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briefs

Newsome sentencing postponed

The Associated Press

PIKEVILLE — An Eastern Kentucky judge-executive convicted of election fraud will not be formally sentenced on Monday as planned.

The date for sentencing Donnie Newsome was shifted to March 16, after the conclusion of another election fraud trial in which he is expected to serve as a key witness.

Federal prosecutors, in a motion filed last month, said Newsome told them that Pikeville businessman Ross Harris gave him \$25,000 before elections in 2000 and 2002.

Harris is a defendant in a separate federal election fraud case that is scheduled for trial beginning on Jan. 12.

Prosecutors claim in a motion that Newsome told them he received cash three times from Harris, who is charged along with former state Sen. John Doug Hays and eight others with vote-fraud charges stemming from a Pike County district judge's race last year.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth R. Taylor filed the motion asking Judge Karen Caldwell to allow the new evidence in the Pike County case.

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today
Showers
High: 66 • Low: 38

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy
High: 38 • Low: 19

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

Stumbo steps up tomorrow

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — On the eve before he officially takes office as Kentucky attorney general and becomes the highest ranking Democrat in the state, Greg Stumbo says most things are well in place and he is now looking ahead to the future.

In keeping with his campaign platform, Stumbo says drugs are still going to be the new focus area for the Attorney General's Office beginning tomorrow.

"We're not going to abandon any issues," Stumbo said Friday afternoon, "but we're going to refocus on drugs."

In past years, the focus has been placed primarily on public corruption, Stumbo said, but feels that the drug problems facing the

state must take precedence over other issues.

"They had one investigator whose job it was to go out here to these flea markets and pick up fake sunglasses and shirts . . ." he said. "I'm not saying that's not a problem that needs to be given attention, but I think it doesn't have quite the impact as does the drug problem."

To help him in this refocusing of priorities, Stumbo said he's excited to add several new people to the mix.

Not the least of those will be David James, who will act as his director for the new Kentucky Bureau of Investigation. James, a former head of the Fraternal Order of Police in Jefferson County who brings with him 14 years experience investigating

(See STUMBO, page three)



Greg Stumbo, shown during his election victory party in November, leaves his long-time, influential post as House majority floor tomorrow, in order to take office as Kentucky's next attorney general.

file photo



photo by Mary Music

Prestonsburg resident Brenda Burchett holds a braid of hair that she says she had to cut because she could not care for it while cleaning the raw sewage out of her home. "It was my daddy's dying wish for me not to cut my hair," she said, "and I had to get it cut." Burchett has filed a lawsuit against Prestonsburg City Utilities for damages caused following a July incident which left 3-to-5 inches of raw sewage in her house.

Woman says sewage problem ruined her home

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — One city resident says she's tired of living with feces in her home and she's asking Prestonsburg City Utilities to do something about it.

Brenda Burchett says she would move out in order to decontaminate

her South Highland Avenue residence, a home deemed uninhabitable in July by FEMA, but limited finances make it impossible. After "getting nowhere" with a variety of local businesses, charitable associations and city officials, Burchett took her pleadings to another level by contacting Ned Pillersdorf, who filed a lawsuit on her behalf in

November.

According to the lawsuit, Prestonsburg City Utilities "through their agents" caused a sewage back-up into her residence on July 16 which left an accumulation of approximately 3-to-5 inches of raw sewage on the lower level of her

(See SEWAGE, page three)

Turner fifth to file for Stumbo's seat

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

"Gabe" Turner, is no stranger to elections.

DRIFT — Roughly two weeks after the last filing, another Floyd County resident has filed to run for 95th district state representative, a spot that will officially be up for grabs tomorrow after longtime holder of that office, Greg Stumbo, is sworn in as the state's newest attorney general during a ceremony in Frankfort.

Turner threw his hat in the ring as a Democratic candidate for commissioner of agriculture last year, falling to Alice Baesler for the statewide nomination.

However, in Floyd County, Turner went away with 60 percent of the votes with 2,853, far more than 2,000 votes better than his nearest of seven competitors who also ran on the ticket.

The newest candidate, Drift resident Jimmy

(See TURNER, page three)

Stumbo seeks re-election to Supreme Court

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

Sam An Tonio's in Prestonsburg, where she will formally announce her intention to seek re-election.

FRANKFORT — After serving 10 years with the Kentucky Supreme Court, Justice Janet Stumbo says she's more than ready for another term.

Stumbo, a Prestonsburg native, officially filed for re-election on Nov. 19, and this week she will commemorate that filing with a reception at

"I always knew that I wanted to be an appellant judge," said Stumbo. "My first job out of law school was as a clerk to an appellate judge. When I ran for this position I didn't seek appointment first because I

(See JUSTICE, page three)

Funding of human services may be harder than ever

by CHARLES WOLFE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — As the 2004 General Assembly approaches, the state's bleak budgetary outlook bodes worse than usual for those who lobby for funding of human services — and know how meager it can be even in good times.

"Your safety net for what we generically call 'behavioral health' is strained to the breaking point," said Sheila Schuster, a psychologist who lobbies on behalf of a coalition of mental health and disability organizations. "We have been chronically underfunded for years."

For example, Schuster said, the state's mental health centers have

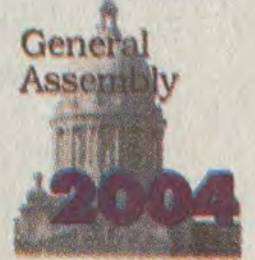
not had as much as an inflationary funding increase in years. And a state assistance program to help people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities live independently instead of being institutionalized has had a waiting list for years, she said.

"We're in the hole," Schuster said. "We start out trying to climb

out of a hole."

But that occurs at a time when Kentucky, like other states, is trying to keep its overall state budget in balance and also to control explosive growth in Medicaid, the state-federal health insurance program that covers 673,000 poor, elderly and dis-

(See LEGISLATURE, page three)



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Photo of former building and location.

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Just after the fire I moved the car lot to downtown Prestonsburg. I appreciate all my friends who gave me office furniture, a fax machine, computers, etc., and those people who let us use their land to display automobiles. Also, we would like to thank those who allowed us to use their storage buildings.

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Sewage

home.

According to Burchett, the sewage, full of human fecal matter, caused extensive damage to her home, her health and the health of her son and her pets, who remain in the home.

It came through every drain in her home, including the kitchen sink, she says, and seeped through the carpeting, subfloor and into her basement, where it contaminated everything in its path, including her furniture, her furnace and the insulation on the ceiling of her basement.

Currently, she is using a kerosene heater and electrical heaters, donated by local residents, to heat her home.

"I was walking through 5 inches of [feces]," said Burchett, a disabled registered nurse. "If you know anything about poop in a house or anywhere, it grows, multiplies. It's called 'E coli' and it has seeped down through our carpet, padding and insulation. We're living in a toilet."

Burchett says the stress from living in a feces-infested home has caused her to lose 96 pounds since the sewage problem began in July.

"You wouldn't want to eat out of a sink that you seen [feces] coming up out of, would you?" she said.

In addition to compensatory damages for the cost to repair the Burchett home, the lawsuit also asks for a temporary injunction from the court to provide Burchett and her 19-year-old son suitable housing while her home is being decontaminated.

A repair estimate from P & N Construction, of Pikeville, attached to Burchett's lawsuit indicates that damages could easily exceed \$29,000.

In his estimate, Paul Colen, owner of P & N Construction, noted that carpeting, linoleum and flooring on the home's lower level will have to be replaced, along with her furnace, kitchen countertops and a window air conditioner in the home.

According to Colen, who completed inspection of the home August 5, "it is imperative" that the home be repaired and disinfected "as soon as possible" because mold growing in the home could increase the amount of damages.

Colen says that all plumbing and sewage lines in the Burchett home are in good working order, and that her troubles could be

linked to her home's location because it sits on the lower side of a hill below several other houses in her neighborhood.

A backflow valve would prevent sewage from backing up in her home again, he said.

"This is the second time I've had to sue the city utilities for this reason. I hope it is resolved before it goes to trial," said Pillersdorf, recalling an estimat-

ed \$18,000 settlement a client received two years ago for the same type of problem in which Judge Danny Caudill ruled, as a matter of law, that liability is not a question for a jury when fecal matter backs up into a home.

"If you have sewer service and the sewer backs up in your house, not unless you can prove it was some great act of God, it's their fault," he said.

However, according to an answer filed by Prestonsburg attorney David H. Neeley, a resolution may not be possible before trial.

In the answer, filed in circuit court Nov. 24, Neeley says that Prestonsburg City Utilities is not responsible for the sewage prob-

(See SEWAGE, page seven)

Continued from p1

Stumbo

narcotics cases, met Stumbo on the campaign trail and immediately left an impression, Stumbo said.

But big plans will call for funding, something Stumbo said has him facing a host of meetings in the upcoming weeks.

"Our biggest challenge has been to create this with the existing budget," said Stumbo, adding that his office recently received word that certain appropriations have been cut back.

"Just like everybody else, we're faced with a budget challenge."

But even in the midst of such focus for the future, Stumbo still recalls the good fortune he has enjoyed the past 24 years, and which continued through November.

"There's a couple of things overwhelming about it," Stumbo said. "I'm the first guy from Floyd County to get here that anybody can remember and I'm the first Eastern Kentuckian to win his first time out. I couldn't have done it without the people of Floyd County."

Stumbo says as an up-and-coming politician he remembered people promising to keep their roots after they accomplished their goals but falling short once all was said and done.

"I don't care to be that kind of person," said Stumbo, who plans to maintain his residence in Floyd County and has also rented a place near Lake Barkley in western Kentucky. "I want people to know we have made a commitment and we intend to keep it."

Another plan Stumbo has mentioned in the past, that of having two branch offices in both the eastern and western ends of the state, may prove difficult due to budget constraints, he says.

"I still want the branch

offices, but if they take the money, I'm not sure we can do it," he said.

The offices would be something Stumbo says could afford him the chance to work more closely with local prosecutors.

As for his long run in the House of Representatives, where he gained leadership a mere five years after taking office as House Majority Floor Leader, Stumbo says he has few regrets.

"It's been a great 24 years, and like I said the night of the election, it was a great night for me politically, but I don't want to ever not remember how special it was when they first elected me into office," he said. "I was lucky . . . when I was elected 24 years ago, I had a plan, but I didn't share it with anybody because I didn't know if it was doable. We have accomplished everything I had in my plan."

Among those accomplishments Stumbo recalled Friday were things such as finishing the widening of U.S. 23, establishing a school facility fund that resulted in the construction of new schools in the county and elsewhere, education reform, Stonecrest Golf Course and county water extensions.

"I sponsored all those bills that provided the funding," he said. "I can look back and say the

things I wanted to do for the people of my county, I was able to do. I can look back and say that Floyd County is probably better situated now to move forward with the future."

But of all the things Stumbo sees as his accomplishments in the state legislature, he says the one that stands out most was the success he had in uniting his fellow representatives.

"The biggest thing I think as far as policy goes that I've helped with is holding our counties and our legislators together," Stumbo said. "When I first started, it was like separate little kingdoms, but we've learned if we stay together we can accomplish so much more . . . We have to remember to be a mountain community."

Continued from p1

Legislature

abled Kentuckians.

Former Gov. Paul Patton's administration managed to avoid a deficit in Medicaid this year by raising the program's eligibility standards, among other things.

As a result of the new rules, which took effect in April, thousands of people who were in nursing homes or were receiving home care lost coverage. Adult day care was cut. Payments to health care providers were frozen or reduced.

"It seems like every time we have to balance the budget, it comes at the expense of human services," said David Allgood, an advocate for the disabled from the Center for Accessible Living in Louisville.

When people have to resort to emergency rooms, or lose the

assistance that enables them to stay at home and out of an institution, "I'd like to know where these savings come from," Allgood said.

Painful as Medicaid cuts were for Patton, the outlook for his successor, Gov. Ernie Fletcher, may be worse.

More shortfalls for Medicaid are projected at current rates of revenue and spending — \$530 million in the fiscal year that starts July 1 and about \$900 million the year after that.

Rep. Harry Moberly, chairman of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee, said that means huge increases just to maintain current services. It would do nothing to restore cuts.

"We're going to have to have

a lot of additional dollars just to avoid new cuts," said Moberly, D-Richmond.

Medicaid is an entitlement program. No one who meets eligibility standards can be denied service. The number of "eligibles" shot upward when the state's economy faltered in recent years.

"There will be a lot of painful decisions that will have to be made by the Fletcher administration," said state Rep. Jimmie Lee of Elizabethtown, a Democrat who is chairman of the House budget subcommittee on human services.

"You can't continue to have a Medicaid program that grows at a double-digit rate, with new eligibles every year, and freeze reimbursement rates and expect your infrastructure to stay intact," Lee said. "It's going to start crumbling."

The General Assembly, which convenes Tuesday, declined to rescind the Patton administration's more stringent eligibility rules for Medicaid. Fletcher is now being urged by some advocacy groups to rescind the rules himself.

"It was unfair to start with one set of standards and change the rules in midstream," said Hal Stopfel of AARP.

Some of the elderly who suddenly found themselves without coverage for nursing home care had already given up their own homes. Stopfel said. "They had nowhere to go back to," he said.

Fletcher has said he wants to restore cuts in services to at least the elderly. But he is proceeding cautiously and has declined so far to make any change in the Patton administration's eligibility standards.

Continued from p1

Turner

With his decision, Turner, who could not be reached for comment, becomes the fifth county resident to file for the seat.

First to file was McDowell resident Chuck Meade, a local business owner, who was followed by Scarlett Stumbo, wife of school board member Jeff Stumbo. Before long, another Floyd Countian, Jimmie Hopkins, of Wayland, was on the ticket and then less than a month later, retired coal miner Mike Fitzpatrick added his name to growing list of hopefuls.

The Republican party, which has yet to see a candidate file, has compiled a list of possible candidates, including local magistrate Alan Williams. Williams ended a 45-year drought for

Republicans by winning election to the Floyd County Fiscal Court in 2002.

As is custom, Stumbo's seat will be filled first through special election called by the governor or House speaker within 35 days of Stumbo's resignation.

Both parties will then each choose a candidate and those two party-nominated candidates will go against one another in the special election. The winner will serve the remainder of Stumbo's term, which ends January 2005.

Meade, Stumbo, Hopkins, Fitzpatrick and, most recently, Turner, have filed to run in the May election, hoping to make it through to November and victory in the overall election.

The deadline to file to run for office is Jan. 27.

Continued from p1

Mine deaths fall to historic low in 2003

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE — The number of miners killed on the job in the United States fell to 55 in 2003, the fewest deaths since the federal government began keeping records in 1910.

Preliminary figures from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration show 29 of the deaths occurred in coal mines, up from 27 last year. There were 26 deaths in gold, stone and other types of mines, down from 40 last year.

Suzu Bohnert, spokeswoman for the mine regulatory agency, cautioned that the final numbers could change based on an examination by an accident review board.

The preliminary numbers show total mining deaths were down by 12 from the previous record low of 67 in 2002.

"That is not cause for celebration," said Bill Caylor, president of the Kentucky Coal Association. "We want to see those numbers come down to zero, and I truly believe we can achieve that."

West Virginia topped the list with 10 coal miners killed on the job in 2003, up from six the previous year. Kentucky was second with eight, down from nine in 2002.

"In any particular year, the number of fatalities will be up or down slightly, but the trends are showing a continuous improvement," Caylor said.

West Virginia was the only state that reported multiple deaths in an accident in 2003. Three employees of Central Cambria Drilling Co. were digging a new ventilation shaft at a mine near Moundsville on Jan. 22 when they were killed by an explosion. The federal mine regulatory agency concluded the explosion was caused by methane gas that had accumulated at the mine.

The number of coal mining deaths used to be much higher. Throughout the 1970s, more than 100 coal miners across the nation died in mine accidents each year. The numbers have continually declined since then.

Other states reporting coal mine fatalities were Virginia and Illinois with three each,

Wyoming with two, and Alabama, Indiana and Pennsylvania with one each.

Most of those deaths were the result of rock falls, electrocution or equipment accidents.

The non-coal fatalities were scattered broadly across the nation. Alabama, California, Ohio and South Carolina each had two fatalities. Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Washington had one fatality each.

Industry representatives cited training programs as the key factor in reducing fatalities.

"I think these numbers demonstrate our ongoing commitment to safety, and the industry's dedication to continual safety improvement," said Luke Popovich, spokesman for the National Mining Association. "Obviously, we're committed to get the number of deaths down to zero, but we're encouraged that we've had successive years of steadily declining fatalities."

Justice

didn't want to go through the political aspect of it."

"People looked to my record on the Court of Appeals, the opinions that I had written," she continued. "They perceived me as being an in-depth candidate who would make decisions on the facts and the law and not on who was in front of me."

Prior to her appointment to the Kentucky Supreme court, Stumbo served on the Kentucky Court of Appeals from 1989-1993. While working in private practice with her husband, Ned Pillersdorf, she also served as assistant Floyd county attorney.

Stumbo, the first woman elected to the Kentucky Supreme court in 1993, served two years as justice and was re-elected to a full eight year term in 1996.

Her accomplishments as Supreme Court justice have earned her several honors, including an election to the University of Kentucky College of Law Hall of Fame and the Morehead State University Hall of Fame. However, she says her biggest accomplishment is stapled along with her work toward the establishment of a family court system in Kentucky.

Serving as chair of the statewide committee that oversaw the establishment of the

family court system, Stumbo played a key role in bringing family courts to 28 Kentucky counties.

The family court system guarantees that every family issue — divorce, domestic violence, juvenile issues, child support and the like — is heard and considered by a single family court judge who is familiar with the history of all pending and previous cases related to that family.

This aspect, says Stumbo, streamlines the system to provide quicker and more effective service to Kentucky families.

"I've done a good job," said Stumbo. "I've done the best that I could do and I've worked hard at it. It's an interesting and challenging job. I think most lawyers who think of themselves to one day serve as a judge look to this job as a kind of honor. It's a great honor for me to be here."

Stumbo, who also serves as chair of the Civil Rules Committee, is a graduate of Belfry High School, Morehead University and the UK College of Law.

The reception in her honor is slated to begin Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. No opponents have yet filed against Stumbo for the Supreme Court seat. The last day to file is Jan. 27.

Continued from p1

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expression

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

— Felix Frankfurter

GuestView

Washington chooses to err on side of caution

Common sense says that if Washington bumps the terror alert to high, it would bump up anti-terror measures as well. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has just done so in an unprecedented way: He has directed that foreign air carriers entering, leaving or flying over U.S. territory put armed sky marshals aboard passenger and cargo flights the United States deems at specific risk of terrorist activity. Or forgo the flights.

Ridge's is a legal move: Countries control their air space. How effective it is we may never know: Planes that terrorists don't commandeer don't make news. Or we may relearn the hard way that no measure is foolproof. Nonetheless, just the knowledge that armed marshals sit among some planes' passengers and/or crew, and that checks on passenger lists and foreign flight crews are routine, could abort some terrorist missions.

British, German, French, Canadian, Mexican and Australian carriers are among those complying with the U.S. directive, though not without some grumbling. Most pilots want the security emphasis to be on the ground, dreading the prospect of a gun battle in the air.

Who doesn't? That's why most marshals' weapons are specially made not to damage the integrity of the aircraft. And as David O'Connor, regional director of the Air Transportation Association comprising most international airlines, put it, "You don't want a shootout on an airplane (but) no airline wants a terrorist to take over their planes. Rather than canceling flights on a regular basis, it's more effective to have law-enforcement officers on board when you need them."

Air France canceled six flights between Paris and Los Angeles on Christmas Eve in response to U.S. intelligence agencies. That move met with some derision, but France, the country least likely to agree readily to U.S. demands, reportedly has had special teams aboard flights for the past week.

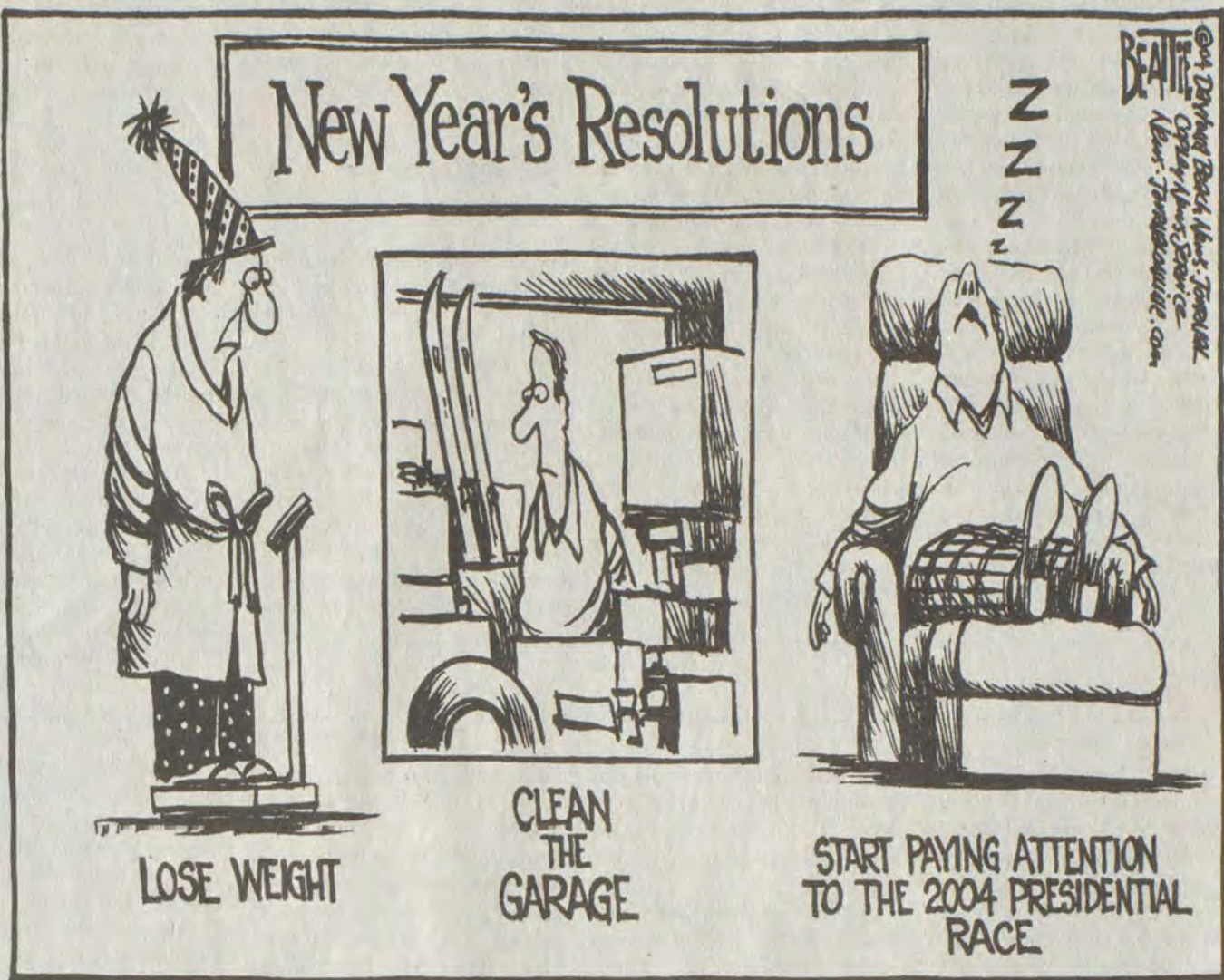
Most countries have marshals available, including several thousand trained in the United States since 9/11. Of the 115 or so airlines that fly into the United States, according to the airline association, a dozen or so have used marshals to some degree since the 9/11 attacks.

Air marshals are hardly the first line of defense against terrorists' taking over aircraft. Ground checks — of passengers, baggage, flight crews and ground personnel — are. Unfortunately, ground checks still aren't what they should be; witness the open terminal door that delayed several flights at Lindbergh Field this past week. That gap needs closing, fast.

Air marshals aren't the last line of defense, either, against terrorists on board. Armed pilots in the cockpit are. But relatively few pilots have completed the Transportation Safety Administration's program to fly armed, in part, critics say, because cumbersome rules negate their usefulness.

The alternative to redundant lines of defense — on the ground and in the air — is to risk lives and liability or quit flying around a world dependent on it. Those aren't options. If the requirement for armed marshals turns out to seem needless, Washington will have erred on the side of caution. In the air, that's the side on which to err.

— The San Diego Union-Tribune



— Jim Davidson

Let go of your anger!

Several months ago I got a letter from a gentleman in Florida who sent me a brochure with these words printed on the front: "Let Go of Your Anger and Put a Smile on Your Face and You Will Soon Feel the Difference." Considering his background, these are amazing statements and I believe you will agree with me when you hear his story.

This gentleman's name is David Bergman. He lives in Hernando, Fla., and owns and operates Remembrance Educational Media, where he has written multi-media educational materials that are in use in over 8,000 schools throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

What makes David Bergman's story so amazing is that he is also an author, speaker, inventor and survivor of the Nazi Holocaust. In all my days as a columnist I have had thousands of letters from readers, but never one from a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust and I felt honored that he would write to me. He was responding to a column that I had written about decisions that ran in the Citrus County Chronicle published in

Crystal River, Fla.

If you have ever felt low or depressed because of your circumstances or background, this man's story could definitely give you a lift. Since everything is relative, please listen to his story and see by comparison, if you do not count yourself as one of the most blessed people on earth.

David was born in Czechoslovakia and, at the age of 12, he and his family and all the Jewish people in his hometown were deported to Auschwitz. During the next 14 months he was taken to four other Nazi death camps, where millions perished. After he was liberated, he learned that he was the only one from his family to survive and the only youth of his age who made it back alive.

After being set free, he wanted to find out who within him made the decisions and who guided him safely through one life threatening experience after another.

After a period of over 25 years of intense study of the brain and interacting that knowledge with the life threatening experiences he encountered in the Nazi death camps, he learned the following. He learned the words, "I want,"

were the hallmark of his survival. "I want" to live, "I want" to survive, "I want" to be set free again and be reunited with my family.

You see, he had literally programmed his mind and at this point his autopilot took over and gave him the will to survive. As he says, "All the decisions were made for me by that internal and invisible guiding force."

One of the things that helped him greatly was humor. Listen to these words: "When I was held captive early in the death camps, a few of us victims who somehow managed to maintain a positive outlook on life would get together secretly after work just to exchange humorous stories. These exchanges helped us to temporarily numb the horrors we faced, thus making it possible for us to make it through another difficult and trying day."

When he was liberated, he again applied humor to help him cope from the devastating losses of loved ones, home country and identity. What a story!

After having come to grips with his past, David decided that he wanted to make something out of his life and make a contribution to others. He came to the realization that humor is also very

(See DAVIDSON, page five)



— beyond the beltway

Dems lack presidential timber

by DONALD KAUL

Howard Dean (who, if you haven't heard, is running for president) recorded a surge in popularity among Democrats right after Al "Kiss of Death" Gore endorsed his candidacy earlier this month. Many observers believe the endorsement has put Dr. Dean, a former governor of Vermont, over the top in Iowa and has placed his feet firmly on the road to the Democratic nomination. Which proves, once again, that in the Democratic Party there is nothing that succeeds like failure.

This was first called to my attention by the career of Madelyn Albright, the amiable lady who used her job as foreign policy advisor to the Mike Dukakis presidential campaign as a catapult to the position of Secretary of State under Bill Clinton.

Gore's feat of rising from the ashes of his 2000 election disaster to become a kingmaker in the party is equally astonishing. I mean we're talking about a guy who couldn't carry his home state

of Tennessee in the election. He lost West Virginia, which hadn't voted Republican since they gave up using oil lamps. He lost Missouri, a state in which a dead Democrat beat the incumbent Republican for the Senate. (To be fair, it has been said that had Gore been willing to die he too could have carried Missouri, but that's mere conjecture.)

This is a man who lost a presidential debate to George W. Bush. That's like being electrocuted by a flashlight battery.

Now he anoints a candidate and Democrats leap to follow his lead. Isn't that a lot like hiring the captain of the Titanic as a navigation consultant?

Unsurprisingly, he anointed a sure loser.

I like Dean as well as the next fellow, but he's got about as much chance of beating Bush as the Detroit Lions have of winning a Super Bowl.

For one thing, I don't think a governor from a small New England state, or any New England state for that matter, will be elected president in my lifetime. It's been 50 years since the Democrats have elected a president who was not from the South.

I don't think that's an accident. I think to have a chance in presidential

elections you need a candidate who can talk Southern.

For the second thing, I've had it with governors of little states in general. We've had two of them — Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton — and both have been disasters for the Democratic Party: Carter because he was clueless about the ways of Washington and Clinton because, for all his dazzling intellect and political skills, was at bottom a small-town Lothario who couldn't keep his pants zipped.

Give me the governor of a big state, one who at least has an idea of what it's like to deal with a big, contentious legislature and run a big political organization or, even better, a senator intimately familiar with the myriad problems facing this nation.

I'm not particularly fond of any of the current candidates, but I suppose the best of the bunch is Dick Gephardt, a border-state populist who at least has fought the good fight all these years. Second would be John Edwards, who seems a little light for the job but who makes a nice appearance and is both Southern and a senator.

The field thins pretty quickly after that. John Kerry, despite his swashbuckling resume, is unable to generate any sense of leadership. Joe Lieberman scores a 10 on the likeability meter but

(See BELTWAY, page five)

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PUBLISHER

David Bowyer ext. 18
publisher@floydcountytimes.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Ralph B. Davis ext. 17
web@floydcountytimes.com

FEATURES EDITOR

Kathy J. Prater ext. 26
features@floydcountytimes.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kim Frasure ext. 12
advertising@floydcountytimes.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Steve LeMaster ext. 16
sports@floydcountytimes.com

CLASSIFIED MANAGER

Tammy Conn ext. 15

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Patty Wilson ext. 19

BUSINESS MANAGER

Joy Baldrige ext. 20

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Johnie Adams ext. 30

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Theresa Garrett ext. 31

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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment: Resolve to grow spiritually

by DR. GEORGE C. LOVE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As 2003 comes to a close and 2004 springs into being, we stand at a time that is chock full of possibility, the dawn of a new year.

A new year is something like

a fresh blanket of snow on our world. Everything is just as it was the night before, except that when you look out in the morning everything is different. Rather than the ordinary world that you left behind when you headed off to bed, you awaken to discover a world transformed by

a blanket of snow into a pristine world full of beauty and possibility.

The changing of numbers on a calendar seems to work much the same sort of magic. You go to bed, typically for me a few minutes after having watched Dick Clark preside over the ball

dropping in Times Square, and awaken the next day to a world transformed and full of possibility. We allow ourselves to imagine that this year we will do all of those things we have been intending to do, but have not gotten around to.

Advertisers, of course, are

savvy folks and recognize our vulnerabilities. There are scores of commercials for a bewildering variety of exercise machines and for an equally intimidating number of diet programs. All of it is carefully crafted to play to the idea that this new year can truly be our year of transformation, if we can only select the right machine or right diet program.

Let me be clear, I fully believe that exercise and a proper diet are fine goals, and I hope to pursue them myself in this new year. However, where I want to offer a word of encouragement this day is in the area of our spiritual well-being. Just as surely as our physical well-being needs a structured approach, our spiritual selves also need a regu-

lar dose of attention, and what better time than now to start.

A regular time of personal devotion can be a great way to start or close out your day. Scripture reading, either of your choice or utilizing a devotional booklet, combined with a time of reflection and prayer, are simple steps that we can take to enhance our spiritual health.

As you begin your personal trek into the great unknown of 2004, challenge yourself to grow in every aspect of your life, including the spiritual. By nurturing yourself spiritually, you may find the rest of life's challenges to be just a bit more manageable and you might open the door to transformation that will impact not only in this new year, but in all the years to come.

Episcopal moderates, liberals struggle within conservative dioceses

by RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

Nancy Key, a lifelong Episcopalian, grew uneasy as speaker after speaker at her diocesan meeting rose to denounce the confirmation of the first openly gay bishop in the history of the American church.

The Diocese of San Joaquin, Calif., is among the more conservative in the nation, and its bishop, John-David Schofield, is prominent in the network moving toward a break with the denomination's leaders.

"I got up to speak and I was the only speaker who spoke against splitting. I said I was proud of my church," Key said. "It was deathly quiet and I walked back to my seat and felt I was the only person in my diocese who felt that way."

Key, of Fresno, eventually found others who shared her views and they formed an advocacy group — one of several springing up nationwide that are fighting to prevent their conservative dioceses from separating from the church.

Along with San Joaquin, advocates are organizing in the predominantly conservative dioceses of Fort Worth, Texas, Albany, N.Y., and Pittsburgh, Pa., home to the leader of dissenting conservatives, Bishop Robert Duncan. Other groups are becoming active in Springfield, Ill., South Carolina and Florida.

Organizers say they represent both liberals who support the consecration of V. Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire and moderates who may disagree with ordaining gays but don't want the denomination to break apart over the issue. Robinson has lived openly with his male partner for 14

years.

Many hope a national network of like-minded Episcopalians will emerge to fight for unity.

"There are so many people in so many pockets who do not want to leave the church that I want to find a way to bring them together," said Key, whose group is called Remaining Episcopal.

These fledgling organizations generally have little money and no formalized membership, but some report e-mail lists of supporters ranging from 80 to more than 300 people each.

They have become more active as the American Anglican

Council, which represents conservatives, creates a network of parishes and dioceses separate from the church's leadership. The 2.3 million-member Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch of the global Anglican Communion.

Among the many activities the new advocacy groups are undertaking is monitoring claims by the council and others about the size and scope of the conservative movement.

Albany Via Media (which means "middle way" in Latin) is checking that its diocese is making any payments it promised to the national denomination, said the Rev.

James Brooks-McDonald of Schenectady, N.Y.

Progressive Episcopalians of Pittsburgh has distributed brochures at a series of diocesan meetings countering proposals by conservatives that were meant to lay the groundwork for separating from the church.

And Fort Worth Via Media has started a fund that could help cover legal costs if the diocese or individual parishes try to leave the denomination and take their property with them.

But just as important, advocates say, is the emotional sup-

(See STRUGGLE, page seven)

Fletcher to push for 'Read to Achieve' initiative

by JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Gov. Ernie Fletcher says his education initiative for the 2004 General Assembly will involve the most basic of learning skills.

"Read to Achieve," an emphasis on reading in the early grades, was one of the main planks of Fletcher's campaign platform.

The idea is to ensure that Kentucky youngsters know how to read at the appropriate level by the time they reach fourth grade. That means spotting a reading disability early enough to get it corrected, Fletcher said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"We strongly believe that's an area that will help us close the achievement gap," Fletcher

said. "It will help us toward that goal of having a better prepared work force. But most of all, it's just morally the right thing to do."

Fletcher said he wants every elementary school in the state to have an early literacy program grounded in solid research. That way, "you're not dealing with what people may feel like works. We know from some good data what works," he said.

The cost is yet to be determined. But during his campaign, Fletcher promised that his administration would expand early-reading incentive grants for every school district in the state. He also proposed having teachers trained in reading intervention to help struggling young readers.

State Sen. Jack Westwood, R-Erlanger, said he agreed with Fletcher's idea and planned to support it in the Senate. Westwood, vice chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said such literacy programs are needed in Kentucky to help bolster its work force and protect youngsters from the negative effects of illiteracy.

"If a student is not reading on grade level by the time they reach the fourth grade, they generally never catch up and may become high school dropouts or underachievers," Westwood said. "They're the ones who end up taking the lower income jobs or don't do well in postsecondary education."

Elsewhere, legislators face an abundance of education issues related to money — or lack of it.

During the summer, an interim legislative panel scrutinized the state's college scholarship programs, which have been strapped for cash. If funding is not increased, legislators could decide to have scholarships

awarded according to financial need rather than merit.

One program — the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships, or KEES — is "merit based." A student's award is based on high school grades and ACT score. Once in college, a student must maintain a sufficient grade-point average or lose the money.

But KEES is funded through the Kentucky lottery, and the program is expected to have a \$3.3 million shortfall by fiscal year 2006. The shortfall could be worse, depending on how many lottery players are lured away by the new lottery in Tennessee.

Already facing a tight budget, legislators also are working under the cloud of lawsuits that alleges public schools are inadequately funded.

The Council for Better Education, a coalition of school districts, filed suit in September, asking a judge in Franklin County Circuit Court to decide how much money the legislature should be spending on elementary and secondary education. Another lawsuit has been filed on behalf of students in eight Kentucky counties.

While those cases are pend-

(See PUSH, page seven)

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Davidson

Continued from p4

important today, in order to be able to cope with the many unpleasant and stressful situations we are all exposed to. As a result, he began to collect various humorous phrases that would put a smile on his face. As he says, "You don't have to be a doctor to prescribe humor."

Here are several of the humorous phrases that are printed in David Bergman's brochure:

Beltway

Continued from p4

could put a cup of coffee to sleep. Wesley Clark, smart as a whip though he is, does not seem as though he's ready for the varsity. The rest are more or less joke candidates. We've already got a joke president, what do we need with a joke candidate?

But if I were in the business of advising Democratic candidates what to do, I'd tell them: When Al Gore comes calling, run out the back door and hide. I'd be afraid his charisma was catching.

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

Admit your errors before someone else exaggerates them.

There has been an alarming increase in the number of things I know nothing about.

The trouble with being a good sport is that you have to lose to prove it.

I want less corruption, or more opportunities to participate in it.

If you want your dreams to come true, you must first wake up.

Most people are willing to change not because they see the light, but because they feel the heat.

The closest to perfection most people ever come, is when they fill out a job application.

Sorry I forgot your birthday, but that is not going to happen again. Next time, I am not going to be sorry.

While I don't know about you, I would say its pretty amazing to see a man come from David's background and have this kind of outlook on life. What's more, this man has made a great success out of his life.

If you are angry about something, get over it. Put a smile on your face and get out there, work hard and have fun while you are achieving success and you can laugh all the way to the bank. God bless America.

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

Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Lorraine Bentley Bailey, 69, of Hager Hill, formerly of Hippo, died Sunday, December 28, in Highlands Regional Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Virgil Bailey. Funeral services were conducted, Wednesday, December 31, under the direction of Hall Funeral.

Feenie Hall Creswell, age 75, of Ashland, a native of Allen, died Sunday, December 28, in King's Daughters' Medical Center in Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 31, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Joe Richard Gunnells, 45, of Stanville, died Friday, December 26, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Grover Curtis Keathley, 73, of Harold, died Friday, December 26, in the Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 29, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Don Burgess Trimble, 56, of Ivel, died Monday, December 29, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Janice Griffith Wright, of Martin, died Thursday, December 25, in Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. She is survived by her husband, Charles E. Wright. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 27, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Albro King, 82, of Kite, died Saturday, December 27, at Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Samantha King. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Kenneth Hatfield, 46, of Prestonsburg, died Sunday, December 28, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 31, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Phelix Scott Jr., 78, of Langley, died Sunday, December 28, at VA Medical Center, Huntington, West Virginia. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 1, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Merlie Horn Stephens, 71, of Auxier, died Monday, December 29, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 1, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Mack Harmon Jr., 88, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, December 29, at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center, Paintsville. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 1, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Fayette Wells Hughes, 75, of Murray, formerly of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, December 23, at West View Manor Nursing Home. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 27, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Madge McKenzie, 93, of Flat Lick, died Monday, December 22, at Salyersville Health Care Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 24, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Pike County

Terry Adkins Jr., 31, of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 24, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 29, under

the direction of Justice Funeral Home.

Estil McClellan Charles, 51, of Phyllis, died Saturday, December 27. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Julius "Buster" Charles Jr., 82, of Stopover, died Friday, December 26, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 29, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Marcella Bartley Coleman, 74, of Wolfpit, died Wednesday, December 24, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Willie Coleman. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 28, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Melvin Compton, 85, of Pikeville, died Saturday, December 27, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Fannie Dotson, 90, of Phelps, died Wednesday, December 24, at Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center, Phelps. She is survived by her husband, Clyde Dotson. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 28, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Minnie Coleman Dotson, 82, of Hurley, Virginia, died Friday, December 26, at Buchanan General Hospital, Grundy, Virginia. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 29, under the direction of Grundy Funeral Home.

John B. "Jack" Du Puy, 88, of Lexington, formerly of Pikeville, died Tuesday, December 23, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Monday, December 29, under the direction of Kerr Brothers Funeral Home.

Thomas Hubert Edwards, 85, of Cromona, died Monday, December 22. He is survived by his wife, Irene Underwood Edwards. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, December 27, under the direction of Polly and Craft Funeral Home.

Cuzzie Wallace Gooslin, 88, of McCarr, died Thursday, December 25, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, December 28, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Phil Hunt Jr., 63, of Zebulon Hwy., died Tuesday, December 23, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Lynden King Hunt. Funeral services were conducted Friday, December 26, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Troy Walters, 83, of Sidney, died Monday, December 29, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Viola Hinkle Walters. Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 2, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Trimble Stanley, 92, of Prestonsburg, formerly of Huddy, died Monday, December 29. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Agnes Stanley. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 1, under the direction of Rogers Funeral Home.

Estil McClellan Charles, 47, of Grapeville, died Saturday, December 27, at his home. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 31, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Melvin Compton, 85, of Pikeville, died Saturday, December 27, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Zora Damron Compton. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Arbutus McCoy Curry, 77, of Lenore, West Virginia, a native of Pikeville, died Saturday, December 27, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Bill Joe Curry. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Martha Booth Ferrell, 96, of Stopover, died Monday, December 29, in Sun City, Arizona. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 3, under the direction of Shorten & Ryan Funeral Home.

Grover Curtis Keathley, 73, of Harold, died Friday, December 26 at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral ser-

vices were conducted Monday, December 29, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Janice Lester Lovell, 64, of Phelps, died Saturday, December 27, at her home. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of Phelps Funeral Services.

Ival Coleman May, died Tuesday, December 30, at her home. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Clifford Dean McCoy, 41, of Elkhorn City, died Thursday, December 25, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly Wright McCoy. Funeral services

were conducted Tuesday, December 30, under the direction of Lucas and Hall Funeral Home.

Paul Blake Owens, 82, of Regina, died Monday, December 29, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Rusby Belcher Owens. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 1, under the direction of J.W. Call and Son Funeral Home.

Robert E. Ratliff, 38, of Dalton, Georgia, formerly of Pike County, died Monday, December 29, at the Hamilton Medical Center, Dalton. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Lucille May Robinson, 65, of Pikeville, died Tuesday, December 30, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Jimmy Richard Robinson. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Martin County

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

Ernest Maynard (known here as 'Mabel' to fellow miners), 81,

(See OBITs, page seven)

Obituaries

Roy Edward Patton

Roy Edward Patton, age 67, of Belleville, Michigan, formerly of Prestonsburg, died Wednesday, December 31, 2003, at his residence.

Born September 3, 1936, in Olive Hill, he was the son of Clyde R. Patton and Mae Porter Patton. He was a retired spray painter for General Motors, and a member of the United Auto Workers Union Chap. No. 1776.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Bevel Patton; one son, Greg (Kathleen) Patton, of Ypsilanti, Michigan; and one daughter, Katelyn Patton, of Belleville.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, January 5, 2004, at 11:00 a.m., at Carter Funeral Home. The Rev. Mark Walz will officiate.

Burial will follow in the Richmond Memorial Cemetery, in Prestonsburg.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

Carter Funeral Home is serving the Patton family.

(Paid obituary)

Bernice Hansford

Bernice Hansford, age 84, of Wayland, widow of George Hansford, passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born April 28, 1919, in Somerset, she was the daughter of the late Charley Sloan and Ellen Slone Sloan. She was a homemaker and a member of the Martin Branch Freewill Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons: Danny Hansford, of Wayland and Byron Hansford, of Allen; two daughters: Judy Roop, of Prestonsburg and Teresa Hansford, of Lexington; four step-sons: Orville Hansford and George Roy, both of Wayland, Homer Hansford, of Columbus, Ohio, and Coye Hansford, of Jeffersonville, Ohio; 11 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and 12 step-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two stepsons, Don Hansford and Charles Hansford.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 2, 2004, at the Hall Funeral Home, at Martin, with Clergymen Buddy Jones, Red Morris and Sherlin Bolen officiating.

Burial followed in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Pallbearers: Wayne Cassell, Trent Nairn, Todd Hansford, Randy Hansford, Craig Webb, Jim Webb, Byron Hansford, Donald Dean Hansford, Wendell Scott, and Ray Watts.

(Paid obituary)

Dorothy Clark Ratliff

Dorothy Clark Ratliff, age 75, of Lebanon, Virginia, formerly of Floyd County, died Thursday, January 1, 2004, at the Russell County Medical Center.

Born January 8, 1928, in Garrett, she was a daughter of the late Ernest Clark and Betty Tussey Clark. She was the wife of the late Thomas Franklin "Tuffy" Ratliff. She was a member of the Lebanon Senior Circle and was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include one daughter, Virginia (Alvin) Mollett, of Lebanon, Virginia; two granddaughters, Wendy Mollett, of Johnson City, Tennessee, and Karen (John) Mollett McComas, of Fayetteville, North Carolina; two great-grandsons, Zachary Thomas Mollett, of Johnson City, Tennessee, and Christopher Tyler McComas, of Fayetteville, North Carolina; one sister, Patty Lou Mollette, of David; and one brother, Billy Ray Clark, of Lexington.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 3, 2004, in the Combs Funeral Service Chapel, in Lebanon. Rev. Michael Rhea officiated.

Burial followed in the Ketrion Memorial Gardens, in Lebanon.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Nephews and friends served as pallbearers.

Combs Funeral Service in Lebanon, Virginia, is serving the family of Mrs. Ratliff.

(Paid obituary)

Alleen Music Fitch

Alleen Music Fitch, age 78, died Tuesday, December 30, 2003, at Grant Manor Health Care Center.

Born June 11, 1925, in Floyd County, she was the daughter of William Harrison Music and Lydia Ann Music. She was a former teacher at Prestonsburg Elementary School where she taught for over 30 years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by one daughter, Sally Ann M. Skinner, of Williamstown; and four grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Wallace Fitch.

Funeral services will be conducted on Sunday, January 4, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., at the Carter Funeral Home. The Rev. Mark Walz will officiate.

Burial will follow in the Richmond Memorial Cemetery, in Prestonsburg.

Visitation is at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contribution are suggested to the First United Methodist Church, 256 S. Arnold Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

Carter Funeral Home is serving the Fitch family.

(Paid obituary)

Thomas E. Branham

Thomas E. Branham, age 76, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, January 1, 2004, at King's Daughters Hospital, in Ashland.

Born September 2, 1927, at Dwale, he was the son of the late John P. Branham and Lura (Peg) Fraley Branham. He was a retired consultant for Dowell Well Chemical; a member of the First United Methodist Church, Prestonsburg; a U.S. Navy and World War II veteran; a member of the D.A.V., Auxier; and a 32nd Degree Master Mason with Zebulon Lodge Chap. No. 243.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred George Branham; three daughters: Sandra (James) Goble, of Prestonsburg; Tommie Sue (John Anthony) Campbell, of Mousie, and Janie Branham, of Prestonsburg; three sisters: Ruby Fraley, of Dayton, Ohio, Opal Fannin, of Prestonsburg, and Barbara Howard, also of Prestonsburg; two grandchildren: Alan Goble, of Georgetown, and Tracy Click, of Prestonsburg; and four great-grandchildren: Brandon Goble and Allison Goble, both of Georgetown, and Lauren Click and Mark Click, both of Prestonsburg.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, John Robert (Buddy) Branham.

Funeral services were conducted on Saturday, January 3, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church, Prestonsburg. The Reverends Mark Walz and Steve Pescosolido officiated.

Burial was in Richmond Cemetery, in Prestonsburg.

Visitation was at Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home, in Martin.

(Paid obituary)

Wilma Jean Adkins

Wilma Jean Adkins, age 82, of Allen, widow of Willard Adkins, passed away, Tuesday, December 30, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center.

Born November 4, 1921, in Johnson County, she was the daughter of the late Wallace Estep and Goldie Cantrell Estep.

Survivors include one daughter-in-law, Mary Adkins of Dana; two grandchildren, Amy Lynn Adkins and Ronald Alan Adkins; and one great-grandchild, Chloe Adkins.

In addition to her husband, and parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Ronald Craig Adkins.

Funeral services for Wilma Jean Adkins were conducted Friday, January 2, 2004, at 1 p.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, at Martin, with Clergyman Earl Waugh officiating.

Burial was in the Davidson Memorial Gardens, at Ivel, under the professional care of Hall Funeral Home, Martin.

Visitation was at the funeral home. (Paid obituary)

Pallbearers: Larry D. Boyd, Josh Reed, Adam Reed and Mike Hunter.

(Paid obituary)

Lillian Maxine Blair Stevens

Lillian Maxine Blair Stevens, age 76, of Wayland, widow of Virgil Blair, passed away, Monday, December 29, 2003, at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg.

She was born January 23, 1927, in Birmingham, Alabama, the daughter of the late Walter Hill Cooley and Beulah Driver Cooley. She was a homemaker, and was affiliated with the Hour of Deliverance, pastored by Sister Margaret.

Survivors include three sons: Larry Blair of Wayland, Carl Ray Stephens and Darrell Stephens, both of Portland, Oregon; two daughters: Judy Blair Wiley of Wayland and Betty Stevens Jacobs of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; two sisters: Verlie Hopson of Manchester, Ohio and Wilma Spears of Prestonsburg; nine grandchildren: Faye Wright, Kimberly Reynolds, Darrin Wiley, Christopher Stephens, Andrew Stephens, Bradley Stephens, Tracey Matney, Nathan Jacobs, and Levon Jacobs Jr.; nine great-grandchildren: Kayla Wiley, Ariel Robinson, Austin Wiley, Arrington Wright, Morgan Wiley, Betty Lou Stephens, Logan Stephens, Jaxon Stephens, and MacKenzie Matney.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one grandson, Joshua Francis; four brothers, James Cooley, John Cooley, Walter Cooley and George Cooley, and two sisters: Lois Hopson and Vallie Connors.

Funeral services for Lillian Maxine Blair Stevens were conducted Wednesday, December 31, 2003, at 11 a.m., at the Hall Funeral Home Chapel, with Clergymen Jimmy Hall and Tony Gollihu officiating.

Burial was in the Gumbo Cemetery, Van Lear, under the professional care of the Hall Funeral Home, at Martin.

Pallbearers: Eugene Scarberry, Darrin Wiley, Bruce Wright, Albert Chaffins Jr., Jim Hunter, and C.V. Reynolds.

(Paid obituary)

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Odds and Ends

■ CLEVELAND — Two brothers who hadn't seen each other in more than 20 years were reunited on New Year's Eve — at a hospital.

Joe and George Ipser grew up in Cleveland. Joe joined the Army and fought in World War II. George, nine years younger, served in the Korean War.

Each brother married, had children and earned a living driving trucks. Joe moved to Tennessee, George to Las Vegas.

As time passed, they lost track of each other. There was no falling out; they say they just drifted apart.

In the 1990s, Joe moved back to Cleveland, settling in the same neighborhood where he grew up. George returned to Cleveland in 2002.

The brothers' lives could have intersected at any time.

They had their hair cut by the same barber. They sought medical treatment at the same clinic. And George listed his name and number in the phone book.

Then on Wednesday, George arrived at Louis Stokes VA Medical Center about 12:45 p.m. His back was killing him and he was worried about his kidneys.

Joe checked in about a half-hour later. His heart was beating too fast and he felt woozy.

The brothers lay three beds apart in a 12-bed acute-care ward.

Once staff members figured out the men must be brothers, they gently approached each about the other. The Ipsers said they hadn't seen each

other in decades, but they would like to meet again.

"Hiya, Spike," Joe said, calling George by his old nickname.

"Hello, Pep," George replied.

It was almost as if no time had passed between them, except it clearly had. George turned 73 on Thursday. Joe turns 82 Sunday.

"What are the odds?" George asked, sitting at the foot of his brother's hospital bed. "And what are the odds on New Year's Eve?"

■ ROSEMOUNT, Minn. — If cats have nine lives, then this dog has at least three.

A wee dachshund from Rosemount earned the nickname Railroad Joe recently, after running away from owners Tom and Cindy Caruth.

The stubby-legged dog took up life on the tracks and made a legend of himself by getting run over by freight trains at least three times in five days — twice by the same conductor.

The steel wheels nipped one of his floppy ears and sliced off part of his tail. But each time he ducked low enough between the rails for the trains to clear him.

"It's hard telling how many trains went over that poor little dog," said Union Pacific conductor Terry Vanderlinden, the man who ran over Joe twice.

Vanderlinden thought he killed Joe the first time in early November, about a mile from the Caruths' home.

"We saw him, and he was

feisty. He was barking at us," Vanderlinden said. "I said, 'Oh boy, this is bad.' We just mowed him down."

Five days later, he was riding the tracks in the opposite direction, heading for South St. Paul. He spotted Joe on the tracks within a mile of where he first encountered him.

"We couldn't believe it. It was the same brown dog with a green tag, only this time he's not feisty," Vanderlinden said. "We plowed him down once again."

This time, Vanderlinden circled back to the area in his own vehicle. After walking on the tracks, he found Joe shivering in weeds, near starvation.

"He was bones when I found him," he said.

Tom Caruth said his family's 3-year-old pet "looked like a wet rat" when they were reunited through the tag on the dog's collar.

"He laid by our fireplace for two straight days," Caruth said. "His tail's a little shorter now. But he's fine."

■ FORT MYERS, Fla. — Seen dating again, a woman and her ex-boss have paid back \$35,000 in taxpayer funds she received after accusing him of sexual harassment.

Julie Dalton resigned as chief deputy of Lee County Property Appraiser Ken Wilkinson in March 2002 after her affair with Wilkinson became public.

Dalton claimed in her harassment complaint that Wilkinson pursued the sexual

relationship then dumped her after the press found out.

Wilkinson, she said the complaint, "clearly used his position as my boss to influence me to have a relationship with him. When he no longer desired to have this relationship he wanted me to resign."

Dalton was paid the settlement out of taxpayer funds, with \$10,000 compensating her for what was described as "mental anguish, injury to reputation ... and stigma." The rest went to her attorney.

She also got back a job in the office, not directly supervised by Wilkinson.

When a reporter told Wilkinson Tuesday that he and

Dalton had been seen together on Christmas Eve, Wilkinson said: "I've atoned for my sins. It cost me a marriage."

On Wednesday, Wilkinson and Dalton sent checks of \$23,100 and \$13,100 respectively to Lee County Risk Management, the county's self-insurance fund.

"We jointly request the press respect our private life," read a message attached to copies of the checks sent to the Fort Myers News Press.

■ ASPEN, Colo. — In a resort town that caters to some of the nation's biggest spenders, even the stuff in the lost-and-found department can

be eye-popping.

Five boys found a check for \$23,901 in the snow and turned it over to police on Wednesday.

"The boys came in their ski gear and said they had found a large check, and we expected it to be for a few hundred dollars," police spokeswoman Kathy Tolle said. "They handed it over, and it was for \$23,000."

The check was written by an Aspen investment group on a local bank. Both were notified of the find, Tolle said.

Police also took the boys' phone numbers, in case a reward is forthcoming.

UK looking to revamp Appalachian Center

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIKEVILLE — The University of Kentucky is seeking public input on ways the Appalachian Center might better serve people in the mountain region.

Meetings will be held in Pikeville and Hazard beginning next week to get comments from people the Appalachian Center was established to help.

Joe Fink, vice president for research and economic development at UK, said the effort to refocus the Appalachian Center coincides with the departure of the institute's director, Herbert Reid, who returned to his former position as a political science professor at the university.

"The idea, after 25 years of operation of the UK Appalachian Center, is to reassess where it is, where it should be going, and how best to get there," said Fink, who is serving as interim director.

The Appalachian Center was founded in 1977 as a means for UK to help improve the quality of life in eastern Kentucky and the central Appalachian region.

One past role of the Appalachian Center was to challenge stereotypes of the region and to raise awareness of various issues people in the mountains

wrestle with, such as unemployment.

The center challenged the accuracy of the state's system for calculating unemployment rates. By adding discouraged workers who no longer receive jobless benefits and who no longer are seeking jobs, researchers found that the "real unemployment rate" in some counties came close to 50 percent.

Erwell Balltrip, director of the Kentucky Appalachian Commission, said the mountain counties can benefit greatly from the resources at UK, particularly with research projects that explore issues specific to the region.

"Research projects help people understand the Appalachian region," he said. "You have to do the research before you have a foundation for public policy."

Balltrip said the most mountainous counties, especially those farthest from interstate highways, are hurting economically.

"It's truly a landscape of economic and social contrasts," he said. "We have some counties along the I-75 and I-64 corridors that are doing comparatively well. When you get off the interstate corridors, we have counties that are not doing well."

The Hazard meeting is set for

7 p.m. Thursday at the UK Center for Rural Health. The Pikeville meeting will be 7 p.m. on Jan. 14 at the public library.

Fink said information gathered at the meetings will be used to help UK determine the role the Appalachian Center should play in the mountain counties and the central Appalachian region.

"I think it's important to get clarification of the center's role before selecting a permanent director," he said.

Residents also can submit comments by e-mailing them to [jfink\(at\)uky.edu](mailto:jfink(at)uky.edu), faxing them to 859-323-1023, or mailing them to Fink at A256 Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center Building, Lexington, Ky. 40506.

Kentucky is first state to get terrorism plan approved

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Kentucky is the first state to get federal approval for a three-year homeland security training schedule, state officials announced.

The approval will allow Kentucky to spend about \$1.5 million in federal dollars to increase its ability to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks, biological emergencies and natural disasters, state officials said Wednesday. It was approved last month by the Office of Domestic Preparedness.

The plan calls for conducting a series of exercises in each of the state's 14 emergency management districts, said Harry James, a planner for Kentucky's weapons of mass destruction response team. Each district would conduct about five exercises by the end of 2006.

"We have an approach that will take us through a crawl-walk-run system ... all the way to full-scale exercise," James said.

Sometime early this year,

representatives from each of the 14 districts will meet with state officials to discuss implementing the newly approved plan.

Three districts — Hazard, Paducah and Morehead — already have had disaster scenarios financed by money from last year, James said.

In Morehead, for instance, the scenario focused on a chemical spill caused by a trucker who wrecked while trying to evade a highway weigh station.

"It's not like we are saying al-Qaida is going to blow up Morehead. But lots of people move through Kentucky, and this is a place where things can happen," James said. "So we want to be prepared."

Federal contractors have helped stage the simulations so far, said Pat Conroy, training supervisor for the state's emergency management division.

James said the practice runs made clear the need for better coordination among local agencies.

"What we immediately found was a recognition of how impor-

tant communication across different agencies is when something of this scale happens," he said.

The Office of Domestic Preparedness was created in 1998 in response to the bombings of the World Trade Center and the federal building in Oklahoma City, state officials said. In 2003 it was transferred from the Justice Department to the Department of Homeland Security.

Struggle

port the groups provide and the relief participants feel from the isolation of holding a minority viewpoint among zealous conservatives. (Conservatives in liberal dioceses complain about feeling similarly alienated.)

"It is a bit stifling to feel such a wave of unmitigated — not loathing, but distrust or fear

from the other side," in discussions of homosexuality, said Barbi Click of Fort Worth Via Media. "Who do you go to for pastoral help when your clergy and your bishop, you don't feel like they want to be a part of your life?"

Asked to respond, Fort Worth Bishop Jack Iker said

that the organizers he knows are loyal church members, but "they tend to exaggerate things and seem interested only in trying to stir up controversy by some of their accusations."

Iker insisted he has no plans to move the diocese out of the church, despite his support for the new conservative network.

Duncan, the Pittsburgh bishop, was traveling and unavailable for comment. But Assistant Bishop Harry Scriven insisted that dissenting voices within the Pittsburgh diocese are considered.

"Their views are certainly heard. I don't think they can expect people can always agree with them. Sometimes their views are taken on and discussed and responded to," Scriven said. "One of the problems that you do hear is groups like this feel persecuted. I hardly believe they could think that."

Lionel Deimel, president of the Pittsburgh advocacy group, said moderates and liberals in his diocese do sometimes feel bullied. His organization has been reaching out to conservatives and together they have collected about 800 signatures on a petition calling for unity.

"The Anglican way has generally been to agree on how we worship and not to inquire too deeply into your exact theological beliefs beyond the basics," Deimel said. "But the people who are supporting Bishop Duncan are very much concerned about purity. They feel they have 'the' interpretation of Scripture. It's very un-Anglican."

Sewage

Continued from p3

lem at the Burchett home.

According to him, Burchett failed to state a cause of action against Prestonsburg City Utilities, that she was "contributorily negligent" in bringing about the sewage problem in her home, and that the incident and the damages were "unavoidable" on the city utilities' behalf.

Furthermore, Neeley says in the filing that punitive damages sought by Burchett are "barred as a matter of law" and are "not warranted" in this case.

Additionally, he notes, Burchett has been "paid and recouped monies" to cover a portion of the damages.

Repeated attempts to reach Neeley and Prestonsburg City Utilities Supt. Seldon Horn were unsuccessful Friday.

Push

Continued from p5

ing, Westwood said legislators may look to address some of the underlying issues in those cases.

"I imagine there will be some issues discussed in the budget to make sure that we are able to fund education adequately and equitably," Westwood said.

Funding for regional colleges and universities is also expected to come up, he said.

Meanwhile, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators is pushing a plan to give school superintendents clear authority in the hiring of school principals.

In one of the most significant rulings of 2003, the Kentucky Court of Appeals said school councils could consider all applicants for a principal's job, not just applicants screened and endorsed by a superintendent.

The chairman of the House Education Committee, Democratic Rep. Frank Rasche of Paducah, said there likely would be multiple bills filed on the issue.

Also, the Executive Branch Ethics Commission wants lawmakers to pass legislation that would require colleges and university boards across the state to develop their own codes of ethics.

Obits

Continued from p6

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

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

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

Zella "Bo" Caudill Webb, 66, of Matoaka, West Virginia, for-

merly of East Kermit, West Virginia, died Sunday, December 14, at Williamson Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Richmond-Callahan Funeral Home.

Okey Burchett, 84, of Louisa, died Sunday, December 14, at Three Rivers Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, December 17, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

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

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

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Regional
SPORTS

Sunday, January 4, 2004

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TIMES Email: sports@floydcountytimes.com

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

P'burg girls win; Piarist snaps long losing skid

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

After four losses in the Owensboro Catholic Independence Bank Classic, a post-Christmas tournament, the Prestonsburg Lady Blackcats returned to Eastern Kentucky competition Thursday night in a first game of the new year, playing on the road in the 14th Region at Letcher High School. Prestonsburg played on the road against Letcher and beat the host Lady Eagles 69-30 and in the process broke a four-game losing streak. Prestonsburg entered the Owensboro tournament after a 48-46 win over Shelby Valley. The Lady Blackcats hit a tough skid in the Owensboro tourney losing to Daviess County (36-51), St. Mary (40-54), Madisonville-North Hopkins (31-42) and Harrison County (20-74).

The win over Letcher was a welcome turnaround for head coach Jack Pack and his team.

No individual statistics from the Prestonsburg-Letcher game were available at press time.

Prestonsburg will be in 58th District action Monday night when it travels to the Piarist School. In her first season at the helm of the Piarist School girls' basketball program, Andrea Preston

(See PIARIST, page four)

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

South Floyd girls leave Berea winners

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BEREA - The South Floyd Lady Raiders ended play in the annual Berea Holiday Classic with a win. South Floyd beat Carlisle County 78-66 in a final game of the tournament.

The Lady Raiders trailed Carlisle County 14-13 at the conclusion of the opening period, but quickly bounced back and took a 34-32 lead into half-time. With a four-point lead at the end of the third period, South Floyd put the game out of reach, outscoring the Carlisle County girls 29-21 in the fourth quarter.

South Floyd head coach Tony Isaac admitted he was glad to see his team leave Berea with a win.

"We had a tough tournament," admitted Isaac. "After losing the first three games of the tournament, we were glad to come out of that last game with a win."

South Floyd dropped games in the Berea tournament to Woodford County, Hopkins County Central and Wolfe County, before topping Carlisle County in a fourth game.

Megan Ousley led South Floyd in scoring with 22 points. Tab Trammel scored 19 and Brandy Anderson and

(See WINNERS, page two)

H.S. WRESTLING

P'burg wrestlers begin season

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - The high school wrestling season is in and Floyd County's lone team is doing its best to keep busy.

Wrestlers from Prestonsburg High School are back on the mat

for another season. Five Prestonsburg wrestlers competed in the Johnson Central Invitational back in December. Steven Thompson, a Prestonsburg wrestler who is ranked fifth in the state in the 145-pound weight class, wrestled at 152 at Johnson Central and managed to finish second.

Thompson, who wrestled up a weight class all through the holidays, leads a young group of Prestonsburg High grapplers that are mostly first-year competitors. He made a strong run in last season's state tournament

(See SEASON, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

Steven Thompson is back for another season of high school wrestling after a state qualifying campaign last season.



photo by Jamie Howell

Prestonsburg's Kyle Ousley (middle) and Michael Morrison defended against Justin Mayhorn (33) of Phelps. Ousley and Morrison each came in off the bench and in the process helped Prestonsburg to the win in the opening round of the Jenny Wiley Invitational.

BLACKCATS
BLAST PHELPSby STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - Prestonsburg High opened the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament on a winning note Thursday night, beating visiting Phelps 60-48 in the nightcap. The game wasn't even as close as the 12-point ending margin would indicate. Prestonsburg led by 15 or more points most of the second half.

After opening up with a four-point lead through one quarter, Prestonsburg blew open the second meeting of the season with Phelps, besting the Hornets 20-5 in the second period to lead 33-14 at the break.

Eleven different players played for Prestonsburg in the first half alone. All

(See BLAST, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

Prestonsburg High head coach Jackie Day Crisp (middle) and his staff spoke to players during a timeout.

PROFILE: JASON DAY CRISP

Former Blackcat Crisp now an assistant at Harrison Co.

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - Coaching usually runs in the family, and it sure does for the Crisp family. Jason Day Crisp who played his high school basketball at Prestonsburg is on the coaching staff at Harrison County High School this season. Jackie Day Crisp is the head coach at Prestonsburg and the father of the younger Crisp. Jason Day Crisp is now in his fourth season at Harrison County and handles the junior varsity coaching duties.

Harrison County took part in the Jenny Wiley Invitational tournament this past week at Prestonsburg and the Harrison junior-varsity team defeated Prestonsburg on Friday morning by a final of 52-47.

Harrison County defeated a talented Sheldon Clark team in the first round of the tournament and took on Owensboro Catholic in the tournament semifinals. Results were unavailable at press time.

JENNY WILEY INVITATIONAL

Harrison Co. downs Sheldon Clark

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PRESTONSBURG - Defense wins basketball games is an old saying that proved to be true on Thursday in the opening game of the Jenny Wiley Invitational boys' basketball tournament. Harrison County came into the game with Sheldon Clark as a good defensive basketball team and ended the game by showing why it was labeled that way.

Sheldon Clark entered the game as the surprise team of the 15th Region early in the season. Harrison County

(See DOWNS, page two)

COCA-COLA HOOPS CLASSIC

Bobcats fall in Pike Central tourney opener

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

BUCKLEYS CREEK - Betsy Layne entered the Coca-Cola Hoops Classic tournament Thursday night at Pike County Central High School on a high note following a championship effort in the Mountain Schoolboy Classic at Belfry High School. Any momentum Betsy

Layne came into the Pike Central tourney with was stopped by Ryle Thursday in the nightcap. Betsy Layne and Ryle, a school from northern Kentucky, exited regulation knotted at 66.

The Bobcats were outscored 10-5 in an overtime period and lost 76-71.

Betsy Layne had to play catch-up

(See FALL, page two)



photo by Jamie Howell

Lawrence County's Peyton Preece (4) went up and over Cordia's Dennis Ray Farler. Preece paced Lawrence County with a game-high 17 points. Farler scored 14 points to lead Cordia.

Lawrence County 72, Cordia 46

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG - The third game of the renewed Jenny Wiley Invitational boys' basketball tournament ended with the most lopsided final score of the first round. Lawrence County, a team out of the 16th Region, outbounded, outthrustled and simply outplayed Cordia, a team out of the 14th Region, in a 72-46 win.

Lawrence County hit six three-pointers in the first

(See GAME, page two)

Quarter-horse racing takes a step closer to comeback

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarter-horse racing will take one step closer to a comeback in Kentucky after an 11-year hiatus when three horses take the track for workouts on New Year's Day at Lexington's Red Mile harness track.

The horses will do 300-yard sprints to test the track's dirt, which has been revamped to handle quarter horses.

Track officials are calling the workout a "dry run" leading up to live racing July 16 and 17. Those dates could be moved up to the Fourth of July weekend.

The arrival of quarter horses does not appear to threaten Kentucky's vaunted thoroughbred. Instead, with a moderate success in betting and attendance, quarter-horse racing could become an ancillary part of the state's racing and breeding industries.

"Hopefully it's going to bring in revenue, create jobs and tax money," said Dick Connelley, a Paintsville dentist who has run quarter horses for 30 years. "For instance, like on TVG (the horse racing network), the Los Alamitos track in California is one of the most heavily bet."

For the Red Mile and other

tracks, it's going to mean increased betting opportunities for race fans. The Lexington track can't import signals from thoroughbred tracks, but the addition of quarter-horse racing will allow it and other venues to broadcast quarter-horse races.

Joe Costa, president and chief executive officer of the Red Mile, said the track does not have a projected revenue goal for the addition of quarter-horse racing, but he believes there is enough interest to support it.

The signal from races at Los Alamitos and New Mexico's Sunland Park will be available to Red Mile bettors on Friday.

"All we can do is take the pulse of the community," he said. "And the community has indicated to us — at least in the Lexington/Fayette County market — that they're very excited about the introduction of this new product."

Quarter-horse racing has flourished for years on the short, speed-laden tracks of the southwestern United States. Races don't exceed 870 yards, or just under a half-mile, with shorter sprints often resembling mad dashes down the stretch.

Kentucky Derby-winning trainers Bob Baffert and D.

Wayne Lukas both got their start conditioning quarter horses.

But since the last race at Bluegrass Downs in Paducah in 1992, Kentucky has been without a venue for live quarter-horse racing.

"There's a number of owners and trainers who ... are excited

to go back and do it again," said Trey Buck, senior manager of race marketing for the American Quarter Horse Association in Amarillo, Texas. "Obviously Kentucky is one of the premier racing states."

The 23 states, five Canadian provinces and two foreign countries that have live quarter-

horse racing reported a handle of \$315.8 million last year and \$78.7 million in purse money.

Kentuckians owned 34,256 quarter horses in 2002, an increase of about 1,000 from 2001.

Connelley and others believe Kentucky's thoroughbred breeding industry stands to ben-

efit from a resurgence in quarter-horse racing.

"A lot of sprint-bred thoroughbred stallions will be extremely attractive on these quarter-horse mares," Connelley said. "You can breed a thoroughbred stallion with a quarter-horse mare and it's a registered quarter horse."

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

ONE LAST LOOK BACK: Kentucky makes 100th season one to remember

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Kentucky's record-setting 100th basketball season generated some of the biggest headlines during the state's sports year in 2003.

The Wildcats finished 2002 with a humbling 18-point loss to Louisville and anxious

Kentucky fans restarted their criticism of Coach Tubby Smith.

Kentucky won its next five games, but then trailed Vanderbilt 36-28 after a sloppy first half in Nashville, Tenn., on Jan. 14.

What happened next has already joined the lore surrounding college basketball's winningest program.

The Wildcats outscored the Commodores 46-16 in the second half, displaying for the first time the overwhelming defense that would become their trademark. Kentucky was virtually unbeatable after that.

The Wildcats won their next four games by an average of 16.5 points, setting up a nationally televised showdown with top-ranked Florida.

A Rupp Arena record crowd of 24,459 watched Kentucky hold the Gators to 20 percent shooting in a dominating 70-55 victory last Feb. 4.

"We think we're the No. 1 team. That's what we wanted to show everybody," Kentucky guard Gerald Fitch said afterward.

The Wildcats were hardly challenged the rest of the regular season, capping a 16-0 run through the SEC with a 24th tournament title.

Kentucky entered the NCAA tournament ranked No. 1 and rolled through the first two rounds.

Adversity finally struck in the Midwest Region semifinals, when leading scorer Keith Bogans suffered a high ankle sprain in a 63-57 win over rugged Wisconsin. A tired-looking Kentucky team lost to Marquette 83-69 one game shy of what would've been the pro-

gram's 14th Final Four.

Smith still earned every national coach of the year honor and was rewarded with an eight-year contract extension.

"We have a No. 1 program in college basketball and we want to keep it that way," Smith said. For a while in 2003, the Wildcats' main competition for the national spotlight came from archrival Louisville.

Former Kentucky Coach Rick Pitino continued to rapidly rebuild the Cardinals, orchestrating a 25-7 season.

By the second week of February, Louisville was No. 2 in the nation, its highest ranking since the first week of the 1986-87 season.

"The whole thing has caught me off-guard," Pitino said. "I'm excited about it, but then I realize it could end tomorrow night."

Kentucky was right behind Louisville at No. 3 that week, marking the highest simultaneous rankings for the archrivals since December 1981.

But while the Wildcats continued their climb, the Cardinals began to fade.

The Cardinals dropped five of their last eight regular-season games amid increasing questions about the status of center Marvin Stone, a Kentucky transfer.

Downs

Continued from p1

held the Cardinals to only 39 points and won the game by a final of 45-39.

Clay Muntz led the way for Harrison County with a game-high 20 points on the strength of four three-pointers. Sheldon Clark trailed 17-12 after one quarter, but cut the lead to 22-21 at the half. Steven Howell led the way for the Cardinals with 11 points. The tandem of Nathan Moore and Brandon May each added 10 for Sheldon Clark.

Harrison County led 37-33 after three quarters. Scott Muntz added nine

points for the winning team.

Harrison County advanced to the tournament semifinals against Owensboro Catholic.

Owensboro Catholic defeated Raceland in the second game of the tournament by a final of 57-33. Owensboro Catholic trailed 11-8 after one quarter of play, but from that point on it was all Aces.

Raceland was outscored 22-4 in the second quarter of play and the game was all but over at halftime. Owensboro outscored Raceland 15-8 in the third quarter and went on to the win.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Belfry, Pikeville finish Boyd tourney with setbacks

TIMES STAFF REPORT

SUMMIT — Boyd County played to a 47-41 victory over Ashland in the championship game of the inaugural Colonel's Classic at Boyd County Middle School gymnasium Thursday evening.

Eventual tournament MVP Kasi Galloway paced host Boyd County with 18 points.

Belfry and Pikeville both finished the tournament on a down note by losing in final games.

Belfry fell to Dunbar, 54-51 in the fifth-place game. Anna Bevins finished with 14 points and Vicki Hall led the Lady Pirates with 15 points. Dunbar led Belfry 32-15 at halftime before going on to the win.

Samantha Howard pumped in a game-high 22 points but it wasn't enough to lead the Lady Panthers of Pikeville to a victory over Fleming County in the seventh-place game. Fleming County led at the end of every

quarter.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

Fifth-place game
Belfry (51) — Bevins 14, Hall 15, Mahon 6, Hunter 1, Johnson 6, Chapman 5, Kline 2, Stanley 2. PF: 15. FT: 7-12. 3-pointers: None.

(See FINISH, page three)

Winners

Continued from p1

Amanda Jo Johnson each tossed in 15. Miranda Gregory scored four and Courtney Blocker added two.

Carla Hall rounded out the Lady Raider scoring with a free throw.

Two different players led Carlisle County in scoring with over 20 points apiece.

South Floyd senior Ashley Johnson, due to the passing of her grandmother, did not play in the Carlisle County game.

South Floyd will return to action at home Monday night.

Johnson closing in on 1,000

South Floyd High senior girls' basketball player Ashley Johnson is closing in on 1,000 points for her career. The senior Lady Raider, 30-plus points short of the mark, will likely eclipse the scoring milestone in the next two to three games.

Fall

Continued from p1

throughout the first half. Ryle held a 12-10 lead at the end of the first period and held a 32-25 advantage at the break.

The Bobcats made up some ground in the third period, outscoring the Ryle Raiders 25-13 and in the process grabbing a 50-45 lead. Ryle outscored Betsy Layne 21-16 in the fourth quarter to make the game an overtime affair.

Ryle got a balanced scoring attack with nine different players notching points.

Brandon Hall led Betsy Layne in scoring with a game-high 24 points. Jordan Kidd scored 14 and Brent Newsome netted 13. Preston Simon just

missed double-figures, scoring nine.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for the Bobcats. It was the third win in a row for Ryle.

Betsy Layne head coach Brent Rose saw his team commit some costly errors early on in the game against Ryle. But still, the Bobcats had their chances to win the game in regulation and Rose isn't making any excuses.

"We made a lot of mental errors early in the game," said Rose. "We had 14 turnovers at the half which had led to easy baskets for Ryle. We played a good second half and had two great looks at the basket to win it at the end of regulation, but they didn't go down. Ryle has a really nice team and is well disciplined. Hopefully we will learn how to finish these types of games; this was our first close contest of the season and it showed."

Brandon Kidd added five points for Betsy Layne. Ryan Bryant and Derek Case each came in off the bench to score two points apiece.

Pikeville 55, Cumberland 44: Pikeville led 22-7 at the end of the first quarter and held on to beat Cumberland, despite being outscored in every period after the initial stanza.

Jesse Parrish scored a game-high 16 points and Robert Shurtleff pumped in 15 to lead the Panthers. Five different players scored for Pikeville.

Pike County Central 87, Jenkins 40: Visiting Jenkins gave host Pike County Central little resistance. The Hawks led 19-5 at the end of the first quarter and 50-18 at halftime, cruising to the win. Pike Central outscored Jenkins in each of the four quarters.

Four different Pike Central players reached double figures scoring. In all, 13 different Hawks scored.

Adam Prater netted 14 points to lead Pike Central. Chase Lyons scored 12.

John Williamson and Anthony Gibson netted 11 apiece for the Hawks.

Cawood 67, Magoffin Co. 49: Magoffin County entered the Coca-Cola Hoops Classic searching for its first win of the 2003-04 season. The first day of the new year didn't offer the Hornets that first victory. Cawood, a team out of the 13th Region, visited Pike County Central and turned back Magoffin County, holding the Hornets to single digits scoring in each of the first two periods. A 26-14 halftime deficit was something the Hornets could not overcome.

Shawn Ely tossed in a game-high 28 points to lead Cawood. Wes Jenkins paced Magoffin County with 11 points. Brandon Shepherd chipped in seven for the Hornets.

Play in the Pike Central tournament was scheduled to conclude Saturday night with a champion being crowned.



photo by Jamie Howell

Former Prestonsburg Blackcat Jason Crisp (kneeling, second from left) is in his fourth season as an assistant coach at Harrison County High School.

Blast

Continued from p1

13 Prestonsburg players that dressed for the game, played and contributed in some form or fashion.

Prestonsburg played somewhat better in the first half than the second, but still came away with a convincing victory.

"We played well in the first half," said Prestonsburg High head coach Jackie Day Crisp. "It got sloppy in the second half."

Prestonsburg edged Phelps 45-43 in the second game of the season for the Blackcats back on Dec. 5 on the road in Pike County.

Prestonsburg got its collective wheels rolling at the end of the first period when junior Michael Morrison, who came in off the bench, nailed a three-point shot to beat the buzzer and send the Blackcats into the second quarter with a four-point lead. Joe Blackburn, another Prestonsburg junior, began the second quarter with a three-pointer. The Blackcats led 23-9 with 5:03 remaining in the second quarter when Phelps head coach Clay Campbell called for a timeout. Phelps dug a hole for itself in the second quarter and could never really recover.

Nick Jamerson and Jesse Chaffin scored 11 points apiece for Prestonsburg. Morrison and Trevor Compton added nine apiece. Morrison came in off the

Blackcat bench and hit on three three-point field-goals.

Blackburn scored seven and Nathan Lafferty chipped in five. Sophomore Lewis Barnette netted three. Kyle Ousley and Sean Leslie each checked out with two points. Starting center John Mark Stephens rounded out the Prestonsburg offensive production with a free-throw.

Michael Stephens, Nick McGuire and Brooks Herrick all played for Prestonsburg, but did not score.

Robert Gannon led Phelps with 13 points. Jason Taylor

scored 11. Melvin McCoy and Gabriel Stevens had six points apiece for the Hornets. Phelps played inspired basketball in the fourth quarter, outscoring the host Blackcats 25-13. However, Prestonsburg played a young group of players for most of the last period. The Blackcat coaching staff was able to get a look at many different five-player combinations.

Play in the Jenny Wiley Invitational was still in progress at press time. Results of all other post-first round games will appear in Wednesday's edition.

Game

Continued from p1

quarter to run out to a 24-11 lead. The Bulldogs played several players and got up and down the floor, especially in the first half, leading 42-18 at halftime.

Peyton Preece knocked down two three-pointers and paced Lawrence County in scoring with 17 points. Thomas Lewis scored 13 for the Bulldogs and Brandon Parsons chipped in 11. Parsons led Lawrence County in three-point shooting by connecting on three treys.

Jason Spradlin chipped in nine points for Lawrence County and starting center Derrick Endicott had eight.

Dennis Ray Farler led Cordia in scoring with 14 points. Mitch Smith added 12 for the Lions.

Season

Continued from p1

Chris Bostic wrestled at 103 for Prestonsburg during the Johnson Central tournament. Jeremy Addison went in the 112 class and Josh Blanton grappled in the 119 class.

Drew Hilton competed for Prestonsburg at 145.

All five Prestonsburg wrestlers had bright spots in the Central tourney.

Junior Zach Lafferty, a heavy-weight wrestler for the Blackcats, is out with an injury and was unable to grapple in the Johnson Central event. Lafferty

was also a state qualifier last season.

The entire Prestonsburg High wrestling team extends thanks to Tim McDonald and Action Express Marts for providing new warmups.

Josh Memorial Memorial Duals Update

After being canceled due to the flu epidemic that swept through the area in December, the Josh Francis Memorial Duals event is in the process of being rescheduled. The tournament will include six teams.

Colts trying to change postseason failures

by MICHAEL MAROT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts want to forget their painful past.

They have lost five straight playoff games since 1995 and haven't won a home playoff game since the 1970 season.

Coach Tony Dungy has endured three straight first-round exits in either Tampa Bay or Indianapolis, and Peyton Manning has done just about everything except win in the playoffs.

This week, as the Colts try to revise history, coaches and players are again being peppered with the annual question: Can Indianapolis win a playoff game?

"We'll get another chance and I think we have the players to do it," Dungy said.

The Colts (12-4) have traditionally stumbled this time of year.

Tennessee's Eddie George beat them in the 1999 playoffs with a 68-yard touchdown run. The next year, they lost at Miami when Mike Vanderjagt missed a 49-yard field goal at the end of regulation. Miami's Lamar Smith ran for 209 yards, including a 17-yard touchdown in overtime to win it.

Last year, Indianapolis was embarrassed in a 41-0 loss against the New York Jets, the worst playoff defeat in franchise history.

Some have tried to pin the blame on Manning or Dungy,

suggesting they can't win big games. But the Colts' playoff hex began long before Manning or Dungy ever wore a horseshoe.

While the Colts are not dealing with folklore such as the Curse of the Bambino or the Curse of the Billy Goat like the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs, the Colts have endured similar frustrations.

Since beating Dallas 16-13 in the fifth Super Bowl, the

Colts are just 2-11 in postseason games — a mark they intend to change Sunday when they host Denver (10-6) in their second home playoff game since 1977.

"We lost three in a row to Oakland and Pittsburgh when I was there," former Baltimore Colts quarterback Bert Jones said. "If you look it up, Oakland and Pittsburgh were pretty good teams."

The Raiders and Steelers

won five Super Bowls in six years, including all three years they beat Jones' Colts in the mid-1970s.

While part of the trouble has been the opposition, since moving to Indianapolis in 1984, the Colts have played indoors and the results have been telling.

In five postseason games played in cold-weather environments, the Colts have been outscored 148-61, with only one win — 10-7 at Kansas City

in 1995.

They actually beat San Diego in a warm-weather game 35-20. They lost 19-16 in their only other playoff game in Indianapolis, against the Titans.

The Colts are hoping by being home Sunday they can change course.

"Being home means a lot for us," Edgerrin James said. "We

(See COLTS, page four)

COMMENTARY

Uninspired Cats need a little inspiration

by ED TAYLOR
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

It was harder for me to take in the Kentucky-Austin Peay basketball game than it was to watch the Wildcats blow a 14 point lead against Louisville and get beat. After all losing to the Cardinals, they lost to a quality team. But to be outplayed by Peay in the second half like they did last Wednesday, was hard to handle.

With company watching the Wednesday afternoon affair with me, I informed them when Kentucky went out to a 14 point lead, just wait a minute, they will find a way to lose it.

It was not an inspiring per-

formance for coach Tubby Smith's ballclub that saw just over 11,000 showing up for the struggle. Just watching the game it was easily to see by television that the Cats suffered break downs in the fundamentals of the game. No screening, no blocking out on the boards, and just a lack of inspiring play. It was not a good sign of things to come.

With North Carolina in town (Saturday) and unbeaten Vanderbilt on tap for the first SEC game of the year followed by a good Mississippi State team, it does not look good for Smith and his ballclub.

It is apparent that if Kentucky does not get quality play out both Eric Daniels and Chuck Hayes, the Cats cannot win. Gerald Fitch does not play in control when the game is on the line. After preaching poor shot selection against the Cardinals, Coach Smith could only talk to himself as Fitch, Hayes, Daniels and Barbour threw up some poor shots that never came close to going in.

Again, Coach Smith got little help from his bench in another poor outing.

The big boys look worse every game out instead of better. You would think after 10 games they would show a little basketball savvy.

If you think this season is going to be bad for UK, they will be hard pressed to win 12 games next season with the

players come back. Maybe, after this season, just maybe, Coach Smith will find away out of the long term contract he signed last season with UK and head on to the NBA.

Twelve-game winner Cory Lidle was the first free agent to ink with the Cincinnati Reds and that happened last week. Before you start jumping with joy over the acquisition, you might want to know that Lidle led the

American League in most runs allowed last season.

The Reds, looking for a third starter behind Jimmy Haynes and Paul Wilson, think they have that person in Lidle who hurled for Toronto last season. The Reds continue their search for a left-hander in the bullpen as well as a solid third baseman.

(See CATS, page four)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No. 23 Maryland 41, No. 20 West Virginia 7

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — If Maryland could get West Virginia on the schedule a few more times a year, these 10-win seasons would be a breeze.

Scott McBrien threw for a career-high 381 yards to help No. 23 Maryland to a 41-7 victory over No. 20 West Virginia in the Gator Bowl on Thursday.

McBrien threw for three scores and ran for another. His teammate, Steve Suter, returned a punt for a touchdown and made a highlight-reel catch to help the Terrapins (10-3) reach the 10-win mark for the third

straight year under coach Ralph Friedgen.

Friedgen can thank West Virginia (8-5) for part of the turnaround. Counting the 34-7 win in the regular season, the Terps have defeated the Mountaineers four times over the last three years by an average score of 35-13.

The Mountaineers, co-champs of the Big East, came in on a seven-game winning streak, but reinforced their penchant for flopping in bowl games. West Virginia is 1-10 in its last 11 appearances, 0-2 during Rich Rodriguez' tenure by a combined score of 89-29.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UK outlasts Austin Peay

by MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE — Gerald Fitch scored 14 points and No. 8 Kentucky withstood a second-half rally to beat Austin Peay 61-53 Wednesday.

Kentucky (8-1) never trailed, but needed 5-for-6 shooting from the line in the final minute to hold off the Governors, who

trimmed a 17-point second-half deficit to 56-53 with 2:49 left.

Austin Peay squandered a chance to tie when Adrian Henning missed a 3-point attempt with 2:02 left, and the Governors (3-7), the defending Ohio Valley Conference champions, missed their last four field goal attempts and two free throw tries.

Chuck Hayes had 12 points

and nine rebounds, and Erik Daniels added 11 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky, which is scheduled to host ninth-ranked North Carolina on Saturday.

Maurice Hampton scored 17 points in a reserve role for Austin Peay. Anthony Davis hit four second-half 3-pointers and finished with 15 points.

Austin Peay shot 5-for-24 from the field in the first half and 12-for-23 in the second half.

Davis made three 3-pointers in a 14-2 run as Austin Peay cut a 41-24 deficit to 43-38 with 9:09 mark.

Austin Peay, which lost five of its last six, closed within 53-51 with 3:56 left before Cliff Hawkins hit a 3-pointer for Kentucky.

Hayes and Hawkins each converted a pair of free throws in the final minute to help seal the win.

Kentucky charged to a 9-0 lead, but was then held scoreless for more than six minutes. Austin Peay failed to capitalize and didn't score until almost five minutes into the game.

Smith, who has relied on a seven-player rotation most of the season, went deep into his bench and Kentucky's starters didn't return until four minutes later.

Kentucky led 18-12 with 3:40 left in the half before scoring the final eight points, the last two on a dunk by seldom-used 7-foot-3 freshman Shagari Alleyne at the buzzer.

Kentucky is 25-0 all-time against OVC teams, including a 4-0 record against Austin Peay.



photo by Jamie Howell

Michael Stephens(5) looked on as a Phelps player went for a loose basketball.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Turnovers cost Lady Bears

TIMES STAFF REPORT

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Seventeen of Pikeville's 27 turnovers came before halftime Tuesday night resulting in a deficit they could never recover from and ending with a 94-65 loss to Azusa Pacific (Calif.) University.

The loss dropped Pikeville to 8-8 on the season and gave them an 0-2 record in the Golden State

Athletics Conference Challenge. In the end, all three visiting teams — Brescia University from Owensboro and Montana Western University joined the Lady Bears in the two-day event — were swept in the trip west.

Azusa, 8-3, got votes in the most recent NAIA Div. I women's poll but fell short of the Top 25.

The Cougars jumped out to a quick lead with senior Marie Dyke and sophomore Lindsey West combining for 30 first-half markers. That total added to Pikeville's high turnover volume resulted in a 45-26 lead at the break for Azusa Pacific.

Things didn't go much better for Pikeville in the second half, as having only eight players available meant little opportunity for adjustments. Three Lady Bears finished with at least four fouls in the loss.

Junior Selena Williams had a terrific game, finishing with 19 points and 14 rebounds. Freshman Tonya Amburgey finished with 11 points, six assists and three steals, while freshman Ashley Wireman came off the bench to contribute 11 points and grab six rebounds.



Amburgey

Azusa was paced by Duke, who tossed in 30 points thanks to 6-of-9 shooting from the arc. She also had seven rebounds, four steals and three assists.

West finished with 16 and a team-best eight rebounds. Kelsey Hudson scored 14 while Nicolette Dresback and Monica Somers added 11 each. All three had four assists to tie for team honors. Dresback added six steals as the Cougars were credited with 17 thefts in the game.

Pikeville will be back in action Tuesday night when it hosts U.Va.-Wise. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

P'burg City Club grapples in two tournaments

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — The Prestonsburg City Wrestling Club is back for a second season. So far, the Prestonsburg City squad has wrestled in two events, one in Central Kentucky, and another in Virginia.

Three Prestonsburg City wrestlers competed in a tournament in Harrison County on Saturday, Dec. 27 with one grappler coming away with top honors. Prestonsburg wrestler Steven Thompson competed in the 145 class and finished first. For his efforts, Thompson was named

Most Valuable Wrestler.

Chris Bostic (103) and Drew Hilton (140) also wrestled in the Harrison County event.

The same three Prestonsburg City grapplers competed in the 30th annual Agie Skeens Memorial on Monday, Dec. 29 in Grundy, Va. In the Grundy tournament, Thompson finished seventh out of 43 competitors. In all, 43 teams competed in the Skeens Memorial, one of the top-10 tournaments in the Southeast United States.

In its second year of existence, the Prestonsburg City Wrestling Club figures to keep an upbeat schedule in the new year.

H.S. Hoops Rankings

BluegrassPreps.com

Boys

1. Mason County
2. Lexington Catholic
3. Pleasure Ridge Park
4. DeSales
5. Wayne County
6. Apollo
7. Scott County
8. Fern Creek
9. Covington Catholic
10. Boone County
11. Hopkinsville
12. Hazard
13. Clay County
14. Madison Central
15. Seneca
16. Hopkins County Central
17. Jeffersontown
18. Henry Clay
19. Daviess County
20. Shelby Valley

Girls

1. Sacred Heart
2. Lexington Catholic
3. Christian County
4. Henderson County
5. Mercer County
6. Mercy
7. Rockcastle County
8. Jackson County
9. Assumption
10. East Carter
11. Newport Cent. Catholic
12. Scott County
13. Elizabethtown
14. Clinton County
15. Woodford County
16. Perry County Central
17. Butler
18. Christian Aca.-Louisville
19. Pulaski County
20. Boone County

Kitna's latest comeback wins award

by JOE KAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Jon Kitna's whole career has been about comebacks.

Written off in college, he made it to the NFL as an undrafted free agent. He led

Seattle to the playoffs, only to lose his job. He came to Cincinnati as a starter and lost his job again.

Now, he has pulled off the most unexpected comeback of all.

With a Heisman Trophy winner waiting to take his job, Kitna

led the Bengals to a long-awaited resurgence, keeping Cincinnati in contention until the final game.

On Friday, he was honored as The Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

"My whole life, I never had anything handed to me," Kitna said. "Nobody thought I was 'the guy.' I was always a pretty good athlete, but I was never one that people clamored about or anything like that."

Kitna got them talking during the Bengals' turnaround season. He eliminated his propensity for mistakes and led the Bengals out of their 12-year run as the league's woeful team.

"Finally people started to see our team as something serious," Kitna said.

Kitna received eight votes to seven for Carter and six for Baltimore tackle Orlando Brown. Carolina running back Stephen Davis and Kansas City safety Jerome Woods had five each.

When the season started, No. 1 draft pick Carson Palmer was waiting to take the job that Kitna had lost at the outset of the 2002 season, then reclaimed by default after Gus Frerotte and Akili Smith failed.

The Bengals, under first-year coach Marvin Lewis, lost their first three games and entered their bye week at 1-4. That's when Lewis promoted Palmer from the No. 3 quarterback to the backup. Kitna's time as an NFL starter was quickly running out.

"At 0-3 we were at the point — and he knew it — that if he kept going 0-for, eventually the decision would be made to let Carson play because the season was going to be a lost season," offensive coordinator Bob Bratkowski said.

With his job at stake, Kitna played so well Palmer never got into a game. Kitna was the only NFL quarterback to take every snap this season. He finished second in the AFC with 26 touchdown passes — three shy of the franchise record — and had only 15 interceptions, a major break from his mistake-prone past.

Four times, he threw three touchdown passes in a game. Each big game raised his profile and brought the Bengals closer to respectability.

"Think about all of the doubts that people had in Kitna," said receiver Chad Johnson, one of Kitna's most ardent boosters.

Piarist

Continued from p1

has already helped to create a bright spot for the struggling program. The Piarist girls beat Jackson City 44-34 in the Subway Tournament at Bath County back on December 23 in what was an early Christmas gift for the Lady Knights and their fans. Piarist was 0-4 this season coming into the game against Jackson City and had a losing streak that stretched over seven years.

photo by Jamie Howell
Blackcat Nick McGuire tried to make a move against the Phelps defense in Friday night's Jenny Wiley Invitational first-round game.

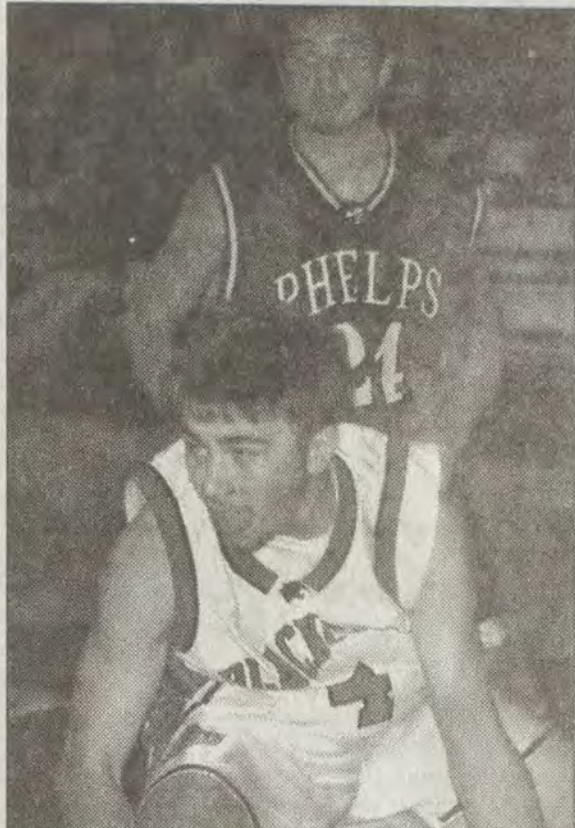


photo by Jamie Howell

Jesse Chaffin went strong to the basket during the second quarter Thursday night against Phelps. Chaffin came in off the bench and led the Blackcats in scoring with 11 points.

"Just to see him playing the way he's playing, I'm just loving every last minute of it."

Much of it had to do with getting over a deep hurt. Seattle signed him in 1996 as an undrafted free agent out of Central Washington of the NAIA. He surprised everyone by winning the starting job and taking the Seahawks to the playoffs in 1999.

The next year, coach Mike Holmgren wanted a different style of quarterback. Kitna would soon be gone, but the sting would remain.

From that point, Kitna felt as though his career depended upon every pass. He tried to impress on every snap, leading to mistakes and poor decisions. Early this season, he changed.

"I used to be a more confident person who just played football and would go out and never worry about numbers or what people were saying about me," Kitna said. "I just loved to play

the game, and I'd lost that.

"Every year for three or four years, I was hoping I'd do something positive enough to stay in the league for another year, rather than having fun and being positive."

The fun returned. So did the Bengals, who fed off his newfound confidence.

"As he goes, we go," Bratkowski said. "He was a glue, especially on offense."

There's no telling how long Kitna will be in charge. Palmer is itching to play, and Lewis most likely is going to open the job to competition in training camp.

Kitna knows he'll be the backup someday, a role he will embrace when the time comes. For now, he's conceding nothing.

"In this league, very few people are going to have things handed to them," Kitna said. "The majority of people have to fight for it."

FOOTBALL

Georgetown expresses great interest in Jamerson

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

PRESTONSBURG — The University of Kentucky football staff would like for Prestonsburg High senior Nicholas Jamerson to come to Lexington and play on their team as a preferred walk-on. Jamerson would like to go to UK and follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, Wilbur "Shorty" Jamerson, a legendary college football player.



Nick Jamerson

With the preferred walk-on offer from Kentucky standing, Jamerson still hasn't decided on where he'll continue his playing career. The Prestonsburg standout's father, Dewey Jamerson, said earlier this past week that

Georgetown College had expressed great interest in the younger Jamerson. At Georgetown, the younger Jamerson could play on either side of the football.

Georgetown is an NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) gridiron power.

The Football Tigers were normally a fixture in the NAIA title game until this past season.

The Tigers came up short in the first round of the playoffs, losing 34-23 on the road at the University of St. Francis in Ft. Wayne Indiana.

But that doesn't mean Georgetown football won't reload for next season.

Georgetown finished the season at 9-3 and holds a share of the 2003 Mid-South Conference crown. Georgetown head coach Bill Cronin stands at 76-13 for his career.

Prestonsburg High grad Mikeal Fannin is a freshman at Georgetown and a member of the Tiger grid team. He red-shirted this past season.

AUTO RACING

Earnhardt Jr., Stewart to team up in Rolex 24

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

DENVER, N.C. — Howard-Boss Motorsports and Crawford Race Cars announced that veteran road racer Andy Wallace will team with Tony Stewart and Dale Earnhardt Jr. for the Rolex 24 At Daytona.

The trio will drive the No. 2 Crawford DP03 Daytona Prototype.

Wallace, a mainstay on the international sports car circuit for many years, has won the Rolex 24 At Daytona three times in his storied career.

Wallace was on the winning team in 1990, 1997 and 1999 and is one of only five drivers to win all three major road racing endurance events, the Rolex 24 At Daytona, Sebring 12 Hours and LeMans 24 Hour.

Stewart will be making his second start in the Rolex 24 for Crawford Race Cars.

Stewart teamed with Jan Lammers and Johnny Mowlem in a Crawford SSC2K Prototype in the 2002 endurance race.

After an impressive run at the

front of the field, engine problems sidelined the Stewart, Lammers and Mowlem team just past the midway point in the twice-around-the-clock event.

"Driving these cars is so much fun," Stewart stated. "It is unlike anything we do in the Nextel Cup. And, I feel like this event owes me another chance. We were running very well in 2002 right up until the engine let go."

Earnhardt Jr. will be making his second start in the Rolex 24 At Daytona.

Earnhardt Jr. teamed with his father Dale Earnhardt, Andy Pilgrim and Kelly Collins in a Chevrolet Corvette to finish fourth overall in the 2001 event.

"I am really excited about going back to Daytona for this race," Earnhardt Jr. said. "I had talked to Jim France about it (Rolex 24) earlier this year, and the Crawford Chevrolet opportunity came up in November."

"The chance to work with Andy Wallace and have some fun with Tony (Stewart) was too good a pass up."

Cats

Continued from p3

In other Reds news, former coach Ron Oester returned to the Reds as part of new manager Dave Miley's staff. Oester, who was thought to have the head job as the Reds manager before Bob Boone got the nod, returns to be sort of an adviser.

Until Wednesday, good sports everyone and be good sports. Have a Happy New Year!

Colts

Continued from p3

don't always play that well in the cold weather, so that's important for us."

There are other issues. Indianapolis' defense wasn't staunch enough to win in 1999 and 2000, and last year James was still fighting his way back from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. He wasn't running with the same power he did when he won rushing titles in 1999 and 2000. He is now.

The Colts also were a young team when Manning guided them to his first two playoff appearances.

Denver, which has two Super Bowl wins under coach Mike Shanahan, knows there is no substitute for postseason experience.

"You definitely need some veteran leadership to make it to the bowl," cornerback Lenny Walls said. "We have it on offense and defense, guys who have been there."

This week, the Colts face another predicament: The Broncos ran for 227 yards without their top runner, Clinton Portis, in a 31-17 victory at Indianapolis two weeks ago.

If the Colts are to change their postseason history, they must find a way to stop the Broncos' ground game and keep Manning & Co. on the field for more than 37 plays.

Shanahan will use a simple game plan.

"Usually in the playoffs you let players make plays," he said. "You want players to go out there and do what they've been doing all season and try to put the game in their hands."

That's all Dungy is asking of his players, too.

If they succeed Sunday, the Colts know they'll finally have an answer to the annual question — and a new one to answer: How far can they go in

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650-Mobile Homes

3 BR, 1.5 BA MOBILE HOME FOR RENT. Extra nice. \$410 mo plus utilities & sec. dep. Call 606-874-2802.

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900-Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chris McKinney, mailing address, Box 1138, Martin, Ky, 41649, hereby declares his intentions to apply for a Restaurant Wine License and Retail Beer License, no later than January 4, 2004. The business to be licensed will be located at 8550 Rt. 1428, Martin, Ky. 41649, doing business as Seasons Inn. The owner(s) are as follows: Chris McKinney, of Box 1138, Martin, Ky. 41649. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic, may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 1003 Twilight Trail A-2, Frankfort, KY 40601, within 30 days of the date of this legal publication.

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Nothing mythical about USC's share of the national title

by JIM LITKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. — There was nothing "mythical" about it. Not after the way Southern California thumped Michigan in full view of 93,849 witnesses, most of whom walked away from the most majestic stage in college football Thursday evening with no doubts they had just seen the nation's best team.

And anybody who still wants to defend the Bowl Championship Series should remember this: The one person in the Rose Bowl who knew better than anyone how good USC really is, Wolverine coach Lloyd Carr, won't even be allowed to put the Trojans at No. 1 when he casts his final vote in the coaches' poll this season.

That's because Carr and his fraternity brothers signed a contract with the BCS automatically giving the No. 1 slot in the ESPN/USA Today poll to the winner of Sunday's Sugar Bowl matchup between Oklahoma and LSU. The media members who vote in The Associated Press poll, on the other hand, are free to vote any way they want and Carr wished he could join them.

"I think USC is very deserving," he said after Michigan absorbed a 28-14 beating, its worst of the season. "You can make me an honorary member."

It's too late for that, but Pete Carroll, Carr's Southern Cal counterpart, promised not to hold it against him.

"Guys have to do what they think is right and I'll respect that," he said.

Carroll wisely opted out of voting in the coaches' poll, but added that he wouldn't dissuade any of his brethren from casting a protest vote by sending their ballots in with Southern Cal on top. But his lobbying effort ended there, and with good reason. The Trojans did all the convincing they needed to between the white lines.

Michigan came into the game having won three of its last four games against Top 10 competition, but the way the Wolverines were manhandled by Southern Cal proved just how far they were stepping up in class.

Trojan quarterback Matt Leinart threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns against a defense that was ranked sixth in the nation and had allowed just five TDs all season.

USC sacked John Navarre nine times — and that after he had been dumped just 15 times all season. The sacks came from everywhere, but the pressure up front was constant. Small wonder the defensive line was nicknamed "Wild Bunch II" to commemorate a unit that led USC to a share of the national championship 25 years ago. Back then, the coaches' and writers' polls often disagreed on who was No. 1, which is why the title came to be called "mythical" in the first place.

All of that was supposed to end with the BCS promise of matching No. 1 vs. No. 2. Despite topping both polls, the BCS computers nudged LSU into the Sugar Bowl ahead of Southern Cal based on the strength-of-schedule component.

Proving the old saw about garbage in, garbage out, the computers shoved USC aside only after the very last game of the season, when Boise State beat Hawaii 45-28.

Receiver Mike Williams said USC's claim on the championship comes down to whether you put your faith in men or machines.

"All I know is that we're the No. 1 team in the human poll and we won our bowl game, so we're the No. 1 team in the country," he said. "That's all I need to know. The trophy says 'champions' on it. BCS, Oklahoma, LSU, whatever, that has nothing to do with us."

But teammate Jason Leach said a share of the title was good enough.

"The BCS can figure out whatever they've got to figure out," he said. "We won the game."

Southern Cal can afford to be generous because complete as the Trojans seem, they're almost certain to be even better next season.

Carroll got drummed out of the NFL twice for being too nice, but that same quality makes him one of the best recruiters on the college scene. And he's not afraid to give those recruits a chance to show their stuff early. Fifteen of his starters are underclassmen, including Leinart, Williams, all three of his running backs and most of the defensive line.

Few expected the dividends this fast, though, especially after USC started 2-5 in Carroll's first season. Since then, the Trojans have gone 26-4 and dominated good teams while doing it, beating their last 16 opponents by an average of two touchdowns, the same margin they put between themselves and the Wolverines.

"They're a great team and I'm not going to beat myself up over it," Michigan tackle Tony Pape said. "We played the No. 1 team in the nation and got beat."

The last "mythical" national championship was 1997, when Michigan beat Washington State in the Rose Bowl then got sub-marined when the coaches gave

their share of the title to Nebraska as a going-away present to retiring coach Tom Osborne. Minutes after Nebraska beat Tennessee in the Orange Bowl, Husker quarterback Scott Frost grabbed a microphone and lobbied the coaches from the podium on the field.

"If your job depended on playing either Michigan or Nebraska," he said, "who would you rather play?"

Change the names to Southern Cal and whichever team wins the Sugar Bowl, then put it to the coaches again. If they're telling the truth, how do you think most of them would answer?

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

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Saturday, Jan. 10
Carolina, Green Bay or Seattle at St. Louis, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)
Baltimore, Tennessee or Denver at New England, 8:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 11
Indianapolis, Baltimore or Tennessee at Kansas City, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Green Bay, Seattle or Dallas at Philadelphia, 4:45 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Jan. 18
AFC Championship Game, 3 p.m. (CBS)
NFC Championship Game, 6:45 p.m. (FOX)
Sunday, Feb. 1
Super Bowl at Houston, 6:25 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Feb. 8
Pro Bowl, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

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