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briefs

Man gets 18 months for theft

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Daniel A. Kazez, 27, of Beauty, received an 18 month sentence for theft in Circuit Judge Danny P. Caudill's courtroom Friday.

Kazez pleaded guilty to the charge Jan. 16, following a recommendation from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, which suggested that the sentence run concurrently with current probation violation charges he faces in Martin County.

According to his arrest citation, issued by Prestonsburg police officer George Tussey, Kazez stole more than \$300 worth of property from Terry Wright on May 20.

Kazez's criminal history record indicates that he was found guilty of second-degree burglary in 1995 and was sentenced to five years. The following year, he was granted shock probation for that crime, and was later picked up again on a parole violation in Martin County.

During the hearing Friday, Caudill awarded Kazez 277 days credit toward time served in his sentence.

Public Advocate Leta Baharestan represented him during the hearing.

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today Mostly sunny High: 47 • Low: 24

Tomorrow Partly cloudy High: 48 • Low: 31

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

Drug conviction having domino effect

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A hefty sentence handed down by a jury this week sent "shockwaves" throughout the drug trafficking community, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor, after witnessing a second drug trafficker enter an

open guilty plea as a result of that sentence.

The ripple began when a Floyd County jury sentenced Jessie Compton, 23, of Goble Roberts, to eight years Wednesday, following a three-day trial. Compton, charged with two counts of first-degree trafficking, and single counts of second- and third-degree trafficking,

was arrested along with 30 others during a Floyd County drug task force roundup last year.

Considering the severity of the sentence imposed by the jury in Compton's case, another drug trafficker, Bobby Owens, decided to not risk placing his fate in a jury's hand. Owens, who was scheduled to begin trial that day and was in the courtroom when

the verdict was read, opted instead to plead guilty to all charges.

Taylor said Friday that the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office received a call from Johnnie Owens' attorney the same day, saying that he did not want to risk a jury either.

"The jury in Jessie Compton's case has obviously sent shock-

waves to the drug dealers around here," said Taylor. "Since we've had a jury convict Compton on all counts, we've had two other defendants who contacted us within a matter of hours to tell us that they don't want to face a jury of their peers."

Owens, represented by public (See SHOCKWAVES, page three)

Prison staff saves inmate

by TOM DOTY STAFF WRITER

WHEELWRIGHT — On Feb. 16 a quick response by prison staff to a medical emergency saved an inmate at Otter Creek Correctional Center.

Otter Creek Correctional Facility was the scene where medical staff managed to avert a crisis by administering cardiac care to an inmate who had been complaining of chest pain. The quick response is due, in part, to regular emergency drills for the staff which are conducted on a quarterly basis.

In this case, a guard was able to quickly assess a complaint of chest pains by a prisoner and managed to get him to the facility's medical center in a wheelchair.

Prison spokesman Mark Kilburn said that the inmate had "passed on" but was revived by medical personnel who used a defibrillator. The prisoner was revived just as an ambulance arrived on the scene.

"The Indiana Department of Corrections is very pleased with the medical department's outstanding performance and high level of training," said Al Bennett, of the Indiana Department of Corrections.

Otter Creek warden Randall Stovall echoed those sentiments, saying, "Staff training and drills have prepared employees to respond quickly and professionally without hesitation."

The prison is owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America. It is the largest private owner of prisons in the country. CCA requires that all of its personnel be drilled on cardiopulmonary resuscitation.



Daryl Bentley was led from the courtroom after Judge John David Caudill said he would consider his request for a lower bond. Bentley is accused of 25 felony counts of falsely obtaining a prescription.

Request for lower bond heard in court

by MARY MUSIC STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County man who allegedly used false information or means to obtain 25 controlled substance prescriptions asked the court to consider reducing his bond Friday.

Daryl Bentley, 50, of Minnie, charged with 25 counts of falsely obtaining a controlled substance prescription, filed a motion Jan. 9 on his own behalf, requesting that the court amend his \$50,000 partially secured bond into a more accessible amount.

During the hearing Circuit Judge John David Caudill said that Bentley based his request on the fact that he has lived in Floyd County all of his life and is not a flight risk.

Bentley was indicted Sept. 30 on the 25 felony charges because he allegedly used false information to wrongfully obtain controlled substance prescriptions between

July 2001 and December 2002 at the Med Zone Pharmacy, McDowell Professional Pharmacy, McDowell ARH, Reid's Pharmacy and Cooley Apothecary.

Bentley pleaded not guilty to the charges during his arraignment Jan. 7 under Caudill, who placed him under the \$50,000 cash bond. During court Friday, Caudill said he has already considered a similar motion for his case and ruled that the cash bond be reduced to a partially secured bond following a request from Bentley's attorney.

After public advocate Harolyn Howard suggested a \$25,000 partially secured bond for Bentley, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Wayne Taylor said that the commonwealth would still need to see a significant bond in the case.

"There's an awful lot of charges against him," said Taylor. "I don't know if the commonwealth would

(See BOND, page three)

Court budgets \$100,000 for home jail

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Now that enough time has passed to provide the county with a close idea as to what will need to be budgeted for operations, the Floyd County Fiscal Court agreed Friday to adjust its money to include additional funding for the recently formed home incarceration program.

Court members voted Friday to transfer \$100,000 from the county's general fund for the program, which was started to help ease crowding problems at the Floyd County Detention Center.

Jailer Roger Webb

reported to the court that the number of county inmates being held at the detention center was leaving little room for the already diminishing number of state inmates that could be kept. The county receives payment for housing state inmates, whose declining numbers also resulted in revenue problems for the jail and budgeting problems for the fiscal court.

The \$100,000 in funds will be spread out to cover a number of expenditures for the incarceration program, including, and most significantly, contracted services for monitoring and bracelets. The court set

(See BUDGET, page three)

Magistrate suggests closing gas company

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — One of three gas service providers in the county fell under scrutiny during a meeting of the Floyd County Fiscal Court Friday morning, after the county had to foot part of a bond principal payment on behalf of the service.

District 2 Magistrate Jackie Edford Owens said the Prestonsburg-based gas provider, East Kentucky Utilities, should be

"closed", rather than remain a potential problem area for county budget concerns.

"I think we should just close the doors," Owens said Friday.

To support his line of thought, Owens referred to a problem with gas leaks several years ago when he first began serving on the fiscal court that resulted in the county paying out roughly \$700,000 to help cover losses for the company.

(See UTILITY, page three)

County seeks better response from ambulances

by SHELDON COMPTON STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Ideally, an emergency system utilizing ambulance services able and willing to hand off calls to one another to ensure the public gets the most efficient response possible would be the best premise, county

officials have said.

It's the plan Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson and members of the county's 911 board would like to see go into effect, so much so they have drafted an all-encompassing policy that would make great strides in seeing the idea become a reality.

But during a discussion Thursday night with representatives from the county's three ambulance services — Transtar, Respond and Left Beaver — 911 board officials found that more than one hurdle could force them back to the drawing board on a com-

(See 911, page three)



Kentucky State Police communications supervisor John Michael Hunt joined others during a public hearing of the 911 executive board in Prestonsburg Thursday evening. Hunt expressed concerns about the county's goal to implement a new policy for ambulance services throughout the county, saying it had the potential to slow response time.

photo by Sheldon Compton

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Odds and Ends

■ **PORTALES, N.M.** — Talk about your bird's-eye view of a sporting event.

A small falcon became trapped at Eastern New Mexico University's Greyhound Arena sometime last week, flew over a weekend basketball game and was finally caught after going several days without food.

Biologists said the American kestrel was doing fine, and expected to release it Friday.

"It's amazing; I didn't think they could go that long without food," said Tony Gennaro, professor emeritus with Eastern's biology department, who caught the bird Wednesday. "But he's doing great. He seems to be eating, he's resting and hopefully he'll be OK."

Gennaro and Dawn Davis, a biologist with the state Department of Game and Fish,

tried to capture the bird with mouse trap baited with a small mouse. The trap didn't work properly, so Gennaro slowly approached the bird and caught it with his hands.

Arena workers said they became concerned after the noticed the bird hanging around for several days.

"We'd watch it fly around to see where it would land, kind of curious as to when it would take off again," said Norma Stroik, coordinator of ENMU's athletics administration office. "It was probably dangerous for the basketball players if the bird would have flown over the court and pooped on the floor. ... I don't know how we would have explained that one."

■ **TAIPEI, Taiwan** — There isn't much room for cemeteries in

densely-populated Taiwan, so a U.S. firm is offering an alternative: shooting people's ashes into space.

The Houston-based Celestis Inc. announced Thursday that it has signed a deal with one of Taiwan's biggest funeral homes, Baushan Enterprise, to provide "space burials" to the Taiwanese.

Robert Tysor, chief executive of Celestis, said the ashes are packed into an aluminum tube about the size of a lipstick container, which is shot into space on commercial rockets from bases in the United States and Russia.

The tube orbits Earth once every 90 minutes before re-entering the atmosphere and burning up, he said. It can orbit for months or even years, he said.

"It helps one fulfill the instinctive desire to explore space," Tysor said.

Baushan manager Yeh Feng-chiang said, "Whenever the moon rises, you can look up into the sky and remember the deceased."

Space burial costs about \$12,000.

■ **ASHTABULA, Ohio** — When the naked truth about Danny Zezzo's fund-raiser came out, the American Cancer Society rebuffed the donation.

Zezzo had planned to give the proceeds from Friday's International Calendar Men show in this northeast Ohio town to the local cancer society. The Cleveland-based calendar men dance and strip down to G-strings.

"This is not the type of event the American Cancer Society wants to have its name tied to," said Monica Miller, the society's northwestern regions spokes-

woman. Vida Prekler, executive director of the American Cancer Society in Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties, said Zezzo didn't originally represent the event as a male revue.

Prekler said Zezzo told her his mother, father and sister died of cancer and he was going to have a

(See **ODDS**, page six)

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2004. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 22, 1732, the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born at his parents' plantation in the Virginia Colony.

On this date:

■ In 1819, Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

■ In 1879, Frank Winfield Woolworth opened a 5-cent store in Utica, N.Y.

■ In 1889, President Cleveland signed a bill to admit the Dakotas, Montana and Washington state to the Union.

■ In 1892, "Lady Windermere's Fan," by Oscar Wilde, was first performed, at London's St. James's Theater.

■ In 1924, Calvin Coolidge delivered the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House.

■ In 1934, the romantic comedy "It Happened One Night," starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, opened at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

■ In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over the White House.

■ In 1973, the United States and Communist China agreed to establish liaison offices.

■ In 1980, the U.S. Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets at Lake Placid, New York, 4-3. (The United States went on to win the gold medal.)

■ In 1984, a 12-year-old Houston boy known publicly only as "David," who'd spent most his life in a plastic bubble because he had no immunity to disease, died 15 days after being removed from the bubble for a bone-marrow transplant.

Ten years ago:

The Justice Department charged 31-year CIA veteran Aldrich Ames and his wife, Rosario, with selling U.S. national security secrets to the Soviet Union. (Ames was later sentenced to life in prison; his wife received a five-year prison term.)

Five years ago:

Levi Strauss, falling victim to a fashion generation gap, announced it was closing 11 plants.

One year ago:

Jessica Santillan, the teenager who'd survived a botched heart-lung transplant long enough to get a second set of donated organs, died two days after the second transplant at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina.

Today's Birthdays:

Actor Sir John Mills is 96. Announcer Don Pardo is 86. Actor Paul Dooley is 76. Hollywood "ghost singer" Marni Nixon is 74. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., is 72. Movie director Jonathan Demme is 60. Actor John Ashton is 56. Actress Ellen Greene is 54. Actress Miou-Miou is 54. Actress Julie Walters is 54. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Julius Erving is 54. Actor Kyle MacLachlan is 45. "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin is 42. Actress Jeri Ryan is 36. Actor Thomas Jane is 35. Actress-singer Lea Salonga is 33. Actor Jose Solano is 33. Tennis player Michael Chang is 29. Actor Daniel E. Smith is 14.

Thought for Today: "I can resist everything except temptation." — From "Lady Windermere's Fan," by Oscar Wilde (1854-1900).

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2004 Mustang Stk. # C1669 Cost \$17,102.16 Profit 500.00 Your Price \$17,602⁰⁰	2004 Focus Stk. # C1656 Cost \$15,214.08 Profit 200.00 Your Price \$15,414⁰⁰	2004 Sable Stk. # C1671 Cost \$20,462.06 Profit 300.00 Your Price \$20,762⁰⁰	2004 Taurus Stk. # C1672 Cost \$17,137.06 Profit 300.00 Your Price \$17,437⁰⁰	2004 Grand Marquis Stk. # C1679 Cost \$23,210.69 Profit 400.00 Your Price \$23,610⁰⁰
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Son receives probation for identity theft, fraud

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Hazard Community College student who used his father's name to obtain and use a credit card was sentenced Friday in circuit court.

Gary Thomas Conley, 25, charged with theft of identity, fraud and for being a persistent felony offender, appeared in Circuit Judge Danny P. Caudill's courtroom Friday for formal sentencing.

Conley, charged for the crimes because he used his father's name and Social Security number to obtain a credit card between December 2000 and September 2002, entered a guilty plea in the case, following a plea agreement reached with the commonwealth on Jan. 16.

In return for his plea of guilty, the commonwealth rec-

ommended that the persistent felony charge against Conley be dismissed and that he be placed on probation for three years.

Caudill adhered to the commonwealth's recommendations Friday, sending Conley out the door with probation and requesting that he report to the probation and parole office Monday morning.

"Mr. Conley, you are a very fortunate man to be leaving here and going home today," said Caudill, alluding to the fact that Conley is currently on probation for other charges against him. "You've already been given two breaks, and if you don't follow the rules and stipulations of your probation, I promise that you'll be spending a substantial amount of time in jail. I don't want to see you back in here."

Conley was found guilty of

third-degree burglary and third-degree escape in 2002 and was given a three-year suspended sentence, according to his criminal history record.

The commonwealth made the offer to Conley because restitution has been paid to his father, the plea agreement order states.

Burglar gets no jail time but must repay hospital

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County man who was indicted last year after he made a mess at McDowell ARH Hospital will not serve any additional jail time after sentencing Friday in circuit court.

Judge Danny P. Caudill presided over sentencing for James Gregory Goines, 21, of McDowell, who is charged with

third-degree burglary, third-degree criminal abuse and unlawful transaction with a minor.

The indictment against Goines, handed down June 12, stems from an incident which occurred at the hospital.

Reportedly, Goines burglarized a building next to the hospital, and was charged additionally for destroying property and influencing a minor to assist him in that burglary.

He entered a guilty plea on Jan. 16 after reaching a plea agreement reached with commonwealth, a plea that Caudill adhered to Friday.

Caudill sentenced Goines to two years for the burglary, 90 days for the criminal mischief charge and 12 months for the unlawful transaction charge. Those sentences, said Caudill, would run concurrently and are probated for three years.

As part of the agreement, the commonwealth further recommended that Goines pay \$250 in restitution to McDowell ARH Hospital. They also agreed not to prosecute him further in another case against him.

"Mr. Goines, you've spent a long time in jail," said Caudill. "Do you like it?"

"No," the man said. "All you have to do is do what you're supposed to do and you won't be back," Caudill said following the hearing.

Goines is scheduled to report to probation and parole office first thing Monday morning.

Caudill awarded him 193 days credit for time already served.

Sex lawsuit against lawyer to proceed

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A lawsuit against Allen attorney Sheridan Martin will not be dismissed, following an order filed Friday in circuit court.

Judge John David Caudill filed an order Friday to allow the continuance of a civil case against Martin in which a female is seeking punitive damages for a sexual abuse incident that allegedly occurred in 2002.

Caudill's ruling came a week

after the alleged victim's attorney entered motions to retain the case on the active court docket and to set a trial date.

Caudill placed the case on an inactivity docket on Jan. 26 as a matter of routine, threatening dismissal, because no pretrial steps had taken place in the case for two years.

He ordered that the case be returned to the docket because the alleged victim's attorney, Chuck Wilson, currently suffers from a life-threatening illness.

The victim hired Ned

Pillersdorf to further assist her in the pursuit of the case, the order says.

According to the lawsuit, the alleged victim claimed that she was a "business invitee" at Martin's office, then located in Prestonsburg, where the incident allegedly occurred.

Martin disputed her allegations in a supplemental filing in which he said that the woman was the one who instigated sexual advances in his office by asking him to lock the door, by lifting up her shirt and showing him her bra.

After the woman "instigated sexual contact" Martin says she spent 45 minutes drinking a Pepsi Cola with his secretary.

The woman filed the suit against Martin, seeking punitive damages, after he entered an Alford plea (conceding that he was not guilty, but that the court may find enough evidence to convict him) to charges of third-degree sexual abuse and second-degree unlawful imprisonment.

Thereafter, Martin voluntarily entered a treatment program in Texas, where he completed the program and was released.

Drug case ends with probated sentence

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County woman arrested last year for drug trafficking near Prestonsburg Elementary School was released on probation after sentencing Friday in circuit court.

Stephanie Michele Smiley, 35, of Prestonsburg, pleaded guilty Jan. 20 to two counts of possession of a controlled substance and one count of having a controlled substance that was not in an original container.

Smiley, who was originally charged with trafficking near a school, second-degree trafficking and for having prescriptions in an improper container, changed her original not guilty plea on that day after negotiating a plea agreement in December with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

In return for her plea, the commonwealth recommended that the trafficking charges against Smiley be amended to two counts of first-degree possession, offering her a total of three years for the offenses — two years for both counts of possession and 12 months for the other charge — with each of the sentences to run concurrently.

Caudill adhered to the commonwealth's suggestion Friday, releasing Smiley on supervised

probation during the hearing.

"You've been given an opportunity, if you know what's been going on in the county this week," Caudill told Smiley following the hearing. "The commonwealth made a recommendation based on the facts and circumstances surrounding your case. I want you to take that opportunity. Make sure you follow the terms of your probation so that you don't end up here in court again."

According to an arrest citation, issued by Prestonsburg Police Officer George Tussey on Oct. 25, 2002, Smiley was arrested on North Lake Drive in front of Prestonsburg Elementary School.

Reportedly, Tussey pulled Smiley over on Route 1428 after an informant complained about a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the road. After failing a field sobriety test, Tussey said that Smiley agreed to a search of her vehicle, where he found three bottles of prescription medication, none of which were labeled, from a pharmacy where her brother was employed.

Tussey confiscated 120 Lorcet, 50 Valium and 120 Soma from Smiley's vehicle, as well as 40 other prescription pills that were hidden beneath a spare tire in her trunk.

Caudill ordered that she report to the probation and parole office Monday to begin her probation.

Utility

Continued from p1

"We had \$1 million or so in the bank and had to turn around and take \$700,000 to pay on the gas leaks," Owens said.

The fiscal court passed a resolution Friday to pay half of a principal bond payment of the company's, which is due March 1. Floyd County Judge-Executive Paul Hunt Thompson, who has pointed out that closing the company would not be a viable solution, said that would mean taking \$20,000 from county funds to cover the payment.

"I couldn't close it," Thompson said after the meeting. "We would try to sell it, because of the fact that it employs people in the area."

In an effort to see a lower interest rate, county officials recently refinanced outstand-

ing bonds.

That move included several county agencies, and county officials said it was brought to the attention of the court that East Kentucky Utilities could only manage to pay half of the \$40,000 needed for the bond payment, due in some part to damages endured during past floods. However, the company was able to submit payment on the interest, which amounted to \$9,000, Thompson said.

Thompson said the company had not been looked at closely as a "concern" until some time last week, adding that he has requested documents from the company for the court's review.

Representatives with East Kentucky Utilities could not be reached for comment.

Shockwave

Continued from p1

advocate Leta Baharestan, entered an unconditional guilty plea in court Friday to charges of second- and third-degree drug trafficking.

Owens, a Garrett resident, sold hydrocodone and Valium on March 27, 2003, and now faces charges that could net him up to five years in prison, said Judge Danny P. Caudill, who presided over the hearing.

"I could give you anywhere from one year up to five years and anything in between," said Caudill. "I could probate all of it, or part of it ... What you have to understand is that I could do any of these things, and I'm not going to allow you to withdraw your plea if you're not satisfied with your sentence. Do you understand that, Mr. Owens?"

Owens, who told the judge he

has a seventh-grade education and a nerve problem, said he understood Caudill's ability to do so and continued to enter the plea.

He is scheduled to be sentenced March 19.

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911

Continued from p1

prehensive policy.

"You're never going to have a perfect system, and you can't regulate morality," Transtar representative and former Prestonsburg fire chief Larry Adams told board members Thursday.

The policy draft presented for discussion Thursday would require that each service provide the 911 board with copies of agreements with fire or rescue agencies for first response in accordance with state regulations, while also detailing the idea of "primary dispatch."

Primary dispatch, according to the policy, would be defined through a system developed by 911 officials that would rework each ambulance service's Emergency Service Number to reflect not only the name of the service, but also its location, on 911 switchboards at Kentucky State Police Post 9 Pikeville.

The draft stipulates that all services with operating satellite stations would be required to be manned around the clock with language reserved for instances when agents would be out of a three-mile radius of the station. In this case, the service would be

required to notify Post 9 operators, who would then contact another service.

All three services present Thursday expressed resistance to the idea of having a manned station around the clock, arguing that there would be times when it would be impossible.

Others, like KSP communications supervisor John Michael Hunt, voiced concerns that the new procedure would intrude on response time, especially without immediate access to the new ESN indicators.

"ESN's don't say the area, they just say the service," Hunt said. "We can't take time to go grab a map and try to figure out which place would be best to call."

Emergency coordinator Bill Dotson said only that reworking the ESN's to reflect the area would be a "large project", but did not state an approximate timeframe for that effort.

Most service representatives attending Thursday's public hearing agreed that the current system of a centralized dispatch can hardly be improved upon.

"If you take centralized dispatch out of an organization, you're shooting yourself in the foot," Adams said.

The push by officials to reconfigure ambulance service policy came about, to some degree, following complaints from citizens about response time in relation to location, but also after talks about reservations concerning poor working relationships between county services in the past decade or so, since the planning stages of the county's new 911 emergency system.

Thompson said Thursday his focus, personally, is simply to ensure public safety.

"It doesn't make any difference to me who gets the call," said Thompson. "My concern is for public safety ... We want the fastest service we can get to the public. The reason is to protect the public of Floyd County, Kentucky. That's it in a nutshell, not who's stepping on who."

Bond

Continued from p1

object to some kind of decrease in bond, but it'd still have to be significant."

Considering comments made by both sides, Caudill said he'd take the matter under consideration.

"You've got 25 class D felonies you're looking at and a substantial penalty in jail if you're convicted," said Caudill, who told Bentley he would rule on the matter on or before March 5.

Additionally, Caudill ordered that Bentley file all future motions to the court through his attorney.

He is currently incarcerated at the Floyd County Detention Center.

expression

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.
— James Baldwin

GuestView

Expungement bill a bad idea

Expunging public records of criminal convictions was a bad idea when legislation to that effect was introduced in the Kentucky General Assembly two years ago, and it's still a bad idea today.

That notwithstanding, House Bill 371 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee last week and would apply to people convicted of a Class D felony, or a series of Class D felonies arising from a single incident. Such felonies include fraud, writing bad checks or failing to pay child support.

Understandably, those convicted of such crimes would like to have their records permanently sealed so that no one can ever learn of their past. House Bill 371 would let them file a petition to do just that 10 years after the time their case was first adjudicated. Under the proposed legislation, a hearing date would be set and the commonwealth's attorney, as well as the victim of the crime, if there was one, and others would be notified. Following criminal record checks, interviews and should the commonwealth's attorney so recommend, the records would be sealed upon payment of \$250. Anyone subsequently asking to see those records would be told they do not exist, nor would the person named in them have to disclose any facts relating to the record on an application for employment, credit, or indeed, any other application.

House Bill 371 would apply only if the offense was not a sex offense or committed against a minor, the person had no previous felony conviction, not since been convicted of other felonies or misdemeanors, has successfully completed any sentence and has paid all court-mandated restitution.

... If House Bill 371 passes and small felonies are permitted to be expunged, it won't be long before attempts could be made to broaden the law to encompass more felonies. Moreover, it is not fair for a commonwealth's attorney who did not prosecute the original case to have to make a decision on it 10 years later when he may not know all the facts involved.

The public clearly has a right under the Constitution to know who has committed crimes. Employers need to know as much about prospective employees as possible, especially those who work in potentially sensitive areas. And the public needs to know how their judges and prosecutors are performing their duties. Expungement of criminal records will make that information more difficult to ascertain.

Justice should not operate in a vacuum, nor has it under the Constitution. Allowing records to be expunged, no matter how insignificant they may seem, could threaten that and clearly is not in the best interest of the public. House Bill 371 should be expunged by the House.

— The Winchester Sun



“OK, you win the bet. Al Sharpton's candidacy outlasted Dean's.”

— Jim Davidson

The only real boss

When it comes to doing business in this great country, I love what former President Woodrow Wilson once said: "Business underlies everything in our national life, including our spiritual life. Witness ... that in the Lord's Prayer, the first petition is for daily bread. No one can worship God or love his neighbor on an empty stomach."

Over the past several decades, our nation has been truly blessed as rapidly expanding technology has enabled both suppliers and consumers to have more quantity, more quality and more selection than any other people in the history of the human race. However, what may not be fully understood by the majority of people in America is that there is a natural "pecking order" that determines the success of a business or an individual.

Here is a good example that will illustrate what I am saying. Every once in a while I hear something that just floors me. I was talking with a lady the other day who told me about a recent shopping trip to a major department store. She said when she got ready to

check out at the register, she was the only one there at the time and two female clerks were engaged in conversation. She went on to say, "I stood there for over a minute and neither clerk offered to check me out. At this point I cleared my throat to let them know I was there. With this one of the clerks turned to me and said, 'Would you mind?', indicating she would check me out when they finished their conversation."

More about this in a moment, but first I want to tell you another true story along the same lines, but with a completely different attitude. There is a lady who used to manage a dress shop here in our community who used a very simple and effective concept to train her new sales people. When the store was empty and the clerks were engaged in busy work, as the front door opened and a potential customer came in, this lady would turn to her clerks and say in a low voice, "Don't look now, but your paycheck just came in the door."

As it relates to both of these examples there is a lot I could say here, but the bottom line is that the store manager knew who was her real boss was while

apparently the two sales clerks who were engaged in conversation did not. My friend, I'm here to tell you that regardless of whether you are a manager or an employee, if you don't know and understand who the real "boss" is, you are going to suffer economically for the rest of your life.

While I realize that you may not fit either of these categories, as a customer or consumer, I know you want the very best service and treatment you can receive. In fact, every person deserves this when they spend their hard earned money. Here is something I discovered in my files that pretty well says it all. "There never has been, there is not now, and there never will be any boss but the customer. He is the one boss you must please."

Everything you own, he has paid for. He buys your home, your cars, your clothes. He pays for your vacation and puts your children through school. He pays your doctor bills and writes every paycheck you will ever receive. He will give you every promotion you will ever obtain during your lifetime and he will discharge you if you displease him. If I may, I would like to amplify these thoughts with something that you may or may not have heard or read

(See DAVIDSON, page six)



— beyond the beltway

The president looks silly on 'Meet the Press'

by DONALD KAUL

President Bush's defense of his decision to invade Iraq — made to Tim Russert on "Meet the Press" — can be summarized in two words:

Pa Thetic. It was the kind of "The CIA ate my homework" excuse a desultory student might offer a teacher for whom he has no respect. He was acting on the best available intelligence. Saddam was a dangerous man. We'd been attacked by terrorists. Gimme a break.

The truth is, in sending troops into Iraq without broad international support he acted, at best, precipitously and, at worst, recklessly. Now we find out that he's not about to take any blame for the misjudgment. The buck not only doesn't stop at his desk, it doesn't even slow down. Still, the interview was as close to an admission of error as we've had from the president. Not very close but it does represent some small genuflection to the truth — that Iraq had no ready weapons of mass destruction when he said prior to the war that "Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime

continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised."

"No doubt," he said. The open question is whether there was reason for doubt. One suspects that there was, that Mr. Bush came into office spoiling for a war with Saddam Hussein and surrounded himself with like-minded advisers who fed him only the intelligence that supported his pro-war bias. (It's always a good career move to give the boss the advice he wants to take.)

Paul O'Neill, his first secretary of the treasury, said as much in the recent book covering his time in office. O'Neill said that from the first cabinet meeting on — long before 9/11 — getting rid of Saddam occupied the central place in the president's agenda.

The thinness of the president's argument can be deduced from his catalogue of possible reasons we've failed to find the famous WMDs. "Saddam and his henchmen," he told Russert, "could have destroyed them as we entered into Iraq. They could have been hidden. They could have been transported to another country."

Now that makes a lot of sense, doesn't it? Put yourself in Saddam's jackboots. Your country is being invaded by an overwhelming force that seeks to

crush you like a cockroach. All you have to protect yourself, really, are Weapons of Mass Destruction. What do you do?

Do you say: "Here come the invaders! We'd better get rid of these weapons or we'll be in real trouble. Should we destroy them? Send them to Syria? Maybe we could bury them in the backyard?"

No, if you had them you'd use them. Actually, the very fact we invaded is an indicator that we had a pretty good

idea that Saddam didn't have WMDs. Can you imagine the casualties if he'd nuked our troops?

Nor does the fact that Saddam had the capability to build such weapons mean he was "a grave and growing threat," as the president claimed. By the time we went to war, after all, U.N. inspectors were combing the country for weapons and the means of making them. Their very presence meant that Saddam was neutralized as a threat. (Bill Clinton, remember, responded to the threat of Saddam's WMDs in 1998 by bombing them, thereby defanging Saddam without losing 500 Americans or spending \$100 billion. That option was open to President Bush if there had been WMDs, but there weren't.)

(See BELTWAY, page six)

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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment:

Christians should support 'The Passion'

by PASTOR MARK D. WALZ
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" will be in theaters across the country starting on Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday. Fortunately we have a great opportunity to see this movie at the Strand Twin in Prestonsburg.

It is our hope that this movie is here for a long time, enough time for everyone to get a chance to view the film. The showings will be each night around 7 and 9 p.m., with a matinee on Sunday. You should check to verify these times with the Strand Twin.

The Floyd County

Ministerial Association at a recent meeting endorsed this movie. The Ministerial Association is aware of the rating of the movie and would not normally endorse a movie with an "R" rating. However "The Passion of the Christ" has received this rating due to the graphic realism of the flogging

and crucifixion.

The reality of the flogging and crucifixion has sometimes been glossed over quickly to the resurrection of Jesus. We sometimes forget what pain, suffering, humiliation, agony and horrible death our Savior subjected himself for us. This movie reminds us, if not for the first time shows us, this horrendous, bloody torture and death. I heard on a recent TV program this movie is rated "R", and rightly so but it should receive this rating for "reality".

Religious leaders, media people, celebrities, politicians and others have already viewed the "Passion of the Christ". One was Paul Harvey I received his commentary in an email. I reprint it here:

"I really did not now what to expect. I was thrilled to have been invited to a private viewing of Mel Gibson's film 'The

Passion,' but I had read all the cautious articles and spin. I grew up in a Jewish town and owe much of my own faith journey to the influence. I have a lifelong, deep aversion to anything that even indirectly encourages any form of anti-Semitic thought, language or actions.

"I arrived at the private viewing for 'The Passion,' held in Washington, D.C., and greeted some familiar faces. The environment was typically Washingtonian, with people greeting you with a smile but seeming to look beyond you, having an agenda beyond the words. The film was briefly introduced, without fanfare, and then the room darkened. From the gripping opening scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, to the very human and tender portrayal of the earthly ministry of Jesus, through the betrayal, the

arrest, the scourging, the way of the cross, the encounter with the thieves, the surrender on the Cross, until the final scene in the empty tomb, this was not simply a movie; it was an encounter, unlike anything I have ever experienced.

"In addition to being a masterpiece of filmmaking and an artistic triumph, 'The Passion' evoked more deep reflection, sorrow and emotional reaction within me than anything since my wedding, my ordination or birth of my children. Frankly, I will never be the same. When the film concluded, this 'invitation only' gathering of 'movers and shakers' in Washington, D.C., were shaking indeed, but this time from sobbing. I am not sure there was a dry eye in the place. The crowd that had been glad-handing before the film was now eerily silent. No one

(See MOMENT, page six)

Catholic Church committee examines religion textbooks, finds them wanting

by DOUG SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — The Roman Catholic Church is handing out failing grades to most of the religion textbooks used to instruct the country's 680,000 Catholic high school students.

A church committee that studies the material found that some of the textbooks avoid saying adultery and premarital sex are sins. Others depict the Bible as little more than a history book, the group says.

That's not all: It claims one textbook explains that Jesus' miracles were the result of luck.

Archbishop Alfred Hughes of New Orleans, chair of the church's national education committee, has urged all bishops to pull any high school religion textbooks that have not been pre-approved by his committee.

"There are a number of doctrinally deficient texts that are still being widely used, supposedly to educate and form our young people in the faith," Hughes said in a speech to a general convention of U.S. bishops last December.

Since June 2001, just one-third of texts submitted to Hughes' committee have received its approval. Hughes said the committee found a pattern of deviations from Catholic teaching in the books:

- Tentative language that depicts Catholic doctrine as a matter of opinion, not fact.

- Weak explanations of the importance of church hierarchy and the church's ban on female priests.

- References to "partners" rather than husbands and wives.

- The depiction of the Bible as a historical document, only briefly mentioning its spiritual value.

- Presenting premarital abstinence as a way to avoid pregnancy or AIDS, rather than necessary to avoid committing a sin.

Hughes told the bishops he had "grave concerns" about the quality of most high school texts, adding that his committee is considering whether to recommend a single series of religion books for use in all the country's Catholic high schools.

"Our young people are not learning ... that the sole Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church or the true ecumenical meaning of our Church," Hughes said.

About 25 publishing houses regularly submit religion textbooks to the committee for approval, though that's not required before a book can be used in a Catholic classroom. The committee's imprimatur makes books more likely to be approved by the 277 bishops around the country.

Committee members usually deem books unfit because the texts lack crucial information or contain errors in church doctrine, said Monsignor Daniel Kutys, a committee staff member.

"What they look for is a religion textbook that authentically and completely teaches the faith," Kutys said.

Kutys declined to identify the publishers whose books had errors or omissions. Messages left with several publishers were not returned, and others declined to discuss the approval process.

The review process usually takes at least six months per book. Two theological experts examine the text for errors and omissions, then send their recommendations to a bishop, who sends a recommendation to Hughes' committee.

The committee considers the recommendation and either approves the text, or tells the publisher what must be changed or added before the book can be approved. Over the past few years, the committee has reviewed about 25 texts per year, Kutys said.

Hughes' committee can also approve a book, but recommend changes or additions that are not required.

Ignatius Press, a San Francisco-based Catholic publisher, submitted its "Faith in Life" textbook series and received the committee's approval before publishing the series in 1984. However, the committee recommended changes: expanded sections on social justice.

An expanded social justice section was added to the series in 2002-2003, when the publisher issued revised editions.

"We thought their suggestions were good ones, so in the course of coming out with a second edition, we incorporated those changes," Ignatius president Mark Brumley said.

It doesn't always go so smoothly. Publishers sometimes wait for up to a year before finding out whether their book made the grade.

Publishers whose books are sent back without approval sometimes find the committee's demands difficult to understand or become exasperated over what they need to do to gain approval.

"There's been frustration," Kutys said.

The committee once told a publisher to add an explanation of the idea of "scandal" to a textbook for elementary school students, but the publisher couldn't understand how that could be done.

Editors of the book spoke with committee staffers, who explained that scandal, in a traditional religious sense, could

be explained to young children with the idea that one must not set a bad example. The publisher got the idea, and the committee eventually approved the book.

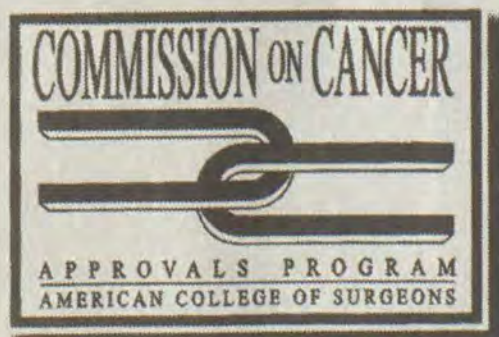
"If they don't understand, we talk it out," Kutys said.



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Floyd County Extension meetings announced

The next meeting of the Floyd County Extension Council will be held at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, February 26, 2004, at the Extension Office, located at 921 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg.

The Extension Council meeting will be immediately followed by the Extension District Board meeting at 7 p.m., at same location.

All meetings of the Floyd County Extension Service are open to the public.

Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Nola Boyd, 79, of Dana, died Thursday, February 19, at the Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 21, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

William Wesley Brank, 63, of Wheelwright, died Sunday, February 8, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Billy Joe Burge, 72, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, February 13, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Burnette Newsome Burge. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Eunice White Lafferty Calhoun, 85, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, February 13, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Billie Yvonne Clark, 66, of Paintsville, formerly of Garrett, died Thursday, February 12, at

Paul B. Hall Medical Center, in Paintsville. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ballard Leslie Hall, 66, of Banner, died Sunday, February 15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Gaye Hobson Hall. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 17, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Leonard Handshoe, 57, of Hueysville, died Wednesday, February 11, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Opal Ola Vaughn Jarvis, 79, died Monday, February 16, at Highlands Regional Medical Center at Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, William Henry Jarvis. Funeral services were held Friday, February 20, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Naomai Hall Pennington, 82, of Ligon, died Thursday, February 12, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Donna (Jane) Rigsby, 64, of Cutler Ridge, Florida, died Wednesday, February 18, at Larkin Community Hospital in South Miami, Florida. She is survived by her husband, Donald P. Rigsby. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Bill Barker, 77, died Saturday, February 14, at Mountain Manor Nursing Home. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 17, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Billie Yvonne Clark, 66, of Paintsville, formerly of Garrett, died Thursday, February 12, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 14, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ruth Murray Daniel, 86, died Friday, February 13, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland. She is survived by her husband, L. Marshall Daniel. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 16, under the direction of Steen Funeral Homes of Ashland.

Gertrude Crider Greer, 88, died Friday, February 13, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 16, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Christy Ann Hamilton, 14, a Floyd County native, died Sunday, February 15, at her residence. She is survived by her parents, Francis Hamilton and Christine Goble. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 17, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Willard Odell Picklesimer, 69, a Flat-Gap native, died Friday, February 13, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Georgia M. Fairchild Picklesimer. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 16, under the direction of Ingram Funeral Home, Marysville, Ohio.

Knott County

Martha Marie Adkins, 73, of Westerville, Ohio, formerly of Hueysville, died Monday, February 9, at Manor Care Nursing Home, Westerville, Ohio. Graveside services were conducted Thursday, February 12, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

J.C. Breeding, 89, of Troy, Michigan, formerly of Hi Hat, died Saturday, February 7, at Cambridge Health Care Center, Clawson, Michigan. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, February 11, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Lola Ellen Spears Clark, 65, died Friday, February 13, at Westerville, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 17, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Ballard Leslie Hall, 66, of Banner, died Sunday, February 15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 17, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Merlin Hall, 81, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, formerly of Teaberry, died Tuesday, February 10, at home. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 14, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Estill Douglas Jones, 24, of Portsmouth, Ohio, formerly of McDowell, died in an auto accident, on Friday, February 6, at Southern Ohio Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, February 11, at 1 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, McDowell. Burial was in Greenberry Hall Cemetery, at Frasures Creek, McDowell.

Bryan Matthew Mullins, stillborn infant of Bobby Hall of Prestonsburg, and Shelly Mullins of Bevinville, died Tuesday, February 10, at home, in Bevinville. Graveside services were conducted Friday, February 13, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Barbara Jean Ritchie, 57, of Fisty, Knott County, died Monday, February 9, at Lexington. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, February 12, under the direction of Hindman Funeral Home.

Pike County

Roger Branham, 50, of Virgie, died Tuesday, February 17, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Branham. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 21, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Mary Edis Coleman, 74, of Lower Pompey, died Friday, February 13, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Michael Ray Elkins, 51, of Lower Pompey, died Saturday, February 14, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 16, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Ervin Allen Estep, 56, of Steele, died Friday, February 13, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, February 17, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Wanda Sue Farley, 47, of Phyllis, died Friday, February 13, at her home. She is survived by her husband, Raymond Farley. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 16, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

John C. "J.C." Hensley, 73, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, formerly of Ball Fork, died Sunday, February 15. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Stoots Hensley. Funeral services were conducted Friday, February 20, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Marsha Lynn Justice, 37, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, February 17, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, George Jeffery Justice. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, February 21, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Beulah Areatta Gallion Mattingly, 83, of Parkview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Robinson Creek, died Thursday, February 12. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Bob McCoy, 69, of Cocoa Beach, Florida, formerly of Pikeville, died Wednesday, February 11, in Florida. He is survived by his wife, Mary McCoy. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Jackie Mullins, 47, of Melvin, died Tuesday, February 17, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Friday, February 20, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Dickie Lee Robinson, 29, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, February 17, in Waterfield, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 22, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Blake Rose, 72, of Elkhorn City, died Thursday, February 12, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Patty Taylor Rose. Funeral services were conducted Monday, February 16, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Vernon Elster Tackett, 70, of Elwood, died Thursday, February 12, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Bessie Tackett. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, February 15, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Betty Compton West, 83, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, February 17, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Friday, February 20, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Helen Williamson, 72, of Forest Hills, died Tuesday, February 17, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility. Funeral services were conducted Friday, February 20, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Odds

Continued from 2

post-Valentines Day benefit. Zizzo said he made it clear it would be a male revue. "I think she never expected to get any publicity on it," Zizzo said.

Zizzo, a local club disc jockey, said the show will go on. He may use the profits to jump-start another fund-raiser for the society — or just keep the money.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — After a few weeks into his latest jail sentence, Romelus Caraway may start wishing the judge had simply ordered his mouth washed out with soap.

Caraway, who is awaiting trial on a kidnapping charge, got a 100-day jail sentence when he refused a judge's order to clean up his language.

The 28-year-old insisted on using a four-letter expletive at a hearing before Judge Chris Craft.

Craft warned Caraway not to use the word or face a 10-day jail sentence every time he did.

Caraway repeated the word 10 more times, with the last coming as he was being led from the courtroom by sheriff's deputies.

Caraway, who has been in jail for about a year, was before Craft to have a new public defender appointed.

"He's been upset from day one," said prosecutor Steve Jones.

Obituaries

Phil Hall

Phil Hall, 53, of Galveston, died Thursday, February 19, 2004, at his residence.

Born September 22, 1950, in Floyd County, he was the son of Velvia Keathley Hall of Galveston and the late Arvel Hall. He was a disabled self-employed carpenter.

Survivors include two sons: P.J. Hall and Calvin Hall, both of Harold; a daughter and son-in-law, Selina and Gary Ray Jarrell of Dana; two brothers: John S. Hall and Michael Hall, both of Galveston; three sisters: Jean Birchfield of Galveston, Charlotte Hall of Prestonsburg and Christine Taylor of Morehead; and three grandsons: Branston Jarrell, Brenton Jarrell and Aaron Hall.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, February 23, at noon, at the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin, with Tracy Patton officiating.

Burial will be in the Fred Hall Cemetery, at Galveston, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, at Martin.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

(Paid obituary)

Lola Faye Bryant

Lola Faye Bryant, age 64, of Allen Park, Michigan, formerly of East Point, passed away Tuesday, February 17, 2004, at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, Michigan, after an extended illness.

She was born November 15, 1939, at Edgar, a daughter of the late Virgil and Barbara (Strickland) DeLong. Her occupation was in food service, having worked at the Perkins Job Corp, at Prestonsburg. She was a member of the Church of God.

She is survived by four sons: Charles Edward Hammonds, Darrin Raye Hammonds, Bobby Joe Bryant and Anthony Virgil Bryant, all of Michigan; one brother, Ray DeLong of Bellville, Michigan; and two sisters: Susan Branham of South Gate, Michigan and Ruth Nelson of David; five grandchildren: Jeremy Hammons, Kaitlyn Hammons, Megan Marie Bryant, Michael A. Bryant and Kimberly Michelle Bryant, all of Michigan.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 22, at 1 p.m., at the Burke Funeral Home Chapel, at Prestonsburg, with Pastor Delmon Hayton Jr. officiating.

Burial will follow in the DeLong Family Cemetery, at East Point, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

(Paid obituary)

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Davidson

Continued from p4

before. It's titled, THE CUSTOMER:

"The customer is the most important person in our business. The customer is not dependent on us; we are dependent on him. The customer is not an interruption of our work; he is the purpose of it. The customer does us a favor when he calls; we do not do him a favor by serving him. The customer is part of our business; not an outsider. The customer is not someone to argue or match 'wits' with. The customer is the person who brings us his wants. It is our job to supply those wants. The customer deserves the most courteous and most attentive treatment we can give him. The customer is the person who makes it possible to pay our

salaries. The customer is the lifeblood of this and every other business."

Well, that pretty well says it all. I know one thing for sure. Here at our company we know that as a reader, you are the real boss. If you enjoy and benefit from what I share week after week, would you do something special for me? Please call or write this paper and let them know. Some times a good word can make a real difference in whether or not they continue to run my column.

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

Moment

Continued from p5

could speak because words were woefully inadequate. We had experienced a kind of art that is a rarity in life, the kind that makes heaven touch earth.

"One scene in the film has now been forever etched in my mind. A brutalized, wounded Jesus was soon to fall again under the weight of the cross. His mother had made her way along the Via Della Rose. As she ran to him, she flashed back to a memory of Jesus as a child, falling in the dirt road outside of their home. Just as she reached to protect him from the fall, she was now reaching to touch his wounded adult face. Jesus looked at her with intensely probing and passionately loving eyes and said, 'Behold I make all things new.' These are words taken from the last book of the

Beltway

Continued from p4

No, the reason we went to war was because the chicken-hawks who run our foreign policy thought it would be easy. And it was — at first.

Perhaps the most ludicrous statement the president made to Russert was this one: "I have shown the American people that I can sit here in the Oval Office when times are tough and be steady and make good decisions ..."

Oh brother. If Iraq is an example of a good decision, we'd better hope he never makes a bad one.

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the "Des Moines Register." He has covered the foolishness in our nation's capital for 29 years, winning a number of modestly coveted awards along the way. His e-mail address is donald.kaul@verizon.net.

New Testament, the Book of Revelation. Suddenly, the purpose of the pain was so clear and the wounds, that earlier in the film had been so difficult to see in His face, His back and indeed all over His body, became intensely beautiful. They had been borne voluntarily for love.

"There is not a scintilla of anti-Semitism to be found anywhere in this powerful film. If there were, I would be among the first to decry it. It faithfully tells the Gospel story in a dramatically beautiful, sensitive and profoundly engaging way. Those who are alleging otherwise have either not seen the film or have another agenda behind their protestations. This is not a 'Christian' film, in the sense that it will appeal only to those who identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ. It is deeply human, beautiful story that will deeply touch all men and women. It is a profound work of art."

We, as a community, as a Christian community, should support this movie, if for no other reason than to tell Hollywood we want the message of the Gospel portrayed correctly, accurately, and honestly.

A pastor I talked to this morning when I was writing this article told me he would not attend this movie. I asked him why, and his response was, "Because it is rated R." I hope that you will not let this rating stop you from attending; rather, you will attend because you understand the reality of which this movie is based. The Passion of Jesus the Christ, dying for each of us.

Mel Gibson does not appear in the film. Only his hand in the scene nailing Jesus to the cross. Gibson said he wanted to do that because it was his sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. I guess each of us could put our hand in that scene.

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Regional SPORTS

Sunday, February 22, 2004

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bears slip versus Lindsey Wilson

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COLUMBIA - Junior John Spivey recorded a double-double to lead four Blue Raiders in double figures as No. 4-ranked Lindsey Wilson beat No. 19-ranked Pikeville College 76-59 on Thursday night.

Spivey recorded game-highs with 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Blue Raiders improved to 25-2 overall and 4-2 in the Mid-South Conference.

Lindsey Wilson juniors Cetric Anderson (15 points), Terrance Taylor (14) and Jared Barnes (13) helped the Blue Raiders to their third consecutive win and sole possession of second place in the MSC.

Pikeville drops to third in the conference as the Bears fall to 23-5 overall and 3-3 in conference play.

The Lindsey Wilson defense, which is first in the NAIA in field goal defense at 37.3 percent, held the visiting Bears to

(See WILSON, page two)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lindsey Wilson rallies, explodes for win over Lady Bears

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COLUMBIA - A trio of Lindsey Wilson College women's basketball players scored in double figures Thursday night to lead the No. 23-ranked squad to a 74-51 rout over visiting Pikeville College.

Lindsey Wilson senior Lyndsay Howard scored a game-high 19 points, senior Allisia Stewart contributed 15 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. Junior Tiffany Jones added 11 points as the Blue Raiders improved to 19-8 on the season and 4-3 in the Mid-South Conference.

Pikeville, with the loss, fell to 11-18 overall and 0-7 in conference play.

Lindsey Wilson, after trailing 35-33 at the break, outscored the Lady Bears 17-5 to open the second half to take a 50-40 lead with 12:56 remaining and were never threatened the remainder of the game.

Lindsey Wilson's defense limited Pikeville to just five baskets in a 16-point second half. Pikeville finished the second half shooting just 25 percent (5-of-20) after a 53.8 percent (14-of-26) first half.

The Blue Raiders' defense also forced Pikeville into 22 turnovers.

Lindsey Wilson also controlled the boards, outrebounding Pikeville 52-33 on the evening. The disparity in the rebounds allowed Lindsey Wilson to attempt 35 more shots than Pikeville. Lindsey

(See WIN, page two)

NOT LONELY AT THE TOP



photo by Jamie Howell

Mountain Christian Academy captured its second straight Floyd County title Thursday night with a 49-48 win over Betsy Layne.

MCA repeats as Floyd County Champion

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

EASTERN - It has been quite a ride for the Mountain Christian Academy Falcons over the past two seasons. On Thursday evening, the Falcons capped a 25-3 season with their second straight Floyd County Middle School title.

Landon Slone polished off a stellar two years at the school with a game-high 21 points in the final game. In the opening quarter, neither team could really establish themselves and the lead would exchange hands four times in the first six minutes of the game.

MCA looked to pull away in the second quarter as the Falcons built an eight-point lead at the half. Slone combined with Taylor Clark in the quarter to help the Falcons build on their lead.

Clark finished the game with nine points before fouling out in the early stages of the fourth quarter.

MCA took a 27-19 lead into the half and seemed to be on the way to an easy win, but Betsy Layne had other ideas. The Bobcats latched on to the hot shooting of Sam Keathely and Tim Honaker to climb within two points late in the third quarter.

Betsy Layne took a two-point lead on a lay-up by Tim Honaker late in the quarter, but MCA would tie the game at 37-37 after three quarters on a field goal by Clinton Turner. The final six minutes would be the most exciting quarter in recent memory as the lead exchanged hands on five different occasions.

(See MCA, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

MCA eighth-grader Landon Slone took a turn cutting on the championship net.

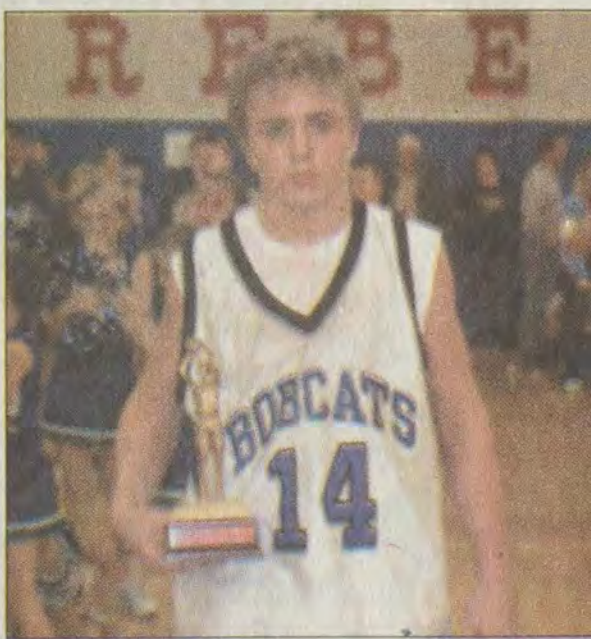


photo by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne eighth-grader Tyler Hamilton won the individual free-throw trophy.

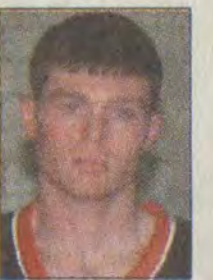
BOYS' BASKETBALL

Prestonsburg upends East Ridge

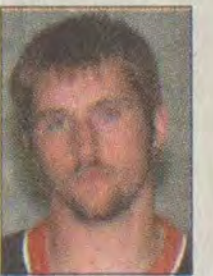
by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

LICK CREEK - A win over one of the top teams in the 15th Region could be even better than "just what the doctor ordered" for the Prestonsburg Blackcats. Prestonsburg traveled to East Ridge Thursday night and took on the Warriors. The trip ended with a 71-67 victory for the Blackcats. The win for the Blackcats saw the Prestonsburg team outscore East Ridge in two of the four quarters, and most importantly, the fourth quarter, 20-16.

Trevor Compton and Joe Blackburn led Prestonsburg with 17 points apiece. The Blackcat scoring was balanced. Four of Prestonsburg's five starters scored in double figures. Jesse Chaffin netted 14 and Nicholas Jamerson, on the same day he was named to the Kentucky All Star football team, went on and performed well on the hardwood by scoring



Blackburn



Compton

The Blackcat scoring was balanced. Four of Prestonsburg's five starters scored in double figures. Jesse Chaffin netted 14 and Nicholas Jamerson, on the same day he was named to the Kentucky All Star football team, went on and performed well on the hardwood by scoring

The Blackcat scoring was balanced. Four of Prestonsburg's five starters scored in double figures. Jesse Chaffin netted 14 and Nicholas Jamerson, on the same day he was named to the Kentucky All Star football team, went on and performed well on the hardwood by scoring

(See EAST, page two)

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Lady Blackcats win easy against Jackson City

TIMES STAFF REPORT

JACKSON - Prestonsburg held host Jackson City to just nine points through three quarters Thursday night and never had any problems against the opposing team, winning easy, 69-29.

Kelly Key paced Prestonsburg with a game-high 20 points. Senior Heather White had 12 points, while Darcey Hicks and Meaghan Slone scored 10 apiece. Amber Whitaker added six points.

The Lady Blackcats took control of the game early, establishing supremacy in the opening period.

Prestonsburg led 16-1 at the end of the first quarter and 40-6 at halftime. The Lady Blackcats held a commanding 58-8 lead when the play began in the fourth period.

Prior to Thursday night's meeting, Prestonsburg had beaten Jackson City 53-21 on Dec. 8 of last year in a game the Lady Blackcats hosted.

The win over Jackson City broke a

(See LADY, page two)

Kinzer team returns from Volusia optimistic

TIMES STAFF REPORT



Kinzer

ALLEN - Brandon Kinzer Motorsports is back racing. Volusia Speedway Park again hosted the UMP portion of Florida Speedweeks, Feb. 9-13. For the second straight year, Brandon Kinzer Motorsports decided to skip the East Bay portion of Speedweeks and focus on the more familiar Volusia session.

Opening night was looking spectacular as Kinzer

(See KINZER, page two)

ALICE LLOYD COLLEGE

Milligan mangles Eagles

TIMES STAFF REPORT

PIPPA PASSES - Milligan held a 42-31 lead over Alice Lloyd at halftime Thursday night and outscored the Eagles by 11 more points in the second half to win 85-63.

Milligan had three players score over 10 points and six other players who netted five or more markers.

Craig Emmert led Milligan with a game-high 17 points. Jon Harris scored 16 and Todd Davis pushed in 13. Each squad gathered in 29 rebounds.

(See EAGLES page two)



Daniels



Stumbo

All eyes on star-studded Astros at spring training

by MARK BABINECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros' biggest problem might be figuring out who gets to start

on opening day.

Does six-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens get the honor? Or will it be fellow newcomer Andy Pettitte? And what about holdovers Wade

Miller and Roy Oswalt?

Only one can throw the season's first pitch against Barry Bonds' San Francisco Giants on April 5. Manager Jimmy Williams didn't want to think about it before the team starts spring training Sunday.

"I'd like to get all of our starters in the same ZIP code in Kissimmee, then I'll get them all together and we'll talk about it," he said. "I think that's the best way to do it, rather than having to make five phone calls."

Clemens would be the obvious choice, especially because he came out of retirement to play for his hometown team after leaving the New York Yankees.

Pettitte, who won four World Series with the Yankees, is Clemens' buddy, and his decision to sign with the Astros is the main reason the Rocket agreed to play for them.

Oswalt, a budding young star, is coming off a season shortened by chronic groin problems. Miller has been the

Astros' stalwart, pitching at least 160 innings in each of the past three seasons.

Williams wants to set his rotation before exhibition play starts March 5. The pitching strength has given Astros' fans hope that the team, which started play in 1962, can get to the World Series for the first time.

"When you've got a guy that has 20 years in the big leagues, I believe he deserves the spot," said Oswalt, who was 6 when Clemens debuted with the Boston Red Sox in 1984. "He's been here a lot longer than I have, and he sure has done a lot more."

One thing is for sure: Tim Redding will be the fifth starter. He was 10-14 with a 3.86 ERA last season.

"I'm starting to get excited because it's getting close,"

Pettitte said. "It seems like I signed a year ago. The fans, the town, everybody is so excited, and I'm extremely excited myself."

Jerome Robertson, who led the team with 15 wins last year despite a 5.10 ERA, is headed to the bullpen. Carlos Hernandez, Rodrigo Rosario and Brandon Duckworth will be either middle relievers or wind up at Triple-A. Setup man Octavio Dotel becomes the closer after the trade of Billy Wagner to the Philadelphia Phillies, and Brad Lidge takes over as the setup man.

The other bullpen slots are uncertain, with Robertson, Hernandez, Rosario, Duckworth, Ricky Stone, Dave Veres, Dan Miceli, Brandon

(See TRAINING, page four)

MCA

Continued from p1

Betsy Layne took a three-point lead in the final minute on two Brennan Case free throws, but MCA went to Slone for help.

The eighth-grader drove the length of the floor and hit a jumper with 23-seconds left on the clock to get the Falcons within one.

After a Betsy Layne miss, Slone took the ball and headed for the basket.

The Betsy Layne defense was determined not to let Slone hit the game-winner.

Several Bobcats converged on the Falcons' leader. Slone got the basketball to Jordan Chaffins for the easy basket and the MCA Falcons claimed their second straight Floyd

County title.

MCA coach Rick Hughes was proud of his team and the effort it gave.

"Our kids gave such a gutsy performance and we hit clutch baskets when we had to," said Hughes. "I think our experience in close games really paid off. We started the year with a win in the Right Beaver Classic and finished with a title in the same place so I can't think of a better ending for these kids."

Scoring was as follows:
MCA - Slone 21, Pack 5, Turner 8, Clark 9, Chaffins 4, Hall 2.

Betsy Layne - Hamilton 8, Case 6, Tim Honaker 9, Keathely 19, Ted Honaker 6.

Kinzer

Continued from p1

qualified the No. 18 Gaerte-powered GRT ride 23rd out of 76 participants. Rolling off fifth place in the third heat Kinzer managed to get up to fourth place in his heat after the drop of the green flag. Unable to advance any further, the fourth place finish forced the team to run a consolation race. In the consolation race, Kinzer had advanced up to second place, last transfer spot for the feature. With four laps remaining, handling problems plagued the Kinzer Drilling Dodge as a rear tire cut down costing the Floyd County racer his second place finish and more importantly a birth in the opening night's feature event.

The remaining three events that Brandon Kinzer Motorsports raced in drew mixed results. On Feb. 10, Kinzer was able to compete in the A-main and finish 15th against a stellar field of cars. The following night, February 11th the mechanical gremlins reared their ugly head once again as Kinzer steering broke in one of the night's early heat races, forcing Kinzer pit-side retiring from the heat. In the consolation race Kinzer started 15th and finished seventh unable to advance into the A-

Main. Ending the week on the last scheduled night in Volusia for Brandon Kinzer Motorsports, Brandon was able to rebound from the following night. The white and black clad No. 18 finished 24th in the feature. Brandon and crew decided to pull off due to rough track conditions.

"We only made two shows(features), if not for mechanical problems we would of made it each night," said Kinzer. "We went down this year knowing a lot more about each other, and I think that helped out a lot, in regards to our performance."

Kinzer was referring to Jimmy Cabral. The 2003 season was his first season with Brandon Kinzer Motorsports.

The next scheduled event for Brandon Kinzer Motorsports and his Stardust Cruisers, Kinzer Drilling, Ranger Contracting, Eastco Supply Gaerte, GRT Dodge is Feb. 26-29 at Green Valley Speedway in Green Valley, Ala. in the heart of the South. That event is unsanctioned and pays \$15,000 to the winner. For more information on Brandon Kinzer and Brandon Kinzer Motorsports, go online to www.brandonkinzer.com

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wildcat trio named to NABC All-District Teams

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON - University of Kentucky forwards Erik Daniels and Chuck Hayes and guard Gerald Fitch were named to the 2004 National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District Teams, announced Wednesday. Daniels and Fitch were named first-team in District 7, while Hayes was selected to the second team.

The teams, which recognize the country's best men's collegiate basketball student-athletes, were voted on by member coaches. The 150 athletes, from 15 districts, are now eligible for the All-America team, to be announced at the conclusion of the 2003-04 season.

Daniels, a senior, is enjoying his best season at UK, averaging 15.0 ppg and 5.9 rpg while shooting 57.4 percent from the field overall. The Cincinnati, Ohio native has scored in double figures in 18 of UK's 22 games this season and was named Southeastern

Conference Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 2-8 after totaling 39 points in consecutive wins over ranked opponents. He needs just 83 points to become the 51st member of UK's 1,000-point club.

Fitch leads the team in scoring, averaging 15.4 ppg, but missed three games this month after spraining his right index finger. The Macon, Ga., native is shooting 41.3 percent from the field this season as well. As a four-year starter, Fitch ranks 33rd all-time in scoring, sixth in three-pointers made and eighth in three-point percentage.

Hayes, a junior out of Modesto, Calif., is leading the team in rebounding for the second consecutive year, averaging 8.3 rpg. He contributes 11.1 ppg while playing the four spot and has totaled 37 blocks on the year. Hayes was a member of the 2003 USA Pan-American Games squad. He led the team in rebounding (7.6 rpg) and finished second in scoring (11.2 ppg).

Eagles

Continued from p1

ate of South Floyd, tossed in 11 points.

Matt Spencer had nine points for Alice Lloyd and Jason Knott chipped in eight.

ALC squads lose to Virginia school

The Alice Lloyd College women's team got an offensive explosion from shooting guard Belicia Mullins but it wasn't enough on Tuesday night. The Lady Eagles dropped the contest to Virginia Intermont. The Virginia squad pulled out a 93-90 win. Mullins was eight-of-nine from behind the three-point line. She was 13-of-15 from the field overall. Delores Jenkins put 24 points on the board on a 10-of-18 shooting performance. Erica Webb scored 14 points and pulled down seven rebounds.

The Alice Lloyd men also fell as Virginia Intermont's men's team prevailed, winning 91-77.

Wilson

Continued from p1

just 28.6 percent (6-of-21) shooting in the opening half. Pikeville managed just 18 points in the first half and trailed 27-18 at intermission.

The Blue Raiders scored the first six points of the second half and never relinquish their double digit lead in the half. Lindsey Wilson grabbed its biggest lead of 25 (65-41) with 5:54 remaining and cruised to the 17-point win.

Lindsey Wilson forced Pikeville into 19 turnovers for the game and outrebounded the Bears 40-29.

Pikeville's Teon Knox led the Bears with 17 points in the loss. Daniel Price contributed 12 points and Jarell Jones added 10.

Win

Continued from p1

Wilson was 26-for-81 (32.1 percent) from the field.

Freshman Ashley Wireman led the Lady Bears with 14 points. Selena Williams chipped in 13 in the losing effort. Wireman and Williams are both graduates of Johnson Central High School.

Lady

Continued from p1

two-game losing streak Prestonsburg was on. Prior to the two-game skid, the Lady Blackcats had won three in a row.

The next game on the schedule for Prestonsburg is a game on the road Monday night at Ashland Blazer. Tip-off for the varsity game between the two teams is set for 7:30.

13 points. Prestonsburg Coach Jackie Day Crisp was pleased with his team's play.

"We were able to put four good quarters together against East Ridge," said Crisp. "Many times this season we've had that one bad quarter that's taken us out of a game."

Prestonsburg didn't do anything fancy against East Ridge. The Blackcats didn't even press. But the Prestonsburg squad played some defense.

"On defense, we wanted to take away the three-point shot, and we did that," said Crisp. "Jesse Chaffin played a great game, he was one of our leaders on defense."

On offense, Prestonsburg, which hit 15-of-19 free throws, was able to get points off run-outs.

Robbie Spears led East Ridge (17-7) in scoring with a game-high 21 points. Paul Deese scored 18 and Aaron Branham added 10.

Prestonsburg was back in action yesterday evening against Mercer County. Results were unavailable at press time.



photo by Jamie Howell

The Allen Central Middle School cheerleading team was named the top squad in the Floyd County tournament.



photo by Jamie Howell

The Allen Central Middle dance team took first-place honors.

AUTO RACING

Now Junior will show how good he really is

by JENNA FRYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. — After a whirlwind week celebrating his Daytona 500 victory, Dale Earnhardt Jr. needed a good night's sleep in his own bed.

Good buddy Tony Stewart made sure he'd get one by promising to give Earnhardt a lift in his helicopter to North Carolina Speedway on Friday morning, assuring him of at least one night at home.

"We got to be real good friends over the last year or so," Earnhardt said. "I tried to stick up for him a couple of times and he appreciated that."

"We just got to be good friends and began hanging out a little bit."

Earnhardt may use the short ride to Rockingham to glean a little knowledge from Stewart on how to win a Nextel Cup championship. Stewart is the 2002 series champion, and Earnhardt will try to prove he's a legitimate threat for his first title beginning with the Subway 400 on Sunday.

He has a history of strug-

gling here: In eight career top-series starts at the 1.017-mile oval, Earnhardt's best finish was 13th, in November.

His Dale Earnhardt Inc. team has spent a considerable amount of time testing in preparation for the Subway 400, hoping the extra work will propel him to another victory.

"In the past, it was a track we struggled at," he said. "It may be the only place we haven't really conquered yet."

Junior has proven to be a master at Daytona and Talladega Superspeedway — the two tracks that require horsepower-sapping restrictor plates — partly because of the time and energy DEI devotes to those facilities.

He won all three races he entered at Daytona last week and has nine career victories there.

But if Junior wants to be taken seriously as a championship contender, he needs to improve at the tracks he has never masked his disdain for.

That includes Rockingham, where the rough surface eats away at tires and puts driver ability and handling at a premi-

um. "Even though we devote a lot of effort and time to restrictor-plate tracks, Rockingham is a track we've emphasized as a place where we need to improve if we're going to win a championship," he said. "I used to come here with a bad attitude, and it seemed to set the tone for the whole team."

"I think it's different now. If anything, winning the Daytona 500 gave us more confidence than we already had as a team, and that's probably the one thing we lacked heading into Rockingham in the past."

The entire complexion of Sunday's race should be different from past years because of new, NASCAR-implemented aerodynamic rules that revolve around smaller rear spoilers and less downforce.

Goodyear has also produced a softer tire, and combined with the new rules, the cars should be more difficult to drive beginning with Friday's qualifying session.

The new tweaks are expected to favor the veteran drivers, who have years of experience with different setups.

Three UK Juco recruits in nation's top 100

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — Three of Kentucky's junior-college signees, wide receiver Scott Mitchell, offensive lineman

Ernie Pelayo, and defensive end B. Jay Parsons, are listed in the SuperPrep magazine list of the nation's top 100 juco recruits.

The list features Mitchell at

No. 76, Pelayo at No. 77, and Parsons at No. 96. Following junior-college signing day in December, recruiting analyst Bobby Burton listed Kentucky as one of the top-five schools

in juco recruiting this year.

In addition to Mitchell, Pelayo, and Parsons, Kentucky's junior-college signees included tight end Jamir Davis and linebacker Cedric Koger.

Davis Parsons, and Pelayo, were named to the junior-college All-USA team selected by JucoFootball.org.

Davis was named first-team All-USA and Parsons and Pelayo were honorable-mention selections.

Davis played for the 2003 juco national champion, City College of San Francisco. In the 2003 season, he caught 16 passes for 369 yards, an average of 23.7 yards per catch, with two touchdowns. His blocking helped CCSF rank first in the state of California (72 teams) in rushing offense and third in total offense.

Parsons totaled 76 tackles as a sophomore at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif. He was a dominant pass rusher with 15.5 quarterback sacks. His agility also was demonstrated by breaking up eight passes and intercepting two passes, returning both pickoffs for touchdowns (68 and 8 yards).

Pelayo earned first-team all-state honors among the 72

California junior colleges while playing for Southwestern College in Chula Vista, Calif. He also was chosen All-Foothill Conference and was honorable-mention All-America by JC Gridwire.

■ Former Wildcats Derek Abney and Jared Lorenzen

will write diaries for a couple of entities as they prepare for the 2004 NFL Draft in April.

Abney's diary will be featured on CNN.com. The first installment is expected on Fri. Feb. 20. Lorenzen's diary for the Lexington Herald-Leader began on Sun. Feb. 15.

COMMENTARY

Drejer's vault to the Spanish pros could set trend

by ED TAYLOR

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

With a minute!

The NBA has competition and it is not even in their own backyard. Seems the Spanish professional basketball leagues have started to raid our American colleges for future players and it is not even June (NBA draft).

The Spanish league recruited Florida's Christian Drejer and signed him right out of school and into the pros. Drejer did not make the trip to Georgia when

the Florida Gators played and were upset. He was mulling over an offer from the Spanish league at the time.

Drejer's abandonment of the Gators is a sad state and no doubt the Spanish league, who does not have to wait until a season ends, will be raiding other players with some very tempting offers. But it will not stop at the college level. Look for some of the top notch high school players to be influenced to play overseas.

I would like to see the NBA adopt a rule that once a player leaves the USA to play basketball they will not be allowed to play in the NBA ever.

I know the greed owners will not do that but I think it would be a rule that makes the kids in the USA to think twice about leaving the country to play.

I watched ESPN the other day and the preview they had of the upcoming McDonald's All-American game. As they ran down the list of players for both squads, it was interesting to learn that four are considering jumping to the NBA, bypassing college.

High school players are just kids. They are so easily influenced by big agents who tell

them how great they are and how they can make the leap over college and right into the pros. A kid is going to believe all that because they think they can make it. There are not too many LeBron James' out there.

I hope that the rest of college's elite players will not even consider an offer from an overseas team. But when a team waves millions in front of you, the temptation is awful hard to close your eyes to. I really fault the system of the NCAA in not seeing this coming. Now that it has, will they

(See TREND, page four)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Three Kentucky football players not enrolled for current semester

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Three projected returnees for Kentucky's football team are not enrolled at the university for the current semester, a university official said Thursday.

Kentucky athletics department spokesman Tony Neely said it is not known if linebacker Brad Booker of Bowling Green, safety Maurice Marchman of Louisville or tight end Bruce Fowler of New Orleans will

return to Kentucky in the future.

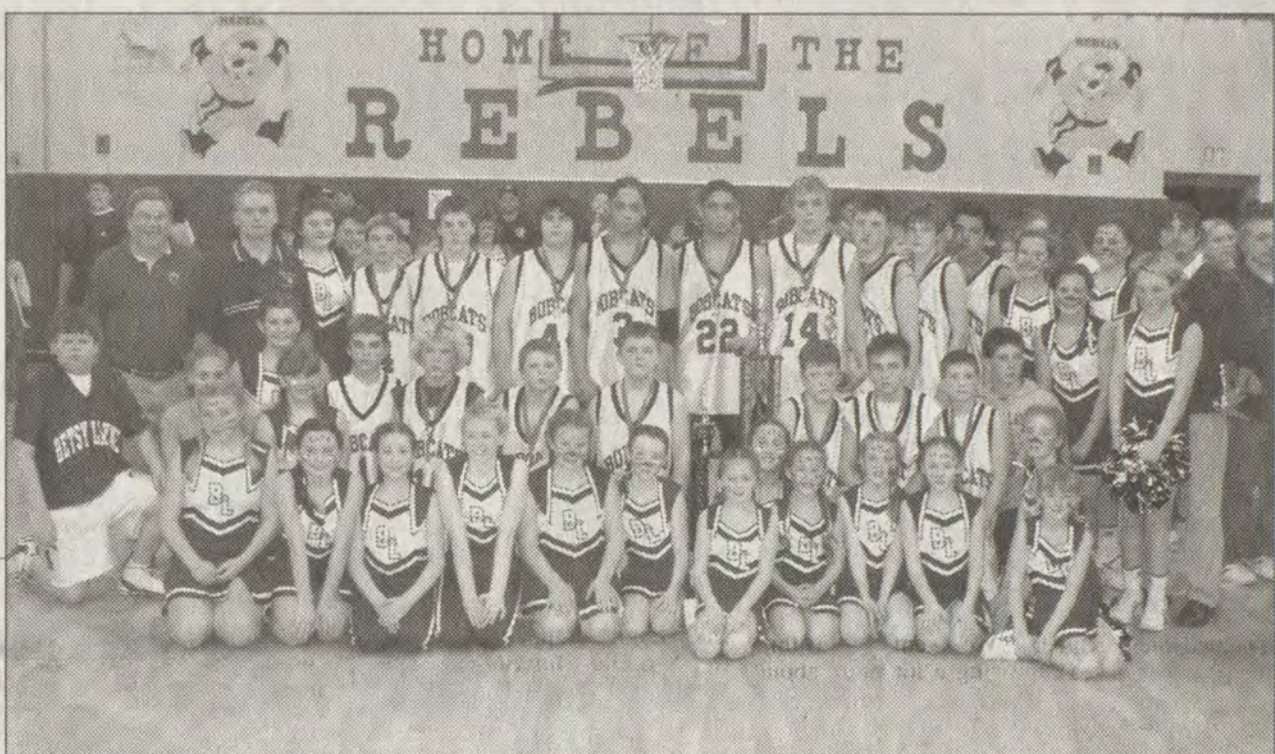
Booker played in 10 games last season as a freshman, making five tackles and seeing most of his action on special teams. Marchman played in all 12 games for the Wildcats and made 15 tackles, mostly on special teams.

Fowler played in all 12 games and started two of those. He caught three passes for 36 yards.

Kentucky finished 4-8 last season.

photo by Jamie Howell

The Betsy Layne Bobcats finished second in the Floyd County Middle School Basketball Tournament.



Prestonsburg Little League signups underway

Prestonsburg Little League is currently holding signups. Signup fees are \$25 for one child and \$40 for two or more children in the same family.

Drop off completed registration form(s) and signup fees at the Prestonsburg Dairy Queen.

BASEBALL

Larkin has no special feelings at start of last camp

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — Barry Larkin opened his final spring camp Thursday with no special feelings about reaching the end of the line.

Those will come much later.

The Cincinnati Reds shortstop and team captain expects this to be the final season in his 18-year career, all with his hometown team. Larkin, who turns 40 on April 28, hopes to move into the front office after the season.

He reported and worked out Thursday with Reds pitchers and catchers, one of seven regulars who are getting an early start because they're coming off injuries. Larkin had no nostalgic feelings as he put on his button-down red jersey and black spring training cap.

"This is normal," Larkin said. "There's nothing special, yet, about this upcoming season. You've got to go out and play, play hard, try to do well, and that's really it. There's nothing more than goes into it at this particular point. You get ready and you go out and try to have a good year."

A few months ago, he was convinced he'd never get this chance.

Larkin completed the final season on a three-year, \$27 million deal in 2003. He lobbied for a one-year extension that would allow him to play a farewell season, and was miffed when the club made a take-it-or-leave-it offer of a \$500,000, which would have made him one of the lowest-paid players on the roster.

The Reds reconsidered, agreed to negotiate and agreed on a one-year contract with a \$700,000 salary and the possibility of another \$300,000 in performance bonuses. Larkin will have to stay healthy to get them.

He had three stints on the dis-

abled list last season because of injuries to his left calf, his right calf and a finger. A variety of injuries have limited him each of the last four years.

Larkin is the starting shortstop as camp opens, although no one expects him to play every day.

"Barry is our shortstop, but realistically we don't anticipate that he's going to be playing the position 150 nights a year," general manager Dan O'Brien said. "We know we're going to have to use some discretion in how we go through the season in terms of Barry and the alternatives."


Felipe Lopez, who was considered his eventual replacement at the start of last season, got a chance to play when Larkin was hurt. Lopez struggled, hitting .213 in 59 games before getting sent to the minors.

Lopez dislocated his left ankle in a home plate collision on July 25 and needed surgery. The Reds are going easy at the outset with Lopez, 23, who still could inherit Larkin's job at some point.

"He's well ahead of schedule in rehab, but he is a real unknown in the spring," O'Brien said. "As a result of that, I think it would be unfair to him to categorize him one way or another. We just want him to get fully healthy and back to playing, and we'll make a decision at that point."

Notes: Pitchers and catchers had their first workout Thursday. Left-hander Jesus Sanchez, a non-roster minor leaguer invited to camp, was the only missing player. He is expected to arrive from the Dominican Republic on Friday.

... Ken Griffey Jr. took batting practice Thursday. Larkin, Griffey, Adam Dunn, Reggie Taylor, Austin Kearns, Brandon Larson and Lopez are coming off injuries and have arrived early for workouts.



Prestonsburg Little League®

Player Registration Form

Player name	Birthdate
Address	Gender
Address 2	League Age/Fee
City/State/Zip	Age Amount
Home phone ()	My child will tryout for:
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball <input type="checkbox"/> Softball

Parent #1	Parent #2
Name	Name
Phone ()	Phone ()
Email	Email
Occupation	Occupation
Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> If checked, fill out "Volunteer Application"	Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> If checked, fill out "Volunteer Application"

Medical Information	League Use Only
Emergency contact	Birth Certificate Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship to player	Proof of Residency Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Insurance carrier	Medical Release Form Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone	Waiver needed? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Policy	Level Assigned
	Team Name

1. I/We, the parents/guardians of the above-named candidate for a position on a Little League team, hereby give my/our approval to participate in any and all Little League activities, including transportation to and from the activities.
 2. I/We know that participation in baseball or softball may result in serious injuries and protective equipment does not prevent all injuries to players, and do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the local Little League, Little League Baseball, Incorporated, the organizers, sponsors, supervisors, participants, and persons transporting my/our child to and from activities from any claim arising out of any injury to my/our child whether the result of negligence or for any other cause.
 3. I/We agree to return upon request the uniform and other equipment issued to my/our child in as good conditions as when received except for normal wear and tear.
 4. I/We agree that our child (candidate) may be required to try out for a team. If such does not attend at least 50 percent of the tryouts, local Board-of-Directors' approval is required for such candidate to be placed on a team.
 5. I/We understand that our child (candidate) may be chosen at anytime to play on a Major Division team, if he or she is of the correct age for such division as determined by the local league and Little League Baseball. Declining to move up to such Major Division team will result in forfeiture of eligibility for the Major Division for the current season, and may be subject to further restrictions by the local league.
 6. I/We agree to provide proof of legal residence (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) and age. I/We understand that our child (candidate) must be eligible under the residence and age regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, to participate in this Local League, and that if any controversy arises regarding residence and/or age, the decision of the Charter Committee in Williamsport shall be final and binding. I/We further understand that if any participant on a Little League team does not qualify for participation in the league based on residence (as defined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated) and/or age, such participant and/or team on which he/she participates be found ineligible, and forfeit(s) and/or suspension of Tournament privileges may be decreed by action of the Charter Committee or Tournament Committee.
 7. I/We will furnish a certified birth certificate of the above-named candidate to League Officials.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Rev. 1/03

Spring training gets into full swing

by RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Across Arizona and Florida, major leaguers were back on the field.

Greg Maddux met his new teammates, Jim Thome surveyed the scene and Barry Larkin opened his final spring training camp.

The Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Detroit Tigers, Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies began Thursday, joining the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, who

got a head start last weekend.

A day after agreeing to return to the Cubs, Maddux looked quite comfortable as he strolled into their clubhouse in Mesa, Ariz., holding a crossword puzzle.

"The clubhouse used to be in the middle of the fields, didn't it?" he asked. "I'll get used to it."

Fans were thrilled to see No. 31 wearing a Cubs uniform for the first time since 1992, with one yelling out, "We're glad to have you back!" as Maddux and the rest of the team took the field to stretch.

"I don't really feel like a rookie," he said. "I might feel like a fish out of water. I'm still trying to learn what fields No. 1 and 2 mean. I think in time I'll understand the system and fit right in."

His teammates are sure of it. "He's going to come into our rotation and obviously help us," Kerry Wood said. "So obviously, he's going to be welcomed with open arms in this clubhouse."

At Clearwater, Fla., Thome arrived at Phillies camp a week before the required reporting date for position players.

"I think the reason why I get here so early is because I want to get out of the cold weather," Thome said with a chuckle. "I don't live here or in Arizona like a lot of these guys."

The Phillies, who lost the National League's wild-card playoff slot to eventual World Series champion Florida, have high expectations this season.

"You look at this club and you have to be excited," Thome said. "But being good on paper doesn't win it. We had great teams when I was in Cleveland and we never won a World Series."

At Sarasota, Fla., Larkin had no nostalgic feelings as he put on his red jersey and black spring training cap at the Cincinnati Reds' camp.

"This is normal," said the infielder, who turns 40 in April. "There's nothing special, yet, about this upcoming season.

You've got to go out and play, play hard, try to do well, and that's really it.

"There's nothing more that goes into it at this particular point. You get ready and you go out and try to have a good year."

In the day's top news event, NL Cy Young Award winner Eric Gagne lost his salary arbitration case and will receive \$5 million from the Los Angeles Dodgers instead of \$8 million.

Gagne was 2-3 with a 1.20 ERA and 55 saves in as many chances last season, and made \$550,000.

Arbitrators Stephen Goldberg, Dan Brent and Elliott Shriftman heard the case Wednesday in Phoenix.

Gagne's agent, Scott Boras, said the Dodgers argued that he shouldn't be paid vastly more in his first year of arbitration eligibility than Mariano Rivera, who beat the New York Yankees in 1999 and earned \$4.25 million.

"The club's argument was that he should be tied to Mariano Rivera as a three-plus player, and the service-time argument apparently won the day," Boras

said.

New Dodgers general manager Paul DePodesta wouldn't say whether the team would consider a multiyear contract for Gagne, who can become a free agent after the 2006 season.

"Obviously, this guy has accomplished an awful lot and is an integral part of this club," DePodesta said. "Maybe you'd want to give one pitcher four or five years. Some you only feel comfortable giving him two. It's a case-by-case basis. I don't know enough about this case to say what would make sense."

Owners beat players 4-3 in the cases that went to hearings, the eighth straight year management has won a majority. Owners hold a 263-197 advantage since arbitration began in 1974.

In Scottsdale, Ariz., the San Francisco Giants said the entourage of trainers who typically surround Barry Bonds'

locker will be noticeably absent from the clubhouse this season.

That means no Greg Anderson, one of four men charged last week in a steroid-distribution ring that allegedly supplied dozens of professional athletes with banned substances.

"I do think the rules are going to be the rules," general manager Brian Sabean said, speaking of a two-year-old directive by the commissioner's office that is expected to be more strictly enforced this year. "It will be a cooperative effort. It will be taken more seriously by everyone, starting with major league baseball."

Anderson and the three others charged last week have pleaded innocent. No athletes have been charged.

Harvey Shields, another of Bonds' trainers, has also frequented the clubhouse since 2000. He stretches out the six-time NL MVP before games.

Trend

Continued from p3

react in a stricter way in making sure it does not happen again. Here is where both the NCAA and NBA must come together to keep the better American players in America. Until Wednesday, good sports everyone and be good sports!

H.S. BASKETBALL

Make plans now for the state basketball tournament

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Make plans now to attend the state high school basketball tournaments.

Following are the first round region versus region matchups for the 2004 National City/KHSAA Boys' State Basketball tournament scheduled for March 17-20 at Rupp Arena in Lexington. The complete bracket are also posted at www.khsaa.org/basketball.

Rupp Arena, Lexington • All Times Eastern & Local to Site
Wednesday, March 17

Region 10 vs. Region 12, 12 p.m.; Region 7 vs. Region 2, 1:30 p.m.

Region 5 vs. Region 15, 6:30 p.m.; Region 11 vs. Region 8, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 18
Region 1 vs. Region 9, 12 p.m.; Region 6 vs. Region 13, 1:30 p.m.

Region 14 vs. Region 16, 6:30 p.m.; Region 4 vs. Region 3, 8 p.m.

HOUCHEMS/KHSAA GIRLS' STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Following are the first round region vs. region match-ups for the 2004 Houchens/KHSAA Girls' State Basketball tournament scheduled for March 24-27 at E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green. The complete bracket is posted at www.khsaa.org/basketball.

E.A. Diddle Arena, Bowling Green • All Times Central & Local to Site
Wednesday, March 24

Region 8 vs. Region 6, 12 p.m.; Region 12 vs. Region 9, 1:30 p.m.

Region 11 vs. Region 14, 6:30 p.m.; Region 5 vs. Region 10, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 25

Region 13 vs. Region 2, 12 p.m.; Region 15 vs. Region 16, 1:30 p.m.

Region 1 vs. Region 7, 6:30 p.m.; Region 3 vs. Region 4, 8 p.m.

■ Tickets sales for both the National City/KHSAA Boys' & Houchens Industries/KHSAA Girls' Sweet 16 State Basketball Tournaments remain on sale through the KHSAA office by calling 859/299-5472 or by ordering online at www.khsaa.org or

through ticketmaster.com.

At this time, only full tournament books (one ticket to each of the eight sessions) are on sale through the KHSAA. Ticket sales will continue through the KHSAA until Feb. 26. After that time, tickets will be available through the Rupp Arena Box Office and ticketmaster.com.

This is a reminder to order your tickets now. Tickets purchased at the arena for either tournament will incur an additional walk-up charge per ticket.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Belfry 56, Phelps 38

by STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PHELPS - Visiting Belfry used an 18-2 run in the second half Thursday to pull away and beat the host Phelps Lady Hornets, 56-38. It was a less than perfect effort for the Belfry team.

"We came out flat and was not focused and ready to play," Gannon said. "I seen better things out of Phelps tonight than I did out of our team. Our season will be short if we don't get things together in a hurry."

Belfry led by as many as 14 (32-18) in the first half before the Lady Hornets (4-16) closed to within two at 32-30 on a basket by Adrienne Slone with 4:40 left in the third period. It capped a 12-0 run. Slone finished with a team-high 12 points for the Lady Hornets.

"I was pleased with the way

we battled back tonight," Phelps coach Denise Campbell said. "It was an uphill climb for us much of the night and we just didn't have enough left in us at the end."

Campbell is in her first season as head coach at Phelps. A Phelps alum, Campbell headed the East Ridge girls' basketball program last year after a stint at Alice Lloyd College.

Seniors Anna Bevins and Vicki Hall scored all 13 of Belfry's points in the final quarter and both student-athletes finished with a game-high 18 points each. Emma Smith chipped in eight.

The loss was the 13 the straight for Phelps. Belfry improved to 16-8.

Slone's basket with 3:14 to go in the third period kept the Lady Hornets within two at 34-32 before Smith hit a trey and then two free throws to push the lead back to seven at 39-32.

Training

Continued from p2

Backe, Kirk Saarloos and Mike Gallo in the mix.

"There's going to be some competition in camp," said Williams, whose team is coming off two second-place finishes that failed to earn it a playoff berth.

Outfielder Richard Hidalgo is eager for the chance to hit and support the Astros' rotation. Hidalgo, who makes \$12 million, has been the subject of trade rumors.

"I'm just happy to still be here," he said. "I really want to be here, so I just thank God I've gotten to stay here. I'm still waiting for whatever they're going to do, and there's nothing I can do about it."

AUTO RACING

Latest big race second-highest rated Daytona 500 ever

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - The 2004 Daytona 500 lived up to its billing as the most watched race in America as NBC's coverage of this year's "Great American Race" was watched by 33.5 million viewers and earned a 10.6 national rating/24 share - second-highest rated Daytona 500 in history.

In 2002, NBC's inaugural Daytona 500 broadcast set a Daytona 500 record with 35 million viewers and a 10.9/26 national rating. NBC's two Daytona 500 broadcasts are now the two most-viewed and highest-rated in history.

"Having more than 200,000

fans on site as well as the second highest television rating in the history of the Daytona 500 just continues to prove that the 'Great American Race' is NASCAR's biggest and most prestigious race of the year," Speedway President Robin Braig said.

This year's Daytona 500 broadcast ratings represents an improvement of 8 percent over the 9.8/21 rating for FOX's rain-shortened Daytona 500 broadcast last year. The rating also surpasses the third highest-rated Daytona 500 (10.5) for CBS' coverage of the 1979 race, the first time the Daytona 500 was broadcast live from start to finish.

2004 NASCAR Nextel Cup schedule and standings

Daytona 500, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)	Feb. 15
Subway 400, Rockingham, N.C.	Feb. 22
UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400, Las Vegas	March 7
Golden Corral 500, Hampton, Ga.	March 14
Carolina Dodge Dealers 400, Darlington, S.C.	March 21
Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn.	March 28
Samsung/RadioShack 500, Fort Worth, Texas	April 4
Advance Auto Parts 500, Martinsville, Va.	April 18
Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.	April 25
Auto Club 500, Fontana, Calif.	May 2
Pontiac Performance 400, Richmond, Va.	May 15
Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.	May 30
MBNA America 400, Dover, Del.	June 6
Pocono 500, Long Pond, Pa.	June 13
Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.	June 20
Dodge/Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.	June 27
Pepsi 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.	July 3
Tropicana 400, Joliet, Ill.	July 11
New England 300, Loudon, N.H.	July 25
Pennsylvania 500, Long Pond, Pa.	Aug. 1
Brickyard 400, Indianapolis	Aug. 8
Sirius at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.	Aug. 15
Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.	Aug. 22
Sharpie 500, Bristol, Tenn.	Aug. 28
Pop Secret 500, Fontana, Calif.	Sept. 5
Chevrolet Monte Carlo 400, Richmond, Va.	Sept. 11
Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H.	Sept. 19
MBNA America 400, Dover, Del.	Sept. 26
EA Sports 500, Talladega, Ala.	Oct. 3
Banquet 400, Kansas City, Kan.	Oct. 10
UAW-GM Quality 500, Concord, N.C.	Oct. 16
Subway 500, Martinsville, Va.	Oct. 24
Bass Pro Shops MBNA 400, Hampton, Ga.	Oct. 31
Checker Auto Parts 500, Avondale, Ariz.	Nov. 7
Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.	Nov. 14
Ford 400, Homestead, Fla.	Nov. 21

Driver Standings

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	185
2. Tony Stewart	180
3. Scott Wimmer	170
4. Kevin Harvick	165
5. Jimmie Johnson	160
6. Joe Nemechek	150
7. Jeff Gordon	147
8. Elliott Sadler	146
9. Matt Kenseth	143
10. Dale Jarrett	134
11. Bobby Labonte	130
12. John Andretti	129
13. Greg Biffle	127
14. Casey Mears	121
15. Dave Blaney	118
16. Kurt Busch	115
17. Ward Burton	112
18. Ricky Rudd	109
19. Terry Labonte	108
20. Brendan Gaughan	106



MCDOWELL SPIRIT - Students from McDowell Elementary showed their spirit during the recent grade school basketball season.



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FLOYD COUNTY Lifestyles



INSIDESTUFF

- More photos • page 6B
- Wal-Mart Teacher entries • page 6B
- Post Office Event • page 6B

TODAY'S FREEBIE

Look in your paper today and every day for a value worth more than the cost of the paper. **PAGE A3**

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SPECIAL COLUMN

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.

This has been a pretty dull week from the personal angle. Nobody has cried on my shoulder, and there were no shoulders offered for my own use.

Either these Third Street sidewalks are too high, or the cars are too low. Hub caps take a beating.

The Houston Post records this sign on a California music shop window:

"Out to lunch. Bach by one, Offenbach earlier."

Here's the most discouraging item I've run across in a long while. It's from the Bloomington, Illinois, Daily Pantagraph, dated April 22, 1882:

"William Wells, father-in-law of Capt. Edward J. Lewis, is very low. He is 50 years of age, and his ailment is simply old age." Somebody said times have changed. Well, I would hope so!

After this doctor who grafts hair unto bald heads and gets things going again had quoted prices to one of the fellows around here, we wondered if it wouldn't be cheaper to stick the old noggin' out toward a porcupine and dare him to shoot. Reminds me of the story of the woman who went to the beauty surgeon and inquired the cost of getting a southbound nose headed in the right direction. "One hundred dollars," he intoned.

"A hundred dollars! Isn't there something less expensive?"

"Well," replied the surgeon, "you might try walking into a telephone pole."

One candidate got so serious with me, this week, that he offered to split his supply of night crawlers with me.

Then there was the court trial in which the lawyer whispered to his client, "wanna challenge anybody on that jury!" "Well," whispered back the defendant, "believe I could lick that little guy over there on the end."

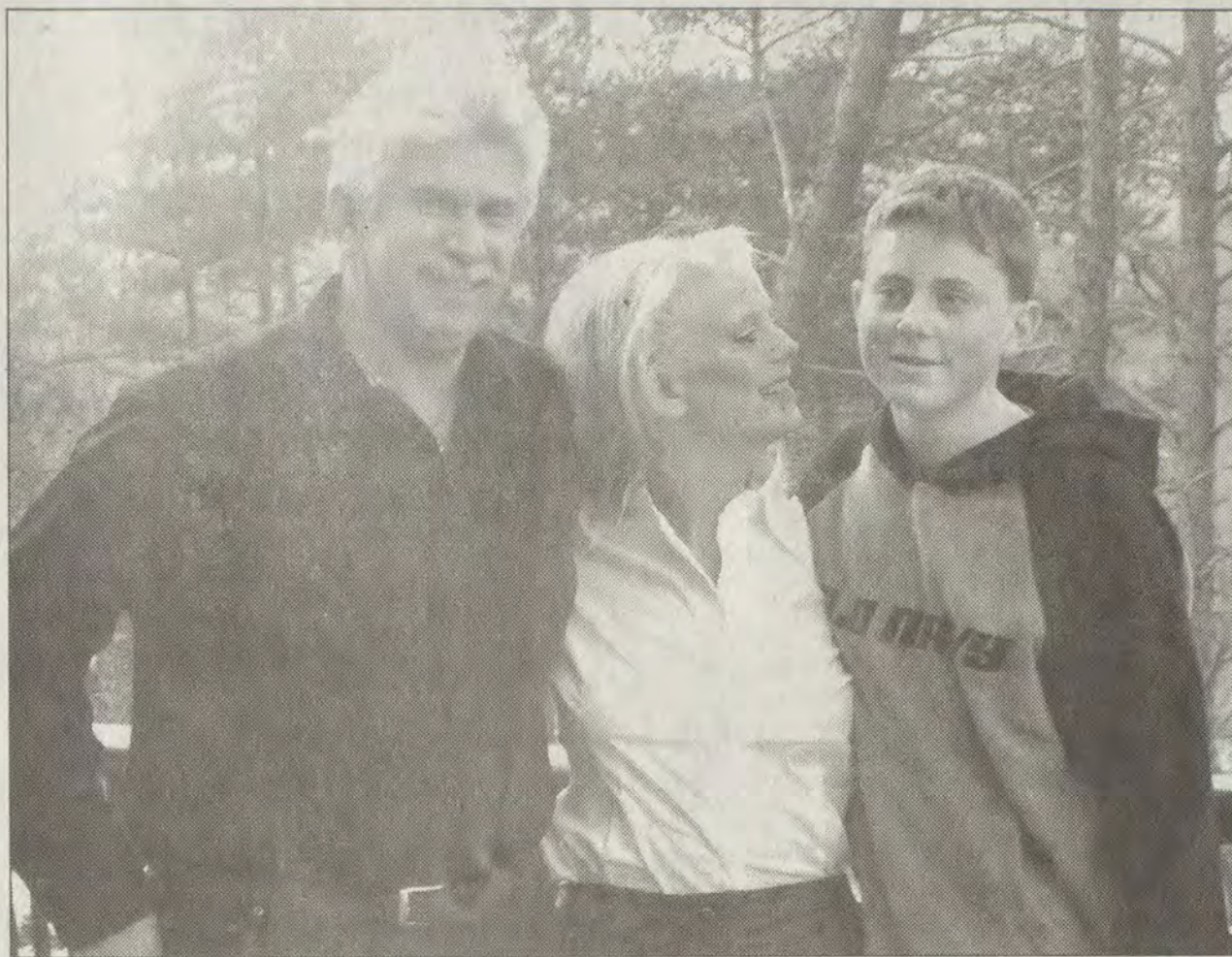


photo by Mary Music
Zachary Mitchell, right, son of Diane Hall and Ted Hall, says his family is closer since his mother changed her outlook on life. Diane says that her responsibilities as a mother helped to get her out of a deep depression 20 months ago which kept her in bed nearly 24 hours a day.

Diane Pickard Hall

Age: 38
Occupation: Disabled nurse, wife, mother
Education: B.A. in Psychology, university of North Carolina. Assoc. in Nursing, Prestonsburg Community College

Life quote: "To leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, to know that even one life has breathed easier because you lived is to have achieved success."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

About 'Meet Appalachia'

The people portrayed in this section are people I've met as I walk along the road of my life. They were on a street, in a store or restaurant. They were recommended by a friend, or the friend of a friend, as the old trend goes. All of them see life as they see it. I am only here to tell their stories as I see them. These are their hopes and challenges. These are their dreams and accomplishments. These are what they allow them to be.

— MARY MUSIC

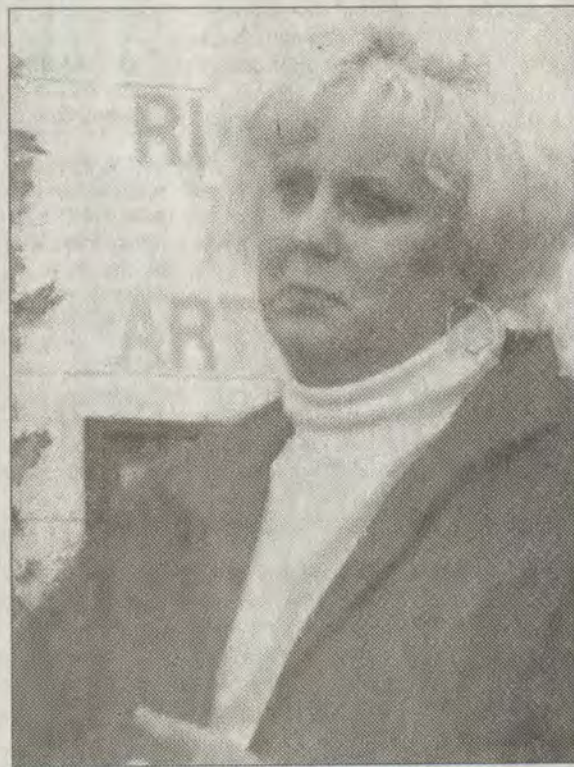
Meet Appalachia

Diane Hall, Surviving

by MARY MUSIC
Staff Writer

Imagine what life would be like if it were lived only in the scope of one room— your bedroom. A window. A pillow. A TV you never turned on. Imagine weighing nearly 400 pounds, being unable to walk, to dance, to work, to play with your son, or to find a reason to laugh at life at all. Imagine sleeping to 1 or 2 or 4 in the afternoon, and spending the rest of your afternoon, every afternoon, just staring blankly at every misfortune in your life. The ceiling. The wall. The light reflecting off a picture of a younger, sexier, you sitting on the night stand... And, as you continue staring, hating life, hating yourself, and wishing there was an end to all of it.

(See SURVIVING, page six)



This picture, taken in 2002, shows Diane's state of mind during some of her darkest days.

MOVIES FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

RETURNER - 2002, Rated R

Japanese director Takashi Yamazaki brews up a cinematic gumbo with this sci-fi thriller. Elements of THE TERMINATOR, THE MATRIX and even E.T. find their way into this hodgepodge which features gun play, spaceships and gangsters. It all starts in the future where a handful of rebels are making a last stand against an alien army in Tibet. Things go badly and a last minute plan is hatched to send a teenage girl back in time to head



Tom Doty
Staff Writer

off the certain annihilation of the human race. The girl, Milly, arrives in Tokyo in 2002 and has only 48 hours to change the course of history. She quickly engages the aid of a

young vigilante named Miyamoto. This is accomplished by wiring him up to bomb that will detonate if anything happens to her. Milly takes her time explaining their mission but eventually lets on that she is there to kill an alien who has fallen to earth before he can contact an armada of warships which will stomp the earth like a bag of pork rinds. They proceed to a government base to kill the alien but are surprised to find that its fierce armor hides a downright cuddly E.T. clone. Unfortunately the alien, called a daggra, gets nabbed by some yakuza toughs, the Japanese brand of the mafia, and is spirited away. The chase and fight is on.

Things get considerably darker now as we meet an upstart gangster named Mizoguchi. He is one of those guys who laughed at the end of BAMBI and is "morally challenged". Turns out that he also has a sideline in procuring orphans for sale to black-market organ buyers. This is not the kind of guy who should be giving an alien his first sense of earthlings. As luck would have it our hero knows this guy and wants revenge for a past incident where his best friend wound up as one of Mizoguchi's product line. It all climaxes at the gangsters lair after plenty of MATRIX style gunplay. Good visual effects combine here with a manic plot that should provide two hours of entertainment to anyone who can't wait till Arnold Schwarzenegger is free to do TERMINATOR 4. Best Line: "Sorry, I had no choice. I put a bomb on you."

Chicken Soup For The Soul: A plan for you



The telephone rang. The familiar voice on the other end belonged to a close friend from California. Her voice caught with a little sob, and then I heard, "My wonderful husband has just died."

My mind went back many years to when my husband, Norman, was pastor of the Marble Collegiate Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City. A striking gentleman started coming to the Sunday morning service accompanied by his mother. They sat about eight or 10 rows from the back. He visited several churches on Fifth Avenue, but left each one after a few Sundays. He kept attending our worship service, and later he

was selected to become an elder. He was considered one of the most brilliant attorneys in New York City. And he was single.

Now ... "the rest of the story!" Norman and I were taking a tour group of about twelve hundred people to Hawaii. We persuaded the attorney to go with us. The trip was a wonderful experience. One evening in the seaside hotel in Hawaii, I was planning the seating arrangements for the dinner table Norman and I would host. I had invited a good friend from San Francisco to be seated at our table. I asked myself, "What gentleman could I select to put next to this beautiful woman?"

The thought of our attorney came to mind, for I felt he would be a good choice.

You can probably guess what happened. They fell for each other! That evening in Hawaii was a divine appointment. They were married, he moved to California and for 15 years they enjoyed a wonderful life together. She was the one calling to inform me of his death.

I remember telling my dear, distraught friend what I tell other friends when they lose a spouse: "God had a plan for you when you two met and has a plan for you now." A happy time of her life had come to a close, and she needed to believe that her future was

still full of promise. "Throughout the changes in our lives," I said to her, "we all need to be reminded that God has a plan for us. I believe this because I have seen it to be true in the lives of many people."

At the time, I spoke to my friend from secondhand experience. But now I can speak from firsthand experience, because Norman died after more than six decades of our being married. I treasure the past, but I enjoy the present, too. I have begun to venture into new areas of speaking and writing that I never took time for when Norman was alive. But now is as good a time as

(See SOUP page six)

C O - O P N E W S :

Put your slow cooker to work

Theresa M. Scott
FLOYD COUNTY EXTENSION
OFFICE

Sources: Sandra Bastin and
Sue Badenhop

Imagine the tantalizing aroma of chili or chicken soup greeting you as you return home after a hard day's work. A slow cooker and a little advance preparation will make this image a reality.

A slow cooker is best used for foods with a high moisture content such as chili, stew, spaghetti sauce or soup.

There are several advantages to using a slow cooker, or crock pot. It can reduce the time you spend in the kitchen

by almost half. A slow cooker takes less electricity than an oven, and produces less heat during the warmer months. It also improves the variety and flavor of foods. Since this appliance cooks foods slowly at a low temperature, it tenderizes the less expensive and leaner cuts of meat and reduces shrinkage.

A slow cooker is designed for long hours of unattended cooking so don't remove the lid until it's time to check food doneness, unless you need to stir during cooking.

This is because heat builds up slowly inside the cooker, and every time you uncover the pot it loses enough heat to slow the cooking process by 30 minutes or more.

It usually takes several hours for food to reach 125 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature at which heat begins to destroy any bacteria present. Some bacteria can survive at temperatures up to 140 degrees F. A slow cooker should heat to 125 degrees F within three hours and to 140 degrees F within four hours, according to food safety experts. To kill all bacteria, the temperature must stay at 150 degrees F for at least one hour.

To get off to a safe start, use a clean cooker and utensils. Also, be sure to keep the work area clean and wash your

hands before and during food preparation.

Always defrost meat or poultry before you put it in a slow cooker.

Keep perishable foods in the refrigerator until it's time to prepare them. If you cut up meat and vegetables in advance, refrigerate them in separate containers.

Cut food into small pieces or chunks to ensure thorough cooking. Don't use a slow cooker for large pieces of meat like a roast or whole chicken, because these will remain in the bacterial "damage zone" too long due to the slow cooking process.

Fill the slow cooker no less than half full and no more than two-thirds full.

Since vegetables cook more slowly than meat and poultry, put vegetables in the slow cooker first; then add the meat or poultry and cover the food with a liquid such as broth, water, gravy or barbecue sauce.

It's best to turn the cooker to the highest heat setting for the first hour of cooking, and then to low or the setting recommended in your recipe. You may want to use the low setting for all-day cooking or for less-tender cuts of meat.

While food is cooking, and once it's done, it will be safe as long as the slow cooker is

operating. However, you shouldn't leave food to cool down in the cooker. Either immediately eat the food, or cool it rapidly and refrigerate in shallow, covered containers within two hours after cooking is finished.

Never reheat food in a slow cooker. Instead, bring it to a boil on the stove or in a

microwave oven; then, put it in a pre-heated slow cooker to remain hot until it's time to serve the food.

Remember to carefully handle earthenware pots, and avoid extreme temperature changes that might cause them to break. Follow the manufacturer's cleaning instructions.

For more information, con-

tact the Theresa Scott, Floyd County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences, by phone at 886-2668 or by e-mail at tmscott@uky.edu.

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Celebrate American Heart Month with free screening at Drift Post Office

While you were out buying flowers for your sweetheart, cutting out paper hearts for friends and munching on candy hearts this past Valentine's Day, did you take a moment to think about your own sweet heart? Join Postmaster Vickie Boyd and her staff at the Drift Post Office on Friday, February 27, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., for a free blood pressure screening provided by Our Lady of the Way Hospital. Refreshments will be served and door prizes given away. This special event is being held in recognition of American Heart Month. The Postal Service has a proud history of partnering with members of the communities it serves to promote education and events that help raise public awareness. This month has been set aside as a

time to reflect on heart health. The Postal Service's newest stamp, the Candy Hearts stamp, has been designed to send a sweet message of love on our letters to

loved ones and serves as a reminder to take care of our own "Sweet Heart" as well. The Postal Service is proud to join in this important community event.

Banner Post Office to hold 'Customer Appreciation Day'

The Banner Post Office will host a "Customer Appreciation Day" on Friday, February 27, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be given away shortly after noon. Postmaster Christine Goble says the day of fun and food is her office's way of saying

thanks to all their customers. Registration for the special event is being held now and will continue up until the day of the event. Postmaster Goble invites everyone to join the party, in the Post Office lobby, on Feb. 27. The Banner Post Office is located at 54 Hall Addition, at Banner.

Soup

Continued from p5

ever for stretching my capabilities. When one of my friends or acquaintances loses a spouse and asks me for advice, I say, "I make it a point to enjoy new, unfolding plans for my life. If this formula works for me, it can work for you."

Be a part of Chicken Soup's 10th Anniversary. Look for our 10th Anniversary Edition, "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Your Dreams." Visit www.chickensoup.com for more details.

Surviving

You have just briefly entered the mind of Diane Pickard Hall and the realm that existed as her world about 20 months ago, before she woke up and realized she needed to get out of that bed.

"I didn't appreciate her until I thought I was losing her," said Diane's husband, Ted, recalling the dread he felt when entering the bedroom because he expected to walk in one day and find her dead instead of sleeping. "Five out of six days of the week I'd come home for lunch and she'd ask 'Why am I still alive?' I was afraid I'd find her not breathing," he said.

And that was Diane, whose son, Zachary Mitchell, 14, says her condition a year ago scared him because he didn't know whether or not his mother would survive the illnesses that attacked her body.

Diane has lupus, fibromyalgia, and suffers from chronic anxiety and depression. She isn't afraid to tell anyone that, nor is she ashamed to say that she had her "boobs" lifted during her 7 hour surgery to remove four pounds of flesh from her body.

When it began, Diane says she had consistent ear infections and pains that the doctors misdiagnosed on several occasions. That was 1984, and it followed a scuba diving incident that occurred in Bermuda. By 2000, the diseases progressed and Diane's symptoms became more severe. She would go to work as House Supervisor at Paul B. Hall Hospital and find herself being escorted to a seat by co-workers who found her stumbling in the hall. It wasn't long before she gave up the job of nursing to become the patient herself. Experienced in working with critical care patients, Diane was forced to reverse that role, and was now chained to a bed pan and a breathing machine that calmed her apnea at night.

"Things that my body perceived to be invasive, anything that made my heart rate go up, made my body attack itself," she said.

That's lupus, a chronic inflammatory disease, affecting various parts of the body, that, in a sense, teaches the body's immune system to attack itself. Glands, organs, and tissues become the target of the body's ultimate defense system. The result is an intensive, exhaustive battle that causes inflammation, injury of tissues and severe pain.

Diane's fibromyalgia is the source of her "all encompassing" exhaustion. It is a chronic pain illness characterized by widespread musculoskeletal aches, pain, and stiffness that varies in intensity and migrates

throughout her body. The disease, which affects mainly women, is thought by scientists to be caused by abnormal sensory perception in the central nervous system.

During the darkest days of her illness, Diane suffered, and at times still suffers, with "wolf" rashes and hives all over her body, lack of sleep, excruciating pain in her lower back and neck and "projectile" vomiting, among other horrible symptoms that she says made it unbearable to be in public because it was so "embarrassing."

Many times, she would pass out in the bathtub, leaving her husband with the extremely difficult task of getting her 379 pound self back into bed again, and when she was in bed, it nearly killed her to simply roll over from one side to the other.

But Diane's over all that now. Somehow, she talked herself into believing that she deserved a better life, and that, more importantly, life deserved a better Diane. She finally got up out of the bed she had been addicted to for so long and she's been running ever since, now weighing in at about 117 pounds, no less.

"It was June 13. Zack had been angry over something and I thought, 'I gotta do something. I gotta get up and do something here!'" Diane said of the moment she realized she needed to change.

Zack was having a typical teenaged crisis, and Diane's motherly instincts pushed her to take action against her personal evils.

And that she did, with the help of friends and family who instructed her into doing something about the problems she faced.

"Everybody has the tendency to take two steps forward and one step back," she said. "They (her family) don't let me do that. They push me three steps forward, so that when I go a step back, I'm still ahead a couple of steps."

Shortly after she realized she needed to change, Ted called a friend at Diane's old workplace, Hospice of Big Sandy. That woman, who wishes to remain anonymous because of her affiliation with Hospice, gave Diane a long, hard talk about life.

"Her success is because of her," said the Hospice employee. "She just needed to be put on the rug and kicked in the butt, so I told her she wasn't dead and to quit acting like it."

That day, the woman "ordered" Diane to walk five times around the parking lot of the facility, which she did successfully with Ted's help. Diane said she "hated" the woman for

doing this at first, but that changed when she realized she really could do it.

From there, she met up with Ann Stratton at Pounds Away, who played a key role in her success in losing weight. Diane dropped from 4X sized clothing to a size 8, and she expects to stay there for the rest of her life.

"Now she's a live wire, a dynamo," said Ted. "She's always going, going, going. It was a wake-up call for me, I thought she was leaving us."

But the most interesting part of Diane's story doesn't exist in the fact that she got out of that bed. Nor does it include the struggles she faced along the road she took to lose the 260 or so pounds that she lost by her own efforts. In fact, the most interesting part doesn't have even anything to do with what Diane lost during this time. It's what she's found that's important.

You see, not only has she achieved a new outlook for her life; she's also seen that she still isn't happy. Her family is wonderful and her success in fighting what ails her has been tremendous, but she still feels lonely inside because she says she has no true friends anymore.

"I'm ecstatic about what I've achieved, I really am," she said. "But it's so hard. I have my family to share it with, but no one else."

In her younger days, Diane says she traveled all over the country as a prize winning jockey and as the daughter of a U.S. naval academy commander, who strictly adhered to a controlling life philosophy.

She moved to Prestonsburg with Ted in 1991 and attended nursing school at Prestonsburg Community College, and from there started her job in the nursing field, working at Paul B. Hall, Our Lady of Bellefonte in Ashland, and Hospice for a spell most recently.

When she first came here, she says she experienced "culture shock" because "there is nothing to do" in the area. Now, she says, she has no true friends. Of course, there are acquaintances, and many, many people who have helped and guided and prayed for her during her journey, but even though she appreciates their kindness, she's saddened by the fact that they never call and they never ask how she's doing anymore.

Diane remembers that she always wanted to be a doctor. In fact, she enrolled in a pre-med program at Marshall University as soon as she graduated from high school, but dropped out of school when her father told her she wasn't smart enough, a fact she said he regretted on his death bed.

Diane's father died two years after he was diagnosed with Lupus, she says, and his death stands as a constant reminder of her own mortality.

"When you have a father killed by a disease that struck you down, that took your job, then tomorrow doesn't always look like a good day," she said. "The threat is very real to me. I am a very strong person and I want to reach out and help people. That's what I do, I was a nurse and have been helping people for a long time. I feel like my ability to reach out has been taken away by this.... In today's times, if you don't suffer from some type of depression then you'd have to be very apathetic, and I don't want to be that."

That's why Diane is up and out of bed each morning before 9 a.m. It's also why she chooses to exercise instead of taking pain medication, why she meditates almost every day, and why she is now stepping out to tell others that they, too, can overcome their obstacles.

"If I could show anybody anything, it would be that you can beat desperately unbeatable odds," said Diane. "I don't want to give people false hope, but for the people out there lying in bed in a vicious cycle of depression, giving up for no good reason, holding on to that bottle of Loratab, I want them to know that they do have hope. They can get out there and do something about it."

To maintain her health effectively, Diane says she must contribute 7 hours each day to a strict regimen of exercise, meditation, and various herbal remedies such as green tea, chamomile, coral calcium, and blood root, in addition to her regular medications.

She refuses, however, to take pain medication unless it's absolutely necessary, and says she still has 50 of the 60 Tylenol 3's given to her following her last surgery in October.

Her near death experience taught Diane a few things about life. Now, she says she lives more enthusiastically, making every day count.

The woman who used to live her life chained to a bed now lifts free weights and plays on the trampoline with her son.

"I love life," she said. "I love simple things. I love, I have a renewed love, for music. I've always taken time to do something special every year at Christmas. Now I do something all the time, wherever I am."

Diane, who is currently a member at Curves, now adheres to a 1,200 calorie low salt diet, drinks lots of water, and limits her caffeine intake.

She will never be able to work as a nurse again, she says.



Diane adheres to a strict exercise regimen, including yoga, which is extremely difficult, if not nearly impossible for fibromyalgia patients.



Her love for horse riding was one of the passions Diane had to give up following the onset of her illnesses.

American Heart Association
www.americanheart.org

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

Classified Rates: for 20 words or less
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, only \$12.00
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday & Shopper \$13.00
 An additional charge of .25 per word for every word over 20
Classified Manager: Pauline Branham, ext. #19

DEADLINES:

- **Wednesday Paper, Noon Mon.**
- **Friday Paper and Shopper, Wed. 5 p.m.**
- **Sunday Paper, Thurs. 5 p.m.**

CONTACT US AT: (606) 886-8506

Send Us Your Ad: **(606) 886-3603**
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100 - AUTOMOTIVE

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

200 - EMPLOYMENT

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

300 - FINANCIAL

- 310 - Business

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

400 - MERCHANDISE

- 410 - Animals
- 420 - Appliances
- 440 - Electronics
- 445 - Furniture
- 450 - Lawn & Garden

- 460 - Yard Sale
- 470 - Health & Beauty
- 475 - Household
- 480 - Miscellaneous
- 490 - Recreation
- 495 - Wanted To Buy

500 - REAL ESTATE

- 505 - Business
- 510 - Commercial Property
- 530 - Homes

- 550 - Land/Lots
- 570 - Mobile Homes
- 580 - Miscellaneous
- 590 - Sale or Lease

600 - RENTALS

- 610 - Apartments
- 620 - Storage/Office Space
- 630 - Houses
- 640 - Land/Lots
- 650 - Mobile Homes

- 660 - Miscellaneous
- 670 - Commercial Property
- 690 - Wanted To Rent

700 - SERVICES

- 705 - Construction
- 710 - Educational
- 713 - Child Care
- 715 - Electrician
- 720 - Health & Beauty
- 730 - Lawn & Garden

- 735 - Legal
- 740 - Masonry
- 745 - Miscellaneous
- 750 - Mobile Home Movers

- 755 - Office
- 760 - Plumbing
- 765 - Professionals
- 770 - Repair/Service
- 780 - Timber
- 790 - Travel

800 - NOTICES

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

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

2000 Toyota Avalon XLS excellent condition average miles 1 owner Beige call 606-791-1703

CAR FOR SALE 500! Police impounds! Cars/Trucks/SUV's from 500.1 For Listings 1-800-319-3323

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

For Sale 1997 Chevy Cavalier automatic, A/C, P.S. ABS new tires White exterior Tan interior nice car 2,500 OBO call 606-452-4983

160-Motorcycles
GS X 600F Katana never wrecked custom body work new tires Brakes, chain sprockets to many extras to name 3,200 call 606-358-2322 or 606-422-6051

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

FOR SALE: 1996 Ultra Classic, low mileage \$13,500 black / green motorcycle with lots of accessories, serious inquires call at 886-2030.

170-Parts
1989 Toyota Camery for parts call 478-4150 for details

1995 Chevy Corsica selling for parts body in real good shape asking 300.00 call 886-8153

For Sale Tool Box for a full sized truck. Made from fiberglass .rust proof. Two sides, with sliding shelves, and antenna ball came off Chevrolet CK1500 \$95 OBO 886-8897
1993 TOYOTA PICK

180 -Trucks
 UP 2 wheel drive 5 speed Air condition Black/Grey 127,000 miles timing chain replaced/tune up 3800.00 or best offer call 889-0887

190-Vans
1975 Chevy Van 350 engine Auto trans asking 400.00 or best offer call 433-0459

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.

Executive secretary needed for local engineering firm. Responsibilities include answering telephone, Professional services billing using Quick books Pro software executing payroll using Quick books software, paying bills ect. Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel software packages. Business hours 8.00 to 4:00 Monday thru Friday Salary and benefits packages commensurate with experience. Contact 886-8889 for further information, And to set up a interview.

Man Power is seeking applicants for a ware house position in Pike County area. CDL and ware house experience is necessary. If interest please call 606-889-9710 to make an appointment

Dental Assistant needed experience preferred but not required. Send resumes to Office Manager p o box 1024 Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653
AVON pick your hours and your

205-Business Opport.
 income call any time 8 8 9 - 0 0 3 8

210-Job Listings
 LPN, If interested send resume to: Office Manager P. O. Box 607 Prestonsburg, Ky

Part Time work available Carpet & Tile Floor Cleaning weekends & and some evenings call 886-9886, or leave message

220-Help Wanted
Wanted Medical Secretary for Drs. office, hours 4 to 10 Alternete Saturday 9-1pm call 285-9000 or 886-1714

220-Help Wanted
Wanted Gas Well Operator Boyd Co., Ky Experience Required Send Resume to P.O. Box 1298 Ashland, KY. 41105

220-Help Wanted
Wanted Experience Auto and Tire Technicians. Great benefit package including medical, vacation and holiday pay. send resume to p o box 157 Wittenville, Ky 41274

220-Help Wanted
Air Gas seeks route driver with CDL Class B & Haz Mat. Must be responsible and depend-able. No overnight runs. Excellent benefits package. Apply in person at Air gas Prestonsburg Junction US.23 & US 80

220-Help Wanted
Mountain Manor of Paintsville is taking applications for Certified Nurses Assistants. Excellent pay and benefits. Apply in person at 1025 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, Ky. from 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday thru Friday

220-Help Wanted
Diesel Mechanic needed with 8 years experience in repairing heavy equipment must have own tools with Ky. CDL and must have Ky. Mine Training contact Kenny Greenhill @ 800-633-1550

Appalachian Production Services, Inc. is accepting applications for the following position: Operations Department Well Tender Position Operate and maintain natural gas & oil wells and associated pipelines and equipment. Duties include operating wells, compressors, pump jacks and plunger lift equipment. Prior well tending experience is preferred. Experience with pumping of wells a plus. Appalachian Production Services Inc. offers a complete benefits package and wages are commensurate with experience level and performance. We are an equal opportunity employer. All applicants must have a valid drivers license and pass a pre-employment drug screen. You may submit by fax 606-785-4081 or e-mail to appalachian@apsengery.com you may mail your resume or pick up a application at our office located at 3804 High way 160 south Hindman Ky, 41822 no phone inquires please..

Manager needed and Possibility to become Partner in Pizza Restaurant Business send Resume to / with Photo to: Floyd County Times P O Box 390 Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653 Attention, P.R.

Regionals Security Office is seeking a local operations manager for the Pikeville and surrounding counties areas Must Have 3-5 years experience in security management or equal in H.R law enforcement or in coal mine safety excellent salary and benefits package. Please call 865-329-0474 or fax Resume to 865-329-2481

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220-Help Wanted
Car for sale 500! Police impounds! Cars/Trucks/SUV's from 500.1 For Listings 1-800-319-3323

220-Help Wanted
1992 Chevy Corsica for sale. If interested call 889-0872 or 226-0062.

445-Furniture
ALMAR FURNITURE
 Big selection of living room, bedroom, dining room, refrigerators, stove, washers and much more.
606-874-0097

FOR SALE: Queen Anne chair & table. Chair is blue in color, table is cherry finish. Excellent condition. Also, Bow Flex machine. Call 886-8685 if no answer leave message.

495-Want To Buy
WANTED TO BUY GOOD USED ELECTRIC TREADMILL CALL 886 - 8506 EXTENSION. 24 OR 886-8494 AFTER 5 PM

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530-Homes
Foreclose Homes! Buy for only 17,000! for listings call 800-319-3323 ext. B 183

House for sale in Knott County located at Top Most will also consider land contract with down payment call 606-768-2590

460-Yard Sale
Moving out of state Home place of June A. Hutchinson will be up for sale as of April 1 by appointment only call 606-358-4053

480-Merchandise
FREE GRANTS Never Repay, Results Guaranteed \$500.00- \$500,000. Home Purchase Repairs, Education, Business, Emergencies, Non profits, Live Operators 9am-9pm Monday-Saturday 1-800-613-5447 Extension 9033

FOR SALE: 3/4 karat diamond ring, Asking \$500. Call 874-4981 or 791-2167.

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

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

FOR SALE: Home Interior Items, full size comforters & curtains to match, Avon collectible items, collection of novels. Call after 4 p.m. 886-3326.

FOR SALE: 36 Gas Stove 21 cb. ft. Refrigerator call 478-4150 for details

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606-874-0097

FOR SALE: Queen Anne chair & table. Chair is blue in color, table is cherry finish. Excellent condition. Also, Bow Flex machine. Call 886-8685 if no answer leave message.

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

RAY'S BARGAIN CENTER
 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.

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KAY'S WALLPAPER
205 DEPOT RD. PAINTSVILLE, KY
 HUNDREDS OF PATTERNS OF WALLPAPER & BORDERS All under \$10.00. Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday & Monday. 789-8584.

House for Sale in town 27,000 square feet for more information call 889-0507

House and Land for sale located at **Hueysville Highway. 7** and 2029 15 acres good timber, out of flood plain city water, central heat & air, 2 Bed Room.1 Bath Room utility Room Kitchen Remodeled New cabinets and stove d i s h w a s h e r Refrigerator new floating floors 16 x16 back deck above ground pool Detached garage 2 story bottom 20 x 32 upstairs 3 Rooms. back Building 20 x 20 65,000. call 606-358-4912

REAL ESTATE
530-Homes
Foreclose Homes! Buy for only 17,000! for listings call 800-319-3323 ext. B 183

House for sale in Knott County located at Top Most will also consider land contract with down payment call 606-768-2590

Large A Frame Rock House for sale at Bypro. 4 bedrooms.2.5 Baths, Study, Den, Large family room, Foyer with sitting room, Formal living and dining room large concrete swimming pool with pool building, separate garage.Extra lot also comes with this house.Must see to appreciate.asking price \$195,000.For more information call Jeanine at 606-452-9747 or 606-452-2244. Work number 452-2131.only about 5 miles from South Floyd High School

FOR SALE 5 room House 3 bedroom with 3 cares land, with mineral rights included 1 1/2 miles up route 699 at 1581 Cutshin Road Wooten,Ky. 41776 call 606-279-4318

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

FOR SALE 3 Bed room located on Cliff Road appliances included call 886-3047

FOR SALE 5 room House 3 bedroom with 3 cares land, with mineral rights included 1 1/2 miles up route 699 at 1581 Cutshin Road Wooten,Ky. 41776 call 606-279-4318

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

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FOR SALE 5 room House 3 bedroom with 3 cares land, with mineral rights included 1 1/2 miles up route 699 at 1581 Cutshin Road Wooten,Ky. 41776 call 606-279-431

Apt for Rent 1 Bed Room nicely furnished located next to Roadies around the clock Restaurant call 859-339-2702 or 859-238-7569

3 Bed Room House for Rent in Prestonsburg call 606-789-4580 References require

3 Bed Room 2 Bath new home downtown Prestonsburg Zoned Residential or Professional. 650.00 a month call 297-6136 or 321-1791

630-Houses
For Rent 3 Bed Room 2 Bath Home located on Rough & Tough \$600.00 mo + deposit call 606-422-1862

HOUSES, Apartments, & Town houses, No pets. Call B & O Rental Properties 606-886-8991.

650 - Mobile Homes for rent

Bed room Trailer rent at Estill, Ky. accept HUD call 2833

Want to Rent

rent: Modern 2 or APARTMENT approximately 900 sq. ft. Furnished when. Will also consider renting apartment for office use. Located 1 mile south of Martin Route. 122 across from the Floyd County Technology Center at Garth. \$10 per mo. plus utilities. Call 285-25 or 285-9112.

BED ROOMS USE, equipped when, near schools, Prestonsburg area. References required. Call 886-25 before 5 p.m.

RENT!!!\$0
OWN HOMES! Government & BANK POSI NO CREDIT. \$0 TO LOW OWN. FOR LISTINGS, CALL 1-800-217-1777 EXTENSION. 9821

70-Commercial Property

RENT: BEAUTY OP equipped with stations, and tan bed. Located 1 mile south of Martin Rte 122. Call 285-26 or 285-9112.

TYPES: modeling & additions, garages, decks, etc. Also concrete work. Robie Hanson, Jr., call anytime, 886-8896.

Subscribe & Save! Call Pauline @ 886-8506

770-Repair/Service

Osborne's Auto Body & Fiber glass Repair (formerly Allen Auto Body Shop) New Location at 1270 Tom's Creek level, Ky. 41642 Owner-Operator Dennis Osborne call 606-478-3514 for Free - Estimates

SERVICES

805-Announcements

Help the kids in the community. We are looking for donations for new & used computers to distribute to the kids community facilities. For pick up call Scott 889-9551 and to deliver call Scott 889-9551.

What is the one thing that we as people can give to another? OURSELVES! Be a volunteer for Hospice of Big Sandy, Inc. Volunteer classes will be given if enough sign up Call 606-789-3841 or come and visit with Dr. Cook for more information (psa).

Rn Day Shift Available 8:30 am-5:pm Hospice of Big Sandy, Inc. Call 606-789-3841 or come in and fill out an application at 1520 Ky. High way 1428 Hager Hill, Ky. 41222(psa)

NOTICES

812 - Free

FREE PALLETS: Can be picked up behind The Floyd County Times.

FREE FILL DIRT right fork of Bull Creek. call 606-874-2444.

900-Legals

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CLINIC FOR DYSLEXIA AND ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDERS
IMMEDIATE thru March 31, 2004
The Shedd Dyslexia Foundation is currently offering Educational Screening appointments to help identify students with potential reading and attention problems. Help is available in several different communities through our tutorial programs which meet one night a week. In the programs, one parent becomes involved by helping tutor the students. Classes

include 1-1 reading, social skills training and a listening skills class. Tutorial programs are in Mayfield and Hopkinsville
To see if your child may benefit from help or to make an appointment, please call Debbie Craven, Admission's Office (270-247-8007). Or write: Shedd Dyslexia Foundation, 401 South 7th, PO Box 493 Mayfield, KY 42066 or contact us through our web site: www.sheddacademy.org. Limited scholarship is available.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMMEDIATE through May 1 2004
Shedd Academy is currently organizing and taking donations for our 5th Annual 5k Run for Dyslexia. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 1st, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and the event beginning at 9 a.m. Registration fee is \$12, you can pre-register before April 24th for \$10. Trophies will be given to the top male & female runners. First Place trophies will be given for each category. Other participants will receive a certificate and a ribbon for placing 2nd or 3rd by category.

We are a non profit organization helping the dyslexic and learning disabled student. Funds from this year's event will be used to help the scholarship needs of many local Western Kentucky students. For more information, please call Debbie Craven, Administrative Assistant 270-247-8007

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SHEDD ACADEMY ANNUAL SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON PLANNED FOR MAYFIELD & PUDUCAH
IMMEDIATE through April 19, 2004
Shedd Academy would like to invite all employers to participate in our annual Secretary's Day Luncheon. This is in honor of all office workers and will be held each day during Secretary's Week which begins the week of April 19th.

This is the 5th annual luncheon in Mayfield sponsored by the Happy House Restaurant and King's Flower Shop and the 3rd Annual luncheon in Paducah with The Parlor, Holman House Cafeteria and O'Charley's restaurants participating. Shedd Academy is offering different gift packages including lunch certificates as well as choices of flowers and candy. Someone will deliver the gift packages on Monday of Secretary's week. The employees may use their luncheon certificate any time during the week, including Saturday at the restaurants participating in their area. Employers need only to fax, mail

or e-mail their orders and mail a check. We do all the work. For more information call 270-247-8007
We are a non profit organization helping the dyslexic and learning disabled student. Funds from this year's event will be used to help the scholarship needs of many local Western Kentucky students. Phone (270) 247-8007
Fax (270)247-0637
www.sheddacademy.org
shedd@apex.net
A NON PROFIT 501 (C) (3) Organization

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following item will be offered at public sale on February 27, 2004 at 11 a.m.,

to satisfy the unpaid balance of an installment contract signed 03/15/00.
2000 Nissan Xterra S/N 3289
All items are sold "as is where is." Seller reserves the right to bid and to reject any or all bids. Items are to be paid following the sale, or satisfactory arrangements made with the seller. Announcements at the sale take priority over ad. Purchaser to pay all taxes and transfer fees.
Call Mike Haney for location, 606-886-2321.

First Commonwealth Bank
311 N. Arnold Ave. Prestonsburg, KY 41653

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following item will be offered at public sale on February 27, 2004, at 11 a.m., to satisfy the unpaid balance of an installment contract signed 04/24/00.

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee S/N 5852
All items are sold "as is where is." Seller reserves the right to bid and to reject any or all bids. Items are to be paid following the sale, or satisfactory arrangements made with the seller. Announcements at the sale take priority over ad. Purchaser to pay all taxes and transfer fees.

Call Mike Haney for location, 606-886-2321.

First Commonwealth Bank

Bank
311 N. Arnold Ave. Prestonsburg, KY 41653

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following item will be offered at public sale on February 27, 2004 at 11 a.m., to satisfy the unpaid balance of an installment contract signed 03/05/02.

2002 Monte carlo SS S/N 3823
All items are sold "as is where is." Seller reserves the

right to bid and to reject any or all bids. Items are to be paid following the sale, or satisfactory arrangements made with the seller. Announcements at the sale take priority over ad. Purchaser to pay all taxes and transfer fees.
Call Mike Haney for location, 606-886-2321.

First Commonwealth Bank
311 N. Arnold Ave. Prestonsburg, KY 41653

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Ford Taurus starting at \$200 a month	Ford Explorers starting at \$359 a month	02 Lincoln LS just \$18,199	Ford Rangers starting at \$300 a month	03 Mercury Grand Marquis low miles just \$17,500
01 Ford Escort starting at \$150 a month	99 Pontiac Grand AM V6, 2 Dr (red) just \$6,995	00 Chevy Blazer starting at \$13,995	01 Ford Windstar just \$13,995	03 Ford F150 Crew Cab 4x4 just \$26,599

Brown's Auto Sales
213 S. Mayo Trail Paintsville, KY 41240 (606)789-5301
* All prices plus tax, title & license

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