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briefs

Times receives numerous awards

Times Staff Report

LEXINGTON — The Floyd County Times earned several awards and finished fourth overall among the state's multi-weekly newspapers during the Kentucky Press Association's annual awards banquet Friday night.

The Times' sports coverage scored a slam dunk during the contest, earning both first- and second-place awards for best sports section. The Times also received a second-place award for best sports picture.

The Times also received third-place awards for its Lifestyles and special sections, and an honorable mention for best editorial.

Overall, The Times finished just outside General Excellence recognition, finishing fourth behind the Appalachian News-Express in Pikeville, the Georgetown News-Graphic and the Kentucky Standard in Bardstow.

Publisher David Bowyer attended the banquet to accept the awards for The Times.

"They were just two beautiful children. They were happy and smiling all the time."

— Amy Hall
victims' aunt



photo by Sheldon Compton

Even those who responded to a fatal Maytown fire could not help but be affected by the tragedy inside the gutted remains of the home. Floyd County Deputy Coroner Glen Frazier took an emotional moment outside John Duncan's burned home Friday afternoon. Duncan's two sons died in the fire, while Duncan and three others, including two more children, were spared.

Crafts school shut down before opening

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

HINDMAN — Another Eastern Kentucky college felt the financial sting from Frankfort earlier this week, but for Hindman's Kentucky School of Craft, the trickle-down effect of statewide budget cutbacks following an order this month from Gov. Ernie Fletcher was more than just a trickle. It was a downpour, some say.

The Kentucky School of Craft will essentially be shut down before it really got started, state Sen. Johnny Ray Turner said in an announcement condemning the state cuts Thursday.

"The governor's cuts will force the school's closure before it even opens," Turner

said in a statement. "This school has already received national recognition. It is a one-of-a-kind program in Kentucky. It is fully equipped. And it will be empty this fall, instead of full of students."

The Hazard Community and Technical College, which is the affiliate of the craft school, learned of a \$501,500 reduction in the current year's funding Wednesday and announced on Friday that the craft school would close immediately. Annual operating costs for the school were \$206,000.

In 1998, the Kentucky General Assembly allocated \$4.1 million in funds to develop the school, which was just completed in early

(See SCHOOL, page three)

inside

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2 DAY FORECAST

Today



Tomorrow



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

Two children killed in Maytown house fire

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

MAYTOWN — Smoke billowed from Front Street in Maytown and floated across nearby Route 80 like a slow-moving rain cloud heavy with grief.

One by one, fire trucks and police cruisers pulled away from the scene, quiet and dutiful, the officials inside pulling away from tragedy, but not far enough to for-

get. Their thoughts were with John Duncan, the Maytown man who lost two of his five children in a house fire along Front Street earlier that morning.

Police said Duncan's two sons, 4-year-old Forrest Duncan and 2-year-old Caleb Duncan, died when their father's attempts to bring them to safety were unsuccessful.

According to preliminary investigations conducted by investigat-

ing officer Kentucky State Police Det. Byron Hansford, John Duncan awoke to the smell of smoke Friday morning and soon realized his home was on fire.

Police said Duncan and a female in the house at the time, Emily Howell, who police were unable to identify as the mother, rushed two children out of the house. Duncan then returned for his two sons.

(See FIRE, page three)

PHS council receives monitoring report

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — After careful review of the goings-on at Prestonsburg High School, a Floyd County Board of Education monitoring team declared that the school needs to "hold higher expectations of all students" and implement research-based instructional strategies to address the needs of "diverse learners."

The team, made up of Floyd County School Superintendent Paul W. Fanning, board staff Dr. Patricia Watson, Nadine Hicks, Roy Johnson, Mary Crace, Henry Webb, Eddie

Hamilton, Ruth Blackburn, Stanton Watson, Michael Hughes, Kerry Fannin, Joyce Watson and Glen Hendrix, visited the school to follow up on the findings of scholastic audits performed by the Kentucky Department of Education in 2001.

Using a publication by the Kentucky Department of Education called "Standards and Indicators for School Improvement" as a reference tool, the monitoring team, which visited the school during the last week of October through mid-November, focused on a variety of areas, including ways of maintain-

(See PHS, page three)

Sodomy, incest trial to start tomorrow

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — Proceedings will begin tomorrow in a Floyd County case involving a woman facing sodomy and incest charges.

According to circuit court records, Sherri Leigh Hall, 31, will appear in Judge John David Caudill's courtroom tomorrow to begin trial in her case, answering charges that stem

from a 1997 sexual abuse case involving a minor female child.

Hall, arrested by Kentucky State Police Trooper Bobby Johnson on July 29, 1997 and charged with three counts of sodomy, three counts of incest, and one count of first-degree sexual abuse, pleaded not guilty during her initial arraignment on those charges in 1997.

(See TRIAL, page three)



Betsy Layne fans cheered the Ladycats on following Thursday night's 15th Region All "A" Classic championship game win over South Floyd. It is Betsy Layne's third straight 15th Region All "A" title. The Ladycats will play in the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic on Wednesday, Feb. 4 against the winner out of the 8th Region. (See full coverage in Sports.)

photo by Steve LeMaster

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Odds and Ends

■ **LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Carson's cookie case crumbled.

Councilwoman Julie Ruiz Raber was sued by an opponent for alleged electioneering after she delivered cookies to nearly every poll worker in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson on election day last March.

But Superior Court Judge Alexander Williams III ruled Tuesday that the gesture — delivery of snickerdoodles to 24 of 30 polling places — didn't constitute electioneering. The decision allows Ruiz Raber to keep her council post.

"I was fighting for democracy," Ruiz Raber said, calling it a sour grapes "frivolous lawsuit."

Vera Robles DeWitt, a former councilwoman, filed the suit in April after losing the election by 181 votes. Her attorney, Fredrick Woocher, said the cookie deliveries were an attempt to influence voting.

But Ruiz Raber's lawyer, Douglas Otto, said electioneer-

ing also involves intent and written rules.

"My one-word definition of electioneering is campaigning. That did not take place here," the judge said.

■ **SAN JOSE, Calif.** —

The golden retriever that made headlines after her newly adoptive family refused to give her back has been reunited with her original owner.

The 2-year-old dog named Bella has been returned to Niki Karanastasis, Humane Society Silicon Valley President Christine Benninger said Wednesday.

Karanastasis had said she was crushed she could not retrieve the dog, which she described as being like one of her children.

Humane Society officials said they could not force the dog's return because the new owners had legally adopted her. If animals are unclaimed for five

days, they become humane society property — and Bella became property of the new owners when they took her home.

Karanastasis said she went to the kennel three times looking for Bella after the dog ran away earlier this month, but could not find her.

She hired a lawyer, but that turned out to be more bark than bite. Bella's new owners eventually agreed to give back the pooch, which they got as a birthday present for a 10-year-old girl.

"If I didn't get this dog back," Karanastasis said Wednesday, Bella at her side, "I would have lost my mind or had a nervous breakdown."

■ **RED CLOUD, Neb.** —

Mark Rogers has been training for a shot at making the U.S. Olympic marksmanship team — in his living room.

Rogers fires about 200 shots

a day from his custom air pistol inside his house. It fires small pellets propelled by a burst of air, so it won't leave any holes in his walls.

The Red Cloud music teacher is in Colorado Springs, Colo., this week at the Olympic Training Center, hoping to become one of the top 10 air pistol shooters who will advance in May to the final Olympic qualifying meet in Georgia.

The top four in that final round will make the U.S. national team, but only the top two will carry the USA colors to the Olympics this summer in Athens, Greece.

"It is the type of sport ... anyone can excel in," Rogers said. "You don't have to be the world's greatest athlete, strongest man or anything like that."

Rogers said he occasionally watches video of the 1996 and 2000 Olympic games for inspiration, imagining what it would

be like to stand on the winner's podium and hear America's national anthem being played.

"You can't help but think, 'Gosh, that would be terrific if that was me up there in 2004,'" he said.

■ **FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** —

Even police detectives have to be careful what they ask for — and how they look when they're asking for it.

An appeals court says a gay man was a victim of entrapment because didn't know an undercover detective was looking for drugs when the officer asked him if he wanted to "party."

Julio Blanco, 37, who described himself as a lonely gay man, said that he understood "party" to mean having a good time or being sexually involved.

The Fourth District Court of Appeal on Wednesday upheld Broward Circuit Judge Susan Lebow's decision that Blanco

thought the officer might have been looking for a sexual relationship.

According to court records, Fort Lauderdale police Detective Mike Nahum, working with a Drug Enforcement Administration team, followed up with several requests for cocaine.

Blanco refused three times and even tried to leave, but was ultimately convinced to stay. Eventually he went to the restroom and bought some methamphetamine for the officer.

"The whole situation seemed very clear to me," Lebow said during a 2002 hearing. "I mean, the detective walked in dressed in a T-shirt and jeans, and for the record he was a very attractive man and..."

The defense attorney interrupted and asked the judge to make an official finding that

(See **ODDS**, page six)

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2004. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 23, 1973, President Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War.

On this date:

■ In 1789, Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

■ In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

■ In 1920, the Dutch government refused demands from the victorious Allies to hand over

the ex-Kaiser of Germany.

■ In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

■ In 1943, critic Alexander Woollcott suffered a fatal heart attack during a live broadcast of the CBS radio program "People's Platform."

■ In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution proclaiming Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

■ In 1964, the 24th amendment to the Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified.

■ In 1968, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy ship Pueblo, charging its crew with being on a spying mission. (The crew was released 11 months later.)

■ In 1985, debate in Britain's House of Lords was carried on live television for the first time.

■ In 1989, surrealist artist Salvador Dali died in his native Spain at age 84.

Ten years ago:

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, visiting Japan, met with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who promised to go through with a scheduled summit with President Clinton. The Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills won their respective NFL conference playoffs to set up a Super Bowl rematch.

Five years ago:

A federal judge ordered Monica Lewinsky to submit to an interview sought by House prosecutors in President Clinton's impeachment trial. During his visit to Mexico, Pope John Paul II urged his flock in the Americas to make the region a "continent of life."

One year ago:

The government of Kuwait said a Kuwaiti had confessed to the Jan. 21 shootings of two U.S. defense workers in Kuwait. Actress Nell Carter died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 54.

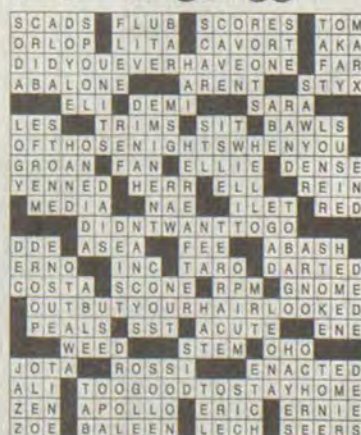
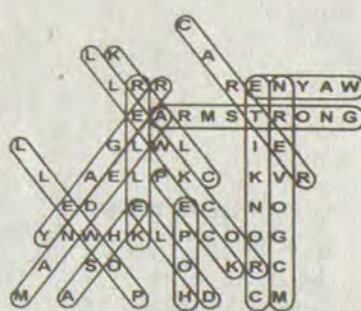
Today's Birthdays:

Actress Jeanne Moreau is 76. Actress Chita Rivera is 71. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 70. Actor Gil Gerard is 61. Actor Rutger Hauer is 60. Rhythm and blues singer Jerry Lawson (The Persuasions) is 60. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 57. Singer Anita Pointer is 56. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 54. Rock musician Bill Cunningham is 54. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 54. Rock musician Danny Federici (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 54. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 51. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 47. Singer Anita Baker is 46. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 45. Actress Gail O'Grady is 41. Actress Mariska Hargitay is 40. Rhythm and blues singer Marc Nelson is 33. Actress Tiffani Thiessen is 30.

Thought for Today:

"Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember." — Oscar Levant, pianist-composer-actor (1906-1072).

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PHS

Continued from p1

ing assessment measures and instructional strategies to implement in the classroom.

According to Patricia Watson, director of instruction with the Floyd County Board of Education, all available Board of Education staff members set out in teams to visit every county school in an informal capacity to monitor issues reported in 2001 as unsatisfactory by the KDE.

"We found all the school personnel to be very cooperative and positive toward the interaction with them that we had," said Watson. "I believe that it was a positive experience, overall, in moving us toward improvement. We're virtually striving for that all the time. Our

ultimate goal is that a student that graduates from a Floyd County school would have the same level of experience and opportunities that students have from all other schools in Kentucky."

According to a monitoring report, presented to the PHS site-based council during a special meeting Wednesday, leadership at the school has developed a plan to "address gaps" in the curriculum.

Those gaps, said Watson, are centered in the amount of diversity within the student population.

Senate Bill 168 and the No Child Left Behind Act stipulate that school officials must be able to identify possible gaps in

learning between groups of students who come from different backgrounds, such as differences in learning between male and female students, and those found in students on the free or reduced lunch program. Officials are looking for ways for those students to compete academically with other students in the schools and maintain standards set by CATS assessment.

One way in which this is now accomplished, said Watson, is through extended school services programs like free tutoring.

The monitoring team suggested that PHS improve education at the school by structuring curriculum improvements to illustrate "increased levels of expectations" for students, with those expectations being properly communicated to the students, so they know what to expect from their classes.

Additionally, the monitoring team suggested that the school improve instructional strategies to address the needs of "diverse learners" by implementing varieties of research-based strategies into their teaching curriculum.

According to Watson, the board of education, in conjunction with the Kentucky Leadership Academy, has been researching information for the last two years regarding "how" people learn.

That information, she said, is helping to train teachers on differential and multiple learning styles.

If a student is interested in

music, for instance, the teacher can integrate a musical aspect to a history, literature or math class, which would prompt more interest in the subject from the student.

"It's important to know that all activity has one purpose and that purpose is to improve teaching and learning so our students can be better for college or whatever comes to them after high school," said Watson. "We have one goal in mind and that's to guide and lead in the improvement of learning in our schools."

Other observations made by the monitoring team during the visit include:

■ The CRT has provided an Open Response workshop.

■ The school council is developing an assessment policy.

■ All staff and council are involved in CATS data analysis.

■ Teachers' content knowledge help to "affect high levels of learning."

■ Teachers have plenty of instructional resources to teach effectively.

According to the report, areas of need at PHS include:

■ PHS needs to formalize the curriculum improvement process through a standing committee in regular meetings and a curriculum mapping process.

■ PHS needs to design course offerings and instructional units of time based on the KDE Blueprint for Assessment and the Program of Studies.

■ Classroom assessments should contain more open-response and multiple-choice

questions.

■ Student work should be analyzed by various protocols.

■ More use of scoring guides and rubrics.

During Wednesday's meeting, the PHS site-based council meeting also:

■ Approved a school activi-

ties funds financial report.

■ Approved policies regarding committee restructuring.

■ Discussed a related arts and humanities presentation by Kathy Caudill, department chair, which suggested ways of improving CATS test scores in the art and humanities.

School

Continued from p1

November and was the result of a purchased and refurbished Hindman High School project. More than \$400,000 worth of equipment was moved in shortly after completion and permanent staff had been hired at the school.

College officials said Friday that, in the past two years, approximately 300 people had contacted the school expressing interest in enrollment, and classes were scheduled to begin within the next few weeks.

"I hope that this is only a delay and not a permanent closure," Turner said Friday. "Eastern Kentucky is desperate for education programs, and that's why the governor's cuts, both those in higher education and those to elementary and secondary education, are so hurtful to our region."

Turner said that he and his fellow Democrats in the Senate asked for a meeting to discuss concerns when the cuts were first announced last week, but have not received word of a possible date for when a meeting could take place.

The craft school, located on Education Drive in Hindman, had offered study in the five media areas of jewelry and metals, wood, clay and blacksmithing and fibers and had been referred to as the "cornerstone of community revitalization" for the city of Hindman when former Gov. Paul Patton first awarded the city with grants aimed at improving the area's education and the arts.

Dr. Jay Box, president and CEO of Hazard Community and Technical College addressed faculty and staff about the closing on Friday, saying the college had been "piecing together" funding while waiting for recurring operation funds to get legislative approval.

"This is a loss not only for Hazard Community and Technical College and the community of Hindman," Box said, "but also for the entire state of Kentucky, as the school was to be Kentucky's school of craft — the only one of its kind in the entire state."

Trial

Continued from p1

Those charges, however, were dismissed by Caudill and transferred on Dec. 5, to another case, which, following the filing of a superseding indictment by the commonwealth's attorney's office, charges her with an additional count of first-degree criminal abuse of a child.

Hall was indicted on the superseding charges in September, after the commonwealth filed a notice of its intention to introduce evidence of other crimes allegedly committed by Hall.

She was arraigned Oct. 27, pleading not guilty to all of the charges in Caudill's courtroom.

Attorney Kristi Grey and public advocates Vickie Howard and Harolyn Howard will represent Hall during the trial, which has been continued three times since 1998.

She is currently free on a \$10,000 partially-secured bond. Because of the sexual nature of the alleged crimes, the case was sealed by Caudill in October. No details regarding the nature of the alleged crimes are available to the public.

Drug defendant pleads guilty in plea bargain

by MARY MUSIC
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — A Floyd County woman arrested last year for drug trafficking near Prestonsburg Elementary School is expected to get probation after she entered a guilty plea this week in circuit court.

According to documents filed Friday, Stephanie Michele Smiley, 35, of Prestonsburg, appeared in circuit court Tuesday, Jan. 20, with her attorney Terry Mulliken, where she pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of a controlled substance and one count of having a controlled substance that was not in its original container.

Smiley, who was originally charged with trafficking near a school, second-degree trafficking and for having prescriptions in an improper container, changed her original not guilty plea after negotiations with the commonwealth's attorney's office in December led to a plea agreement.

In return for her plea, the commonwealth recommended that the trafficking charges against Smiley be amended to two counts of first-degree possession, class D felonies.

They offered Smiley a total of two years for the offenses: two years for both counts of possession and 12 months for the other

charge, with each of the sentences to run concurrently.

However, the commonwealth proposed in its plea agreement that Smiley be released on supervised probation following her formal sentencing, which is scheduled to be held Feb. 20.

She is to report to the Department of Probation and Parole immediately following her release from the court, the document says.

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

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

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

She is currently free on a \$25,000 surety bond, awaiting sentencing next month.

Fire

Continued from p1

"They managed to get two of the children out," Hopkins said. "But when Mr. Duncan went back for the other two, he couldn't get to them."

One of the couple's five children was in school when the blaze began, police said.

While firefighters were routinely extinguishing the last few pockets of fire at the Maytown residence, officials with the Floyd County Coroner's Office were busy maintaining, and at times losing, their emotional distance from the reality of the scene while searching for one of the two children through blackened bits of furniture, including a scorched couch and playpen tossed onto the front lawn among several other pieces of furniture and toys. Other workers pulled water hoses around an ash-covered swingset, putting out the last of the blaze.

"I'm just too emotional to talk about it right now," said a tearful Deputy Coroner Glen Frazier shortly after bringing one of the two small boys from the wreckage of the home.

As of Friday afternoon, the first of the two bodies had been brought from the sagging and charred home, cradled tightly in Frazier's arms after being discovered in the living room.

Approximately two hours later, when officials recovered the second body, found in a bedroom of the home, officials were still unable to make positive identification.

Family members stood fighting tears with arms crossed at the scene Friday, crossing police lines and then moving back into

the crowd, silent and seemingly in shock.

"They were just two beautiful children," said Amy Hall, the children's aunt. "They were happy and smiling all the time."

Wobbling from foot to foot and wiping tears from the corners of her eyes, an angry Hall also tossed questions toward the local fire department, which is roughly two blocks from the burned home.

"What I don't understand is why they couldn't get here faster?" Hall said, pointing to the fire station just up the street from the burned remains of her brother's house. "And when they got here, why they didn't try to go in and get those children out? They told me to stand back and started in, but then came back. Now two children are gone and nothing can bring them back."

Hopkins said KSP Post 9 in Pikeville was notified of the fire

at approximately 10 a.m. Friday morning, while Bailey said he and other fire department officials received calls at approximately 10:50 a.m. informing them of "a structure fire with possible subjects inside."

"When I arrived on scene, the house was fully engulfed," said Maytown Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Chris Bailey. "We were at the house within 12 minutes, but there just wasn't much we could do."

Hansford and assisting KSP arson detective Don Parker said the home had electric heat and that a possible answer for how the fire might have started would not include scenarios involving other types of alternative heating such as a kerosene or floor-model heaters.

Police do not suspect foul play at this point in the investigation, Hopkins said.

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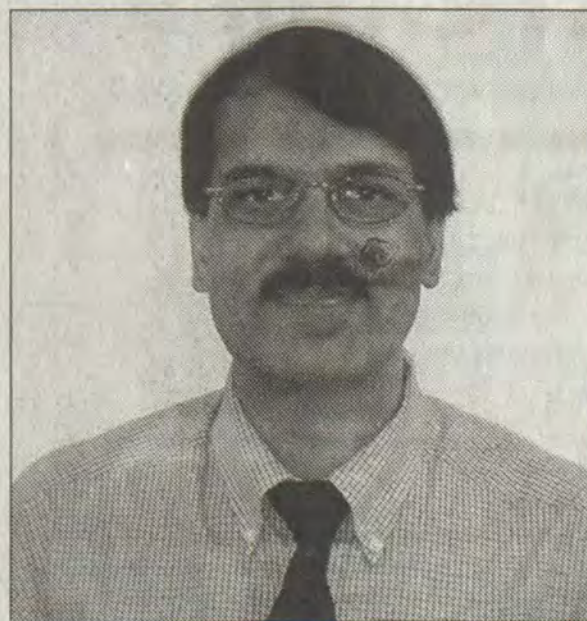
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expression

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

GuestView

Mars: It's not Bush's folly

Critics of President Bush's plan for a manned mission to Mars argue that the nation can't afford such a trip and that there are pressing needs here on Earth far more worthy of the money that such a mission would require. The critics have a point. At a time when members of Congress are spending like a bunch of drunken sailors and driving the nation deeper into debt — and those are just the Republicans — it can seem foolish to be talking about space missions to uninhabitable planets. Especially when the latest unmanned probe to the planet appears to have stopped functioning just as its mission was getting under way.

Certainly the Bush administration has to do a better job of explaining where the money will come from. It has to come from somewhere, and, frankly, we're not crazy about suggestions such as allowing the Hubble telescope to die an early death as a way of saving some cash for a Mars trip. Any Mars venture must be funded rationally and responsibly and without sacrificing other vital elements in humanity's exploration of space.

But that doesn't mean Mars is Bush's folly. Critics of President Kennedy's pledge to land men on the moon by the end of the 1960s cited the same reasons for not going there: It's too expensive, and the money could be better spent here. But abiding by such logic means humanity will never go anywhere and that it wouldn't have gone to the moon.

There will always be pressing needs at home. There will always be other places, people or programs that could use the money. But despite the nation's current budgetary problems and a growing deficit, the United States is still the wealthiest country on the planet.

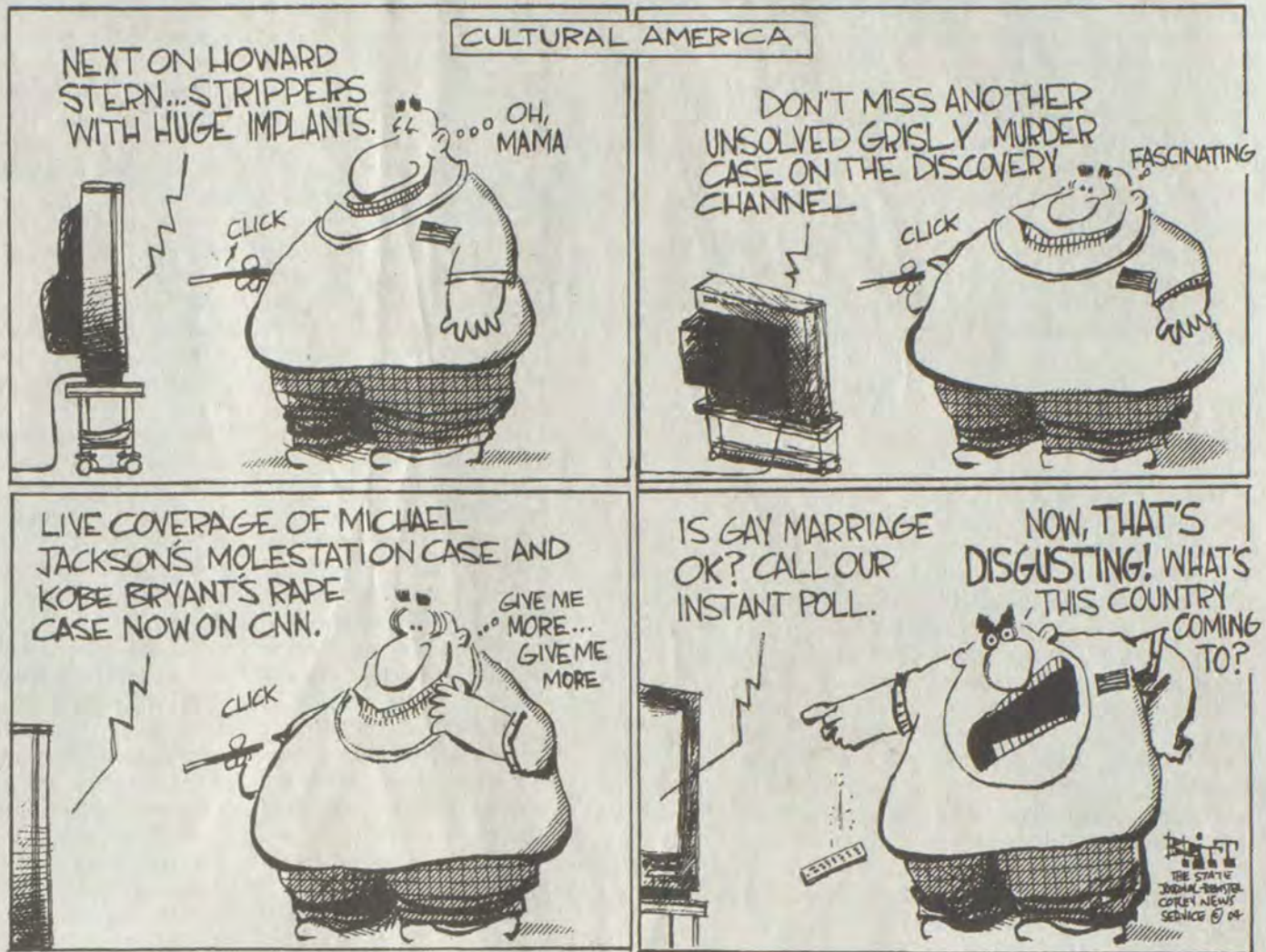
Finding a responsible way to pay for a trip to Mars — even if that means extending deadlines for such an exploration — should be possible given this country's resources. It might make sense to turn Mars into a truly humanitarian mission by inviting other nations to participate in, and help pay for, the trip.

Finally, it should be remembered that going to the moon paid off in technological developments and scientific knowledge that may not have been acquired otherwise. The advances humanity made in going to the moon were not limited to space exploration. The same will probably hold true for Bush's plan, which calls for building a base on the moon before heading to Mars.

Scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison argue, for example, that a non-polluting and abundant energy source — helium-3 — is just lying around the surface of the moon, waiting to be brought back to Earth. If they're right, mining the stuff could solve some pressing environmental problems here on Earth. And odds are that other such discoveries will be made on the way to Mars.

So, yes, a trip to Mars will be expensive, and budgeting for it needs to be realistic. But a manned mission to Mars may in the end more than pay for itself, in practical terms and as one more step in humanity's exploration of the universe.

— *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*



— Jim Davidson

A soldier died today

One of the greatest possessions any people anywhere on earth can ever have is freedom — the freedom from external and internal oppression, the freedom to choose their own destiny and the freedom to live in harmony with their fellow human beings.

In America we are still working on that last one, but we do have more freedom and more opportunities than any people in the history of civilization. Yet, millions of people in our prosperous nation do not know the price of freedom, who is responsible for it and what it took to achieve it.

These thoughts came to mind when I recalled a question a friend asked his youth Sunday school class one time. He asked the question, "Who pays the preacher?" In a group of 15 young people, he was literally amazed that no one knew the correct answer. You would think that young people who attended church would know that.

In like manner, we could also ask the youth of our nation as well as adults, "Who is responsible for our freedom?" In other words, who is most responsible

for the United States of America being a free nation? What would your answer be?

The correct answer may surprise you. It is not the politicians. It is not the lawyers. It is not the educators. It is not the bankers. It is not the corporate executives. It is not the ministers. It is not ... well, you fill in the blank.

The correct answer for those who are most responsible for our freedom are those people in our country we call veterans, and we should honor them above all the others that I have named. We would not have the opportunity to be politicians, lawyers, educators, business executives, professional athletes, newspaper columnists or to pursue our dreams in any field we choose, were it not for our nation's veterans.

If you did not already know this, I hope you will never forget it because we owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who served in combat to win and preserve our freedom. We do honor them on special occasions and observances, but every single American, both young and old, needs to understand both intellectually and emotionally what

these heroes, past and present, have done for the rest of us.

The other day a friend sent me something titled, "Our Nation Is in Mourning ... A Soldier Died Today." You know we all get and read things like this from time to time, but if we don't put it in the proper context, much of the meaning will be lost. Please meditate on these simple words:

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,

And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done.

In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes to his neighbors his tales became a joke,

All his buddies listened quietly, for he knew whereof he spoke.

But well hear his tales no longer, for ol' Bob has passed away,

And the world's a little poorer for a Soldier died today.

He went be mourned by many, just his children and his wife.

For they lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,

(See DAVIDSON, page five)



— beyond the beltway

Mars and Iowa — both political

by DONALD KAUL

George W. Bush announced a new production last week: "Man on the Moon, the Sequel." That's right. The man who once said "the jury is still out on evolution" has put in his bid to become the Science President.

The word is that the president intends not only to put a man on the moon, but to establish a base there from which to put a man on Mars. It's the vision thing. I can only imagine how the proposal came about:

The president, at a staff meeting, says: "Say, I was thumbing through some of my old Buck Rogers comics the other day when an idea came to me."

"We've warned you about getting ideas while you're looking at your comic book collection, sir." "I know, but this is a good one. How about we put a man on the moon? Find out whether it's really made of green cheese once and for all."

"Uh, sir, that's a good idea but we've already put a man on the moon."

"We have? Blast Clinton. Always stealing Republican ideas."

"It wasn't Clinton, sir. It was Kennedy."

"Kennedy? That's silly. How could

Kennedy put a man on a moon? He's a senator. I know the family is rich, but..."

"Not Teddy Kennedy, sir. His brother, Jack."

"I didn't know Teddy Kennedy had a brother."

Or words to that effect. Never mind that we've already been there, done that. That doesn't necessarily mean we could do it again. Last month they tried a reenactment of the Wright brothers' first flight and couldn't get the plane off the ground. Not all great moments are repeatable.

And as for going to Mars ... a one-way trip would take two years with the technology we have now or in the foreseeable future and we have no way of keeping the astronauts from being fried by radiation on a journey of that length.

On the other hand, the exploration of Mars is not the point. The point is to present the president as a man of vision as the election approaches. One small step for a man. One giant leap for the Republican Party.

It also serves to deflect public attention from the economy, which isn't doing as well as the Republicans promised when they passed their rich man's tax cut. They were expecting

150,000 jobs to appear in December. Instead, 1,000 showed up. No wonder the pres started thinking about a trip to the moon.

Nor should we forget that the plan was floated on the cusp of the caucuses in Iowa. What a coincidence. While the Democrats travel from town to town in Iowa, resembling mud-wrestlers at a state fair, the president is in the presidential mansion, thinking deep, cosmic thoughts.

Howard Dean had been leading the pack but it looks as though he's slipping, largely because he keeps getting caught telling the truth. It was recently discovered that four years ago he said the caucuses were unfair and ruled by special interests. Which they are but "Your system stinks. Vote for me" is a lousy campaign slogan. On exposure, he did what any sensible politician would have done — threw himself on his knees and begged for mercy.

The Iowa caucuses are a sweet-tempered, essentially parochial event whose importance has been blown all out of proportion to their worth by a press hungry for clichés. Reporters love the spectacle of politicians being forced to confront actual people who pelt them with actual questions about real issues. Democracy in action.

In truth, the caucuses are at best a

(See BELTWAY, page five)

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Faith Extra

Minister's Moment: Bringing others closer to God

by **FATHER BOB DAMRON**
ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Little Johnny is lost. He didn't return home today after school. It is now getting dark.

Places where little Johnny might be have all been checked. Little Johnny cannot be found. When a child is lost, there are people who can be sent to look. Friends, neighbors and police

can all be called in to join in the search. But when the sun goes down and darkness falls, it is a rare father who can continue to sit and wait for word of his child. So little Johnny's dad puts

on his and goes out himself calling his child's name in the night-time chill. The father continues to search until the child is found. Likewise with God our Father, as people's refusal to

warm with God's love spread its dark chill over the face of the earth. As we became lost, God grew restless. God put on human flesh and came Himself searching for His children.

God became one of us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, the distance between the Father and His children was removed. In the life of Jesus, God walked the path that all His children must walk — the path of laughter and tears, the path of joy and pain. In the life of Jesus, God established a new relationship with humanity, being not long God-Creator but also God-(Abba) Father. In Jesus, God came in search of the lost, those lost in sin, those distant from God.

In the Gospel (John 1:29), John the Baptist proclaims to

everyone gathered there on the banks of the River Jordan that Jesus is the Lamb of God. John proclaims to the world that Jesus is the One who takes away the sins of the world. Everything that John did, every word that John spoke, was to lead others to Jesus. The entire life of John the Baptist pointed to Christ. The Messiah - Jesus - was the purpose of John's every breath, of his birth, of his life. "Behold the Lamb of God," John shouted at the Jordan so that all may hear. John, who prepared the way of the Lord with his preaching and baptisms, John, whose life had meaning because of Jesus.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

(See **CLOSER**, page six)

Traveling to the hajj an emotional experience for U.S. Muslims

by **TAREK EL-TABLAUWY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROMULUS, Mich. — At an airline ticket counter in Detroit Metropolitan Airport, a man drapes his arm around his elderly father's shoulder. A smile radiates

from the older man's face. "Are you ready?" whispers the son. The father nods his head and clasps his wife's hand.

A few yards away, a husband gently embraces his wife. "May you go and return in peace," he says. "There is no God but God."

"And Muhammad is his Prophet," she says, completing the Shahada, a prayer that devout Muslims must recite as one of the five pillars — or obligations — of their faith.

About 100 Detroit area Muslims headed to Saudi Arabia last week to perform the hajj, a pilgrimage to Islam's holiest site in Mecca. For one group of mostly Shiite Iraqis who gathered at the airport, the trip is especially poignant this year.

The pilgrimage is another of the five pillars of Islam, required of every able-bodied Muslim who can afford the trip at least once in their lifetime, and it is a time of joy, renewal and hope.

The Saudi embassy says about 12,000 U.S. Muslims, from a population estimated between 2 million and 6 million, will be undertaking the same journey this year.

They will join roughly 2 million other pilgrims who will begin their hajj on Jan. 31 by vis-

iting Mecca's Grand Mosque. There, they will circle the Kaaba, a large cubic stone structure that Muslims face during their five daily prayers, before continuing the multi-day pilgrimage that includes a ritual "stoning of the devil" in the nearby city of Mina.

For Ali al-Baaj, 35 — the man who was speaking to his father at the ticket counter — this year's pilgrimage is a first in many ways.

Al-Baaj, who is from Basra, Iraq, hasn't seen his native country since fleeing it with his family following the 1991 Shiite uprising that was quashed by Saddam Hussein. He, and most of the other Iraqi members of his travel group, will continue their trip from Mecca to Iraq for a reunion with their families.

"This is a truly special hajj," said al-Baaj, who traveled with his parents and sister. "This year, we can go home. It's a true rebirth of the spirit and a country."

For older members of his family, the trip marks the culmination of a lifelong dream. It's a trip his parents, Hussein, 70, and Sharbat, 60, were too poor, and often too restricted, to undertake while living in an Iraq where members of the Shiite branch of Islam existed as the downtrodden majority.

In Iraq, "the daily thoughts were of survival. The hajj was something we only dreamed of doing," said al-Baaj, speaking for

(See **MUSLIMS**, page eight)

Beltway

Continued from p4

convoluted expression of democracy and, in a better world, would be no more than a delightful curiosity that had little national impact. Instead they have become one of the most important events on our political calendar, able to make and break candidates at their whim.

It doesn't make any sense but, then again, not much about the way we choose a president makes sense.

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

His e-mail address is: donald.kaul2@verizon.net.

Davidson

Continued from p4

going quietly on his way; And the world won't note his passing, tho' a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state.

While thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories from the time that they were young.

But the passing of a Soldier goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,

Some jerk who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife, Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politicians' stipend and the style in which he lives,

Are often disproportionate to

the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier, who offered up his all,

Is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them, for it is so many times that our Bobs and Jims and Franks went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians with their compromise and ploys, Who won for us our freedom that our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,

Would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier — His home, his country, his kin,

Just a common Soldier, who would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier, and his ranks are growing

thin,

But his presence should remind us we might need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, we find the soldiers part

Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,

Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say: "Our Country Is in Mourning ... A Soldier Died Today."

LET FREEDOM RING!

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

"Share The Memories"

On Wednesday, February 18 The Floyd County Times will publish **Prom & Bridal 2004**

We're looking for the most interesting, funny, heartwarming stories our readers would like to share of their most memorable Prom or that special Wedding Story!

Please keep your stories to a 500 word maximum and submit to: features@floydcountytimes.com

Deadline: **Friday, February 13, 2004, 5 pm.** Photos may accompany your story and must be attached jpeg, tiff or pdf format.

We're looking forward to your writings, making this special edition one of our "most" special ever!

Note: All submissions will be edited. Articles will include bylines. No fee required.

"My Special Valentine"

Valentine's Day is almost here. Show your "Special Valentine" how much you love them. Your spouse, significant other, child, grandchild, niece or nephew. Your special loved one will be placed in a heart-shaped frame. Include the name of your loved one, who it is from, and your address.

Your special display of affection will appear in our Friday, Feb. 13th Edition of The Floyd County Times. (no more than two children per photo, please)

Deadline for entries: **Monday, Feb. 9, 2004, at 5:00 p.m.** \$12.95 per frame.

Bring or mail photo, names and payment to: **"My Special Valentine"** c/o The Floyd County Times P.O. Box 390 Prestonsburg, KY 41653

Include your email address and we'll be glad to email you a copy of your photo)

EXAMPLE:  Happy Valentine's Day "Sissy Bug" Love You So Much, Tissy Tim

1 Column x 3 Inches

NAME: _____

CHECK ONE: Daughter() Son() Granddaughter() Grandson() Spouse() Significant other() Niece() Nephew()

from _____

Parent's() OR Grandparent's() Name: _____

Address _____

Write your own message, five words or less, or choose one of ours: _____

We Love You!() Happy Valentine's Day!()
Our Precious Valentine!() My Special Valentine!()

Regional Obituaries

Floyd County

Margaret "Mag" Simmons Ackerman, 84, of Prestonsburg, died, Tuesday, January 20, at the home of her daughter, Lona Catherine Chafin, in Huntington. Rite of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Martha Catholic Church, on Friday, January 23. Carter Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Fred Conn, 92, of Printer, died Friday, January 16, at the McDowell Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Mildred "Midge" Halbert, 69, of Langley, died Friday, January 16, in Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 18, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Tiffany Ann Hall, 18, of Robinson Creek, died Saturday, January 17, following an automobile accident in Pike County. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 21, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Minnie Shepherd Johnson, 80, of Auxier, died Saturday, January 17, at her residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 20, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Russell (Buck) Layne, 95, of Prestonsburg, died Thursday, January 15, at Cabell-Huntington Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Cecil Paul Maggard Jr., 25, of Ivel, died Friday, January 16, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Tammy Jean Stanley Maggard. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Fred Martin Jr., 65, of Lackey, died Thursday, January 15, at his residence.

Odds

Continued from p2

Nahum was attractive, which she did.

"For the record, I would submit he was about 6 feet, 2 inches. He was in good shape, you know, a fit individual, young detective, looked to be maybe 30." Blanco's attorney, Kevin J. Kulik, said.

Nahum testified that he had done nothing to make himself appear attractive to Blanco and said he understood "party" to mean drugs.

The appeals court agreed that Blanco had been entrapped by "non-verbal communication" used by the undercover officer.

Closer

Continued from p5

we are to be like John the Baptist. Every word we speak should lead others closer to Christ. Everything we do should bring others to Christ. As with John, our lives are to proclaim Jesus to everyone else. We are to point others to Christ and guide them to His love and His mercy. At the end of the day, each of us needs to ask ourselves, "Did my words today speak of God's love and help others to discover God's embrace? Did my actions this day bring others closer to Christ or chase them away from experiencing Christ's presence? Did my life today proclaim, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ'?"

If my lack of patience, my harsh words, or my unkind actions did not show others the way to Christ, I know He who is the Lamb of God is also the One who takes away the sin of the world. He is the One who takes

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Row Martin. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 17, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Birdie Lucille Park, 68, of St. Petersburg, Florida, a native of Price, died Monday, January 19, 2004, at the Edward White Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 24, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Goldia Williams Snipes, 85, was dead on arrival Saturday, January 17, at Highlands Regional Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Cecil Elbert Snipes. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 20, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Teresa H. Taylor, 50, of Dana, died Friday, January 16, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Joe David Taylor. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 21, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Glenn Wallen, 69, of Prestonsburg, died Friday, January 16, at Ohio State University Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, following an extended illness. Services were held Wednesday, January 21, under the direction of Burke Funeral Home.

Minnie Miller Warrix, 79, of Water Gap, died Friday, January 16, at Highlands Regional Medical Center of Prestonsburg. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 20, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Sarah Jane Hughes Wilcox, 84, of Prestonsburg, died Monday, January 19, at the Prestonsburg Health Care Center. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 22, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home.

Knott County

Arizona Hall Devore, 84, of Litt Carr, died Friday, January 16, at Norton Community Hospital, Norton, Virginia. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home.

Ettie Johnson Fouts, 92, of Kite, died Friday, January 16, in the Letcher Manor Nursing Home, Whitesburg. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Hall Funeral Home.

Martin County

William Francis (Billy) Crum, 47, of Davella, died Saturday, January 10, at his residence. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 13, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Larna Horn, 78, of South

Shore, formerly of Inez, died Sunday, January 11, at South Shore Nursing Home. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 14, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Johnson County

Winfred Cochran, 83, a Johnson county native, died Tuesday, January 13, at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Edna Susan McKenzie Treating Cochran. Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 16, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Mollie Hunter, 97, a Lawrence County native, died Wednesday, January 14, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 11, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Lillian Hope Lowe, 60, a native of Denver, died Saturday, January 17, at her residence. She is survived by her husband, Ervin Lowe. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Hunter Bradley Meek, died Wednesday, January 14, at King's Daughters' Medical Center, Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 18, under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home.

Lura Mae Pelphrey, 90, of Oil Springs, died Monday, January 5, at J.J. Jordan Nursing Home, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Friday,

January 9, under the direction of Phelps and Son Funeral Home.

Dr. Joseph H. Rapier, 86, died Tuesday, January 20, at Woodland Oaks Nursing Home, Ashland. A private family graveside service was held Thursday, January 22, at the family cemetery. Jones-Preston Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Lloyd Melvin Short, 68, a native of Meally, died Thursday, January 15, at Cedars of Lebanon of Lebanon, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 19, under the direction of Paintsville Funeral Home.

Tivis Stambaugh, 75, a native of Johnson County, died Thursday, January 15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg. He is survived by his wife, Elleda Castle Stambaugh. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 18, under the direction of Preston Funeral Home.

Lawrence County

Lassie Maynard Arnett, 77, of Louisa, died Friday, January 9, at J.J. Jordan Geriatric Center, Louisa. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 12, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Charles Edward Preece, 71, of Louisa, died Friday, January 9, at King's Daughters' Medical Center, in Ashland. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Blackburn Preece. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 12, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Pike County

Catherine Muir Anderson, 91, of Pikeville, formerly of Elkhorn City, died Tuesday, January 20, at Pikeville Healthcare Center. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 22, under the direction of Thacker Memorial Funeral Home.

Michael Paul Blankenship, 28, of Buskirk, died Saturday, January 17, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 21, under the direction of R.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home.

Edgar Lee Elswick, 80, of Ecorse, Michigan, formerly of Virgie, died Friday, November 7, at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital, Wyandotte, Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Lola Elswick. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 11, under the direction of Ballheim Funeral Home.

Allie Stacy Gilliam, 76, of Bradenton, Florida, formerly of McAndrews, died Friday, January 16, at Blake Hospital, Bradenton. She is survived by her husband, William J. Gilliam. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 18, under the direction of Shannon Funeral Home, and Rogers Funeral Home.

Ruth Elizabeth Johnson Hall, 96, formerly of Shelbiana, died Monday, January 19, in Ashland. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 22, under the direction of Carman Funeral Home.

Ethel Charles Hughes, 95, of Pikeville, formerly of Big Rock, Virginia, died Tuesday, January 20, at Pikeville Healthcare Center. Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 23, under the direction of J.W. Call & Son Funeral Home.

Nora Johnson, 88, of Myra, died Saturday, January 17, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, January 20, under the direction of Hall & Jones Funeral Home.

Emily Slone McCoy, 97, of Grundy, Virginia, a Pike County native, died Monday, January 19, at Buchanan General Hospital, Grundy. Funeral services were conducted Friday, January 23, under the direction of Grundy Funeral Home.

Tilda Taylor McCoy, 91, of Sprigg, West Virginia, a Zebulon native, died Monday, January 19, at the South Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, January 22, under the direction of Hatfield Funeral Chapel.

Loraine J. Melton, 69, of Phyllis, died Sunday, January 18, at Pikeville Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Burder Melton. She is survived by her husband, Burder Melton. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 21, under the direction of Lucas & Hall Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Sharon LaNell Watson Bingham



Sharon LaNell Watson Bingham, the daughter of Maxine Bierman Childers of Prestonsburg, and the late Dolph Watson Jr., was born on December 11, 1951, at Paintsville, and died on January 22, 2004.

After receiving B.A. and M.A. degrees from Morehead State University, Sharon was a teacher in the Floyd County Schools at Clark Elementary School, where she was a valued member of the faculty. At Clark, she served as a resource teacher, annual staff sponsor, Extended School Services Coordinator, First Steps, Portfolio Evaluator, and the portfolios of her students received the Distinguished ranking. She was a member of NEA, KEA, and the Floyd County Education Association, and served on the board of the Jenny Wiley Festival, which was founded by her mother.

Sharon was blessed with two children; her son, Aaron Jason Bingham, and daughter, Carly Jewel Bingham, both of Prestonsburg. She also had two step-daughters, Shonna Radford of Tennessee, and Christie Leignaker, of Florida.

In addition to her mother and her children, she is survived by

her sister, Karen Lee Cornett of Prestonsburg, step-brother, Robert Bierman of Bowling Green, and nephews Carl Ed Bingham, Josh Bingham, and Philip Cornett, all of Prestonsburg, and Jeff Bingham of Lexington; and nieces, Stephanie Moore and Alana Cornett, both of Prestonsburg.

She was preceded in death by her step-father, E.L. Bierman and her nephew, Max Cornett, both of whom she loved dearly.

Sharon was a member of the First Christian Church of Prestonsburg, where she served as pianist for many years.

Funeral services will be at the church with Brother Kevin Jett, Brother Jim Sherman, and Brother Dave M. Flanery, officiating, Sunday, January 25, at 1 p.m., under the direction of Carter Funeral Home, Prestonsburg.

Visitation was at the funeral home.

Active pallbearers are Carl Ed Bingham, Jeff Bingham, Josh Bingham, Michael Branham, Kyle Ousley and Jesse Sammons.

Honorary pallbearers are Jerry Bryan Lafferty, Robert Bierman, Hon. James Allen, Sharon Sammons, Clea Haywood, Robin Bingham, Carrie Caudill, Evelyn G. Flanery, Bill Donovan, Bill Mathis, David King, Kimber McGuire, Tom O. McGuire Sr., Clyde George, Phyllis Ranier, and Burieta Gearhart.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that contributions be made in her memory to the Max Cornett Holy Bible Fund, c/o First Christian Church, 160 N. Arnold Avenue, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. (Paid obituary)

Henry Moore Jr.

Henry Moore Jr., of Whitley City, passed away, Wednesday, January 21, 2004, after a brief illness.

He was born April 2, 1915, in Harold, to his parents, Henry Moore Sr. and Nan Hunter Moore. He graduated from Betsy Layne High School in 1933 and from the University of Kentucky in 1941 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He taught at Betsy Layne High School and was the basketball and baseball coach. During this time, he also operated his coal mines in Floyd County.

He was a member of the Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church in Whitley City. He was a member of the East Point Masonic Lodge for more than 60 years, having been initiated October 10, 1943.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Bryant Moore of Whitley City and three daughters: Nancy Moore Jones of Whitley City, Janice Riggs and her husband, Phil and Brenda Stull and her husband, Bill, both of Lexington; and grandchildren: Trisha Moore and Rachel Fisher; and two great-grandchildren: Zachary Denniston and Blake Henry Moore.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Andrew Moore and six sisters: Spicie Martin, Mindy Goble, Eva Page, Lexie Martin, Gustava Alley, and Sadie Martin.

He moved to Maryland in 1953, where he was a realtor and an appraiser. He also had construction, insurance and rental agencies. He received his Master's Degree from American University in Washington, D.C.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, January 24, at 11 a.m., in the chapel of Pine Knot Funeral Home with Rev. Danny Staley and Rev. Mark Sewell officiating.

Burial will follow in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Pine Knot Funeral Home assisted the family of Henry Moore Jr. in his funeral arrangements. (Paid obituary)

Milford Adams Jr.

Milford Adams Jr., 62, of Wooster, Ohio, died Thursday, January 22, 2004.

Born March 28, 1941, in Teaberry, he was the son of Milford Sr., and Lucy Cross Adams. He was a shipping foreman at the Gerstenslager Co. for 27 years, was an avid hunter, and enjoyed being with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Ann Sovel Adams, whom he married July 2, 1960.

Other survivors include his daughters: Tina (Tim) Yates of Wooster, Dorothy (John) Garver of Wooster, Connie (Brian) Van Dyne of Wooster; sons: Billy Adams of Wooster, and Junior Ray (Tammy) Adams of Burbank; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Walker Adams of Lorain; and a sister, Louella White of Jackson, Ohio.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his step-mother, Lizzie Adams; his siblings: Walter, Estel, Roy Lee, Rosie White, Arthur and Clarisa.

Friends will be received at the McIntire, Davis & Greene Funeral Home, 216 E. Larwill Street, Wooster, Ohio, on Sunday evening, from 5-8 p.m., with a scripture and song service at 8 p.m.

Services will be held at the McIntire, Davis & Greene Funeral Home, Monday, January 26, at 3 p.m. Interment will follow in Reedsburg Cemetery. (Paid obituary)

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PSA

Pike judge faces misconduct charges for campaign ads

by BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — An Eastern Kentucky judge has been charged with misconduct by the state Judicial Conduct Commission for allegedly running campaign ads that misrepresented his opponent.

Pike County District Judge Darrel H. Mullins was charged with four counts of misconduct for a barrage of campaign attacks against John Doug Hays, whom Mullins defeated in the 2002 election for the judgeship.

The charges, filed Dec. 22, were not made public until Friday. The commission scheduled a March 19 hearing in Prestonsburg.

Mullins denied the charges in a response filed by attorney Fred Radolovich of Louisville. Mullins asked the commission to reconsider seeking a public reprimand.

The commission accused Mullins of violating the Code of Judicial Conduct by running the attack ads and commercials.

In particular, the commission said Mullins failed to uphold the

integrity and independence of the judiciary, avoid impropriety and refrain from inappropriate political activity.

The ads criticized Hays' actions as a legislator and as a legal adviser to Pike County Judge-Executive Karen Gibson. Hays is a former state senator from Pike County.

One radio ad featured labor union members criticizing Hays' position on a bill affecting workers' compensation benefits for coal miners.

In his response, Mullins said, the ad was "truthfully represent-

ing" the views of organized labor in Pike County.

Other misconduct counts stemmed from a Mullins newspaper ad and radio and TV commercials. Those ads accused Hays of missing most Pike County Fiscal Court meetings though he was working for the judge-executive. The ad asked if Hays would fail to do his job as a judge if elected.

The Conduct Commission said that Mullins "misrepresent-

ed" that Hays had a duty to attend all fiscal court meetings.

Mullins responded that if Hays' job was to provide legal counsel to the judge-executive, he should have attended each meeting.

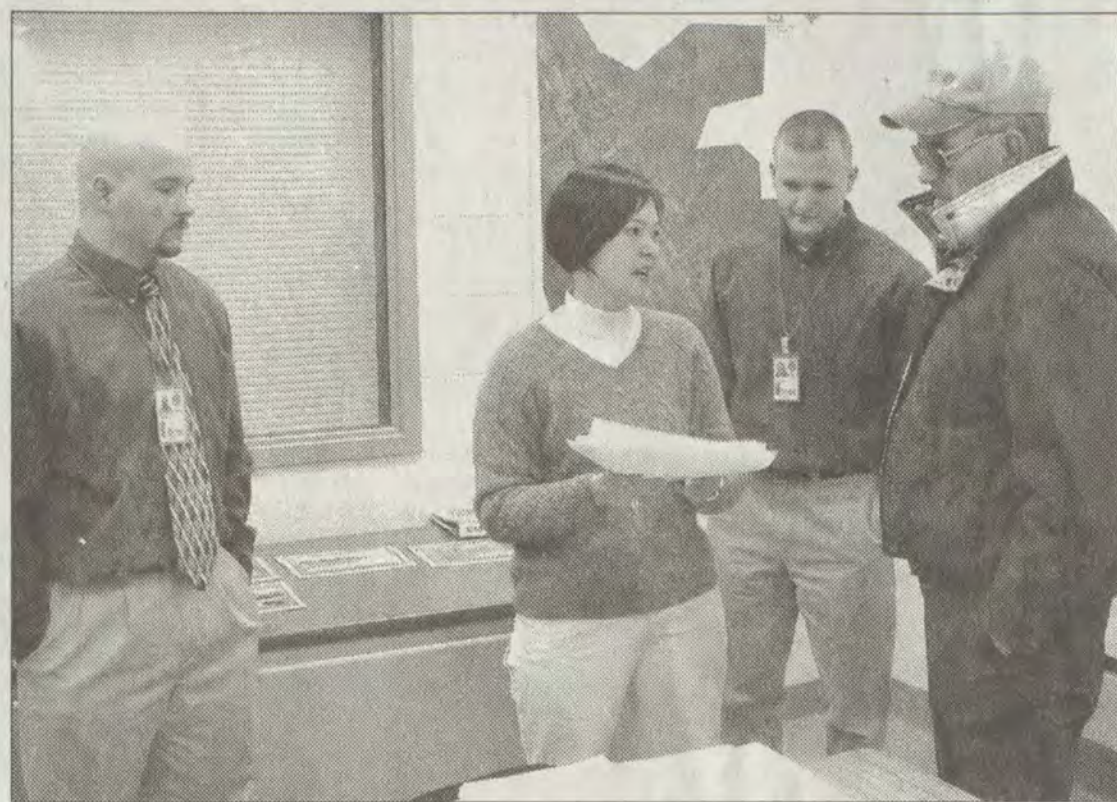
His response also said that pointing out an opponent's "lack of diligence" in fulfilling public duties upholds the judiciary's integrity.

Another count stemmed from radio and TV ads that accused

Hays of voting to let criminals out on parole after serving 20 percent of their sentences.

The Conduct Commission said that was a misrepresentation because the bill Hays supported only authorized the parole board to consider releasing criminals after serving 20 percent of their sentence.

Mullins' response noted that the bill made more prisoners eligible for release and that Hays "voted for such leniency."



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives talked with William Hall, the first local resident to stop by the office Friday morning roughly 20 minutes after the Corps set up shop. The Corps plans to man the office in the upcoming weeks to respond to floodwall concerns in the community.

Corps of Engineers opens office in Prestonsburg

by SHELDON COMPTON
STAFF WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — It only took about 20 minutes before representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were to welcome their first concerned visitor to their new office in Prestonsburg Friday morning.

The office opened its doors at 10 a.m., and before 10:30, project manager Tammy Conforti, hydraulics engineer Ted Hamb and civil engineer Brian Lowe were talking with Burke Avenue resident William Hall about floodwalls and "minimal impact".

The Corps opened the office Friday and will be back tomorrow before moving to a one-day-a-week schedule in large part due to the atmosphere of a Nov. 13 meeting, Conforti said.

"People at the Nov. 13 meeting were saying they hadn't been

given information about the project, so we're here to do that," said Conforti, who adds that she is willing to set up home visits with residents seeking answers. "I'll go visit them. I'll go to board meetings or club meetings."

Doesn't Conforti have enough to do with the project without spending time on the couch with area residents? She says without the residents, there is no project.

"Without community support, we don't have a project," she said. "Besides, being here away from the all the phones and distractions back at the office will help me focus solely on the project. I expect to get a lot done."

Conforti and her team have set up laptop computers, maps and other graphs in the back area of what is now the county's emergency management offices on the second floor of the Floyd

County Annex.

Project plans have moved from its first focus, a longwall option, to a second alternative, a shortwall option, because of economic concerns for efficiency, said Conforti.

William Hall, who was the first local resident to drop by the office Friday morning, spent approximately an hour asking questions of the team.

"All I've had to go on has been hearsay," Hall said.

But Conforti hopes that will change.

The Corps has planned a meeting with the public on March 9 which will feature an exhibit that might help people understand the project more thoroughly, says Conforti.

At that hearing, Conforti says aerial photographs will be displayed of Prestonsburg during a flood. Such a view can enable residents to get a look at a flood from a different perspective, while at the same time preparing them for a second aerial view of the city with a simulated photograph of the city when equipped with a protective floodwall.

"This will give them a better idea of what a floodwall could do to help them," Conforti said.

But even with this visual aid, Conforti says she realizes there might be some people who will ask for other options.

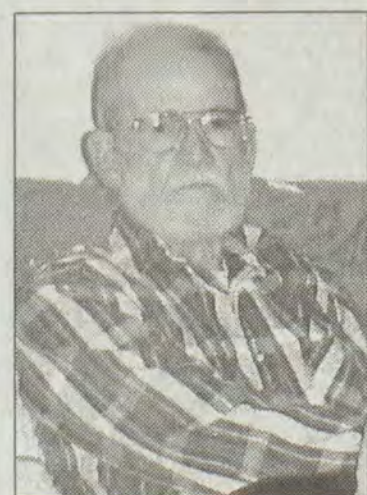
In those cases, she says that "raising" homes or the construction of "ring walls" for larger commercial buildings would be alternatives for people in areas such as Black Bottom. But buildings in the downtown area, which the agency says a short-wall option would serve to protect, are mostly too old to be raised or altered. And those that aren't are government buildings that bring in other issues.

"Everything is voluntary," Conforti said. "The people have to agree, just as the county and city have to agree."

Conforti offers that county and city officials could still take a look at study results and decided to "do nothing", but adds that with the side-benefits the study has had, it would be impossible for the \$6 million study to have been for nothing at this point.

"The study has helped with the 911 coordination and increased its efficiency tremendously. The county has new mapping," said Conforti. "So, to say 'do nothing' as an option isn't possible because it's already done something."

Dingus, Times staffer in 1940s, dies in California



Times Staff Report

ORLAND, Calif. — A former Floyd County Times employee and brother-in-law to its cofounder, Norman Allen, died at his California home Saturday, Jan. 17.

Ralf Dingus, 87, brother to Alka Allen, Norman Allen's wife, died at 4:30 p.m., Jan. 17, at his home along County Road

in Orland, Calif.

Dingus worked as a printer's apprentice for the Times during the 1940s before moving to Ohio. In Ohio, he trained as a tool grinder with the Ford Motor Company and later moved to California in 1960 to work as a journeyman tool grinder for the FMC Corporation.

Dingus retired from General Motors in 1981 after working as an assembly line inspector.

Born on Dec. 13, 1916, in Alphoritta, Dingus was the son of Elmond and Nancy Dingus.

Family members and friends remember Dingus as a lover of the outdoors who planted a small garden every year and who drove an MG-TD, an automobile he used in automotive training to restore himself.

Dingus was married to Ella Dingus. They had one daughter, Lucretia Beaton, and four sons, Donald, Ronald, Ralf Jr. and John Fortuna. He leaves behind 13 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Pope calls Appalachian Regional Commission 'government at its best'

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOMERSET — Nearly a year into her job as head of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Anne Pope is sold on the federal agency charged with bringing economic parity to the mountains.

"I like to think that the ARC is government at its best," Pope said during a visit to Somerset on Friday. "The ARC is a unique animal, connecting all levels of government, local, state and federal, to help the people. It is what government is all about."

Pope left no doubt that she is a cheerleader for the commission when she presented a \$500,000 check to help pay for clean drinking water for residents of Clay County.

She said President George W. Bush, who appointed her to her post last February, also recognizes the needs of Appalachia and is very supportive of the agency.

The commission, which is operating under a \$66 million budget this year, provides federal money to help pay for improved

medical care, job training, water line construction and other projects to improve the quality of life in Appalachia. The agency also is helping to build a regional highway system to open the mountains to economic development, but the billions of dollars for that come from a separate spending account.

The region served by the commission includes all of West Virginia and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Somerset, said the commission has played an important role in bringing economic improvement to eastern Kentucky, which has traditionally been one of the most impoverished regions of Appalachia. He said the commission's budget is relatively tiny compared to other federal agencies, yet the funding it provides to local communities has improved lives throughout the mountains.

Since it was created 39 years ago, the agency has helped to cut

Appalachia's poverty rate in half, Rogers said.

"Clearly, ARC is making a significant impact in Kentucky," Rogers said.

The money Pope announced for Clay County on Friday will ensure that 1,350 people have access to clean water.

"Currently, many residents in Clay County get their water from contaminated springs, creeks, wells and cisterns," Rogers said. "With the extension of new water lines, we will be able to ensure that safe and sanitary drinking water is more widely available."

Rogers joined with other Appalachian congressmen to keep the agency alive when budget cuts put its survival in question.

"Every year, it's a fight for the ARC," he said. "Sometimes we're on the ropes, and sometimes we have been able to get good funding increases."

Rogers said he doesn't foresee major increases any time soon.

"I'm going to at least try to keep it alive at current funding levels until better economic times," he said.

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Poor Appalachian counties struggle with spotty ambulance service

by ROGER ALFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARLAN — Dawn Nunez sat by her husband's bedside, worrying that he was having a heart attack and praying he would survive the wait for an ambulance.

An agonizing 14 hours after doctors at Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital decided her husband needed treatment that wasn't available locally, an ambulance finally arrived to take him to a larger hospital in Lexington.

"Time is of the essence when

you're dealing with an emergency," Dawn Nunez said. "Even one hour is too long to wait for an ambulance. It is frightening. You just feel so helpless."

In Appalachia's poorest counties, where many people don't have health insurance to cover the cost of ambulances, the emergency transport system is spotty at best. And even hospital administrators say that situation won't change unless the government steps in.

"Our local emergency transport system is broken," said Mike

Layfield, chief executive officer of the small Harlan hospital. "It's placing the health and welfare of the people at risk."

All of Kentucky's 257 licensed ambulance services deal with inadequate reimbursement of costs not just from private insurance companies but also from Medicaid and Medicare, said Charles O'Neal, deputy executive director of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services. The effects, he said, are more noticeable in the most impoverished areas where more patients are unable to pay.

The situation limits the number of employees working for ambulance services, prevents those employees from receiving adequate pay, and makes it difficult to purchase new ambulances and equipment, O'Neal said.

"More dollars means more money to use for all of those purposes," he said. "Reimbursement is the key."

Larry Allen, director of the Kentucky Office of Rural Health, said in many cases, local hospitals have to send registered nurses along on ambulance rides to Lexington because of a lack of paramedics.

Allen said keeping the best trained staff in some of the smaller counties is difficult when they can make more money working in larger communities where reimbursement problems aren't as dire.

"Ambulance programs face a lot of problems with funding, training, staffing," Allen said. "It's a very, very difficult program to maintain, especially in rural

Kentucky."

O'Neal said his agency has encouraged the ambulance companies, the hospital and local elected leaders in Harlan County to work together to resolve their issues. He said one possible solution would be for local government to help subsidize the cost of indigent care.

Some counties have instituted taxes of 1 to 10 cents on each \$100 worth of property to generate revenue to help offset those costs. O'Neal said that has been an effective way to help ambulance services deal with the lack of reimbursement.

In most cases, O'Neal said, that tax revenue goes to publicly owned ambulance services. But he said privately owned services like those in Harlan could just as easily be reimbursed through tax revenues for indigent care through a contract with the city and county.

"I think people in this county are fed up with the ambulance companies, and I think they'd be willing to take on some additional tax to pay for the service," Layfield said. "We're sitting here in a very mountainous area, and our patients need a way to be transported out when necessary. We need a quick answer. We can't wait. Something needs to be done."

Harlan County Judge-Executive Joe Grieshop said he plans to hold a series of public meetings on the issue to help local leaders develop a solution.

"There has been a lot of conflict and friction between the ambulance companies, the hospi-

tal and county government to try to figure out an answer," he said.

George Baker, owner of Mountain Emergency Medical Services in Harlan, said his paramedics and emergency medical technicians are concerned about the physical condition of patients, not their financial condition. For that reason, they transport patients wherever they need to go, without questioning whether they are insured.

Even so, Baker said some physicians create the reimbursement problems when they insist on sending patients 155 miles to hospitals in Lexington when they could receive comparable treatment at hospitals in Kingsport, Tenn., which is 60 miles away.

"They're taking a limited resource out of the community twice as long as it needs to be," Baker said. "For the patient, you have the risk of being on the road

twice as long as they need to be. Financially, most insurances pay for transport to the closest facility."

Nunez said insurance wasn't an issue for her husband, Al Nunez, a retired emergency room physician. The problem was that he went into the local hospital about 9 p.m., and none of the ambulance services had personnel available to make the trip until the next morning.

Fortunately, Nunez said, her husband wasn't having a heart attack. Instead, he was suffering from pancreatitis, a condition that left him hospitalized for 11 weeks.

"We are grateful it wasn't his heart," Dawn Nunez said. "He may not have survived the wait. Something has to be done. We need intervention from the county, state, somebody. I think we deserve better than that."

House bill specifies steps to take in elder abuse cases

The Associated Press

FRANKFORT

Legislation spelling out how crimes against the elderly and other "vulnerable adults" are to be handled was passed Friday by the Kentucky House.

The bill outlines the precise steps to be taken from the time a complaint is filed with the Cabinet for Families and Children until it is resolved, perhaps in a criminal trial.

Proponents say that would impose accountability on everyone, from case workers to prosecutors, involved in investiga-

tions of elder abuse, neglect, defrauding and other crimes.

Rep. Tim Feeley, one of the bill's 36 sponsors, said it should help prosecutors, especially in rural counties, because criminals who target the elderly have always been hard to catch.

Kentucky State Police and local law enforcement agencies would have to give the cabinet an annual report detailing each case and its disposition. The cabinet, in turn, would have to send a summary to the General Assembly.

The vote on the bill was 89-

Muslims

Continued from p5

his elderly father.

"But dreams do come true. We dreamed of an Iraq without Saddam and here it is. We dreamed of going to the pilgrimage and here we are," he said. "This is the time to go since you never know what the next day will bring."

For 34-year-old Samira Awada, the woman who was praying with her husband at the Detroit airport, this year marks the first time she has undertaken the trip.

"I'm excited, I'm nervous. But

I'm ready," said Awada, who lives in the heavily Arab city of Dearborn and is of Lebanese descent.

In preparation for the hajj, Awada said she has concentrated on opening her mind and heart during the five daily prayers. She is going not knowing what to expect, but well aware of what she hopes to achieve.

"A new start," she says. "I want to be a better person and this is a commitment to that."

Awada is being accompanied by her uncle since no Muslim woman is allowed to attend the hajj unless escorted by her husband or a Muharam, a male relative forbidden to her in marriage.

Awada's husband, Ali, has already been on the hajj.

"It is a beautiful experience," he said. "It changes you forever. I wish I could go again and share it with her, but someone has to stay with the kids."

Hatem Salem, 42, a Palestinian from Dearborn who belongs to the Sunni branch of Islam — the world's largest Muslim sect — led another group to Mecca and had no doubts about why he wanted to perform the hajj again.

"In our daily lives, we focus too much on what we have, what we don't have, what we want," he said. "For everyone who goes, it's an indication that they are someone who wants to open a new page in their lives with God. It's a door for repentance. If you're sincere, then God may answer your prayers and forgive you your sins."

Sheikh Nabeel al-Awadi, who moved to Michigan from Iraq, says the hajj is about unity.

"It also allows you to shed your daily concerns about money, success and other things we focus on. There, in Mecca, whether we're Americans, Palestinians, Chinese or Brazilian, we're all equal, dressed the same, praying the same," he said. "It's a reflection of the spirit of the Day of Judgment when the rich and poor will alike be judged without regard for their wealth."



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THREE-PEAT

photos by Steve LeMaster

Reservations for Richmond are in order for the Betsy Layne Ladycats. By defeating South Floyd Thursday night, Betsy Layne won its third straight 15th Region All "A" Classic title. Betsy Layne will play the 8th Region champ on the first round of the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic state tournament.



Betsy Layne senior Whitney Lykens got the final cut on the first of two championship nets.

Ladycats earn All As again

Betsy Layne girls win third straight regional All "A" title

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT — Cassandra Akers knows what it feels like to win a regional championship. As head coach, she's now guided Betsy Layne High girls' basketball teams to four different regional titles. The Ladycats are the defending 15th Region champs. And now, Betsy Layne is the three-time defending 15th Region All "A" Classic champ. The city of Richmond will soon welcome the Betsy Layne Ladycats for a third straight year. Betsy Layne hit its free throws down the stretch Thursday night and beat host South Floyd, 55-47, in the championship game of the 15th Region All "A" Classic.

Free throw shooting ultimately lifted Betsy Layne to its third straight regional small-school crown. The head coach noted that in a post-game interview.

"The girls finally realized that they have to hit their free throws," said Akers.

Betsy Layne, although it had an up-and-down go of it Thursday night against South Floyd, one of three tough Floyd County rivals, is playing up to a very effective level.

"We've played some of our best basketball here lately," added Akers.

In the championship win, Betsy Layne senior Whitney Lykens tossed in a game-high 19 points. Kristal Daniels and Kim Clark each had 12 points apiece in the championship victory.

Lykens and Clark both had a pair of three-point field goals, giving Betsy Layne four for the game. Down the stretch, in the fourth quarter, the duo connected on nine-of-nine free throws.

Lykens hit seven in the final quarter and Clark hit on two tries.

Thursday night's championship meeting was a yo-yo contest of sorts between the two teams as Betsy Layne maintained some sort of lead for most of the game against the host Lady Raiders, but could never put the game away until the final minute. South Floyd just kept coming back. The game was the total opposite of a meeting between the two teams back on Jan. 13 that saw the Betsy Layne girls not an 82-42 win.

"Playing on its homefloor, South Floyd came out fired up," said Akers. "Coming out after the last time we played them they were ready, but we did enough to win."

Betsy Layne took a 22-13 lead out of the first quarter and hit a slump in the second period.

(See ALL AS, page four)

Ladycats must now play and wait for All 'A'

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

More than one Betsy Layne Ladycat will most likely find it hard to sleep in anticipation of the program's third straight trip to a state tournament.

BETSY LAYNE — There's a waiting game going on in and around Betsy Layne High School.

(See PLAY, page two)



photo by Steve LeMaster

Betsy Layne senior Tabatha Witt was rewarded for having the top GPA.

For Betsy Layne, third time could be a charm

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR



Akers

BETSY LAYNE — A third straight trip to the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic State Tournament could be a charm for a Betsy Layne High girls' basketball team that doesn't lack experience. Seniors Whitney Lykens and Tabatha Witt have trips to two All "A" Classic state tournaments behind them. Lykens

(See CHARM, page three)

More soft walls on way for NASCAR tracks

by MIKE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR officials hope to have SAFER Barriers installed at most of its Nextel Cup tracks by 2005, and Daytona International Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway will be the next to add the so-called "soft walls."

Robin Braig, president of the Daytona track, and Rick Humphrey, vice president and general manager of Talladega, both told The Associated Press on Thursday their plans to add SAFER Barriers during the 2004 season.

Braig said the barriers, which absorb impact and reduce G Forces to the drivers in a crash, cannot be installed at the 2.5-mile oval in time for the Daytona 500 on Feb. 15, but will be in place for the Pepsi 400 on July 3.

The barriers absorb impact and reduce G Forces to the drivers in a crash. Credit: Autostock Talladega previously installed

the Steel and Foam Energy Reduction system on the inside retaining wall of its 2.66-mile oval, extending from the exit of Turn 4, along the main straightaway and trioval and into the first turn — a distance of about 3,000 feet.

Talladega will add the barriers to the outside walls in all four turns in time for the Aaron's 499 on April 25.

The energy absorbing system, designed by a team of engineers led by Dr. Dean Sicking, head of the research group at the University of Nebraska, is four steel tubes welded in 20-foot sections and bolted to the concrete walls. Between the steel and the concrete, pads of hard, pink foam are placed 10 feet apart, allowing the surface to bend and reduce force.

"We're excited about doing this and, hopefully, it'll do what NASCAR wants it to do and add a comfort level for the drivers," Humphrey said.

The addition of the barriers at Daytona raises the number of track with soft walls to seven, including Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Richmond International Raceway, New Hampshire International

Speedway, Phoenix International Speedway and Homestead-Miami Speedway.

"We'd like to see the SAFER Barriers installed by January 2005 at all the tracks at which the experts in Nebraska feel they will work and can be engineered," said Gary Nelson, managing director of NASCAR's research and development facility in Concord.

Nelson said he has seen how much difference the barriers can make.

Driver Jerry Nadeau sustained a serious head injury in a crash last May at Richmond and is still recuperating.

"In the fall, the SAFER Barrier was up at that track and Jason Keller hit, actually a little

(See TRACKS, page four)

Play

Betsy Layne has two games and a little over one week before it begins play on Feb. 4 in the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic. The Ladycats will face the winner out of the 8th Region, but before that, two games fall on the schedule during the upcoming week.

Betsy Layne will play on the road Monday night at 58th District foe Piarist. The

Ladycats will return home Thursday night to host Magoffin County in what appears to be a battle between two of the top-five teams in the 15th Region.

Ladycat head coach Cassandra Akers is keeping an open mind when it comes to the two 15th Region games her team faces before it packs up and heads to Richmond.

"I don't know how we'll

react," said Akers. "I dread the two games this week. Last year Whitney (Lykens) got hurt in one of the games before we went to Richmond."

Losing Lykens again would be detrimental to Akers and her team. The head coach will use this week to get her team into the gym.

"We need to shoot the ball more," said Akers. "Lately, we haven't shot the ball real well."

Betsy Layne is now the three-time defending 15th Region All "A" Classic Champion.

Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic State tournaments

Feb. 4-8 at ECU's McBrayer Arena in Richmond

Girls' first-round pairings (Feb. 4)

3rd Region vs. 6th, 9 a.m.; 7th vs. 5th, 10:30; 8th vs. 15th (Betsy Layne), noon; 4th vs. 2nd, 1:30 p.m.; 1st vs. 13th, 5; 14th vs. 16th, 6:30 pm.; 12th vs. 9th, 8; 11th vs. 10th, 9:30.

Boys' first-round pairings (Feb. 5)

4th Region vs. 14th, 9 a.m.; 5th vs. 1st, 10:30; 15th vs. 6th, noon; 13th vs. 8th, 1:30 p.m.; 10th vs. 12th, 5; 2nd vs. 3rd, 6:30; 9th vs. 7th, 8; 16th vs. 11th, 9:30.

Continued from p1

FOOTBALL

East Carter's Miller to sign national letter of intent with UK

TIMES STAFF REPORT

GRAYSON — East Carter lineman Aaron Miller will make a lifelong dream a reality when he signs his national letter of intent to attend the University of Kentucky and becomes a Football Wildcat. Miller will sign on the first day of the spring signing season, Feb. 4. The signing will take place at 1 p.m. in the library of East Carter High School.

Miller, a 6-foot-7, 300-pound lineman is very excited about the situation.

"Kentucky has always been my favorite," said Miller. "I have always been a big UK fan. The proximity of the school played a role too, it's close to home and my family can come watch me play."

Miller becomes the first East Carter athlete to sign with UK since Dean Hall in 1978. Hall

also attended UK on a football scholarship.

East Carter Head Football Coach Donald Damron is pleased with the success of Miller. "Anytime, as a coach, you have a young man who gets the opportunity to move on to the next level you are excited," said Damron. "Aaron is a great kid. What excites me most is the fact that Aaron is getting to go where he always wanted to go. This is a great step for Aaron and good reflection on our program at East Carter."

Miller was named to the 2003 Courier-Journal First Team All-State garnering the second most votes of all players, a Daily Independent All-Area Selection twice and he was voted 2003 Eastern Ky Conference Lineman of the Year. Miller also represented the AA Region 3, District 6 as its Player of the Year.



photo by Steve LeMaster
Floyd County Superintendent Paul Fanning presented Betsy Layne with the 15th Region All "A" Classic championship trophy.



photo by Steve LeMaster
Betsy Layne senior Whitney Lykens drove around South Floyd senior Brandy Anderson.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Adams beats Stumbo

TIMES STAFF REPORT

MUD CREEK — In a low scoring A-team game, Adams beat Stumbo, 36-19. Adams led by 10 points at the end of the first period, 10-2, and led by 12 at the half, 24-12.

The Blackcats held Stumbo to just three points in the third quarter, outscoring the Mustangs 10-3.

Jordan Hall connected on a pair of three-pointers for Adams and finished with a game-high 14 points. Bobby Hughes scored 12 points in the win. Also for Adams, James Lafferty, Josiah Reno, Dane Sizemore, Jody Tackett and Seth Setser all had two points apiece.

No player from Stumbo made into double figures in scoring.

Colby Hayes led the Mustangs in scoring with five points. As a

team, Stumbo had two three-pointers in the game.

In the B-team game, Tackett hit for a pair of three-pointers and scored a game-high 14 points to pace Adams in a 33-22 victory. Kyle Hall scored nine points for the Blackcats. Adams also had balanced scoring in the B-team game as Setser, Chris Schoolcraft, Austin Gearheart, Matt Sword and Allen Craynon each had two points.

C. Tackett led the Stumbo B-team with 12 points.

Stumbo took the C-team game, 31-9. Dylan Maldonado and Casey Martin led Stumbo to the win.

In the setback, Wil Allen led the Stumbo B-team with five points. Austin McKinney and Robbie Grigsby each had two points for the Blackcats.

LOUISVILLE — As the national anthem echoes through Freedom Hall before every Louisville home game, Taquan Dean and Francisco Garcia sway in tandem, whisper to one another and laugh.

They won't divulge what they say. It's one of many secrets between Louisville's two best players, whose friendship cuts much deeper than basketball.

"We talk about everything," said Garcia, Louisville's leading scorer.

Garcia had 19 points and seven assists and Dean scored 21 as No. 5 Louisville beat previously unbeaten and sixth-ranked Cincinnati 93-66 Wednesday night.

The sophomores are the undisputed leaders of the Cardinals, who are 14-1 and 5-0 in Conference USA.

"Garcia and Dean will get into a player much harsher than me, then they'll also praise the same way," coach Rick Pitino said. "They're like attack dogs, pit bulls, when it comes to you not getting the job done and us not winning."

Dean and Garcia first met at a camp in the summer of 2001, shortly after both had committed to play for the Cardinals. The relationship strengthened the following spring, when they played in an all-star game in Louisville.

Once they became Cardinals, Pitino sensed how close the two had already become and made them roommates.

They quickly realized they shared much more than a passion for the game.

"I let him know my personal background and he let me know

his," said Dean, Louisville's leading 3-point shooter. "We've basically been through a lot of the same struggles."

Dean grew up in rugged Red Bank, N.J., surrounded by a culture of drugs and crime. The environment became only part of his challenge.

Dean's mother died when he was 6. By the time he was 9, he had also lost two grandparents and an uncle. He eventually moved to Neptune, N.J., where he was raised by his aunt.

Garcia grew up in the Dominican Republic, where money was similarly scarce. His mother, Miguelina Garcia Soto, eventually moved Francisco and his brother, Hector Lopez, to New York City so the boys could learn English.

The family moved into an apartment in the crime-riddled Bronx.

"We looked at each other and knew we've both had to earn everything we have," Dean said.

The two also have established reputations as hard workers, showing up at the gym at daybreak every morning for competitive shooting contests.

"We would talk every day about who made the most shots," Garcia said. "He always used to beat me, but now it's a lot more fun."

They say their competitiveness has motivated each other.

"There are a lot of times where I didn't want to get up and he was like, 'Come on, we have to go. What are you talking about?'" Garcia said. "Now, when I see him doing push-ups on the floor, I have to do them, too. If he's getting better, I have to get better. But I do the same thing for him. If I'm getting better, I think he feels he has to get better."

The Cardinals have won 13 in a row and surged into the top

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Louisville duo of Dean and Garcia form lasting bond

by CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dean



Garcia

10 for the second straight season. Pitino compares Garcia and Dean to Jamal Mashburn, who played for Pitino in his early years at Kentucky.

"I've never seen such enormous pride in two young men in 30 years of coaching. For us as coaches we're just extremely lucky," Pitino said. "They're unbelievable kids, unbelievable players, model citizens. Like Mashburn was a key catalyst in turning around the Kentucky program, these two kids are major catalysts here at Louisville."

Pitino has raved that Garcia could make an early jump to the NBA if he bulks up by next season.

Garcia harbored NBA dreams from the time he arrived at college, hoping to secure his own future and pull his mother and brother out of the Bronx.

He didn't get the chance to save his brother, who was shot and killed there last month.

Dean gave his best friend

some space when he learned of the brother's death.

"I didn't want to talk to him right away because I knew everybody was trying to talk to him and console him. I know him well enough to know that's not what he wanted," Dean said. "I just backed off until it was time. I knew, at the end of the day, it would be just me and him and we would talk."

Garcia said Dean helped him through the ordeal.

"He told me I lost a brother, but I gained one, too," Garcia said. "When I needed him, he was there, with whatever I needed. I will never forget that."

Dean learned two weeks ago, when he talked to Garcia's mother on the phone, that he had truly become a member of the family.

"It was the first time I'd talked to her since I heard about the tragedy," Dean said. "She said, 'You're my baby, now.' That was great to hear."

KHSAA

Telecast date announced for state tourney draw

TIMES STAFF REPORT

LEXINGTON — The draws for the boys' and girls state basketball tournaments will be Feb. 6 in the studios of WKYT-TV in Lexington. It will air as part of the afternoon news program. The pairings will be published in the Sunday, Feb. 8 edition of the Times.

In other state notes:

The football advisory com-

mittee unanimously proposed lowering the scoring margin to 35 points — when the clock keeps running in a lopsided game — but the Board of Control tabled the issue until the April meeting.

n Mason County guard Chris Lofton remains undecided on where he'll take his basketball skills to on the next level. This past week, Mason County Dustin Grutza committed to the University of Cincinnati.

Bobcats storm past Phelps

by JAMIE HOWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BETSY LAYNE — A good way to come out of a slump is to come through with a big perfor-

mance. Brent Rose's Betsy Layne Bobcats had been in the midst of a losing streak until Thursday night when Phelps came to town. Betsy Layne exploded out of the gate and scored 24 points in less

than five-minutes to take an early 24-9 lead over the Hornets.

Preston Simon helped push the Bobcats out to the big early lead by scoring all 18 of his points in the first half. Phelps trailed 29-13 after one quarter and never got any closer throughout the remaining three quarters. Betsy Layne went on to win, 86-64.

The Bobcats continued to increase their led in the second

quarter and led 56-30 at the half. Betsy Layne forced Phelps into 16 first half turnovers and the outcome would not be in doubt during the second half. Brandon Hall tossed in 13 points on the night before leaving early in the second half.

Jordan Kidd finished with 12 points and the senior point guard dished out five assists before leaving the game early in the second half. Betsy Layne lit up the

scoreboard in the first half to the tune of seven-of-10 shooting from three point land in the first half. Brent Newsome finished with eight points for the winners and Brandon Kidd added seven.

Derek Case came off the Bobcat bench to contribute eight points on the night. Betsy Layne led 71-46 after three quarters and the night was finished for the Bobcat starters. Brandon Thacker totaled 6 points off the bench for

coach Brent Rose and Patrick Stapleton pitched in three points as well. Several Bobcats dented the scoring column with two points on the night (Brentton Akers, Jordan Case and Doug Boyd).

The Betsy Layne reserves played throughout the fourth quarter and the Bobcats ran away with the 22-point win. Phelps was led in scoring by Melvin McCoy with 26 points.



photo by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne junior Preston Simon got out in front of the Phelps defense.

BASEBALL

Pete Rose, Jr. stands by his father

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Pete Rose's son was one of the first to hear him confess that he bet on baseball. Pete Rose Jr. said Wednesday that his father told him the truth about two years ago. Rose Jr. doesn't recall the setting for their conversation, but remembers his reaction.

"What are you going to do? What can you say?" Rose Jr. said in an interview. "You've got to support him."

He accompanied his father to a bookstore Wednesday evening for a promotional appearance. The hits king signed copies of his latest autobiography, in which he confesses that he bet on Cincinnati Reds games while he was their manager.

Now 34, Rose Jr. has suffered throughout his minor league career as a result of his father's gambling scandal. At some ballparks, fans have wave dollar bills or made gambling jokes during games.

Rose's admission that he bet on baseball probably means more tough treatment for his son, who is under contract to play for the independent Joliet JackHammers of the Northern League this season.

"Every time I take the field, I hear something," Rose Jr. said. "That's just part of my life. Am I bitter about it? Yeah. I think people should (be abusive) at their own cost, but they get protected by that fence."

Rose has been criticized for not appearing to be remorseful as he finally acknowledged betting on baseball. His son said it's not in his nature to act that way.

"During the 44-game hitting streak, the 4,256 hits, the World Series - you can never tell when anything's bothering him," Rose Jr. said. "That's what I try to do on the field when I'm playing. You never want to show any emotion. He's got the gift that he doesn't do it, and it's amazing."

As a late-season promotion in 1997, the Reds called up Rose Jr. so he could realize his lifelong dream of playing in the major

leagues. His father was in the stands when he got his first hit. Rose Jr. went only 2-for-14 in one month with the Reds and looked overmatched, striking out nine times.

The Reds offered him a minor league deal for the next season with a chance to come to spring training, but he held out for a better deal. He didn't get it. Instead, he wound up reporting with the rest of the minor leaguers, and has never come close to making it

back to the majors with any team.

In "My Prison Without Bars," Rose said his son hasn't gotten a fair shake from major league teams. "I can't prove that he's been discriminated against because of what happened to me," Rose said in the book, released two weeks ago. "But he's had trouble sticking with a team over the years, and it hasn't

(See STANDS, page four)

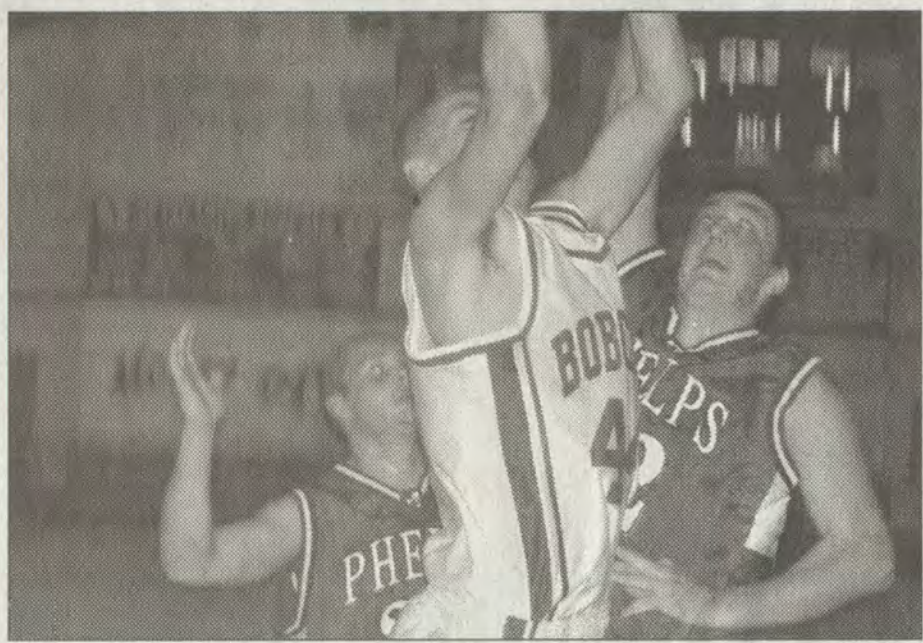


photo by Jamie Howell

Betsy Layne senior center Brandon Hall went up and over the Hornet defense.

SOUTH FLOYD

Despite All "A" loss, Lady Raider coach still positive

by STEVE LeMASTER
SPORTS EDITOR

HI HAT — An eight-point loss Thursday to 58th District rival Betsy Layne won't hold the South Floyd Lady Raiders down. Sure, South Floyd won't be making the trip to Richmond and the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic. However, there's a bigger picture for the Lady Raiders and head coach Tony Isaac. The Lady Raiders had their chances Thursday night and Isaac feels his team must build off the positives and do something to overcome what negatives remain.

"We have been steadily improving and this outing in the

regional tournament shows that," said Isaac. "We have much to accomplish and with the attitude of my girls we will reach our goals this season."

Isaac's team has little time to think about the past. Two games await the Lady Raiders this week, beginning with a Monday night game on the road that'll pit the South Floyd girls against a team out of the 14th Region. South Floyd will be back in action on Monday night, traveling to Letcher County to take on Fleming-Neon. The Lady Raiders will host the Piarist School on Thursday night in another all-important 58th District game.

Charm

was injured last season and was unable to play in the Touchstone Energy-sponsored event, but made up for it by later helping lead Betsy Layne to a Girls' Sweet Sixteen. After cutting the second of two championship nets Thursday night at the conclusion of the 15th Region All "A" Classic championship game, Betsy Layne head coach Cassandra Akers summed it up best. "It never gets old," said Akers.

The Betsy Layne girls' bas-

ketball program has thrived in the All-A field. The folks from Betsy Layne like making the All-A state trip.

"The girls have really enjoyed playing in Richmond," added Akers. "It's a real nice atmosphere."

It's safe to say Akers, her husband, Ronnie, an assistant coach, and the entire Betsy Layne Ladycat family — players, parents, all associated with the program — would stand on a ladder and cut championship nets all

day long. Besides, they should be used to it by now. The Ladycats have felt the thrill of victory many, many times over the past four seasons.

Betsy Layne has never made it past the first round of the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic, but that very well could change this season. The Ladycats first played in the tournament back in 2002, losing in the first round, 42-69 to state power Jackson County.

Last season, Betsy Layne played somewhat better, despite being without Lykens, and put up a stout fight against Christian Academy-Louisville. The trip to Richmond last season yielded a 47-60 loss to the Louisville school.

The next All "A" Classic game the Ladycats participate in will be a high-noon showdown on Feb. 4 with the winner out of the 8th Region. The Floyd County girls' basketball power that takes the floor at that time will bring with it some very valuable experience.

"After playing in Bowling Green and playing in Lexington, we have some experience now," said Akers.

CHEERLEADING

UK Cheerleaders champs again

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ORLANDO, Fla. — The University of Kentucky cheerleading squad used a near perfect performance to capture their 13th Universal Cheer Association championship Sunday at Walt Disney World.

The cheerleaders had advanced to the finals of the competition based on a tape submitted to the UCA in November. They were the 12th team to compete in the 16-team final round and were named the champions shortly after the last team's routine. It is the 13th overall title for the Cats and the ninth in the last ten years. The squad placed second last year, breaking an eight-year streak of championships.

"We wanted to bring the trophy back to the Bluegrass," Coach Jomo Thompson said. "We wanted to make the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the University proud once again of the cheerleading team."

The squad had one deduction in the judging on a step out of bounds. But they were able to hit every other component of their extremely difficult routine.

"As soon as we were done, I knew we had a great chance to win," Thompson said. "Lots of people that were watching told us we were the best team. But there was still a little time where we had our fingers crossed."

The University of Central Florida, the defending champions who upset Kentucky last year,

placed third in this year's competition. The squad from Alabama came in second.

In the mascot competition, the Wildcat came in eighth while Scratch placed 13th in the finals made up of 19 mascots.

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

Son of Kentucky coach won't be charged after wreck

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON — Saul Smith, the son of Kentucky basketball coach Tubby Smith, won't be charged after a sport utility vehicle he was driving hit a light pole early Thursday.

Saul Smith is a former Kentucky player and current unpaid team manager for the Wildcats.

Lexington police said the wreck occurred in northwest Lexington at about 4 a.m. EST.

Police said after finding the pole damaged, they followed a trail of antifreeze to a nearby street. They said Saul Smith's identification was clearly visible inside the vehicle, which was registered to his father.

Saul Smith notified police of the wreck about four hours later, police said.

A university athletics department spokesman said neither Saul Smith nor Tubby Smith would comment on the incident.

Pike Central too much for Sheldon Clark

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BUCKLEYS CREEK — Too much Mishay Weddington is not good on any team. Weddington scored a game-high 26 points to lead Pike County Central to a 79-52 win over Sheldon Clark. Weddington was one of three different players to score in double figures for Pike Central. The Lady Hawks led 15-10 at the end of the first quarter and 33-22 at halftime. Pike Central outscored Sheldon Clark in every quarter.

With the win, Pike Central is now 12-5 on the season.

Sheldon Clark (52) — Johnson 10, Meade 6, Horn 4, Allen 2, Moore 9, Jude 5, Adkins 16.

Pike Central (79) — Ratliff 12, Weddington 26, P. Lowe 6, Brown 8, Coleman 14, T. Lowe 7, Miller 3, Ward 2, Thompson 1.

SHELDON CLARK

10 12 12 18 — 52

PIKE CO. CENTRAL

15 18 24 22 — 79

Ashland 66, Lawrence Co. 45

LOUISA — Behind the power of the 3-point shot, Ashland was able to gain the upper hand over Lawrence County.

Ashland managed to knock down six 3-pointers to aid in building a 34-21 halftime lead over the Lady Bulldogs, who did not connect on a single 3-point shot.

The Kittens (11-5), who are riding a four-game winning streak, were led by Tasha Henry with 21 points and Pam Farrow with 19. Courtney Hieronimus added 12.

Lawrence County fell to 6-7. Bree Frazier scored nine points.

Ashland (66) — Henry 21, Farrow 19, Samons 6, Strait 3, Hieronimus 12, Clark 2, Stewart 3. PF: 20. FT: 11-18. 3-pointers: Farrow 3, Samons 2, Hieronimus 2.

Lawrence County (45) — Humphrey 6, Jude 6, Arrington 7, Schaeffer 7, Frazier 9, DeLong 6, Rosser 2, Hensley 2.

ASHLAND

14 20 18 14 — 66

LAWRENCE COUNTY

10 11 10 14 — 45

East Carter 83, Morgan Co. 23

GRAYSON — A 26-0 second quarter East Carter over the top for a victory over Morgan County.

The Lady Raiders held a 9-2 lead after the first quarter, but applied extreme defensive pressure and capitalized on Morgan County (1-11) turnovers to lead to its 35-2 lead at the half.

East Carter was led by Ashley Baldwin with 18 points. The Lady Raiders had 12 out of 14 players on their roster score.

East Carter (17-2) will play Rose Hill Monday at home.

Morgan County (23) — Watson 5, Fyffe 2, Lacy 2, Curd 2, Eagle 8, Fugate 2, Linkous 2. PF: 10. FT: 3-6. 3-pointers: Eagle 2.

East Carter (83) — Baldwin 18, Jackson 9, Stapleton 9, Prichard 8, McDavid 5, Kouns 8, Tackett 9, Jones 2, Myers 5, Suttles 5, Buck 3, Estep 2. PF: 5. FT: 9-15. 3-pointers: Baldwin 1, Stapleton 1, Tackett 3, Myers 1, Suttles 1, Buck 1.

MORGAN COUNTY

2 0 7 14 — 23

EAST CARTER

9 26 27 21 — 83

Continued from p1

South Floyd had Betsy Layne's lead cut down to four points at the 4:08 mark of the second period when Ashley Johnson hit on a short shot.

The Lady Raiders scored five points in the second period compared to four from Betsy Layne. The first field goal of the second quarter for Betsy Layne came with under one minute remaining. Ladycat center Kristal Daniels made good on the field goal. Breann Akers put Betsy Layne's first score of the second quarter in the books when she hit on a free throw. The point came with 1:42 showing on a second-quarter scoreclock.

The Ladycats went into the half with a 26-18 lead, a still less than comfortable cushion.

South Floyd got within five points of Betsy Layne in the third period before the Ladycats again pulled away.

Betsy Layne senior forward Tabatha Witt had five points in the game, four of which came on a pair of field goals. Witt had a pair of

putbacks in the third quarter that allowed Betsy Layne to lead the host Lady Raiders by 12 points at the end of the third period.

With her team trailing 48-43, South Floyd's Tab Trammel made good on a putback with 1:55 remaining in the fourth quarter. Trammel was fouled by Lykens and after a Betsy Layne timeout, stepped to the free throw line and converted a three-point play the old-fashioned way. Trammel led South Floyd in scoring with 14 points.

Leading 48-46, Betsy Layne missed a couple of opportunities to stretch its two-point lead in the final minute-plus. On the other end of the floor, South Floyd missed opportunities to go ahead, too. Ashley Johnson fouled Lykens with 44.4 left to play in the game. Lykens sunk both free throws to make it a 50-46 lead for the Ladycats. South Floyd would never recover. Lykens and Clark each hit a pair of free throws in the final minute to help allow Betsy Layne to pull away for the region-

al title win.

Kristen Smith and Breann Akers rounded out the Betsy Layne scoring with four and three points, respectively.

Ashley Johnson scored 10 points for South Floyd while Brandy Anderson, Megan Ousley and Tab Tackett chipped in six points apiece. Amanda Johnson ended the game with five points.

South Floyd had a three-pointer in each of the first two quarters and two each in the third and fourth periods.

Betsy Layne took last year's 15th Region All "A" Classic, its second in a row, when it dismantled host Pikeville in a 48-26 championship game. The Ladycats captured their first regional All "A" championship in 2002 when they beat Allen Central 61-60 in a title game played at Phelps High School.

Betsy Layne will play Feb. 4 in the first round of the Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic. The Ladycats await the winner out of the 8th Region.



photos by Steve LeMaster

For a third straight year, Betsy Layne is the 15th Region All "A" Classic Champion. The Ladycats were all smiles following Thursday night's championship game win over South Floyd.

BRIEFS

Reigning AL Cy Young Award winner agrees to four-year deal

BASEBALL

TORONTO — AL Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay and the Toronto Blue Jays agreed to a \$42 million, four-year contract.

Halladay, 22-7 with a 3.25 ERA last season, gets \$6 million this year, \$10.5 million in 2005, \$12.7 million in 2006 and \$12.8 million in 2007.

CHICAGO — Shingo Takatsu, Japan's career saves leader, finalized his \$1 million,

one-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

FOOTBALL

NEW YORK — Donovan McNabb dropped out of the Pro Bowl because of a rib injury, and was replaced by St. Louis Rams quarterback Marc Bulger.

Bulger and Seattle's Matt Hasselbeck will back up starter Daunte Culpepper of Minnesota. Denver Broncos linebacker Al

Wilson was chosen the AFC's "need player" by AFC coach Tony Dungy of Indianapolis.

BASKETBALL

NEW YORK — Two-time defending champion Peja Stojakovic of the Sacramento Kings will head a field of six in the 3-point-shooting contest during the NBA All-Star weekend.

Brent Barry and Rashard Lewis of Seattle, Chauncey Billups of Detroit, Voshon Lenard of Denver and Cuttino Mobley of Houston will try to stop Stojakovic in the competition Feb. 14 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The contest is part of the NBA All-Star Saturday Night program that will include the rising stars slam dunk, skills challenge and shooting stars competitions. The All-Star game is Feb. 15.

AUTO RACING

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR hired an emergency medical technician to oversee and monitor the care given drivers and crewman during the Nextel Cup Series events.

PRO FOOTBALL

Rucker and Minter talk trash — but cleanly

by JENNA FRYER ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers were a little nervous when notorious trash talker Mike Rucker was asked to wear a microphone during a nationally televised game.

Just do your best to keep it clean, they asked the defensive

end. "You don't have to worry," he promised. "I don't curse."

What? The guy who got so worked up taunting an opponent earlier this season that he began to hyperventilate and had to leave the game keeps it clean?

(See TALK, page seven)

(See BRIEFS, page seven)



photo by Steve LeMaster
Betsy Layne's Kristen Smith battled South Floyd's Brandy Anderson for a loose basketball in the second half of Thursday night's championship game.

Tracks

Continued from p2

harder, the same exact driver's side hit, and he was not injured," Nelson said. "He was able to test his car two days later."

"So we studied the things about what was different and what was the same about those two accidents and, as we went through it, we realized that wall did so much more than we had ever seen in testing in that type of a wreck."

AUTO RACING

Daytona 500 to be shown in high definition

TIMES STAFF REPORT

The Daytona 500 will be the first auto race to be broadcast in high definition. The Feb. 15

race is being shown by NBC.

Besides a clearer and sharper picture, director Mike Wells said Thursday the HDTV broadcast will allow viewers to see more cars on the left and right of the screen than they would with standard television.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Belfry 92, Johnson Central 35

TIMES STAFF REPORT

BELFRY — How the mighty have fallen. One year ago, a loss by the Johnson Central Lady Eagles was nearly unheard of. Now, the Lady Eagles are struggling something fierce.

Johnson Central traveled to Pike County Thursday night to face Belfry, a strong contender for the 15th Region throne. The Lady Pirates doubled up visiting Johnson Central in the first period and led 20-10. Belfry's girls came ready to play and never look back as they went on to win, 92-35.

The Lady Pirates are now 11-7. Johnson Central, with the loss, stumbled to 2-12.

Host Belfry outscored the Lady Eagles in every quarter. Belfry extended its commanding lead in the second period, outscoring Johnson Central 32-4.

Vicki Hall paced Belfry with a game-high 31 points. Anna Bevins scored 18 for the Lady Pirates. Ten different Lady Pirates scored in the triumph.

Alice Daniel was the leading scorer for Johnson Central with a mere six points.

Stands

Continued from p3

been because of a lack of talent. It's true that he hasn't had a breakthrough year when he needed it ... and he has had some untimely injuries."

Rose Jr. said he was unaware of the comments - "I don't read books" - and didn't care discuss it. He said he's not ready to give up on baseball. "I'm going to play in the big leagues again," Rose Jr. said. "I don't care who it's with. I'm going to keep striving and working hard. I revamped my swing this offseason. My dad came in for two weeks in November. I feel really good about myself."

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Hamilton, Case pace Betsy Layne

TIMES STAFF REPORT

ALLEN — Betsy Layne Elementary head coach David Gearheart has to be happy with the balanced he gets from his team night in and night out. On Thursday night, Betsy Layne visited Allen and handed the host Eagles a loss in an A-team game that was preceded by B-team and C-team contests. Betsy Layne prevailed in the A-game, winning 59-42.

Tyler Hamilton scored nine points in the fourth quarter and tossed in a game-high 15 points to lead Betsy Layne. Brennan Case netted 13 points and Ted Honaker flipped in 11. Honaker scored 10 points in the second half.

Betsy Layne led Allen 10-6 at the end of the opening quarter, and 24-16 at halftime. The Bobcats had a 40-24 cushion at

the end of three quarters. Allen was outscored in all four quarters.

Josh Rodebaugh and Adam Gearheart each had 13 points for Allen.

In the B-team game, Jimmy Meade's 13 points helped Betsy Layne to a 46-33 win. For the Bobcat B-team, Marvin Lee scored seven points, Austin Collins, Tyler Kidd and Cody McKay pushed in six points apiece. Richie Tackett had four points for Betsy Layne.

Mullins led Allen with 15 points. Tibbs scored 10 points and Joshua Head chipped in eight.

Betsy Layne won the C-team game, 42-12. Eight different Bobcat C-team players scored in the 30-point win. Adam Howell led the Betsy Layne C-team with nine points. Landon Hale and Bryce Adkins scored seven apiece.

photo by Jamie Howell
In a Prestonsburg Junior Basketball game played back on Saturday, Jan. 17, Tate Greene, Bryce Tucker and Steven Little of the Hawks went for a loose ball against Dustin Blair, John Wesley Cooksey and Garrett Hammonds of the Cavaliers.



photo by Steve LeMaster

BETSY LAYNE LADYCATS - 15TH REGION ALL "A" CHAMPS

The Floyd County Times Classifieds

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

DEADLINES:

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

CONTACT US AT: (606) 886-8506



Send Us Your Ad
(606) 886-3603
 24 HOURS

100 - AUTOMOTIVE

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

200 - EMPLOYMENT

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

300 - BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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

400 - MERCHANDISE

- 410 - Animals
- 420 - Appliances
- 440 - Electronics

445 - FURNITURE

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

500 - REAL ESTATE

- 505 - Business

510 - COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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

600 - RENTALS

- 610 - Apartments
- 620 - Storage/

Office Space

- 630 - Houses
- 640 - Land/Lots
- 650 - Mobile Homes
- 660 - Miscellaneous
- 670 - Commercial Property
- 690 - Wanted To Rent

700 - SERVICES

- 705 - Construction

710 - EDUCATIONAL

- 713 - Child Care
- 715 - Electrician
- 720 - Health & Beauty
- 730 - Lawn & Garden
- 735 - Legal
- 740 - Masonry
- 745 - Miscellaneous
- 750 - Mobile Home Movers
- 755 - Office
- 760 - Plumbing

765 - PROFESSIONALS

- 770 - Repair/Service
- 780 - Timber
- 790 - Travel

800 - NOTICES

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

130-Cars

FOR SALE: 1985 Mercury, 4 dr., 302 eng., can be seen at Music's Video. Asking \$850. Call 866-6606.

FOR SALE 4 CYLINDER RACE CAR raced last year Call for more information, 606-358-3458 After 6:00pm 1-9- to 1-14

For sale 1991 Ford Crown Victoria 5316 miles 4 door white call 859-293-0979

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

For Sale 1997 Chevy Cavalier automatic, A/C, P.S. ABS new tires White exterior Tan interior nice car 2,500 OBO call 606-752-4983

140-4x4s

FOR SALE: 1952 Willy's Jeep. Call 422-1862

1997 JMC. Jimmy 1 owner high miles well maintained non smoker. 4,500.00 606-285-9396

160-Motorcycles

For Sale: Honda XR 50 750.00 call 886-2367

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

FOR SALE: 1999 Black Fat boy, bike includes smokey windshield, leather saddlebags and lots of chrome accessories. 15,000 miles. Interested inquires call at 886-2030.

170-Parts

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

180-Trucks

FOR SALE: 1997 Tahoe, 4 Dr, 4 wheel drive, X/M Satellite radio, CD, leather interior. Very clean, Under booked. \$9750. Call 886-1775.

190-Vans

1995 Ford Windstar LX 3.8 front & Rear Air & Heat, all power approx. 145,000 mile - excellent condition call 606-377-2293

EMPLOYMENT

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

Part Time Route Sale Trainee day shift 2 days a week Rotating days, Usually Mon. thru Fri. will work around other job schudle. Possibly leading to full time employment Honest, Dependable, and a good driving record a must, Send resume to Part time sales P O Box 144, Staffordsville, Ky. 41256

205-Business Opport.

Downtown Winchester, Ky. Retail business, complete turnkey home Decor Shop call 859-744-1419

210-Job Listings

Transition & Rodman Local engineering firm has an immediate opening for a Transition and Rodman. Transi surface and underground work. Rodman must have a minimum of 2 years experience in certification and drivers license. Competitive wae and benefit package (Health, Dental, Vision, Life & Retirement). Please mail resume to: Transition/Rodman 43VillageSt. Pikeville, Ky. 41501 or fax to 606-437-0110

\$\$\$ UP TO \$529 WEEKLY! Mailing letters from home. Easy! Any Hours! Full/part-time. No experience necessary. U.S. Digest 1-888-389-1790 24 hours

FULL TIME ROUTE SALES.

Day shift, driving 1 ton box van in Big Sandy area. Salary & commission \$300 to \$400 week. Honest, dependable & good driving record a must. Send resume to: Route Sales, P.O. Box 144, Staffordsville, Ky. 41256.

PRESTONSBURG HEALTH CARE CENTER has an opening for LPNs and CNAs. Full time and PRN positions are available. We offer competitive wages and excellent benefits. If interested please stop by or send a resume to 147 N. Highland Ave. Prestonsburg Ky 41653 (beside Prestonsburg elementary). (1/21 all)

DENTIST OFFICE HAS OPENING. Computer experience preferred. Send resume to: 415 N. Lake Dr. Suite 201, Prestonsburg, Ky 41653.

AVON

Make your own money, sign up for \$10, for limited time. Call Jancy at 886-2082.

220-Help Wanted

Caregiver Wanted for Mentally Challenged Adult. Ref. required. Must have own transportation call between 5pm to 9 pm 285-3100

Licensed Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner needed for Medical Practice Excellent Salary mail resume to PO Box 2158, Pikeville, Ky. 41501 or Fax to 606-432-6009

MID WEST REGION HELP WANTED

Drivers-Earn up to .38cpm with bonuses! Great Home Time! Great Benefits! 1 year OTR exp 23 years of age w/CDL-A. No Hazmat Required! Hiring Solos, Teams & Own Ops! 1-800-727-2868

WANTED: Part time police officer for the city of Allen. applications may be picked up at City Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Job Opportunity Wright Lumber Company is taking applications for Bookkeeping position. Must have knowledge in Bookkeeping and computer skills. apply in person Martin location, No Phone calls please.

ROUTE FOR SALE:

A national cookie company seeks qualified individual to own/operate a distributorship in the Prestonsburg area. Investment and delivery vehicle required, sales support & training provided. Mail resume to: P.O. Box 357, Belle WV 25015

Busy Pediatric Clinic is seeking energetic LPN. If interested send resume to: Office Manager P. O. Box 607 Prestonsburg, Ky

IMMEDIATE OPENING. Ambitious individual to perform maintenance at apartment complex in Prestonsburg and Salyersville. Health insurance available. Must have own tools. Send resume and three references to: LRMG, 396 Cave Run Lake road, Salt Lick KY 40371. Closing date 1/16/04.

WANTED: Full-time teacher for grades K-5, 5-8, or K-8, for a small private school located in Prestonsburg, Ky. Please call Dr. Khattab at 606-789-5541 or fax 606-789-9445 for details.

EMPLOYMENT POSITION.

Glass installer needed for A&B Auto Glass, Prestonsburg. Experience preferred but not required. Apply in person at A&B Auto Glass, 1898 Kentucky Route 321, Prestonsburg or call 606-886-0184 for an appointment.

280-Services

The Big Sandy Area Development District is seeking individuals for their Title V program. The individual must be at least, 55 years of age and seeking training for future employment. If you are interested please contact Melissa King at 886-2374 for more information

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Looking for Project Managers/Engineers, Permit Technicians and Surveyors with mining related experience, to work for well-established consulting/engineering firm in the Eastern Kentucky area.

Please send resumé to:
 PO Box 279
 Louisa, Kentucky 41230,
 or call for appointment at
 606-673-4413

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

IN THE
FLOYD COUNTY TIMES CIRCULATION DEPT.

ASSEMBLING NEWSPAPERS

Part-time:
 Day and night shifts

APPLY AT 263 S. CENTRAL AVE.
 No Phone Calls, Please!
 E.O.E.

central kentucky bloodcenter

PIKEVILLE MOBILE PHLEBOTOMIST

Screen and draw blood from Volunteer Donors. Travel by van or bloodmobile to sites in central and eastern Kentucky. Requires commitment to volunteer blood donorism, excellent public relations skills, flexibility, and high professional standards, proven ability to get along well with others and to learn new skills quickly. Must be able to work variable schedules, including weekday and weekends. Must pass pre-employment drug screen. Job appropriate (non-certification) training provided. (If you leave before one year, you must repay the Blood Center for training.) \$8.40/hr. to start; \$9.20 when fully trained. Full-time position.

CKBC offers excellent benefits. Please send resumé to:
 CKBC, Attn: HR
 330 Waller Avenue, Lexington, KY 40504
 jobs@ckbc.org
 CKBC is a drug-free and EOE.
 www.ckbc.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

General Assignment Reporter

The Floyd County Times is currently accepting applications for general assignment reporters, either full-time or part-time. The ideal candidate will possess strong writing skills, dedication to the principles of journalism, strong people skills and a go-getter attitude. Experience is preferred, but applicants with the right mix of education and ability, will be considered. The ability to work flexible hours is a must. Benefits include a competitive salary, health insurance, vacation, 401k and mileage, for full-time employees.

If you would like to advance or continue your career in the field of journalism, you may submit your resumé and writing samples to

Managing Editor Ralph B. Davis
 The Floyd County Times
 P.O. Box 390, Prestonsburg, KY 41653
 or
 via email to web@floydcountytimes.com

Prefer to E-mail Your Ad? Our E-mail Address is:
ftclass@bellsouth.net

HELP WANTED

Full-time position available.

Cashier/Receptionist — Experience in this field is required. Please send resumé to John Gray Pontiac Buick GMC/Trucks Inc., P.O. Box 1689, Paintsville, Kentucky 41240, or apply in person at our dealership at 1004 Third Street, Paintsville, Kentucky.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

HELP WANTED

Part-time position available.

Evening and weekend receptionist — Monday thru Friday evenings — Saturday, 9 a.m., til 6 p.m. — Occasional Sundays. Must have good people skills, experience requested but not required. Please send resumé to John Gray Pontiac Buick GMC Trucks, Inc., P.O. Box 1689, Paintsville, Kentucky 41240, or apply in person at our dealership at 1004 Third Street, Paintsville, Kentucky.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

First Commonwealth Bank seeks a **Credit Analyst**

to assist loan officers by analyzing financial data and providing financial facts, interpretations, and projections on customers and prospective customers. Position requires a Bachelors degree in accounting, finance, economics, or related business field, and preferably one year of related work experience. Please forward resumé by Friday, February 20, 2004, to Credit Analyst/Commercial Lender, First Commonwealth Bank, 311 N. Arnold Ave., Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

First Commonwealth Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PREMIER ELKHORN COAL COMPANY, Myra, KY, is now accepting applications for the following position(s):

Dozer operator with 2 years surface coal mining experience. Looking for 1st class operator who can also operate two of the following pieces of equipment: backdump, drill, excavator, grader, or loader. Requires KY Surface Mine Certification.

Drill operator with 2 years surface coal mining experience. Looking for 1st class operator who can also operate two of the following pieces of equipment: backdump, dozer, excavator, grader or loader. Requires KY Surface Mine Certification.

Applications will be accepted at:
 Kentucky Department for Employment Services
 138 College Street
 Pikeville, KY 41501

Premier Elkhorn Coal Company is an EOE.

PREMIER ELKHORN COAL COMPANY, Myra, KY, is now accepting applications for the following position(s):

Continuous miner operator with underground coal mining experience. Looking for 1st class operator who can also operate one of the following pieces of equipment: roof bolt machine, scoop, or shuttle car. Requires KY Underground Mine Certification.

Roof bolt operator with underground coal mining experience. Looking for 1st class operator who can also operate one of the following pieces of equipment: continuous miner, scoop, or shuttle car. Requires KY Underground Mine Certification.

Applications will be accepted at:
 Kentucky Department for Employment Services
 138 College Street
 Pikeville, KY 41501

Premier Elkhorn Coal Company is an EOE.

Let Spirit Wind Recording Studio
 Forfill your Recording dreams, Call Rick for price quote on different package total digital sound call 377-9844

Will do general House cleaning,
 and also looking for a female roommate call 886-9098

FINANCIAL

380-Services

SPRUCE UP YOUR OFFICE WITH OLD FASHION QUALITY CLEANING at reasonable rates. Free estimates call 606-874-9703

MERCHANDISE

410-Animals

Lost Brown MAle Fiest Wearing with Purple Collar right fork of Bull Creek call 874-9722

440-Electronics

Computers wanted for Recycling Project working or non working Call to donate and schedule free pick up 789-9489

445-Furniture

ALMAR FURNITURE

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

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

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

RAY'S BARGAIN CENTER
 New & Used Furniture & Appliances @ unbelievable prices. Come in today for incredible savings. Shop At The Little Furniture Store & Save!! RT. #122, McDowell. Call 606-377-0143.

480-Miscellaneous

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

Your ad could be here!

FOR SALE: Home exercise equipment: AB/lower back machine and Stepper machine. \$100 each or \$150 pair. Call 789-8380 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE: Paintball gun. 2003 Core Sharc. semi-automatic, black and chrome, 12" barrel. \$130 (OBO) Call 886-8506 and ask for Kathy (day). 789-8380 evening.

FOR SALE: Give that special someone a "golden" gift that will last all year 'round! For sale now: Tanning bed-brand new bulbs. \$600. Call 874-0467.

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

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

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

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

Steel Buildings Year End Clearance
 Factory Seconds & Freight Damaged 20x30, 25x36, 30x48 Financing Available. Buy now with Free Storage and delivery call 800-222-6335

Host Photo Shoot! Raise \$\$\$ for yourself, School, Church, Business. 1-800-892-7604 Glamour, Family, Antiques. (Black and White)

495-Want To Buy

Looking for land for sale 1 acre more or less. Out of city limits Floyd Co. area call 606-874-3200

GOOD USED ELECTRIC TREADMILL CALL 886-8506 EXT. 24 OR 886-8494 AFTER 5 PM

REAL ESTATE

530-Homes

House and Land for sale located on Hueysville Hwy. & and 2029 15-acre good timber, out of flood plain city water, central heat & air, 2 Bd. Rm. 1 Bth Rm. utility Rm Kitchen Remodeled New cabinets and stove dishwasher. Refrigerator new floating floors 16x16 back deck above ground pool Detached garage 2 story bottom 20x32 upstairs 3 Rms. back Building 20x20 65,000.00 call 606-358-4912

HOUSE FOR SALE
 7 Rm. house located on Riverside Drive in Prestonsburg. Good location call evening 874-9595

Ranch Style Stone and Log 21,000 sq. Foot and also for sale 2002 Doublewide for more information call 606-639-6041

FOR RENT: 3 BR, 2 BA home. Located on Rough & Tough. \$600 mo + deposit Call 606-422-1862.

550 - Land / Lots

CAVE RUN LOTS NO MONEY DOWN 0% interest, land contract, suitable for houses, cabins, new singles or double wides call 606-437-6556

LARGE LEVEL LOT convient to Martin or Prestonsburg. Call 859-749-4286 days or 859-901-1636 evenings.

FOR SALE: Almost 1 acre near Long Bow Boat docks at Cave Run Lake. Asking \$6500. Call 606-886-3836.

Subscribe & Save! Call Pauline today 886-8506

Papa John's
 IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVERS
 Hourly wages, plus tips and commission.
 Phone 886-2800
 or stop by 487 N. Lake Dr. Prestonsburg

570-Mobile Homes

FOR SALE: 14x68 1995 Fleetwood Reflection Mobile Homes. 2 BR, 2 full BA. All appliances included. New central air. Asking \$10,500. Must be moved. If interested call (606) 874-5492 or (606) 422-4466.

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

590-Sale or Lease

Office For Lease, in Prestonsburg utilities included, Call 886-8366

For Sale 2 plots in New Section of Davidson Memorial. In front facing US 23 \$1200.00 for both call 377-2711 ask for Virgil or Betty Jo

For Sale 1 grave plot Davidson Memorial call 859-293-09791

For Sale Land at Tram, Ky. call 353-7195

FOR SALE OR LEASE: 16000 sq. ft. building, more or less w/ apt. attached. 2 BR, 1 BA. Separate metal bldg. 40x50 & 2 + 1/2 acres of land. Large road frontage. Between Allen & Martin. close to WMDJ Call 859-512-6812.

Firewood for sale 886-8350

RENTALS

610-Apartments

1 Bd. Rm. Apt. near Prestonsburg J, W, Lake air cond. private, clean not suitable for more than 2 people call 886-3941

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Furnished efficiency apartment, includes w/d & cable, suitable for single working person. No pets. \$325 mo \$150 dep. Call 874-5577.

Apt for Rent 1 or 2 Bd. Rm Apt. Furnished including utilities call 886-8366

2 BR DUPLEX FOR RENT central h/a, on US 23, 1 mile N. of Prestonsburg. Also 2 Br house for rent, total electric, central h/a, small yard, no pets. Call 886-9007 or 889-9747.

LUXURIOUS APARTMENT FOR RENT Near college (University Drive). References, lease & security deposit required. No pets. Call 886-3565.

2 BR DUPLEX FOR RENT \$550 mo, \$500 dep. One year lease required. Lancer, Ky. 886-8781 after 6 p.m.

DUPLEX APARTMENT FOR RENT: 2 BR, 1 BA, stove, refrigerator, central h/a, w/d hookup, city limits at US 23 & 80. \$435 mo. + utilities and \$250 dep.. 1 year lease, no pets. Call 886-7237 or 237-4758.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 3 BR, central h/a, wall to wall carpet. \$375mo + utilities. Call 285-3412 or 886-1714.

1 BR BACHELOR APARTMENT near Prestonsburg and J.W. Lake. A/C, private, clean. Not suitable for more than 2 people. Call 606-886-3941.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 3 BR, central h/a, wall to wall carpet. \$375mo + utilities. Call 285-3412 or 886-1714.

Start The New Year In A New Apartment
 Prestonsburg Park Place Apartments. Immediate occupancy for qualified applicants. 1 Br/\$305 mo. 2 Br/\$325 mo. Call 886-0039
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

GREETINGS FROM LIGHTHOUSE MANOR, Terry & Sharon Smith. We have apartments for rent that are efficiency apartments, all utilities paid. For more info call 606-886-2797.

FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS: Central heat & air. Rent starting at \$350 month, + \$300 deposit. Located near HRMC. 889-9717.*

1 EFFICIENCY APARTMENT, \$300 mo. + \$250 dep. Lease and references required. Utilities paid. Also 1 BR apartment, \$325 mo, \$300 dep and 2 BR apartment, partial furnished, utilities paid. Lease & reference required. 886-3154.

1 & 2 Bd. Rm Apts. for Rent no pets call 886-8991

630-Houses

New 1 Bd.Rm partially Furnished Apt. Utilities paid, washer and dryer provided, no pet, 425.00 per month 150.00 deposit available Feb.1-04 call 874-5575

2 BR HOUSE, equipped kitchen, near schools, Prestonsburg area. References required. Call 886-0825 before.

3 Bd.Rm. House for Rent No Pets call 886-8991

FOR RENT: 2 BR house at Betsy Layne. \$450 mo + deposit. Call 478-5403.

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT OR LEASE at Timberline Estate. 1 mile from P.C.C. 2BR, 2 1/2 BA, living room, kitchen, kitchen appliances, washer & dryer furnished. \$500 mo. plus utilities. Call 886-1997.

HOUSE/OFFICE FOR RENT: 3 BR, big yard, central h/a. \$500 mo + utilities. Call 285-3412 or 8861714.

Classified ads Work!

For Rent 3Bd.Rm Brick Home at Allen 550.00 with first and last rent call 606-432-4229 Can move in after Jan.16 .04.

House For Rent- 2 Bd Rm, Stove, & Refrig. on Private Lot, No Pets, No Hud, call 886-3709

HOUSES, APARTMENTS, & TOWNHOUSES. No pets. Call B&O Rental Properties 606-886-8991.

640-Land/Lots

FOR RENT: Trailer lot in Prestonsburg behind Layne's Hardware. Call 886-9165 (days) or 886-6770 (evenings).

650-Mobile Homes

For Rent 2 Bd.Rm. Mobile Home Stove, Refrig included with washer & dryer hook-ups 350 plus utilities, 150.00 Dep. located in Prestonsburg Call 285-5176

For Rent Trailers at McDowell and Teaberry References Required, call 606-377-6346 or 606-377-0143

3 Bd.Rm. Trailer for rent on Cliff Rd. In Prestonsburg No Pets

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

670-Comm. Prop.

FOR RENT: MODERN SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT Approx. 900 sq. ft. Furnished kitchen. Will also consider renting apartmnet for office space. Located 1 mile south of Martin on Rte 122 across from the Floyd County Technology Center at Garth. \$500 per mo. plus utilities. Call 285-3625 or 285-9112

705-Construction

ALL TYPES: Remodeling & additions, garages, decks, etc. Also concrete work. Robie Johnson, Jr., call anytime, 886-8896.

To place an ad call Pauline at 886-8506

To place your ad call 886-8506

Subscribe To The Times!

AMBULATORY SERVICES MPAS MANAGER

Ambulatory Billing Center ARH System Center—Hazard

Appalachian Regional Healthcare, a not-for-profit system of hospitals, clinics and home health agencies, serving Kentucky and West Virginia, is accepting résumés for the position of Ambulatory Services MPAS Manager at the ambulatory services billing center in Hazard.

This position, reporting to the Director of Physician Practice Management, is responsible for the Patient Accounting function for ambulatory (clinic) services, predominately physician, lab and x-ray billing, serves as consultant to the staff in areas of coding and billing, and ensures the implementation of patient accounting policies and procedures. Additional duties may involve assisting in administrative duties of the department.

Basic requirements include a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration or related discipline with five (5) years of experience in a health care setting. Knowledge of fee for service, rural health, and primary care clinic billing are desired. Excellent computer, written and verbal communication skills are necessary. Candidates with knowledge of and experience in Cycare and McKesson Practice Point Plus products will be given priority consideration.

ARH offers a salary commensurate with experience, and benefits include very low cost health insurance; 3 weeks paid vacation, and 9 paid holidays annually, sick leave allotment, etc.

Please send résumé to: Marilyn Hamblin, System Professional Recruiter, Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Inc., P.O. Box 8086, Lexington, KY 40533. Email: mhamblin@arh.org Fax: 859-226-2586

EOE

www.arh.org



Appalachian Regional Healthcare The Medical Centers of the Mountains

Let it stand for all Americans still **DISTRESSED** by poverty

Once, she needed care. And Americans united to restore her as a symbol of freedom. Today, nearly 35 million Americans are still working to stand tall and free themselves from poverty. You can help light the way and rekindle a spirit of community with those in need. Find out how at www.povertyusa.org.

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Catholic Campaign for Human Development 1-800-946-4243

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 Located 5 miles up Kentucky 114, on Mill Branch Road.
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 Pager: (606) 482-0229
 John K. Lewis, Master Electrician
 Licensed: ME8643, CE8644

SERVICES

805-Announcements

HELP THE KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY.
We are looking for donations for new & used computers to distribute to the kids community facilities.
For pick up call Scott 889-9551 and to deliver call Scott 889-9551.

Lost Dog Brown Male FIEST wearing purple collar right fork of Bull Creek if found call 874-9721

Registered Nurse On-call position. Earn money while you are at home, shopping or dining out. Carry a pager and return calls. Visits made if necessary by the protocol of Hospice of Big Sandy, Inc. Several scenarios available. Call 606-789-841 or come in and make out an application at 1520 Ky. Hwy. 1428 Hager Hill, Ky. 41222 (psa)

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

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812-Free

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Free to good Home Black Mouth Kerr dog call Charolette at 886-8506

900-Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BLASTING SCHEDULE

Miller Bros. Coal, Inc., HC 75, Box 220, Leburn, KY 41831, telephone (606) 785-0220, as required by 405 KAR 16:120 E, hereby advises that they will conduct blasting at their surface mining operation, located one mile southeast of the community of Weeksbury, and one mile west of the community of Hartley, in Floyd and Pike Counties. The blasting operations will be conducted January 1 through December 31, from sunrise to sunset, Monday through Saturday. All access roads to the blast area will be barricaded not less than ten minutes prior to each detonation. A "Warning

Signal" consisting of a one (1) minute series of long siren blasts will be sounded five (5) minutes prior to the "Blast Signal." A "Blast Signal" consisting of a series of short siren blasts will be sounded one (1) minute prior to each surface blast. An "All-Clear Signal" consisting of one (1) prolonged siren blast will be sounded following inspection of each surface blast area. All warning signals will be audible for at least one-half (1/2) mile from the blast area.

Blasting will not be conducted at times different from those announced in this blasting schedule, except when emergency situations arise, where rain, lightning, other atmospheric conditions, or the safety of the operator or public requires an unscheduled detonation. Should an emergency situation arise, all residents within one-half (1/2) mile of the blasting site will be given oral warning, and all other safety precautions stated above will be implemented.

This notice applies to Miller Bros. Coal, Inc., permit number 836-0294.

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Men's college basketball: North Carolina, Kansas tripped up

by MIKE FITZPATRICK ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida State never gave up, and Richmond refused to be intimidated.

That's the way to pull off an upset against North Carolina or Kansas.

Two of the nation's most storied programs lost in stunning fashion Thursday night, with the Tar Heels blowing a big lead and the Jayhawks falling at home to an Atlantic 10 team.

First, the host Seminoles erased a 24-point deficit and shocked No. 7 North Carolina 90-81 in overtime, ending a four-game losing streak.

"It was fools' gold for us, making all the jump shots and thinking it was going to be easy," said first-year Tar Heels coach Roy Williams, who spent 15 seasons at Kansas.

Then, the gutsy Spiders edged No. 12 Kansas 69-68 on Tony Dobbins' fadeaway jumper with a second left, snapping the Jayhawks' 52-game home winning streak against unranked opponents.

"Nobody said that everybody had it all figured out," said Keith Langford, who led Kansas with 18 points.

In other games involving ranked teams, it was: No. 2 Stanford 67, UCLA 52; and No. 14 Arizona 109, Oregon St. 75.

Mike Skrocki scored 23 points to lead the Spiders (10-8), who became the first unranked team to win at Kansas since Nebraska on Feb. 10, 1999.

"I thought our kids handled the pressure very well," Richmond coach Jerry Wainwright said. "A building cannot make a shot for you."

With Kansas (11-3) clinging to a 68-67 lead and the shot clock running out, Aaron Miles tried a 3-point shot that Dobbins knocked away. Miles got the ball back, but there wasn't time to shoot again and Richmond got the ball back on a shot clock violation.

Dobbins dribbled into the lane on the ensuing possession, spun and swished the game-winner. Kansas had time for one

inbounds pass, but Wayne Simien was called for a pushing foul and Richmond ran out the clock.

"I wouldn't have shot it if I didn't think it was going to go in," Dobbins said. "I let it go, and it felt great. I didn't shy away from it."

Florida State looked completely overmatched as North Carolina's accurate shooting keyed a 21-0 run that helped build a 42-18 lead with just more than five minutes left in the first half.

But Seminoles reserve point guard Todd Galloway tied it at 78 on a 3-pointer from the corner with 7.2 seconds remaining in regulation, tying the game for the first time since the opening tip.

Riding the momentum of a stunning rally, the Seminoles quickly took control in overtime.

Tim Pickett scored six of his 30 points in the extra period for Florida State (13-5, 2-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), which scored the first 11 points of overtime.

When the final buzzer sounded, fans poured onto the court in celebration.

"This is a very significant win for our team because North Carolina represents the tradition in basketball we're trying to get to," coach Leonard Hamilton said.

Rashad McCants scored 26 points for the Tar Heels (11-4, 1-3).

No. 2 Stanford 67, UCLA 52 At Stanford, Calif., Justin Davis made his first nine shots on the way to 21 points, and the Cardinal stayed unbeaten by beating UCLA.

Josh Childress started for the first time this season for Stanford, one of two undefeated Division I teams left in the country along with third-ranked Saint Joseph's. Childress came off the bench in five games as he regained his strength following a foot injury that sidelined him for the first nine games.

The star forward had 14 points, six rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals in 32 minutes.

Stanford (15-0, 6-0 Pac-10) has matched the fourth-best win-

ning streak in school history and is chasing the school record of 20 straight victories to start the 2000-01 season.

Dijon Thompson scored 15 points for UCLA (9-5, 5-2).

No. 14 Arizona 109, Oregon St. 75

At Tucson, Ariz., Salim Stoudamire and Hassan Adams scored 20 points apiece for the Wildcats.

It was the 21st straight loss for the Beavers at McKale Center. Oregon State hasn't won

at Arizona since 1983, the season before Lute Olson became the Wildcats' coach.

Arizona shot a season-high 63 percent (43-for-68) in its biggest offensive outburst since a 112-81 victory over Washington on Feb. 5, 1998.

The Wildcats (12-3, 4-2 Pac-10) put away the Beavers (8-8, 2-4) with a 36-8 run late in the first half and early in the second. Andre Iguodala had 19 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Arizona.



Wesley Christian C-Team

photo by Jamie Howell



Mountain Christian Academy C-Team

photo by Jamie Howell

Talk

Believe it, because his teammates swear — no pun intended — it's true.

"You would think a person like Rucker, who talks as much trash as he does, that a cuss word would come out," defensive tackle Brenton Buckner said. "It's surprising because you listen and you think one is coming, but it never does. I heard him say shoot, shucks, dangit, but never, ever a curse word."

Rucker can be tough with his taunting — during the game in

which he was miked, he kept telling an opposing player he was bowlegged — but says he never spiced it up with four-letter words.

He isn't alone, either. Safety Mike Minter doesn't curse, but as an aspiring pastor, it's a little more believable from him. Minter insists he's never cursed once in his life, even when he comes across a dirty word in a book.

"I read out loud, so I won't even say it," Minter said. "If you do that, then without

thinking about it, a swear word will come out. If it's in you, then it will come out."

The worst word Minter will say? Dang.

"Seriously, that's about all I say," he explained. "I just don't feel the need to curse. It's not my style."

Rucker acknowledges he was quite a curser when he played college ball at Nebraska, but stopped the gutter talk about seven years ago.

"I kind of ran afoul in college," he said. "I decided it's just not healthy. It's just not clean. And you never know who is listening to you."

"It was a little hard to stop, especially because a lot of people around me were still doing it, so that made it hard. But I did it, and I think that's a good example to set for little kids."

Both Minter and Rucker get their fair share of teasing — and baiting — from their Panthers teammates. Defensive tackle Kris Jenkins, voted the foulest mouth in the locker room, taunts them the

most.

"If we stood here and said, 'OK, no more cursing,' Jenks would walk by and just start cursing," Buckner said. "Or you can tell him, 'Don't cuss near Mike because he's a preacher.' Then Jenks will walk right by his locker and start cursing just to do it."

Minter said he just shrugs it off.

"He's probably the only one who walks through here and would do that to mess with you," Minter said. "Everyone else respects it."

Respect, yes. But they still give out a decent amount of ribbing.

"You'll hear Ruck say, 'Gosh dangit!'" safety Deon Grant said. "I mean, gosh dangit? Who in the NFL says that?"

Like Minter, Rucker doesn't let it bother him.

"I'll use different words, so it sounds a little corny," Rucker said. "I catch a little flak because of that. But that's my thing. I don't cuss, and that's a good thing."

Briefs

Continued from p4

The EMT will ride in the quick-response safety car used since midway through the 2003 season, but will not be a "hands-on" medical person, NASCAR president Mike Helton said.

NASCAR did not release the name of the EMT.

BOXING

LAS VEGAS — Heavyweight contender James

Toney's Feb. 7 fight with Jameel McClene was called off after Toney ruptured an Achilles' tendon in training.

Toney's promoter, Dan Goossen, said Toney was hurt Wednesday night while training in Los Angeles. He said the fighter will be sidelined at least three months.

— The Associated Press



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The Times

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The South Floyd girls' basketball team finished runner-up in this year's 15th Region All "A" Classic.

photo by Steve LeMaster

Sunday Comics

Amber Waves

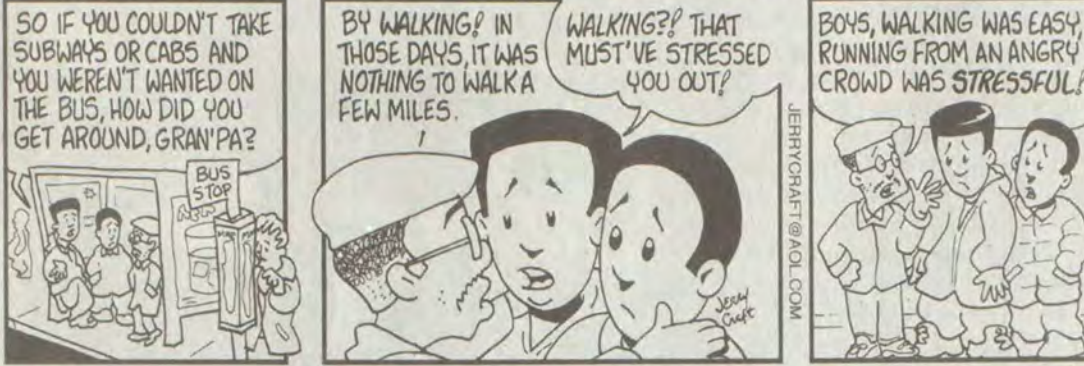
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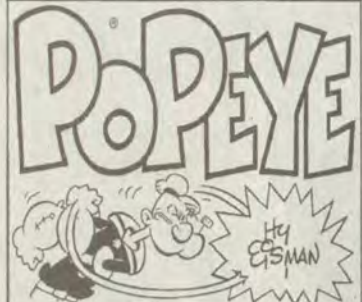
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JERRY CRAFT



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

MAGIC MAZE

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Armstrong Cronkite Mandela Rockwell
 Ashe Dole McGovern Wayne
 Carter Hope Peck Yeager
 Clark Keller Powell

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



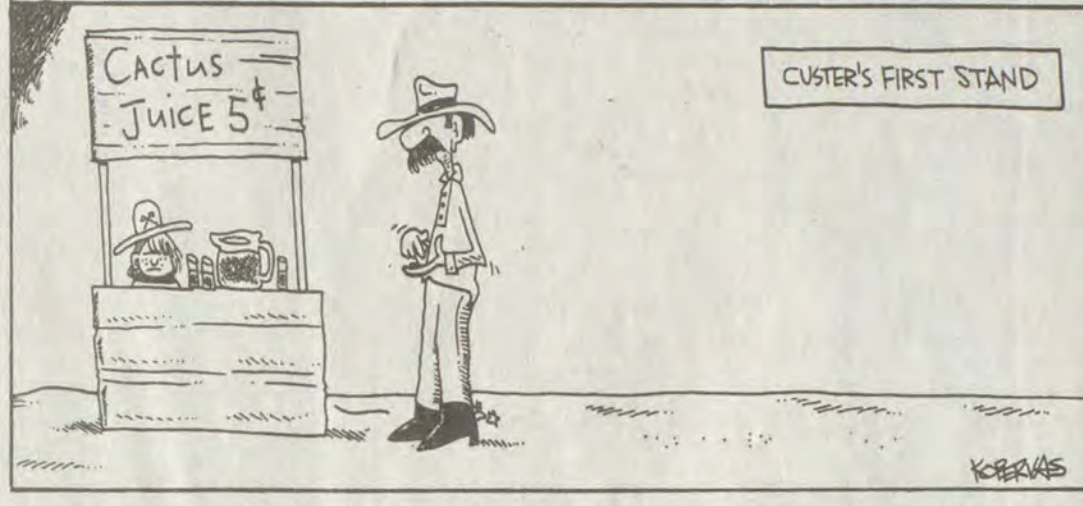
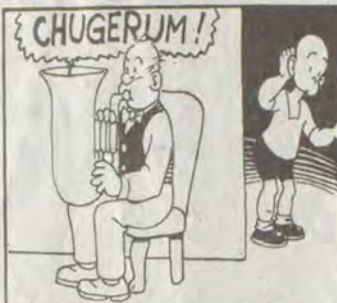
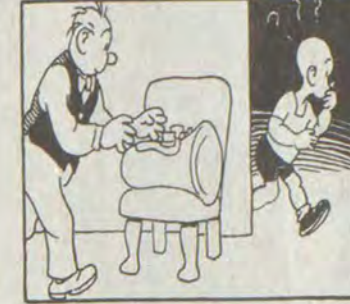
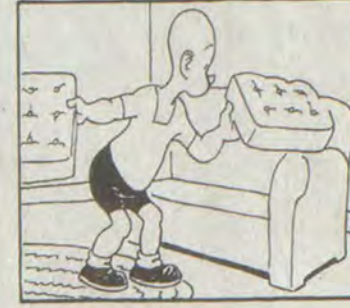
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron is different. 2. Spoon is missing. 3. Left candlestick is taller. 4. Picture is larger. 5. Earring is different. 6. Man's nose is larger.

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle and Magic Maze can be found on page A2



Super Crossword MANE EVENT

- ACROSS**
- 1 A lot
 - 6 Bungle
 - 10 Makes a touchdown
 - 16 Hen's hubby
 - 19 Deck type
 - 20 Ford or Grey
 - 21 Frolic
 - 22 Poster
 - 23 Start of a remark by Jack Simmons
 - 26 Distant
 - 27 Expensive appetizer
 - 28 Common contraction
 - 29 Charon's river
 - 30 Wallach or Whitney
 - 31 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
 - 34 Writer Paretsky
 - 37 Actor Tremayne
 - 40 Hangs tinsel
 - 42 Command to Fido
 - 45 Cries like a baby
 - 48 Part 2 of remark
 - 53 React to a pun
 - 54 Enthusiast
 - 55 "Dallas" matriarch
 - 56 Lummoxlake
 - 58 Had a hankering
 - 60 Mister, in
 - 62 Architect's add-on
 - 63 Harness part
 - 64 Radio and TV
 - 65 Duncan's denial
 - 66 — a Song
 - 124 — Baba
 - 125 End of remark
 - 130 —
 - 69 — Bank, NJ
 - 70 Part 3 of remark
 - 75 HST's successor
 - 78 On the briny
 - 79 Service charge
 - 80 Disconcert
 - 84 Cubist Rubik?
 - 86 Business abbr.
 - 88 Starchy tuber
 - 90 Moved like a mouse
 - 92 — del Sol
 - 94 Teatime treat
 - 96 Tachometer meas.
 - 98 Lawn ornament
 - 99 Part 4 of remark
 - 103 Lots of laughter
 - 104 JFK lander
 - 105 Intense
 - 106 Vane letters
 - 107 Tend the
 - 109 Pipe part
 - 110 Cry of discovery
 - 113 Spanish dance
 - 116 Allen's partner
 - 120 Passed into law
 - 124 — Baba
 - 125 End of remark
 - 130 —
 - 131 Lunar spacecraft
 - 132 Skater Heiden
 - 133 Kovacs or Pyle
 - 134 Actress Caldwell
 - 135 Scrimshaw material
 - 136 Mr. Walesa
 - 137 Cassandra and Merlin
 - 10 Trauma aftermath
 - 11 Spelunker's spot
 - 12 It bakes the cake
 - 13 Alex Haley book
 - 14 Directional suffix
 - 15 Sault — Marie, MI
 - 16 27th president
 - 17 All right
 - 18 Chico or Karl
 - 24 Textbook headings
 - 25 "Bali"
 - 29 Finn's friend
 - 31 See 91 Down
 - 32 Distinguished
 - 33 Flavor enhancer: abbr.
 - 35 Honest name
 - 36 Durban dough
 - 37 Word form for "study"
 - 38 — Zimbalist, Jr.
 - 39 Rock's — Poneys
 - 41 Ring official
 - 42 Missouri airport abbr.
 - 43 Presque —, ME
 - 44 Dimly illuminated
 - 46 Solitary sort
 - 47 "Wake Up
 - Little — ("57 hit)
 - 49 Card collection
 - 50 Silverware city
 - 51 From now on
 - 52 Opening remark?
 - 57 Wrap up
 - 59 Place to pontificate
 - 61 Unrefined
 - 67 "Gracious me!"
 - 68 Trinidad's neighbor
 - 71 Voltaire, for one
 - 72 Reagan and Wilson
 - 73 Teachers' org.
 - 74 O'Hara's "From the —"
 - 75 Cal. page
 - 76 Sag
 - 77 Follow
 - 81 "New Yorker" cartoonist
 - 82 Tend a fire
 - 83 Macho types
 - 85 Canada's capital
 - 87 Dovecote sounds
 - 89 Soporific substance
 - 91 With 31 Down, '58 Frankie
 - 93 Qualified
 - 95 Squirrel's snack
 - 97 "The A-Team" actor
 - 100 Manipulate
 - 101 Toque or tam
 - 102 Hotelier
 - 108 Helmsley
 - 108 Salivate
 - 109 Silly Caesar
 - 111 Basketball's Elvin
 - 112 Paint pigment
 - 113 "All That —" ("79 film)
 - 114 Toast topper
 - 115 Prong
 - 117 Eye appreciatively
 - 118 Flatfish
 - 119 Before long
 - 120 Engrave
 - 121 Mood
 - 122 Kuwaiti ruler
 - 123 Poor grades
 - 125 Zipper part
 - 126 — Locka, FL
 - 127 Form of comm.
 - 128 Mine find
 - 129 Incite Rover

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