home located at Emma, close to UPS, 2 BR, large den, large front porch, maintenance of yard included in rent. No HUD, no pets, suitable for couples only. Call after 7 p.m., by appointment only. \$350 mo., rent, \$150 dep., plus utilities. Call 606-874-3285. References required.

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

FOR RENT: 2 BR trailer near Prestonsburg. 874-1991.

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

TRAILER LOT FOR RENT ON OLD U.S. 23 between Prestonsburg and Paintsville call 606-886-9007 or 889 9747

2 bed room 1 1/2 bath Townhouse also 1 bed room furnished or unfurnished located oin Prestonsburg, NO PETS call 606-886 8991

670-Comm. Property
FOR RENT: Beauty shop equipped with 3 stations, and tanning bed. located 1 mile south of Martin on Route. 122. or would consider remodeling for office space Call 606-285-4826 or 606-285-9112.

NOTICES

812-Free
FREE PALLETS: can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

Classified ads
Work!

FOR SALE

1994 14x70 Fleetwood
3 bedrooms, 1 bath, outbuildings, and 2 porches. Good conditon. Prestonsburg area.
Call 606-899-2033

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

IN THE FLOYD COUNTY TIMES CIRCULATION DEPT. ASSEMBLING NEWSPAPERS

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